

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Glenwood Academy Celebrates 130 Years of Service

Imagine being a child living in a neighborhood riddled with blight and violence. Imagine if your parents were deceased, incarcerated, or had abandoned you? Do you think you'd be able to focus on academics or would you be stressed about where your next meal would come from? These stories are reality for many children who come to Glenwood Academy.

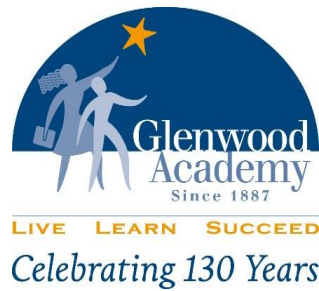
Since 1887, Glenwood Academy has created a path of success for Chicago area children and families. By interrupting vicious cycles of violence, poverty, and miseducation, Glenwood makes a direct impact on local youth with a nurturing residential education program. Parents come to Glenwood because they believe their children deserve a quality education and a safer, structured community. One thing all Glenwood families have in common is resiliency. Glenwood offers families a chance to turn crisis into an opportunity for growth.

"Glenwood Academy is more than a school," said Mary Hollie, President and CEO, Glenwood Academy. "We are a learning community focused on removing obstacles in the lives of our children and families that prohibit success and growth. For 130 years, regardless of the circumstances of the world that surrounds us, Glenwood has been a safety net for those who need it most."

Glenwood began nurturing children in 1887 as the Illinois Industrial Training School for Boys. But, the school's existence did not occur by happenstance. Oscar L. Dudley, an agent for the Illinois Human Society, was charged with ensuring the protection and welfare of stray animals. In the 1880's, he traversed Chicago streets in search of neglected animals and during his excursion, he realized Chicago had more abandoned children than animals. Dudley began to think of ways to combat this social issue and decided a training school for boys would be a great solution. He reached out to the city's powerful and philanthropic citizens. One of those citizens happened to be Robert Todd Lincoln, son of President Abraham Lincoln. With Lincoln's support, Dudley's vision of creating a safe haven for neglected boys came to fruition. The concept of the school was to provide a home and proper training school for dependent boys.

"One hundred thirty years ago, Oscar L. Dudley and Robert Todd Lincoln started a training school for needy young boys with the hope of changing their lives," said Hollie. "Fast forward to present day, I think Mr. Dudley and Mr. Lincoln would be amazed that their efforts have evolved into a human services agency not only caring, nurturing, and protecting children, but also fiercely advocating for their rights."

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The opportunity to attend Glenwood changes our student's lives in immeasurable ways. Our students are offered academic opportunities and leadership development they would not otherwise experience. We are proud of our children and their commitment to achievement.

About Glenwood Academy

Glenwood Academy nurtures and educates good kids from challenging situations by inspiring excellence, building character, and strengthening community. Located in Glenwood, Ill., 35 miles south of Chicago, Glenwood Academy is a supportive learning community serving over 150 children ranging from ages 7 to 18 from 60 communities throughout the Greater Chicago area. Nearly 100% of our children live at or below the poverty line and 92% come from single parent households.

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