10 Years and Counting

INVESTING IN THE EARLY YEARS
Dear Friends,

Recognizing how important the first few years of a child’s life are to ensuring strong intellectual, social and emotional development, the Early Childhood Resource Center (ECRC) has committed the past ten years to increasing the quality of education and care for our youngest citizens. Through professional development of teachers, accreditation projects for childcare centers and family childcare homes, and advocacy at the state level, the ECRC has led the way to developing and maintaining high quality standards for the children of Stark County.

Our work would not be possible without the generous and multifaceted support of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, who has been an integral partner since we opened our doors in March 2000. Additionally, much of the credit goes to the staff and my predecessor, Geri Grove, whose leadership has truly impacted early education and care in our community. When compared to other counties in Ohio, today Stark County has more childcare centers that are Step Up To Quality rated, family childcare providers that are accredited and childcare staff that are professionally credentialed.

As we move forward, the ECRC remains committed to providing professional development services that lead to high quality early experiences for young children. Education is often the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. According to studies by the Research and Policy Committee of the Committee for Economic Development, “helping all children start school ready to learn is critical to their future success and to the well-being of society as a whole. Children who start school behind their peers are unlikely to catch up. Children who enter kindergarten with limited word reading skills are the most likely to develop later reading difficulties and require remedial education.”

Recognizing the pivotal role parents play in their child’s education, the ECRC broadened our mission in 2011 to include direct services to families with young children. Our goal is help more children be prepared to enter kindergarten.

But, we are only part of the solution. We understand the importance of developing collaborative relationships with community partners to create a single point of access for the families and young children in our community. Throughout all our work, the ECRC has been fortunate to have the support of the Sisters of Charity Health System, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton and the community.

As we enter our second decade, a goal is to fill the space of our new facility with exciting activities, programming and partnerships. We welcome you to be an important part of it all.

Sincerely,

Scott Hasselman, Executive Director

Our Mission

In the spirit of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, the mission of the Early Childhood Resource Center is to promote the healthy development of young children by improving the quality of their early education and care through comprehensive programming, resources, and support services for families and early childhood professionals, to be leaders and advocates at the state level, and to promote the professionalism of the early childhood field.

ECRC INTRODUCES NEW LOOK

The Early Childhood Resource Center is pleased to introduce our new logo. It embodies the universal Christian symbol of the cross, which is at the heart of everything we do and is a strong symbol of devotion. Used across the Sisters of Charity Health System, this symbol recognizes that, together, the system’s ministries shine as a beacon of hope by filling unmet health and human service needs—a hallmark of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine.
Our First 10 Years

In 1996, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act created a fundamental shift in both the method and goal of federal cash assistance to the poor. Among the many outcomes, was an increase in Ohio mothers entering the workforce and additional demand for quality childcare. Simultaneously, new research in early childhood development indicated a direct link between strong, secure attachments to nurturing caregivers and a child’s ability to cope with the social, emotional and cognitive demands of adulthood. Additionally, evidence showed that early childhood experiences have a profound impact on brain growth and development.

In response, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, which is dedicated to initiating systemic change to impact the root causes of poverty through areas including education, committed $1 million in 1998 to the Quality Child Care Initiative. Before distributing the funding, the foundation held community focus groups to discern specific areas of need and found that accreditation and professional development would most dramatically improve early education and care across Stark County. And, so the concept of a resource center to support individuals who work directly with young children began to take shape.

With a generous gift from the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, the Early Childhood Resource Center (ECRC) was established in March 2000 as a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System. The Health System is a nonprofit organization that carries out the ministry of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine by providing oversight, leadership and strategic direction to more than 20 organizations responding to community needs in Canton and Cleveland, Ohio, and Columbia, South Carolina.

The establishment of ECRC included the creation of comprehensive training programs for early education and care centers and family child care providers, including the Child Development Associate credentialing program, mentoring services, leadership training, business training, accreditation consultation, and other forms of technical assistance. The facility was set up to include a satellite site of the Stark County District Library with a specialized collection of books and resources, a state-of-the-art PRODUCTION LAB and a training facility.

In the decade since, the ECRC has exceeded many goals and grown dramatically through its wide spectrum of programs, support services and staff. Recognized as innovators in early education and care, ECRC staff members have participated in committees and workgroups to inform policy and develop guides such as the Core Knowledge and Competencies and the Infant Toddler Guidelines.

