The Annual Report promotes early learning, healthy development, and high-quality care for all children through education. Advocacy & support for families & early childhood professionals are also a focus.
"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." Those words by Frederick Douglass over 100 years ago have been proven true by study after study. The experiences of children, early in their development, create a momentum that can carry that child either towards success or failure. No one wants to think of children as ‘broken’ and we should never stop giving every child the greatest opportunities for success. But we know that early childhood care is critical to starting a child on the right path. And, if early childhood care is so critical, it stands to reason that the quality of that care matters a great deal. Child Care Solutions wants to be in the forefront of bringing quality child care to families in Onondaga and Cayuga counties. Whether it is our efforts to achieve national accreditation through ChildCare Aware of America, our work in support of the QualitystarsNY or the everyday efforts of our dedicated staff to train and support child care providers; every action has as its goal improving the quality of child care for those we serve. In this report you’ll find some of the highlights of the past year. I hope you’ll take a few moments to read about how these very determined people are working to bring accessible, affordable, quality child care to Central New York.

John A. McGraw
Board Chairman, Child Care Solutions
What Really Matters

2011 marked Child Care Solutions’ 36th year of service to CNY child care providers and families with young children. Though we have many programs, our work over all these years has had only one goal: to help families to access high-quality child care that meets their needs and supports children’s healthy development and learning.

According to the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, nearly 11 million children under age 5 are in some type of child care setting for an average of 35 hours every week. What these young children experience in child care will influence their health, behavior and learning through childhood and for the rest of their lives. They are the reason our work matters.

Harvard University’s Center for the Developing Child reports that in the first few years of life, 700 new neural connections are formed every second. Babies’ experiences with their environment and their interactions with responsive adults form neural connections that build the architecture of the brain. This is a powerful reason why the quality of child care matters.

This year the staff of Child Care Solutions shared information with state and federal legislators and the community about initiatives that support access to child care, keep children safe and improve the quality of community child care programs. We believe that expanding child care subsidies for working parents, improving child care oversight and implementing QualitystarsNY is an investment in our future. Long-term studies have found that every dollar spent on high-quality early childhood programs generates $4 - $9 in increased earnings and reduced costs. This return-on-investment is just one reason that public spending on child care matters.

We’ve been especially blessed this year with community partners that share our commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of young children. We’ve valued the support of funders like the Allyn Foundation, the Community Foundation of CNY, the Cayuga Community Fund, the Community Health Foundation of Western & Central NY, M&T Bank, the Women’s Fund of CNY and the United Way in Onondaga and Cayuga County. Our collaborations with the Syracuse City School District, Enable, Syracuse University, Success By 6, Cooperative Federal, Freedom Recreation Services, the Red Cross and the Onondaga County Literacy Coalition have helped us expand and improve our services even in these tough economic times. Working together to make our community a better place for children – that’s what really matters.

Poet Gabriella Mistral said “Many things can wait. Children cannot... To them we cannot say tomorrow. Their name is today.” For me, that’s what matters most, today and tomorrow.

Peggy Liuzzi, Executive Director
**Financial Overview**

Our mission is to promote early learning, healthy development and high quality care for all children through education, advocacy and support for families & early childhood professionals.

We perform this work in a fiscally responsible manner knowing that we are working for the citizens of Onondaga & Cayuga Counties. Despite increasingly challenging economic realities we fulfill our mission with the dedication and perseverance necessary to improve the quality of child care for the children and parents of our community.

Visit our website at [www.childcaresolutionscny.org](http://www.childcaresolutionscny.org) for our 2010-2011 990 form.

### Income Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant Revenue</td>
<td>$3,095,875.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Raising &amp; Contributions</td>
<td>$13,679.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee for Service</td>
<td>$176,714.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenues</td>
<td>$58,843.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent Services</td>
<td>$507,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Registration</td>
<td>$579,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provider Support &amp; Education</td>
<td>$865,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child &amp; Adult Care Food Program</td>
<td>$1,163,892</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Outreach</td>
<td>$4,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; Fundraising</td>
<td>$200,083</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Income 2010-2011: $3,345,111.00

Total Expenses 2010-2011: $3,321,047
Child Care Solutions continues to set the standard for outstanding programs and services to the Central New York community.

Our Parent Services Team provides referrals and education to the parents of our area so they can be informed consumers of child care. This team is fortunate to have members fluent in Spanish who were able to provide assistance to the second largest language group in Onondaga & Cayuga Counties.

