



Childcare Network of Evanston

Annual Report FY2024



1335 Dodge Avenue, Evanston IL 60201



Message from the Executive Director

Relationships matter. Young children learn about the world through the secure relationships they form with their caregivers, and these relationships play a critical role in shaping their cognitive, emotional and social development. Parents with young children need supportive relationships around them to encourage them in their role as their child's first teacher. And CNE needs relationships with partners throughout our community, both individuals and organizations, as we aim to uplift and strengthen the early childhood experience for all.



At CNE, we prioritize all these relationships. We know that only by working together, nurturing all of these relationships, can we create the early childhood environment that all children in our community deserve. ***Together, we are building children's futures today.***

Carol Teske

Executive Director

Who We Are

Mission

Connecting all of our youngest learners and their families to equitable, high-quality early childhood experiences that reflect diverse cultures and abilities while fostering a sense of belonging.

Values

These are the values that guide our daily work in the community - with children, families and partners.



One

We believe high-quality early education and meaningful supports can change a child's life.

Two

We believe all families are unique and their cultures and identities will be embraced and valued.

Three

We believe every family deserves equal access to opportunities and optimal support to thrive in their daily lives.

Four

We believe parents and caregivers are their child's most important teachers and advocates.

Five

We believe in creating a culture where all of our families and partners, including our staff and board members, feel like they belong.

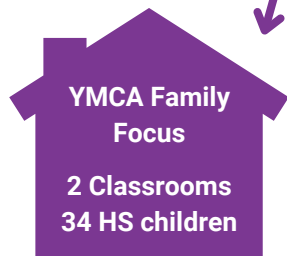
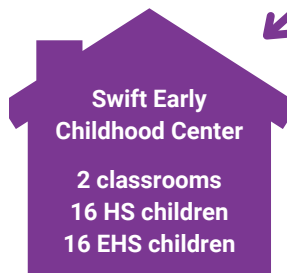
Six

We believe in the importance of collaborative partnerships to develop a culturally responsive, trauma-informed early childhood community.

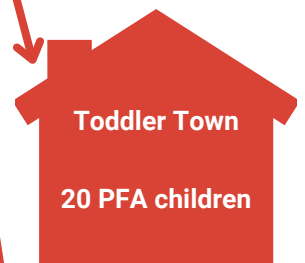
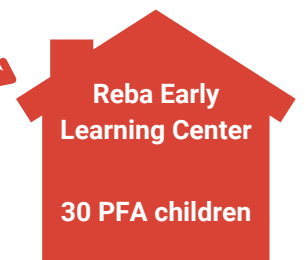
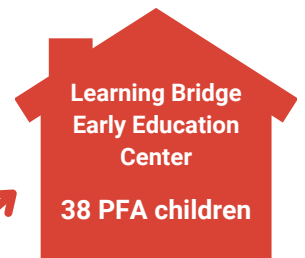
CNE Programs and Services

Every year, CNE brings over **\$3.9 million** into our community to support high-quality early childhood education and care to eligible families

Head Start/ Early Head Start



Preschool For All (ISBE)



Community-Wide Supports and Resources:

- Child Care Subsidy (CCAP) Administrator
- Mental Health Services
- Occupational Therapy
- Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators
- English Language Classes
- Fiscal Sponsor of Evanston Early Childhood Council

CNE Funded Programs - Detail

Head Start/Early Head Start

- Federal Funding for 116 slots
 - 68 Head Start (age 3-5) slots
 - 50 center-based
 - 18 home visiting - *CNE's is the only Head Start home visiting program in the service area*
 - 48 Early Head Start (prenatal - age 3) slots
 - 16 center-based
 - 32 home visiting
- 8-community service area: *Evanston, Skokie, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Northbrook, Northfield, Wilmette, Winnetka*
- Center-based educational services provided at 2 sites:
 - McGaw YMCA - 34 slots (all Head Start)
 - Swift Child Care Center - 32 slots (16 HS, 16 EHS)
 - Full-day, full year care for eligible families
 - Each center has a CNE "Family Support Specialist" dedicated to families at the center
- Home Visiting - 90-minute in-home weekly home visits with the family's dedicated Parent Educator/ Home Visitor, and bi-monthly group events to build connections among families
- Additional comprehensive services include: developmental /social-emotional screenings and related referrals, nurse/nutrition services, vision/hearing screenings, mental health and other therapeutic support, free monthly diapers/formula, periodic parent support groups, car seat safety checks

