

DCDC's Annual Report



2017-2018

DCDC's Community Garden is Growing

Our little community garden on Bloom Road has had a lot of community assistance this year to turn it into a great place for local gardeners to plant and tend to their flowers and vegetables.

With assistance from some local gardeners, Doug Bastian and Harriet Perez, and generous community support, a number of "upgrades" to make the garden more accessible and functional have occurred this spring.

The most significant change has been the addition of raised garden beds. The raised garden

beds have been a huge help to the gardeners in keeping weeds out of their plots. Two raised beds were also built specifically for use by DCDC's Summer School Age program and our preschoolers, and placed outside by our play space.

Built by Catawissa's Scout Troop 67, and funded by the generosity of our local businesses and individuals, it truly has been a community effort. It is

planned that any extra produce will be donated to the local food bank for distribution.



We've also had some assistance from Master Gardener Cinda Printzenhoff and local garden enthusiast Harriet Perez who have been gracious enough to spend time at our Bloom Road site, teaching the preschoolers all about gardening and tending to their seedlings. Our Bloom Road preschoolers planted vegetable and herb seedlings, which grew under our donated grow lights. Ms. Printzenhoff and Ms. Perez helped the children to thin out and transplant their growing vegetation in preparation

for transplanting to our raised garden beds. The preschoolers planted goodies like dill, basil, tomatoes, and cucumbers, which will be used by the Summer School Age children for snacks, as part of our farm to table initiative at Bloom Road.



A special thanks to DCDC's Michele Jenkins for her work on all of it! The Community Garden is open to anyone in the area. **Check out it's Facebook page** at DCDC Community Garden! Please see page 4 for a complete list of contributors.



Updates & Upgrades!

It's been a busy year at DCDC, making improvements to several areas of our programs. Thankful for support from our community foundation, board members and parents, **we've been able to update our infant suite space, complete our Kid's Kitchen at Bloom Road and introduce a new**

social-emotional curriculum to our preschoolers. To increase the functionality of the infant suite and meet stringent NAEYC accreditation and Keystone STARS standards, DCDC made some room adaptations which have given us a great open and brighter

space for our youngest to explore and watch the world around them. With funding from the Danville Area Community Foundation, we were also able to replace the 15 year old carpeting in the infant area, as well



as make sure the baby play area was well padded! Those babies spend a lot of time on the floor, so making sure it was comfortable and safe for them was a top priority! Meanwhile, over at Bloom Road, thanks to Board member, Rob ...cont'd on page 4

By the Numbers

During Fiscal Year 2017-2018 DCDC served the following number of children in the respective areas:

Early Learning—260

Child Care Information Services of Columbia, Montour, Northumberland County (Subsidy) - 1652

Early Intervention (Birth-3 years of age) — 198

EITC & United Way Scholarships— 18



Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Jeff Emanuel, President
Erin Fitzgerald, Immediate Past President

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Laura Campbell
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Robert Lunger
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Brian Paulhamus
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Graeme Woods

Educational Improvement Tax Credit Benefits Local Preschoolers

In 2017-2018, DCDC received \$22,500 in scholarship contributions to provide tuition assistance to area preschool children attending our PA Department of Education licensed preschool program or Preschool at Trinity United Methodist Child Care.

Contributors for this year's EITC Scholarship Program included PPL, Weis Markets, First Keystone Community Bank and Cole's Hardware.

Thanks to their support, DCDC was able to provide 12 scholarships to children in Columbia,



Northumberland, Montour, and Union counties.

The EITC provides tax credits to eligible businesses who contribute to a Scholarship Organization, a Pre-K Scholarship Organization, or for educational improvement. Tax credits may be applied against the tax liability of businesses for the tax year in which the contribution was made. For contributions to Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Organizations, a business may receive a tax credit equal to 100% of the first \$10,000 contributed and up to 90% of the remaining amount contributed up to a maximum credit of \$150,000 annually.

With the help of EITC scholarships and contributions from area businesses, more children are able to **attend the DCDC's preschool**. Statistics have shown that children who go to a quality preschool have better social skills, less grade repetition and special education, higher graduation rates, increased earnings, while also having lower rates of crime, teen pregnancy, and smoking.

Additional scholarship funds were provided by local foundations and businesses including the Danville Area United Way, The Degenstein Foundation and Community Aid. With these funds an additional 6 children were served. A full list of Scholarship Contributors can be found on page 6.

