

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.

In This Issue

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| MESSAGE FROM LYNN | 1 |
| CHILDREN'S CENTER UPDATES | 1 |
| PROJECT GROW | 2 |
| DEVELOPMENT UPDATES | 2 |
| ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES | 3 |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | 3 |
| SUPPORT FOR NEW MOMS | 4 |

OUR VISION

The Office of Child Care and Family Resources promotes the academic and professional goals of the University of Wisconsin community through the administration of early education and family support programs.



Visit us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/UWMadisonOCCFR

Message from Lynn



Moving. That about sums it up. This summer, we had three programs move their operations, their children, their families, and their staff to new locations on campus. It is not an easy feat to provide services during such a significant transition. I

was amazed by the constant smiles and positive outlook during such a stressful time. Now that the moves have been completed, the programs will settle into new spaces and new routines.

Staying. This fall, we're happy to report that we did not lose our talented teachers to the public school system. We credit campus leaders like Paul Evans in Housing, who took advantage of the opportunity to increase his teachers' salaries within the critical compensation exercise on campus. We also hope that our efforts to cover the costs of credit courses (to maintain DPI certification) and the provision of excellent professional development helped to retain our great teachers.

Moving. We're also taking steps toward fulfilling our campus child care master plan, which identified the need to increase infant and toddler care in 2000. The plan has been updated and approved as we look toward offering even more care for our youngest on campus. We're

developing a plan with Great Beginnings at 303 Lathrop Street to find a way to maintain this (currently non-campus) program and we're looking at ways to incorporate younger children into other programs as well. We'll keep you posted.

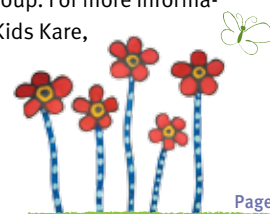
Campus and Community Partners. We are grateful to the Evjue Foundation for once again granting funds to help us transform another nature-based playground. Jill Riley and Paula Evenson, directors of the SOHE Preschool Labs, were gracious enough to share their "gently used" equipment with the UW Family Child Care Network and other campus programs. Joan Ershler and Mary Locast at Waisman Center provided invaluable staff training and consultation to families who have children with special needs. Debb Schaub at Eagle's Wing advocated for a much-needed sensory room at Eagle's Wing in response to children's needs. The Women's Philanthropy Council, headed by Nancy Taylor-Borghesi, contributed essential funding to maintain our Kids Kare Program, which provides reduced rates for sick and back-up care for academic staff and faculty families. We would like to thank the student government, which has consistently acted to support the needs of student-parent families, and the City of Madison Accreditation Staff who continue to dispense excellent consultation, guidance, and improvement grants that help maintain program quality. Thanks to you all!

Lynn Edlefson, Director

Children's Center Updates

The program changes across campus have brought needed facility improvements while helping us to navigate toward our goal of developing expanded programming for younger children. Over the past several years, our campus programs have been charged with implementing services that include serving infants and/or toddlers to assist with the ever-present waiting lists for campus families.

Starting this fall, we will change the protocol for caring for sick children to include in-home care options for faculty, staff, and student parents through a contract with Maxim Healthcare Services. Back-up and hourly care continues to be center-based at Chicken Soup. For more information on these services or Kids Kare, please visit our website at www.occf.wisc.edu.





“That’s My Buddy”: Project Grow gets kids ready to succeed

We appreciate your generous support!*

New Campus Child Care Initiatives

- Lynn Edlefson
- Karen Evans-Romaine
- Evjue Foundation
- Erica E. Flett
- Martha L. Hollis & Patrick E. DuCharme
- Leigh R. Gavin Luedtke & James R. Luedtke
- Carolyn L. Manson
- Emily Miller & Joseph D. Grande
- Cathy Olson & William H. Olson
- Pamela M. Reichelderfer & Mark Reichelderfer
- Ms. Henny S. Regnier & Dr. William E. Brumsickle
- Douglas N. Rose
- Eric C. Salisbury & Dr. Andrea E. Harris
- Gary D. Sandefur & Kathy Sandefur
- Donald P. Sanford & Barbara S. Sanford
- Daniel E. Torphy & Judith A. Torphy
- Hank Walter & Elizabeth Walter
- Connie L. Wilson

Connie L. Wilson Child Care Center Fund

- Lucy J. Mathiak
- Cathleen M. Trueba
- Connie L. Wilson

Student Child Care Scholarship Grants

- Janet K. Bester Meredith & Charles Meredith
- Shai A. Rubin

Classified Staff Child Care Grants

- Gary D. Mitchell
- Denise A. Mussehl

* Donations received February–August 2012



Barely five years old, not even in kindergarten and already behind—now there’s a challenge! It’s one that Dr. Robert San Juan, Director of Project Grow, approaches with enthusiasm and optimism. Project Grow is an AmeriCorps program designed to address the achievement gap that is already beginning to emerge among pre-school age disadvantaged children. As program director for the past five years, San Juan believes that the success of the program has national implications.