Preschool for All

- Funding from the Illinois State Board of Education for 2.5 hours per day of no-cost care for eligible children
 - 118 funded slots
 - Services provided through 5 local partner sites:
 - Learning Bridge Early Education Center
 - Infant Welfare Society of Evanston
 - Puerta Abierta Preschool
 - Reba Early Learning Center
 - Toddler Town Daycare
 - Developmental, social emotional, and vision/hearing screenings

CCAP - Childcare Assistance Program

- Funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services to provide childcare subsidy to working families, or those looking for work or in school
- CNE administers this program for some, but not all, local childcare sites - usually for around 90-100 children

Learning Together

- Longstanding CNE program funded by the City of Evanston to provide (1) mental health and other therapeutic supports to children and (2) teacher support and coaching in a variety of local early childhood classrooms

Mental Health Services

- CNE program funded by the City of Evanston and a private family foundation to provide at least 6 mental health counseling sessions to ANY young child/family in our service area

By the Numbers



456

Children served in all CNE programming during the past year - including 91 HS/EHS families

Mental Health counseling sessions provided to children and families at no cost

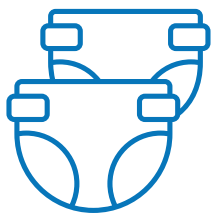
261



46% of enrolled children received a medical exam
48% of enrolled children received a dental exam

Children receiving free speech/language screenings and interventions thanks to partnership with Northwestern University

213



32,130

Diapers provided to enrolled families through partnership with Bundled Blessings

Average monthly enrollment - CNE served 15.8% of eligible children in the service area

93



The most recent Federal Review (Focus Area 2) was conducted during the week of March 4, 2024 and identified one deficiency and one area of noncompliance. Both areas were swiftly addressed by CNE management and were determined to have been corrected in 2 separate communications in October and December, 2024.



Supporting Parents and Families

Head Start parent involvement activities include regular Family Nights, monthly Policy Council meetings, regular parent meetings/workshops at center-based sites, a summer Family Celebration and a Holiday Family Gift Celebration, where families in our community purchase gift cards for enrolled families to brighten their holiday season.

Family Gatherings

Twice-monthly in-person gatherings for families in CNE's Home Visiting program offer opportunities for children and adults to socialize with one another and building community while engaging in activities designed to help children meet developmental goals. Everyone enjoyed making slime, learning karate and getting to visit a local children's museum!

Parent Support Groups

Parent support groups meet eight times per year with a facilitator around topical training issues, such as discipline, understanding temperament, advocating for your children, and parenting stress. Last year, CNE offered a parent-child interaction series led by a licensed clinical social worker/certified Theraplay® practitioner that helped parents learn tools to build strong connections with their children. CNE will continue to offer various other skill-building classes and workshops based on parents' needs and interests, such as children and technology, resume writing, financial literacy, job search and interview skills.

Car Seat Safety

CNE employees continue to keep kids safe by checking and installing child safety seats. Car seat checks are conducted at our offices for enrolled families multiple times during the program year, and CNE maintains a small inventory of car seats for families if the check reveals a safety concern with a family's car seat.

Supporting K Readiness

Parents are given a "Strong Start to Kindergarten" activity guide for families to use as a resource throughout the preschool years. The guide is available in English and Spanish, and contains a host of developmentally-appropriate activities for children across the pre-K age group covering all domains of learning, to help them build the necessary skills for kindergarten. As children approach the start of kindergarten, their dedicated Home Visitor or Family Support Specialist spends extra time communicating with families about how to prepare for the transition.

