



**Growing
The
Next
Generation**



**CHILD CARE COUNCIL
OF SUFFOLK, INC.**
2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Letter From The Executive Director

Dear Friend,

This past year has been one of new beginnings and continuing challenges. The Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc. has a strong foundation that has been built and strengthened over the past 35 years – enabling us to have a smooth transition of executive leadership while continuing to tackle the myriad impediments facing the child care industry.

These are challenging times. It often seems that there is more discord than unity, more conflict than partnership. But, the reality is that we only succeed when we work together toward a common goal. Reflecting on 2017-2018, we are proud to highlight the positive work we have achieved with our partners. Throughout this report we recognize these strategic alliances that have helped us reach new constituencies, expand our impact and leverage resources more effectively – all with the goal of improving access to and the quality of early learning programs.

We are excited about our accomplishments; but we are ever mindful that the child care industry and Long Island's working families continue to face tremendous challenges. Parents consistently struggle to afford the **actual** costs of providing licensed, regulated, high-quality care for their children. This is a real **crisis** that significantly impacts children; families; employers and our local, state and national economy. At the same time, rising costs, increasing the minimum wage and new regulatory requirements are making it difficult for child care providers to continue their work.

To reflect these realities, we have revised the Child Care Council of Suffolk's Mission Statement to be crystal clear about our vision:

To ensure that every child has equitable access to high-quality early care and learning opportunities.

We will continue to do this through advocacy, education and guidance and maintaining our leadership role in supporting children, families and the early care and learning community.

We have an ambitious agenda for the coming year. The crisis we face requires us to be bold. We will significantly increase our capacity to provide more intensive technical assistance, coaching and training that will strengthen early childhood programs across Long Island. We will continue to partner closely with the Child Care Council of Nassau and the Long Island Pre-K Initiative to ensure that all Pre-K programs are developmentally appropriate and seek to create more opportunities for school districts to add more Pre-K programs.

The Council will also prioritize a complete count for the 2020 Census. The decennial census will be used to determine our representation in Congress, our share of infrastructure and human services funding and our overall funding as a state and region. The Health and Welfare Council of Long Island is spearheading the Complete Count Committees for both Nassau and Suffolk Counties; and the Child Care Council of Suffolk is co-chairing the early childhood workgroup in partnership with the Child Care Council of Nassau to ensure that every child who is present on Long Island is counted.

Underpinning all of our work will be our ongoing advocacy for major changes to New York State's child care system. As a member of the Governor's Child Care Availability Task Force, we have an opportunity to seek reform that will make child care affordable for all working families and to promote a qualified, appropriately compensated, professional child care workforce. Governor Cuomo already has added child care as a priority to the state's Economic Development program; and we are optimistic that this Task Force will result in a stronger, more accessible child care system.

The work we do is not easy, but it is rewarding. We look forward to continuing our collaborations with our partners as well as cultivating new relationships so we can ensure that every child has access to a high-quality early childhood education. Join us in this endeavor.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Marino Rojas
Executive Director

Michele Lauer-Bader
President, Board of Directors

“**THE CHILD CARE COUNCIL OF SUFFOLK has an amazing staff that is willing to go above and beyond to make sure you and your children have what they need. They give parents a lot of important day care information and can accommodate and answer any question that you have.**”

— *Mckiel Powell, Parent*



Supporting Children And Families

The Resource and Referral Department helps thousands of families every year connect to early childhood opportunities and other family-support services.

Assisted
505 FAMILIES
in accessing a
child care subsidy.



Helped **775**
CLIENTS at the
Department of Labor
find child care.



Connected **2,776 children**
to licensed, regulated early
childhood programs.



Partnerships

Help Me Grow – Long Island. As a member of the Leadership Team of Help Me Grow – Long Island, a new initiative of Docs for Tots, we have supported a new model of connecting families with needed resources. The mission of Help Me Grow is “promoting optimal development for Long Island’s youngest children.” As a partner, we have helped train early childhood programs in developmental screenings so that families and child care staff can be connected to the appropriate resources based on the needs of each child.

