



2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Serving Families & Communities Since 1967





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**"BECAUSE A HAPPY CHILD
MEANS EVERYTHING."**



The Child Development Council has been proud to be of service and support to families, children, caregivers, providers, guardians, employers, businesses, and other key community partners since 1967. In this, our 50th Year, we were able to take time to thank our devoted staff, Board, donors, volunteers, and friends who have enabled us to keep our doors open for 50 years.

FROM LUCINDA A. NOBLE,
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Child Development Council celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2017, with a year's worth of events (that began last November 2016), all designed to highlight and underscore our long-standing commitment to promoting and ensuring the healthy development of children at home, in child care, and in the communities we serve throughout Cortland and Tompkins Counties.

As we turned a half century, we took time too, to celebrate the vision and leadership of our CEO, Sue Dale-Hall, who has led us so capably, responsibly, and progressively for half of those fifty years. We are deeply grateful for her service, passionate commitment to advocacy, and her leadership in our community.

Naturally, we are also thankful for the work of our many donors and volunteers, many of whom are our devoted partners in the public and private sectors, in education, government, business, industry, and philanthropy, among other key constituencies. We are deeply grateful for the continued support you have placed in us from our inception in 1967 to the present day.

Throughout this report, you will see many vibrant photos highlighting some of our signature and new events in honor of our 50th Year. What we hope we've captured, in a variety of snapshots and stories, is the clear joy emanating from an engaged public, Board, staff, and many supporters who celebrated this vital year with us. Whether renewing our focus to engage our donors, hosting donor feedback roundtables, receiving awards from community partners, or being honored with the City of Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick's declaration of "Child Development Council Day" through a formal proclamation in April of this year. In addition to hosting the Mayor, we were also proud to host events that engaged the public in vital dialogue concerning the urgency of making child care more accessible and affordable



The vehicle we used to captivate public attention was by hosting a number of screenings of the "Raising of America" documentary that stresses the economic impact of promoting healthy children. It also outlines how a nurturing environment - one that's safe, stable, and responsive - builds sturdy brain architecture, the foundation for future success in school and in life.

We continue to be deeply grateful for the offering of your time, talent, and treasure to our mission-driven organization.

We look forward to our next 50 years of service to the communities we serve, and for your continued engagement and support. Thank you.

Cindy Noble

Cindy Noble, Board Chair
Child Development Council



LETTER FROM SUE DALE-HALL, CEO

I'm so very thankful for the demonstrated leadership and dedicated commitment from our Board, staff, community friends, and supporters who make our advocacy work on behalf of children and families so rewarding.

Our anniversary year provided a great backdrop upon which to share our stories with long-term supporters, donors, and advocates, as well as with new partners, friends, and reporters who all helped us tell "the Council Story" far and wide.

We filled our calendar with 50th-related events throughout an entire calendar year, beginning with a season of thankfulness in which Kendal at Ithaca recognized the value of our work with a \$9,000 gift, and a \$5,000 gift from Purity Ice Cream, who so generously seeded our early 50th Campaign efforts.

As a team, we worked diligently to increase our outreach to and understanding of existing donors, as well as increasing communications with new donors across a variety of platforms. We also called upon our volunteers to introduce us to their friends, so we could widen the pool of understanding of the vital work we do here to help children and families, many of whom come to us in crisis.

We capped off our year of recognitions and celebrations with an "Eat Dessert First," event which featured Purity treats and gathered together current and former Board and Staff members, that proved a big hit to all who attended. We also celebrated my 25th year at the Council! We will close out the year with an Open House and Annual Meeting on December 7th.



We also reached out to existing and potential donors through e-newsletters, personal visits, events, focus groups, surveys, and targeted social media campaigns and advertising. Not only did we build awareness of the Council through signature events, but our founders and Board volunteers were honored for their 50 Years of Service Leadership through receiving the James J. Byrnes Award For Excellence from Tompkins Trust Company's Legacy Foundation. It's been an amazing 50th Year!

