



Together we are
stepping up to lead



A Message from Our Board Chair

This year was one of unprecedented opportunity. We are stepping up and into leadership and coalition building in new and exciting ways. Gaps for the youngest children are getting increased attention and understanding. It is simply time to be vigorous in supporting young children and their families. The early years are most pivotal for providing every child the opportunity to succeed. We don't have time to waste and we didn't stand still this year!

Guided by our ambitious plan and sense of urgency we lead efforts that:

- Expanded the critical work of the Together for Kids Coalition to design a citywide strategic plan promoting the social-emotional well-being and general health of Worcester's young children and families to ensure all children have what they need to thrive.
- Built new collaborations with partners including Worcester Division of Public Health, Greater Worcester Community Foundation, Worcester Community Action Council, and Worcester Youth Violence Prevention.
- Forged connections across an array of strategic planning efforts to be inclusive and considerate of the youngest children and their families, proactive in integrating diverse voices, and anchored in evidence-based practice.
- Identified new champions – like you – who understand the critical need to invest early.

Yet, it is on the ground – in classrooms with teachers and children – where our impact is most visible. We invested in leadership and training to cultivate a new generation of early childhood leaders and trained educators in trauma-informed practice. We invite you to discover Nina's story to see how nurturing young leaders helps stabilize the workforce. And, finally, meet Charley. His story paints a picture of the daily struggles many of our young children face, and how thoughtful attention and engagement of early educators can make a difference.

When children and families thrive, our city grows and our community develops. Thank you for the support you provide to Edward Street Child Services. Together, we are stepping up our leadership. Join us!

With gratitude,

Thomas Belton

Thomas Belton
Board Chair



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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Our Mission

Edward Street Child Services collaborates to improve the quality and impact of early education and care, enhancing the development of young children and strengthening families in Central Massachusetts.

Strategic Goals | 2017 – 2022

1. Lead cross sector alignment for early learning
2. Influence the investment in early education and care
3. Advance high quality early learning environments
4. Support a thriving early learning workforce of valued, well-compensated professionals

Board of Directors

2018 – 2019

Thomas Belton

President

Bay State Savings Bank

Marc Robitaille

Vice President

Unum

Lisa Dalterio

Treasurer

MAPFRE Insurance

Erin Carpenter, PT, DPT

Clerk

Kennedy Donovan Center

Angela Avoryie

Unum

George Joseph

Morgan Stanley Wealth Management

Darlene Belliveau

YWCA of Central Massachusetts

Sharon Nutter

College of the Holy Cross

Monica Thomas-Bonnick

Webster Five

Karen O'Neill

Quinsigamond Community College

Amina Gomez

College of the Holy Cross

Mark Vining, MD

UMass Memorial Health Care

Staff & Consultants | 2018

Eve Gilmore

Executive Director

Jo Ann Borinski

Master Teacher

Kim Davenport

Managing Director Birth to 3rd Grade Alignment

Rose Hayes

Director of Special Projects

Denise White

Consultant, Web/Social Media

Toni Ostrow

Administration



Stepping up to Lead with Partners

Collaboration is at the Heart of Our Work

We are out and about and at new tables. Leading for children means being engaged with new projects and initiatives, and opening up conversations to create the opportunities and conditions for children to have the best possible chance to succeed.

Celebrating the Printers Building and Our Partners

Arts, music and learning. At home in the Printers Building for more than 5 years, we have had a front row seat to the building's revitalization and transformation, and have connected with new partners in the arts and startup community. This summer, Edward Street stepped up to help celebrate Davis Publication as the recipient of the 2018 Jane Jacobs in the Woo Award. At the building's Open House Edward Street hosted a book give-away and craft activity to celebrate the importance of reading 20 minutes a day, and sponsored a wonderful performance by the Hip Swayers, with Edward Street's very own Toni Ostrow.

Learning with Partners across the Country

In November, Edward Street's Kim Davenport was a special guest at the 2018 Partner Summit hosted by the Alliance for Early Success. This invitation only event draws together national advocacy organizations, researchers and investors with state-level grantee teams to examine new scientific research, data trends, messaging campaigns, and funding mechanisms to drive deeper investment in early learning. The group exchanged strategies, discussed policy issues and problem-solved together. Davenport had the opportunity to connect with advocacy colleagues and investors from across the country, and was able to tour the award-winning Dahilia Campus for Health and Well-Being, a bold community-driven project that revitalized a neighborhood in Denver into a thriving Park Hill community.

