

The Children's Journal

News from Campus Child Care for parents, advocates and all who work to provide quality early care and education for children and their families.

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Our mission and vision:

We envision creating model programs and services, based on research and best practice, that are affordable, available and of the very highest quality.



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Message from Lynn



In response to what Interim Chancellor Ward describes as “facing stiff budgetary challenges,” we have been encouraged to “rethink and transform how we carry out our missions to enhance student learning while gaining efficiencies and generating new resources.” Our office, our campus directors, and I have been doing just that: rethinking how we go about our business and how we can provide the most flexible and responsive child care system to meet the needs of our campus families. After all, we *do* understand that we play an instrumental role in enhancing student learning. We train hundreds of student teachers annually at our centers as a means to broaden our early education workforce, and at the same time to provide research venues for professional development and growth in our field. Our child care programs have also made a positive and lasting impact in the lives of those students who are also parents completing their degrees. Over the years, we’ve made changes to our programs and services in an attempt to respond to all who seek our assistance, but we know that there are still unmet needs and challenges ahead.

Our student government partners have helped defray some of our expenses. They’ve allocated requested segregated fees, which have allowed us to develop greater efficiencies in our database functions and have helped us supply sensory rooms for our young children with sensory integration and behavioral challenges. Our curricula continually evolve as external factors intervene, such as the arrival of 4-K. 4-K has prompted us to refine our long-standing strengths and to share our expertise with others more broadly. This retooling has increased our ability to serve Madison families with young children. Our facility changes (see inside) have required us to think differently about how we go about our business in serving families in the most efficient ways possible while not compromising quality. And all of this rethinking sometimes leads us to more questions.

Some of the questions we’re discussing now are: how can we help families access our services more readily, especially for infants and toddlers; how can we collaborate with partner programs to create smoother transitions and greater flexibility in services; and how can we ensure our place in the public education (4-K) arena. Stay tuned, we’ll keep you informed.

Lynn Edlefson, Director

Campus Partners

We need partners to accomplish great things on campus and this year we have exceptional news to report! In reviewing our teacher turnover last year, we noted that our salaries were far beneath those of our community public school teachers and set our sights on addressing the issue. The result was a salary increase for our campus teachers who still lag behind their community peers. Thanks to the insight, help, and commitment of Emuye Asfaw, Steve Lund, Connie Wilson, Linda Dicks, Robin Douthitt, Paul Evans, Jordan Hanson, Dan Bier,

Debb Schaub, Jill Riley, Joan Ershler, and Paula Evenson, we were able to implement the increase in September. Thanks and kudos to all for bringing this project to completion.





We appreciate your generous support!

New Campus Child Care Initiatives

- David & Nancy Borghesi
- Richard & Lianne Burnson
- Martha Casey
- Lisa Cohen
- Mary Conroy
- Joseph & Barbara Weston Corry
- Karen Crossley
- Lynn and Dale Edlefson
- Patricia Foss
- Marilyn Lou Graves
- Margaret Harrigan
- Marlene & Robert Hartzman
- Donald & Patricia Hinske
- Robert & June Kane
- Donald & Linda Koeppe
- Robert Lang
- Timothy Latimer & Shannon Stuart
- Susan Macek & David Buchan
- Helen Madsen
- Donald & Carolyn Manson
- Mary Lou McClain Badding
- Donna Shalala
- Donald & Kathleen Miner
- Carole Montemayor
- Mary & William Newhall
- Alan Orenberg
- Terri Reda
- Linda Reivitz
- William Richner
- Douglas Rose
- Gary & Kathy Sandefur
- Kimberly Santiago & Jose Madera
- Timothy & Patricia Size
- James & Norma Smith
- Lonnie & Susan Sprecher
- Maureen Torphy
- Sharon Trimborn
- Don and Nancy VanAman
- Connie L. Wilson
- Larry & Donna Wold

“I feelled calm:” Teaching Mindful Kindness in the Classroom

Mindfulness? For preschoolers? With preschool attention spans? Teachers in the Madison Metropolitan School District already have the opportunity to take mindfulness classes at the Center for Investigating Healthy Minds (CIHM) located in the Waisman Center. Could similar training for kids train them to develop empathy, listen carefully to others and demonstrate kindness?

