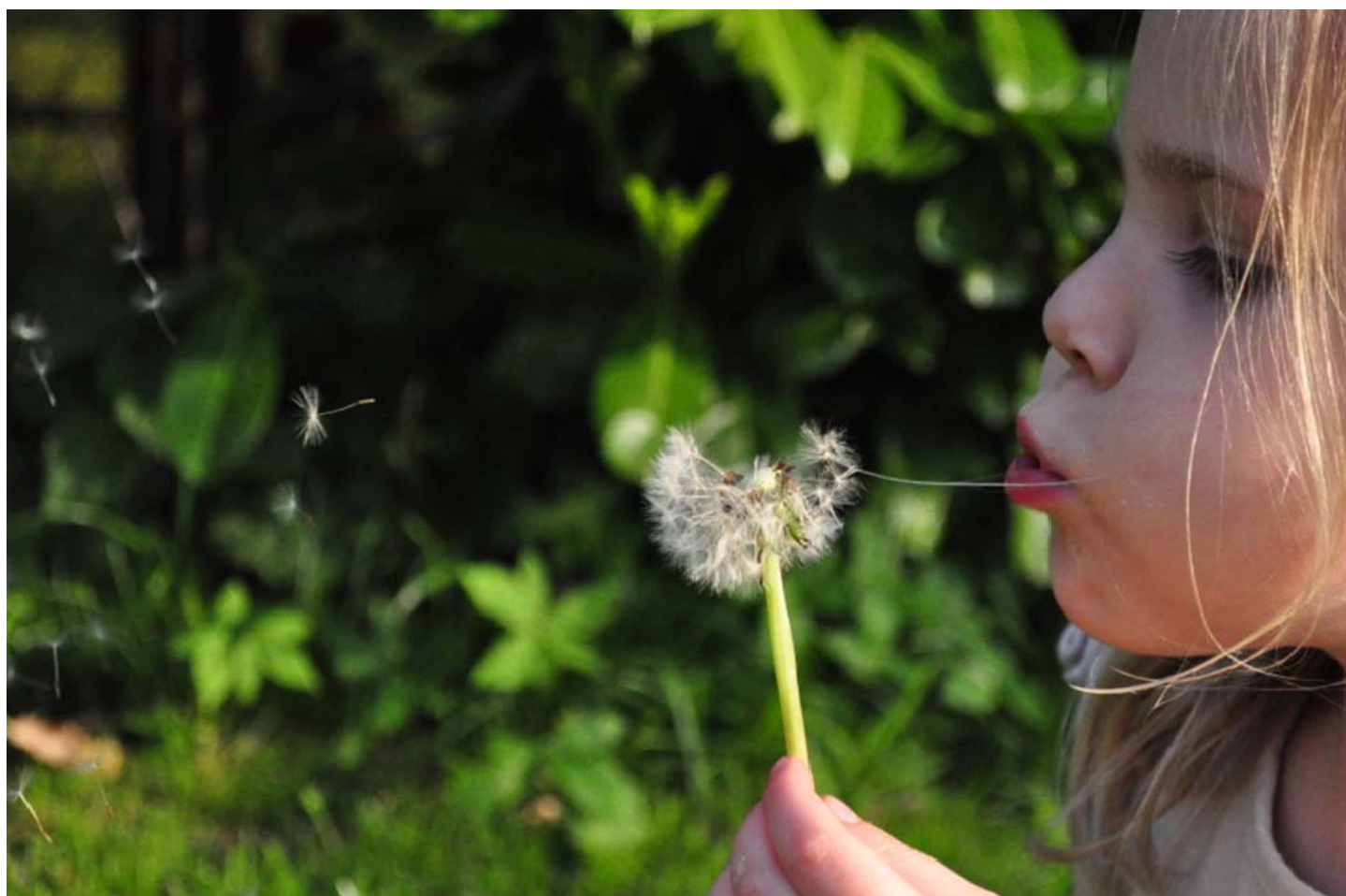


New Beginnings



Annual Report 2015

Our Mission:

To 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:

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

Our Values:

Excellence

Trust

Quality

Respect

Integrity

Education

Protection

Development

Encouragement

Letter From the CEO



Dear Colleagues,

As the saying goes, “The only constant in life is change.” Here at Child Care Resource Network, there are a lot of changes underway to ensure that our services and communications are the best possible. In the past few months we’ve introduced a new logo, new colors, a new tagline – a new brand that symbolizes our renewed commitment to nurturing greatness in children, families, and early child care and education providers. You can expect to see these changes and more in the coming months, but we also want to remind you that no matter what we change, a few things will *always* stay the same.

Our commitment to the families, children, and child care providers of Western New York will never change; our staff will remain the dependable, dedicated people who make our organization great; and we will continue working to make our services the highest quality ever.

Some new additions you’ll notice include our blog and our website. Still in its developmental stage, our new website will be more user-friendly [and easier for everyone to navigate]. We’ll feature current trends in the child care industry, as well as the most up-to-date resources. If you visit our blog (wnychildren.org/blog) you’ll find posts about the topics and subjects you care about most. Whether you’re a mother, father, or early care and learning provider, *Child Care Today* — now available in an online blog — is a fantastic new resource we offer that is free and accessible to you any time of the day.

In the mail – both snail-mail and digital – you’ll see our newly redesigned materials. Keep an eye out for our next newsletter, *Child Care Today* (which you’re reading right now), as well as our parent services newsletter, *Families Today*, a monthly e-newsletter with valuable information and resources for parents. While you may not recognize them by design, we’re sure that once you dive into their pages you’ll find professional and engaging content that will make these publications familiar favorites!

We are changing the way we communicate. If you want to tell us something, we want to hear from you. Tweet us, message us, call us – reach us any way you know how! As we look to bring new learning and training opportunities to the community, we need to know what you want. Are we not covering a certain topic? Did you just *love* the last Child Development Associate class you took? By letting us know these things, we will be able to serve you better.

As we continue to grow and develop as an agency, we invite you to stay connected. We are always here to help: finding child care, supporting providers, acting as a leading resource in the field of parenting and child care, and presenting the most current, high-end training and classes in Western New York. We look forward to hearing from you!

Warm regards,

Lynn Pullano

Child Care Resource Network Board of Directors

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Child Care Resource Network Staff

CEO

Lynn Pullano

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Peggy Krathaus, Christine Ventura

Administrative Services

Madelyn Termini, Karen Urrutia

Help Me Grow

Jodi Schwegler

Child and Adult Care Food Program

Ramon Johnson, Kyle Hennicke, Billie Jo Meehan, Maria Navarro

Parent and Employer Services

Carrie Truesdell

Community Initiatives and Development

Susan DiNatale

Quality Assurance and Support Services

Renee Gietz

Community Outreach and Assessment

Courtney Gfroerer, Amanda Kelkenberg

Regulatory Services

Christen Balistreri, Joann Calandra, Laura Caveretta,
Chaznique Cooks, Ida Dockery, Patricia Engleka, Rebecca
Gibson, Linnea Harris, Davida Knight, Kelly Maloney,
Cerideth McDonald, Charles Orlando, Melissa Penski, Jackie
Roberson, Jennifer Schreiber, Stephanie Simmons, Sheila
Tumiel

Education and Training

Maryann Ciskal, Susan DiNatale, Deborah Kopack,
Kimberly LoDico, Gayle Nixon, Candice Thompson,
Michelle Wilson

WNY Infant Toddler Resource Network

Kristin Macha

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 & 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 & Employer 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 helps parents go to work. In 2014-15, we increased access to child care by opening 22 child care programs. This created 3,286 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 1,200 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 2014-15, Child Care Resource Network distributed a total of \$1.8 million to 300 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 2,200 children received healthy meals and snacks while in child care.