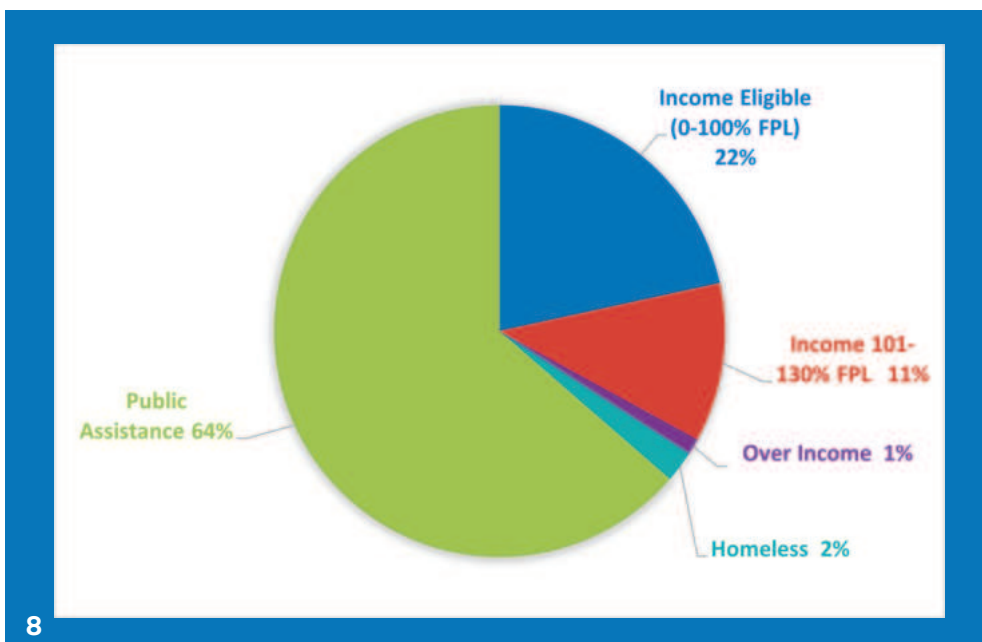
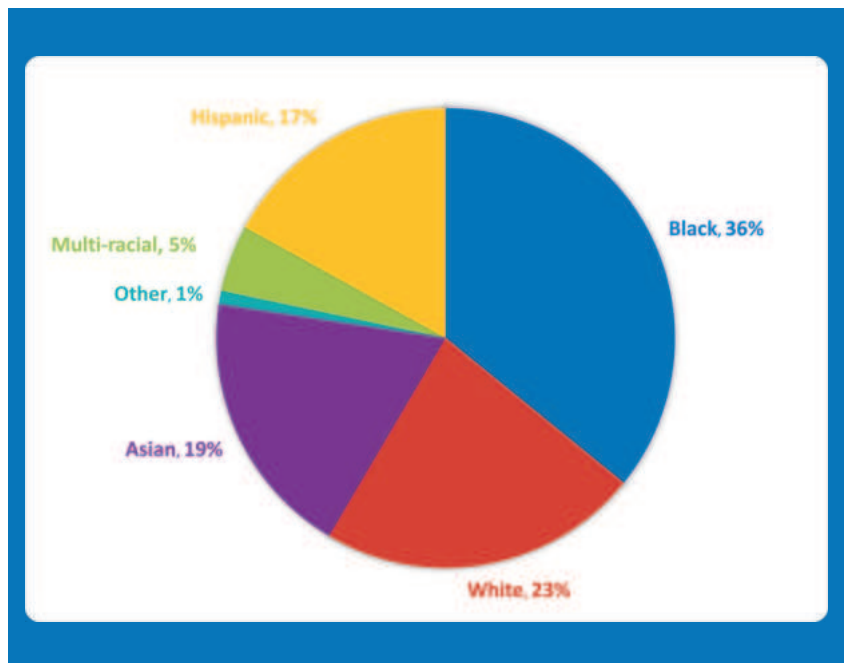




Our Families

HS/EHS ENROLLMENT BY RACE

77% of families enrolled in CNE's HS/EHS programs racially identify as other than white