Another Night of Laughs and Music

For our 12th Annual Fundraising Event Gala, two highly talented performers from Dueling Pianos International took the stage and presented DCDC's Dinner & A Show! After another great meal provided by the Pine Barn Inn, nearly 200 guests were treated to live music, sing-alongs, impersonations, dancing, and awesome auction items!



“This year was better than last year, and the guests had so much fun. This event just keeps getting better and better!” said Board president, Jeffrey Emanuel. The performers from Dueling Pianos entertained guests for over three hours. With lots of song requests and audience participation, it was before the end of the night, that everyone was on the dance floor, dancing and singing along.

This was the 12th year for the event and over \$13,000 was raised to support DCDC's *Building our Future* Campaign.

Past events have supported DCDC's Endowment and Scholarship Funds.

Sponsorship opportunities were available for individuals and businesses at the Laugh Out Loud, Show Stopper, Sing Along, Star and Performer levels. Storm Uniforms, Carriage Manor Builders and M&T Bank were our premier **That's Entertainment** sponsors this year. A list of all other sponsors can be found on page 7.

Save the Date for 2019: Friday, April 26, 2019!



Staff Recognition



Congratulations to our DCDC Team members on the years of service to DCDC! Pictured from left to right are: Renea Poust Early Intervention Coordinator, celebrating 5 years; Donna Kroh, Teacher Assistant, 35 years; and Gina Horne, Infant/Toddler Supervisor, 15 years. Many, many thanks for their commitment to making DCDC a wonderful place!

In January, 2018, DCDC said goodbye to one of the most sweet, kind, generous, humorous, enthusiastic members of our DCDC family. Not a day goes by where there isn't something that brings Denise Zaruta to mind. She fought a long, hard battle against cancer, while still managing to bring a smile to children and families while at the Front Desk at Wall Street. Denise will always be a part of the DCDC family, and we know she is looking down upon us from her place among the moon and the stars.



photos courtesy of Freddi Carlip and the Daily Item

Updates & Upgrades *Cont'd*

Lunger, we were able to complete **our long awaited Kids' Kitchen.** With the donation of kitchen cabinets, a sink, the purchase of a fridge and some basic kitchen tools, our preschoolers and summer school agers now have a place to whip up tasty treats and snacks. **Having a Kids' Kitchen** will improve their skills and understanding in the areas of science, mathematics and nutrition. DCDC believes that it is especially important to provide all children with positive experiences as they relate to healthful eating choices.

DCDC also was able to conduct a pilot of a social emotional curriculum for preschoolers during the past year with funding from the Danville Area Community Foundation. As part of our

philosophy, DCDC strives to meet the needs of the whole child – social, emotional and academic. The PATHS program is the final curriculum piece that will give our teachers more time for teaching and our children more capacity for learning. The **curriculum's program goal** of significantly improving social and emotional skills is critical to **children's academic success.** DCDC will be rolling out the curriculum to all preschool classrooms in the Fall of 2018.

We are always striving to make DCDC the best program it can be for our families and our community and are appreciative of the assistance that helps make it happen.

Community Garden Contributors

- Doug Bastian
- Catawissa Boy Scout Troop 67
- Timothy Murphy & Christen Mowad
- Clark & Hess Excavating
- Eric & Marley Daniels
- Danville Borough
- Andrea Feinberg
- FNB Bank
- Dick Grafmyrer
- Pete Hannon
- North Haven AG Center
- Susan Nunan
- David & Lauren Parker
- Harriet Perez
- Cindy & Robert Powers
- Tiffany Price
- Monica Root
- Rhonda & Robert Seebold
- Melanie Strodel
- Bonnie Tump

Early Intervention Spotlight

With another record setting year of providing special instruction, and speech, occupational and **physical therapies, DCDC's Early Intervention** program continues to grow by leaps and bounds. Last year, DCDC served 114 children, ages birth through two years of age, and this year, 198.

Through the year, DCDC has been able to continue our outreach to the community and families about early intervention services. Annually, The EI Team has the opportunity to speak



with Bloomsburg University students in the Intro to Exceptional Individuals class and explains the process, services and benefits of early intervention.

A regular participant at the **Children's Museum's Special Needs Night, we've been able** to meet new families and catch up with some of our past families. For the coming year, through **the Danville High School's Youth in Philanthropy program, the Children's Museum** was able to secure funding to allow our early intervention team to host therapy sessions with EI families at the Museum.



