YOU ARE PART OF OUR FAMILY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.
**ELI PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

Building on an active and successful 2016; Early Learning Indiana looks forward to an equally fruitful 2017.

- Our Day Early Learning centers are pushing even higher quality and outcomes for children, made possible by a generous grant from Lilly Endowment to implement curriculum coaching and enhance our family engagement work.

- The Child Care Answers and Partnerships for Early Learners teams continue to work regionally and statewide with child care providers, schools and families to ensure more children have access to quality early care and education.

- The ALL IN 4 Pre-K advocacy campaign, with United Way of Central Indiana and a broad coalition of partners, is leading up to what we hope will be a significant expansion of public pre-K for young Hoosiers.

It will be a great year for young children in our centers and all across the state!

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**THIRTEEN YEARS OF TRUST: A FAMILY SPOTLIGHT**

If there’s a family that’s been part of our Day Early Learning family longer (consecutively) than the Brookses, we haven’t found them yet. Theresa and Matt Brooks have been involved with us for more than 13 years, since their oldest child, Madilyn, was three years old and they enrolled her at the Day Nursery Wiles center on the corner of East and St. Clair streets in downtown Indianapolis. The Wiles center closed around 10 years ago, right about the time that Madilyn was starting kindergarten and about the time their next child, Carter, was getting ready to attend. He started at age two at the Lilly center and his younger sister, Calista, and brother, Conrad, have followed suit. Conrad will turn five this July and will start kindergarten in August and the Brookses will leave our center after all these years.

Why have they entrusted their children to the Wiles and Lilly centers? “We just LOVE the teachers. So many amazing teachers have come through there – Ms. Marti, Ms. Nikkia, Ms. Asia, and Ms. Syreese – they are just amazing.”

Theresa also shared a story with us that made a particular impression on the whole family. “A long time ago, Ms. Coombs had an aid in her room who was deaf, and they incorporated a lot of sign language in the classroom. It was awesome. The kids learned to sign and then we learned from them. I still care about it. We’re not quite fluent but we still do it a lot.”

We are honored to have spent so much time with the Brooks family. The Brooks family publishes Urban Times, the monthly downtown newspaper.

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**200+**

The number of Day Early Learning teachers who will receive continuous quality coaching from our new research and practice team of coaches which will benefit all Day Early Learning children.

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**686**

The number of childcare providers who received more than 2,500 hours of training in 2016 from Child Care Answers to improve skills and knowledge in early learning.

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**902**

The number of high-quality seats created in seven Indiana counties thanks to Partnerships for Early Learners capacity building grants, funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment.

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**500**

The number of people engaged in the All IN 4 Pre-K rally at the Statehouse on January 25.

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Left to right: Madilyn Brooks, Calista Brooks, Ms. Marti Gough (Pre-K teacher at Day Early Learning Lilly Family Center) and Carter Brooks pose at Calista’s graduation from Day Early Learning in 2016.
My name is Mimi Skarbeck, and I am a senior at Guerin Catholic High School. I am currently an intern at Early Learning Indiana (ELI) as part of my senior curriculum. I knew my Grandma, Marge Skarbeck, had been involved with ELI and after she explained their mission of providing high quality education for all kids, I knew ELI would be the perfect place to intern.

My Grandma has been involved with the Day Nursery Auxiliary since 1977. Throughout this time she has worked on multiple projects to raise money for ELI and has enjoyed working with children in the nurseries. When I asked her why she became involved she said, “I feel it is so important to support children’s need to get a good start on their education, and especially provide support to lower income families.”

My Dad, Ed Skarbeck, also likes to support ELI by donating money, because he likes the idea of giving money to “high quality organizations that provide direct benefits to children.”

I feel so fortunate to have the opportunity to intern at ELI, and am looking forward to learning much more about the positive impact that early education has on children.

THREE GENERATIONS OF FAMILY GENEROSITY

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Three Generations of Family Generosity

Danielle Smith has lived all over the country and never expected to wind up back in Indianapolis, raising her children not far from where she grew up in Butler Tarkington. You've probably seen the stamp she makes on the city in her designs and events, from Black Expo to Macy’s fashion shows and displays to her styling the a cappella group Naturally 7, to her many fashion segments on local TV.

Danielle attended the Lilly Family center in the early ‘80’s and remembers it clearly. “I have very fond memories. I remember all the clothing and what I wore – my mom jokes that all my memories are fashion-based! There was a cottage between the center there and the church (TAB) and that’s where the preschool was.

“I remember it felt like a family.”

One memory that stands out for her: “The school had a mini 500 race with tricycles and I was SO excited but I didn’t get to attend because my grandfather decided to take my sister and me to Carb Day. I cried the entire time I was at IMS and the whole way home. My parents were like, ‘really??’ but I just really loved being there and was planning on that mini 500 for a long time.”

In college, Danielle majored in fashion and landed an internship with a designer in New York City. As she was finishing school, 9/11 happened and it changed her mind about returning to the city. She started a job at (then) Parisian at the Circle City Mall that morphed into bigger and better jobs.

She now freelances and is in demand as an event designer and stylist. Now a married mom of two, she has another project: a children’s book, due out in spring of 2018. You can learn more about her designs and see her work at www.freshfettle.com or find her on social media.

Pictured above (L to R): Marge Skarbeck, Mimi Skarbeck and Ed Skarbeck.
“THEY TOOK ON MY WHOLE FAMILY.”

It can be daunting to entrust your child to someone else while you work. Harder yet to find a place where caregivers get to know the whole family. According to Latrice Stumph, that’s exactly what she found at IU Health Day Early Learning.

Latrice applied for the scholarship assistance program called On My Way Pre-K, which she said is a simple process. Once she found out her daughter Marlo was accepted, she began to look for a pre-K program. But not just any program – a high quality one. Her search led her eventually to IU Health Day Early Learning center.

Latrice recalls her first visit when she met with staff who encouraged Marlo to play while they talked. “It seemed amazing. I chose this center because it spoke to my spirit. They spoke to our family as a unit. And when it was time to leave that day, Marlo didn’t want to go.”

“We weren’t treated any differently because we were on the On My Way Pre-K scholarship. We have been accepted as we are. Others may choose care that is closest or cheapest. Not me.”

Marlo has now been at the center for two years and during that time, Latrice said she didn’t worry about her. “It took a weight off my shoulders.”

Marlo will soon be going to kindergarten. Our staff has been honored that Latrice chose Day Early Learning. We have been committed to providing the highest quality early learning possible for Marlo.

Latrice and daughter Marlo attended the All IN 4 Pre-K Rally at the Statehouse where Latrice spoke about the importance of quality pre-K.

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