



## 2009-2010



# DCDC Goes Soft—Soft Surfacing that is!

In the early Spring, DCDC's Early Years Learning Academy installed soft surfacing in its play yard areas in order to meet New PA Department of Public Welfare regulations passed in 2008. These new regulations require the surface of all fall zones surrounding embedded play equipment to be at least nine inches deep – an increase of three inches from the previous regulations.

Over the past five years DCDC has worked diligently to update its 36-year-old play yards, making them reflective of what we know to be safe and appropriate for children. DCDC believes that children learn best when both body and spirit are en-

gaged in learning experiences, and that children need numerous opportunities for outdoor play.

The equipment on the play yards is truly stimulating and interesting to young, inquisitive children. Newer play structures that lend themselves to dramatic play and physical movement, as well as the basics such as bicycle paths and sandboxes are the foundation of a developmentally appropriate playground for young children. Size appropriate climbing structures allow the

children to practice new found gross motor skills in a safe environment. It is because of these climbing structures and their fall zones that we must provide enhanced safety features, such as protective surfacing.



Each age group from infant to preschool has access to their own individual play yard, but that

becomes a very large area to functionally equip and annually cover with woodchips 9 inches deep. While DCDC

has made significant strides in providing young children with exciting and engaging equipment, it was time to turn our focus to safety, specifically the installation of a Astroturf-like ground cover to increase safety greatly and reduce the need for and long-term cost of ongoing maintenance and replacement.

With a cost of \$68,000, DCDC turned to local corporations, foundations and parents to help raise the funds necessary to purchase and install the new surface. Cherokee Pharmaceuticals, Degenstein Foundation, and Geisinger Foundation made investments to protect our youngest citizens. Additionally, parents and staff fundraisers also contributed.

## Feasibility Study Leads to Purchase of Land

The DCDC Board of Directors approved the funding of a feasibility study to explore options for the School Age Care for Kids (SACK) program, as well as future plans for all of the organization's activity.

The study, conducted by Joe Wilk, LeFevre Wilk Architects, Selinsgrove, began with a look at current programming needs for the school age site. The SACK program has been hosted for many years by the Danville Area School District at Dan-

ville Elementary School. It has long been a part of DCDC's strategic plan for SACK to have a home of its own, providing expanded learning opportunities and curriculum that are currently not possible in a shared space.

Several options were explored, including land acquisition and development, requiring at least three to four acres within a two mile radius of DCDC's current main campus.

The second phase of the study looked at DCDC's current campus and potential future space needs for programming. Realizing those future needs, including the School Age site, would require a significant amount of land.

In May, 2010, DCDC made an offer on the old Danville Auto Exchange on Bloom Road in Cooper Township. The property consists of 15.3 acres with a large six bay garage, a full kitchen, an office area and a pavilion-type

structure.

The property is located approximately two miles from DCDC's home base of operations.

Purchase of the property will give DCDC multiple options for current and future programming. DCDC will work with architects to determine what areas of the buildings are useable or able to be rehabilitated as it plans to move its School Age program over in 2011. The official purchase date of the property was July 1, 2010.

## Staff Recognized at Annual Dinner

Employees of Danville Child Development Center were recognized at an Employee Appreciation Dinner on January 16, 2010. An annual event, the organization's Quality of Life Committee hosted the evening's festivities at Reichart's Mardi Gras. Diana Dixon, Executive Director, began the evening's festivities by expressing her appreciation of the staff and stated, "It has been another great year at DCDC and it is all because of you and the energy you bring with you to work everyday!"

This year, the sole honoree was Lori Rabb McDonnell, for five years of service as the Child Care Coordinator and School Age Program Director.



