

DCDC Acquires Danville Auto Auction Site

On July 1, 2011, Danville Child Development Center (DCDC) purchased the former Danville Auto Auction property to renovate, relocate and expand its School Age Care for Kids (SACK) after school and summer care programs.

The project includes the renovation of the existing auto auction building and the former cattle auction area, as well as the demolition of the older, original office and auction building.

Once complete, the main structure will include a



Preschool Classroom, a cafeteria, and a kid's café. A second floor will be added for office space to accommodate the School Age and Preschool teaching staff, and the Early Intervention program.

The front half of the former cattle auction area will be turned into an outdoor courtyard learning environment, and will connect to

the play yard. The back half will serve as covered parking for Early Intervention vehicles and the center school buses.

The property in-

cludes over 15 acres of land, which the organization has no immediate plans to utilize, with the exception of a small community garden.

DCDC's purchase followed a 2010 feasibility study to identify the future needs of

the organization and its current facilities.

Board President, Erin Fitzgerald stated, "This is a great opportunity for us to expand our programming in a new environment, designed just as we had hoped."



Construction began in June and it is anticipated that the new center will be ready for use in November, 2011.

"Building Our Future" Campaign Kicks Off

In 2010-11 DCDC kicked off the 3-year "Building Our Future" campaign to raise \$750,000 for renovation of the Bloom Road property to create a flexible, spacious building and new community asset. DCDC is building the future on our past and...

Building a

Home for SACK

Since 1988, DCDC's School Age Care for Kids (SACK) program has been held at Danville Elementary School

with the support of the Danville Area School District. The new site will offer SACK a home of its own to expand and enrich the program in ways not possible in a "borrowed" space. SACK provides chil-

dren from kindergarten through 6th grade a safe, fun and educational environment, staffed by educators who complement the skills

the children develop in school classrooms. During the school year, SACK operates before and after school, and in summer it is a full-day program.

Building Preschool Capacity

Much has changed in the early education field, and DCDC at times has been unable to expand into some preschool projects because of the limitations of its current facility. With a second site, DCDC will be able to expand its pre-kindergarten programs to meet the evolving demands of families in our

community in ways that cannot be accommodated at its current site.

Building Community Ties

With this new facility, DCDC will offer other new programs for families, kids and teachers, including: "My Toddler & Me" classes for parents and young toddlers; parenting workshops just for moms and dads; group activities for children with special needs and their families to socialize and find mutual support; and education programs for the general public and those who work in the early childhood field.

By the Numbers

During Fiscal Year 2010-2011, DCDC served the following number of children in the respective areas:

Child Care/Early Years Learning Academy— 220

Child Care Information Services of Montour County (Subsidy) - 228

Child Care Information Services of Montour County (Resource & Referral) - 34

Early Intervention (Birth-3 years of age) — 163

United Way Scholarships— 15



Keystone STARS Support:

DCDC & SACK

Merit Award: \$34,650

Education & Retention Awards:
\$26,070

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Erin Fitzgerald, President

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Connie Mattis

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Erin Winn

KJ Reimensnyder Wagner Recognized as a Visionary Leader

In its third year, Danville Child Development Center's Visionary Award was presented to KJ Reimensnyder-Wagner at the Fifth 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 sponsored by M&T Bank.



2011's Visionary
KJ Reimensnyder-Wagner

forms to School Age and Preschool children in school settings, summer camps and child-cares. Her "Smile a While...Celebrate You" programs have introduced positive self-esteem through music in funny and thought provoking songs to thousands of children each year.

She has been involved with Camp Victory as both a musical performer and as a board member. Besides her musical performances KJ is part

of the Bradford County Regional Arts Council. She works with the council team to develop methods for using a full scheme of arts activities to stimulate cognitive development in young learners.

M&T Bank's Jim Minniti, Vice President for Business and Professional Banking, stated, "M&T Bank knows the importance of education can never be questioned. And when we all offer our support, we not only help young people today, but we also provide inspiration for tomorrow. We believe that at M&T Bank we understand what's important to our community."

KJ Reimensnyder-Wagner is a motivational speaker and local singer and songwriter from Lewisburg PA. KJ's music and life speaks of positivity and perseverance. She per-

of the Learning Early Network pro-

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Giddy Up! DCDC's Fifth Celebrity Waiter Round Up!

On **Saturday, April 16, 2011**, Danville Child Development rounded up guests for its Fifth Annual Celebrity Waiter, *Rodeo & Races*, while celebrating over 37 years of providing safe, nurturing and educational experiences for children in the greater Montour County area.

