



Working Hand in Hand to Change Lives

WESTSIDE
CHILDREN'S
CENTER

ANNUAL
REPORT

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“It would be a disservice to the families with whom we work not to share how deep and searing the repercussions of rhetoric from the national stage are.”

Westside Children's Center (WCC) is stronger than ever. Our early education center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC); and all of our programs and administrative infrastructure has been recognized by the Council on Accreditation (COA) as implementing the highest performance standards and, as such, delivering the highest quality services to all of our stakeholders. Our staff is dedicated, strong and diverse – 89% are people of color. That dedication to the families with whom they work was called out by COA reviewers who commended WCC on the high quality of our entire team, repeatedly highlighting their palpable enthusiasm and profound commitment to going above and beyond in their work. And after embarking on a strategic planning process last year, we are poised and eager to continue our progress, with a sharpened focus and renewed commitment to refining and recalibrating along the way.

Amidst all of this good news, I find it necessary to provide vital context. Even though we are all inundated with political news (and one of the wonderful things about our mission is it is truly bipartisan: All children need a childhood. We bring together and strengthen families, cultivating conditions for children to succeed in life), it would be a disservice to the families with whom we work not to share how deep and searing the repercussions of rhetoric from the national stage are.

Our work is concentrated in two areas: families and education, specifically early education of the developing brains of very young children. Our leadership has long maintained that strong families and educational opportunity for all are two irrefutable pillars of societal stability and progress. Westside Children's Center is in the business of dismantling systemic barriers for those facing discrimination and hit hardest by persistent poverty; we do this by strengthening

families, building community, and working toward educational equity. We work with thousands of the most vulnerable families who, daily, navigate disorganized communities, face domestic and community violence, and stave off the feeling of being overwhelmed that accompanies living under circumstances that can interfere with their ability to provide for and care for their children. WCC's stock and trade is building a sense of belonging-- to a family, to a community -- through secure attachment (trust in the presence of a consistent, loving, responsive caregiver), healthy transitions, and reduced isolation.

This is the work we do and the context in which our families live, a climate that has become more volatile and fraught with an even higher sense of anxiety because of the times in which we live: a time when our President has called Mexican immigrants rapists, and attacked a judge over his "Mexican heritage"; a time when U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is targeting undocumented immigrants with no criminal records, conducting raids in homes and near schools, churches, workplaces, and shopping centers. These events have heavy repercussions for

WCC's children and families. (See Pages 4-6 for the story of one WCC family facing this uncertainty). Further, when President Trump tweet-pronounces that transgender service members will be banished from the U.S. military, that affects our sense of community, too. In Los Angeles County, home to the nation's largest population of foster youth, approximately 1 in 5 identify as LGBTQ. Because of these daunting statistics, California recently enacted a slate of child welfare reforms that make explicit the dire need to recruit more diverse

“Westside Children's Center is in the business of dismantling systemic barriers for those facing discrimination and hit hardest by persistent poverty.”

and supportive families to meet the needs of this disproportionately high number of lesbian, gay, gender-nonconforming and transgender children in the foster care system.

Irrational fear mongering that divides us as a people has very real ramifications for the children and families with whom we work.

It violates the founding ideal of our country: human equality and that we all benefit when all have the opportunity to reach our full potential. WCC has been committed to that aspiration, striving to make MLK's "beloved community" a reality, since our inception. The generosity of our donors stems from a commitment to honor the human dignity and potential of every child. Our team's commitment and dedication, day in, day out, to working with families already living under discriminatory, racist, and other societal barriers are all in the interest of creating and being part of a more just and fair society. As difficult as these times are, these are also times that present an opportunity for us as an agency to recommit and double down on the work we do. Thank you for being a part of our beloved community.

