

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

"Bernie's Place" Staff Receive
Extra Mile Award from the
Rainbow Project 2

Learning about Life
through Art 2

Advocates for Campus Child Care:
Kathy and Gary Sandefur 3

Celebrating Rita Kehl
and Heather Watts 3

Meet you at the Union for
Jazzin' 2010! 4

Message from Lynn



You've probably heard by now—the Madison Metropolitan School Board has voted to implement universal 4-year-old kindergarten in the fall of 2011. This is great news for children and families and a challenge to the School Board to put together funding for a new initiative in these difficult economic times.

Finding a way to provide high-quality early education and care (ECE) for all children has been a consistent advocacy message from the early childhood profession for many years, and one of our campus goals since I started in this office 13 years ago! Our teacher education and research program activities have always sought diversified ECE programs, but not all families can afford high-quality care. The early childhood system needs help to better include everyone. Substantial evidence shows that children born into poverty or who are at-risk due to familial stressors are more likely to commit crime, have out-of-wedlock births and drop out of school. Sadly, the "achievement gap" is visible in some 5-year-olds (or younger)

and for many, the gap never closes.

Our campus programs are working hard in our community collaboration with MMSD to plan and implement 4-K. And, we are proud of the commitment made by student government who recently renewed the Child Care Tuition Assistance Program that makes high-quality early education and care possible for our UW-Madison student parents. We know that early interventions can remediate the effects of adverse environments and reverse some of the harm of disadvantage. We also know that society saves costs in the long run and benefits the children as well as society at large. These are lofty goals, but all possible.

We'll keep you informed of our progress and hope that you will support the Madison 4-K initiative. Watch for specific information from MMSD/community collaboration, and if you want to learn more about policy and investing in early education, Google the work of James Heckman as a good place to start.

Lynn Edlefson, Director

Full Mailbox? Changes to Address?

Go green and sign up to receive the electronic version of the OCCFR newsletter! To change your subscription options, or to remove your name from our mailing list, please contact Connie L. Wilson at clwilson@wisc.edu.

UW-Madison wants to stay in touch with you. To update your contact information, which is maintained by the UW Foundation, please visit www.uwfoundation.wisc.edu/survey. To log on, use the ID number above your name on the newsletter mailing 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. Thank you!



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.



“Bernie’s Place” Staff Receive Extra Mile Award from the Rainbow Project

We appreciate your generous support!*

New Campus Child Care Initiatives

- Mr. Stephen M. Appell
- Prof. Vicki Bier
- Prof. John H. Booske
- Dr. Patricia Flatley Brennan
- Ms. Nancy A. Buechel
- Dr. Martha L. Casey
- Prof. Naomi C. Chesler & Mr. Daniel Sidney
- Prof. Susan N. Coppersmith & Dr. Robert D. Blank
- Ms. Lynn Edlefson and Mr. Dale Edlefson
- Dr. Kun Jun Han
- Ms. Donna L. Leet
- Ms. Barbara Lewis
- Ms. Sandra McClintic
- Dr. Lorraine F. Meisner
- Prof. Anne S. Miner
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- Ms. Terri J. Reda
- Mr. William J. Richner
- Mr. Douglas N. Rose
- Dean Gary D. Sandefur & Ms. Kathy Sandefur
- Dr. Dennis R. Sherraden & Ms. Deborah A. Sherraden
- Dr. Diane R. Soles
- Mr. John P. Stott
- Ms. Connie L. Wilson

Connie L. Wilson Child Care Center Fund

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Recently the staff at “Bernie’s Place” was honored with the “Extra Mile Award” for demonstrating “exceptional advocacy for children and families.” This award is given annually by the Rainbow Project, a Madison-based non-profit organization that offers programs and services for children and families impacted by trauma and stress.

For the past 20 years, staff at Bernie’s Place have worked with Rainbow Project clinicians through the PRIDE Preschool Program. PRIDE clinicians consult with child care centers throughout Dane County to instruct and support staff as they address challenging situations. Working together, they optimize the psychological well-being of the children and families.

In presenting the award, (Rainbow Director) Sharyl Kato described “Bernie’s Place” in this way:

“While many centers participate in the PRIDE Preschool Program, Bernie’s is a standout. Staff is hands-on and masterfully walks the line between providing structure and guidance. They consistently identify advanced issues affecting children and families and seek assistance in addressing them. With input shared through consultation, Bernie’s staff adapts their approach with children and families. Their willingness to tackle complex issues, while maintaining a calm presence and sense of humor, creates a comfortable and nurturing environment. Bernie’s staff makes a daily commitment to ‘go the extra mile’ to create quality for children and their families.”

Learning about Life through Art

Two of our newest child care facilities used to have blank walls until our friend and supporter, mural artist Donna Leet, offered her inspiration to “bring the outdoors in.” A marsh scene with fireflies and cattails at Little Chicks Learning Academy, and a farmyard with animals and a working farmer adorn Chicken Soup. Both mural themes were chosen by the staff, who wanted real-life images that children could recognize.