Guests at the Celebrity Waiter Event lassoed up some good ol' fashioned cowboy fun! There were ballads sung and lots of hootenanny going on all around with the Danjo Wheelers and the Country Twirlers teaching the guests to square dance. Live music from the Frank Wicher Band added to the evening's festivities. This year's cowboy and cowgirl Celebrity Waiters included: Todd Hopkins, Joyce & Randy Keister, Brian Roup, Peggy Chamberlain Roup, Barb Wert, Fred Gaffney, Amanda Boyer, Tim Bowers,

Michele Boone and Michelle Birk.

This was the fifth year for the event and over \$8,000 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 Ring of Honor, Gold Buckle, Silver Spurs and Bronze Horseshoe levels. A list of sponsors

can be found on page 7.

The 2011 Celebrity Waiter Event was held at the historic Danville Borough Ballroom in downtown Danville.

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

You won't want to miss out on the fun in 2012, so be sure to look for your Save the Date insert in this Annual Report.



Celebrity Waiter Candids



Left: Jim Minniti found something funny!

Right: Waiters Barb Wert and Amanda Boyer take a load off as the event winds down



Above: Danjo Wheelers show guests a spin or two!

Below: Three Caballeros serve up drinks



Above: Celebrity Waiters await their grand entrance



Below: Rick & Rebecca Warren show off their cowboy style



Montour County Advocates for Children Delivers Early Learning Message

In 2010-2011 DCDC's Montour County Advocates for Children (MCAFC) program successfully implemented its goals in reaching out and engaging the community. Some of the highlights from the year included: PA Promise for Children Month, the annual Children's Fair, and Month of the Young Child events. These events were the primary means for reaching families and the community at large regarding the importance of high quality early learning experiences for all children.

By utilizing PA's Promise for Children campaign materials, Learning is Everywhere, Kindergarten Here I Come, and Kindergarten Here I Am activity calendars, MCAFC supported and promoted the importance of the early learning message.

In October, MCAFC promoted PA Promise for Children Month by advertising in the newspaper, providing information at DCDC's Family Fun Night, hosting a "Read S'More" read-a-thon with over 40 families attending, and participating in the Chamber of Commerce Business Expo.

In February over 1,100 participants attended the 21st annual Children's Fair at the Columbia Mall (Photos above). In addition to the 40 early childhood programs participating, Panera Bread donated bagels and coffee for all volunteers, and entertainment was provided by Woody

Wolfe, KJ Reimensnyder-Wagner, Karen Gronsby School of Dance and Pickles the Clown. Students from Bloomsburg University's School of Education Exceptionality and Elementary Education Departments volunteered along with Honor Society Students from Southern Columbia School District. Information specific to Keystone STARS and PA Promise for Children was provided to each attendee.

Week of the Young Child Events were held throughout the Month of April 2011 including Montour County Commissioners proclaiming the "Week of the Young Child. (Photo on right)" Area early learning programs hosted special

visitors during the month including elementary school principals and kindergarten teachers who read the book "Whose Shoes? A Shoe for Every Job" by Stephen R. Swinburne.

In a celebration at the Montour County Court House, Commissioners Jerry Ward, Jack Gerst and Trevor Finn were the guest readers with Jim McClincy the "Singing Mailman" providing the music.

Each child participating in the events received a copy of the book sponsored by Montour County's LEARN Teams. Four hundred books were distributed throughout Montour County.

Danville Area High School Industri-

al Arts students under the supervision and support of Mr. John Petrus built "Building Blocks" for the Mon-



tour County Early Learning Programs to decorate and display for Month of the Young Child. Each block designated a theme pertaining to "Building the Case for Early Education".

A Week of the Young Child Banner, Gingerbread Girls and Boys were displayed throughout the Community, and Children's Artwork displayed in the community.

Children from Head Start, Pre-K Counts and early learning programs participated in visits to Danville School District's Planetarium and Children's Museum. Activities were created and presented by the Danville Area High School students from Beth Mauk's Child Development Class.

MCAFC also provided Professional Development conferences to early learning professionals in November 2010 and May 2011.

The 2011 Kindergarten Transition Night and Teacher Share was a well attended, successful event. Positive collaboration between the Danville Area School District and the early learning community supports the successful transition from Preschool to Kindergarten.



DCDC's BUILDING OUR FUTURE Capital Campaign Donors

\$15,000+

Geisinger Foundation

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Mr. Steve Bevans

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Ms. Sue Boardman

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The Rudnick Family

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DCDC Teacher Earns Associates Degree

Alainia Hartman, graduated in December 2010 with an Associate degree in early childhood education from McCann School of Business and Technology through the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Early Childhood Pennsylvania scholarship program. T.E.A.C.H. not only allowed Ms. Hartman to provide higher quality care to the children she serves, the program also enabled her to stay in a profession she loves.