Heather Carrigan

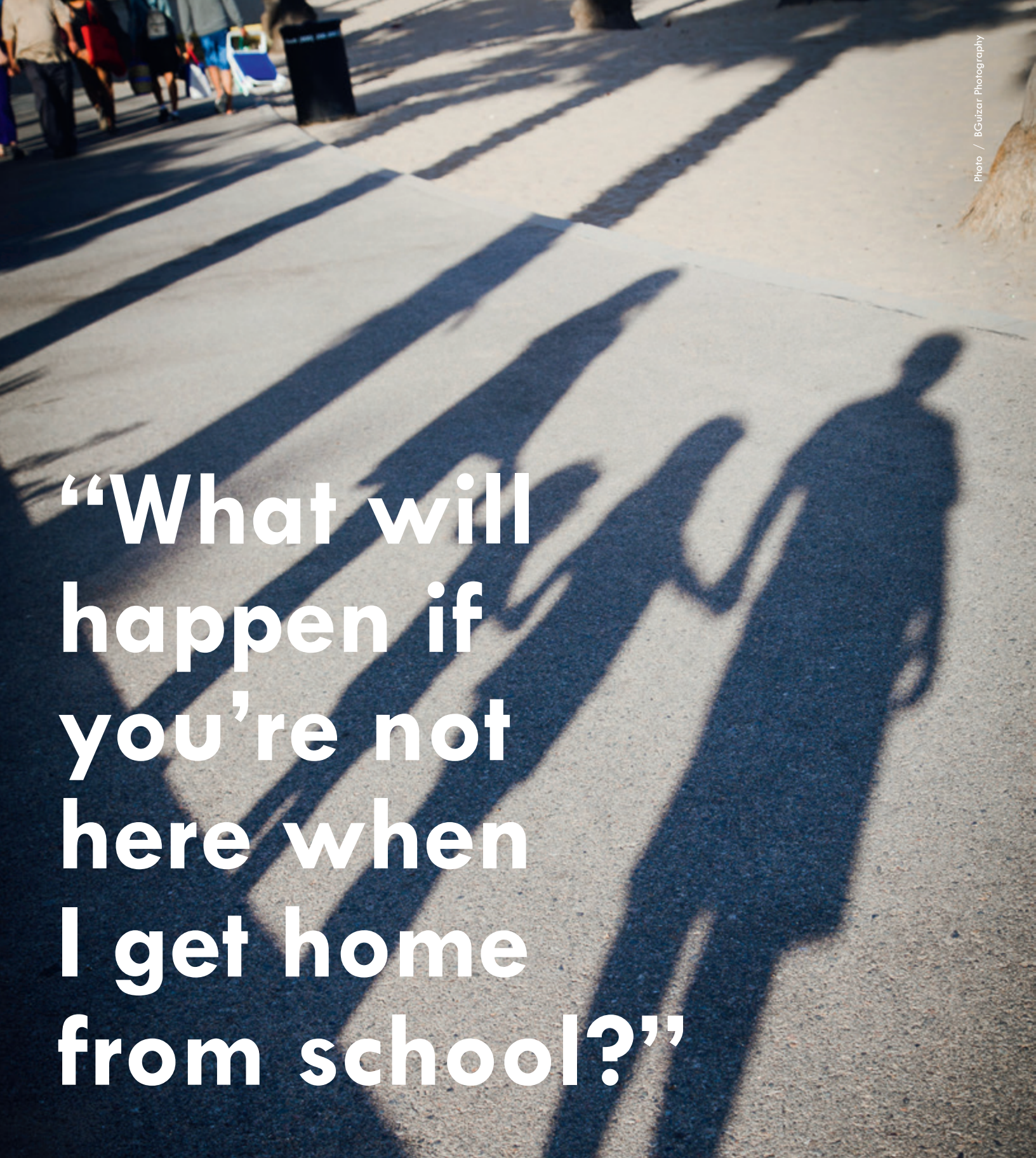


Photo / B Guizar Photography

“What will happen if you’re not here when I get home from school?”

Uncertainty about the future of federal immigration policy and acrimonious rhetoric coming from the nation’s top office have left immigrant communities in a barrage of chaos and fear.

Grace and Tony Ramirez* are undocumented immigrants. Their five children, ages 3 to 14, are American citizens. They are part of the nearly 9 million people in “mixed status” families (families with both U.S. citizens and non-U.S. citizens) in the United States, haunted by recent changes in federal immigration policy and a persistent fear that a deportation order will tear them apart.

Their two youngest children are part of Westside Children’s Center’s network of contracted family childcare providers, which provides full day, year-round early education, and more recently, a supportive ear to buffer the toxic stress that chronic fear engenders. The uncertainty of immigration enforcement and the racially-charged rhetoric openly used in the press have left the Ramirez’s wondering what toll the constant fear of deportation will exact on their kids.

The Ramirez’s came to the United States from Mexico more than 14 years ago with a dream to work, own a home, raise a family, and become legal residents, giving their future children opportunities they felt they wouldn’t have living in Mexico.

For now, that is a dream deferred.

Since the new administration took office in January, immigration-related arrests have increased nearly 40% compared to the same period last year. While arrests have increased, the capacity of immigration courts has not, creating a backlog of nearly 57,000 cases in Los Angeles alone, and leaving more people languishing in detention centers or jails for longer periods of time.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have abandoned the previous administration’s policy of targeting only those with violent criminal records, creating a new dawn of enforcement that led one veteran ICE agent to decry, “we’re targeting the most vulnerable people, not the worst.” Increasingly, arrests are happening in homes, workplaces, and in the streets, engulfing immigrant communities in a haze of chaos and fear.

“There’s been a shift in how people think they can talk,” Grace said. “It’s like a wound that has been closed up for a long time, that’s been opened. He gave them the opportunity to act on that racism.”

The children and families living in these neighborhoods are also part of our WCC community. Recently, WCC staff have witnessed a dramatic uptick in alarm among our clients, working to both connect families with legal resources, and to allay the repercussions that stress and uncertainty have on young children during critical periods of development when they’re making judgments about whether or not the world is safe. In response to overwhelming client interest, WCC staff organized a presentation by legal experts at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

in April for a frank discussion about what to expect when nothing is certain in American immigration policy.

Fear has completely changed the Ramirez’s routine. Every time they venture out the door is calculated risk, only leaving the house when, “absolutely necessary,” a definition so stringent that until recently, didn’t even include trips to a doctor’s office. Glimpses of police driving by or social media rumors of immigration checkpoints keep the Ramirez family in a purgatory of perpetual dread, fearing that one day they will get a knock on the door from ICE.

Grace says they have also noticed a dramatic change in the social tenor toward undocumented immigrants, and towards all people with a skin tone similar to theirs, since the presidential election.

“There’s been a shift in how people think they can talk,” Grace said. “It’s like a wound that has been closed up for a long time, that’s been opened. He gave them the opportunity to act on that racism.”