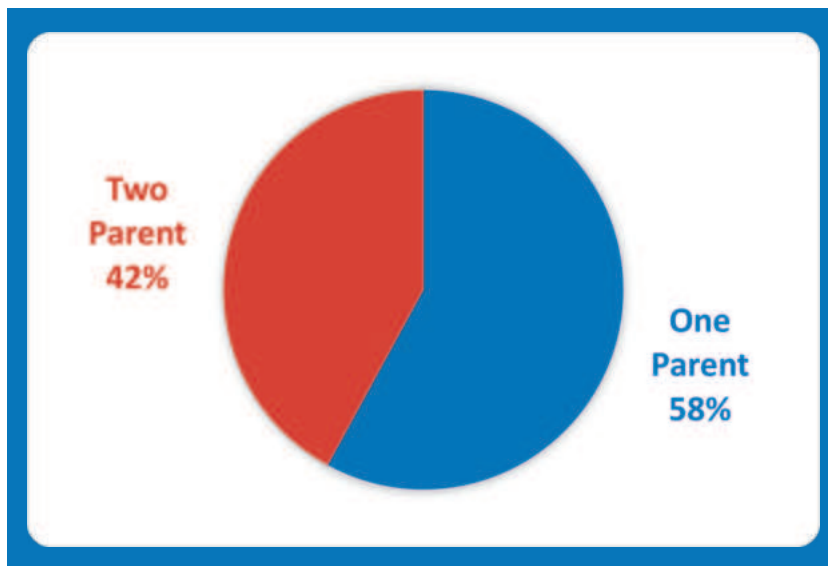


HS/EHS ELIGIBILITY STATUS

86% of families enrolled in CNE's HS/EHS programs are either living below the poverty line or qualify for public assistance

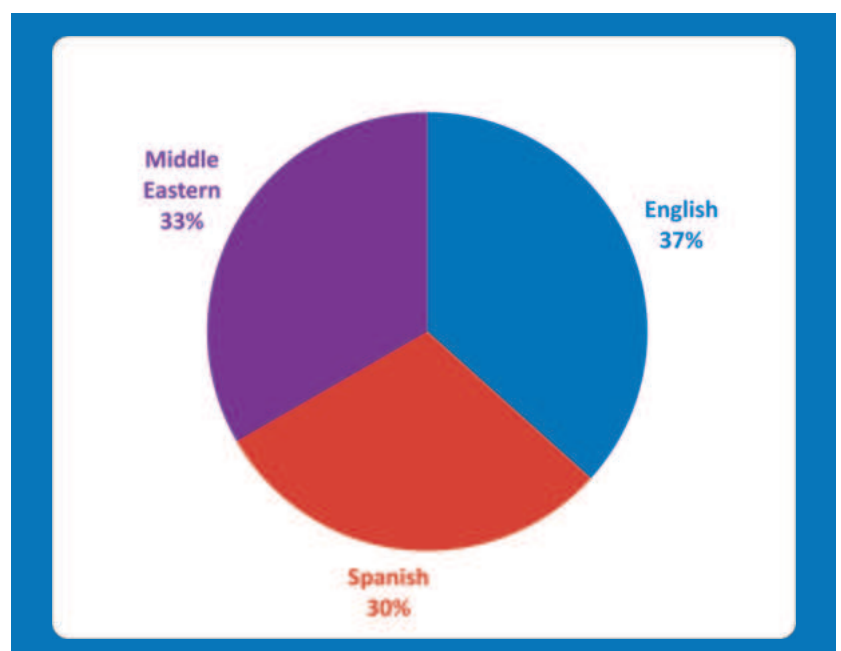
FAMILY PARENTAL STATUS

58% of the families in our HS/EHS program are one-parent families



HOME LANGUAGE - HOME VISITING

63% of the families in our Home Visiting program have a home language other than English



CNE Financial Summary

FY24 audited

Income

Government Contracts

Head Start/Early Head Start	1,818,662
IL Department of Human Services	1,116,782
IL State Board of Education	438,781
City of Evanston Safety Net Services - Mental Health	42,000
City of Evanston Safety Net Services - Learning Together	66,570
Fiscal Sponsorship - Birth to Five Illinois	152,161
Government Contracts - TOTAL	3,634,956

Grants, Contributions and Other

Foundations and Private Grants	98,535
Donations - General	153,529
Special Events	41,483
Donated Goods and Services	62,769
Grants, Contributions and Other - TOTAL	356,316

Expenses

Program Services - TOTAL	3,533,062
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Supporting Services

Management and General	335,243
Fundraising and Development	126,533
Cost of Direct Benefit to Donor	2,147
Supporting Services - TOTAL	463,923

The most recent financial audit (FY24) resulted in an unmodified opinion.