Worcester Reads' *Smile Book* Highlighted in 2019 Commonwealth Report

The *Smile Book* (2016) was recognized in The Rennie Center's 2019 Condition of Education in the Commonwealth Report which highlighted the importance of student voice in education reform efforts. Worcester's work highlighted how student voices – from even the youngest students – can drive community-wide conversations.

Leadership Worcester's Next Generation

Three of Edward Street's team members are Leadership Worcester Alumni - one from the Class of 1988, another from the Class of 1993, and now one from the Class of 2017. Connections forged through the program – old and new - bring talented contributors and partners to our work.



Stepping up to Lead

Together We are Connecting, Informing and Reshaping

Building Worcester's Resilience

Momentum continues to build as more community members learn about the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and, more importantly, what we can do to mitigate those impacts. Throughout 2018, Edward Street collaborated with partners across the community to raise awareness and share strategies for trauma-informed care.

Early in 2018, Edward Street joined more than 20 organizations and businesses to host a community screening of Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope. The event drew hundreds of attendees from health care, schools and early learning programs, behavioral health, social work, and colleges. It featured opening remarks by Ann Lisi, CEO, Greater Worcester Community Foundation, a moderated discussion with the audience after the film by Worcester ACTS, and closing remarks from Dr. Heather Forkey, MD, UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center, Division of Child Protection.

Together for Kids Coalition Leads New Early Childhood Strategic Plan for Worcester

The research is clear. The science is compelling. The return on investment is undeniable. Investing in the early childhood years is sound practice and pays vital future dividends. Edward Street Executive Director, Eve Gilmore now leads the Together for Kids Coalition's work. "We need a community investment to ensure all children have what they need to succeed. Every child in our community deserves a strong and equitable start." TFK is a coalition of early childhood champions whose mission is to promote the social-emotional well-being and general health of young children and their families across Central Massachusetts. Throughout the summer and fall of 2018, the TFK Coalition drew community leaders together to shape a strategic plan that connects and aligns previous efforts. Leveraging the seminal document, Growing the Heart of the Commonwealth (2016), the TFK Coalition expanded engagement, reach and specific strategies to ensure all children have the opportunity to succeed. When the youngest among us do well, we all do better.

“Edward Street Child Services allows me to give back to the community by focusing on education. I believe that public education is really suffering in this country, and if kids are going to succeed, early childhood education needs to become a priority in every community.”

Monica Thomas-Bonnick,
Vice President / Business Lender at Webster Five



Alignment

Leading Strategic Intersections

This year, Edward Street activated its three year strategic plan in concert with other initiatives across the city. We connected, influenced and led

- Worcester Public School (WPS) Strategic Advisory Committee
- Co-Chair WPS Strategic Plan Innovation Hub Study Group
- Member of WPS Strategic Plan Study Group on School Climate & Social-Emotional Learning
- Chair, Worcester's Alignment Partnership Council
- Member, Policy Councils, Worcester Child Development Head Start & Worcester Community Action Council Head Start
- Department of Early Education and Care Workforce Advisory Committee
- Informed the Community Health Assessment Plan

Stepping up Our Impact

For Board Member Monica Thomas-Bonnick investing in early childhood simply adds up!

After 10 years in Texas, Monica is excited to be back in New England and involved in the Worcester community. Education and workforce issues were a call to action. “I was motivated to get involved when I found out that the state of Massachusetts - of all places - still has much work to do in this area. The fact that early childhood educators are not being paid a living wage really motivates me. They are working with the next generation and the field is losing talented and passionate people due to wages.”

In addition to her extensive experience in banking, Monica brings a breadth of experience in nonprofit boards including CampFire First Council Texas, Manchester, NH YWCA, and Cool Culture in New York City.