Even in oft-considered ‘tolerant’ Los Angeles, the Ramirez’s have still been target of the same xenophobic rhetoric that laced the presidential campaign. Their older children – American citizens – have repeatedly gotten comments of the nature, “go back to Mexico” or, “this country is for white people” at their middle school in Marina del Rey. After her son was the target of a recent incident of verbal abuse after school, Grace considered speaking to the boy’s parents, but feels it’s now best to keep her head down.

Grace says the most difficult part is treading the fine line between being honest with their kids about the risk of deportation, and instilling a crippling fear in them that ends up defining their

“They are often families like the Ramirez’s, who have been here for decades and developed deep roots in American society, woven into the local businesses, schools, churches, sports leagues, and social gatherings that make up the identity and economy of Southern California.”

childhoods. In her own words, “it hurts my soul” when her kids come to her, crying, with questions like: “what will happen if you’re not here one day when we get home from school?” And they have a plan. “I understand that we’re not the only family with problems,” Grace said, fighting tears. “But we came to this country with a dream to work hard and be together. My fear is that I’m going to leave with nothing, including my kids.”

Grace says she’s so grateful to WCC for everything they’ve done for her two youngest children, but above all, for being a trusted ally.

“WCC is always an open door. They’re very supportive and they’ve become part of our family,” Grace said, using an idiom in Spanish (“Ustedes son como un grano de arena en medio del mar”) comparing the agency to a special grain of sand among all of the sand in the ocean.

Rhetoric around immigration in the United States often can make undocumented immigrants feel like theoretical people who can be removed one-by-one with no collateral damage. But in reality, they are often families like the Ramirez’s, who have been here for decades and developed deep roots in American society, woven into the local businesses, schools, churches, sports leagues, and social gatherings that make up the identity and economy of Southern California.

When asked how she copes with the fact that the knock on the door could come at any time, Grace underscored the strength and resilience of the community around her. “It’s important to be united and not afraid,” Grace said, admitting that’s easier to say than do.

**names have been changed to protect their identities.*

Photo / BGuizar Photography



Understanding the Impact of Trauma and Neglect on the Developing Child

As part of Westside Children’s Center’s ongoing commitment to mitigating the deleterious effects of trauma, abuse, and neglect on child development, WCC partnered with Children’s Hospital Los Angeles to host Dr. Bruce Perry, M.D., Ph.D., for an all-day presentation highlighting his groundbreaking work in infant/early childhood mental health.

Dr. Perry is a world-renowned child psychiatrist and child trauma specialist whose work has been instrumental in describing how childhood experiences, including neglect and traumatic stress, change the biology of the brain – and, thereby, the health of the child.

WCC staff, Early Head Start providers, local community partners, and CHLA clinicians enjoyed an enlightening

day of instruction, research, and tales from the field from Dr. Perry’s near 30-year career. Dr. Perry shared practical applications of his neurobiological research for clinicians and therapists to incorporate into their daily practice with children and families.

Dr. Perry pioneered the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics, a developmentally sensitive, neurobiology-informed approach to clinical work, education, and caregiving. He is currently the Senior Fellow at the ChildTrauma Academy and has authored numerous books and more than 500 academic journal articles in child psychiatry.

Thank you to Early Head Start, the Stein Tikun Olam Infant-Family Mental Health Initiative, and Children’s Hospital Los Angeles for helping to create such an informative day of training.



Dr. Bruce Perry and WCC Chief Program Officer Erika Hartman, LMFT



Early Head Start:
Navigating
New
Beginnings

When Jailah became pregnant with her daughter Rheigan – unemployed, alone, and 3,000 miles away from her family – she knew she needed help.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Jailah moved to California seeking an environment with a more progressive attitude towards the LGBT community, with which she identified. But with a baby on the way, she was at a loss to handle a new life and her new role as a mother alone.

Jailah reached out to Westside Children’s Center (WCC) after seeing a flyer for our home-based Early Head Start (EHS) program. The program offered just the kind of support that she was seeking -- intensive weekly visits from a home educator to help nurture child development and quarterback life’s persistent challenges, plus twice-monthly socializations to ward off the deleterious effects of social isolation and cultivate community among WCC families.

Jailah and Rheigan began working with WCC Lead Home Educator Virginia when Rheigan was just four-months-old. As a new mom without a sturdy network of support, Jailah shared that she “didn’t even know where to start.” Virginia and Jailah worked together to fortify Jailah’s strengths and build the skills and confidence required to face her challenges. Together, they navigated the complexities of health insurance and affordable housing. They built Jailah’s resume and sharpened her interviewing skills to land a job with regular hours and steady pay at the Department of Motor Vehicles. They problem-solved together when a utility bill was late or when Rheigan needed a new car seat. For Jailah, Virginia’s supports were a warm embrace, with no challenge insurmountable and no frustration too trivial for a venting session. As Jailah described Virginia: “she was relentlessly positive.”

What struck Virginia most about Jailah and Rheigan during their nearly three years together was their appetite for learning, diving headfirst into every activity that Virginia suggested. To develop Rheigan’s fine motor skills, they painted, mixed up “clean mud” to make mud pies, built block homes, and shook maracas. To hone STEM capabilities, they measured ingredients



for homemade playdough and created ramps to experiment with gravity. They read stories, sang songs, and learned to use words to communicate emotion. There was nothing too messy, too noisy, or too onerous for Jailah when it came to Rheigan’s development.

“We were her guinea pigs,” Jailah said. “I didn’t care if it was going to be extra work or more clean up, I wanted Rheigan to have every experience available to her.”

