A home away from home for our community’s children
Welcome to the West Chester Area Day Care Center!

For 45 years, The West Chester Area Day Care Center has been a leader in providing children a safe, nurturing day care environment combined with a top quality early education program. The Center opened its doors in 1962 in space leased from the Chestnut Street Friends with five children, a social worker/director, three teachers, a cook, janitor and many dedicated volunteers. As more and more families learned about the Center and word spread through the community about the quality care and education it provided. In order to accommodate the increased number of children, in 1969 the Center moved to larger quarters at its current location on Nields Street. The land for the building was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wood, and an aggressive building campaign raised the funds needed to construct a specially designed home for the Center. In 1975 an addition to the building was made to meet the demand for childcare in the community.

Today, 45 years later, the West Chester Area Day Care Center is flourishing and continuing to grow! Our building and “family” includes:

- Current total enrollment of 117 children
- 16 full-time teachers
- 28 part-time staff
- 3 administrative staff
- a chef
- an accountant
- a 10-member Board of Directors
- 8 beautiful, child centered classrooms
- Toddler playground
- Pre-school playground
- Fully equipped kitchen
- Multi-purpose indoor play area

The Center’s mission is providing a quality early childhood education program that helps children to develop emotionally, socially, mentally, and physically in a safe and nurturing environment.

The Center offers affordable child care to all parents, especially those with the greatest financial need.
Greetings from L. Diane Toaltoan, President, Board of Directors

The West Chester Area Day Care Center has been a reliable, stable and caring environment for children in our community since 1962. Our caring and dedicated staff members maintain excellent communication and relationships with our parents. When a need occurs, our staff supports parents by providing helpful information and referrals to other community services that can provide assistance. With such an outstanding reputation in the community, I am pleased to say the Center is at a high enrollment throughout the year.

The Board of Directors, community and staff plan to continue to provide an outstanding educational and modernized facility for our children. Our new strategic plan includes renovating the pre-school playground to create a safer environment where children will love to play and learn. The estimated cost to renovate the playground is $150,000. As you read over our information, please consider how you might be able to help us make these dreams a reality.

Safe and happy children smile more, learn more, and play harder. We keep the beautiful smiles on our children’s faces as we provide them a wonderful, nurturing place away from home. You are welcome to visit our facilities, meet our Executive Director, and review our plans for preparing for our children’s future.

In 2005-2006 we served an average of the following numbers of children in our classes:

- Infant: 8
- PreSchool: 49
- Young Toddler: 14
- Older Toddler: 16
- Before/After School & Summer Program: 17
- Total: 104

“The staff is experienced and eager and the population is diverse enough to include everyone’s culture” -Kim

Our staff and children are an absolutely wonderful, diverse, multi-cultural mix of fabulous individuals.
Greetings from Betsy Billie, Executive Director

Hello! I have been at the Center for over 16 years, 12 years as a Kindergarten teacher before taking on the role of Executive Director. Simply put, I have stayed here so long because it is the most rewarding job a person could ask for, and it has truly been a life changing experience for me. I have four children of my own — two of them still come to the Center with me every day — and I am grateful that they are part of this extended family.

We have a wonderful staff, six of whom have been here for 13-18 years. That kind of commitment and low staff turnover rate is unusual in childcare centers, so why do you find it here? Because we are different! We are a family. We treat the children who come through our center like family, and our parents know this. Our teachers have the experience, education, patience, and kindness to teach children according to their individual developmental needs. This kind of continuity in a teaching staff for young children is incredibly valuable. It provides so many positive qualities, including a sense of security, personalized care, and individualized knowledge that is only gained from personal experience and having a history with a child and his/her family.

Because we are different!
We are a family.

We are proud we have many bilingual teachers and all of the children are learning Spanish at very young ages. Our curriculum is geared to meet our children’s early learning needs, and we help children to stay on an early educational path that is followed through in each classroom.