Monica shared her motivation for investing her time and talent in Edward Street. “I am excited because Edward Street Child Services takes a holistic approach to the challenge, recognizing that social condition (nutrition, economics, nontraditional family) plays a role in the success or failure of early childhood learning. I chose Edward Street because they have a seat at the table and are providing information and services that impact the industry and our community.” Ms. Thomas-Bonnick currently serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors.



Stepping up to

Planning to Invest Early

Creating New Connections and Ambassadors

Edward Street was invited to showcase its work at Greater Worcester Community Foundations' Fall Insights Tour at the Printers Building. Executive Director Eve Gilmore presented highlights of Edward Street's programming and impact to community members, many of whom had not yet been exposed to our work. Edward Street also organized a tour of early learning programs for our Board Members so that they could see the creative capacity of early educators, learning first-hand about the challenges in the field, and the urgency needed around investment to ensure children have high quality programs with continuity of teachers.



Planning for High Quality Preschool

Through support of a MA Department of Early Education and Care grant, Edward Street led the refinement and implementation planning of a community plan to expand preschool availability and quality in Worcester. What would it look like and what would it take if state dollars could unlock local resources? Where would we begin? With center-based providers, Head Start, Worcester Public Schools, and institutions of higher education we grappled with capacity and workforce challenges and prioritized quality investments. We collaborated with Worcester Community Action Council to update community needs data. We examined current data on kindergarten entry. And we sharpened our pencils to fund a few scenarios. The plan outlines how a collaborative partnership would expand high quality preschool opportunities to more children through expanded and integrated services, a highly-trained and well-compensated workforce, aligned curriculum, and improved facilities.



Leading WPS School Strategic Plan Study Group Work

Bold plans take many minds to re-imagine what could be and how we can get there. Worcester Public School's strategic plan is bold and challenges the community to support our schools in new ways. Parts of the plan require broader research and input from the community to give shape to the work. To facilitate research, design, and funding plans, the Worcester Education Collaborative formed study groups. Edward Street leaders are chairing and participating in two key groups: Innovation Hub Study Group, and Welcoming Schools/Social-Emotional Climate Study Group. Our work affords us the opportunity to collaborate and learn alongside WPS leaders, community and business leaders, school committee members, and families. Together, we are creating the learning investment architecture for the future.

Thank You!

In 2018, your advocacy on behalf of the early learning field was turned into action at the State Legislature where House Speaker DeLeo led efforts to increase investment to begin to raise wages. The state's investment of nearly \$20 million was the largest investment in more than 10 years. It was a bold, first step forward. In 2019 we look forward to your support to encourage the legislature to continue to grow that investment. With educator turnover exceeding 33% annually, stabilizing the early learning workforce is critical.

Stepping Up Our Leadership

- Greater Worcester Community Foundation Early Childhood Advisory Committee
- President, Board of Directors, Regional Environmental Council
- Board Members: Worcester Educational Collaborative, Worcester Community Action Council
- United Way of Central MA Finance Committee, Women's Initiative Governance Council
- Corporators: EcoTarium, Greater Worcester Community Foundation, YWCA, Central Mass Housing Alliance

Stepping up to

Supporting Educators and Families

An Evening with Jayne Singer

In September, Worcester's Together for Kids Coalition sponsored world-renowned expert, Dr. Jayne Singer from the Brazelton Touchpoints Center. The hall at the Hogan Center at Holy Cross was full of leaders and educators committed to understanding early childhood trauma and taking action. Tim Garvin (United Way of Central MA) and Kate Sharry (Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce) presented opening remarks emphasizing our shared responsibility to building a healing and healthy community. Dr. Matilde Castiel (Worcester Division of Public Health) and Christopher O'Keefe (Greater Worcester Community Foundation) also addressed the audience highlighting the need to invest early so that all children have the opportunity to thrive.



Dr. Singer facilitated an interactive presentation on building protective factors for families of young children. Using compelling case studies and stories, Dr. Singer painted poignant pictures of the issues for children experiencing toxic stress, as well as the longer term repercussions. She also provided strategies that would directly change the trajectory, creating resilient children and a trauma-sensitive community.



"We wanted to ensure that parent's voices were heard. Day of Play gave us a platform to be able to engage parents through creative activities, and elicit feedback that was incorporated into our 2018 Community Health Assessment."