Virginia recalled an instance of finger-painting gone rogue, when Rheigan

decided that everything, including the refrigerator, could be a canvas. Virginia caught the petite Picasso in the act and cringed at the thought of telling Jailah that her previously white refrigerator was covered in black paint, but was relieved when Jailah laughed and chalked it up to the process of parenting a toddler.

“It does get overwhelming sometimes and I don’t want to do just the bare minimum,” Jailah said. “I want Rheigan to value education and want to always do more. If I can instill that in her, it will all be worth it.”

Knowing that a supported, socially-connected mother is a stronger mother, Virginia made sure that not only was Rheigan hitting her developmental milestones, but that Jailah was growing as a person as well. In addition to “just getting my life together” as Jailah puts it, she also quickly developed into a leader in her WCC peer group. By her second year in the program, Jailah was elected Parent Council Representative, a move she felt empowered by as an LGBT, single-mother. Jailah is now a fierce advocate for her daughter, ensuring that Rheigan takes advantage of every opportunity to learn and grow.

Rheigan is a flourishing five-year-old who continually impresses her kindergarten teachers. She sings songs in Spanish and is quick to show you her favorite filters for a Snapchat selfie. Though Rheigan aged out of WCC’s home-based EHS program, Jailah and Rheigan still consider Virginia an irreplaceable member of the family with permanent invitations to birthday parties, holiday gatherings, or just a pop-in whenever she’s in the neighborhood.

“WCC was such a huge part of our lives.” Jailah said. “Virginia was there for the good, the bad, and the everything. She will always be a part of our family.”

Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Clinical Internship Program

For babies and toddlers, the world is their science laboratory.

Each new interaction is a chance to test out a hypothesis about how the world works, and what to expect from relationships with others. Every experience in the early years helps mold the architecture of the brain that ultimately ends up defining our worldview. However, if the first years of a baby's life are traumatic, trauma and chaos become their norm, and these babies grow into adults who gravitate towards relationships and situations that engender this same familiar chaos.

Despite this critical flurry of brain development when children are very young, relatively little attention is given to repairing pathways formed during trauma. That's all changing thanks to Westside Children's Center's new Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Clinical Internship Program, launched in 2015 thanks to generous seed funding provided by the Tikun Olam Foundation.

While the term, "infant mental health" still conjures images of a baby lying on a couch for many, the reality is very different. As child development expert Dr. Stacey Mizokawa describes it, infant mental health is a focus on strengthening relationships between young children and their parents during the critical period between birth and three-years-old when the majority of brain development occurs.

"You're trying to preserve the baby's idea that relationships are safe," Mizokawa said.

According to Mizokawa, strong relationships between caregiver and child are the best antidote to the environmental and genetic stressors that children face when growing up in extreme poverty.

Though the research behind infant mental health isn't exactly new, it's still an underrepresented specialty in the

mental health field, and currently is still not taught in most graduate schools. WCC's clinical internship program offers a unique training ground for graduate students in social work and marriage and family therapy who are interested in the specialty to train under Dr. Mizokawa and WCC clinical staff, and provide direct therapy to clients under close supervision.

Through the internship program, children and their families at WCC are offered a screening designed to detect traumatic events (e.g.: domestic violence, substance abuse in the home, sexual abuse, parents who spent time in prison, etc.) during childhood. For those who have experienced high levels of trauma, tailored therapy is provided. Therapy is a parallel process between parent and child, with interns quietly observing their interactions and videotaping the exchange to play back and discuss. According to Mizokawa, ultimately you are looking for parents who provide warm, responsive exchanges where they recognize their baby's cues, and respond accordingly to meet their needs.

“Strong relationships between caregiver and child are the best antidote to the environmental and genetic stressors that children face when growing up in extreme poverty.”

"Of course we all have days where we can't do it," Mizokawa said. "But you're looking for consistency over time. Does that child know that their needs will be met?"

In addition to dyadic therapy, the internship program has also infused the science behind infant mental health across all programs at WCC, providing addi-

tional support to any client at WCC who feels they would benefit from services.

In WCC's early education programs, interns host small groups of young children each week to model positive interactions, make playdough creations to help talk about what makes them sad or happy, or go on scavenger hunts to practice listening and being valued for their input. With older children, they assign colors to feelings and create colorful pie charts, explaining why they chose yellow or periwinkle that day. Interns also host parenting group therapy, providing supports for dealing with challenging behaviors or guidance on meeting developmental milestones.

Ultimately, the internship program has provided more than just an increase in direct services to clients, it has fundamentally changed the lens through which WCC staff approaches direct service. Across all programs, there is a deep understanding that trauma can be treated, and the time to do it is now.

"There's still this thinking that babies aren't very aware, or that they don't do much, which is totally wrong," Mizokawa said. "Babies are like little scientists doing experiments all the time trying to figure out the world around them. The infant mental health world honors and recognizes what babies are capable of doing, and recognizes that this is the best time to intervene."





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BIG HEARTS of Summer 2016

Philanthropists and WCC supporters from across Los Angeles came together for a beautiful evening at the Beach Club in Santa Monica on Wednesday, May 4 for Big Hearts of Summer 2016 -- hosted by event co-chairs Carla du Manoir, Jennifer Nordstrom, and Patty Penske. The event raised more than \$500,000 to support WCC's high quality early education, child welfare, and foster and adoption services. WCC is so grateful to have such wonderful stewards and donors with such big, generous hearts.



