

DCDC's Annual Report



2012-2013



DCDC Earns National Reaccreditation

Danville Child Development Center's Wall Street Center (DCDC) has been awarded their reaccreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC is the top professional organization working on behalf of young children in the nation. Established 25 years ago, NAEYC accreditation has become widely recognized as a sign of high quality early childhood education. Currently, approximately only eight percent of all

preschools and early childhood programs achieve NAEYC accreditation.

The accreditation came after a two day visit in July, during which the center was assessed by a NAEYC representative.

NAEYC assessed DCDC by 10 different criteria it deems as vital: relationships, curriculum, teaching, assessment, health, teachers, families, community relationships, physical environment, and leadership and management. DCDC received near perfect scores

in all of these areas.

DCDC's Executive Director Diana Dixon said in a press release the program's NAEYC accreditation is the result of 18 months of preparation, which included fine-tuning DCDC's training, policies, and procedures. As part of the preparation, early childhood teachers at DCDC documented their teaching practices and curriculum for a year. Additionally, DCDC updated their handbook and surveyed parents whose children attend the

center, as well as staff.

"We are honored to receive NAEYC's accreditation," Dixon said. "For us, this is an affirmation that we provide an excellent early childhood program. We work to assure that children of all ages in our program are receiving the best education they can, and will be lifelong learners."

DCDC's NAEYC accreditation is good through September 2017. DCDC has been accredited since 2000 and remains Montour County's only accredited child care center.

Preschool Opens & Garden Grows on Bloom Road

DCDC expanded the offerings at its newest site on Bloom Road in 2013-14 with the first class of preschool kids from January to the end of May.

Teacher Beth Nevius welcomed 11 preschoolers to the PA Department of Education licensed class for a creative and educational pre-kindergarten experience. The Bloom Road preschool serves as a preschool-only day from 9:30-1:30 and follows the same curriculum and programming as DCDC's Wall Street preschool. The

class also follows the Danville Area School District calendar.

Also at Bloom Road, DCDC's School Age program saw an increase in enrollment for the fifth year in a row, both after-school and during the full-day summer program.

Growing a Garden (contributing Karen Blackledge, Danville News)

Susan Nunan of Danville came up with the idea for the public to have places to garden after she, Cindy Powers and Marley Dan-

iels, of Danville, started a garden at The Gate House shelter last summer.

After Powers suggested the child development center site, Michele Jenkins, center education manager, was contacted. "She thought it would be a great project for the children so it sort of all came together. Michele found a local farmer who plowed the land," Nunan said.

This is the first year the center started the plots

with the first ones offered to parents of children who attend their centers along Bloom Road and at Wall Street.



Children from the center had worked in their plots. Preschoolers added plants they started from seed. Youngsters in the center's school-age program tended the garden this past summer, Jenkins said.

They worked in conjunction with Memie Christie, nutrition education adviser, at Penn State Cooperation Extension.

By the Numbers

During Fiscal Year 2012-2013 DCDC served the following number of children in the respective areas:

Child Care/Early Years Learning Academy— **273**

Child Care Information Services of Montour County (Subsidy) - **151**

Child Care Information Services of Montour County (Resource & Referral) - 44
Early Intervention (Birth-3 years of age) — **129**

EITC & United Way Scholarships— **20**

Keystone STARS Support:

**DCDC & Bloom Rd
Merit Award: \$26,995**

**Education & Retention
Awards: \$36,600**



Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Erin Fitzgerald, President

Jeff Kay, Secretary/Treasurer

Directors

Renee Beisswanger

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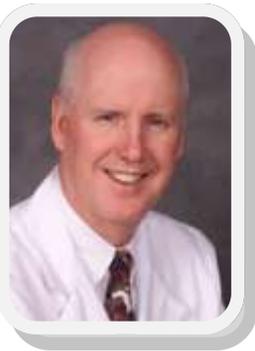
Michael Mertz

Kerri Potsko

Tom Rambo

Erin Winn

Dr. Michael Ryan Honored as Visionary



In its fifth year, Danville Child Development Center's Visionary Award was presented to Dr. Michael Ryan at a reception held at the home of John & Lynn Miller.

