



# CHILD CARE SOLUTIONS

## Annual Report 2018

**Our Mission:** Building excellence in early care and learning systems while advancing equal access for all children in our community. We accomplish this through education, advocacy and support for families and early childhood professionals.

**Our Vision:** Every Child is cared for in a high quality, safe and nurturing environment that cultivates healthy development, early learning and joy.

# CHILD CARE SOLUTIONS

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*Director of Registration*

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*Director of Professional Development*

Jessica Salisbury

*Marketing Coordinator*





This was a pivotal year in terms of focusing attention on the importance of high quality child care. Business leaders and legislators have begun to recognize child care as an economic driver that enables parents to work while promoting the healthy development and education of the next generation of workers. As the local economy improves and unemployment rates decline, more parents are entering the workforce. We know that parents of young children need child care so they can work, and children need a safe place where they can learn and continue their healthy development. **Unfortunately, far too many families do not have access to high-quality care because the child care system is broken.**

The number of available licensed and registered child care programs in Central New York has declined over the past few years leaving the capacity to serve only a fraction of the children who need care. Families struggle to afford child care which is one of the highest household expenses, often higher than housing expenses. Meanwhile, child care wages are too low to cover living expenses, driving qualified caregivers from the field. Businesses are feeling the impact of the broken child care system as they struggle to fill vacancies or experience high absenteeism rates due to child care issues.

Over the past year, there has been more attention paid to the child care issue than we have seen in decades. The media, business leaders and politicians are seeking solutions to the child care issue. Reforming the child care system to ensure access to high quality child care for all families in our community is essential to families, children and the economy. As we enter our 45th year of service to the community, Child Care Solutions will embrace this new attention and seize the opportunity to “Build excellence in the early care and learning system while advancing equal access to all children in our community.”

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori A. Schakow".

Lori Schakow  
Executive Director

**Here's how we've worked to make our vision a reality**

# Parent Services

All families deserve access to high quality, affordable, and safe child care. The experts on our Parent Services team help parents understand what high quality child care looks like, find and evaluate child care options that meet their needs, and explore financial resources.



3,890

3,890 parents called us for advice and information about how to find or pay for child care, enabling them to get to work with the peace of mind their child is safe.



1,646

1,646 legally exempt child care providers, who provide care for families receiving a child care subsidy, were enrolled.



1,895

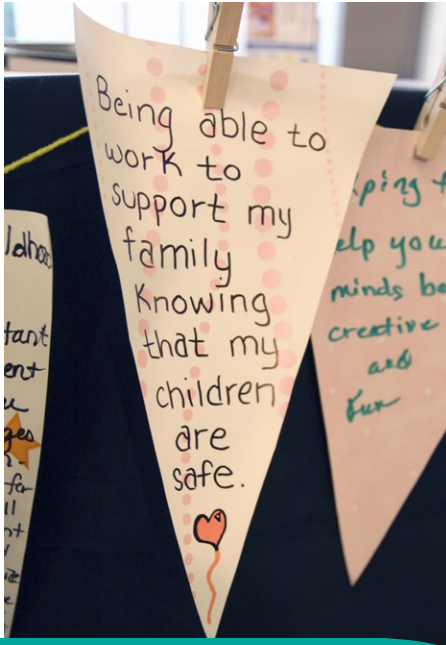
1,895 parents seeking employment and training through Onondaga County's JOBS Plus program used our services to better understand the child care resources available to them; a **42%** increase over the past two years.



40

Thanks to funding from the United Way of Central New York, 40 children were able to enroll in child care programs with the help of the Community Child Care Scholarship.

*"Maria [CCS Staff] was very helpful, helped me understand the legally exempt process . . . she went out of her way to make sure I understood everything."*



***“You always hear your life can change in an instant. You never think it’s going to happen to you until it does.”***

Last year Rebecca, mom of two, suddenly found herself scrambling to manage her family’s finances; she never expected to go from a two-income household to one overnight. “I was a single parent, working both a full time and part time job, and **struggling to afford just the necessities**. I had to cut a lot of things from my budget just to make ends meet.”