22nd ANNUAL CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL

On a scorcher of a fall day, hundreds of children and families came together to learn, create, play and grow at our 22nd Annual Children's Arts Festival on Saturday, October 10, 2015. Kids and parents enjoyed painting flowerpots, planting flowers, striking silly poses in the photo booth, scaling a towering rock wall, and reading together in the literacy center. Families also got to take advantage of some great medical, nutrition, and mental health resources from our community partners, including Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Venice Family Clinic, and Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services. WCC also raised nearly \$90,000 to help support our vital, high-quality services. Thank you so much to our families, volunteers, donors, and staff for making Children's Arts Festival such a success!

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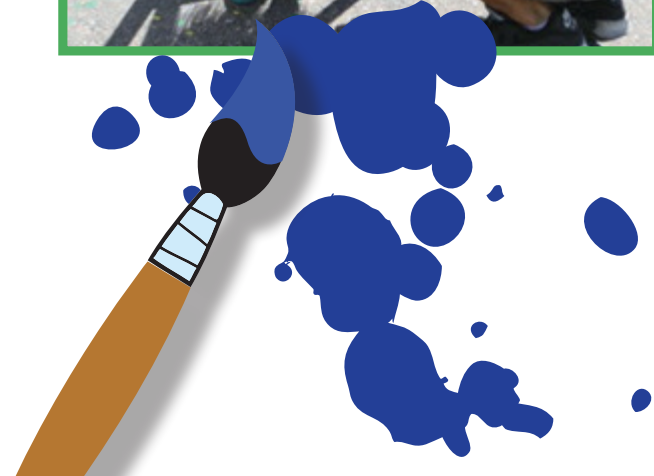




Photo / Photography by Bailey

Learning to Love the Dentist at WCC's Virtual Dental Home



Tooth decay is the number one chronic illness among children in the United States, with almost 40% of children developing at least one cavity by the time they reach kindergarten.

But dental care is often an afterthought for very young children and toddlers, especially among low-income communities. Prior to the pilot of virtual dental homes in California in 2011, only half of children age 2-11 saw a dentist annually.

Westside Children's Center is hoping to reverse this trend, collaborating with

Venice Family Clinic to bring a virtual dental home to our Early Education Center, hosting certified dental hygienists onsite to look after children's pearly whites. Launched in 2013 through a pilot program with Early Head Start, children are offered dental care with a certified dental hygienist every six months. Hygienists perform routine cleanings and even address issues like small cavities, and make kids feel comfortable and excited about their first experiences with dental care. Dental records are then emailed to a dentist, who reviews them for more serious

issues that may require a referral. The partnership has been so successful, Virtual Dental Home is now set to expand to our contracted network of family childcare providers, increasing the number of WCC children that the program can accommodate.

Thanks to a partnership with Early Head Start, First 5 LA, Venice Family Clinic, University of the Pacific and The Children's Partnership the virtual dental home is able to keep our children's smiles' shining bright.

A REASON TO CELEBRATE

Michael and Nick have always had a lively home.

The couple often hosted holiday fêtes, birthday soirées, and summer movie nights in their backyard, filling their home with laughter and merriment. But after marrying in Ireland in 2012, both knew that there was someone missing from the festivities.

Enter Miguel.

Miguel was placed in foster care at birth like the tens of thousands of children who enter foster care each year due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Michael and Nick first met Miguel at a foster support group at Westside Children's Center, when he was 4-months old and they were eager to become new parents. The connection was instant.

Miguel is now a 2-year-old dynamo. He's quick with a smile or an offer to



share his half-eaten lollipop, and has an unmistakable twinkle in his eye that suggests he views life as a stage. Just like his parents, Miguel loves to entertain. At a recent summer movie night showing in the backyard, Miguel not only stayed awake for the entirety of *Singing in the Rain*, but he also enhanced the showing with choreographed dance moves of his own throughout the film for dozens of guests. He loves music videos, with Selena Gomez and Taylor Swift on heavy repeat. Michael and Nick plan to give Miguel lots of co-stars, already fostering two

other children through WCC. They're both incredibly grateful to the agency for the support and guidance throughout the entire foster and adoption process, and have remained engaged on almost a daily basis.

"We tell all our friends thinking of fostering, 'you need an FFA*. We've got a great one.'" Michael said. "It makes all the difference to have someone who's impartial, but on your side emotionally to get you through the system."

When people remark that Miguel and his foster siblings are lucky to live in such a warm, inviting home, bustling with love, activity, and a treasure trove of toys, Michael and Nick are quick to point out that they are the ones who are lucky.

For this new family, the party is just getting started.

**Foster Family Agency*



FALL CELEBRATION DINNER



Hundreds of children and families enjoyed a delicious feast and festive fun during one of two annual celebrations prepared by longtime partner Windward School students

and parent volunteers. These celebrations featured a smorgasbord of food and treats, cookie-decorating stations, arts and crafts, games, community resources for families.

FAMILY PORTRAIT DAY



More than 300 children attended our semi-annual family portrait day hosted by Windward School. Everyone looked dashing, collecting a few timeless keepsakes for the family photo album.



Children at our Early Education Center spent a week in October celebrating the fall harvest season, using STEM concepts and literature to examine pumpkins, explore new colors, and relish in the cornucopia of culinary delights that accompany the season. On the final day, students and parents attended a costumed jubilee, decorating cookies, painting pumpkins, and digging for seasonal treasures at sensory exploration tables.