Our EI Team and Families also spent time interacting and socializing at the Bloomsburg YMCA on a monthly basis utilizing the gymnastics equipment. This year, EI held its first family picnic for all children enrolled in our EI program. It was a huge hit with many of our families having the opportunity to meet and socialize. Early Intervention is a free home based visitation program for children that qualify. For more information on our Early Intervention services, check out our website at danvillecdc.org

Time for Family

Throughout the year, DCDC hosts a number of activities to keep our families involved and **engaged in their child's learning and development.**

These activities include:

- Family Fun Night
- Circle time with Grandparents
- Reach Out & Read
- Trunk or Treat
- Parent Breakfasts/Snacks
- Summer School Age Art Show
- Family Carnival
- My Toddler & Me
- Playgroup

Here's just a few pictures from some of the fun times throughout the year! For more, subscribe to our E-News or follow us on Facebook!



Celebrating Children!



DCDC, in keeping with our mission to provide high quality early care and educational experiences, continues to advocate and educate the broader community about the importance of early childhood. Spearheaded by the CCIS of Columbia, Montour and Northumberland Counties, a subsidiary of DCDC, we have coordinated and participated in local activities that promote the message of high quality learning experiences.

During the winter months, we **participated in the annual children's fair** at the Columbia Mall, with two separate tables for parent resources and PA Promise for Children materials and hands-on activities for the children.

There was plenty of excitement in the Spring, starting with the Week of the Young Child. **Children's artwork** was displayed throughout downtown Danville from many local early learning programs. Once again, the Montour County

Commissioners and the Mayor of Danville entertained a preschool crowd with their **reading of this year's PA One Book, *My Cousin Momo***. Although the rain and wind drove everyone inside, it was still a great morning for our local children!

They also issued their annual **proclamation for Montour County's Month of the Young Child** and the Borough of **Danville's Month of the Young Child**. The Singing Mailman entertained the children with his musical talent.

In May, early learning programs, in partnership with the Danville Area School District, held their annual Kindergarten Transition Night. Aimed at helping the incoming Kindergarteners experience school for an evening, the children were able to meet the teachers and principals, participate in a bus ride and the lunch line, and check out the Kindergarten classrooms.



2017-2018 Annual Support



Building Our Future Annual Campaign (Including Raise the Region)

Ahold Financial Services
Mark & Beth Amarose
Dr. David & Mrs. Valerie
Andreychik
Janis Bartholomew
Shirley & Marlin Bastian



Renee Beisswanger

In memory of David Rouse

Stephen & Trisha Bevans

Joanne & Terry Blass

Larry Blosky & Michele Jenkins

William & Kathy Boudeman

David & Amy Brokus

Dr. John Bulger

William & Janet Byron

Laura & Bryan Campbell

Children's Brace

Chip Adams Sewer & Drain Cleaning
C.S.I.U.

Danville Area Community Foundation

Jennifer & Michael Doktorski

Lorraine Edick

Jeff Emanuel & Dr. Lauren DiMarino

Michael & Carolyn Facktor

First Community Foundation Partnership of PA

John & Genie Gerdes

Marti & Matthew Harris

Brian & Tracy Hausknecht

Oren Helbok

Herring, Roll, & Solomon, C.P.A.

Dr. Heather Hoover

Deb & Frank Jennis

Steve Keifer

Pegi Keller

James & Jelena LaCas

Law Offices of Marks, McLaughlin & Dennehy

Leighow Oil

Lisa & Jeff Leighton

Lightstreet Hotel

Robert Lunger

M&T Bank

James Maciejewski

Beth & Matt Madden

Nancy & John Marr

Christine McCarthy

Lori & Mike McDonnell

Merck Partnership for Giving

Dr.'s Steve Meschter &

Cathy Beinlich

Lynn Miller

Mitrani Family Foundation

Dr. Kathleen Mulligan

Tom & Barb Nork

Elaine Pongratz & Michael DeMarco

Donald & Dottie Rabb

Deborah L. Rhinard

Robert & Katherine Rose

Michael, Larissa, Thomas, James, William & Henry Rutter

Keelie Schock

Natalie Stinton & Michael Hurt

Tom & Patricia Sokola

Bob & Becky Stoudt

Elisabeth Taylor

Katherine Vastine

Norman & Diana Verbeck

Beth Walshaw & Chris Moyer

Barb Walzer

Christine & Timothy Weigle

Michelle Willoughby

James Wilson & Gerda Breitwieser

Christopher Zubowicz



Scholarship

Amanda Bengier

Laura & Bryan Campbell

Cole's Hardware

Community Aid, Inc.