In fall 2010, 3-5 year-old students in the Waisman Center’s preschool program participated in an 8-week Kindness Curriculum developed by Lisa Pinger, Senior Outreach Specialist. A goal of the project was to examine whether mindfulness training could promote increased attention and prosocial skills in preschoolers. The curriculum, taught by a CIHM mindfulness teacher three times a week for 20-30 minutes, included breathing, movement exercises to develop awareness, books related to kindness and the opportunity to demonstrate acts of kindness toward one another.

After the training, both parents and teachers observed children showing empathy, compas-

sion and improved listening skills. These results indicate the Kindness Curriculum may be helpful in promoting self-regulatory skills and behaviors important to children’s social and academic competence beyond regular classroom instruction.

The Waisman Center’s preschool program’s campus location, proximity to the CIHM resources and access to this type of research has built the Center’s national reputation for quality instruction and education innovation. “The social-emotional foundation we provide makes our children available for lifelong learning,” said Joan Erschler, Director, Waisman Early Childhood Program.

Recently, the Waisman Center was honored by the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association for its programs incorporating contemplative practices.

And how did the children feel? Mindfulness time was a hit. According to one young reviewer, “I liked the belly buddies the best because I feelled calm.”

For more information about the Kindness Curriculum, contact Joan Erschler.

Updates

Development Updates

As a means to make it easier for prospective donors to find us, the UW Foundation has changed its website. We can now be found by clicking on “Making a Gift,” “Give to a Campus Area or Program,” and “Campus Child Care/Early Education.” Please provide feedback on the new link by visiting: <http://www.supportuw.org/making-a-gift/area-program/campus-child-care/>.

2011 contributions to our foundation funds were very encouraging. We saw increases from previous years in three of our four funds. A special thank you goes out to the Torphy family for designating campus child care for gifts in John’s name and to Mary Czyszczak-Lyne for her gift to the Classified Staff Child Care Grants. Keep winning those awards, Mary!!!

- To receive this newsletter by email or to remove your name from our mailing list, contact clwilson@wisc.edu.
- To update your contact information, please visit www.uwfoundation.wisc.edu/survey and log on with the ID number above your name on the newsletter label. This information is shared selectively with other campus units and the Alumni Association to ensure that alumni and friends’ information is consistent and accurate.

Children’s Center Updates

This summer will bring many changes for several of our campus children’s center programs. First, the Preschool Lab will be moving to its new facility on Linden Drive in June. Then, in July and August, University Houses Preschool and Bernie’s Place will combine their programs at

#39 University Houses. This merger will increase services available for younger children while preserving the unique aspects of both programs. For more information or to inquire about helping with these transitions, please contact our office at 890-0436.

In Memorium: John Torphy



Last fall, we lost one of our most beloved friends and colleagues, John Torphy. John's brilliance was well-known (by so many) in policy and administration, but we also know that John understood well the importance of early relationships, and it was

this commitment to the well-being of others that we believe grounded his support of our early educa-

tion and child care programs. He became an ardent advocate of our efforts. It was John who funded our first infant-care project on campus, at the big table in his office where all "serious" business was conducted. His sense of humor, his warmth and devotion to his family endeared him to all of us. With heartfelt gratitude, we thank the Torphy family and friends for their generous remembrances in John's honor.

Community Playthings Project Outdoors Design Team

Teacher Nou Thao is one of several campus teachers who met with representatives from New York-based Community Playthings. Community Playthings is known for its high-quality classroom equipment and is working with the National Coali-

tion of Campus Children's Centers (we are members!) to develop a line of outdoor equipment. While in Madison, the group also had meetings with our neighbor Forest Products Laboratory.

