A child’s mind and body are impacted by what happens in the first years of life.

Five years ago, many donors acted on this truth and invested in the creation of a center dedicated to serving infants and toddlers. Donors gave generously not only out of kindness but also wisdom - knowing how important the early years are to a child.

Since the opening of the Center for Infants & Toddlers, nearly 200 children have been carried through the doors to play, learn, and explore a curious world under the watchful and responsive eyes of committed teachers. Thank you to donors who made this possible.

The future prosperity of each child and the broader community relies on how we foster the health and wellbeing of our next generation. When we invest in high-quality programs like the Center for Infants & Toddlers, we are helping each child develop skills that beget skills, leading to a lifetime of learning and productivity.

IN OUR CLASSROOMS: DEVELOPING MATH SKILLS

[Images of children engaged in various math activities]

Support math learning in our classrooms by making a gift online at EarlyLearningIN.org/give.
2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day Early Learning</th>
<th>Child Care Answers</th>
<th>Partnerships for Early Learners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1,480</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,120</strong></td>
<td><strong>702</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children served in our Day Early Learning centers in 2017.</td>
<td>Parents found child care with the help of Child Care Answers.</td>
<td>Families engaged through Bloom Bright texting program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>61%</strong> of children who attend Day Early Learning received need-based financial aid.</td>
<td><strong>774</strong></td>
<td>$589,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>716</strong></td>
<td><strong>63</strong></td>
<td>Early childhood professionals enrolled in a degree or credential program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children served by our Tuition Assistance Program in 2017.</td>
<td>Trainings were provided by Child Care Answers impacting 38,838 children.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lorenzo was almost two months old when the panic set in. His mom, Maria, knew that she was one month away from returning to work and had not yet found the perfect place to trust with the care of her newborn son. Maria had moved to the United States in 2001 seeking a new adventure and the opportunity to follow her dreams. She was well-equipped for success with a degree in education and a job in Indianapolis as an au pair. Her background and experience gave her insight into high-quality care, and the knowledge that it would not be easy to find.

“A friend referred me to the Day Early Learning Center for Infants and Toddlers, but I was very hesitant,” said Maria. However, from the moment she opened the door, she knew it was the right place. With a keen-eye for quality education and a mama’s warm heart, she was confident that this center was exactly what her son needed.
Maria had found Lorenzo’s second home. The center was designed around safety and play, and the teachers were tender, energetic and passionate about teaching. “They were consistent,” says Maria. “Every day, I was greeted with the same smile and friendly hello. I know they treated my son with the same kindness each day.” Maria appreciated that the teachers understood the emotional stress of leaving a baby somewhere new, and they did their best to make it a good experience.

“I felt like they truly loved Lorenzo,” Maria says with gratitude. She recalls the time that Lorenzo had a fever and the center called her to pick him up. Maria was in the process of wrapping up a large event at work, and it took her two hours to get to the center. She was flustered and concerned when she arrived, only to find that Ms. Stephanie, Lorenzo’s teacher, had clocked out of work an hour earlier and stayed at the center to rock Maria’s fevered baby until she could arrive. Lorenzo’s teacher also began learning Spanish to ensure that she was able to communicate with him, since he was being raised bilingually. These gestures of kindness made the center’s staff feel like family to Maria.

“Day Early Learning changed our life,” said Maria. “I would have lost everything I had accomplished in my career and life in the United States had I not found the right child care for my son.”

The emotional safety-net and certainty in care she found at Day Early Learning Center for Infants and Toddlers gave Maria a partner in raising her son, along with the assurance that while he was receiving excellent care, she could take the necessary steps to build a successful career.

Lorenzo turned three this past year and transitioned to Day Early Learning State Government Center. Maria worried about the transition, but quickly realized that the advantage he was given at the Day Early Learning Center for Infants and Toddlers had prepared him for his next step in education. She is confident that the State center is preparing him for success in kindergarten and beyond.

