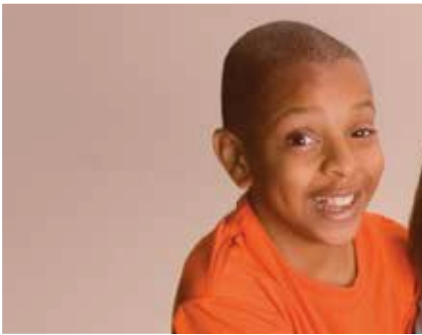


Leading the way to quality care

2013



Report to the  
**COMMUNITY**



Capital District  
**Child Care  
Council**

## **Dear Community,**

It's our pleasure to share the successes we've achieved on behalf of children, families, and early childhood and school-age providers in 2013. Although there is still much to be accomplished, our community helped to forward standards for excellence in child care. Together we have maximized resources and opportunities while standing strong for best practices.

### **Breaking new ground**

For the first time in our history, we were able to bring fresh fruits and vegetables to inner city families by hosting a farmers market at child care programs. We filmed our first "do it yourself" preschool classroom makeover; a teaching tool that has inspired early educators at the host program and beyond. In addition, the Make a Difference YouTube video series and tip sheets have focused attention on infant and toddler play behaviors. We are delighted to support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning for school-age children through the Afterschool Corporation/ New York State Afterschool Network developed workshops. Acting on our belief that we all have a role to play toward increasing quality experiences for children, we launched a training and technical assistance campaign encouraging informal child care providers to attend workshops and to evaluate their child care practices against industry standards.

### **Cultivating partners**

In 2013, we brought together people from all corners of the community to share, learn and act. We kicked off the year with a presentation with Bill Millet, aimed at helping business leaders understand that, even nonprofits, work in highly competitive environments where early childhood education is an integral part of the economic infrastructure. In the spring we visited Washington, D.C. to discuss the important role quality plays in early education. In partnership with other child care resource and referral agencies from across the County, we implored government officials to understand that many families are facing a struggle when paying for child care; a year of child care can cost more than a freshman year of college. Eleven million children younger than age 5 are in some form of child care. Ensuring this care is high-quality, affordable, and available for families is crucial to our nation's ability to produce and sustain an economically viable, competitively positioned workforce.

This fall, through the remarkable work of CDCCCC Board of Directors and employees, we were able to host our first Fund and Friend event. Department staff welcomed community members to their offices and provided information about the programs and services we provide that support children, families, and child care providers.

Lastly, we've increased our internal capacity, growing our board of directors and welcoming volunteers. We are delighted with the new perspectives they bring.

### **Future growth**

We are inspired by the work of the Family Child Care Association of New York State (FCCANYS), this year's Community Collaborator Who Cares award recipient. The FCCANYS plays an essential role in the growth, development, and support of family and group family child care providers. This year the FCCANYS partnered with Save the Children to identify child care providers who needed help restoring programs after Hurricane Sandy. They worked tirelessly to distribute much needed relief supplies to hundreds of family and group family providers so that they could continue to provide safe learning facilities that families have grown to depend upon. We extend our deepest appreciation to the Family Child Care Association Board of Directors and membership for the valuable service they provide to our community.

Our services and expertise are in high demand, and thanks to strong supporters, we have the capacity to respond. We invite you to read our annual report for additional accomplishments and a snapshot of the health of our organization.

Together, we are leading the way to quality care.

## **A Letter From**

**Abbe Kovacik**  
**Executive Director**  
**&**  
**Kim Siciliano**  
**Board President**

## Mission

The Capital District Child Care Council is a resource and referral agency dedicated to promoting quality, accessible child care for all of the Capital Region's diverse communities. The CDCCCC assumes a leadership role in supporting children, parents, child care professionals, and employers through referral counseling, education, training, and advocacy.