As you look over our statistics, you will see we are helping those families who genuinely need quality care for their children. Our numbers have continued to grow because our programs continue to improve; we are in tune with the needs of our families and adjust our program to fit their needs. This is how our before and after school programs came to be: our parents had a need and we met it. We work with the Early Intervention Program at The Chester County Intermediate Unit to help identify learning or behavioral needs early on in a child’s life. We provide every child breakfast, lunch, snacks, baby formula, and even special diets if needed. We make sure children receive all required immunizations, an annual physical, breathing treatments or medications.

We are ensuring that our children are not only better prepared for their next educational experience, but also prepared for the rest of their lives by giving them a solid foundation during their early years. The statistics won’t show you the number of hugs, smiles, band aids, diaper changes, works of art or wild dance moves that make up an average day at the Center! So, we welcome everyone to stop in and see the faces of The West Chester Area Day Care Center. It will become obvious very quickly why we are so special and truly a “home away from home” for our community’s children.
What do we do? A home away from home for young children

Meaningful activities … quality education in a warm, supportive, multi-cultural setting … loving care that nurtures and educates … a fun, safe place to go after school and in the summer … a support system for working parents — the Center is all this and much more.

At the West Chester Area Day Care Center we believe that children learn through a variety of ways. Our teachers and staff foster quality learning opportunities, laying a firm foundation that helps to prepare each child for elementary school and ensure readiness for academic success.

Our programs include:
- Care for children aged 6 weeks to Kindergarten
- Before and after school care for children in first grade through 12 years old; we are a bus stop for seven local schools
- Full summer program for children in first grade through 12 years old
- Health tracking to assist parents in ensuring their children receive immunizations and a yearly physical
- Free meals for every child, including formula for our infants
- We use the Devereaux Early Childhood Assessment tool to identify and strengthen every child’s protective factors and build more individualized instruction.

Our infants (6 weeks to one year) receive loving, skilled care that stimulates a wide range of cognitive and physical activities.

Our young toddlers (13 months through 24 months) receive nurturing care that recognizes their natural desire for independence, and includes a variety of learning and play opportunities.

And of course, meals and snacks are the best time of the day! We provide nutritionally balanced, “home cooked” breakfasts, lunches, and snacks, as well as juice, milk, and infant formula and cereal, at no extra charge to parents.

Older toddlers (25 months through 36 months) continue to gain independent skills while being introduced to some basic academic concepts. Through a carefully planned curriculum, children learn a variety of skills such as pre-writing and reading, alphabet recognition and sounds, colors, shapes, and numbers.

Pre-schoolers (37 months through kindergarten) continue to develop valuable academic skills to prepare them for school, with a strong focus on literacy. Writing, independent reading, and book discussions are the core of this specially-crafted curriculum designed to provide a smooth transition to elementary school.

School-age children (first grade through 12 years old) come to the Center before and/or after school, critical times when children need support and supervision. Breakfast, snacks, homework assistance, and just plain fun help children to relax and know they are in a safe, caring place.
**Who do we serve? Children from low-income households**

The West Chester Area Day Care Center specializes in providing quality day care for at-risk children, minorities, and families with limited incomes. Currently 82% of our families come from the West Chester, Coatesville and Downingtown areas. The Center also collaborates with nearby women’s shelters, providing emergency assistance, transitional and long-term care for children coping with domestic violence or homelessness. The warm, caring atmosphere of the Center and our professional staff help these children to feel safe and secure during these difficult times.

**62% of our families have incomes less than $30,000**

- 42% under $20,000
- 23% Undeclared or over $50,001
- 12% $30,001 - $40,000

**73% of our families are headed by a single parent**

- 73% children from single household
- 27% children from married household

**76% of our children are from minority households**

- 24% Hispanic
- 24% White
- 45% African American
- 5% Multiracial
- 2% Asian

**19% of our children come from homes where English is not the primary language; these children gain valuable early experience and education with the English language while attending the Center. Our bi-lingual staff members ensure a smooth transition and help them to gain the necessary skills for success.**
Accomplishments: July 2005 through December 2006

In the last year and a half, the Center has been flourishing and growing to meet the increased need for quality day care for children in the greater West Chester area.