Like many families in Central New York, her daughter’s after school care was one of things she couldn’t cut back on and affording it was becoming a struggle. “Her after school care is a necessity; I wouldn’t be able to work full time if we didn’t have that.”

After talking about how overwhelmed she was trying to afford her daughter’s after school care with a co-worker, they suggested she look into the Community Child Care Scholarship. “I am so grateful for this program,” said Rebecca. “Michelle [Child Care Solutions’ scholarship coordinator] made the application process very easy, and **treated me with dignity** – I never felt like I was asking for a handout. It alleviated a lot of my financial stress.” The scholarship program, which is generously funded by The United Way of CNY and managed by Child Care Solutions, was designed to help parents just like Rebecca. She didn’t qualify for child care assistance through the state, and **despite working two jobs, was still struggling to afford child care**.

And not only did the program help alleviate her stress, it provided some stability for her daughter during a turbulent time. “My daughter has had the same child care provider for the past 5 years, and we love the program. We had to cut back on a lot of other things, and **I’m grateful this was something that stayed the same**. Because of the scholarship I didn’t have to take her out of the program, or turn to my family and friends for help.”

***“I really appreciate your service. Finding you guys [CCS] was finding the right path regarding child care.”***

***“I wish I knew about this service earlier. The staff was amazing; nice and resourceful.”***



# Registration

Parents need the peace of mind to know their child is safe while they are at work. Our Registration team makes sure that programs not only meet the minimum health and safety standards but works closely with providers, going above and beyond to help create the high quality programs all children deserve.



To help ensure the health and safety of children in day care programs, staff from Child Care Solutions' Registration Team investigated **101 complaints** and completed **571 inspections**.

We also provided over **1,000 sessions** of basic technical assistance: working one on one with providers to improve the quality of their programs.

## 37

New child care programs opened

## 45

Programs renewed their registration

## 1,422

These new and renewed programs have space to care for 1,422 children, adding more options for Onondaga County families

# Provider Services



## Eat Well, Play Hard

The **Eat Well, Play Hard in Child Care Settings** program is designed to improve the health and wellness of young children by promoting nutritious foods and healthy, active lifestyles with minimal screen time. The goal is to prevent childhood obesity and reduce long-term risks for chronic disease.

Our Registered Dietitian, Melek Yavuz, works with child care center staff, children and parents through consistent and positive messages about incorporating healthy eating and physical activity into their daily routines.

## Child and Adult Food Care Program

The primary goal of the federally funded **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)** is to serve nutritious meals to children and help establish positive eating habits at the earliest stages of development. Our Provider Services team monitors and educates providers participating in the CACFP, making sure that they have the support needed to create a positive eating environment for children.

**162**

Each month an average of 162 providers participate in CACFP

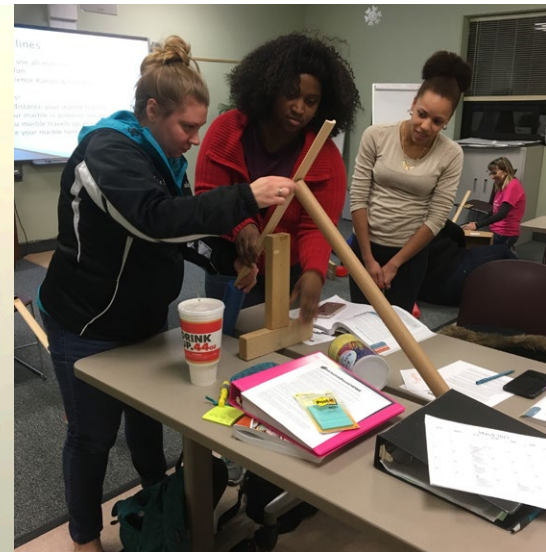
**2,036**

The program helps a monthly average of 2,036 children in Central New York establish healthy eating habits for life.