Suffolk County. We continue to work directly with families in need of child care at the Department of Labor’s Suffolk Works Employment Program. We also assisted homeless parents participating in a new employment program find child care.



Parent Leadership Initiative (PLI)

PLI is an innovative program designed to prepare individuals from diverse backgrounds to take on leadership roles and help create **caring communities for children.**

35 Long Islanders completed the program this year, adding to the more than 860 individuals who have graduated from PLI over the past 20 years.

PLI was one of the most significant experiences I have been involved in. It afforded me the opportunity to learn more about the Huntington community and its rich and diverse resources. The skills I learned such as project planning, communication and public speaking have empowered me to grow professionally and personally; made me a more confident leader and fostered new community connections.

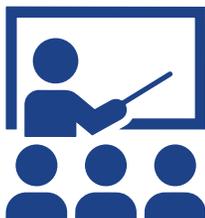
— Janet Scherer, Director of the South Huntington Public Library

Improving The Quality Of Early Care And Education

Education and Professional Development

A team of highly respected and experienced staff work with thousands of early childhood educators to improve quality and expand developmentally appropriate practice.

5,386 participants
attended **372**
workshops
and trainings.



1,689 hours of
technical
assistance
was provided to early
childhood providers.

450 hours of training
and technical assistance
were provided specifically
on care for infants and
toddlers.



Partnerships

Long Island Pre-K Initiative. A partnership of the three BOCES on Long Island and the Child Care Councils of Suffolk and Nassau, the Initiative has expanded our ability to work with public schools to improve their Pre-K programs – bridging the divide between early childhood education and the public school system. The Initiative has reached thousands of Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers, administrators and early childhood professionals from child care, Head Start and community-based preschools through targeted workshops and large annual conferences.

QualityStarsNY (QSNY) and Brentwood School District. In collaboration with QSNY, we regularly provide professional development to child care and Pre-K programs at the request of the Quality Improvement Specialists. Through this partnership we are now providing on-site training and coaching to the Pre-K programs in the Brentwood School District (the largest district on Long Island) reaching almost 800 children each year.



SUNY Farmingdale Small Business Development Center (SBDC). A total of 46 child care businesses from Suffolk have completed the SBDC “Business Strategies to Build a Successful and Profitable Child Care Program.” This five-week program provides child care owners with in-depth training on business practices and planning, marketing and financial planning. The participants receive free access and training for Quickbooks and four hours of free marketing support from a marketing professional. The program is currently funded by the Citi Foundation, allowing the participants to participate at no cost.

Child Care Council of Nassau. We continue to work closely with our “sister” agency in Nassau to leverage our expertise and resources. We collaborate to provide technical assistance and support to thousands of early childhood providers through the Long Island Infant Toddler Resource Center as well as on a myriad of efforts to improve the quality and availability of child care and Pre-K programs on Long Island.

Safety, Accountability And Support

Registration, Inspection and Legally-Exempt Child Care

Through contracts with the state and the county, the Child Care Council of Suffolk is responsible for registering and inspecting family child care home programs and school-age child care programs; providing technical assistance and ongoing monitoring of programs for compliance with state regulations as well as reviewing and approving applications for Legally-Exempt child care providers.

- This year we registered, inspected and monitored 155 family child care homes and 124 school-age child care programs.
- We approved 437 Legally-Exempt child care providers.

Partnerships

New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). With the support of our OCFS partners, we are working proactively with child care programs to open new programs and maintain existing ones to help ease Long Island’s child care deserts. We continue to hold child care providers to the highest professional standards by providing the necessary technical assistance to ensure full compliance.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

This program reimburses family, group family and Legally-Exempt child care providers for food expenses that meet nutritional requirements and provides classes in nutritional meal preparation and meal planning.

Each month, 2,949 children are served nutritious meals in 289 family child care homes through this program.

Thank you to the CACFP team at the Child Care Council of Nassau for your guidance and support during our leadership transition. Our program is now more streamlined and efficient due to enhanced use of technology.



