



Where Caring and Learning go Hand in Hand

Annual Report 2013-2014





Mission

The Childcare Learning Centers’ mission is to give every child/family in our community access to affordable, high quality, early childhood education and care.



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A Message from our Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends of CLC:

Wow! CLC is celebrating 112 years. This past year has been one of critical transition and accomplishment while simultaneously laying the foundation for significant growth. CLC saw important leadership changes with a new Board President Bob Mattis of Pitney Bowes. As well, I moved from interim executive director to permanent Chief Executive Officer.

I am pleased to report we haven't skipped a beat. We were the recipients of a \$1.4MM bond from the state to build out 4 new classrooms in the Old Rogers School. It will house the 37 new additional School Readiness students we were granted from the State. We received NAEYC renewal accreditation for three of our Child Development sites. Our Head Start and Early Head Start license was renewed for another five year period. We recaptured sequester monies and expanded the number of children served while improving quality by reducing the number of children in certain classrooms. We expanded temporarily to a new 7th site, Lathon Wider on the Southside, with 2 classes of 37 students.

Our relationship with Yale continues to strengthen. We recently concluded our second year and have seen preliminary data confirming the impactful work being done. We have also agreed to become Yale's training site partner for other Pre-K schools as Yale expands its RULER program across the State. Other collaborations are being planned.

When I joined CLC, it became immediately apparent that CLC was the best kept 112 year old secret I've ever encountered. We have launched a series of efforts to change that and raise the CLC profile. All CLC programs and locations have been named with a unified CLC moniker. We are growing our social media presence. Constituency outreach efforts to alumni, volunteers and other community supporters have begun. There are literally tens of thousands of alumni and we want to engage them.

What lies ahead is exciting and critical for the sustainability of our organization. CLC must transition to a community based organization funded by private sources. For the first time, we must tap important financial resources never done before at CLC from both Stamford and our surrounding communities. As a private industry media executive having built award-winning nonprofits, I am excited to lead that effort. This year you will see an expanded Board, a more active Leadership Council and a growing, meaningful committee presence. They will all work together to support staff to continue to grow and strengthen.

As calls for universal Pre-K ring out, as the appreciation for the critical work we do grows, CLC is uniquely suited to take on the challenge to grow our profile as the largest Pre-K nonprofit in Southwest Connecticut. We will continue to deliver comprehensive services of the highest quality. There is more need than ever and a lot of work to do. But, we couldn't do it without you. We profoundly thank you for your past and ongoing support.

Marc E. Jaffe



Who We Are

CLC, Childcare Learning Centers, is the oldest and largest childcare agency in Stamford, serving nearly 1,000 children and families each day. CLC's mission is to give every child/family in the community access to affordable, high quality, early education and care.

CLC has 7 National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited sites in Stamford, and one delegate in Greenwich. CLC offers a comprehensive early childhood education program to children from 6 months to 5 years of age. Two meals and one snack per day is provided to all enrolled children, some of whom would otherwise go hungry. The curriculum not only covers nutrition, health and family services, but also includes a partnership with the educators and researchers from Yale University to extend and reinforce social emotional skills in young children. CLC has a unique collaboration with the City of Stamford and Stamford Public Schools, preparing each child for kindergarten entrance into the Stamford Public School system.

CLC has 44 classrooms in state-funded sites. Lead teachers in these rooms hold either an Associates degree with an Early Childhood Teacher Credential, or a Bachelor's degree. 11% of teachers hold a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education.

The CLC student body is both racially and geographically diverse with 58% having a Hispanic background, 26% African American, 9% White and 7% Asian or Other. Nearly half of CLC students are native Spanish speakers, and 37% are native English speakers. 27 different languages are spoken by CLC children and their families.

CLC is committed to engaging parents and families in its communities, offering opportunities for parent involvement as classroom volunteers, members of parent councils, and as recipients of parent education programs and workshops.

CLC is committed to continue to serve as a leadership example in early childhood care in the State of Connecticut.





Academic Highlights

School Readiness Program Highlights for 2013-2014

The School Readiness Program provides high quality education and comprehensive services to children and families. All of the 334 full day, 97 part day and 113 extended day slots were fully enrolled throughout the year.

The CLC-William Pitt Child Development Center received grants from Purdue Pharma and the William Pitt Foundation to enhance the playground and offer more challenging gross motor activities for the children. A rock wall, balance beams, bike path, tricycles, sensory table, outdoor easel and picnic tables for activities were installed last summer. The children have been having a wonderful time.