**798,809**

Last year CACFP participants served 798,809 meals and snacks that met USDA requirements.

# Professional Development



High quality child care is critical to ensuring children receive a smart start in life. Our Professional Development team assists CNY caregivers gain the knowledge and skills they need to offer high quality care.

93

training workshops and certification courses offered

+40%

increase in attendance for the Health and Safety Course, compared to previous year

49

students attended our CDA courses, which expanded to include a course for Spanish speakers and one held in Auburn

4,590

providers attended our training workshops, certification courses, and conferences

151

Red Cross certifications in CPR and First Aid earned



# Professional Development



We hosted two professional development conferences, *Cultivating Creativity in Early Childhood Education* in the fall and *Focus on Families: Considerations for Caregivers* in the spring. These conferences offer CNY child care professionals the rare opportunity to learn new skills, share ideas, troubleshoot issues, and connect with other providers in Central New York.

We are proud of the growth our Professional Development team has seen in the number of on-site workshops and MAT certification courses taught.

**+ 16%**

More child care programs than ever contacted Child Care Solutions to request on-site training workshops for their staff members; last year, there was a 16% increase in the number of on-site workshops taught compared to the previous year.

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The Medication Administration Training (MAT) certification course teaches providers how to safely administer medication to the children in their care. We expanded our on-site course offerings to include the MAT certification course and saw huge growth. Attendance increased from 137 providers to 218, a 59% increase compared to the previous year.

**+ 59%**

# Donors

*Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018*

**Thank you** to the following individuals and organizations who so generously help us achieve our mission through financial contributions. Your invaluable support provides the resources needed to carry out our work and make our vision a reality.

Michelle Abdul Sabar

Kahlil Adames

Allyn Foundation

Anheiser Busch (Kathryn Benoit)

Lauren Baker

Linda Barnes

CSEA/Voice

Discount School Supply

Mary Earl

Educo, Heutink, USA

Exelon Corporation

Katherine Gavett

David Haase

Health Foundation for Western & Central NY

Kaplan Early Learning Company

King & King Architects

Lakeshore Learning Co.

Eric Larison

David Michel & Peggy Liuzzi

Denise Milde

Murphy's Specialized Pastry

Elizabeth Naughton

Network for Good

New York Council of Nonprofits

Open Hand Theatre

Patrick Clement Fund

Stella Penizotto

Joan Royle

Jessica Salisbury

Lori Schakow

Alexander Schwartz

David Swieck

Kerry Tarolli

United Way of Greater St. Louis

United Way of West Central Connecticut

Daniel Zeppetello

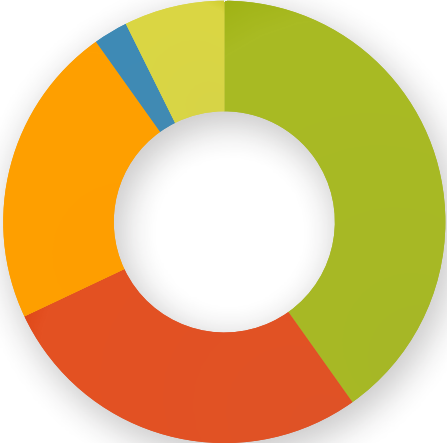
# Financial Summary

Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018, complete financial summary is available on our website.

## Our Funding Sources

Total Revenue: \$3,215,948

- Department of Health Program Grants**  
\$1,291,813
- Office of Children & Family Services**  
\$894,217
- Onondaga County Program Grants**  
\$713,174
- United Way**  
\$80,568
- Contributions & Discretionary Income**  
\$236,176



## Our Operating Expenses

Total Revenue: \$3,021,990

- Programming & Services**  
\$2,835,556
- Administrative**  
\$165,640
- Special Events**  
\$20,794





# CHILD CARE SOLUTIONS

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