THRIVING THROUGH LITERACY



The Junior League of Los Angeles brought the jungle to Westside Children's Center, hosting a safari-themed Thrive Through Literacy event around the book, "Giraffes Can't Dance". Children created animal masks, indulged in healthy jungle snacks, and had a dance party, proving that we all can dance when we find music that we love.



VOLUNTEERS 2015/2016

You support our teachers, organize supply drives, staff events, care for our organic learning garden, raise much-needed funds, and so much more – we couldn't be more grateful.

Thank you for your continued dedication to WCC!

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- Sandra Carsillas
- Zoe Cavnar Lewandowski
- Selina Cervantes
- Mark Chaffee
- Jill Chapin
- Terry Chapin
- Rachel Chasalow
- Martha Chavez
- Gilbert Chung
- Linda Chretien
- Audrey Church
- Vanessa Clayton
- Jeff Cohen
- Jackie Collins
- Sydney Collins
- Quntin Concoff
- Keira Cook
- Evan Coons
- Will Coons
- Abigail Corong
- Cristina Cortez
- Julia Cotsen
- Diana Crews
- Alyssa Crowley
- Izzy Cuevas
- Terry Delvoye
- Kamila Damauandi
- Marie Daniel
- Dhembia Dennis
- Quincey Dern
- Ella Diamond
- Terra Dominguez
- Alexandra du Manoir
- Julia Dworkin
- Davida Eick
- Maddy Eidinger
- Cate Elson
- Caroline Espinoza
- Serena Ettinger
- Lauren Factor
- Jon Flumenbaum
- Liz Foster
- Jacob Frank
- Carol Franklin
- Teagan French-Saleh
- Ruth Furst
- Frankie Gallagher
- Sammy Gamez
- Sage Gelbard
- Charlotte Gendler
- Chyna Gern
- Gemma Gerst
- Kirsten Getzelman
- Simon Gilbert
- Audrey Goldenberg
- Berkeley Goldschmidt
- Lorena Gonzalez
- Jasper Gough
- Chloe Gradilla
- Matthew Grey
- Amy Griffes
- Irma Grillen
- Susan Guerin
- Brayden Hagle
- Sara Hallowell
- Hayley Harris
- Shanti Haskin
- Christine Healy
- Elodie Hekimian Bragan
- Emily Hertzberg
- Ryan Hill
- Joy Ho
- Ann-Marie Hobbs
- Jim Holmes
- Chloe Hopkins
- Sherry Hsu
- Morgan Humbert
- Lora Hunter
- Phoebe Hurwitz
- Mason Ishida
- Kristen Jabson
- Cooper Jackson
- Caroline Jacobs
- Russell Jacobs
- Ella Jacobsen
- Eli Jane
- Tara Jensen
- Lakeisha Jerry
- Hatcher Johnson
- Jena Jones
- Marion Joy
- Sabrina Kaedashian
- Luca Kalischers
- Sean Kang
- Tierni Kaufman
- Hannah Kekst
- Britland Kenworthy
- Aneela Khan
- Sulina Kho
- Madison Kim
- Samantha Ko
- Sebastian Ko
- Cynthia Koblewitz
- Laura Kors
- Matt Kors
- Camille Kosich
- Sara Krakovsky
- Ava Kramer
- Katie Kramer
- Rachel Ia Porta
- Lisa Lamont
- Cameron Lange
- JR Lebert
- Jaclyn Lebowitz
- Angam Lee
- Richard Leib
- Chandra Lewis
- Charli Lewis
- Lily Liebes
- Cari Lowe
- Nick Lowe
- Nico Mack
- Noak Mack
- Isabel Madison
- Julia Malinow

VOLUNTEERS 2015/2016

(Volunteers from 7.1.2015 through 6.30.2016)

- Patty Marks
- Charlie Martin
- Kayley Martin
- Christie May
- Lauren May
- Walker McGinley
- Heather McKeehan
- Georgia Messinger
- India Militaria
- Hannah Millner
- Hannah Mittleman
- Samantha Molina
- Tess Mollo
- Anna Morales
- Julia Morgan
- Sky Morgen
- Alexis Mowan
- Kaitlin Musante
- Stephanie Navarrete
- Shala Nazarian
- Nila Nevt
- Tessa Nikkhoo
- Claire Nordstrom
- Jack Nordstrom
- Riley Nordstrom
- Helen Obib
- Emily Olsen
- Carolina Ornelas
- Jorge Ortiz
- Leslie Palacios
- Angela Park
- Sara Passe
- Maguire Peach
- Sydney Pizer
- Thomas Poelman
- Oliver Pozil
- Rami Prochilo
- Sam Pumbar
- Daniele Quatararo
- Tiffany Repovich
- Asheton Reynolds
- Ann Rimer
- Jose Rios
- Maria Rodriguez
- Michael Rodriguez
- Emma Rohrbacher
- Ismael Ronpro
- Jared Rubin
- Jesus Ruiz Lopez
- Karly Salisbury
- Georgia Salke
- Kate Salke
- Marisol Sanchez
- Rose Scarilano
- Joanne Scheduling
- Jenna Schiffer
- Erika Schmerber
- Ginger Segar
- Connie Semf
- Elyse Shepherd
- Jean Shimotsu
- Bev Shpall
- Bob Shpall
- Mandy Sidioze
- Julia Siegal
- Susan Silver
- Alexis Silvera
- Ken Silverman
- Vicki Silverman
- Alex Simion
- Matthew Singer
- Kara Smale
- Diego Smith
- Robert Smith
- Kayla Solomon
- Stephanie Sosa
- Casey Spicer
- Cora Stamer
- Linda Stamer
- Lulu Strauss
- Rosie Strickland
- Boden Stringer
- Elaine Struke
- Rebecca Sugarmen
- Emily Sures
- Olivia Swiller
- Hlahla Thwe
- Alex Treisman
- Dareth Trice
- Rachel Upshaw
- Elizabeth Valdez
- Emma Valle
- Julyana Vallejo
- Ernesto Vasquez Lomeli
- Brandy Vernoff
- Vanessa Villanueva
- Jen Villeus
- Nicole Vizo - Carter
- Diane Wade
- Suanne Ware-Doit
- Patrick Warfield
- Elizabeth Warshawsky
- Lee Warshawsky
- Hannah Weil
- Isabella Welsh
- Susan Welsh
- Veronica West
- Suzy Wheeler
- Camryn Williams
- Davida Williams
- Mckayla Williams
- Charnisha Winbush
- Justin Yu
- Rafael Zepeda
- Cal State University, Dominguez Hills
- Cal State University, Los Angeles
- Cal State University, Northridge
- Curtis School
- John Thomas Dye
- Loyola High School
- Loyola Marymount University
- Mount Saint Mary's University
- Park Century School
- Pepperdine University
- The Willows Community School
- UCLA
- University of the West
- USC
- Windward School
- **FY 15/16 Special Volunteer Groups**
 - Agape International Spiritual Center
 - Arts Festival Event Volunteers
 - Book in a Bag
 - Junior League
 - The Goodwill Ambassadors
 - WCC Parents and Families