UW–Madison students are invited to become “buddies” with a child in one of three participating Madison schools, including Eagle’s Wing on campus. Students must commit for at least one academic year. They can receive payment or service learning credit and can earn an education award from AmeriCorps. Working in teams of 7–8 with one leader, the students travel to the schools twice weekly where they work as a team.

The youngsters work with their student buddies each week, following a routine that resembles a typical pre-school classroom including group activities to emphasize behavior in a community, movement and coordination, and language skills. The buddies also spend one-on-one time together learning how books work and reading them together. The buddies talk about stories to explore ideas and feelings and to build vocabulary and relationships. Buddies can also choose from other activities which focus on

language and literacy skills, as well as social skills like cooperation and dealing with conflict.

“This is a strength-based approach,” explained San Juan. “We stress what the kids can do versus what they can’t.” This concept is employed in all campus programs. Parents must consent to participation and receive ongoing communication about their child’s progress.

Not surprisingly, UW–Madison students and Project Grow kids form close bonds. They truly become buddies. San Juan stresses that the Project Grow experience helps children learn to make choices in the future about who to trust, accepting help, and being part of a community.

Does the program work? San Juan has gathered quantitative proof of program success based on pre- and post-testing. The data show a significant difference in language and social skills between Project Grow and non-Project Grow kids. However, the data tell only one side of the story. The real story is told in a parent’s new and perhaps unexpected pride; in a university student’s real-world experience; in a teacher’s excitement with a class of eager school-ready pupils, and, in a child’s happy greeting, “that’s my buddy.”

For more information on Project Grow, visit www.projectgrow-uwmadison.org.

Merry Anderson

Development Updates

During the past six-month period, grants were written to help underwrite Jazzin’ costs. Individuals, school and college representatives, and local businesses were contacted to ask for donations, and many friends helped to sell tickets for our 15th annual JAZZIN’ event on May 30.

We don’t mind saying that the event was a smashing success with a 40% increase in attendance and an 84% increase in revenue on our silent auction (thanks to many of you!), giving us a \$16,000 profit. Thanks again to all who helped make the evening a successful and special occasion. Mark your calendars: next year’s Jazzin’ will take place on Thursday, June 6, 2013! Stay tuned for more details.

This past year, privately raised funds provided more than \$5,000 of new equipment for UHP and Bernie’s Place; paid for the installation of a sun shade and minor mechanical upgrades at #39; and contributed to several grants to classified staff and student families for discretionary child care needs. The center grant fund was the most

active, awarding three teachers (and first-time grant writers) with equipment to improve their science, nature, and physical fitness programming.

We continue to receive requests for this important direct support from our teachers. Your contributions make a substantial difference for the 100 teachers and 600 children at our seven campus children’s centers. Thank you for your support and energy—we simply could not do it without you. A reminder:

- Donations can be made any time during the year by simply clicking on the UW Foundation’s website: “Making a Gift,” “Give to a Campus Area or Program,” and “Campus Child Care/Early Education.”
- 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.
- To receive this newsletter by email or to remove your name from our mailing list, contact clwilson@wisc.edu.

Julie Underwood, the Dean of the School of Education

Numerous studies show that children who receive an early education have a better chance of succeeding later on in life.

“It is clear that early childhood education has incredible importance to a child’s success in academics and in life,” said School of Education Dean Julie Underwood. “Over the past few years, many Wisconsin public school districts have started four-year-old kindergarten programs. From either of these directions, it is becoming more important for the School of Education to sharpen its focus on early childhood education.”

For that reason, Underwood explained, the Office of Child Care and Family Resources was so deserving of a proper home.

“Faculty within the School of Education supported its move to the School of Education (in July 2011) because it provides a stronger connection to campus early childhood facilities as placements for students and research locations,” Underwood said. “In addition, the stronger connection provides OCCFR easier access to faculty and staff in the school who work in this field. OCCFR is a campus-wide service unit, and we are pleased to be able to offer our support to them.”

