

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
GRANT FUNDS AT EAGLE'S WING	2
DEVELOPMENT UPDATES	2
JAZZIN' HONOREES	3
JAZZIN' 2013	3
AWARDS & SUCCESS STORIES	4

OUR MISSION

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.



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Notes from Lynn



You've all followed the progress of our campus centers as we've moved from one building to another and re-vamped programs over the past two years. Well, we're still going. This past February, we awarded a contract to

Bernie's Place to operate the early care and education program at #39 University Houses. This award affects two programs (Bernie's Place and University Houses Preschool), as services will be combined into one administration. An RFP process has been underway since the beginning of the semester and we believe that merging full- and part-day programming will ultimately benefit families who will now have the option of securing infant and toddler care at this program.

Even before 1997 when I arrived on campus, faculty, staff, and students have been clamoring (and I think that description is apt) for care for their youngest. Of the 400 FTEs for care that we provide through our campus system, about 70 are devoted to infants and toddlers. Yes, baby steps...but we are making strides toward

system efficiency as we are becoming more inclusive, more accommodating, and easier to navigate.

Jen Dittrich in our office is also overseeing the launch of a new software program for campus families which will allow them to make inquiries, get on a wait list, or seek enrollment at one of our seven campus children's centers. It is a web-based program that is parent-initiated and is called Bumblebee. We hope to pilot the software yet this spring semester. Watch for updates on our website as to how this program will help our families with enrollments, help our directors find those who may fall through the cracks, and help us all to collaborate on securing care. We know that our system is far from complete, but we'll keep forging ahead with the hope of creating greater access and greater ease for families on campus.

Thanks to student government, the Women's Philanthropy Council, our individual donors and monthly contributors, and all departments who participate in this journey to improve our system. We are grateful to you all.

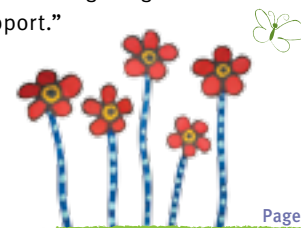
Lynn Edlefson, Director

Employee Child Care Grants Expanded

The long-term Classified Staff Child Care Grant Fund (established in 2003) has been "enhanced!" An additional gift from the Women's Philanthropy Council has allowed us to make infant care grants available to faculty and staff who work full-time on campus. Here's a comment from Nina, a recent staff recipient. She says it well:

"Raising children is expensive. We know this. Mouths to feed, bodies to dress, bums to diaper and child care to obtain...the cost of a year of child care is just about equivalent to college

tuition. Although, unlike with tuition, there is not financial aid for families to help cover child care costs, especially during tighter times. The Employee Child Care Grant program is such a welcome relief. Like many, as a young family with two working parents, we are doing our best to make a great little life for our family. We are deeply grateful for receiving the grant and thank you for your support."





Grant Funds Sustain Best Practices at Eagle's Wing

We appreciate your generous support!

Student Child Care Scholarship Grants

- Dr. Julie N. Christoph
- Mr. Robert M. Fessenden & Ms. Patricia K. Fessenden
- Ms. Bonnie L. Hurwitz
- Dr. Janet K. Bester Meredith & Dr. Charles Meredith
- Mr. Kevin J. Orth & Ms. Heather H. Orth
- Mr. Matthew T. Oswald
- Professor Samina Raja
- Ms. Paige K. Sumera & Mr. Matthew M. Sumera
- Dr. Kenneth R. Waller & Ms. Shelly Marie Waller

Connie L. Wilson Child Care Center Fund

- Ms. Anne M. Connor & Mr. Timothy J. Connor
- Mr. Joseph J. Corry & Ms. Barbara Weston Corry
- Ms. Lynn Edlefson
- Dr. Daniel R. Jarzemsky & Professor Paula A. Jarzemsky
- Ms. Donna G. Johnson & Mr. Daniel K. Johnson
- Ms. Mary Locast
- Dr. Katharine Lyall
- Ms. Lucy J. Mathiak
- Ms. Margaret S. Roth
- Ms. Mary K. Rouse & Mr. Kendall G. Rouse
- Mr. David P. Turner
- Ms. Connie L. Wilson
- Ms. Gertrude B. Wilson
- Mr. Woodrow T. Wilson, Jr. & Ms. Joanne Wilson

New Campus Child Care Initiatives

- Mr. David A. Borghesi & Ms. Nancy Taylor Borghesi
- Dr. Martha L. Casey
- Ms. Karen G. Crossley
- Mr. Nelson W. Donovan & Ms. Megan M. Donovan



Eagle's Wing has always provided high-quality early education and care for a very diverse population of children and their families (mostly students) on a shoestring budget. The greatest key to our success lies with our dedicated and talented team of teachers. Even with limited means, we are committed to retaining and supporting our excellent teaching staff.

