



Providing Advocacy, Resources, and Support to Early Childhood Educators and the Children They Serve



Annual Report 2009

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Edward Street Child Services is a private, non-profit agency that has a long tradition of promoting quality care for all pre-school age children. Edward Street is dedicated to promoting the growth of children and strengthening the family by improving the delivery of early learning services in greater Worcester through interagency collaborations, resource development, and direct funding of programs designed to address the social, intellectual, emotional, and physical needs of each child.

Edward Street Child Services will focus its efforts on six issues that it deems to have significant importance in the delivery of quality childcare:

- Family involvement and empowerment
- School readiness
- Strengthening child care centers
- Teacher training and education
- Community education and advocacy
- Integrated community services related to child care



Message From the President

It is an honor and a privilege to be preparing, as President of the Edward Street Child care Service Board of Directors, the 2009 Annual Report.

Edward Street has made significant strides over the past few years to become an important resource for the Worcester child care community. The agency's accomplishments include assisting numerous child care centers through the process of NAEYC accreditation and the development of a system-wide training program to help staff comply with credentialing requirements, among others.

A major accomplishment over the past year has been the agency's role in securing the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund Grant which has resulted in a \$448,000 investment in the professional development of the areas early childhood educators. This collaborative involves 4 area colleges – Becker College, Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester State College and Anna Maria College – as well as the Colleges of Worcester Consortium and four child care centers – Guild of Saint Agnes, YWCA, Worcester Comprehensive Child Care and Rainbow Child Development Center. As an agency, Edward Street convened the partners, wrote the grant and oversaw the work.

In May we hosted a Reggio Emilio training that was attended by 120 early childhood educators from the Worcester area. We also partnered with WPI to bring the “geek squad” to 10 different child care centers to provide technology diagnostics and technical support.

Edward Street has been working with a consultant to develop a community-wide plan for early childhood education. In November we will be presenting this plan with an eye toward recruiting business and community leaders to further develop and implement it.

We have had a year of challenges as well as significant accomplishments. We have made significant strides toward achieving the agency's objectives, and as always, there is still a lot of work to do. I would like to thank the members of the Board of Directors for their time and dedication over this past year and I would like to thank the Executive Director and the Director of Partnership Development for their tireless efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

George A. Joseph, President
Edward Street Child Services



Message from the Executive Director

The past year has seen Edward Street making huge strides in its mission to improve the delivery of early learning services. In November the commonwealth announced that Worcester would receive \$448,000.00 in cash and in-kind services to implement a workforce development plan to assist early childhood educators to obtain their degrees. The grant funding has allowed us to further develop our community collaboration that includes early education providers, local colleges, the Colleges of Worcester Consortium, the YouthWorks program of the Worcester Community Action Council and Worcester Technical High School.

More important than the specific work, however, is the fact that the early childhood education workforce has risen in importance and is viewed as an employment sector worthy of attention and resources. The focus on professional development will not achieve our goal of raising the profession unless we continue to focus on raising teacher compensation to reflect the educational attainment of our teachers.

An equally exciting educational opportunity for our early childhood educators was held in May at Quinsigamond Community College. Together with the Worcester Area Association for the Education of Young Children, Davis Publications and funding from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, Edward Street brought the North American Reggio Emilia Liaison to Worcester. Lella Gandini and Susan Etheridge provided a half day workshop on the use of the Reggio approach with young children. 120 early childhood educators attended and most have requested another workshop in the near future.

As we look toward the coming year, our excitement about our successful work with educators must be tempered by real concern about the economy. The loss of revenue at the state level has reduced access to early childhood education for many vulnerable young children. We remain concerned about access to the Early Educator's Scholarship. As jobs are lost across all sectors and parents are scaling back we are seeing layoffs in the early childhood education sector. Worcester has not lost an early education program for several years but the current economic environment may result in center closings. We must work together as a community to assure that the early education infrastructure is not dismantled.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dianny Bruce