## By the Numbers

During Fiscal Year 2009-2010, DCDC served the following number of children in the respective areas:

Child Care/Early Years Learning Academy— 226

Child Care Information Services of Montour County (Subsidy) - 208

Early Intervention Birth-3 years of age) — 118

United Way Scholarships— 12

## Board of Directors

### *Executive Committee*

Roger Hayman, President

Erin Fitzgerald, Vice President

Jeff Kay, Secretary/Treasurer

Lynn Miller, Past President

### *Directors*

Renee Beisswanger

Christine Gordon

Nicole Del Gotto

Dr. Bill Jones

Cindy Line

Michael Mertz

Erin Winn

## Keystone STARS Support:

**DCDC & SACK**

**Merit Award: \$34,650**

**Education & Retention Awards: \$30,190**

## Dr. Bill Jones Recognized as a Visionary Leader

In its second year, Danville Child Development Center's Visionary Award was presented to Dr. Bill Jones, Bloomsburg, at the Fourth Annual Celebrity Waiter Event. In 2009, DCDC's Board of Directors established the new award to recognize people who, through their involvement in the field of early childhood, have shown exemplary vision and have made the community a better place for young children and families. This year's award was presented at DCDC's Celebrity Waiter event on April 17 at the Dan-



2010's Visionary  
Dr. Bill Jones

ville Borough Ballroom.

Dr. Bill Jones, Faculty Emeritus of Bloomsburg University, has been involved with DCDC since its earliest days. Dr. Jones has dedicated his life to children, particularly those with different abilities, as well as teaching at BU's Special Education Department since 1966. Dr. Jones, along with his family, has most recently established a non-profit foundation, The Jones Center for Special Education Excellence. Its purpose is to ensure all children with disabilities receive an appropriate education, by educating the professionals that work with them to recognize and foster

these children's talents to enable them to live fulfilling lives.

This year's Visionary Award sponsor Montour County Advocates for Children was convened in October 2002 to study the county's early care and education delivery system and to plan improvements for these services, as well as engage the community in promoting high quality early learning services for the children of Montour County. The group is comprised of Child Care Information Services representatives, social service agencies, parents, business leaders, public school administrators, early childhood educators, and government leaders.



## Pony Up! DCDC's Fourth CW Event a Trifecta!

On **Saturday, April 17, 2010**, Danville Child Development was off to the races, celebrating over **35** years of providing safe, nurturing and educational experiences for children in the greater Montour County area.

Guests at the Celebrity Waiter Event were treated to a festive evening filled with fun, frolic, dinner, dancing and horse racing—the Sport of Kings! This year's jockeys included many seasoned waiters donning their silks, as well as some apprentices unveiling their racing colors for the first time. There were certainly some photo finishes! This year's Celebrity Waiters included: Michele Boone, Todd Hop-

kins, Peggy Chamberlain Roup, Jim Wilson, Jed Smith, Rebecca Warren, Gayle Fedder, Karen Wood, and Sally Grottini. Our celebrity waiters dished out laughs as well as served the area's finest food catered by Reichart's Mardi Gras. In addition to the festivities, the agency's second annual Visionary Award was also presented.



This was the fourth year with over \$8,000 being raised for scholarships. In the past four years, over \$10,000 was raised to support the organization's fledgling Endowment and

nearly \$16,000 for its Scholarship Fund. Sponsorship opportunities were available for individuals and businesses at the Triple Crown, Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes levels. A list of sponsors can be found on page 7.

Committee members included, Ann and Jeff Kay, Chairs, Renee Beisswanger, Jim Dixon, Beth Cherwinski, Joanne Blass, Sally Grottini, Jen Hipps, Michele Jenkins, Lori McDonnell and Diana Dixon.

The 2011 event will be held on April 16th at the Danville Borough Ballroom with the theme of Rodeos and Races. 2011's proceeds will be used to support DCDC's School Age programming fund.



Above: Tom Morgan and wife, Susan, chat with Norm Fedder

Below: Celebrity Waiter Jim Wilson serves his table cocktails



Above: Celebrity Waiters Jennifer Wakeman, Rebecca Warren and Sally Grottini wait to be introduced



Above: Celebrity Waiters Peggy Chamberlain Roup, Todd Hopkins and Michele Boone get ready to race!