We are proud to share with you our accomplishments:

- Enrollment has been maintained at 100 children or more
- The Center became an established school bus stop for 7 schools, enabling us to better serve working families with before and after school care
- Siemens employees have joined us for the last four years for United Way Days of Caring; in 2006 they helped us with building new sheds, computer maintenance and painting.
- Through our participation with Keystone Stars, a State-wide initiative to improve the quality of day care centers throughout the Commonwealth, our Center maintained a 2-star rating. This rating is a significant accomplishment and shows our dedication and commitment to constant quality improvement. Out of 295 regulated childcare centers in Pennsylvania, only 33 have attained this level.
- The Non Profit Finance Fund in Philadelphia created Facilities and Business Analysis Plans for our Center, helping us to identify and strategically anticipate needed building repairs and increase our financial stability. The Fund also generously provided grant support for the following renovations in 2005:
  - New floors in all classrooms
  - Resurfaced and renovated the toddler playground
  - New baseboard heating in the front sections of the building
  - Paving for our back parking lot

“I love West Chester Area Day Care Center. I came here when I was daycare age and now my son is having the same wonderful experience I had. The staff is friendly and caring to everyone who walks through the door.” - Porsche

“One of the best things my teacher taught me is that I’m loved and that’s why I’m such a happy, confident girl.” - Grace
Our Finances: Balanced budgets and top quality programs

Through the diligence of the Center’s staff, the oversight of the Board of Directors, and assistance from local individuals, foundations and corporations, the Center has experienced balanced budgets for the last two fiscal years. This is no simple task, however.

The board and staff are committed to keeping the Center’s fees as affordable as possible: in fact, the Center is the lowest priced day care center in Chester County. As a result, there is a $928 annual gap between the actual cost of caring for a child at the Center and the reimbursement we receive. At an average enrollment of 100 children, this is a $117,500 annual shortfall that is funded by contributions from the United Way of Chester County and other generous funders.

Income FY 2005/2006

Expenses FY 2005/2006

In FY 2006 we served 60,774 nutritionally balanced breakfasts, lunches and snacks!
Our Donors

Quite simply, our work would not be possible without the support of caring friends in the community. During the period January 2006 through December 2006, the following individuals and organizations made financial contributions to the West Chester Area Day Care Center. Each gift directly and positively affected a child’s life and made it better. Thank you!

Individual Donors

Kenya Barnes  
Francesca Barnes  
Marie Beatty  
Kara & Jeremy Beer  
Gregory & Drema Benson  
Elizabeth Billie  
Stanley Billie  
Joseph & Lorraine Blazewicz  
Gregory & Dolores Cali  
Porter and Harriet Carlson  
Heidi Carlson  
Jim and Cathy Carrigan  
Peter Ceribelli  
Steven Cousart  
Maria Cruz  
James and Mariane Cutrufello  
Alicia Dellario  
M DePaulis  
Kelly Devine-Hollander  
Jim and Linda Diluzio  
Dwayne Divers  
Barbara Donnell  
Louise Edmonds  
Alison Edwards  
Mary Edwards  
Gerald Flaherty  
Carmen Flecha  
Gloria Gagliardi  
Jen and Bill Gerlach  
Karen Gill  
Joyce Hall  
Lucy Haney  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Hanna  
Judith Harris  
Luz Hernandez  
Pete Hobart  
James Horgan  
Paulette Jones  
John & Ladema Keitch  
Mr. and Mrs. Ketchum  
Aja King  
Mr. & Mrs. Krammer  
Sheri and Orlando Lawrence  
Richard & Mary Libutti  
Julie Lojek  
Marie Lord  
Lisa Ann Margerum  
James & Cheryl McCabe  
Frank and Margaret McCown  
Louis & Megan Minella  
Emily Mixon  
William & Therese Mongan  
Delphine Moreau  
Frank and Sara Moretti  
James & Sara Nelsen  
Nicholas Palczuk  
Valerie Peck  
Catherine Prudhoe  
Howard and Krystine Sipple  
Robert & Barbara Smith  
Vincent Stinger  
Gayl & Christopher Sugalski  
Elinor Z. Taylor  
John Thompson  
L. Diane Toaltoan  
Craig Tucker  
Suzanne Tucker  
Gary Weigel  
Jean White  
Michael & Sheila Wildfeuer  
Robert Wilkey  
Helen Williams  
Daniel Williams  
Robert Willis  
Christopher and Susan Wright  
Jennifer Wunsch  
Barbara Zupko