Supporting our Teachers

In addition to multiple professional development activities, including Linda Gilkerson on "Supporting Infant and Parent Mental Health;" Mary Locast, Occupational Therapist at Waisman Center, on "Sensory Issues in Young Children;" Jackie Irving presenting "True Colors Team Building;" and the "Babies Documentary," which was attended by more than 70 teachers, we've been busy with

upcoming projects. Mare Cunningham will present a mindfulness class beginning in February and will work with our teachers over a 9-month period as a direct response to our efforts to help manage job-related stress. These great collaborations provide essential support for our early education workforce and we appreciate all our partners.

SAVE THE DATE: May 31—Jazzin'

We will celebrate 15 years of Jazzin,' the annual fundraiser for our office, Thursday, May 31, from 5-8 p.m. at Tripp Commons in Memorial Union. We invite you to join us for this festive and memorable event. This year, we're honoring eight of our fabulous campus teachers:

Mary Ellen Post (PSL-L), Casey Feist and Mary Pierick (PSL-MP), Lisa Hawkins (Waisman), Kristen Pape and Vicki Stevens (Eagle's Wing), and Tamika Ellefson and Amy Welk (Bernie's Place). We will also salute Janna Hack, an infant mental-health specialist with the Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health, for her valuable consultations and training to early educators in our community and state. In addition, Dean Robin Douthitt and Assistant Dean Linda Dicks, both retiring from the School of Human Ecology, will be recognized.

This event features a silent auction, a raffle, and an inspiring performance by Madison's own jazz diva, Jan Wheaton.

Here are ways that you can help:

- Donate a silent auction package
- Bid on silent auction packages (accessible online May 15–29 at www.32auctions.com. Auction ID: Jazzin; Auction Password: Auction)
- Offer to sell event and raffle tickets
- Provide a donation to support child care teachers' tickets
- Provide a donation to underwrite the costs of the event

Refer all questions to Connie L. Wilson at clwilson@wisc.edu



Connie L. Wilson Child Care Center Fund

Robert Blank
Nancy Buechel
Joseph & Barbara Weston Corry
Woody & Joanne Wilson
Daniel & Paula Jarzemsky
Mary Locast
Aaron Lowe
Lucy Mathiak
Lorraine Meisner
Mary & Kendall Rouse
Thomas Smith
John Stott & Patricia Sanford
Cathleen Trueba
Connie L. Wilson
Gertrude B. Wilson

Student Child Care Scholarship Grants

David Castro & Amanda Durik
Mara McDonald
Matthew Oswald
Eulalia Puig Abril & Scott Rozman
Samina Raja
Shane Lester Resch
Paige & Matthew Sumera

Classified Staff Child Care Grants

Stephen Appell
Mary Czyszczak-Lyne
Gary Mitchell
Denise Mussehl
William Richner

*Donations Received from September 2011-January 2012



Staff News

Daron Nealis means a lot to our student parents. Not only does Daron masterfully administer the CCTAP program, but she's also the driving force behind our recent efforts to create a web-based database, a technological upgrade that promises

increased ease and efficiencies for our student families. On top of all this, Daron is one of the caring individuals who listens and responds to those numerous and varied student-family issues that arise on a daily basis.

In-kind Supporters

Dan Watts, who contributed plants for the playground at #39, and individuals who volunteered for a #39 playground work day:

Iris & Avi Bar Massada
Robin & Todd Conkey
Ruthanne Chun
Laura Deroche
Zhen Ji
Cheng Guan Koay
Nese Kurt
Beth Larson
Yanhui Li
Shuning Liu

Megan & Robert McDermott
Chuck McFarland
Stephen Perez
Fang Wang
Lisa Wettleson
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Helen Yu
Nianli Zhang
Xiaobin Zhang

