



December 2022

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In this season of gratitude, I would like to start by thanking you for making children and families a priority, evidenced by your generosity and support of the Child Development Council. ***You are appreciated!***

This is also a season for gathering and sharing stories. One story I've shared many times this past year is about how child care has impacted my life. I became a mom earlier than most, and child care was essential to being able to complete my degree. Because I had quality child care, I felt at ease, knowing my children were safe and well-cared for, so I could focus on building my career, eventually leading to the role I have today. ***My journey has been possible because of hard work, lost sleep, and child care.*** I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the unearned privileges that have also supported my success.

My story is not unique. ***Child care is critical infrastructure; necessary for the very wellbeing of society.*** Everyone has been impacted by child care, in one way or another. Read on for some of the stories we've collected.

Over, please →

'Having child care has impacted my life in a positive way. One of the ways it has impacted my life is that it opened the door for me to work and earn extra income. I am also able to accomplish tasks around my home and run important errands.'



*Latrisha, Parent and Child Development Council Family Services Participant*



*Sally, Child Care Provider*

'I have been providing child care for many years, starting with my own children and two McGraw children. We benefited from this decision to do what we love and being able to spend precious time with our own children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Our positive and loving environment has touched many families.'

'When Otto was 18 months old, my partner and I were faced with so many challenging questions. We needed to go back to work but how? Shouldn't he be with us? Can we trust a provider? Will he be happy? What a relief it was to find our child care provider. Otto learned so much from her and his other friends. He discovered new foods and was always teaching us new songs. Our provider just took the stress away. We could concentrate on work and look forward, at the end of the day, to us all being together again.'



*Michael, Parent, and Child Development Council Team Member*

Child care has a profound impact- **and so do you!** Support from friends like you allows us to raise up the child care community, so there are even more stories like these to share. During a moment of pause during this busy season, consider how you have been impacted by child care. We'd like to know: ***What's your child care story?***

With warm wishes and much gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Perry".

Melissa Perry, CEO

**PS- Making your gift to support the children and families of Cortland and Tompkins Counties is easy. We will gratefully accept your gift throughout the holiday season on our website at [www.childdevelopmentcouncil.org](http://www.childdevelopmentcouncil.org) or by returning your contribution in the enclosed envelope.**

***Child Care Resource and Referral Family Support Services Transitions Pregnancy/ Parenting Program***

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