Ms. Hartman has been a child care professional for nearly 20 years. "I decided to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Education because the field of child care is changing and I felt it would be beneficial to me and to my center. Without T.E.A.C.H., I did not have the financial ability to afford to

attend college and get my degree. T.E.A.C.H. also helped with allowing me extra time away from work to study and complete assignments."

It is well documented that more qualified child care staff translates into higher quality care for children. Severely low wages for child care staff (most make less than grocery store clerks) make it nearly impossible for them to afford necessary education and contribute to high turnover in the field. T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is an early childhood scholarship program designed to improve the education and compensation of child care workers. T.E.A.C.H. accomplishes this by partnering the funds of scholarship recipients and child care programs with grants from businesses, foundations,



and government. By helping to increase professionalism, raise wages, and reduce turnover of child care staff, this public-private partnership brings higher quality care to Pennsylvania's children.

T.E.A.C.H. is administered by the Pennsylvania Child Care Association (PACCA) in Harrisburg. The funds to provide the scholarship are made possible by grants from public and private resources. For more information, visit T.E.A.C.H.'s Website at www.pacca.org/TEACH/index.htm.

Eight DCDC Staffers Recognized at Annual Holiday Party

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.

This year DCDC had several honorees, which Executive Director, Diana Dixon noted how "fortunate we are at DCDC to have so many staff committed and dedicated to the organization and the families we serve."

Deb Servose, Preschool Program Supervisor, celebrated her 30th anniversary with the agency. Rohini Kaneriya was the sole staff person being honored for 20 years of service. Earl Martz and Alainia Hartman reached their 15 year milestones. Michele Jenkins was honored for 10 years with the organization. Steve Bevans, Jen Galada and Jen Hipps all received recognition for the 5 year mark.

From left to right: Steve Bevans, Deb Servose, Rohini Kaneriya, Earl Martz, Michele Jenkins, Alainia Hartman, Jen Hipps, Jen Galada



DCDC is now on Facebook! Keep up with the latest news just by "Liking" us!



DCDC Out & About the Community

DCDC staff participated in several community events throughout the course of the year to promote its programs and awareness of causes near and dear to our hearts.

DCDC's Shining Stars participated in the 3rd Annual March for Babies around Geisinger's Danville Campus on a warm Sunday morning in

early May. The DCDC team of 6 walkers made up of staff, parents and children, raised over \$600 for the March of Dimes.

DCDC also made appearances at both the Danville Spring Fling and the Bloomsburg Renaissance Jam-boree. Early Years Learning Academy staff participated in the 21st

Annual Children's Fair where we provided a hands-on activity for the many hundreds of children that attended.



Grants Help Enrich DCDC Programs

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

Cherokee Pharmaceuticals awarded DCDC a grant for \$3,200 to purchase automatic electronic defibrillators to protect staff & children. Three were pur-

chased—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 tables and chairs for its School Age program and new site. These will be used to provide seating for professional development opportunities for adults.

DCDC also received \$10,000 for its scholarship program from the Degenstein Foundation. This program provides tuition assistance to families in need of high quality child care, who may be on the waiting list for the state's subsidized child care program or slightly above the income guidelines.

2011 Celebrity Waiter Sponsors

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Danville Area Community Foundation
Danville Area School District
Danville Bodywork Center
Danville Borough
Dunkin Donuts
Danville Subway
Eagle Janitorial
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Fisher Auto Parts
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Giant Markets (Bloomsburg & Danville)

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ENDOWMENT DONORS

Fund Total at June 30, 2011:
\$32,373

Ms. Janis Bartholomew
Dr's Cathy Beinlich & Steven Meschter
Dietrich's Dairy Ms. Gail Zimmer

SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTORS

Degenstein Foundation
M&T Bank
Mr. Jim Wilson
Danville Area United Way

PLAY YARD CONTRIBUTORS

Dixon Family
Gordon Family

From the Director

by Diana Dixon, Executive Director

It amazes me to think that just over a year ago, we signed the mortgage documents on a property with the anticipation that it would become the new home for our school age program. It was, and still is, a leap of faith for our board and our staff. One that was not only necessary, but one that has been embraced whole heartedly. Along this first part of our journey we have met and overcome several

obstacles with the assistance of our supporters.

I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank them: our architects at LeFevre Wilk – Jeff, Joe and Teri; our financiers – Jim Minitti and David Brokus of M&T Bank and a few of our key contributors, who bought into this project from the very start—Geisinger Health System, Service 1st Feder-

al Credit Union and M&T Charitable Foundation.

Without their encouragement, advice and support, we wouldn't be knee deep in construction and anxiously awaiting the formal beginning of the next great phase of DCDC's history.

We hope you'll join us for the ride!

Diana Dixon