Above: Celebrity Waiter Karen Wood checks on her guests

Below: Bettors line up at the window hoping to pick a winner



## Celebrity Waiter Candid

Below: Celebrity Waiter Rebecca Warren entertains Trevor Finn with a story



Above: It's Derby Days at the 2010 Celebrity Waiter

## Grants help DCDC

This year DCDC received grants from Cherokee Pharmaceuticals and the Danville Area Community Foundation.

Cherokee Pharmaceuticals awarded DCDC a grant for \$3,200 to purchase AED's to protect staff & children. Three were purchased—one for each

floor of the Center and one for the School Age program site.

The Danville Area Community Foundation elected to give \$2,000 to DCDC to assist in the purchase of adult sized table and chairs at its new School Age Site. These will be used to provide seating for professional development opportunities for adults .



## Montour County Advocates for Children Update

2009-2010 was another great year for Montour County Advocates for Children (MCAFC) to reach out and engage the community! Some of the highlights from the year included the following:

Montour County was selected along with 15 other counties in Pennsylvania to pilot Pennsylvania's Promise for Children Week during November 8 – 14, 2009. Children and families joined area



early learning programs and agencies at the Columbia Mall for a resource fair during this week. A Magic Show and Balloon making by "Magic in the Air" was at center stage, as well as children's artwork displayed throughout the mall by area early learning programs.

This year also marked the 20th year for the Children's Fair at the Columbia Mall. Well over 900 children and families attended with 46 programs providing services to young children provided hands-on free activities. In addition to the generosity of the programs participating, Panera Bread donated bagels and coffee for all the volunteers and entertainment was donated by Woody

Wolfe, James Mc Clincy, and Crosswinds Martial Arts. Students from Bloomsburg University's Exceptionalities Department volunteered throughout the day.

Week of the Young Child Events (WOYC) were held throughout the week of April 11-17, 2010. The Montour County Commissioners Proclaimed "Week of the Young Child" on the Courthouse Steps with over 100 children in attendance. The Commissioners read to the children and each child attending the event received a copy of the book, "What a Treasure" by Jane and Will Hillen-

brand. Early learning programs in Montour County hosted guest readers throughout the week including, elementary school teachers and principals, and the superintendent. MCAFC also displayed gingerbread girls and boys in the community celebrating WOYC. In addition, a Treasure Hunt for children and families in



Commissioners Jack Gerst , Jerry Ward & Trevor Finn read to the crowd of children

Shoppe, Premier Studios, The Kiddie Korner, Iron Heritage Store, City Girl Bakery, Iron Heritage Pizzeria, FNB Banks, Danville Child Development Center, Burger King, Rita's Italian Ice, Thomas Beaver Library, Danville Community Center, Columbia/Montour Visitor's Bureau, and Wendy's. Children used a map to locate the



"treasure" and received a prize (donated by the participating business) when they visited the store. Children's artwork was displayed throughout downtown Danville.

Danville Area School District and early learning programs partnerships for the purpose of better kindergarten transitions for children were continued. MCAFC collaborated with the DASD in coordinating Kindergarten and Pre-school Teacher visits and Annual Kindergarten Transition Night.

MCAFC also provided Professional Development to early learning program practitioners twice this year. A full day, Saturday conference was held in February. In June, for Provider Appreciation/Recognition, providers received 2 hours of professional development.

Downtown Danville was offered and the following businesses participated: Beiter's, Lemon A'Peel, Wee Home



## DCDC Maintains STARS Status & Tracks Child Progress

Each September, Early Years Learning Academy submits its Annual Report to the National Association for the Education of Young Children and reapplies for its STARS Designation. The STARS Designation is applied for both DCDC child care programs—Early Years Learning Academy and School age Care for Kids (SACK).

Keystone STARS is an initiative of the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) to improve, support, and recognize the continuous quality improvement efforts of early learning programs in Pennsylvania.

The Keystone STARS Performance Standards provide the foundation for the program. The Performance Standards are grouped into four levels: STAR 1, STAR 2, STAR 3, and STAR 4.