Sue Dale-Hall

**Sue Dale-Hall, CEO
Child Development Council**





KENDAL "GIVE THANKS" AWARD - NOV 20 - 2016 - \$9,250 TO COUNCIL

The Child Development Council received the "Kendal Gives Thanks" donation given annually from the residents of Kendal at Ithaca. Our CEO, Sue Dale-Hall was on hand to accept the award of \$9,250.

Sue's Remarks: Our agency was founded because a small group of committed community members were concerned about what happened to children at home and in child care. June Rogers, our founding director, was especially concerned about rural isolated children and those with limited incomes. Children were increasingly disconnected from social, among other opportunities. Today some of these issues remain, but we also face a variety of different issues. Children are connected more and more to YouTube videos, television, and their electronic devices, and not necessarily the support and resources they need more. Families are working more and more. They need our support. We are very fortunate to live in such a great community, but it is important to know that not all children are doing well.

Did you know? The child (under 18) poverty rate in Tompkins County is 15.3% and that 57% of children under the age of five in a single parent household are in poverty? This past spring we asked parents about their child care experiences and the findings reinforced things we already know - that there is not enough care, that quality matters, and the cost is too much for most. • 56% of the families struggling to pay for child care compromise the basic needs of their children, which include housing, heat, clothing, health care, and food. • 1 in 5 babies are food-insecure. A can of formula costs \$15 plus and lasts less than three days for a three-month old baby. It's wonderful to share the stage with Natasha Thompson and the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, who are such great partners in feeding our community's children.





**RAISING OF AMERICA - JAN 2017 -
A YEARLONG CAMPAIGN EFFORT**

In recognition of our 50th Anniversary, the Child Development Council is offering to host community dialogues around an important documentary entitled, "Raising of America" (ROA). A community-wide partnership has been forged with other educators in area school districts, with elected officials, early childhood education advocates, child care providers, community leaders, WSKG Public Television, and our friends at Kendal at Ithaca, to ensure that numerous screenings were held for over 100 participants in both Cortland and Tompkins Counties.

The U.S. is the wealthiest, most powerful country in the world. So why has our child well-being fallen to 26th? An alarming number of American children are following low developmental trajectories from the start. They enter adulthood with learning challenges, behavioral issues and even poor physical health. But population health is not all that's at risk, researchers argue. By under-investing in the vital years of early childhood we are also under-developing America. The evidence confirms that providing all our children the opportunity for a strong start pays many dividends, not just for individuals but for the future prosperity, equity and well-being of the nation. What infants and toddlers need for a strong start is no mystery. A nurturing environment - safe, stable, and responsive - builds sturdy brain architecture, the foundation for future success in school and in life.

Residents of Kendal at Ithaca and the Child Development Council were pleased to have our policy makers at the table for a showing and panel discussion of Raising of America: "Once Upon a Time," depicting the history of child care in the U.S. Many thanks to Tompkins County legislator Martha Robertson, Senator Tom O'Mara and Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton for sharing their insights on how to achieve national, state, and local support for child care.



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BUSINESS AFTER HRS - MAR 2017 - CORTLAND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Child Development Council, Cortland Regional Sports Council and the NYS Grange, co-hosted the March "Business After Hours" event sponsored by the Cortland Area Chamber of Commerce. Area businesses and non-profits were invited to partake in hors d'oeuvres, door prizes, piano entertainment by Bryant Withers, and a tour of the Grange facility. Children's art was available for sale and all proceeds benefitted the Child Development Council's Emergency Scholarship Fund.



NATIONAL WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD (WOYC) - APR 24 - 28 - 2017

Serving families and communities in both Cortland and Tompkins Counties, the Child Development Council was pleased to again celebrate the national Week of the Young Child™ (WOYC '17) in order to recognize the needs of young children and to thank educators, providers, families, and others who are involved in building better and brighter futures for all children and families in the U.S. Week of the Young Child™ "provides opportunities for all of us to recognize the importance of early childhood education, the critical zero to three years, and affords numerous collaborations including a variety of literacy and awareness campaigns, among many other programmatic efforts that can only build better futures for our families and communities," said Council CEO, Sue Dale-Hall.