In 2009, the ECRC launched a capital campaign to purchase and renovate a new facility. Thanks to an outpouring of community support, the new center officially opened its doors on February 22, 2011. The new ECRC facility features an expanded library and production lab; a larger, state-of-the-art-classroom; and the addition of new resources, including an INSPIRATION STATION, networking lounge, second classroom and an EDUCATIONAL RETAIL STORE.

Throughout the past ten years, the center has been blessed to receive financial support from foundations, government agencies, corporations and individual donors who believe that investments made in the early years greatly impact the future of our community. We thank you for your support and look forward to serving our community in the years to come.

LIBRARY
Through a unique collaboration with the Stark County District Library, the ECRC houses a specialized early childhood library with more than 5500 items. The collection includes books, big books, storytelling kits, CD’s, and DVD’s for children, parents, and professionals with a circulation of 10,000-12,000 items per year.

PRODUCTION LAB
A yearly membership gives early childhood professionals and parents access to a spacious workroom filled with equipment, supplies, and resources to make educational materials to support children’s learning. Since opening its doors, through December 2010, 197 Center Memberships and 1468 Individual Memberships were opened, giving 3068 members access to the Production Lab.

INSPIRATION STATION
This interactive classroom offers opportunities for individuals or groups to work with young children on age appropriate activities that spark imagination and promote learning in a variety of domains.

EDUCATIONAL RETAIL STORE
New to our facility, the educational retail store is packed with educational toys, teacher resources, books and a variety of unique gift ideas. Members receive discounts on merchandise in our store.
For the past ten years, we have known that now is the right time to invest in early childhood development. By partnering with providers, we help rewrite the destinies of children and shape the next generation. Here we present three success stories showcasing providers we’ve supported in creating and maintaining high quality learning environments for children. As you’ll see, each story is unique and so are the children whose lives they have positively influenced. These are just three of the thousands of success stories we’ve witnessed. We are so grateful to these individuals for sharing their experiences with us.

Len Stovall

*CHANGED LIVES, CHANGED COMMUNITIES | FAMILY CHILD CARE CENTER*

Lenzeller Stovall’s has a smile and a life story very few can forget. Having dropped out of high school as a pregnant teen, Stovall didn’t let society’s expectations for her dictate her destiny. Rather, she raised four children to be productive adults. She earned her GED, with the support of the ECRC, after eight tries at the test. (After the seventh try, test administrators recognized that she was dyslexic.) Having enjoyed caring for children in her home all her life, Stovall was a natural fit for a Child Development Associate credential (CDA). The **CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** at ECRC helped her get that CDA. Today, she runs a thriving Type B Family Child Care program in her Alliance home, regulated by the Stark County Department of Job and Family Services. Neighborhood parents find her by word of mouth and her clients often stay with her for years.

“The ECRC was my beginning,” Stovall says. “They taught me how to work with children in a professional way. I had always thought of child care as a job but the ECRC taught me that it was a profession.” Through low and no-cost ECRC training workshops, she learned about keeping paperwork and small business bookkeeping. Through a mentoring program, she’s learned strategies for identifying individual children’s needs, creating effective learning environments, and implementing literacy into her curriculum. She meets monthly with the Stark Family Child Care Providers support group to swap ideas and encouragement with other in-home providers. Stovall glows when she speaks about the children she cares for. There’s the eleven year old girl who excels at math and the six and ten-year old boys who help prepare lunches and snacks. Three-year old Kaden, whom she’s cared for since he was three months old, stays by her side as she walks through her home, pointing out materials sourced from the ECRC’s Production Lab and library. Stowed neatly away in cubbies, there are science kits, manipulative toys, paints, poster board, books and lesson plans. Out the kitchen window, one glimpses a yard full of colorful playground equipment, the hub of which is a sandbox the ECRC helped her obtain through a grant.

When asked why she’d recommend the ECRC to other aspiring in-home child care providers, Stovall says, “They can learn how to be professional and love their children at the same time.” She asserts that low-income parents desperately need help with quality, affordable child care. She credits the ECRC for giving parents and providers a positive start. “No other organization supports the family bond in this way. The ECRC helps create happy, safe, healthy environments for children,” she says.

It’s clear to Stovall that her life and those of the children she cares for would be entirely different were it not for the ECRC. “I want my kids to be spectacular when they come from me. And they are!”