Each level builds on the previous level and utilizes research-based best practices to promote quality early learning environments and positive child outcomes. The standards address staff qualifications and professional development, the early learning program, partnerships with family and community, and leadership and management.

In order to receive a designation at this level, all STARS Performance Standards for STAR 4 – Accreditation must be met and the facility must provide documentation of its accreditation status. STARS staff will review site-specific documentation (sources of evidence) of each STARS Performance Standard in order to verify the achievement of that STARS Perform-

ance Standard.

SACK must meet all the Performance Standards for STAR 3 and provide documentation to the STARS staff to review.

Early Years and SACK have been participating in STARS since its inception as a pilot project in 2001.

A new additional requirement for STARS at Level 3 and 4 is participation in the state's Early Learning Network.

The Early Learning Network (ELN) is Pennsylvania's electronic data system for gathering information on early childhood programs and for studying the development of children in those programs. ELN combines information about the program including the quality and experience of the staff, with information on the child's family and the child's development over time. This information is then used to build and maintain high quality early childhood programs.

ELN measures the quality of early childhood programs and the impact that quality has on children's development. It does this by gathering information about children's learning and development in areas such as: Social and Emotional Skills, Communication and Language, Cognitive Development and Physical Development.

Information on children's progress is gathered and reported using the Work Sampling System Online for pre-schoolers and the Ounce Scale Online for infants and toddlers. There are no formal tests, no traditional grades, and no "pass" or "fail." With these authentic assessment tools, the child's

teacher collects information about the child's development in a number of different ways. For example, the child's teacher or therapist collects samples of the child's work, ask parents what they've noticed about their child's development, and make observations during classroom activities or therapy sessions. This information can then be recorded in ELN.

Teachers and therapists observe and document the child's learning over time. In early childhood programs, information on the child's progress will be gathered several times during the year (fall, winter, spring).

DCDC's Early Intervention program, which serves children ages birth—3 in Columbia and Montour Counties also participates in the ELN.

ELN benefits families, children, and the child's teachers or therapists by providing:

- ☐ Information on the child's development in his/her early childhood program;
- ☐ Information for the teacher to improve classroom instruction;
- ☐ Ideas for parents on how to prepare their child for school; and
- ☐ Strategies to help children who have different kinds of learning needs.

Pennsylvania's early childhood programs also benefit from information in ELN. The information in ELN will be used to maintain a high level of quality across all early childhood programs, to provide information on the types of programs that work best for children, and to assure that OCDEL is accountable for state funding that is invested in early childhood programs.



## Executive Director Continues on as Association Pres for Another Term

HARRISBURG, PA: The Pennsylvania Child Care Association elected to ask Diana Dixon, Executive Director of Danville Child Development Center in Danville, PA to serve another term as the Chair of PACCA's Board of Directors.

"This continues to be a particularly exciting time for child care and early education in Pennsylvania," stated Dixon. "We have made strides to increase quality and professionalism of the field. As we look forward to the new Commonwealth Administration, there will be continued advocacy and education regarding the importance of early childhood education and the continued investment in it."

Dixon is Executive Director of Danville Child Development Center in Montour County. Her center is a NAEYC accredited, Keystone STAR Four program that serves over 500

children annually through its child care programs, early intervention program and as the Child Care Information Services (CCIS) agency for the county.

Dixon has worked in the field of child care for over 15 years. She received her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and her MBA from Bloomsburg University. She also received the Gwen Morgan Scholarship to attend Advanced Seminars in Child Care Administration at Wheelock College in Boston, Massachusetts. Dixon won PACCA's Award of Excellence in 2003. Dixon joined PACCA's Board of Directors in 2002 and served as co-chair of PACCA's Education & Policy Committee. Dixon lives in Bloomsburg with her husband Jim and sons, Jacob & Jackson.



DCDC is now on Facebook! Keep up with all that we're up to, just by "Liking" us!



## DCDC's Shining Stars March for Babies

DCDC's Shining Stars participated in the 2nd Annual March for Babies in downtown Danville on a cold, rainy April Sunday morning. As the walk progressed, the skies brightened and the sun came out to warm our walkers up. The DCDC team of 10 walkers made up of staff, parents and children, raised over \$1400 for the March of Dimes.