“OCCFR staff are also happy with their new academic home,” said Director Lynn Edlefson, adding that she has already seen positive results from the move.

“Moving to the School of Education has provided great benefits to our work: strong intentional leadership from Dean Underwood, great organization and accommodating staff resources, and most of all, a commitment to the shared mission of high-quality early education and care for young children and the campus families that we serve,” Edlefson said.

Both Edlefson and Underwood are strong proponents of “Read to Me,” a program established by School of Education alumna Susan Straub to encourage early literacy.

“This early literacy program is focused on getting parents to read to babies. In particular, Susan works with teenage mothers, supporting them in book selection and reading,” Underwood said. “‘Read to Me’ has a series of in-person workshops and videos. It has received accolades from many places — and of course has improved literacy in many lives.”

*Elisa Weiss,
External Relations Office School of Education*



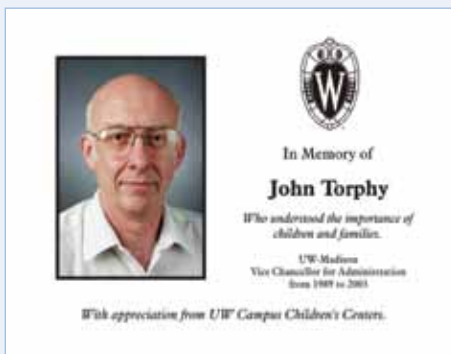
Jazzin' Teacher Scholarship Support

Darrell Bazzell
Maureen Noonan Bischof
Joyce Bromley
Lindsey Stoddard Cameron
Martha Casey
Lynn Edlefson
Marlene Hartzman
Judy Jorgenson
Cyrena Pondrom
Marsha Seltzer
Peyton Smith
John Wiley
Connie L. Wilson

Acknowledgements & News

Thanks to Dean Julie Underwood, Jan Wheaton, and Steve Lund for a great program and to the long list of departments and individuals who provided event underwriting to make our 15th Annual Jazzin' a great success.

In-kind Supporters: A number of individuals have given their time and muscles to help Bernie's Place relocate to its new space in Building #39. Special thanks go to: Esteban Chiriboga, Kris Gunderson, Dadit Hidayat, Monika Ivancic, Jacek Kraszewski, Chris Lieber, Ernie Perry, Shannon and Kevin Schaefer, Elizabeth and Matt Seeliger, Lynn Edlefson, Amy Welk, and Jed and Sharon White. *University Houses Preschool director, Karen Beck, also had a number of parents assist with their move.*



Plaque was installed in Building #39 to acknowledge the support given by John Torphy and family. Again, thank you very much.



Pictured are top raffle sellers at Jazzin' this year. Pictured L to R: Lisa Jansen, Mary Czyszczak-Lyne (our top raffle seller), and Maureen A. N. Bischof.

Supporting our Teachers: Our fall schedule for professional development for our campus teachers includes use of social media in classrooms, developing hand skills, CPR, and technology. Our centers are also working collaboratively with Dr. Heather Kikorian (SOHE) and her students in their study of the use of technology with young children.

Staff news: Thanks to Annette Montgomery, Teri Stratton, and Jen Dittrich-Templin who all pitched in this summer to help with packing, sorting, loading, delivering, and distributing various pieces of equipment from one site to another. In fact, Teri is one talented office manager. Not only does she speak fluent French, she is a certified personal trainer and has our entire office practicing flexibility and exercise routines! Teri will celebrate her one-year anniversary in September and we are fortunate to have her on our staff.

Support for New Moms

The week prior to classes starting this fall, we received this email from Tanya Buckingham in the Geography Department:

“I’ve been back to work since mid-June, after having a baby in early May. I am in a fairly public lab space. I don’t know why I didn’t think to look for lactation rooms on campus before today. What an incredible resource! I don’t know who needs to know how much these rooms are appreciated, but I wanted to be sure that it is passed along about how important it is to me. For the first time in months, I was comfortable enough to pump—a process that was even more stressful as I’ve tried

to complete this in my office. Please pass along that the lactation rooms have brought so much ease and relief to a new mom. I went to the Pyle Center lactation room and it is an amazing, quiet, peaceful respite. Thank you!”

Currently there are 17 lactation rooms on campus for faculty, staff, and students to support women who are balancing returning to work with their needs as mothers of young children. Jen Dittrich-Templin in our office works with building managers across campus to develop these resources. Visit our website to learn more: occcfr.wisc.edu/lactation.htm.