Our Professional Development Team creates and implements outstanding training programs, curriculum and development plans so the child care providers of Onondaga & Cayuga Counties can provide high quality child care for our children.

Our Registration Team under the authority of the Office of Children & Family Services registers, inspects and monitors group family child care homes and school age child care centers for health & safety.

Our Providers Services Team ensure that qualified child care programs enroll in and adhere to the requirements of the Child & Adult Care Food Program.

Parent Services 2011 Highlights

- **5315** Families Received Child Care Referrals
- **68%** Of Families Who Received Referrals Fell Below 200% of Federal Poverty Standard

Professional Development 2011 Highlights

- **607** Classes Offered
- **12** Classes Offered in Spanish
- **7174** Total Attendance at Trainings
- **1948** Total # of Individuals Trained
- **14108** Total Hours of Training Offered
- **348** Programs Used our Health Care Consultancy Service

Registration 2011 Highlights

- **44** Newly Registered Family Child Care Programs in Onondaga County
- **4** Newly Registered School Age Child Care Programs in Onondaga County
- **9** Newly Registered Family Child Care Programs in Cayuga County
- **2** Newly Registered School Age Child Care Programs in Cayuga County

Provider Services 2011 Highlights

- **183** Average Number of Family Child Care Providers That Participated each month in the Child & Adult Care Food Program
- **117** Family Child Care and Legally Exempt Providers Received Health & Safety Grants
- **81** Prospective Family Child Care Providers Attended First Step Orientation Sessions
Child Care Solutions continuously strives to increase the quality of child care in Cayuga and Onondaga Counties. Our Professional Development Team educates caregivers on everything from potty training, behavior, guidance, early literacy & learning through play. Knowing that child care providers face challenging economic times, we continue to offer classes and trainings that are reasonably priced or funded through scholarships & grants.

Our parent services team has the important function of informing and educating the parents of our community. They want parents to know what high quality child care really looks like and understand the short term and long term benefits for their children. Parents face so many difficult decisions and choosing child care can be one of the most difficult. Unfortunately there is still a range of quality in the programs available in Central NY. Through personal consultations & education we guide parents toward high quality child care that suits the needs of their family.

We have also been actively involved in the launch of QualityStarsNY, a Quality Improvement and Rating System (QRIS) that provides standards for child care programs to meet and a rating scale for parents to use when choosing child care. Child Care Solutions was one of eleven agencies that participated in the field testing phase of this program. We are major proponents of this QualityStarsNY and look forward to fully implementing this rating system in Onondaga in 2012 and Cayuga County in the future. For more information on QualityStarsNY visit www.qualitystarsny.org.
Child Care Solutions advocates for high for quality child care because we know all children deserve it. But did you know that high quality child care is good for our entire community?

Short-term—it supports local families so they can work. Their productivity on the job keeps our businesses running and enables residents to provide for their families, buy homes and pay taxes to support the economic stability of our community.

Long-term—it increases school readiness and lays the foundation for children’s later success in school and in life. With lackluster test scores and high dropout rates plaguing many of our schools, it’s time to invest more money in school readiness. Research studies have found that 75% of brain growth and 85% of intellect, personality and social skills develop before age five.

Quality child care is good for business too. Many Fortune 500 companies have found that increasing access to child care helps employees to balance their family and work roles and improves productivity, reduces absenteeism, cuts turnover and increases company value.

Child Care Solutions calls on policy makers, business & civic leaders, educators, and parents to start advocating for effective early childhood policies and practices. We will not eliminate all social and economic inequalities, but we can increase the odds that many more children will grow up to be adults who contribute positively to our community.

“We’re literally spending billions and billions of dollars on K-12 education, and when kindergartners and first graders aren’t ready to learn when they get to school, it hurts the nation.”

Charles Kolb, president Committee for Economic Development (CED)
Child Care Solutions
performs the work we
do because of these
core beliefs:

- All children deserve high quality early learning & care experiences.
- All children have the right to secure, trusting, nurturing relationships with adults.
- All children must have their physical, emotional and social needs met to develop to their fullest potential.
- All children deserve the same respect as adults.
- As adults we have to advocate for & protect all children.
- Children are born ready to learn.
- All children are unique, with individual learning styles.
- Children learn through play.

If you hold these same core beliefs please consider supporting Child Care Solutions.

To learn how to support our organization please call:

Peggy Liuzzi
315-446-1220 ext. 310
or
Patrice Robinson
315-446-1220 ext. 354

Or go to:
www.childcaresolutionscny.org