Over 250 walkers participated and over \$41,000 was raised for the March of Dimes.

According to the March for Babies website, "When you walk in

March for Babies, you give hope to the more than half a million babies born

too soon each year. The money you raise supports programs in your community that help moms have healthy, full-term pregnancies. And it



DCDC's 2010 Shining Stars Team from back row, left—right: Jennifer Hoffman, Michele Jenkins, Jennifer Cracchiolo, Jeni Hassel, Jen Hipps, 2nd row: Mackenzie Jenkins, Lorenzo & Anna Cracchiolo, 3rd Row: Jordan Hassel and Rosario Cracchiolo.

funds research to find answers to the problems that threaten our babies. We've been walking since 1970 and have raised an incredible \$1.8 billion to benefit all babies."

The March of Dimes spends 76¢ of every dollar raised in March for Babies to support research and programs that help babies begin healthy lives.

## 2010 Celebrity Waiter Sponsors

### TRIPLE CROWN SPONSORS

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MEDICAL CENTER

**FNB Bank**  
N.A.

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Metso Minerals

Playworld Systems

Service 1st Credit Union

Susquehanna Valley  
Life

Victoria's Photography  
Studio

Zeisloft Brothers





## Community Agency, Business & Foundation Support

Adam & Eve's General Store	Edelholz
Applebee's	English Garden
Atlantic Equipment	Fu Star
Beiter's	Keyco
Robert Belfanti	Giant Markets (Bloomsburg & Danville)
Bernardi Jewelers	Jordan's Plumbing & Heating
Blooming Bagels	Laubach Insurance
BJ's	Lowes
Bob Evan's	La Maison Blanche Bakery
Brennan's Big Chill	May's Drive-In
Butterkrust Bakery	Montour County Commissioners
Burger King	Mulberry's
CA Reed	OIP Danville
Cinema Center of Selinsgrove	Panera Bread
City Girl Bakery	Pepsi
Cloak & Dragon Bookstore	Quaker Steak & Lube
Cole's Hardware	Ric Mar
Columbia County United Way	Rita's
Cracker Barrel	Rose Marie's
Danville Area Community Foundation	S&K
Danville Area School District	Sportsplex
Danville Area United Way	Subway Danville
Danville Borough	Steve Shannon Tire
Dunkin Donuts	Tea Gallery
Eagle Janitorial	Tee to Green

## 2009-2010 Play Yard Contributors

Cherokee Pharmaceuticals  
Degenstein Foundation  
Jim & Diana Dixon  
Geisinger Foundation  
Yohannes Getachew & Woderyesh Kristos  
Christina Ogrin  
Charles & Patricia Shultz

## Scholarship Contributors

Bayada Nurses  
Gail Zimmer  
Wal-Mart

**Endowment Donors:**  
**Total as of June 30,**  
**2010: \$25,077**

Drs. Cathy Beinlich & Steve Meschter  
Mr & Mrs. Andy Troutman

## From the Director

*by Diana Dixon, Executive Director*

Our business is the future. Each year we strive to provide the very best early educational programming for the children in our organization. While we are providing them with the tools they need for a successful future, we too have to look at what DCDC needs for a successful future and what we can provide to our communities to assist in it's future growth and development.

Along with our Feasibility Study, we

have also begun to initiate the strategic planning process with that goal of looking ahead. The research shows that the first five years of a child's life is the most critical time for their healthy development. DCDC wants to ensure that we are there meeting programming and service needs for all children and their families.

We remain hopeful that whoever takes the Governor's office in Harrisburg, they too will acknowledge and

support the importance of the programs we provide to our littlest citizens, our future workforce.

We're looking forward to many great things happening over the next few years and hope that you will join us! You can follow us on our website, [www.danvillecdc.org](http://www.danvillecdc.org) or on Facebook—Danville Child Development Center!

*Diana Dixon*