Through a coaching and mentoring model, 28 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 more than 200 children a stable child care program with improved early learning experiences.



In 2014-15, Child Care Resource Network provided peace of mind for over 900 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 2014-15, 33 child care providers participated in a 120-hour nationally recognized Child Development Associate (CDA) credentialing program. The CDA program is funded in part by the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County. 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.



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 2014-15 highlights include:

- Lynn Pullano, CEO, was part of the Winning Beginning New York steering committee for the second year in a row. She was able to provide 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 universal early childhood developmental screening.
- Engaging families and child care providers to take action in local, statewide and national movements calling for investments in early childhood initiatives.

We nurture greatness...

Child Care Resource Network was 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 70%.

Our social media presence has blossomed into a cohesive effort on both Facebook and Twitter, with over 900 active friends and followers. We look forward to augmenting our social media presence in the coming year.

Our media presence continues to grow. The Annual Conference, fundraiser, and advocacy efforts on a local and state-wide scale were all highlighted in the 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

2-1-1 WNY	Erie County Department of Social Services
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 System	Holy Cross Head Start
Buffalo Adult Education	Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County
Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network	Journey's End Refugee Services
Buffalo Promise Neighborhood	Matt Urban Community Center
Buffalo State College	Medaille 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
Child and Family Services	NYS Office of Children & Family Services
City of Buffalo	NYS Public Policy & Education Fund
Community Action of Orleans & Genesee, Inc.	Parent Network of WNY
Community Action Organization	People, Inc.
Child Care Clearinghouse of Niagara	Read to Succeed Buffalo
Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled	Response to Love Center
Cornell University Cooperative Extension	The Belle Center
Kaleida Health Early Childhood Direction Center	True Bethel Baptist Church
Every Person Influences Children	University at Buffalo
Erie Community College	United Way of Buffalo & Erie County
Erie County Department of Health	Villa Maria College
Erie County Office for the Disabled	WNED-TV
	Women's and Children Hospital



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!*

Statement of Financial Position

As of 09/30/2015

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash	\$ 1,131,667
Grants receivable	647,411
Accounts receivable	25,282
Prepaid expenses & deposits	<u>28,070</u>

Total current assets \$ 1,832,430

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, net 31,864

Total assets \$ 1,864,4294

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Accounts payable	\$ 177,278
Accrued liabilities	137,651
Deferred revenue	<u>71,870</u>

Total liabilities 386,799

NET ASSETS:

Unrestricted 1,477,495

Total net assets 1,477,495

\$ 1,864,294

Financial information is generated from the
2015 audit report by:
Bonadio & Co., LLC
Certified Public Accountants

Statement of Activities

10/01/2014—09/30/2015

OPERATING REVENUE:

Governmental grants:

CACFP	\$ 2,107,608
Resource and referral	1,160,423
Day care registration	659,774
Other grants	<u>124,368</u>

Total governmental grants revenue 4,052,173

Training

Provider fees	89,841
Child Development Association (CDA) fees	<u>54,428</u>

Total training revenue 144,269

Other:

Interest income	195
Special Events Net	6,205
Membership dues	8,700
Annual meeting and other, net	<u>7,389</u>

Total other revenue 22,489

Total operating revenue 4,218,931

OPERATING EXPENSES:

Program services:

CACFP	2,132,193
Child care resource and referral	1,029,129
Day care registration	638,926
Education/training	<u>67,803</u>

Total program services 3,868,051

Supporting services:

General and administrative 330,055

Total expenses 4,189,106

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (20,825)

NET ASSETS - beginning of year 1,456,670

NET ASSETS—end of year 1,477,495

Child Care Resource Network
is a member of:

ChildCareAware
America's most trusted child care resource.



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 Directors As Leaders 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 and are safe and nurtured in responsive learning environments!

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

Amanda Kelkenberg
Director of Community Outreach & Assessment
716-877-6666 ext. 3023
akelkenberg@wnychildren.org



“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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