The Year at a Glance

Area	Activities	Actions
Family Involvement and Empowerment	<p>TFK Family Involvement Subcommittee</p> <p>Worcester Community Connections Coalition</p> <p>Family Ties</p> <p>Fathers and Families Network</p>	<p>Working with Parent Liaisons from 4 childcare agencies to increase parent involvement, communication, and parenting skills. Assisted with planning the implementation of the Second Step curriculum at 2 TFK centers to test the efficacy of the parent involvement component. Assisted with the development of a Parent Sensitivity Training to help center staff develop more empathy for the families they serve.</p> <p>Serve on the Steering Committee to assist local families to advocate for supports and services for families and children. Projects included a Family Resource Guide and the development of a by parent for parent resource center.</p> <p>Served on the Steering Committee. Initiative focuses on increasing maternal education and parenting skills. (In the new state budget Family Ties has been merged with Community Partnership for Children.)</p> <p>Remain involved in strategic planning process which includes coalition sustainability.</p>
School Readiness	<p>Together For Kids</p> <p>Early Education for All</p> <p>Early Learning Leadership Advisory Council</p>	<p>Serve on the Steering, Public Policy, and Executive Committees of the project. Advocacy work has resulted in social and emotional development language being included in the guidelines for the new Department of Early Education and Care.</p> <p>Working with Strategies for Children to encourage proactive community planning for the eventual implementation of Universal Preschool in Worcester.</p> <p>In response to the Early Education as Economic Development Forum and follow-up meetings, have engaged a consultant to develop a community plan for early childhood education in Worcester to prepare all children to enter school ready to learn and to succeed.</p>

<p>Strengthening Childcare Centers</p>	<p>Capital Fund Project</p>	<p>Worked with Boy Scout Troop that reinstalled access ramp at Elm Park Center on Burncoat Street.</p> <p>Recruited students from WPI to provide technology support to agencies. The <i>Geek Squad</i> has provided services at 11 early childhood education programs.</p> <p>Serve on the Facilities Readiness Committee of CEDAC/The Children’s Investment Fund to focus on facility needs within the context of high quality early childhood education.</p> <p>Continuing work with South Worcester Neighborhood Center, Mechanics Guild and Webster Square Day Care Center to establish a high quality center based early childhood education program in the south Worcester neighborhood.</p>
<p>Teacher Training and Education</p>	<p>NAEYC Accreditation</p> <p>Brudnick Brain Institute</p> <p>Coalition for Early Education Careers</p>	<p>Participate in accreditation support groups for agencies. Developed the NAEYC page of the website to allow agencies to share documents they develop to assist with accreditation documentation. Providing additional dollars to provide accreditation consultation for organizations.</p> <p>Participated in the Community Education Committee to bring brain development information to agencies.</p> <p>Convened early education providers, local colleges, Worcester Technical High School, EdCentral, and United Way to develop a community-wide strategy to get all early childhood educators to a bachelor’s degree. Received grant funding through the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund to implement the plan.</p> <p>Partnered with WAAEYC and Davis Publications to bring the North American Reggio Emilia Liaison to Worcester for a half day training program attended by 120 early childhood educators.</p>

<p>Community Education and Advocacy</p>	<p>Workforce Solutions Council</p> <p>Early Learning Leadership Advisory Council</p> <p>WAAEYC</p> <p>Common Pathways</p>	<p>Continued to work with local partners to advocate for additional funding for Adult Basic Education, English for Speakers of Other Languages, and specific career development activities for low-income adults. The funding will benefit parents as well as child care workers.</p> <p>The committee is currently focused on a community plan for early childhood education that will help us solve some of the barriers to voluntary high quality early childhood education for all children and families.</p> <p>Coordinated a legislative breakfast to educate the local delegation of the importance of early childhood education and to advocate for increased compensation for teachers.</p> <p>Serve on the Support Team and Community Indicators committees to bring the early childhood education perspective to the work of the initiative to improve the quality of life in the community.</p>
<p>Integrated Community Services Related to Childcare</p>	<p>Website</p> <p>Access to Services</p>	<p>The Early Childhood Central website is currently being redesigned to better serve families and agencies.</p> <p>With Community Connections Coalition, advocated with the Department of Transitional Assistance to streamline voucher process for families.</p>

Edward Street Day Care Center, Inc.

Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2009 and 2008

	<u>Assets</u>	
<u>Current</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Cash	23,624	26,496
Grant Receivable	6,670	-
Prepaid Expenses	1,880	3,611
Investments	<u>2,482,866</u>	<u>2,933,352</u>
Total	<u>2,515,040</u>	<u>2,963,459</u>
<u>Property and Equipment</u>		
Equipment	3,359	3,359
Furnishings	<u>1,160</u>	<u>1,160</u>
	4,519	4,519
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>3,730</u>	<u>2,942</u>
Net	<u>789</u>	<u>1,577</u>
<u>Other</u>		
Security Deposit	<u>1,060</u>	<u>1,060</u>
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>2,516,889</u>	<u>2,966,096</u>
<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
<u>Current</u>		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	<u>2,622</u>	<u>256</u>
<u>Net Assets</u>		
Unrestricted	2,511,414	2,965,840
Temporarily Restricted	<u>2,853</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	2,514,267	2965,840
<u>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</u>	<u>2,516,889</u>	<u>2,966,096</u>