APRIL 26 - 2017 - DECLARED CHILD DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL DAY IN THE CITY OF ITHACA

Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick visited the Council's Ithaca Office during the Week of the Young Child™ in honor of the Council's 50 Years, as well as to hear from all staff about our successes, programs, events, needs, and ideas for the future. The Mayor read the proclamation which ended with:

Now, therefore, I, SVANTE L. MYRICK, Mayor of the City of Ithaca, call upon all of our constituents to support the work of the Child Development Council and to applaud their 50 years of efforts in ensuring the safety, happiness, growth and development of babies, toddlers, and all families and in so doing, thereby see it fitting that during the Week of the Young Child, that this day, April 26, 2017, is hereby declared:

Child Development Council Day in the City of Ithaca.



"PLANTING PINWHEELS" FOR CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS & PREVENTION - APRIL - 2017

Following the Mayor's visit, Council staff discussed the importance of Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Pinwheels for Prevention® campaign, which is a nationwide effort created by the Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA) national office and its state chapters. The goal of the campaign is to "engage people in taking actions that can reduce stress for families and increase resiliency for kids - which might be offering to babysit for a neighbor, writing a letter to a local official, and of course, 'planting pinwheels,' which remind us that **EVERY** child deserves a childhood full of whimsy and promise." Council staff planted pinwheels and shared them with other agencies throughout the month.



35TH ANNUAL "KIDSVILLE & EARTH DAY" CELEBRATION - APRIL 22 - 2017

The Child Development Council invited young children and their caregivers and families to Kidsville on Saturday, April 22nd at our Cortland Office. Kidsville is a free children's fair that takes place annually during the Week of the Young Child™. This year, we offered 25 hands-on stations, hosted by early childhood programs and community organizations around the region. Also, Nate the Great returned once again to offer some juggling fun.

This year's theme was *Earth Day*. Some of the theme-related activities included: seed planting, coloring, painting, puppets, making pinwheels and sun catchers, collage, sensory games, reading, juggling, music, dance, etc. Some of the community agencies scheduled to attend were: Cortland SUNY Child Care Center and college students from various classes, YWCA Programs, Access to Independence, Children's Museum, and Family Reading Partnership.

We also provided information and designed activities related to dental health (Seven Valleys Health Coalition), pedestrian safety (Cortland County Health Department- Tiny Town), fire and personal safety (City of Cortland Fire Department), health insurance and planning for the future (Fidelis Care, Total Care, Southern Tier Independence Center- Navigation for NYS Marketplace, NY 529 College Savings Program). Members of the Cortland County Sheriff's Office also participated in Kidsville. Officer Chris Estep and Officer Katirae Smith helped install and check Child Safety Seats. Officer Stacy Billings and Officer Jamie Babcock assisted with child IDs as part of Operation Safechild.

TOUGH TURTLE SPONSOR & 2ND PLACE FUNDRAISING TEAM - EXCEEDING OUR GOAL BY 114%! - MAY - 2017





ITHACA FESTIVAL PARADE - JUN 2 - 2017

Each year, the Child Development Council Board and staff look forward to being part of this truly 'Ithaca' event. The Ithaca Festival Parade is one of the city's greatest events that celebrates over 100 community groups participating with costumes, music, dance, and togetherness. The theme this year was, "Celebrating Like It's Our First!"

We were met with wonderful weather and many chances to connect with former employees, neighbors, and friends along the way as we waved along the parade route, boasting our brand new Child Development Council tee-shirts designed by a local woman-owned business.

Naturally, it was great fun to march in step with our mission - ensuring the healthy development of children at home, in child care, and in the communities we serve in Cortland and Tompkins Counties. Our trusty smart car (from our friends at Borg Warner) had its own 50th cake topping, designed by uber talented staff member and our resident artist, Molly McGriff.

Many of our staff members' children joined us either on foot, in strollers, or in wagons. After the kick-off parade, several staff members tabled for the Council, both on the Commons and at GIAC, over the weekend.