“He is going to be successful wherever he lands, because he was given a strong start thanks to the Day Early Learning Center for Infants and Toddlers,” says Maria.
PASSION FOR NEW MOMS AND BABIES INSPIRED LOYAL DONORS TO MAKE A BIG IMPACT

An active donor since 1999, Julia Hogan has been involved with Early Learning Indiana in a multitude of ways. Having sent her two sons, Brendan, now 26, and Jimmy, now 23, to Day Early Learning centers in the 90’s, she was able to experience first-hand the excellent care these centers provide.

“My mother-in-law, MaryAnn Hogan, belonged to the Day Nursery Auxiliary, and she was the gateway to why my husband and I decided to send our sons to the center downtown,” says Julia. “I loved that they had the highest accreditation you could have for a child care.”

In addition to her connection through her mother-in-law, Julia’s husband, James, served on the Early Learning Indiana Board of Directors. Julia worked as the Executive Director for Indiana Perinatal Network (IPN), whose mission provided education for those who give care to pregnant women and babies. The connection between IPN and Early Learning Indiana seemed natural to Julia.

Ultimately, their positive experiences with Early Learning Indiana and Julia’s passion for new moms and babies prompted Julia and James to become major donors to the Day Early Learning Center for Infants & Toddlers in 2013.

“Early Learning Indiana told us about the new center they wanted to open. Because of the work I did in my own job, I understood how hard the lay of the land is for new moms,” said Julia. “I said to my husband that I think we need to do something big that we have never done before.”

Through their generosity, and that of other donors, the Day Early Learning Center for Infants and Toddlers became a reality five years ago and has served many young children. The Hogans continue to be active donors and advocates for Early Learning Indiana, ensuring the highest-quality early care and education for Hoosier children.

Please join the Hogan’s in making a donation to Early Learning Indiana.

Our Cover Student

Meet Willow

Age: 2
Favorite Color: Pink
Favorite Food: Chicken
Favorite School Activity: Singing
Favorite Book: “Wheels on the Bus”
Favorite Television Show: Dora the Explorer
When I grow up I want to be: Dental hygenist like mommy
EIGHTY YEARS OF DEDICATION: THE DAY NURSERY AUXILIARY

CELEBRATE AT THE DAY NURSERY AUXILIARY STYLE SHOW & LUNCHEON
Join the Day Nursery Auxiliary as they celebrate 80 years of nurturing children on November 1 at the Ritz Charles. Thank you to our presenting sponsor, Conner Insurance. For more information, please visit earlylearningin.org/events.

VISIT THE DAY NURSERY AUXILIARY’S TREE AT THE FESTIVAL OF TREES
Don’t miss this year’s Day Nursery Auxiliary tree during The Festival of Trees at the Indiana History Center. The tree is decorated with handmade ornaments made by Day Early Learning children. It will be on display from November 17 to January 6. Thanks to co-chairs, Nan Diehl and Nan Hill.

BECOME AN AUXILIARY MEMBER
Join active women who are leading the way to ensure that all children in Indiana receive the highest level of early care and education. For more information, please contact Membership Chair Sherry Tucker at sltucker20@aol.com or 317.345.7761.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DAY NURSERY AUXILIARY’S ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON AND STYLE SHOW
Thursday, November 1, 2018, 10:30am–2pm
Ritz Charles – Carmel, IN
Join the Day Nursery Auxiliary for an afternoon of fashion trends, fun and shopping to support our little learners!

BIRTH TO THREE, BUILD WITH ME REUNION
Friday, November 16, 2018, 11am–2:30pm
Day Early Learning Center for Infants & Toddlers
Come celebrate the 5th anniversary of the first-of-its-kind infant and toddler care and education center!
Co-Chaired by Jill Robisch & Tony Kaufman

GIVING TUESDAY
Mark your calendar for November 27, 2018 and give the gift of high-quality early childhood education! Join us at earlylearningin.org/give and share on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. #LittleMomentsBigImpact

EARLY LEARNING IN ACTION
Do you want to experience the art of early learning? Come visit one of our Day Early Learning centers and enjoy an early childhood moment and lunch with our young learners. Share this experience with a colleague, family member or friend. A center experience may be scheduled at any time at most center locations.
To schedule your experience, please contact Sarah Ferguson at 317.737.1227 or sarahf@earlylearningindiana.org.