**“Thank you for the wonderful parent workshops! There is so much interesting information, I look forward to attending every Council training and I want to attend as many as I can. The educational materials and giveaways are great. I love the workshops CDCCCC puts on for parents!”**  
~Parent of a toddler in Schenectady County





**“My children and I love the fresh fruit and veggie options on a weekly basis due to the location of the Farmer’s Market at the YWCA! My daughters can be part of the selection process and they have tried new things because they get to pick them. The recipes offered are simple and tasty. I hope the farmers market can continue or come back next year as it was a pleasant addition to our lives!”  
~Rebecca (parent)**

Through funding from the USDA and the NYS Department of Health we continue to implement innovative approaches to improving the health of children and families in our community.

The foundation of our work in improving children's nutrition is based in our long standing role as a sponsor of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). For over 25 years we have provided financial support and nutrition education to hundreds of licensed, registered and legally exempt child care providers in our six county region. Thousands of young children receive nutritious meals and snacks each day and learn about the importance of healthy eating through CACFP.

CACFP has been a springboard for other nutrition education initiatives by reaching out to children and their caregivers promoting healthy lifestyles. Eat Well Play Hard in Child Care Settings is in the seventh year of working to improve the dietary practices and increase the physical activity of children in low-income child care centers. Registered Dietitians work intensively with 30 child care centers each year and conduct six parent sessions, six child sessions and two staff trainings. The health promoting lessons of EWPH aim to influence the nutrition and physical activity environment of children, their families and their teachers.

Eat Well Play Hard in Family Day Care Homes is in the third year of bringing the expertise of a Registered Dietitian to small groups of family child care providers and the children in their care. The providers attend five in-depth nutrition workshops with the RD and five in-home lessons where the RD and the provider conduct a nutrition or physical activity lesson with the children. The knowledge gained by these child care providers will impact the health of the children currently in their care and the many children they will care for in the future.

Farm to Preschool is the newest ground-breaking approach to improving the health and nutrition of children and families in our community. The CDCCCC was selected by the NYS Department of Health to run a six month pilot program bringing fresh local produce to families at pick up time. Joining with two local farmers, we set up a small farmers market each week at Parsons Family and Child Center and the Schenectady YWCA. Cash, debit cards, SNAP benefit cards and WIC checks were accepted as payment for the fresh produce. Children

were excited to bring adults by the hand each week to check out what was happening at the farmers market and to sample the fresh fruits and vegetables and taste a new recipe. Adults expressed their appreciation for the convenience of shopping for fresh fruits and veggies right at their child care center and thanked us as they picked up the weekly recipe card and small gift of a useful kitchen tool. A total of 88 parents purchased fresh produce and the markets averaged \$400 each week in sales for the local farmers. The Department of Health recognizes the success of this pilot program and plans on funding CDCCCC to implement Farm to Preschool again next year as well as to fund a Farm to Preschool program at several other CACFP sponsoring agencies around the state.

## Building Healthy Children & Adults



**THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN**  
received nutritious meals  
through CACFP participation

## **Child Care Center**

### **BELL**

One of the goals of the BELL program is to ensure that all children will enter school ready to learn. The program supports children by enhancing their social-emotional wellness and by building a foundation of early literacy skills. This year the program has expanded to Rensselaer County. The collaboration is with classrooms and family support workers within the CEO Head Start Program, Unity Sunshine and Samaritan-Rensselaer Children's Center. The staff in these programs will receive the following:

- Support in enhancing the classroom literacy environment through assessment and the newest information on literacy practices.
- Strategies to support challenging behavior to positively impact the classroom environment.
- Hands-on activities brought to your classroom.
- Opportunities for peer support and collaboration.

### **MOODLE**

The CDCCCC worked with a consultant to develop a Moodle site for on-line learning opportunities for child care providers. This site will give providers an opportunity to enroll in distance learning classes and workshop sessions. There are opportunities to enroll in shorter sessions similar to those found in our Compass or lengthier sessions for CDA renewal. The Moodle site allows the CDCCCC to administer an on-line Child Development Associate program.

