

Bank of America Grant Boosts Support for Enrolling Low Income Children

Three year old Isaac's mother was frustrated that she was using a child care arrangement that had him only watch TV all day. She was discouraged because he was developmentally way behind most other children. She wanted him to develop social skills, expand his language development and find excitement in learning to give him every chance to succeed in kindergarten. She came to NDNCC seeking to enroll her son, but as a single mother making less than \$11 an hour, her family budget was stretched so thin she could not even pay the registration fee to enroll Isaac, let alone pay the tuition.

NDNCC talks to scores of struggling working families seeking to enroll their child and receive our help to reduce their tuition payments, but the help we can provide depends on the support we can find. Bank of America Foundation's recent generous grant to NDNCC of \$25,000 boosted our tuition assistance fund's capacity to support children like Isaac, who now attends our pre-school class. Based on documented family income information and using our sliding fee scale, the funds will be applied to support low-moderate income families most in

need of help with affording quality early care and education services. With child care being one of the most significant costs for struggling working families, Bank of America's support will make a difference in these children's lives for years to come. Thank You Bank of America Foundation for your caring investment in our children.

NDNCC Students at Adventure Aquarium!

The Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten classes had a terrific time at the Adventure Aquarium, N.J. again this year. The faces of the children as they "two finger touched" the sharks, was worth all the effort that went into making this trip so successful. The children learned to respect and not fear the various aquatic creatures. By far, the most popular part of the day was the tactile experiences. They had the opportunity to touch starfish and many other creatures. Another valuable lesson is, don't each lunch under trees filled with birds. The true sign of a successful adventure is how quiet the bus is for the return trip. It was almost silent.



Phase I Construction Finished; Next Renovations Planned

Phase I of our Capital Construction Program was completed in March. The impact – Children’s reading rooms now provide



quiet areas for children and adults to read books, new

conference room expands family meeting space, the renovated kitchen now serves more nutritious meals with new equipment, the new Teacher Resource room provides quiet space for curriculum planning, and the expanded family reception area allows us to provide better customer service for our families. Staff and families all agreed that construction had minimal inconvenience and was completed ahead of schedule, and our General Contractor, Premier Builders, provided excellent sensitivity and flexibility toward our children and staff.

Renovations of classrooms as part of Phase II are scheduled to start in June of this summer. Other capital work such as energy efficiency improvements and playground renovations are also planned before the end of the year.

Mentoring NAEYC

Did you know ... NDNCC has been and will continue to be a “mentor” NAEYC Accreditation Center. The Program Director has been fortunate enough to meet with individuals from three other New Castle County programs who are considering or undergoing this tremendous quality improvement process. The program & classroom portfolios have been used as resources for others. It is nice to know that our team effort and hard work are benefiting

2 other Centers, thus benefiting the Early Childhood Education Community as a whole.

Expanding Science Skills Focus of New NDNCC Partnerships

PNC Foundation recently announced a \$157,554 award to the Delaware Natural History Museum that supports Grow Up Great With Science, PNC’s new initiative to help foster a foundation in science for area preschoolers. Newark Day Nursery and Children’s Center is one of four Delaware early education centers included in the initiative, along with The Ministry of Caring, Inc., New Castle County Head Start and the Latin American Community Center.

New activities and resources available to our children, teachers and their families include:

- “Seeing Science Everywhere” training for our teachers to expand scientific observation and learning skills into the curriculum areas of language, mathematics, creative arts, physical health and emotional and social development.
- Theme boxes to support the teacher lesson plans, including themes such as Our Solar System, Under the Sea, Reptiles and Amphibians and How Things Grow.
- Delaware Museum of Natural History will hold three no cost Family Nights for our children and their parents to introduce children to interactive exhibits to stimulate excitement in science learning.
- Staff and grant materials will support the creation of an outdoor learning environment at our center to move forward our plans for a Natural Habitat area for future education.

Grant activities will start in June. Thanks to PNC Grow Up Great and the Delaware Museum of Natural History for this new partnership to



expand learning opportunities for our children.

Paula Hollaway of the Delaware Natural Science Museum uses “Millie the centipede” to excite children about science.

NDNCC Receives Valero Grant

NDNCC is among several Delaware Children's organizations receiving grant support from the local Valeria employees made possible by their national Valero Texas Open Benefit for Children Gold Classic. We will provide literacy enhancement to our PS-aged children. The funding will be used for



identification of needs and individualized activities and lessons to address those areas and help to "educate, enrich and inspire" our youngest learners. Areas to be addressed include: letter / sound

recognition, rhymes, auditory comprehension, phonemic awareness, etc. Feel free to chat with the classroom teacher or Program Director for more specific details. We expect the program to begin this summer.

LIFE

In January 2009, the fourth through eighth graders in our School Age Care (SAC) program began a program called Literacy is for Everyone, or LIFE.

The program was designed to create more student interest in reading. Students are free to read whenever they wish, but every Friday we set aside 20-30 minutes for silent reading. For each



book a student reads and reports on they receive a star on the LIFE chart. There will be prizes for the most books read, most improved reader, etc. In the few months since SAC began this project they have seen a 20% increase in reading to completion. The program has been so successful they are now expanding it to include first through third graders. If you would like to help our cause by donating new or gently used school age books (especially series) please contact our SAC Director, Dane Hutchinson.

NDNCC Partners with Newark for Family Concerts

It is part of our mission to encourage all parents and their children in our community to find moments that enrich their time together. As a result, NDNCC is partnering with the Newark Parks and Recreation Department to sponsor family concerts as part of the annual Newark Spring Concert series held each Thursday evening in May and June.



Family concerts are scheduled for May 28 with "Uncle Pete" and June 18th with "Penny and the Pine Cone People" on the Academy Lawn starting at 7:00 pm. NDNCC will have an information table and provide ice cream treats for families. So bring your blanket and enjoy a spring evening with your children – or grandchildren.

New Staff at NDNCC

NDNCC would like to highlight the three new members of our full-time staff: Grant Sewald, Dolly Pagano, and Teresa Richards. Grant, who has his degree in Culinary Arts, is our new Kitchen Manager and Dolly, who has prior experience in child food services, is his assistant. Our new kitchen team has done a great job of creating enjoyable and nutritious menu options. We would also like to congratulate Grant on becoming a new father!



Teresa Richards is our Assistant Teacher in the Preschool room. Teresa's BA of Psychology

with an emphasis in children's needs, as well as her nurturing presence, have made her a wonderful addition to our Preschool classroom. Welcome Grant, Dolly and Teresa!



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- New Castle County Head Start-Newark Site
- Community-Based Outreach Services

*Accredited by the National Association for the
Education of Young Children*

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The Newark Day Nursery and Children's Center is dedicated to providing the highest quality early childhood and school age services to educate, enrich, and inspire children and youth from culturally and economically diverse families.

NDNCC =
A True Family

Earlier this year an NDNCC family fell victim to a fire in their home. They had to replace everything. So we asked our families and staff for support and the response was overwhelming.

We had several truck loads of items ranging from beds to bath soap. Also there was \$743.00 donated in cash. NDNCC, as an agency, gave gift cards from several local businesses. We would like to thank everyone for their generosity. NDNCC truly has the "your family is our family" attitude!

~Thank You~



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