We try to balance our budget against the cost of salary and fringe rates for staff (94% of our budget) and against the limited financial resources of our families, most of whom are student-parents. With this fiscal tightrope, it's no wonder that Eagle's Wing teachers have been consistent in their efforts to take full advantage of the Connie L. Wilson Center Grant Fund through the UW Office of Child Care and Family Resources.

This past year alone, Eagle's Wing teachers wrote (and received) five individual grants requesting supplies for special projects in their classrooms. The requests were varied but specific to the age group of the children served. Here are a few examples of what we were able to purchase.

THE TODDLER GRANT INCLUDED:

- 5- to 26-piece puzzles that address fine motor development, and
- Chew noodles (better for a toddler to bite a squishy tube than to "eat" puzzle pieces) and other sensory items all geared toward helping children improve their sensory awareness, especially tactile, auditory, and oral areas of development.

THE PRESCHOOL GRANT INCLUDED:

- An iPod! Teachers transfer music to the iPods for easy and enjoyable circle times.
- "Moon sand" was purchased to provide tactile sensory experiences and representational art activities. This is a great tool for children with anxiety.
- A variety of materials were added to enrich the art area for preschool children. Yes, we have many unique works of art to show for it.

THE SCHOOL-AGE GRANT INCLUDED:

- A 130-piece wooden railroad set with engines and train cars that will last forever due to exceptional workmanship. Many children will benefit from this purchase, both now and in the future.
- For the Science Area: animal skins, skulls, tails, and antlers have been added. These items are used with all preschoolers, but especially for the 4-K children who are extending their sensory experiences as well as their inquiry and research into animals, habitats, etc.

Finally, Eagle's Wing has allocated space for a much-needed and greatly anticipated sensory room. This room is set apart from the classrooms and is filled with adaptive equipment for children who either need help to regulate impulsive behavior or who may need additional stimulation or encouragement to participate more easily with larger group activities. Our early education classrooms can be both exciting and stimulating—but there are times that all of it is "too much" for some children who may become overwhelmed. We are now developing this wonderful little room where the lights can be low and children can swing in a net chair while holding a fluffy vibrating pillow. This room will provide "getaway" space for some calming small group time with one of our teaching staff.

In conjunction with the sensory room, we've also attended mindfulness training with the Waisman Center's Laura Pinger, and are incorporating some of her great ideas on helping children learn how to regulate their behavior. Watch for a follow-up on parent-child mindfulness activities!

Our wish lists are becoming reality thanks to the generous support from Connie Wilson and her funding supporters. Thank you to everyone who contributes to this fund. You are making a real difference for our children and families.

Development Updates

Every once in a while, you need to step back and analyze results. The end of a donor year is an appropriate time to do just that—analyze. Analyze what has been accomplished in the past year, how many gifts have been received, and the feedback on program initiatives, etc. I am happy to report that gifts doubled from 2011 to 2012. It could

be because the economy has improved enough that individuals are once again able to give to their causes or it could be that individuals understand and appreciate all that is done by the staff in the Office of Child Care and Family Resources. Maybe both reasons come into play, but the bottom line is good news, so thank you very, very much.

The Office of Child Care and Family Resources Jazzin' Honorees

The OCCFR honors Gary and Kathy Sandefur and John and Georgia Wiley at the 16th Annual Jazzin' event.

Every day on the UW–Madison campus, students, faculty and staff push the boundaries of knowledge. And, every day on campus, another group of distinctively younger Badgers discovers that *Green Eggs and Ham* causes giggling, sharing is good but hard to do, and spinning around really fast makes you dizzy. Within our university community of academic achievers is a community of families with children and the special set of challenges that come with balancing home, study, and work. These families depend on the OCCFR to help by providing encouragement, financial assistance, reliable care, and quality education. The OCCFR depends on the thoughtful and consistent support of its donors and friends. This year, we are proud to honor Gary and Kathy Sandefur and John and Georgia Wiley for their ever-present leadership on behalf of campus families.

As parents themselves, the Sandefurs and Wileys have been committed to offering students and employees with children a safe, nurturing, and stimulating place for their children to grow and learn. As lifelong learners, these respected couples recognize the importance of our campus programs as laboratories for studying child development and family dynamics. For numerous years, their personal gifts have supported the work of the OCCFR. They have advocated for upgrading facilities, recognizing teachers, and promoting continued research in childhood education and parent-child relationships.

Gary Sandefur joined the UW–Madison Department of Sociology faculty in 1984. He has served as Assistant Vice Chancellor, Interim Provost, Director of American Indian Studies, and most recently as Dean of the College of Letters and Science. Kathy Sandefur is an active volunteer with many university and Madison organizations, including the University League. Gary has announced plans to retire at the end of 2013. The Sandefurs plan to return to Oklahoma where their careers began.

John Wiley first came to the university as a graduate student in 1964. He returned as a faculty member in 1975 and has served as Associate Dean for Research in the College of Engineering, Dean of the Graduate School, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and Chancellor from 2001–2008. Georgia and John met at the College of Engineering and both have been long-time supporters of efforts to maintain and grow child care and early education at UW–Madison.