The CDA is currently under review with SUNY and two of the eight learning modules have been approved. The site is also being used by the School-Age Program to post all of their handouts and additional resources for students in the SAC Credential class thus, making the class paperless. The Moodle site allows these staff members the opportunity to communicate directly with SAC students through forum and chat discussions.

**THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE**  
CDCCCC partnered with The College Experience Program (CEP) at the College of St. Rose to conduct a six week early childhood program to educate students in the CEP who demonstrated an interest in the early childhood field. The CEP at St. Rose gives students with developmental disabilities the opportunity to earn a two year certificate and gain meaningful, real-life skills.

To ensure a well-rounded experience, the College of Saint Rose and Living Resources have partnered their expertise in the areas of education and residential life for individuals with disabilities.

The CEP provides students with the confidence and skills to live independently and work in competitive employment or continue in higher education.

## **Family Child Care**

Several FCC providers are enrolled in QUALITYstarsNY. QUALITYstarsNY is New York's voluntary quality rating and improvement system for all modes of child care. Through technical assistance and training, child care providers improve the quality of care by assessing their learning environment, family engagement, qualifications and experience, and management and leadership skills. Enrollment in QUALITYstarsNY gives FCC providers the opportunity to assess their practice through the use of the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale and the Business Administration Scale. As well as a system for improving the professional functioning of individual child care providers, QUALITYstarsNY, a 5 "star rating" aids families in making better decisions about early childhood education choices.

## **Infant Toddler**

The Region 4 Infant and Toddler Resource Network spent the past year working together to increase the quality of care infants and toddlers receive. Partner CCR&Rs teamed up to provide quality trainings on topics that included potty learning, brain development, cue reading, and intentionality. Over 78 hours of training were provided to child care providers of all modalities who work with infants and toddlers across the region. There were also three days of conferencing provided devoted specifically to infant and toddler care.

The specialists spent much of the year working on assessment based intensive technical assistance across the region. Ann Fraser, the specialist partner of the North Country Child Care Coordinating Council spent numerous hours in the field working on at least four full and partial Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scales-Revised Edition (ITERS-R) projects. Sarah Gould and Wendy Sullivan, specialists of CDCCCC, also spent time in the field working on at least fourteen full and partial ITERS-R projects. Results for all specialists included a significant increase in scores in the Health and Safety category.

The Region 4 Infant Toddler Network, in collaboration with the DOCS Infant Toddler Leadership Circle, started the first annual Infant Toddler Day on April 13. This was a collaborative effort with CDCCCC, Delaware Opportunities, and the Child Care Resource Center of Schoharie and Otsego Counties, and numerous

community partners. The day was celebrated with a ribbon cutting with a local NYS Congressman and a Touchpoints Conference with Dr. Jayne Singer at SUNY Cobleskill. There were nearly 200 people in attendance including all modalities of child care providers, college faculty and students, early childhood professionals, and parents. With a community effort, the group published a recipe playbook to encourage quality infant and toddler interactions.

The Infant Mental Health Association of NYS's Greater Capital Region, a key collaborator, was recognized by the NYSDOMH and NAMI as an initiative that is vital in our state.

**5,936 providers received professional development & 882 hours of Intensive Technical Assistance was provided to professionals in the field**

## **School-Age**

This year, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) learning, which supports children's critical thinking, has been the focus of work for CDCCCC's School-Age trainers. Trainers support STEM learning in afterschool programs by modeling easy, inexpensive activities that can be conducted in almost any after-school space. This inquiry based approach supports cognitive processes and prepares students for college and careers.

### **AFTERSCHOOL WORKS!**

#### **NY ACCREDITATION**

The Capital District Child Care Council employees three trained Accreditation Coaches, who play a pivotal role in assisting programs through the accreditation process. This year 5 programs were successful in achieving AfterSchool Works! NY Accreditation. This distinctive benchmark of quality provides afterschool professionals with standards of quality to guide program planning, implementation, and evaluation. Accreditation is also an important tool aiding families in making informed choices about the selection of after-school care for their children.