Children are quick to gravitate to the murals that welcome them each morning. “We all have

a natural curiosity. If I can catch the eye of a child or an adult, a scene can stir questions and create multiple socialization and learning opportunities,” Donna says. Especially meaningful for Donna is the farm scene that replicates her family’s farm where she grew up.

Donna retired from a career with Wisconsin Technical Colleges where she was involved with child care oversight. Thank you to Donna for sharing her talent and support with campus child care!



Donna Leet

Celebrating Rita Kehl and Heather Watts

At the Jazzin' event on June 3, two outstanding early education champions will be honored.

Rita Kehl will retire from the Madison Metropolitan School District this spring, following a 42-year career in early childhood education. Rita has provided leadership in the development and implementation of many community programs that have applied state-of-the-art research findings in children's brain development, emergent language and early literacy to early childhood education. She has taught preschool courses at UW-Madison and in other university settings, bringing her vast knowledge and typical good nature to all. Rita's leadership has been honored often throughout her career and we are thrilled to be able to add our recognition.

On February 12, Bernie's Place said goodbye to a dedicated and well-loved teacher, **Heather Watts**, after 17 years. According to Director Vicki Blum, "as a co-worker, friend and Bernie's parent, I can tell you that she will be missed dearly. Heather has great warmth and a welcoming nature that puts both children and adults at ease. She is always willing to work toward what is best for both children and parents. Heather worked primarily as our 'science' teacher and was the one to start most disco dance parties, as well as the piñata maker and a great hug-giver!" Heather is a wonderful teacher and friend and we thank her for all the years she has given to campus child care.

Advocates for Campus Child Care: Kathy and Gary Sandefur



Kathy and Gary Sandefur are "built for success." They are both bright, energetic and creative — and each has spent a lifetime committed to their communities. Kathy and Gary are longtime friends of Campus Child Care, and

they provided me with some insights into their support.

Of all the interests and options for giving at UW-Madison, why did you select campus child care?

One of the nice, helpful features of a Bascom Hill Membership is the opportunity to divide one's gift among several deserving entities. When we saw that Campus Child Care was organized and ready to accept our support, it was a "no-brainer."

From your perspective, why is campus child care important?

Our first child, Becky, was born while Gary was an undergraduate student. He was attending

classes, studying and working 20-30 hours per week, and I was working full-time. Both of us were on campus each day and wanted our child to be nearby. So from a practical standpoint, it made sense. We lived on campus, rode the campus trolley to the child care center, then on to class and work.

The benefits of campus child care, however, are of much greater value than just convenience. With campus child care, one can rely on the high standards and qualifications of well-trained staff. The campus offers a strong sense of community, and of mutual acceptance and support of the families served. Campus child care lives on the same academic schedule as the university, and staff readily recognize the stresses associated with mid-terms and final exams, as well as the excitement and uncertainty that develops when the parent(s) is on the job market.

We believe that campus child care contributes to the rest of the community as well. Our child care facilities, like schools, are pillars of support in our communities. They provide stability, bring balance to our "community life" and present a positive, hope-filled picture for our futures.

Donor List (Continued)

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Dr. Ruth M. Saecker &
Dr. Craig A. Bingman
Mr. John P. Stott

*Donations received October 2009–February 2010





2010–2011 CCTAP budget approved!

Graduate student Aimee Kurian and Lynn Edlefson presented the Child Care Tuition Assistance Program (CCTAP) budget to the Student Services Finance Committee (SSFC) in February. CCTAP, supported by student segregated fees, provides parent support services and child care financial assistance for enrolled student parents at UW–Madison. The budget request of \$749,900 for 2010–2011 was passed unanimously by SSFC!

A big thanks goes to all student government representatives for their support!

Meet you at the Union for Jazzin' 2010!



A jazz-filled evening by Lake Mendota is a wonderful way to welcome summer and support campus child care programs too. Mark your calendars now for the evening of June 3, 2010, when The Jan Wheaton Quintet

will take center stage in Tripp Commons. A raffle and silent auction with donations from campus artisans and local businesses will again directly support our programs. This year, we will honor Rita Kehl and Heather Watts for their contributions to early childhood education.

Most of all, it's your support we need. Ticket sales this year will provide grants to campus child care centers and help complete needed renovations at the "Daisy Project" — a new center that will increase our infant/toddler capacity by 20!

Jazzin' tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by phone or at the event. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided and a cash bar will be available.

For more information, please call our office at (608) 890-0436 and ask for Jordan, or visit www.occf.wisc.edu/jazzin.html.

Thanks to Connie Wilson and Caroline Oldershaw for writing articles for this issue, and to University Communications for their ongoing design work.