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. Again, this year's award was sponsored by M&T Bank.

Dr. Ryan landed in Danville in 1978 to do his residency at Geisinger, and over the course of the past 35 years, has made an indelible mark on young children and families within the Danville community, making him the perfect

candidate for DCDC's Visionary Award.

Professionally, he has been the Chairman of Pediatrics for Geisinger Health System since 1999 and chairman of the Children's Miracle Network since 1991. Under his tenure, the division has grown by leaps and bounds. However, he is the most happy when he is seeing kids! Never failing to answer the call of duty, he even responds to his pager on the golf course and is always caring and attentive to patient needs, even when he just had one or two double bogies!

As the chairman of the Children's Miracle Network (CMN) Telethon at Geisinger, he has demonstrated his leadership, support, and vision for the ongoing miracles that CMN provides. He always treats donors and volunteers with utmost respect, sincerity and gives them the support and recognition they deserve while rolling up his sleeves and working behind the scenes or in front

of the camera.

Dr. Ryan's commitment and dedication to young children and families doesn't stop at the bottom of Academy Ave. With the vision to bring youth soccer to town, Dr. Ryan started the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) for Danville in 1980. Additionally, he coached the Catholic Youth Organization Basketball for the 7th & 8th grades for several years in the mid 1980's.

M&T Bank's Jim Minniti, Vice President for Business and Professional Banking, stated, "M&T Bank knows the importance of putting children first 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."

2013 VISIONARY
AWARD SPONSOR



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Surf's Up! DCDC's Sixth Celebrity Waiter on the Boardwalk

On Saturday, April 20, 2013, Danville Child Development Center's hosted its Seventh Annual Celebrity Waiter Event. Guests were transported to glamorous Las Vegas, enjoying high end entertainment, table games, slot machines and an Elvis sighting while celebrating over 39 years of providing safe, nurturing and educational experiences for children in the greater Montour County area.



With a roll of the dice, Lady Luck, surrounded the guests and assisted DCDC's Building Our Future fund. Live music from Mark Tomeo & Karen Nogle, including a few sing-alongs by our infamous waiters rounded out the evening.

This year's Celebrity Waiters included: Chris Benjamin, Freddi Carlip, Amanda Dunne, Kurt Masser, Chris O'Rourke, Linda Sones and Rebecca Warren.

This was the seventh year for the event and over \$7,000 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 Roulette, Black Jack, Baccarat, Slots and Casino levels. The Central Susquehanna and Danville Area Community Foundations were our premier High Roller sponsor this year. A list of sponsors can be found on page 7.

The 2013 Celebrity Waiter Event was held at the historic Danville Borough Ballroom in downtown Danville.

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

Save the Date for 2014: Saturday, April 12, 2014!



Celebrity Waiter Candid



Despite Funding Cuts, Montour County Continues to Advocate for Young Children

In early July, 2012, it was announced that the LEARN (Local Education and Resource Network) grants were **eliminated from the Commonwealth's budget for the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year.**

After nearly ten years, the program which started as Community Engagement, whose sole purpose was to educate families, businesses, school districts and the general population at large on the importance of high quality early learning

experiences for young children was without funding. However, long before there was monies available to fund this important work, DCDC had always strived to keep high quality early learning at the forefront and get the word out that these experiences were important for children, whether in the home or a child care arrangement.

DCDC, in keeping with our mission to provide high quality early care and educational experiences, continued the work that had been done in prior years through the LEARN team. Spearheaded by the CCIS of Montour County, a subsidiary of DCDC, we were able to coordinate activities that

promoted the message of high quality learning experiences.

During the month of October, PA's Promise for Children Month, the third annual Camp Read S'more took place.

With over 20 families and children present from around the community, guest **reader and Children's Librarian Beth Lynne**, read stories with the children. Smokey Bear also stopped by to talk to the children about fire safety. The evening was rounded out with make and take activities and a snack.

