



Without education, your children can never really meet the challenges they will face.

So it's very important to give children education and explain that they should play a role for their country.

~Nelson Mandela

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~New Beginnings~



Annual Report 2014



~Our Mission~

Support families, employers, child care providers, and the community
by advocating for and developing
high quality, affordable, accessible child care for all children

~Our Vision~

The standard of excellence
for child care support and resources
for families, child care providers, and the community

~Our Values~

Integrity

Trust

Competence

Respect

Continuous Quality Improvement

~Thank You~

Our major funders include:

- US Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program
- New York State Office of Children and Family Services
- United Way of Buffalo & Erie County
- Health Foundation for Western & Central New York

Other funders include: Journey's End Refugee Services, local businesses and organizations, and individual memberships and donations.



~Community Compliments~

"Thank you so much for helping with my day care search. It was difficult to find a day care that would accommodate my flexible schedule, and the list you provide me found a wonderful center that my girls love. Thanks again."

"You helped me calm my worries, Thank you."

"Thank you for this training. The brainstorming and networking were great and led to new ideas that helped me with a new direction in this specific area."

"What I love most about DAL is the coming together as a group of directors with common concerns and questions."

"This class well informs you of what you need to know and complete to start your child care program. It is good to know the supports and resources available as you get started!"

"The information in this training not only applied to my job in child care, but my personal life."

"The instructor helped me to see the differences between my perspective, the child's perspective, and ways to work out those differences in a positive way."

~Make a Difference~

There are so many ways you can have a direct impact on the lives of children and families in our community!

Volunteer with Child Care Resource Network to help plan events, help with office work, or represent us at community resource fairs. Based on your interests, we can connect your skills and talents to meaningful work that makes our community stronger.

Advocate and speak out on behalf of children and families around critical child care issues that are important to you.

Give a monetary or in-kind gift to help support our programs and services. An in-kind donation or a monetary gift goes a long way toward ensuring that all children have access to high quality child care!

For more information on how you can get involved, please contact:

Susan DiNatale

Director of Community Initiatives and Development

716-877-6666 ext. 3031

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Statement of Financial Position
As of 09/30/2014

ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS:	
Cash	\$ 1,139,484
Grants receivable	528,400
Accounts receivable	21,636
Prepaid expenses & deposits	<u>50,092</u>
Total current assets	\$ 1,739,612
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, net	<u>25,804</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,765,416</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES:	
Accounts payable	\$ 149,350
Accrued liabilities	144,189
Deferred revenue	<u>15,207</u>
Total liabilities	<u>308,746</u>
NET ASSETS:	
Unrestricted	<u>1,456,670</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,456,670</u>
	\$ 1,765,416

Financial information is generated from
the 2014 audit report by:

Bonadio & Co., LLC
Certified Public Accountants

Statement of Activities
10/01/2013—09/30/2014

OPERATING REVENUE:	
Governmental grants:	
CACFP	\$ 1,923,668
Resource and referral	1,160,423
Day care registration	659,774
Provider mandates	<u>134,836</u>
Total governmental grants revenue	3,878,701
Training	
Provider fees	86,560
Child Development Association (CDA) fees	<u>66,795</u>
Total training revenue	153,355
Other:	
Interest income	254
Membership dues	12,254
Annual meeting and other, net	<u>21,280</u>
Total other revenue	<u>33,788</u>
Total operating revenue	4,065,844
OPERATING EXPENSES:	
Program services:	
CACFP	1,952,989
Child care resource and referral	1,052,234
Day care registration	664,133
Education/training	<u>75,244</u>
Total program services	3,744,600
Supporting services:	
General and administrative	<u>345,174</u>
Total expenses	<u>4,089,774</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(23,930)
NET ASSETS - beginning of year	<u>1,480,600</u>
NET ASSETS - end of year	\$1,456,670

~ Letter From the CEO ~

“A new baby is the beginning of all things—wonder, hope, a dream of possibilities.”
-Eda LeShan



Dear Colleagues,

No quote better summarizes why the mission of our agency is so important to the Western New York community. For each family, a new child is a new beginning, a first step into uncharted territory filled with hope and possibilities as that child’s unique personality emerges and takes shape. In our larger community, each child has the potential to make a difference in a lasting and impactful way if he or she is given a strong life foundation. With each child born, our community has the chance to become a better place.

We understand that, for many parents, the incredible joy of having a child can be quickly matched by despair, worry, and frustration when they must make a critical choice regarding who to trust for child care. Throughout our 27 year history, Child Care Resource Network has remained committed to providing peace of mind for families who use child care by referring them to programs that meet their needs and by working with child care providers to infuse their programs with high quality through research-based, developmentally appropriate practices. Meeting the needs of families and developing the capacity and skills of child care professionals are essential to developing a strong workforce and community.