In December 2006 the West Chester Charity Ball generously chose us as one of their recipients. We are incredibly grateful to them for this honor. The ball was held in memory of Senator Bob Thompson who was always a great supporter and friend of our Center. We thank you all!
**Foundation Donors**
- Hankin Foundation
- Non-Profit Finance Fund

**In-Kind Donors**
- Access Group
- Vivian Brison
- Laura Carlson
- Jim and Cathy Carrigan
- Gennine Chendy
- Chester County Cares
- Delaware Valley Children’s Charity
- Steve Denno
- Lena Dodsen
- Lori Duncan
- Fame Fire House
- Christine Figueroa
- Richard Gallo
- Gawthrop Greenwood Attorneys
- General Wayne Elementary School
- Daniel Glavis
- Glenn Acres Elementary School
- John and Lisa Hall
- Jameka Harris

**Corporate Donors**
- Brown’s Commercial Cleaning
- Communications Test Design
- Siemens
- Sunrise Assisted Living

**In-Kind Donors**
- ICD Global
- RaMonia Jones
- Rebecca & Jeff Jones
- Posey Jones
- Melissa Jozeﬁak
- Lisa Khan
- Ashley Libutti
- Wendy Lott
- Brian and Julie McCabe
- Daniel McCown - Make A Difference Day
- Marla Moses
- New Century Club of W.C.
- NGA
- Novak Strategic Advisors
- Penn Wood Elementary School
- Phi Sigma Pi
- Maria Phillips
- James Pizzi

**United Way**

Support from the United Way of Chester County provided essential assistance in bridging the financial gap between the cost of providing care and the income we receive.

- Novak Strategic Advisors, West Chester, underwrote our annual dinner in 2006

- Special thanks to Delaware Valley Children’s Charity, for adopting our children and their siblings during the holidays. In 2006 the Charity provided 145 holiday bags for needy families.

- The Non-Profit Finance Fund has been essential in helping us upgrade our facility. They have provided major financial, technological, and consulting support to ensure a comprehensive plan is in place for our Center.

- The nearby Sartomer Company is a true example of a “good neighbor.” Our friends at Sartomer helped us with book and toy drives, and building our playground. Thank you!

**In 2006 the Chester County Leadership Connection, in collaboration with the United Way, undertook the challenge of assisting us in getting our playground campaign underway. They presented us with numerous materials and a beautiful brochure to promote this project. The pre-school playground is our fundraising focus during this upcoming year. We thank the CCLC for their many hours of hard work and dedication to our Center.**
Our Board of Directors: July 2005 through December 2006

President: L. Diane Toaltung
Vice President: Shari Lawrence
Personnel: Heidi Carlson

Treasurer: Craig L. Tucker
Secretary: Mary D. Libutti

Dr. Michael Bell
Jennifer Bradley
Jim Carrigan

Steve Denno, Playground Brochure Advisor

Our staff: July 2005 through December 2006

Administration:
Betsy Billie: Executive Director
Carmen Flecha: Assistant Director
Polin Arroyo: Administrative Assistant
Michael Wildfeuer: Bookkeeper

