



**Child Care Council
of Westchester, Inc.**
INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

Annual Report 2013



**Working together,
we *will* see the day**

**when every child's
potential is maximized
from birth**

**when every parent can
go to work free from
distraction or worry**

**when Westchester
businesses have access
to a talented, well-
educated homegrown
workforce**

**when community
leaders universally
acknowledge that
quality early care
is essential**

The Child Care Council of Westchester, part of a state and national network of nonprofit agencies, champions the healthy development of children, families, and communities through quality early care and education. As Westchester's central hub for child care resources, referrals and information for parents and child care providers, our work is a collaborative effort between our early care and education colleagues, government partners, generous business and individual sponsors and donors, volunteers, and other nonprofit organizations who share our vision.



A Message From The Executive Director

Friends of the Child Care Council,

In 2013, we worked tirelessly to promote, protect, and expand safe, affordable, education-based child care for Westchester's children and families.

We continued to face challenges, including the high cost of child care, reduced public funding, and the task of educating parents about what quality care looks like and why it's so important.

Our efforts were successful in many ways, as the 2013 Westchester County budget included \$900,000 to reopen Title XX child care subsidy, we awarded more child care scholarships, expanded our early literacy/family book bag program, brought the voice of Westchester's parents and children to Albany and Washington, enrolled a record number in our Child Development Associate credential, and built participation in our healthy nutrition program.

These accomplishments, and the many not listed here, are much more than just numbers. I believe that every dollar and every effort spent to care for, educate and offer opportunities to Westchester's children is an investment in our collective future. On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, I want to thank each and every one of you for your support of the Child Care Council, and Westchester's children. I look forward to all we will accomplish together in 2014 and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Halas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen Halas
Executive Director
The Child Care Council of Westchester

Who We Serve

Families

We help parents understand what quality child care looks like, find and evaluate child care programs, and access financial support in the form of the child care subsidy program, tax credits and scholarships.

Child Care Providers

We help child care providers of all kinds - centers, group and family settings, and afterschool programs - offer the best possible care, grow their businesses, and meet their regulatory requirements.

Business Owners

We help employees resolve their child care challenges, so they can get back to work and be more present and productive.

Westchester

We help build a better future by increasing access to quality early care - which translates to healthier lifestyle choices, fewer teen pregnancies, lower crime rates, more success in school and career, and a more productive contribution to our community.

“I didn’t know how I was going to make it without help. Within the first week in a real daycare, my son was speaking better, being social, and using his manners. He’s now on a schedule, interacts with older children and loves going to school.”





What We Do

Advocate

Each year, the Council's Public Policy Committee drafts an agenda to identify the focus of our advocacy efforts. For 2013, its mission was to: secure more funding at the county, state and federal levels, which we carried out through a variety of activities.

2013 Advocacy Highlights

- At the Legislative Breakfast on Children and Youth in February, presented in partnership with the Westchester Children's Association, children posed questions to a panel of legislators about issues that affect youth and families.
- At our 2nd annual Report Card Challenge event in October, we issued our grades on the availability, quality and affordability of child care in Westchester and an update on the status of the regulated child care sector, to an audience of educators and community leaders.
- At the same event, we released the results of our 2013 parent survey. With 700+ respondents, we captured and shared the child care challenges, expectations and needs of families from all over Westchester.



- Throughout the year, our staff and Board met and spoke with legislators at every level of government to discuss funding and legislation that could impact the affordability and availability of early learning and quality child care.
- Leading up to election day in November, the Council joined forces with other nonprofits to organize community rallies to bring attention to the unmet needs of children and youth due to cuts in child care and related services, and to call on candidates to take action and restore funding.
- Executive Director Kathleen Halas was elected to a third term as President of the Early Care and Learning Council, New York's coordinating agency for 35 child care resource and referral agencies.
- Westchester County re-opened child care subsidy for families over 200% of the Federal Poverty Level with new funding of \$900,000.
- New York State increased Universal PreKindergarten funding.



Inform & Refer Parents

We're here to connect parents, providers and employers with the information and resources they need. For parents, that's usually safe, dependable, affordable child care and afterschool programs, and resources to help them pay for it. We offer these services on the phone, in person, online, and through onsite information sessions for groups of employees, at the request of business owners.

