



# LAWRENCE HALL YOUTH SERVICES

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Educating, treating and caring  
for Illinois' most disadvantaged  
children and youth since 1865

Lawrence Hall Experts—  
The Source on:

- Foster care
- Older adolescent issues
- Special education
- Residential Treatment

The experts at Lawrence Hall Youth Services have a deep understanding of child welfare and related mental health issues and can provide a fresh perspective for news reporters, commentators and analysts.



**Chief Executive Officer Mary Hollie** has been working with disadvantaged children for more than **27 years** and is a highly-regarded and knowledgeable source on child welfare and foster care.

Every 3 minutes, a child in Illinois is abused or neglected. Every 14 minutes, a baby in Illinois is born into poverty. These youths face extreme challenges, and for many of them, Lawrence Hall provides a safe haven and a place to call home.

Since 1865, Lawrence Hall Youth Services has provided Illinois youth with a path to a brighter future. Approximately 16,000 children are wards of the State of Illinois, and each year Lawrence Hall cares for some of the most challenged children in this population. Lawrence Hall cares for approximately 1,100 children, and their families, each year. Lawrence Hall's four core programs are:

**Residential Treatment Program** provides intensive therapeutic treatment for adolescents traumatized by abuse and neglect through the acute-care Residential Treatment Center, Community Family Homes and Specialty Service Centers.

A fully-accredited **Therapeutic Day School** and Diagnostic Education Program specialize in educating children and adolescents with emotional challenges, behavior disorders and learning disabilities that inhibit success in public school settings.

**Foster Care**, providing children with safety, stability and permanence through a legal guardian relationship, adoption or ultimately helping them to returning home.

**Older Adolescent Program** provides young adults with comprehensive services designed to meet their individual needs as they prepare to emancipate from the child welfare system.

Lawrence Hall disrupts the downward cycle of poverty, violence, abuse and despair by providing these kids with the tools and skills they need, and sets them on the path toward becoming proud, productive participants in society.

If you're interested in learning more about Lawrence Hall Youth Services and the many ways they impact the lives of Illinois youth, please call Mary Hollie at (773) 769-3500.

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## Lawrence Hall Finds Peaceful Solutions to Youth Violence

With the recent increase in youth violence and adolescent deaths in the city of Chicago, Lawrence Hall young people and staff are working together to promote peaceful conflict resolution.

Since 2001, Lawrence Hall teens have participated in a **Balanced and Restorative Justice Program (BARJ)**. The first of its kind in the nation implemented by a child welfare agency, the program focuses on teaching young people non-violent conflict resolution skills.

As a part of the BARJ program, young people and staff at Lawrence Hall recently created a **Peacemaking Circle Program**. The program is based on a method of peacemaking that emphasizes discussion and problem solving at the community level. Peacemaking circles focus on the concept of consensus decision making, trust building and providing a safe space to speak openly about issues. The circles are most commonly used for conflict resolution, but are also used for general community building between group members or to celebrate an individual or group success.

Lawrence Hall's BARJ program also includes a **Peer Jury**, through which young people work together to solve problems and restore community peace through an internal youth-directed judicial process. This youth-run program teaches responsibility, accountability and coping skills. Northwestern Law School and the Chicago Public School's Peer Jury Project recently recognized Lawrence Hall's Peer Advocates for their accomplishments and creative ways of dealing with school and community safety.

## Lawrence Hall Opens New, State-of-the-Art Residential Treatment Center

*Construction on Lawrence Hall's Therapeutic Day School to Begin Soon*



Lawrence Hall Youth Services recently celebrated the grand opening of its new, state-of-the-art **Residential Treatment Center**. The new center provides a home for 48 Lawrence Hall youth and is located on their 5-acre campus on the Northwest Side of Chicago at 4833 North Francisco Avenue.

The center's layout and utilizes unique architectural features were designed specifically facilitate and enhance the treatment of adolescents who have experienced abuse and neglect. It provides a warm and reassuring home-like community experience, while still offering the appropriate level of safety and security.

The condo-style residences include private bedrooms; computer workstations; communal kitchens; and dedicated space for individual, family and group therapy. The new facility offers over 150 youth and families of Lawrence Hall's Residential Treatment Program and Therapeutic Day School specialized therapeutic and medical care. The four-story facility also includes a vocational culinary training kitchen, a cafeteria and a communal dining hall.

The completed Residential Treatment Center is part one of a three-phase, \$35 million dollar **Campaign for the Children of Lawrence Hall**, one of the largest campaigns for a social service organization in Illinois. Construction on phase two, a Therapeutic Day School will begin soon.

## Class of 2008

*Fifteen students proudly graduated from Lawrence Hall's Therapeutic Day School this year. The Kindergarten through 12th grade, year-round school maintains a 95% graduation rate.*

## Youth in the Child Welfare System Sail the Waters of Lake Michigan

A unique recreation program is transporting young people served by Lawrence Hall from hot and humid city neighborhoods to the cool waters and refreshing breeze of Lake Michigan, all while teaching them a new skill that few children have the opportunity to learn.

"Sail Chicago offers our children a truly unique experience," said Mary Hollie, Chief Executive Officer. "It is wonderful learning opportunity, as well as a chance for children and adolescents in the child welfare system to take part in an activity not normally available to them and after more than 11 years it is still one of our most successful and popular programs."

For its 11th year, Lawrence Hall has partnered with Sail Chicago, Inc. for their cooperative sailing program. From May through September, Lawrence Hall youth sail weekly on the boat, Emotional Rescue, with Sail Chicago members learning sail skills and practicing teamwork. More than 75 young people participate in the program each summer.

## Mary Hollie Chief Executive Officer



Mary has served as Lawrence Hall's Chief Executive Officer since October 1993. She brings more than 27 years of child welfare experience to the agency. An active member of the national organization Alliance for Children and Families, and past president of the Board of the Child Care Association of Illinois, she serves on a number of boards affecting public policy, service provision, and standards and accreditation in Illinois and nationally.

Mary also is a founding board member of two agencies in Chicago that have had significant impact on the lives of abused and neglected children. They are The Chicagoland Children's Service Network and the Training Consortium for Child Welfare. She also was a member of the task force that created the collaborative Private Agency/DCFS/Chicago Board of Education Pilot Program.

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