While CCRN has advocated for best outcomes for children and families since 1987, 2014 signaled a year of “new beginnings” for our agency, similar to the new beginnings experienced by a family when a new child arrives. Being a newcomer to the agency in 2014, I want to thank the dedicated and talented CCRN team, who has worked to strengthen the infrastructure of our agency to better serve the needs of our community. Over the past year, we have restructured internally and increased community involvement by over 70%; opened 3,882 new child care slots in Erie County; trained more nearly 2,000 child care providers; and directly served more than 4,000 children and families. Together, these figures represent an increase of 15% in CCRN services that benefit the community.

We also expanded upon existing programs that extend beyond the above performance metrics. One example is the Buffalo Microenterprise Refugee Project, through which we collaborate with Journey’s End Refugee Services and Jewish Family Services. In 2014, this was the only program of its type in New York State to have refugees successfully open and operate child care businesses that now serve the increasingly complex cultural needs of our region. Other “new beginnings” in 2014 involved new partnerships and initiatives, including:

- *Cavity-Free Kids*, a dental health program that reaches out to families and children through child care homes;
- *Help Me Grow WNY*, a resource for families to monitor and support their children’s growth and development from birth through kindergarten entry;
- Support from the Health Foundation for Central and Western New York;
- Higher-education partnerships with Buffalo State College and Niagara University;
- CCRN representation on the Winning Beginning New York statewide advocacy steering committee.

In 2014, Child Care Resource Network experienced many changes that led our agency to the brink of new beginnings, where we are poised to make a greater impact than ever on the children and families of Western New York. We believe that the best is yet to come for our region, but that can only happen if we dedicate ourselves collectively toward ensuring bright new beginnings for each one of our children. Thank you for engaging with our agency in this mission.

Warm regards,

Lynn Pullano

~Child Care Resource Network Board of Directors~

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~Child Care Resource Network Staff~

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Lynn Pullano

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Marta Rodriquez-Perez

WNY Infant Toddler Resource Network

Karen Kopacz, Kristin Macha



~Elizabeth’s Story~

I attended a CDA course for certification in infant and toddler care at Child Care Resource Network. The training prepared me in many ways to become a competent, confident caregiver. As each topic unfolded week after week, my interest peaked, my perspective broadened, and a sense of empowerment always followed. I buzzed out the door at the end of every class feeling nourished, refreshed, and passionate about my career choice. Equally as impressive as the material was the camaraderie between teachers and students. Strong bonds were formed and one of my dearest friendships came out of this course.

This course for me was a transformative journey and led me to a Toddler Teacher position at one of the most amazing child care centers. I utilize the knowledge and strategies obtained through CDA daily. My commitment is to provide a nurturing environment and quality child care for every child. Furthermore, I pledge to be a lifelong learner - welcoming all that stirs curiosity and brings wonder and awe into the classroom.

So all children can *thrive!*

Child Care Resource Network is a strong voice in the community advocating for policies that lead to healthy children and strong families. Some of our 2013-2014 highlights include:

- Lynn Pullano, CEO, was named to the Winning Beginning New York steering committee, providing representation of the child care issues that exist in Western New York on a statewide level.
- Conducting county and state legislative visits to educate key stakeholders on the critical needs of families related to child care subsidy, the opportunity to restructure Child Protective Services in Erie County and the Paid Family Leave Act.
- Engaging families and child care providers to take action in local, statewide and national movements calling for investments in early childhood initiatives.

We *advocate, outreach*
and *collaborate*...

Child Care Resource Network is pleased to participate in 80 community events this year, ranging from resource fairs to conferences and legislative breakfasts. This year we increased our community involvement by 71%.

Our social media presence has blossomed into a cohesive effort on Facebook and Twitter, with over 280 friends and followers. We look forward to augmenting our social media presence.

Our media presence continues to grow. The Awards Dinner, the Annual Conference, and our Child and Adult Care Food Program were all highlighted in news media this year.

We have worked with our community partners to close the gaps in services to families and child care providers.