2013 Referral Highlights

- Fielded nearly 3,000 requests for child care
- 97% of referrals were received in 2 business days or sooner
- Launched a new online child care search tool with an innovative mapping feature to improve search results
- Assisted 250+ parents with child care subsidy needs
- Released "The Child Care Effect," a report illustrating the critical need for quality child care for working parents, and the benefits employers reap from providing access to child care resources and information

Register & Support Child Care Programs

We work with individuals and groups who want to start a center, home-based or school age child care program, to make sure they understand, at the outset, all of the legal, regulatory, business and programmatic requirements and challenges before we walk them through registration or enrollment. Through our info sessions, technical assistance and monitoring visits, we help child care providers and programs deliver the best care for children and parents and reach their own goals as successful businesses.

2013 Registration Highlights

- Registered 55 new and renewed 17 Family Child Care (FDC) and School Age (SACC) programs
- Conducted 423 inspections of FDC and SACC programs
- Completed 1,110 initial and 240 renewal of Legally Exempt provider enrollments
- Educated 235 prospective family provider/after school businesses on regulatory requirements through comprehensive "info sessions"



Train & Educate the Early Care & Education Workforce

To cultivate a better early care and afterschool workforce, we offer professional development opportunities that target every aspect of a quality child care provider's required skillset, through workshops and on-site training, curriculum assistance, technical assistance, quality improvement initiatives, annual conferences, and recognition events.

2013 Professional Development Highlights

- Expanded training offerings to include Common Core, Literacy, Special Needs and Behavior Management
- Improved service to Spanish-speaking providers with addition of Bilingual Quality Improvement Specialist and Spanish session at Infant/Toddler Conference
- Launched online training sessions to increase access for busy professionals
- Delivered 92 trainings, 82 on-site workshops and 3 conferences attended by a total of over 2,600 early care and education professionals
- Promoted quality programming through assessment-driven intensive technical assistance to more than 90 classrooms/programs

Enhance Children's Physical and Mental Health

Because research shows that adult lifestyle choices and health, including the prevention of costly chronic diseases, are heavily determined by the availability of quality early childhood development (before age 5), the Council places a strong focus on ways to enhance the health and safety of young children in child care settings.

2013 Health Highlights

- As part of The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), which helps providers offer nutritious meals and snacks for children in their care and pay for the food, we:
 - Enrolled 30 new CACFP participants
 - Conducted 509 monitoring visits
 - Trained 117 CACFP participants during 13 different sessions
 - Distributed over \$1.4 million for healthy meals and snacks reimbursements



“After the first week of going to daycare, my 2-year-old son was totally changed (in a great way). If I didn’t receive the scholarship, I probably couldn’t afford to send him there. I couldn’t imagine him anywhere else and I feel very blessed for this opportunity. It has truly changed my life and also gave my son a chance to be the best he can be.”

- Developed an Asthma Endorsement Program and received certification as Asthma Train the Trainer by the American Lung Association
- Delivered 17 Medication Administration Training courses
- Provided special training and presented information related to:
 - care for children with asthma, allergies, diabetes and seizure disorders
 - administering medications
 - cleaning and sanitizing, health and infection control, care of mildly ill children
 - sensory processing disorders, the autism spectrum, stress in young children



Administer Child Care Scholarships

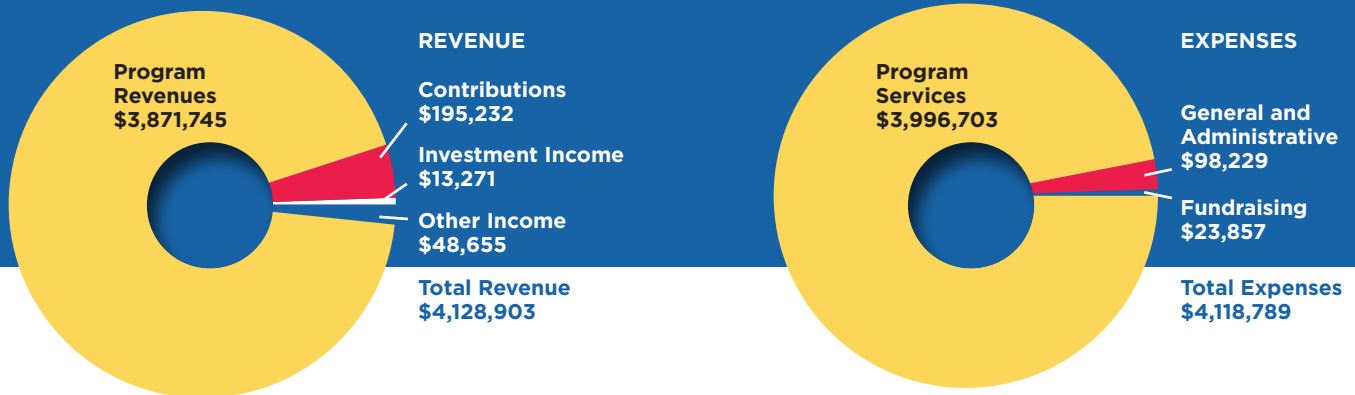
To help ensure that every child in Westchester has access to quality, education-based early care, the Council administers two scholarships each year: the Lanza Investment in Kid’s Early Education (LIKE) Award, funded by The Lanza Family Foundation; and the Future Leader Awards (FLA).