A huge thank you to the students, parents, and faculty from our school partners for everything you've done throughout the year:

- Argosy University
- Brentwood School

ANNUAL REPORT /

JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016

All children need a childhood. We bring together and strengthen families, cultivating conditions for children to succeed in life. Westside Children's Center (WCC) is dedicated to breaking the cycles of intergenerational poverty, abuse, and neglect by providing high-quality early education programs, interventions for families at risk of abusing or neglecting their children, foster care and adoption services, and a range of critical, integrated supports, including pediatric health consultations, disability screenings and advocacy, bilingual domestic violence classes, mental health services, and more. Using a dual-generational approach, WCC ensures that children have the skills they need to increase their life choices and lead fulfilling lives.

EARLY EDUCATION

Westside Children's Center's early education programs, which include a California State Preschool, an Early Head Start, and an Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership, provide high-quality early education for more than 500 children ages 0 to 5 from very-low-income families at our state-of-the-art early education center, through our network of licensed home-based education providers, and in individual family homes. WCC maintains a low staff-to-child ratio in our inclusive, bilingual classrooms to ensure every child's healthy social-emotional, cognitive, and physical development. Our highly-qualified educators and child development specialists design developmentally appropriate and individualized lessons with a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and literacy focus, and deepen their skills with regular professional development. Children receive a healthy breakfast, lunch, and snack and spend time exploring in our organic learning garden. Our programs prioritize family engagement and involve parents in their children's learning and growth through volunteer opportunities, parent counseling, and access to our comprehensive services.

CHILD WELFARE

WCC has four contracts with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to

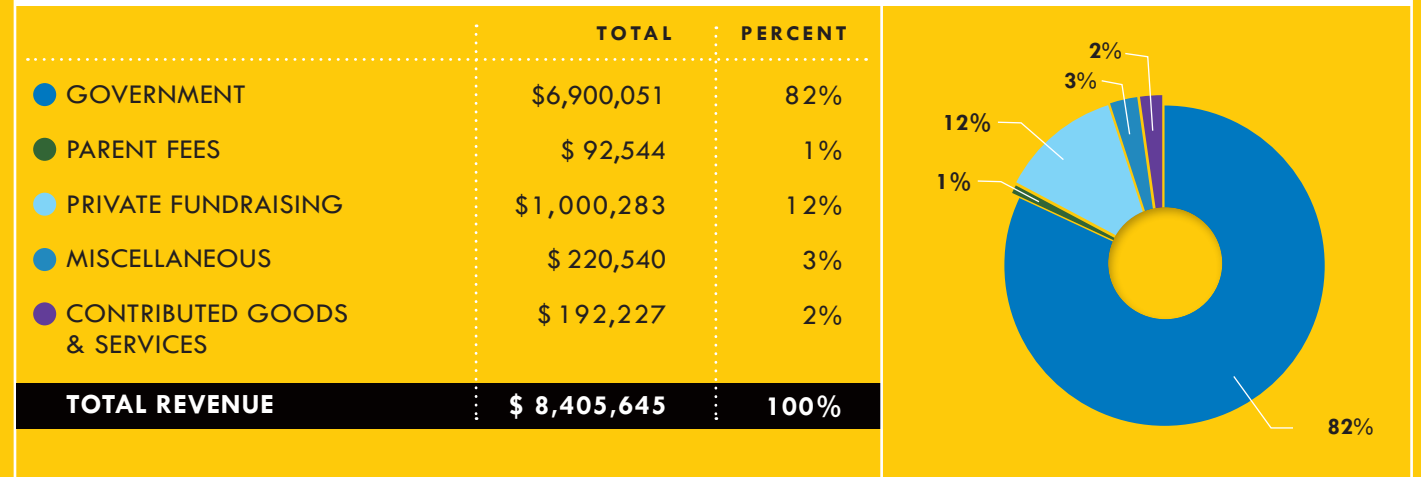
provide intensive Family Preservation, Prevention and Aftercare, and Foster Care and Adoption services to more than 600 families annually. Our highly-trained staff works with families to protect children who have been or who are at risk of being abused or neglected through individual and family counseling, including substance abuse, mental health, and domestic violence psychoeducational counseling; parent-child education; and extensive case management. We also recruit, train, and support loving foster and foster-adoptive parents who create nurturing, educationally rich homes for children of all ages.