**Building  
Early Childhood  
& School-age  
Professionals**





This year, a web-series entitled “Make a Difference” was launched on You Tube and on the CDCCCC website. The videos showcase “Do It Yourself” items and room arrangements that are easy, inexpensive, and deliver a positive outcome for children. What really *makes a difference* is what happens when we provide children with developmentally appropriate items and play spaces that encourage them to explore, grow, and develop.

To view the videos, visit our website at [www.cdcccc.org](http://www.cdcccc.org), or search for the You Tube Channel “Childcarecouncil”, or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

Coming Soon to your screen...  
Sock Babies, Fleece Balls, and Light Tables

## On Screen Make a Difference





Parenting education offers programs, information, and resources to families that support them and help build confidence in raising healthy children.

One way this is accomplished is through parent workshops. Since April 2013, the Parent Services Department has provided workshops to 63 adults and 87 children on a variety of topics that included nutrition, child development, homework help, and science.

In 2013, the Parent Services Department educated over 3,128 parents and families on choosing quality child care programs. Parent education is provided through telephone and internet referrals, group workshops, one on one meetings, and through the newest resource, the Child Care Finder App for smartphones. The free App allows families to search for child care programs, learn about quality indicators for child care, ask questions, and access educational materials through its easy and convenient interface.

By parents and families requesting the 2013 Summer Camp Catalog, over 1,900 children were able to access summer camps throughout the Capital District. The summer camp catalog is a free resource to parents, families and the community that offers over 170 summer camp options for children four years and up.

## **Building Parenting Education & Safety Programs**

**3,128 FAMILIES** received  
**resources, education and  
information regarding  
high quality child care**

The Registration Department (Registrars) oversees Family Child Care (FCC) and School Age Child Care (SACC) in Albany, Schenectady and Rensselaer Counties. There are 214 FCC providers and 121 SACC programs in these three counties. In 2013, there were 29 new FCC programs registered and eight new SACC programs registered.

Registered Family Child Care programs are registered for an average of eight years and School-Age Child Care Programs have been in business an average of 11 years.

The Registrars, with support from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), work very hard to move non-compliant programs into compliance. The goal of the Registrars is to work closely with FCC and SACC programs to keep children safe and engaged in age-appropriate activities.

During the latter part of 2013, the Legally Exempt Educators have been providing Intensive Technical Assistance (ITA) to Legally Exempt providers. The goals for intensive technical visits are to: improve the quality of care provided by legally exempt caregivers, increase the consistency of care giving best practices across home and in-formal child care settings, improve parent-caregiver relationships and support caregiver needs.

Legally Exempt Educators had the opportunity to distribute educational resources to Legally Exempt Providers. The Educators' focus is to promote literacy through building print awareness and enhancing language and listening skills. They also provided support in discipline, child guidance, and health and safety. Open ended art and dramatic play materials were also shared with the Legally Exempt providers and correspond with the educational materials that were distributed during the ITA visit.

Educators have developed beneficial relationships with Legally Exempt providers during their Intensive Technical Assistance visits. Through relationship building providers develop best practices in Early Childhood Development. Since June 2013, 26 providers have benefited from ITA visits. The counties served are: Albany, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady.

Since January 2013, 27 Legally Exempt Child Care Providers have attended workshops to increase their knowledge of quality childcare, keeping children and providers safe and healthy.

