

# NEWS-STAR

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"One of the keys to happiness is a bad memory."

— Rita Mae Brown

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Families having fun at the 2013 Tuesday's Child Family Marathon

## Behavior issues addressed early through programs at Tuesday's Child

*Setting children up for success means addressing behavior issues early*

BY GABRIELLE WEISS

Youth violence is a serious concern throughout Chicago and across the nation. Gang violence and isolated incidents, like school



Executive Director Brandon Combs and a staff member pose for a fun picture at the 2nd Annual Tuesday's Child Family Marathon last year

shootings, both fascinate and repulse. They leave us asking, how did this happen? What is wrong with the parents?

Luckily, many parents who are having difficulty with their children can turn to Tuesday's Child Chicago, a non-profit group dedicated to behavior management and intervention for children six and under. Although located within the Gordon Tech High School at 3633 North California Avenue, Tuesday's Child Chicago is a stand-alone organization and offers varied behavioral programs catered to fit a family's individual needs.

"Starting early is the secret," explained Brandon Combs, executive director, Tuesday's Child. "This is parent education too, and our parents are linked to peers or trainers in order to address issues they may have with bedtime or mealtime or with aggression. We cover a whole spectrum of issues

and help families with evidence-based programming."

In a large part, the programs are designed to empower parents and help create a more cohesive family unit. Tuesday's Child aims to support parents and to increase parental knowledge, confidence, and school preparedness.

Wendy and Kenneth Williams found help for their child, Kenny, through the tools learned from the organization. "Tuesday's Child has taught us to catch Kenny being good. To reward good behavior. They've given us ways to help communicate-when he's frustrat-

daily lives and family relationships.

"We aren't here to learn ABCs. We work with children on socialization, participation, time on task, compliance. Children don't need to be diagnosed with a problem to come here because the behavior is our focus. We assess the child and formulate next steps or give referrals to other community programs if necessary," said Combs.

Cost is based on income. Tuesday's Child currently assists 500 families in Chicagoland and has a

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ed and upset, to help him control his behavior. He's learned how to respond to his feelings, instead of lashing out and throwing a tantrum. His behavior has improved both at school and at home," the couple explains in the Tuesday's Child brochure.

For over thirty years, the organization has been helping Chicago area families. Their team of clinical professionals is prepared to address a wide range of disorders. They also provide support for families experiencing challenging behaviors due to ADHD, ODD, Anxiety, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Developmental Delays or other diagnoses. The families report that the techniques they learned have dramatically improved their children's behavior,



Family, friends and staff support the non-profit organization, Tuesday's Child, at their 2013 Family Marathon

full time staff. In order to defray costs, the non-profit has organized a family "marathon" which took place on Sunday, May 4 on the Gordon Tech High School grounds.

The 2.6 mile walk-fun-run was the 3rd Annual family "marathon" and included a light breakfast, an obstacle walk, bouncy house, carnival games and raffle tickets. To learn more about Tuesday's Child, visit [www.tuesdayschildchicago.org](http://www.tuesdayschildchicago.org) or call 773.423.5055.