*For more information on sponsorship or ways to get involved, contact:
Sarah Ferguson
317.737.1227
sarahf@earlylearningindiana.org
IMPROVING PROGRAM QUALITY THROUGH COACHING AND TRAINING

St. Lawrence Catholic Preschool on Indianapolis’ northeast side is the only Indiana Catholic preschool, attached to an elementary school, that has achieved Level 4 Paths to QUALITY™ (PTQ).

It is quite a feat, and it didn’t happen by accident. Nor was it required.

Getting to PTQ Level 4 took vision and diligence.

Each morning, Director Kathryn Kutan, greets 45 eager, cheerful faces, knowing that her students are receiving high-quality preschool. Kathryn’s passion for educating young minds only rivals her own desire for learning and growing. It was that combination that inspired her to reach out to Child Care Answers six years ago to seek accreditation for St. Lawrence Catholic Preschool. PTQ is Indiana’s four-level statewide quality rating system for early care and education programs.

To begin the process, Kathryn contacted Child Care Answers and spoke with a team member to see how to become an accredited program and achieve Level 1 PTQ. The first step for registered ministries is the Volunteer Certification Program, with primary standards of meeting health and safety requirements. Child Care Answers connected Kathryn with United Way of Central Indiana staff who provided funds for needed safety improvements including improved lighting, door installation, bathroom access, sink installation and similar projects.

Once the safety measures were met and St. Lawrence achieved PTQ Level 1, Kathryn pushed ahead towards Level 2, with assistance from Child Care Answers. St. Lawrence was well-positioned for the transition because of the learning environment and curriculum already in place.

The school progressed from Level 1 to Level 3 in less than one year.
"Our Child Care Answers coach was amazing," said Kathryn. "She helped us navigate the PTQ system and provided us with coaching and training opportunities that allowed us to quickly move through the process."

After holding at Level 3 for almost four years, Kathryn decided to pursue Level 4 with support from her new principal. "We were already doing a lot of things right," said Kathryn. "I wanted to see what we could do better and how we could receive that high level of distinction."

Ultimately, they reached Level 4. The distinction allows St. Lawrence to flourish as a high-quality early learning environment, impacting the rest of the school, which serves kindergarten through eighth grade. Child Care Answers’s coaching and training boosted teachers’ skills and knowledge, providing a better-quality experience for their children.

"Child Care Answers is a great resource for early care and education programs," says Kathryn. "As teachers encounter training needs or specific situations, the coaches are always available to assist them with meeting those requests and in realizing a higher level of quality." Kathryn serves as a leader among her peers, encouraging other parochial schools to reach out to Child Care Answers for assistance.

St. Lawrence Preschool has three preschool classrooms and nearly 90 percent of the children enrolled receive financial aid to attend. Child Care Answers provides more than 5,000 coaching hours a year to a multitude of early childhood education programs in Central Indiana.

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**BOOSTING TEACHER QUALITY, ONE ONLINE COURSE AT A TIME**

New online learning platform to launch in 2019.

In 2019, Indiana’s early childhood and school-age professionals will have a new place to connect with high-quality professional development.

The new Indiana Learning Paths platform, developed by Early Learning Indiana, will give them the chance to find on-demand learning opportunities and to register for in-person trainings throughout the state.

The platform features refined learning opportunities based on new research, evidence-backed practices. All the sessions are aligned with Indiana’s Core Knowledge and Competencies.

Beyond the online learning opportunities, Indiana Learning Paths will also provide consistent sessions to Indiana’s nine child care resource and referral agencies. This ensures that, no matter what part of the state a provider may be in, they will have the same kind of high-quality training as those in any other part of the state.