While child rearing differs among generations and cultures, some things remain constant. For example, “please” and “thank you” are still magic words. This is why the staff and friends, and children and parents of campus child care would like Gary and Kathy and John and Georgia to please accept our thanks and gratitude for remembering us with your gifts and giving families the opportunity to dream more, learn more, and become more.

By Merry Anderson

Time to Mark Your Calendar!

As many of you know, this is the major fundraiser for the Office of Child Care and Family Resources. The event will again include music from the Jan Wheaton Quintet, an online silent auction, and raffle. Proceeds from

the event support the Connie L. Wilson Center Grant Fund (in 2012, it distributed six grants to campus centers for new teacher grants) and the New Initiatives Fund (which supported relocation costs for two of our campus centers this past year). Gary Sandefur, Dean of College of Letters & Science, and his wife, Kathy; and John Wiley, Chancellor from 2001–2007, and his wife,

16th Annual Jazzin'
Thursday, May 30, 2013
5–8 p.m.
Symphony Room,
Gordon Commons

Georgia, will be honored at the event in addition to four of our campus child care center teachers: Deb Erickson and Tiffini Schwenn (Waisman Early Learning Program); Derya Gok (Eagle's Wing); Jill Riley (UW Preschool Lab-

Linden Drive); and Kate Dahl (UW Preschool Lab-Mineral Point Road). If you have questions about the event or would like to help, please feel free to contact Connie at clwilson@wisc.edu. Connie can definitely find something for you to do!



New Campus Child Care Initiatives (continued)

Dr. Amanda M. Durik & Dr. David J. Castro
Ms. Lynn Edlefson
Dr. Marlene T. Hartzman & Dr. Robert J. Hartzman
Ms. Monika Ivancic & Mr. George Sliter
Mr. Derek V. Lee & Ms. Darcy L. Lee
Professor Anne S. Miner
Professor Cyrena N. Pondrom
Ms. Terri J. Reda
Mr. William J. Richner
Mr. Douglas N. Rose
Mr. Eric C. Salisbury
Dean Gary D. Sandefur & Ms. Kathy Sandefur
Mr. Thomas R. Smith
Mr. John P. Stott
Dr. Daniel E. Torphy & Ms. Judith A. Torphy
Ms. Connie L. Wilson

Classified Staff Child Care Grants

Professor Vicki Bier
Ms. Lianne R. Burnson & Mr. Richard C. Burnson
Ms. Mary Czyszczak-Lyne
Professor Pat Lasky
Mr. Gary D. Mitchell
Ms. Denise A. Mussehl
Ms. Sharon R. Nellis

* Donations received
September–December 2012



Campus Connections that Created Great Results

A refugee from war-torn Sudan in Northern Africa, Josephine Lorya-Ozulamoi found her voice in UW-Madison's Odyssey Project (class of 2007-2008). Juggling motherhood, work and school, Josephine proudly graduated from UW-Madison in May 2012 with a double major in Legal Studies and Sociology. She became a U.S. citizen and now hopes to become an immigration lawyer. Josephine's daughter proudly tells all her friends that "my mommy is in college," and soon she'll be able to tell her friends "my mommy is a lawyer."

Josephine has the tenacity to succeed and maintains a positive, can-do attitude no matter what the class or family load. Attributing her success to the Odyssey Project and to the support she received from the OCCFR, she says, "Odyssey shed light into my life and got me on the road to success. And all the while I was in school, OCCFR supported me and my family." Evening child care was provided during Odyssey sessions and the OCCFR's Child Care Tuition Assistance Program provided funding as she attended classes full-time.

Awards



Mary Pierick, teacher at the Preschool Lab on Mineral Point Road, is one of 50 early educators recognized by the Terri Lynne Lokoff Child Care Foundation. This same foundation created

the Terri Lynne Lokoff/Children's TYLENOL National Child Care Teacher Awards. This award acknowledges the critical role of child care teachers in providing quality early care and education. Teachers from all states and from military bases and installations around the world were considered. As part of the application process, each applicant must design a classroom enhancement project for children and illustrate the educational, social, and emotional benefits derived from this project.

Mary's project focused on the use of classroom iPads to support children who

struggle with transitions and emotions. Using ideas from a book titled, *Lights, Camera, Autism*, and a class on video modeling (an evidence-based strategy that uses videos of a child to help him or her work through challenging areas), Mary expanded her project with the children in her own classroom. She eventually involved the entire staff in this training as they learned how to implement these strategies as well as document their own work. Mary's commitment to students with special needs is exceptional and she is constantly seeking ways to improve the quality of our early educational programs for all children.

Mary will attend an award ceremony in Pennsylvania this spring for her outstanding contributions and will receive an additional personal award of \$500. Congratulations, Mary!