Donors 2017-2018

\$10,000+

Bethpage Federal Credit Union
 Empire National Bank
 Hagedorn Foundation
 Rauch Foundation
 United Way Long Island

\$5,000 - \$9,999

PSEG

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Alcott
 CJQ Communications Strategies LLC
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 People's United Bank
 Ruskin, Moscou, Faltischek LLC
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 Marc Zeplin Foundation
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Up to \$999

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 Barbara Lavalle
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 Lucinda Lee
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 LI Head Start
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Sobia Masood
 Mazars USA
 Middle Country Library
 Helen Moss
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 Nawrocki Smith LLP
 New Beginnings Preschool
 New England Insurance Services
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GOD IS GOOD DAYCARE LLC

Child care was not my first career path in life, but always had a special place in my heart. My mother Karine Previl-Dunel put her heart and soul into putting together a group family early learning center to serve our community. I have had the pleasure of working alongside my mother on and off for the past 15 years, until her passing in April 2018 from cancer. ... Leaving my health care administration position of five years at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center to take over her daycare was the easiest decision I have ever made. After closing for only one week, I re-opened our doors to all the parents who currently had their children enrolled.

Transitioning into the child care field full time has been nothing short of amazing, watching how our home helped with developing the children's physical, social-emotional, and cognitive skills blew my mind. I mention all of this to say that the first couple of weeks I did not know where I should begin or how I could improve an already high-quality facility. I then received an email inviting me to take part of the Foundations of Learning series at the Child Care Council of Suffolk, and I was so ecstatic, without hesitation, I said "yes please sign me up."

From the start of the workshops in July, I began to understand how vital our roles are as child care providers. It helped me expand on all the great ideas my mom already had implemented daily. With every class, I took away vital information on how I could change my environment to better suit the early learning years of all my children. Serving a multi-age group ranging from six weeks to 12 years old, I have learned better ways to incorporate all children in a carefully planned and implemented open classroom setting.

As I continue on this new journey in early learning I hope to see more series such as the Foundations of Learning because it truly helped me improve the quality of God Is Good Daycare. Lastly, having the opportunity to network with other providers just solidifies what my mother believed in, to provide a safe, secure environment for children to learn through play and create a partnership between parents that will foster a unified front as we are our children's first teachers.

— Sandra Dunel, Director



Financials

For the year ended September 30, 2018

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Government Grants	\$ 5,237,309
United Way of L.I.	\$ 11,091
Membership & Contribution	\$ 45,725
Foundations	\$ 1,564
Training and Technical Support	\$ 139,814

OTHER

Fundraising/Special Events	\$ 73,947
Interest/Other Misc.	\$ 56,166

TOTALS SUPPORT AND REVENUE **\$ 5,565,616**



EXPENSES

Salaries	\$ 1,881,952
Fringe Benefits	\$ 453,405
Total Personnel	\$ 2,335,357

Other than Personnel

Provider Reimbursements	\$ 2,704,649
Pass-Through Expenses	\$ 8,010
Office Rent	\$ 177,591
Office Operations	\$ 423,250

Total **\$ 5,648,857**

Revenue Over (Under) Expenses \$ (83,241)