~Community Partners~

Accord Corporation	Family & Child Advocacy Network
American Red Cross	Family Help Center
Baker Victory Services	Gloria J. Parks Community Center
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library	Holy Cross Head Start
System	Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County
Buffalo Adult Education	Journey’s End Refugee Services
Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network	Matt Urban Community Center
Buffalo Promise Neighborhood	Medialle College
Canisius College	National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
Catholic Charities WIC	Native American Community Services
Center for Resolution & Justice	Niagara County Dept of Health
Chautauqua Child Care Council	Niagara University
Child Adolescent Treatment Services	Northwest Community Center
City of Buffalo	NYS Office of Children & Family Services
Community Action of Orleans & Genesee, Inc.	NYS Public Policy & Education Fund
Community Action Organization	Parent Network of WNY
Child Care Clearinghouse of Niagara	People, Inc.
Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled	Read to Succeed Buffalo
Cornell University Cooperative Extension	Response to Love Center
Early Childhood Direction Center	The Belle Center
EPIC-Every Person Influences Children	True Bethel Baptist Church
Erie Community College	University at Buffalo
Erie County Dept of Health	Villa Maria College
Erie County Dept of Social Services	Women’s and Children Hospital
Erie County Office for the Disabled	

~ Agency Services ~
Our Work on Behalf of Children

Child and Adult Care Food Program

Contracted with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the NYS Department of Health (DOH), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) issues reimbursement to family, group family and legally exempt child care providers for serving nutritious meals in child care programs. Services include program enrollment, nutrition education, processing claim submissions and regular child care program monitoring.

Child Care Registration

Contracted with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) the Child Care Registration program provides registration services for family day care and school age child care programs. Responsibilities include registering and monitoring child care programs, in accordance with the NYS Day Care Regulations, to ensure children are healthy and safe.

Education and Training

The Education and Training program provides an array of services to child care providers with the goal of improving the quality of early care and education for children. Services include:

- Training and Technical Assistance
- Credentialing Programs
- Health Care Consultancy (HCC)
- School Age Child Care Network
- Directors as Leaders (DAL)
- Medication Administration Training (MAT)
- Western New York (WNY) Infant Toddler Resource Network (ITRN)



Legally Exempt Enrollment

Contracted with the NYS OCFS, the Legally Exempt program provides enrollment and monitoring services to informal child care providers who receive government child care subsidies. To increase the quality of care, the legally exempt program also provides support to child care providers through technical assistance and a health and safety grant program.

Parent Services

The Parent Services program helps families find child care by providing referrals to licensed and registered child care programs in Erie County that meet the individual needs of families. In addition to assisting families find child care, the Parent Services program provides valuable resources to families on topics related to child development, parent education opportunities and choosing high quality child care.

We *grow* child care options...

Child Care Resource Network works to help parents go to work. In 2013-2014, we increased access to child care by opening 32 child care programs. This created 3,882 new child care slots in our community for families in need. These child care programs provide care for all ages of children, from infants to school age, and are inspected regularly to ensure that all children have a safe place to learn and grow when their families are working.

Child Care Resource Network also enrolled over 1,000 legally exempt child care providers. These caregivers help families meet specific child care needs that licensed and registered child care may not. Such needs include overnight and weekend care, flexible child care schedules, cultural and linguistic knowledge and transportation.

Over 1,800 child care inspections completed

and *sustain* child care businesses.

In 2013-2014, Child Care Resource Network distributed a total of 1.6 million dollars to 422 child care providers through CACFP. These dollars were reimbursement for the out of pocket business expenses child care providers incur to feed children in their programs. Over 3,400 children received healthy meals and snacks while in child care.

Through a coaching and mentoring model, 35 child care providers received support related to child development, curriculum, family relationships, leadership and small business practices. This support ensured that child care providers were equipped with the critical tools necessary to run their businesses with strong programming, giving over 300 children a stable child care program with improved early learning experiences.



In 2013-2014, Child Care Resource Network provided peace of mind for over 800 families in need of child care. We empowered working parents to choose high quality child care by providing information and resources to identify a child care program that was the “right fit” for their family.

Child Care Resource Network empowered child care providers to learn and grow as well. Our professional development training activities included topics related to healthy children, safe environments, responsive care giving, child assessment, and community supports for children and families. This training not only fulfilled NYS regulatory requirements, but supported the lifelong learning needs of child care providers striving to provide quality child care.

Child Care Resource Network is committed to helping child care providers advance their careers with credentials and higher education coursework. In 2013-2014, 35 child care providers participated in a 120 hour nationally recognized Child Development Associate credentialing program. This intensive program requires a year long commitment to learning and was the first step to a college degree for the child care providers who participated!

We *educate* families and child care providers...

Over 2,000 child care providers trained

~Pley's Story~

Pley came to the United States seven years ago from Myanmar, fleeing political unrest. She loves children and decided to apply for participation in the Child Care Microenterprise Project, funded by Office of Refugee Resettlement. With help from CCRN, Journey's End, and Jewish Family Services, she learned English and took classes to learn how to care for children in developmentally appropriate ways. She also created a business plan to help her achieve her goal: to open a child care program in her home.

Pley opened a home based child care program in the summer of 2014. Now Pley cares for children in her Cheektowaga neighborhood. She loves her child care program and provides high quality early learning experiences for the children in her neighborhood.