CORTLAND DAIRY PARADE - JUN 6 - 2017

Although those of us attending the Cortland Dairy Parade had to be on the lookout for the frequent downpour, nothing could "rain on our parade, nor dampen our spirits," reported Board Member Stephanie Fritz.

Area businesses, non-profit organizations, youth groups, and high school marching bands were among the close to 100 participants that marched down Main Street in Cortland, proudly honoring the importance of the dairy industry to our community. Cow costumes, milk mustaches, ice cream cones, wedges of cheese, and milk cartons adorned parade participants.

The parade stepped off at the corner of North Main Street and Lincoln Avenue, continued down Main Street and ended at the corner of South Main and Huntington Streets. Dairy Princess crowning, as is tradition, took place at Court House Park immediately following the parade.



3RD ANNUAL PLAYDATE IN THE PARK - JUN 8 - 2017

Due to rainy conditions, on June 6th, we rescheduled Playdate in the Park for Thursday, June 8th from 3:00 PM- 7:00PM at the Small Pavilion at Stewart Park. As always, admission was free and the following was offered to the community: free carousel rides (not only during the hours we would be there, but ALL day!); Nate the Great offered awesome entertainment; free healthy snacks and drinks were offered; and many fun giveaways such as food, coffee, games for kids, spa items, and other stress-reduction related baskets completed the fun.

This annual fun, community-minded event reflects who we are as an organization. "Playdate" values and its importance to the development of young children; it respects and supports the needs of parents/caregivers; and it allows us to give back to the communities we serve year-round.





COUNCIL'S VOLUNTEERS HONORED FOR 50 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP WITH "JAMES J. BRYNES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE" - JUN 26 - 2017

Tompkins Trust Company honored six individuals and two groups with the "James J. Byrnes Awards for Excellence" for their outstanding volunteer service to the community. Twelve thousand dollars was donated to local charitable organizations from the bank's endowment fund through the Legacy Foundation of Tompkins County. The honorees each designated their \$1,500 award to not-for-profit organizations of their choosing. This year's honorees were: the Child Development Council, Amy Little of Ithaca, Benay Rubenstein of Ithaca, the Dryden Youth Opportunity Fund, Nancy Myers of Ithaca, Janet Krizek of Ithaca, Roberta Wallitt of Ithaca, and Skip Hewitt of Ithaca. Tompkins Trust Company President and CEO Greg Hartz and Legacy Foundation President James Brown presented the awards at a reception at the bank's main office on Monday, June 26. The James J. Byrnes Awards for Excellence program was established during the bank's Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1986 as a means of sharing its success with community members who have helped to enrich the quality of life in Tompkins County. In 2014, the Awards for Excellence program was renamed the James J. Byrnes Awards for Excellence to honor the retirement of Jim Byrnes, a longtime Ithaca resident and leader of Tompkins Financial Corporation.

President & CEO of the Tompkins Trust Company Greg Hartz also joined Sue Dale-Hall on the air and they discussed the Council's award, among other areas of mutual interest. (Listen here: <http://whcuradio.com/morning-newswatch/child-development-council-wins-james-byrnes-award/>)





50TH YEAR CELEBRATION OF GRATITUDE FOR FORMER & CURRENT BOARD, STAFF, SEPT 18 - 2017

We called it our "Eat Dessert First" gathering and used this auspicious occasion to share community with current and former Board and Staff members of the Child Development Council. We also used this fine occasion to honor Sue Dale-Hall's 25 Years of dedicated service to our Council, which turned 50 years-old this year.

We thoroughly enjoyed our time, partnering with the Sciencenter's Michelle Kortenaar, the Senior Director of Engagement and Learning, who spoke about her role in working in early childhood education and how our organizations naturally partner together. Guitar music was provided courtesy of Ithaca College Music Professor Michael Caporizzo, on acoustic guitar.