There was plenty of excitement in the Spring, starting with the Week of the Young Child. A banner adorned the elevated crosswalk across Route 54 in Danville calling attention to the **week. Children's artwork** was displayed throughout downtown

Danville from many area early learning programs. Once again, the Montour County Commissioners

entertained a preschool crowd with their reading of **this year's PA One Book, The Bus for Us**, even including a school bus and a fire truck as props. They also issued their annual proclamation for **Montour County's Week of the Young Child.**

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.

Throughout the year, the Danville Area early learning programs, including child cares, Head Start, Pre-K counts and the school district, met monthly to help promote the important work of spreading the message of high quality early learning experiences for young children.



ROAR! Reach Out and Read brings families together at DCDC!

DCDC asked grandparents and family members to bring their talent and memories to their **grandchildren's classrooms**, and they responded with great interest! The first year of the program was a great success!



DCDC's BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Capital Campaign Donors

Ms. Janis Bartholomew

Mr. Ronald Bevans

Mr. Steve Bevans

Ms. Debbie Chinn

Ms. Diana Dixon

Ms. Lynn Hansel

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Annual Holiday Party Honors Four DCDC Staff

This year's Holiday Party was held at DCDC's own Bloom Road site for a change of pace on Saturday, January 18, 2013. The committee had the event catered by Balzano's in Bloomsburg. This year, four of DCDC's veteran staff were honored for their years of service.

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. It's our employees that act as a team that makes DCDC the great community asset we are."

DCDC honored Donna Kroh as the sole 30 year employee, joining 30 Year veterans Joanne Blass and Deb Servose. Amy Cooper-Wolfe celebrated her 15th year with DCDC, and both Beth Nevius and Gina Horne were presented with awards for 10 years each.



2013 Celebrity Waiter Sponsors



DCDC Out & About the Community



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DCDC's staff continues to participate in several community events to raise awareness of all our services, and more importantly to support causes and organizations near and dear to our hearts.

DCDC's Shining Stars once again participated in the March of Dimes annual walk around Geisinger's Danville campus. DCDC's Shining Stars raised \$805, including \$260

from a classroom penny drive.

DCDC also participated in the Spring Fling, Pumpkin Palooza, Geisinger Resident's Welcome Reception and the 23rd annual Children's Fair which had over 900 families in attendance!

This past year DCDC also offered a Father –Daughter Dance to the community with over 40 dads and daughters in attendance.

Our families and kiddos lent their support to Danville's Community Christmas Tree, and Danville's SPCA. DCDC staff also share their time and talent with the Montour County Human Services Coalition, the Press Enterprise's Brighter Christmas committees and the Columbia-Montour Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

DCDC Scholarship Program Grows Through EITC

This year DCDC received \$37,000 in scholarship monies 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, Keystone Insurance Group, and FNB Bank. DCDC provided 16 scholarships to children in Columbia, Northumberland and Montour, Lycoming 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.

2013 Celebrity Waiter Sponsors



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 Color Addiction Salon
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 Danville Subway
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 Dunkin Donuts
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 English Garden
 Erin Fitzgerald
 Erin Winn

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 The Muffin Man
 Tri County Farm & Home
 Unida Pizza
 Weis Market

ENDOWMENT



Fund Total at June 30, 2013:
 \$33,274

Raise the Region Support



\$3,705

Thank You to First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania for the opportunity to participate in this great event!

**SCHOLARSHIP
CONTRIBUTORS**



PPL Corporation
 Keystone Insurance Group
 FNB Bank
 Danville Area United Way

From the Director

by Diana Dixon, Executive Director

Throughout the past year, DCDC has been busy, busy, busy, continuing to grow to better serve the needs of our families and the community at large. January saw the opening of our new Preschool Classroom on Bloom Road, increasing enrollment for the second year straight for our School Age program on Bloom Road, and DCDC submitted a proposal to

the Department of Public Welfare to administer the Subsidized Child Day Care program for three counties. Although we are seeing growth in many areas of our organization, we are working hard on keeping up on our communications with our families and the greater community. Our Facebook page has over 300 fans (at printing)

and through our Constant Contact, we are reaching out to folks at least every two weeks. Links to both our Facebook page and our email newsletter can be found on our website: www.danvillecdc.org

We'd love to add you to our list!

Diana Dixon