**I had always thought of child care as a job but the ECRC taught me that it was a profession.**

— Len

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

The Career Development Program provides comprehensive training and support services to qualified participants working to meet the requirements of the nationally recognized Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential. Through this program, CDA candidates work with a CDA mentor to guide them as they participate in training and apply the knowledge in their work settings. Additional supports include professional resources and classroom materials. At completion, the CDA Credential can be articulated into 6 hours of college credit. Between 2001-2010, over 230 professionals received mentoring services and 726 classes were held, equating to more than 2,180 hours of training.
OakPark Preschool

HIGHLY RESPONSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS | LYNETTE WHITE AND INTA LEWIS

The main corridor at Lynette White’s OakPark Preschool in Massillon is adorned with colorful collages of children’s artwork. A mural featuring the handiwork of every child in the school hangs outside Director of Operations Inta Lewis’ office. This is a place where children are the most important topic in any discussion and it shows. OakPark’s Massillon center is one of three early child care centers owned by White, who is Executive Director. Two others are located in Jackson Township and Waynesburg. Each center serves children ages six weeks through twelve years. White and Lewis have been involved with the Early Childhood Resource Center (ECRC) since its early days. Both credit the ECRC for OakPark’s flourishing since its beginnings in 1989, as well as its many success stories with children and parents. OakPark has been a Nationally Accredited early child care site for the past nine years.

OakPark’s staff and children have benefited greatly from the ECRC’s arms of support. One such arm includes the mentoring programs, the flexibility of which has allowed ECRC staff to identify and respond to specific needs at OakPark. “The ECRC staff combined have such powerful minds,” White says. “They have such an understanding of early childhood needs and a strong, unique working knowledge of the challenges that our field faces. They meet you where you’re at, whether you’re an entry level teacher or an administrator.” Thanks to ECRC scholarships, many OakPark staff have earned Child Development Associate credentials (CDA). Today, Lewis is one of the ECRC’s trainers for the CDA program.

Both women have received ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP TRAINING on running a high quality learning environment. The ECRC’s goal is to train and equip teachers, who someday may become administrators, who then may be brought back in as leaders and trainers, then as trainers of trainers. It’s an evolutionary relationship that the ECRC knows is fundamental to longevity and continuity of quality.

Winding one’s way into the cheerily appointed classroom corridors, one notices the bulletin board devoted to PARENTS AS PARTNERS, another ECRC program. The intention is to strengthen families, alleviate high stress situations, support parents in decision making, and provide tools and resources for raising healthy, secure children. White and Lewis report not only a high interest level in this program among parents, but great results, too.

Lewis recounts a touching moment from a recent event: two grandfathers standing together in the hallway, swapping parenting tips, while their adult daughters listened in. “The intergenerational connections are so important,” she says. Another staff favorite is Caring for the Caregiver, a Spring event designed by the ECRC to pamper providers and honor their dedication. The emphasis is on community building and fun. White explains the value: “Students benefit from teachers’ networking. More confident teachers leads to more confident students who are learning more.”

Through large classroom windows all throughout OakPark, visitors can glimpse students engaged in constructive play and learning intentional concepts. White and Lewis point to examples of the ECRC’s Production Lab’s supplementary teaching materials everywhere. Children benefit from teachers’ use of the lab, as well as the Stark County District library satellite at the ECRC.

Lewis says, “There is no organization other than the ECRC who provides individualized training and makes resources available to keep such a positive ripple effect going. Organizations like ours would be very lonely without them.” ★

The ripple effect of the ECRC’s support is monumental. When you train an administrator who trains her staff who reaches into the community of children and parents, the impact is never ending.

— Lynette

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Each year the ECRC offers training to support the unique needs of early childhood program administrators. Two-day conferences, individual workshops, and seminar series have provided directors with information on topics such as finances, program management, marketing, enrollment, curriculum, assessment, and leadership development. In addition, mentoring projects utilizing the Program Administration Scale (PAS), a nationally recognized assessment tool, target management and leadership skills and identify areas of improvement needed to run a quality program.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Parents as Partners (PAP) is a mentoring program that works directly with child care centers to establish program strategies that build strong relationships with families. This program utilizes a research based tool called Strengthening Families which builds upon the unique relationship between families and child care programs to reduce the likelihood of family violence.
It’s the ECRC staff’s openness and willingness to help people that makes them so effective. They understand that the people they’re helping have real lives and roadblocks.