We then thanked our "Celebrity Scoopers" (Board Members - Stephanie McCall Fritz and Laurie Miller and our 2nd Ward Representatives for the City of Ithaca Ducson Nguyen and Seph Murtagh, who also shared words from the Mayor as the City's Alternate Acting Mayor). Naturally, we also enjoyed Purity Ice Cream to cap off a lovely celebration. We also expressed thanks to Purity for their ongoing support as neighbors, advocates for kids, and donors. #Happy50th to Us!



2016 - 2017 Donors

Barry Adams
Anonymous Donors
Michelle Artibee
Natasha Aumick
Blythe Baldwin
Frank and Barbara Barry
Helen T.M. Bayer
Joan Bechhofer
Kris Bennett
Michelle Berry
Stacy Bertot
Jami Bistocchi
Eva Boman
Margot Brinn
Nancy Burston and Terry Clingen
Jim and Terry Byrnes
Sarah Cantatore
Helen Cantatore
Penelope Chick and Rory Rothman
Beverly Chin
Shirley Cleere
Mary Coffey
Meredith Conroy
Diana Crouch
Susan Dale-Hall and Lloyd Hall
Brett de Bary
Timothy Densmore
Roy and Frances Dexheimer
Taisha Dickerson
Katherine Doktorich
Mary Pat Dolan
Jutta Dotterweich and Howard Botwinick
John Eckenrode
Ronald and Randy Ehrenberg
Zillah Eisenstein and Rich Stumbar
Shawn Emmett
Beth Evans
Larry and Joanne Farbman
Paul Farhi
Diane Feldman and Ileen DeVault
Matthew Forney
Stephanie Fritz
Martha Frommelt and David Feldshuh
Thomas and Carie George
Scott and Sharon Glass
Linda Glover
Bradley and Mary Grainger
Lesley Greene and Robbert VanRenesse
David and Sally Grubb
Joann Gruttadaurio
Kelly Gunio
Martin and Susan Hatch
Darcy Hermann Raponi
Mark Hillegas
Laurel Hodgden
Eva Hoffmann
Rachel Hogancamp
Sandra Holmes
Lisa Horn
Kathy Hsu
Pat Hubbard
Conrad and Nancy Istock
Jean Jagendorf
Mary Jamsek
Janet Johnson
Sarah Johnson
Stephen and Lorraine Johnson
Ruth Kahn
Laure Conklin Kamp
Meghan Kennedy and Shamibrata Chatterjee
Dooley Kiefer
Edward and Carolyn Koppel
Mildred Kuner
Beverly Laforse

2016 - 2017 Donors

John Lambert and Robin Rogers
John and Ann Lemley
William and Susan Lesser
Diana Levy
Kathleen E. Lilley
Bonita and Michael Lindberg
Jack and Amy Little
Sylvia Lott
Kathryn Lyons
Linda Madeo
Fran Manzella
Ann Mathews
Julia Mattick
Lorraine Maxwell
Mary McGinnis
Molly McGriff
Samuel A. and Vera M. McLafferty
Jean McPheeters
Philip and Mary Lu McPheron
Carolyn McPherson
Hermogenes Mecenaz
Barbara Mechalke
Pete Meyers
Marilyn Migiel
Laurie Miller
Andrea Mooney
Alice Moore and Robert Smith
Mary Morrison
James and Anne Morrissette
Kenneth and Elizabeth Mudge
Margaret Munchmeyer
Pauline Muto
Teri Niggli
Leonard Nissenson
Lucinda Noble
Darlynn Overbaugh
Marilyn Palmer
Robert D. and Lisa Patz
Susan Perkins