Teaching Staff:
Nancy Perez, CDA: Asst. Group Supervisor
Aja King, CDA: Asst. Group Supervisor
Tara Bobinski, BA: Group Supervisor
Valerie Crespo: Teacher’s Aide
Gloria Gagliardi: Asst. Group Supervisor
Regina Smith-Alamo, CDA: Asst. Gr. Sup.
Daniel Williams: Child Dev. Ass. Candidate
Kelly Olsen: Group Supervisor
Megan Salmon, AA: Asst. Group Supervisor
Kelly Magill, BA: Group Supervisor
Mary Edwards, BA: Group Supervisor
Linda Murrey, BA: Group Supervisor
RaMona Jones: Assistant Group Supervisor
Jameka Harris: Assistant Group Supervisor
Jorge Orellana: Chef

As of December 2006 the following staff members have been employed at the Center for 10 years or more:

Betsy Billie, 16 years
Carmen Flecha, 13 years
Gloria Gagliardi: 19 years
Nancy Perez: 15 years
Regina Smith-Alamo: 15 years
RaMona Jones: 10 years
**Our Community Collaborations**

The Center collaborates with numerous local organizations. These working relationships help to ensure we can provide the highest quality care to those who need us the most.

- **Bridge of Hope:** we provide child care for clients’ children
- **Chester County Cares:** provides us with formula and baby food donations
- **Chester County Health Department:** offers educational programs for children and staff training
- **Community Volunteers in Medicine:** we refer families who need medical/dental care
- **Delaware Valley Children’s Charity:** adopt our children in need during the holidays
- **Fame Fire Company:** demonstrations for the children
- **Home of the Sparrow:** we are an emergency care site for clients
- **Maternal & Child Health Consortium:** refers clients to us who need child care
- **NGA:** new clothes, diapers and blankets
- **Salvation Army:** provides us with a variety of supplies
- **West Chester University:** we offer internships for nursing and early childhood education students

“As a parent, I want to share my wonderful experience here at the West Chester Area Day Care Center, a place where I feel really comfortable and satisfied leaving my baby girl because of what service they provide and the peace of mind they offer. Not only that, but they are so dedicated to their work with children, it’s like they operate as a team and treat each other like family.” -Alina

“No other center made life as convenient as West Chester Area Day Care Center. As a working mother it is such a comfort knowing my child will receive meals, snacks and formula. All of this in addition to the wonderful care my daughter receives and, besides being a wonderful place, is the best value in the West Chester area.” -Lisa

“My teachers taught me to speak English and how to be a nice boy.” -Tino
Our Plans for the Future:
Come, Invest in our Future and Share in our Growth!

Building on our strong financial health and track record of providing quality day care for our community children, our next challenge is renovating our facility. Constructed for the Center in 1969, our building has been a welcoming place and a safe haven for thousands of children over the years. Not surprisingly, today, 45 years later, a variety of improvements and renovations are needed to keep pace with the needs of our children today and into the future.

The Non-Profit Finance Fund conducted a facilities survey for the Center in 2005, and helped us to carefully and strategically plan for the needed renovations. The report highlighted numerous areas needing attention; the installation of air conditioning in four classrooms, the offices and the multi-purpose room is currently underway and made possible through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Our focus during the upcoming year includes:

◆ **The pre-school playground** needs to be rehabilitated, with a new surface, fencing and equipment.
◆ **The front entrance and sign** need to be improved, to provide a bright, welcoming entrance for children and families.
◆ **A pedestrian crosswalk with flashing lights** is being investigated for E. Nields Street, to ensure the safety of our children and families, many of whom walk to the Center from their nearby homes.

Also currently underway are the following projects made possible through a grant from the Chester County Department of Community Development:

◆ **Front offices** need to be refurbished to provide a quality work environment for administrative staff and increase security.
◆ **New classroom exit doors** with enhanced security features.
◆ **Closed circuit camera system** for entrances and playgrounds.
◆ **New fencing** for the pre-school playground.

Clearly, these renovations are an ambitious undertaking. To be successful, we will need the assistance of many people who care. People who care that our young children have a safe, nurturing place to go to during their pre-school years, that will also prepare them for school.

West Chester Area Day Care Center
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