— Tracy

The words ‘determined,’ ‘industrious,’ and ‘focused’ only begin to describe Tracy Williams. Her inner drive is a like a force of nature. And the ECRC has been to her like nature’s helper. Let’s start in the present and work backward. Tracy, who is the Curriculum Specialist at Multi-Development Services (MDS) of Stark County, has a brave new dream: she wants to be where I am today without the support of the ECRC.
Investing in the Early Years

Listed here are organizations who have helped to support ongoing programs and services of the Early Childhood Resource Center over the past decade.

- Ada and Helen Rank Charitable Trust
- Albert W. and Edith V. Flowers Charitable Foundation
- Alliance Ventures
- American Electric Power
- Aultman Health Foundation
- Charter One Bank
- CSA Mercy Ministries
- Deuble Foundation
- Diebold Employees Charitable Trust
- Diebold Foundation
- Fred F. Silk Charitable Foundation
- Greater Alliance Foundation
- Hoover Foundation
- Martha Lottman
- Ohio Children’s Trust Fund
- Ohio Department of Education
- Paul and Carol David Foundation
- PNC Bank
- Raymond John Wean Foundation
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton
- SPARK Ohio
- Stark Community Foundation
- Stark County Department of Jobs and Family Services
- Stark County Family Council
- Timken Charitable Trust
- Timken Foundation
- United States Federal Appropriation Dollars
- United Way of Greater Stark County
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation

**We made every attempt to go back through our records to ensure accuracy. Please accept our deepest apology if we did not mention your support of our Center.**

The Early Childhood Resource Center would like to thank the many foundations, government agencies, individual donors and corporations for your investments in the education and care of young children of Stark County. We are especially grateful to the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton for their investment for over a decade of $4.5 million dollars in the development, implementation and ongoing support of the Early Childhood Resource Center; only a fraction of their total investment in early education and care in Stark County.

### Revenue Fiscal Year 2010

- **Grants: Sisters of Charity of Canton**: $347,682
- **Grants: Other**: $86,603
- **Program Service Revenue**: $79,043
- **Fundraising**: $26,673
- **Contributions: Businesses and Individuals**: $17,561
- **Revenue: Other**: $14,076
- **Total Revenue**: $572,249
**Capital Campaign Donor Recognition**

**OVER $100,000**
- CSA Mercy Ministries
- Hoover Foundation
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation

**$50,000- $100,000**
- Deuble Foundation
- Paul and Carol David Foundation

**$10,000- $49,999**
- Alliance Ventures
- Greater Alliance Foundation
- Stark Community Foundation
- Timken Foundation

**$500 - $10,000**
- Albert W. & Edith V. Flowers Charitable Foundation
- Angela M. Parker
- Bob and Kathy Belden
- Bradley & Aimee Belden
- James & Victoria Conley
- John C. Belden
- Joseph R. French
- Psychological and Educational Solutions, LLC
- R. Daryl & Joni Close
- Susanna H. Krey
- William H. and Jeanne G. Belden
- Philanthropic Fund

A special thank you to all the foundations, businesses and individuals who invested in our new facility and helped bring this invaluable resource to our community.

**UNDER $500**
- A Place to Learn and Grow
- A Wonder World Learning Center
- All God’s Children
- Alliance Friends Church
- Bonnie Horvath
- Center Ice Sports Complex
- Charlynn Graham
- ChildScape Learn and Grow
- Dane & Marlyce Parker
- Dawn Campanelli
- Gail’s Family Child Care
- Geri Grove
- Harold E. Ziegler, Jr.
- J.R. Coleman Center
- Jackson Children’s Academy
- Jon and Amanda Kendle
- Judith M. Hynes
- Kid Watch
- Laurie Porter
- Mary Brady
- Nancy Scalf
- Norm & Ellen Kutz
- Paula Yost
- Rosalind Goins
- Shirley Hatch
- Small Miracles
- Tamee Kieffer
- Vicky & Todd Sterling
- Westbrook Park

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EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCE CENTER

10 Years and Counting
INVESTING IN THE EARLY YEARS

CENTER HOURS

Monday Center Closed
Tuesday & Wednesday 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Thursday & Friday 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
2nd & 4th Saturdays 8:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

For information about membership or to arrange a tour please call the office.