Melissa Perry
Nancy Potter
Elisabeth Prentice
Steve and Martha Robertson
Susan Robinson
Patricia Roiger
James and Gail Salk
William and Carol Sammis
Michelle Sawyer
Karen Schantz
Ray and Kathy Schlather
Sharron and Mike Schwartz
Jeffrey and Suzanne Snedeker
Joan Spielholz
Christina Stark and David Weinstein
Jacquelyn and Michael Stegeland
Evelyn Stevens
Carol Sutherland
Blixly Taetzsch and Gene Yaples
Marybeth Tarzian and Rob Gearhart
Jennifer Tavares
Camille Tischler and William Kellner
Brian and Kelly Tobin
Jo-Marcia Todd
Nancy and Charles Trautmann
Norman and Marguerite Uphoff
Darla Van Ostrand
Jane and Charles Walcott
Mildred Warner and James Pratt
Gordon and Nancy West
Hans Wien
Wendy Wilcox and Mark Lewis
Patricia Williams
Jason Woodward
Alene Wyatt
Heather Wynkoop
Cora Yao
Bettie Lee Yerka
Joel and Cathy Zumoff

Business and Other Contributors

Alternatives Federal Credit Union
Ancient Wisdom Productions
BJ's Wholesale Club
Buffalo Street Books
Buttermilk Falls Pediatrics
Cat's Pajamas
Cayuga Restaurant Group
CFCU Community Credit Union
Chiropractic Associates of Ithaca
Cinch Art Space
Community Foundation Lane Family Fund
Community Foundation Sandy & Jay True Fund
Community Foundation Women's Fund
Cornell Law Students
Cornell University
Cornell University -
 Residential Life (Karen Trask)
Cortland County Chamber of Commerce
Cortland YWCA
Danny Eastman
Dede Hatch Photography
Duthie Orthodontics
Family Reading Partnership
Five Below, Inc.
Friends of the Tompkins County Library
Gimme Coffee

Health Foundation for Western & Central NY
J. M. McDonald Foundation
Kinney Drugs Foundation
Lakeshore
Legacy Foundation Of Tompkins County
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
P&C Fresh
Park Foundation
PRI
Purity Ice Cream
Residents Association of Kendal at Ithaca, Inc.
Smith Charitable Trust
State Theater
Teddy Bear Day Care
The Research Foundation for SUNY
The Robin's Nest Preschool
Tioga State Bank
Tompkins County Tourism Board
Tompkins Trust Company
Trip Pack & Ship
True Insurance
United Way for Cortland County, Inc.
United Way Hunger & Food Security Grant
United Way of Tompkins County
Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.
Wood Office

Volunteers

Hannah Askew
Barbara Burleigh
Sherlock Hiller
Rachel Howlette
Dakota Killian
Maya Norton
Kaitlyn Ortolano
Phoenix Uticone
Kristina Whittemore
New Roots Students - Service Learning Day



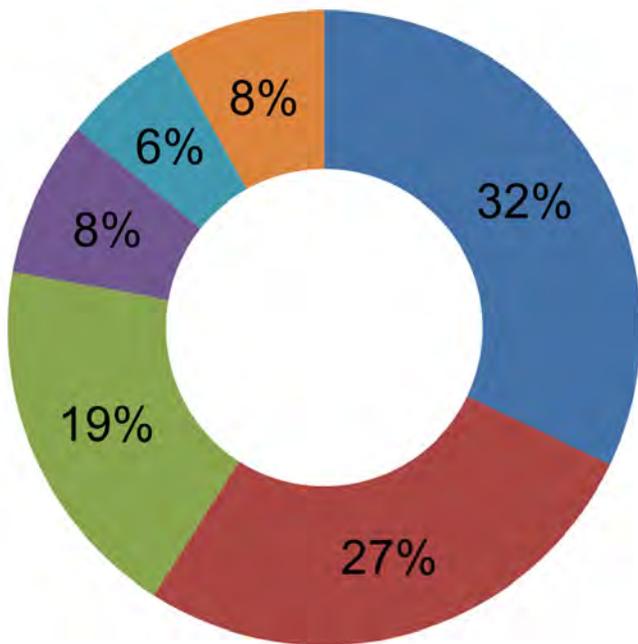
Contributors of Clothing, Equipment, Toys and Other Items