Key Funders

CNE's FY 2024 operating budget is supported by a variety of government funders, as well as foundations and corporate contributors, all of whom play a critical role in helping CNE pursue its mission.

Government Funders

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
- Office of Head Start
- Illinois Department of Human Services Child Care Assistance Program
- Illinois State Board of Education - Preschool for All Program
- City of Evanston - Social Services Committee

Foundation and other Funding Partners

- Chilanta Community Foundation
- Cless Family Foundation
- Finnegan Family Foundation
- Francis Beidler Foundation
- Kiwanis Foundation of Evanston
- MacArthur Foundation (employee match)
- Northwestern University
- Schorr-Lieberman Family Foundation
- Stryker Corporation (employee match)
- Women for Evanston Youth
- Bundled Blessings (diaper donations)
- Cradles to Crayons (in-kind donations)
- Cycle Forward (period product donations)





Program Governance

Board of Directors

- Meghan Rice, Chair
- Sheila Merry, Vice Chair
- Barbara Davis, Secretary
- Tim Weltzer, Treasurer
- Ricardo Aceves
- Diana Cohen
- Ericka Foster
- Mary Ann (Ty) Harvey
- Talaya Johnson
- Asifa Munawar
- Taishiya Nix
- Judy Schiffman
- Marisha Speights Atkins
- Carol Teske

The CNE Board of Directors is made up of community members and business leaders who are passionate about the impact of early childhood education and parent empowerment. The Board supports CNE by defining its mission and strategies, approving policies and procedures, and overseeing governance and financial management.

CNE Policy Council

- Bettye Cohns
- Amal Dariwsh
- Alicia Gonzalez
- Liliana Gonzalez
- Lisbeth Guardado
- Julian Hernandez
- Ty Harvey
- Ely Lemus
- Casandra Quiram
- Yesenia Rubio
- Maribel Sanchez

Shared decision making is a cornerstone of Head Start and Early Head Start. The Parent Policy Council is a formal structure of parents who participate in policy-making and other decisions about Head Start/Early Head Start programs.



Individual and Corporate Donors

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

\$5,000+

Anonymous (2)
Paul and Sue Brenner
Paul and Mary Finnegan
Dave and Liane Hodgman
Sheila Merry and Tom Pitt

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Loren Berlin and John Finan
Jeff Boarini
Barbara and Michael Davis
Hagerty Consulting
Tonise Paul
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\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Jenny and Dave Blickenstaff
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Diane and Tuner Lequar
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NorthShore University HealthSystem/Endeavor Health
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Lynne Simon
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Carol Teske
Lauren Teske and Troy Gaub
Therese and Mark Vande Hey
Val and Rob Weiss
Jane and Jeremy Wilson
Jenny and Ethan York
Mark and Margie Zivin

\$500 - \$999

Chava Alpert and Michael Bloom
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Cloverleaf Real Estate Group, Inc.
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\$500 - \$999 (continued)

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Maggie Mulqueen and Alan Steele
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Barbara Schwarz and Tom Klitzkie
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\$250 - \$499

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Anne and Noah Brown
Susan Canter
Bettye Cohns
Melissa and Andrew Demopoulos
Linda and Dan Feeney
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Susie Merry Maddelein
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Mark and Kathy McCarville
Mike and Vicky Mertz
Kendra Morrill and Bret Johnson
Carol Mullins
Carolyn and Ben Myszkowski
Jennifer and Chris Reddick
Larry Singer and Maureen Richnak
Matt Rooney
Kathy Smith and Caesar Tabet
Nancy and Bill Ziegelmuehler