The “Healthy Bodies” program which is funded by the United Way provided many activities to our children, families and staff including “Ladybug Melodies, Yoga, Zumba, Cooking classes, and Jazz Hip Hop dance. The children received nutrition and health screenings including height/weight, dental, vision, and hearing. These screenings enable us to make sure children are healthy and ready to learn. In addition to the health/nutrition screenings, all of the children received developmental screenings and were formally assessed three times over the course of the year. The teaching staff is able to use the information from the screenings and assessments to individualize learning experiences based on the CT Preschool Curriculum Frameworks to prepare the children for kindergarten and life-long learning.

In addition, the William Pitt Foundation grant provided Music and Movement with Fiona Angelov. Each classroom met weekly for 8 weeks/30 minutes per week to receive music and movement classes. This was a wonderful way for the children to receive the necessary exercise needed during the long winter months. We also provided extended learning experiences for the children through programs with the Stamford Museum and Nature Center and SoundWaters, which provided field trips to the location as well as on-site experiences at CLC William Pitt. Other field trips were taken to the Bruce Museum, Ferguson Library, and Stamford High School Preschool Lab.

All of the staff received five full days and two half day training experiences in areas of health/nutrition, working with families, special needs, curriculum, literacy, and diversity.

Monthly “Lunch and Learn” sessions were conducted for families. Workshops included Positive Parenting/Discipline without Punishment, Curriculum Overview, variety of topics in Literacy, Dental Care, and Transitioning to Kindergarten.



Academic Highlights

Child Development Program 2013-2014

The Child Development Program provides comprehensive, high quality early childhood education and care programs to a total of 227 children aged 6 weeks to 5 years. The Infant/Toddler Program uses the Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers and Two Year Olds -- a curriculum steeped in early childhood research. Our preschool programs also use the Creative Curriculum in conjunction with the Connecticut Preschool Curriculum and Assessment Frameworks. These Frameworks were developed by the State Department of Education and the Connecticut Bureau of Early Childhood Education. The teaching staff is able to individualize learning experiences based on the CT Preschool Curriculum Frameworks. They are able to guide and support children's play and help them move forward from benchmark to benchmark.

The children experienced many trips throughout the year: Beardsley Zoo, Bruce Museum, Silverman's Farm, SoundWaters, Maritime Aquarium, Stepping Stones Museum, Stop and Shop, Bartlett Arboretum, Stew Leonard's, and the U.S. Post Office. We also provided extended field trips and learning experiences for the children through programs with the Stamford Museum and Nature Center and SoundWaters, which provided both trips to the location as well as on-site experiences at CLC Palmers Hill.

We've also continued a number of collaborations this year: the Legg Mason Volunteer Reading Program, where volunteers come from Legg Mason once a month from September to June and read to the children. Once they have read to the children, they follow up with relevant experiences that relates to the books that were read. Our Intergenerational Program at the Edge Hill Senior Center continues with a classroom visiting our senior friends where they read books, participate in arts and crafts and also sing songs and act out finger plays. The "Healthy Bodies" program, funded by the United Way, enabled the children to receive health screenings that included height/weight, dental, vision and hearing.

In addition, the Child Development Program continued its collaboration with Yale University Preschool RULER Program. Administrators and teachers participated in RULER professional development training and, with support from Preschool RULER coaches, tried out ideas for RULER lessons and activities with children in their classrooms. After each Preschool RULER lesson, teachers were able to spend one on one time with a RULER coach and reflect upon the experiences in the classrooms. Yale coaches provided specific tools and strategies to the teaching staff in order for them to integrate these skills into their classrooms and everyday lives. Yale coaches also met with families several times throughout the year in order to provide them with the tools and strategies to use at home.



Academic Highlights

Head Start and Early Head Start Program 2013-2014

Head Start and Early Head Start is a child development program that serves 273 children from birth to 5 years of age as well as expectant mothers. The overall goal of the program is to close the achievement gap and support children's growth and development. The program provides health, nutritional, and social services based on family needs. All children receive developmental, health and behavioral screenings within the first 45 days of enrollment. As part of ongoing partnerships with the families, the program offers opportunities for parents to identify their family's strengths and needs and to pursue their goals. The program adopted Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) Framework; a road map for progress. It is a research-based approach to program change, designed to help Head Start programs achieve outcomes that lead to positive and enduring change for children and families. Our program allows opportunities for parents to be involved in shared decision-making activities with the governing body and staff and participate on the Policy Council.