2013 Scholarship Highlights

- 61 children from 59 families received a scholarship for child care
- Over \$212,000 was awarded
- Scholarship recipients:
 - Live all over Westchester, including Cortlandt Manor, Elmsford, Mount Kisco, New Rochelle, Ossining, Peekskill, White Plains and Yonkers
 - They perform jobs important to our region – bank teller, contractor, legal assistant, paralegal, store manager, telecommunications tech and more
 - Their family income averages around \$40,000 annually

“The scholarship gives me the opportunity to provide regulated child care for my son, gives him structure as well as learning and developing his social skills. He comes home excited to share what he’s learned each day.”

Financials



For the Child Care Council's complete 2013 audited financial statement, visit http://www.childcarewestchester.org/pdf/2013_financial_statement_%20a-133_audit.pdf

Grants

Grants received from our generous business, individual and nonprofit partners allow us to offer exciting, important and innovative programs that improve early care and learning for children in Westchester.

Grantor	Purpose
Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation	Early Literacy
Frog Rock Foundation	Child care subsidy support services to parents and child care businesses
IBM	KidSmart training
Lanza Family Foundation	Child Care Scholarships
Sexauer Foundation	Early Literacy
Edith Glick Shoolman Foundation	Early Literacy
TD Charitable Foundation	Preschool Science Education
United Way of Westchester and Putnam, Inc.	Born Learning
Westchester Community Foundation	Business Training for Spanish-Speaking Family Child Care Providers

Government Contracts

New York State Department of Health
 New York State Office of Children and Family Services
 Westchester County Department of Health
 Westchester County Department of Social Services
 Westchester County Office for Women

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The Child Care Council of Westchester is deeply thankful for your vital support!

July 1, 2012 – May 20, 2014

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The Council would like to acknowledge the programs, providers and individuals listed below for supporting the Council by becoming members in 2013.

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(Beginning Years) Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester, Chappaqua, www.bethelnw.org

Accent on Learning Child Care Center, Briarcliff Manor, www.accentkids.com

Alcott School, Scarsdale, www.alcottschool.org

All Aboard on the Hudson, Ossining, www.allaboardchildcare.com

Janice Barnes, Ridgeway Nursery School and Kindergarten, White Plains

Bedord Discovery Early Childhood Center, Bedford Hills, www.bdecc.com

Bedord Discovery Infant Center, INC., Bedford Hills, www.bdecc.com

Barbara Berrios, Queen's Daughter Day Care Center, Yonkers

Bright Horizons Children's Center, INC, Elmsford, www.brighthorizons.com/wep

Bronxville Montessori School, Bronxville, www.BronxvilleMontessori.com

Bryn Mawr Children's Learning Center, Yonkers
Pedro Chalco, Mount Kisco

Chappaqua Children's Workshop, INC., Chappaqua, www.cwkids.org

The Children's Center @ Purchase College, Purchase, www.tccpc.org

Collin Allen Child Development, Mount Vernon

Creative Playtime, Scarsdale, www.creativeplaytimescarsdale.org

Days of Wonder, Dobbs Ferry, www.daysofwonderchildcare.com

Discovering Me Day Care Center, Inc., Larchmont www.discoveringmenurseryschool.com