Individual and Corporate Donors

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

\$100 - \$249

Anonymous (2)
Rick and Molly Aceves
Allan Alson and Sue Ann Glaser
Maria and Steve Ballantyne
Marsha Barnett and John McKnight
Michael and Nancy Basofin
Steve Bernstein and Jeanne Cleveland
Troy Bienash and Tom Kowalczyk
Rebecca Blickenstaff
Barbara and Ronald Borden
Katie and Chip Brady
Sandra and Charles Brown
Tanya and Omar Brown
Tim and Vickie Burke
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Krista and Phil Canton
Maureen and Laine Cheever
Jeb and Judy Christensen
Marvin Cohen and Jane Richman
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Terry and Merle Fippinger
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Kelli and Bill Handel
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Alison Harper
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Rhea Keenan
Judy and Bob Kemp
Jill and Andy Kidd
Tom and Kim Klamm
Jerry and Kelly Kribs
Liz and Steve Krupkin
Suzanne Lefevre and Tom Lenz
Letitia and Jeff Mann
Mark Marquardt and Hajira Majid
Julia and Bruce McBratney
Peg and Tiny McLaughlin
Matt and Karen McLeod
Josh and Lisa Mendelson
Asifa Munawar
Susan Munro

\$100 - \$249 (continued)

Carole and Tim Nimrod
Katie and Erik Ojala
Erin and Mitch Omori
Tim Patenode and Judy Royal
Anna and Awonke Phewa
Elliot and Ronni Robinson
Ken Rolling and Rochelle Davis
Pamela Schmoll and Jim Entwistle
Tom and Lisa Seeger
Kathy Slaughter
Mark and Judy Sloane
Keith Stocks and Kim Snyder
Ann and Vince Sweeney
Kathleen Tribble-Strong
Kaitlin Verber
Sarah and Mike Wagner
Caryl Weinberg
Travis Wood

Up to \$99

Anonymous (5)
Abby Alpert
Daniel and Andrea Alpert
Fran Alpert
Iris Alpert
James Amato
Jennifer Bellis
Karen Berkowsky
Viv and Mark Bonges
Tony and Julie Bordo
Margaret Boyer
Tammy and Michael Breitman
Nancy and Mitchell Bruski
Max Cable
Ann and Jim Driscoll
Michelle Dunigan
David and Sheila Fenn
Diane Goldring
Stephen Goranson
Laura and Matthew Gray
Hilary Green and Matt Menzies
Susan Gundlach
Alec and Patricia Guroff
Mary Ellen Hennessy
Carolyn and Don Hooker
Juchien Hsu
Russell Johnson
Talaya Johnson
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Susan Kuhn
Roland Lieber
Barbara Lyons
Gwen Macsai and Paul Goren
Rebeca Mendoza
John Mickelson



Shelby Montague and Tom Campobasso
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Network for Good
Beth and Ted Perez
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Sean Pitt
Kate and Paul Proto
Karen Randolph
Robert and Patty Reece
Ward and Karen Reeves
Marsha Richman and Dick Lanyon
Maura Rogan
Sara Rolan
Alan and Patty Rubin
Alicia Salinas
Sara and Horst Schastok
Josh Seib and Michelle Livas
Chika Sekiguchi
Alexandra Shea
Nancy and Jerry Solar
Celeste Stolz
Kathryn and Rob Swarczewski
Synchrony Corporate
Bill and Mary Watt
Lea Weems
James Wolinski
Ericka Wrencher

We

Are

CNE

We laugh

We play

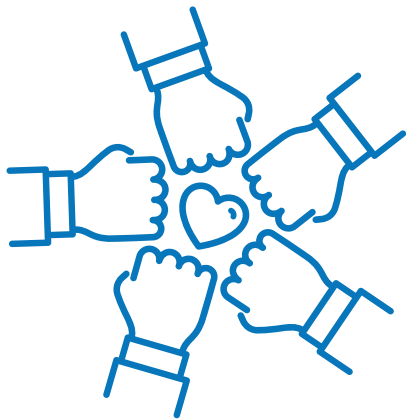
We learn



Our Team

Executive Director
Director of Programs
Fiscal Officer
Programs Manager
Home Visiting/Family
Engagement Manager

Carol Teske
Deepa Mehta
Vicky Guzman
Carolyn Myszkowski
Lisa Shines



Abby Alpert
Chava Alpert
Martha Arntson
Jenny Blickenstaff
Marilyn Calik
Sonia Collins
Cara Craig
Ashley Cruz
Melody Delfosse
Lisette Espindola

Amy Fatall
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