The Head Start and Early Head Start programs use the Creative Curriculum aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Framework, Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards and Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment tool to provide instruction and learning for children's academic preparedness. In the past year, these children demonstrated tremendous gains in the areas of language development and literacy. The program established goals for improving School Readiness in areas of language development and literacy for the children they serve from birth to age five based on local elementary school expectations and parent perspectives.

The Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence has become an integral and enduring part of our program. RULER creates a self-perpetuating program by training teachers and other staff to become RULER Trainers who then teach children and parents what they've learned. The "Emotions Matter" program helped to improve children's social emotional development. Our Head Start and Early Head Start program also participated in the Healthy Bodies program, "Eating Well, Feeling Great," and "Looking your Best is all Connected" and funded by United Way. We also partnered with the Ferguson Library and the Instructional Coordinators of the Stamford Public Schools to enhance literacy skills to broaden children's learning and experiences. The program exposed children to nature-based environments with visits to the New Canaan Nature Center, SoundWaters and Maritime Aquarium. All activities were made possible through a generous grant from Morgan Stanley.



Ways to Give

A gift to CLC makes a significant difference in the lives of our children.

Cash & Gift Pledge

Personal check or cashier's check. You may also make a pledge, payable in installments.

Mail or Phone

Mail to Childcare Learning Centers, Development
Department 64 Palmer's Hill Road Stamford, CT 06902
Or call (203) 653-1337.

Online

Make a donation, go to www.clcstamford.org
click donate now.

Stocks & Bonds

Donate stocks that have risen in value and that you have had for more than one year.

Matching Gift

Many corporations match employee gifts to charitable organizations. Contact your Human Resource Department.

Your Will

Deferred gifts by making a bequest naming CLC as a gift recipient in your will.

Gifts of Life Insurance

Make a substantial gift with modest premium payments.

*For details or to discuss how you can make a difference,
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Consolidated Statement of Activities*

Revenues

Federal and State Grants	\$9,083,032
Program Fees	2,340,589
Fund-Raising	625,864
In-Kind Revenue	812,026
Investment and Other	411,349
Total Revenue	\$13,272,860

Expenses

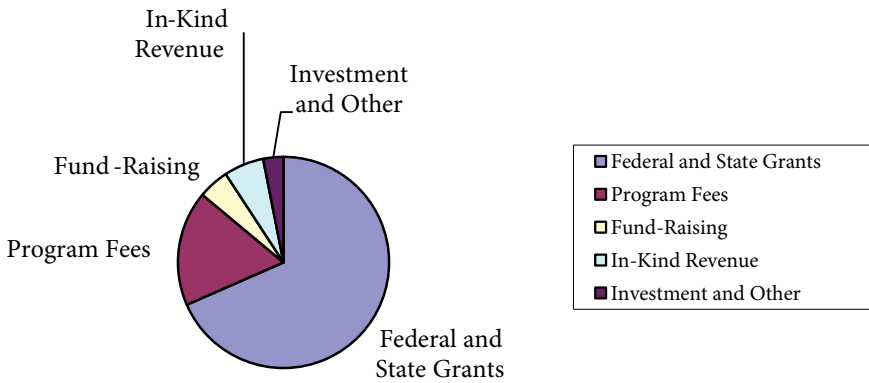
Program	\$11,772,300
Management & General	1,509,035
Fundraising	267,814
Total Expenses	\$13,549,149

*Unaudited

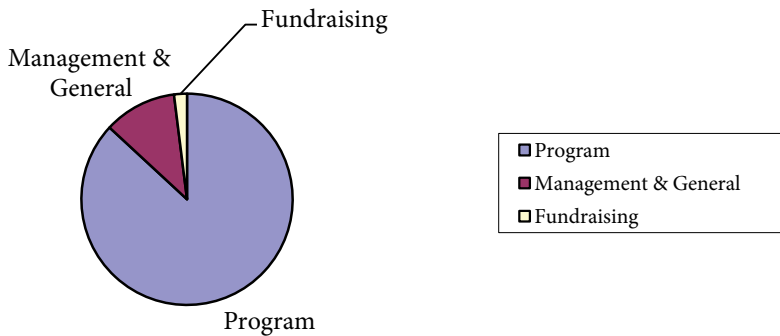


Consolidated Statement of Activities*

Revenues



Expenses



*Unaudited



Our Children





CHILDCARE LEARNING CENTERS

Where Caring and Learning go Hand in Hand

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