McKenna Apgar
Kris Bennett
Michelle Berry
Nick and Marissa Boronkay
Daisy Bradford
Tiffany Brown
Teresa Bulatek
Patricia Carey
Catherine Cartwright
Marin Clarkberg
Christine Decker
Kalishia DeLong
Eco Village
Jessica Evett-Miller
Jody Gabler
Tina Hallock
Lindsay Hansen
Jennifer Hatch
Deborah and Jasmine Haynes
Sue Hemsath
Darcy Hermann Raponi
Sara Hess
Laurel Hodgden
Brigid Hubberman
Gary Isaacs
Robb Jetty
Sara Johnson
Barbara Kasian

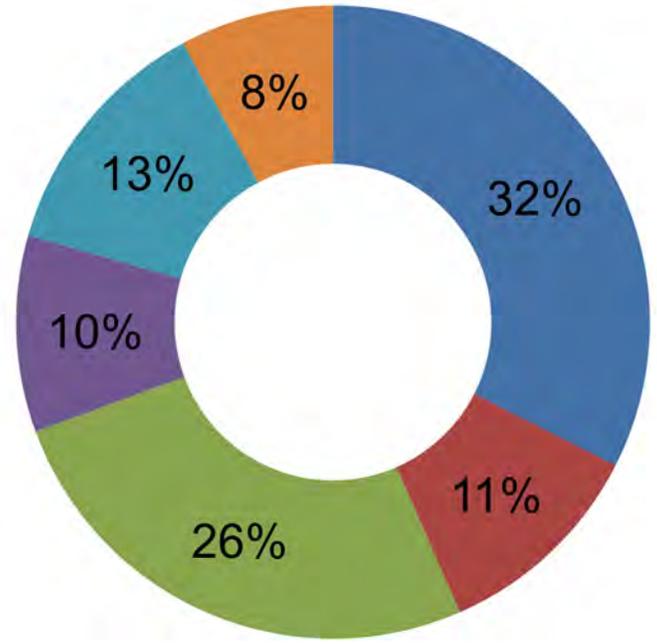
Kendal at Ithaca Quilters
Sherri Koski
Lifelong/TC Senior Volunteers
Mama Goose
Mike Matsuda
Liza McBride
Jenifer Middaugh
Catie Millspaugh
June Nafis
Janice Nigro
Bernadette Parr
Dr. Joseph Piskorowski
Sandy Plumb
Allen R. Reed
Shira Reisman
Sandy and Jay True
Rebecca Seguin
Amber Smith
Lori Stupke
Denise Sullivan
Shirley Sullivan
Beth Taplitz
Tompkins County Quilters Guild
Ellen Walsh and Chad Skeide
Naomi Wilensky
Tyler Williams and Ginger Jung
Michelle Woods
Cora Yao



REVENUE



EXPENSES



Revenue

Cortland & Tompkins Counties	\$525,063 (32%)
Federal	\$441,017 (27%)
New York State	\$306,889 (19%)
Community Support	\$130,027 (8%)
United Ways	\$100,099 (6%)
Program and other fees	\$133,014 (8%)

TOTAL **\$1,636,109**

Expenses

CCR&R (Tompkins)	\$520,015 (32%)
CCR&R (Cortland)	\$175,591 (11%)
Basic Needs Fund	\$415,345 (26%)
TP3	\$160,730 (10%)
Family Support Services	\$204,195 (13%)
Management & General	\$125,388 (8%)

TOTAL **\$1,601,264**

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$405,977
Unconditional promises to give	49,530
Accounts receivable	123,684
Prepaid expenses	21,424

Investments **\$265,230**

Fixed Assets **\$39,436**

Total Assets **\$905,281**

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$37,215
Compensated absences	41,145

Total Liabilities **\$78,360**

Net Assets

Unrestricted **\$684,949**

Total Net Assets **\$826,921**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$905,281**

Year Round Dedication

All children need unconditional love, patience, kind guidance, compassion, respect and support, among many other needs. We help families meet their basic needs and their emotional ones through our programs and services. We want all children to have their first needs met, but also to have stress-free places and engaged people to help them grow and thrive.