Easter Seals New York, Valhalla, www.ny.easterseals.com

Holly Edelstein, Early Head Start, Pleasantville

Elizabeth Mascia Child Care Center, Tarrytown, www.masciachildcare.org

Family Services of Westchester, White Plains, www.fsw.org

Latasha Lee Gamble, Fred S. Keller School, Yonkers

Good Shepherd Early Childhood Center, Irvington, www.goodshepherdirvington.com

Greyston Family Inn Child Care Center, Yonkers, www.greyston.org

Happy Tots Child Care, Cortlandt Manor, www.happytots.org

Harrison Children's Center, West Harrison, www.harrisonchildrenscenter.org

Harrison Children's Center, Inc. II, Harrison, www.harrisonchildrenscenter.org

Harrison Day Care Center, INC. @ Underhill Rec Center, West Harrison

Hastings Nursery School, Hastings on Hudson, www.hastingsnurseryschool.com

Hitchcock Church Weekday School, Scarsdale, www.hitchcockschool.com

Sherry Horowitz, Childspace, Croton on Hudson

Jewish Community Center of Harrison, Harrison, www.jcch.org

John A. Coleman School, White Plains, www.setonpediatric.org/john-coleman-school

Kehillah School for Early Learning, New Rochelle, www.kehillahschool.org

Kids B.A.S.E & The Little School, Scarsdale, www.kbls.org

Liberty Montessori School, New Rochelle, www.libertymontessorischools.com

Lissie's Katonah Playschool, Katonah, www.katonahplayschool.org

Little Angels Child Care Center, Rye, www.laccrre.org

Lois Bronz Children's Center, White Plains, www.lbcc4kids.org

Marion and George Ames Early Childhood Learning Center, Yonkers, www.leakeandwatts.org/early-childhood-services

Mazel Tots, Scarsdale, www.sstteorg.com

Memorial Methodist Early Childhood Center, White Plains, www.earlychildhoodcentermumc.org

Elaine Mirando, The Learning Garden Day Care Center, Yorktown Heights

Mommy - N - Me, Shrub Oak, www.mommy-n-me.me

Montessori Children's Center, White Plains, www.montessorichildrenscntr.com

Montrose Child Care Center, Montrose, www.mcccnny.org

Mount Kisco Child Care Center, Mt. Kisco, www.mkccc.org

North Yonkers Preservation & Development Corp., Yonkers

Oak Lane Child Care Center of Pleasantville, Inc., Chappaqua, www.oaklaneccc.org

Ossining Children's Center, Ossining, www.ossiningchildrenscenter.org

Peas & Karrots, Ossining, www.peaskarrots.com

Pelham Children's Center, Pelham, www.pelhamchildrenscenter.org

Play Care, Chappaqua, www.playcarepreschool.com

Precious Minds Children's Center, New Rochelle, www.preciousmindsc.com

Precious Moments Day Care, Yonkers

Purchase Children's Center, Inc., Purchase, www.purchasechildrenscenter.org

Queens Daughters, Yonkers, www.queensdaughtersdaycare.com

Saint Gregory The Great, Harrison, www.stgregoryearlychildhood.com

Saint Paul's Child Care Center, Rye Brook, www.stpaulsryebrook.com

Sisters of Saint John The Baptist Day Care Center, Purchase, www.baptistines.org

St. Ann's Peas & Karrots, Ossining, www.peaskarrots.com

Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester, Chappaqua, www.bethelnw.org

Temple Israel Center of White Plains, White Plains, www.templeisraelcenter.org

The Country Children's Center, Katonah, www.countrychildrenscenter.org

The Early Learning Center at Fieldhome, Cortlandt Manor, www.fieldhome.com

The Little Oaks School, Shrub Oak, www.littleoaksschool.net

The Rivertown Programs, Inc., Hastings on Hudson, www.therivertownpreschool.blogspot.com

The Rye YMCA, Rye, www.ryeymca.org

The Seed Day Care Center, Yorktown Heights www.theseedaycare.com

Anita Vaswani Martell, YMCA White Plains, White Plains

Virginia Marx Child Care Center @ WCC, Valhalla www.sunywcc.edu/student-services/childrens-center

WJCS Infant/Toddler Early Learning Center, Yonkers, www.wjcs.com

Woodlot Christian Pre-School, LLC, Tuckahoe www.woodlotchristianpreschool.org

YMCA of Yonkers, Yonkers, www.yoyymca.org

Young Wonders, Briarcliff Manor, www.youngwonders.com

YWCA Child Care Center, White Plains www.ywcawhiteplains.org

YWCA Child Development Center, Yonkers www.ywcayonkers.org

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