Change in Unrestricted Net Assets \$ 17,373

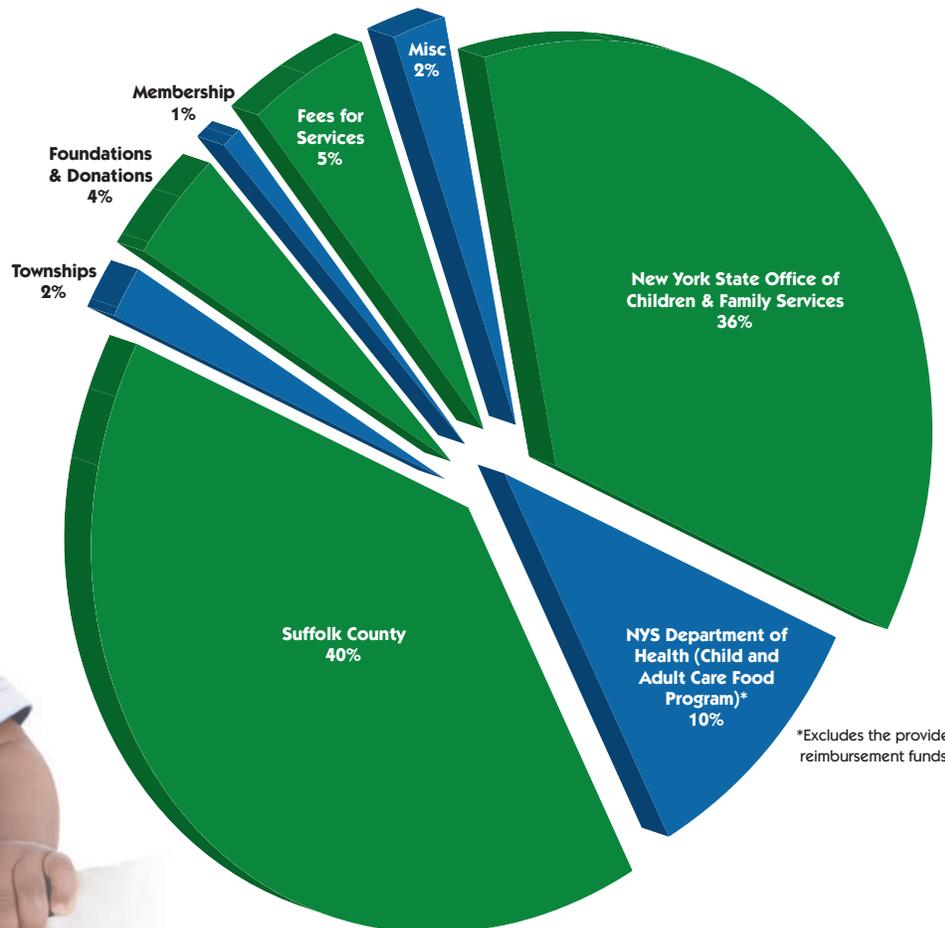
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets \$ (100,614)

Change in Net Assets \$ (\$83,241)

Net Assets, Beginning of Year \$ 640,559

Net Assets, End of Year **\$ 557,318**

The above information is derived from the Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc. Audited Financial Statement for fiscal year ended September 30, 2018, as audited by Nawrocki Smith LLP, CPA & Business Consultants



*Excludes the provider reimbursement funds.



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Juanita Crowe, Fiscal Officer

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Jennifer Doig, Human Resources Coordinator
Peter Li, Fiscal Manager

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Penelope Amendola, Education Department Assistant
Helene Aronson, RN, Health Care Consultant
Colleen Farrell, Infant/Toddler Specialist
Stefanie Gearity, Training Coordinator
Cynthia Ramirez, Bilingual Professional Development Department Assistant
Maureen Rueger, RN, Health Care Consultant
Emily Torres, Bilingual Early Childhood Specialist
Jacqueline Zaita, Early Childhood Specialist

Parent Leadership Initiative (PLI)

Denise Ham, Director

Registration and Inspection

Ana Maria Escalera, Director
Patricia Albertina, Senior Registrar
Maxima Castro, Administrative Assistant
Vanessa Crawford, Registrar
Colmore Elien, Field Supervisor
Sandie Gilliam, Senior Registrar
Windy I. Goglas, Senior Registrar
Crystal Jackson, Senior Program Development Specialist
Danielle Moore, Administrative Assistant/IT Support
Linda Muroff, Administrative Assistant
Gabriel Ogunleye, Senior Registrar
Rene Polanco, Registrar
Margaret Rajotte, Senior Registrar

Resource and Referral (R&R)

Enza Britos, Deputy Director
Kelly Freiss, Parent Counselor
Nicole Marcial, Senior Parent Counselor/Data Administrator
Elisa Simpson, Bilingual Parent Counselor

Legally-Exempt Provider Services

Tinamarie Bernocco, Coordinator
Tania Reyes, Bilingual Senior Coordinator

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Christina Flythe, Director
Decenia Fernandez, Bilingual Field Representative
Catherine Ferraro, Claims Specialist
Antoinette Frumusa, Field Representative





Growing The Next Generation

To ensure that every child has equitable access to high-quality early care and learning opportunities.



**CHILD CARE COUNCIL
OF SUFFOLK, INC.**

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