Family Services

Expectant Moms and Dads and Kids

Since organizing a class for teen moms in the late 1970s, and more formally initiating the Teen Pregnancy/Parenting program and Family Support Services for new parents over the age of 21 in the '80s, we go to where the children live and we engage the whole family in learning. In 2017 alone, we have partnered with 167 families to help them work toward and obtain their parenting, educational, employment and other family goals.

Family Assessment Response Partnership - Our "pilot" project to provide long-term support for families referred by Child Protective Services has entered its 4th year. We are making sure families find and retain good quality child care, receive in-home parenting support - monitoring children's development together - and support for meeting basic needs like health care and food.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention - TP3 launched a rewind of our pregnancy prevention initiative in the schools. Starting at Lehman Alternative School, we help young people understand the consequences of adolescent parenting.

Breastfeeding Consultation - Two staff members were trained to offer support around successful breastfeeding. This is part of a larger initiative to support all expectant and new parents so they feel prepared for their baby.

"A place that helped me feel safe, supported, and informed about my journey of being a new mom."

Child Care Resource and Referral

Affordable Quality Child Care for working parents, high quality reliable child care is often beyond their financial reach. Affordable quality child care is recognized as playing a critical economic development role in society.

Expanded Quality Improvement Services - In 2017, we added another Quality Improvement Specialist on staff. We launched a new initiative called Second Saturdays to provide concentrated spring professional development sessions for our community's child care providers. In the fall, we hold two conference days for early childhood educators who work with children under 5 years and with school age children. We also expanded our role as a regional hub for Cavity Free Kids programs.

Rolling out the new regulations regarding the Child Care Food Program can be tedious, but we rose to meet the challenge by offering "hands on" learning in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Outreach to "Legally Exempt" Caregivers - In a special collaboration with Family Reading Partnership, the Council is offering Story Time and Read Along books to unregulated child care providers – grandparents, neighbors and others caring for low income children. In Tompkins and Cortland Counties, the Council is on the leading edge offering site visits to exempt providers and regulated ones! The LE "mystery bags" with art supplies, health and safety items and books were a big hit with providers thanks to New Roots Students for Day of Service.

"Save the Child Care" Grants - Through special county funding we are able to help child care programs meet regulatory requirements that are costly and would cause them to shut their doors. Outdoor playspace mulch, fencing and safe sleeping resources are some projects that are helping us to preserve child care!



Advocating for children and families since 1967



Dedicated Staff serving Tompkins and Cortland Counties

Administration

Sue Dale-Hall; Chief Executive Officer
Diane Feldman; Chief Financial Officer
Christine Hart; Program Assistant/Tech Support
Sylvia Lott; Executive Assistant

Child Care Resource and Referral

Diana Crouch; Child Care Specialist (LE)
Chris Gratz; Referral & Eligibility Specialist
Darcy Hermann Raponi; CCRR Director, Tompkins Office
Molly McGriff; Child Care Coordinator (R&I/SACC)
Barb Mechalke; Child Care Specialist (TA/Training Coordinator)
Vickie Mundy; Child Care Specialist
Octavia Solá; CACFP Specialist
Susan Sopp; CACFP Specialist (CFK)
Ceinwen Stermer; Child Care Specialist (R&I)
Ann Turcsik; Child Care Specialist (LE)
Darla Van Ostrand; Referral & Eligibility Specialist (Scholarship)
Anne Withers; CCRR Director, Cortland Office

Family Services

Cibyl Delaire; Family Support Worker
Shawnee Emmett; TP3 Case Manager
Rebecca Howe; Family Support Worker
Melissa Perry; Family Services Director
Margaret Slattery; Family Support Worker
Amanda Spaulding; TP3 Case Manager

40 years ago, I contacted the Council for a referral. I later became a Head Start and Early Childhood Teacher, then moved to TC3 as the Director of the Early Childhood Program. Throughout my adult life, I have depended on the Council and now I have been giving back as a member of the Board of Directors.





Board of Directors

Lucinda A. Noble - Chair

Taisha Dickerson - Vice Chair

Stacy Bertot - Secretary

Pat Hubbard - Treasurer

Jami Bistocchi

Stephanie Fritz

Mark Hillegas

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