## CDCCCC Statement of Financial Position

Year end 2012

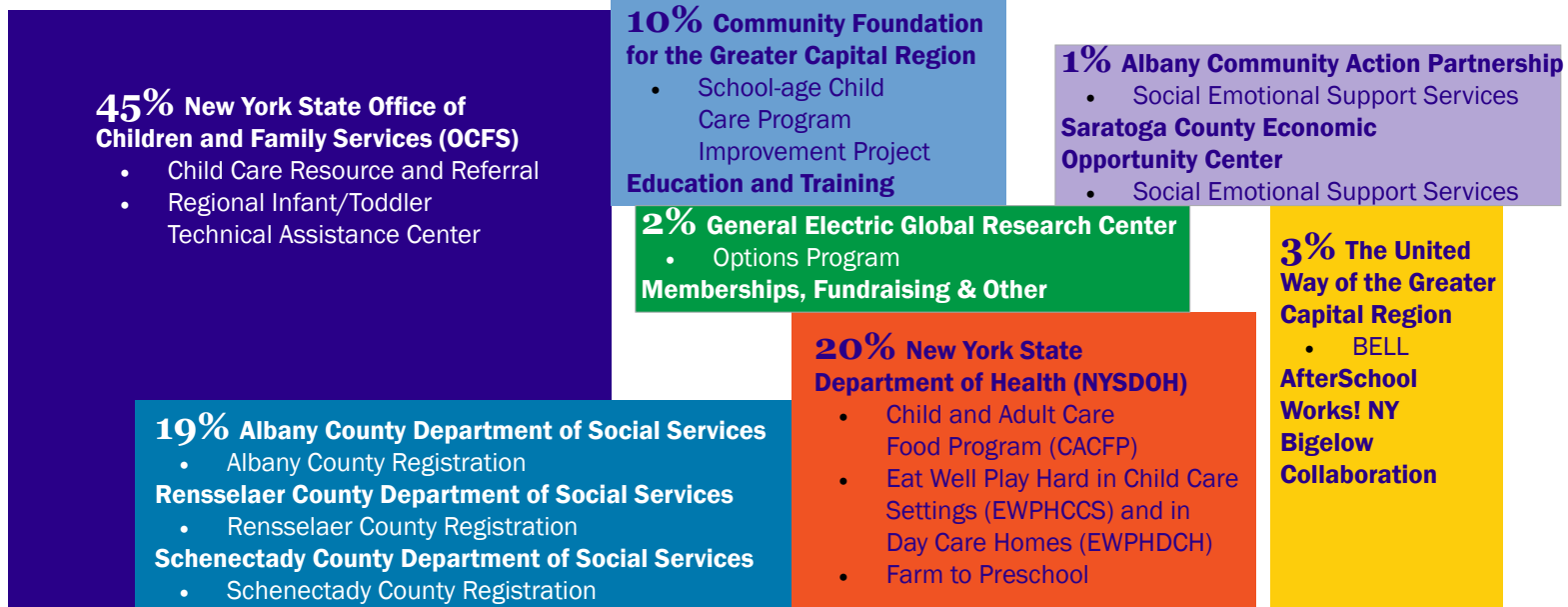
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$590,153
Accounts and Grants Receivable	\$460,109
Prepaid expenses	\$28,094
Total Current Assets	\$1,078,356
Property and equipment net of accumulated depreciation	\$118,985
Other Assets, security deposits	\$5,333
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,202,674</b>
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$28,368
Accrued expenses	\$118,090
USDA provder claims payable	\$221,224
Deferred revenue	\$278,141
Total current liabilities	\$645,823
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	\$540,514
Temporarily restricted	\$16,337
	\$556,851
	\$1,202,674

Annual audit performed by Pryba, Tobin and Co. with no financial findings.

## Donors

Albany PAL  
 Kathryn Babendrier  
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**Sarah Gould, Ms. Ed.** *Regional Infant Toddler Specialist*  
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Hilda Hernandez  
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Kids Club @ GCS  
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Victoria Kidwell  
Kidz Korner After School  
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Blair Lambert  
Diane Lawrence  
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Care Center

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Sunny Side Center After  
School Program  
Sunny Side Center  
Child Care Center  
Sunshine Kids Corner  
Teddy Bear Day Care  
Tendercare Child Care Albany  
Tendercare Child Care Selkirk  
The Ark, Inc.  
The Children's Academy of Malta  
Martha Thomas  
Tahirah Thomas-Angel  
TLC Christian Day Care  
Maria Townsend  
Ebony Townsend  
Tri-Village Nursery School  
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