– Jennifer Nakijoba, Worcester DPH

to Lead Quality

Day of Play Family Festival Grows!

Worcester's Day of Play Family Festival 2018 received a record turnout as thousands of children and their families joined Edward Street and its partners at Elm Park for a day packed with fun and learning. Across the festival, we expanded our activities and performances by 20%.

This year we partnered with the City of Worcester's Division of Public Health to create a 7th play area for Health and Wellness. This collaboration attracted several new partners from the community to provide hands-on activities including a medical teddy bear clinic, an emoji photo booth, and an area to explore music and art therapy. The fun continues as monthly Play newsletters reach 10,000 families, each packed with fun, creative, low cost activities to foster parent-child engagement and learning. The success of the festival depends on the creativity and commitment of volunteers from across our community. From set up of play areas to break down, every helping hand made the day possible. Thank you!

Stepping Up Our Leadership

- President, Worcester County Chapter of Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children
- Members, Early Learning Councils at Becker College and Quinsigamond Community College
- Adjunct Faculty positions at Becker College, Fitchburg State University, Quinsigamond Community College, and Worcester State University



Stepping up to Lead a Thriving Workforce

Unlocking Potential in Educators and New Pathways for Children

Cultivating Leaders

Edward Street's Early Learning Scholarship supports educators committed to advanced coursework in leadership and certification. Our hope is that investment made now in educators continues to pay forward for young children well into the future. Scholarship recipient Nina Darling is stretching her skills and taking on leadership projects. She is currently pursuing her Master's Degree through a joint degree program offered by QCC and WSU which is anchored in the Leadership Certificate Program, a strategic set of five courses designed to support emerging leaders. Nina works as a Leader Teacher at the Guild of St. Agnes in Worcester. She steps up to lead every day.

Nina's Story

"I work with an underprivileged and largely high needs population of young children. It can be so challenging to teach these little ones when they have such adverse life situations outside of school. How can a child concentrate on a teacher reading a story when she may come to school hungry or worried? More than half of my group of children is involved with the Department of Children and Families. I've been passionate about social-emotional skill development and a sense of family. We say, "This is your school family and we all take care of each other." I may have a child for only one week, but they are part of our family for that week. I believe in developing attachment and building positive relationships, especially when we may be the only positive interaction a child is exposed to that day.

I have been able to attend trauma workshops and to educate other teachers about trauma and the ACEs study. When there are children climbing shelves, kicking, or having a tough day, it's easy to forget why I am doing this, but a reflection on how these young children's lives can be changed with one caring educator, or a chance for a positive preschool foundation is reason enough. I want to teach other teachers and professionals new to the field about the importance of attachment, love and social-emotional skills."

Gently Building Trust – Charley’s Story

Master Teacher Jo Ann Borinski is leading trauma informed training and coaching to support educators who work with children from extraordinary backgrounds. Charley’s story fuels our work.

“I met Charley at the start of my day in the 3-4 year old room. His blonde shoulder length hair was tussled, unkempt and hung over his blue eyes. He wandered about the room from one area to the next, seemingly oblivious to the sounds and activity around him. When he stopped at an activity table, I sat in a chair next to him so that I could be at his eye level. I looked into his eyes, smiled and cheerfully said, “Hi Charley. My name is Jo Ann.” He turned slightly in my direction, his face gazing upward but didn’t make eye contact. Did he hear me? I tried again; no verbal response or physical recognition of my words. Based on just this initial experience, I was very concerned about Charley – what could have happened to this child?”

Charley is 3.5 years old and lives in a homeless shelter with his mom, due to concerns of domestic violence. Charley’s behaviors have, at times, sent him home because of aggressive acts against himself and others. Mom successfully completed a workforce development program and is seeking employment but struggles with keeping a job and managing Charley’s behavioral challenges. Based on coaching strategies for trauma informed care, Charley’s teachers spent a lot of time establishing routines, being consistent, listening, talking, and engaging with Charley. One morning routine helped Charley have a positive start to his day: get off the school bus, hang up his coat, say, “Hello” to his teachers and peers, and then get his hair brushed and tied up by Pam, his office buddy. Forming relationships and connecting with Charley supported his growth.