Danville Area United Way

Degenstein Foundation

First Keystone Community Bank

Jim & Laurie George

Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way

Steve Keifer

Robert Lunger

PPL

Michael, Larissa, Thomas, James,

William & Henry Rutter

United Way of Columbia and

Montour Counties

Weis Markets, Inc.

Endowment

Dr. & Mrs. O. Fred Miller III



2018 Dinner & A Show Sponsors



2017-2018 Community Support

From the Director

by Diana Verbeck, Executive Director



- | | |
|---|--|
| Amazon Smile | Girl Scouts of Heartland PA |
| Bason Coffee Roasting | Geisinger Health System |
| Bloom Bounce | Klein Artworks |
| Blooming Bagels | Little League Museum |
| Bloomsburg Children's Museum | Marley's Brewery & Grille |
| Bloomsburg Area YMCA | Mercado Burrito |
| Bloomsburg Theater Ensemble | Merle Norman Cosmetics |
| Bloomsburg University | Miller Center |
| Body Balance | O Li Ran Restaurant |
| Bucknell Athletics | Old Forge Brewery |
| Campus Theatre | Ric Mar |
| Chris Donahey - Scentsy | Rock God Brewery |
| Community Aid | Rose Marie's Restaurant |
| Covered Bridges Brewhaus | Ruby Nail |
| Danville Area Community Foundation | Rusty Rail Brewing |
| Danville Area High School Youth In Philanthropy | Ruyee Chinese Restaurant |
| Danville Bodywork Center | Sally Grottini & Eddie |
| Denise Cressman | Shade Mountain |
| Dodie Mead | Siam Tai Restaurant |
| Dunkin Donuts | Steve Shannon Tire & Auto |
| East End Fire Co | Studio B |
| Eric McCabe | Susquehanna University Athletic Department |
| English Garden | Tawsty Flower B&B |
| Firehouse Winery | The Exchange |
| Freas Farm Winery | Thomas Beaver Free Library |
| Sue Boardman & The Gettysburg Foundation | Walkers Jewelers |
| Giant Food Stores - Danville | Weis Center for Performing Arts |
| | Weis Markets - Danville |

In June, I officially celebrated my 20th anniversary with DCDC. To say it's been dull or boring... well, definitely not! I have been privileged over these two decades to witness the evolution of the importance of quality and the increased recognition of the impact of high quality early childhood programs, with increased public investments in both.

I have been honored to work with some of the most selfless and talented people at DCDC. From part-time college students, to Board members and everyone in between. There are so many that have been truly committed to our mission. Sadly, we also have lost many talented staff over the years. The economics of early learning make it difficult for employees to earn a living wage, so to do better for their families, they need to move on, despite where their hearts lay.

It is my hope that in the next ten years, DCDC and others, can address this **critical issue and talented staff don't have** to make that difficult decision and the children benefit from having the best, brightest and most enthusiastic early childhood teachers around. Stay tuned for how you can help make that happen! In the meanwhile, please enjoy reading about all the great things that are going on at DCDC thanks to the amazing people who work here and generous donors like you!

Diana Verbeck, Executive Director

DCDC & the Community

We are always looking for ways to be a part of our bigger community and we enjoy going out in it as well as bringing it to the children we serve.

Our Preschoolers and School Age children spent time every other week at Maria Joseph Manor, and the Nazareth Memory Center.

Our families and kiddos lent their support to Danville's Community Christmas Tree, Feed-A-Friend, the Danville Area Food Pantry and Danville's SPCA.

The Early Intervention program participated in the Children's Museum's Special Needs Nights, and partnered with Bloomsburg YMCA to provide

opportunities for our EI children.

The CCIS participated in both the Bloomsburg's Children's Fair and Healthy Kids Day in Sunbury.

DCDC participated in the Geisinger Resident's Welcome Reception, the Ferry Street Grower's Market and the 27th annual Children's Fair.

Our staff also again participated in the March For Babies.

We had guest visits from Ms. Beth Lynn from the Library, Ms. Heather Beagle from the Exchange's Art Cart, The Girls Scouts, and Geisinger's Healthy Kids program.

DCDC staff also share their time and

talent with the Columbia and Montour County Human Services Coalitions, the Press Enterprise's Brighter Christmas committees and the Columbia-Montour Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