Most importantly, this new platform will allow Indiana’s professionals to continue to refine and expand their skills - and make it possible for Indiana’s little learners to learn, grow and thrive throughout the state.
Early Learning Indiana was the first and only center in town focused on infants and toddlers,” said Carolyn Dederer, former President of Early Learning Indiana. “The concept is great — it gives families a small start before they move onto a larger center.”

Five years ago, in partnership with the United Way of Central Indiana and local businesses, Early Learning Indiana began the process of creating the Day Early Learning Center for Infants & Toddlers. As the West side experienced revitalization, a building on 16th Street was donated to Early Learning Indiana by Howard Foltz and remodeled into a state-of-the-art early education center. Several donors, understanding the importance of providing high-quality early education to a community in transition, made significant contributions towards this project.

The Day Early Learning Center for Infants & Toddlers was designed to serve as a training site for modernized instruction in infant-toddler best practices. The center has strengthened the skills of teachers specializing in infant-toddler development throughout Day Early Learning.

The unique structure of the Center for Infants & Toddlers creates a warm and safe environment for our youngest learners. Leading the way in best practices for early care, this center was among the first in the city to embrace the principals of conscious discipline, which integrates classroom management with social-emotional learning, and one of the first Day Early Learning centers to launch LifeCubby, an online parent communication tool which allows teachers to document each child’s daily activities and development. This center is supported by an Early Head Start Childcare Partnership grant which means additional family support and engagement and coordinated health services are provided.

Early Learning Indiana is grateful to be part of the revitalization of Indianapolis’ near westside. High-quality early care and education continues to transform the landscape of communities through the state. Through innovative ideas, embracing best practices and investment by donors, Early Learning Indiana is ensuring that children throughout Indiana will have the opportunity for the highest level of early care and education.
Connecting with families, creating a dynamic classroom culture and cultivating curious children are reasons that Heather Mitchell loves working at Day Early Learning Center for Infants and Toddlers.

Heather has been with the center since it opened five years ago and she currently serves as the lead teacher in an infant classroom. Heather enjoys being part of a team that is a leader in the field.

“We prioritize the safety of the children we care for, while meeting each child’s developmental needs,” says Heather. “Our curriculum allows us to see where a child is, determine their next steps and create a clear path for where we want them to be.”

Since Heather began her career in the early education field, she has been part of the change to a more comprehensive curriculum, improved child observation methods and advanced developmental tracking for children. One reason that she feels that the center is a forerunner in early care is because of its focus on teacher development. Coaching and training are essential to ensuring a teacher is developing to implement new methods and practices. This ultimately serves each child better.

“We were among some of the first centers that implemented Conscious Discipline,” says Heather. She gives the example of when a young child had a tantrum and rolled on the floor, she rolled on the floor with him to show him what he was doing. The young child was both surprised and amused, but the behavior stopped.

Heather graduated with a bachelor’s degree in family and child with a minor in interpersonal relations. Earlier this year, she completed the master teacher program. She has two children who attend Day Early Learning centers.
OUR MISSION:
To ensure the highest level of early care and education for children in Indiana.

THE CHALLENGE:
Too many Hoosier children don’t have access to high-quality early child care and education.

OUR VISION:
Each child in Indiana is prepared with the building blocks to flourish in kindergarten and beyond.

YOU CAN CHANGE LIVES AND CULTIVATE INDIANA’S FUTURE

Join friends and donors of Early Learning Indiana to support a developing mind. There are many ways to give a gift and ensure the highest quality of early care and education for Hoosier children.

Make a gift online at EarlyLearningIN.org/give or mail a check in the enclosed envelope.

Become a Monthly Donor and Make ONE Big Impact!
For $11 a month, you can provide 1 child with 1 day of high-quality learning each month at Day Early Learning. The average annual scholarship amount for a child is $2,884.

Sign up online at EarlyLearningIN.org/give.

Leave a Lasting Legacy with a Planned Gift.
You can ensure children will have access to the best early education well into the future. Give through your estate, remember us in your will or consider other simple ways you can give that may provide tax benefits.

For more information, please contact Teresa Batrich Rhodes at 317.737.1267 or TeresaR@EarlyLearningIndiana.org.