Three months later Charley was playing in the gym. When he spied me walking to the door, he ran over and blocked it by making a big X with his body. I smiled, “Charley excuse me. I need to go by.” With a bit of a grin on his face, he looked up at me and said, “No. You can’t go out there.” I explained that I needed to help Pam. He still would not budge until I promised to come back and play with him when I finished.

Yes! This is the same Charley who could not focus, establish eye contact, had limited speech and seemed like he was dazed and confused. He is learning to trust the educators, the staff, his peers, and his environment. Charley still has issues, especially those that challenge his social relationships, but he is working hard to develop coping strategies. Another child recently gave me a “high five” and Charley’s response was, “He hit you.” I explained that the child didn’t hurt me - a “high five” is a friendly way of saying, “Great job!” We exchanged “high fives” so that he could feel the gentle touch. He looked at his hand as I gently touched it with my finger. Charley was beginning to learn that touches do not have to be painful.”

Stepping Up Our Leadership

- Investing in 5 Scholars for joint QCC-WSU Leadership in Early Education and Care Certificate Program
- Chair, Educator Provider Support Central MA Partnership
- Co-Founded Early Learning Leadership Book Club
- Facilitated several trauma-informed care trainings at early learning centers



Sponsors & Funders

| | |
|---|---|
| AbbVie | Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care |
| ArtReach | Seven Hills Foundation |
| Alden Trust | The Hanover Insurance Foundation, Inc. |
| Bay State Savings Bank | Tufts Health Plan Foundation |
| Capital Advisors | UniBank |
| City of Worcester's Division of Public Health | United Way of Central Massachusetts |
| Cornerstone Bank | Webster Five |
| Coghlin Construction Services Fund | Worcester County Chapter of Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children |
| Davis Publications | Worcester Family Partnership |
| Elm Park Hotdogs | |
| Greater Worcester Community Foundation | |
| Hester Wetherell Trust | |

We also want to thank all of our individual donors, too many to list, who support our annual appeal. Our sincere gratitude to all who made a gift during the year.

In-Kind Community Partners

| | |
|--|---|
| ArtReach | UMass Graduate School of Nursing |
| Creative Hub | Vantage Printers |
| Crocodile River Music | Vital Emergency Medical Services |
| HMEA's Autism Resource Central | Worcester Center for Crafts |
| Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook | Worcester Center for Expressive Therapies |
| Oasis Yoga | Worcester Child Development Head Start |
| Play-well Teknologies | Worcester Fire Department |
| Regional Environmental Council | Worcester Music Academy |
| South Bay Community Services | Worcester Public Library |
| South High Marching Band | Worcester Public Schools |
| Southeast Asian Coalition | |
| Steven Craig's "Silly Time Magic Show" | |



Financial Report - June 30, 2018 and 2017

ASSETS

| | 2018 | 2017 |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Current | | |
| Cash | 27,425 | 43,663 |
| Contributions Receivable | 20,449 | 685 |
| Prepaid Expenses | 1,058 | 341 |
| Interest Receivable | 19,704 | 13,199 |
| Total | <u>68,636</u> | <u>57,888</u> |
| Property and Equipment | | |
| Computer Equipment | 18,915 | 16,897 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | 14,736 | 12,453 |
| Net | <u>4,179</u> | <u>4,444</u> |
| Investments | <u>2,814,743</u> | <u>2,956,458</u> |
| Total Assets | <u>2,887,558</u> | <u>3,018,790</u> |

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

| | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Current | | |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses | <u>7,884</u> | <u>5,374</u> |
| Net Assets | | |
| Unrestricted | 2,804,674 | 2,938,416 |
| Temporarily Restricted | <u>75,000</u> | <u>75,000</u> |
| Total | 2,879,674 | 3,013,416 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | 2,887,558 | 3,018,790 |



Together we are stepping up to lead

“Edward Street is a pivotal leader and thought partner in early education in the Worcester community and at the state level. They understand the complex issues and work collaboratively with partners designing solutions to maximize resources to ensure young children and their families thrive.”

– **Amy O’Leary**

Director, Early Education for All, Strategies for Children
President, Governing Board of NAEYC