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

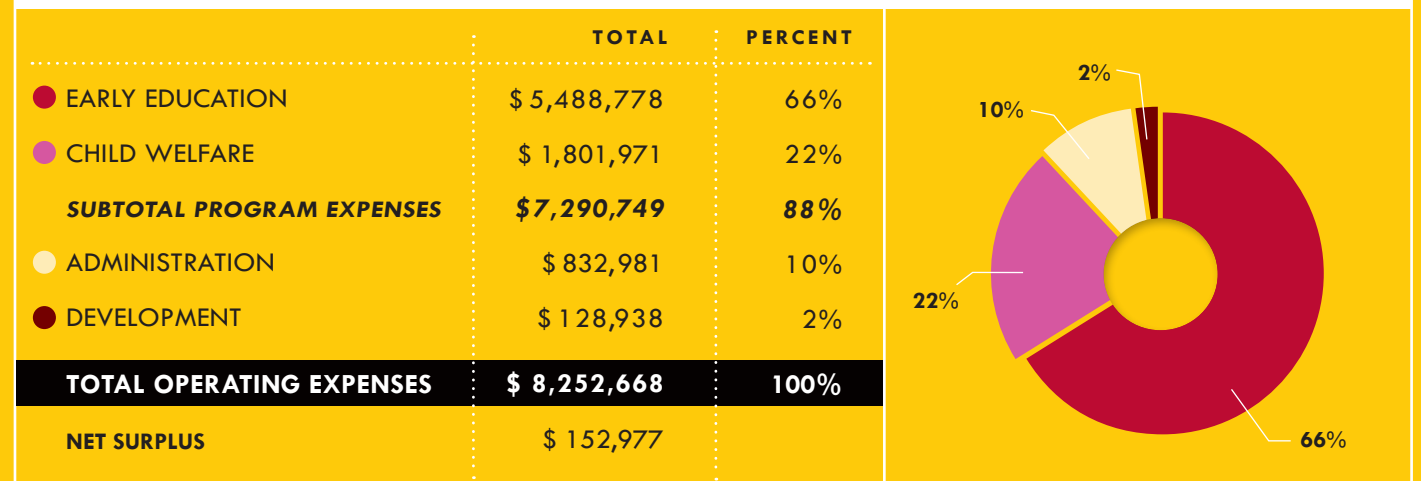
WCC provides all children in our programs with an array of vital, integrated supports, including disabilities screenings and special needs advocacy, pediatric and mental health consultations, trauma screening and intervention, vision and hearing screenings, bilingual parenting and child development classes, workforce development and financial literacy, and access to our full-time public health nurses. We also connect families with other organizations in our robust network of community partners, including Venice Family Clinic, St. Joseph Center and Miriam's House. WCC's dual-generational approach ensures all children grow up with the foundation to succeed in school and life.

JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016

REVENUE 6/30/2016



EXPENSES 6/30/2016



WCC SUPPORTERS

FISCAL YEAR 2015/2016 (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016)

\$25,000 AND ABOVE

- The Atlas Family Foundation
- California Community Foundation
- The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation
- Carla and Gerald du Manoir
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- Karin Larson
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- Anonymous

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- Anonymous
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- Jodi and Ian Weingarten
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- Christina Zilber

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- Denise Avchen
- Stacy and Uri Blackman
- Jill and Paul Brindley
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- Jennifer Blum and Thomas Cotsen
- CPEhr
- Renee Dake-Wilson
- Davita
- Christian Dior
- Shelley and Michael Eisner
- Tricia and Neal Elatrache
- Laurie and Jon Feltheimer

WCC SUPPORTERS

FISCAL YEAR 2015/2016

- Gloria and Art Waldinger
- Faye Waldman
- Annie and Gaines Wehrle
- Liane and Richard Weintraub
- Christine Weller
- Kirk and Shannon Wickstrom

\$500 - \$999

- AC Entertainment
- Association Reserves
- Timothy Bower
- Debbie Adamson
- Airport Marina Ford
- Airport Marina Honda
- Tanaz and Kerry Assil
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- Charmaine Bailey
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- Andrew Harwood
- Naveen Jeereddi
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- Amanda and Christopher Kahle
- Wendy and Joey Klein
- Donald Law
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- Cynthia and Steven Levine
- Cathleen Linder
- Margaret Ann Loesch
- Marlborough School
- Tracy and John Mallory
- Mickey Mandelbaum
- Dahlia and Joseph Merhi
- Lorin and Edward Michaels
- Isabelle Mizrahi
- MOMS Club of Westchester
- Simon Moran
- Mieke and Spencer Neumann
- Sara Newkirk Simon
- Gelila and Wolfgang Puck
- Phil Rodriguez
- Sofa Club
- Suzanne and Brian Selmo
- Deborah Setele
- Linda Stamer
- Michele and Patrick Thibiant
- Laura and Thomas Tippl
- John Valentino
- The Willows Community School
- Lynelle Wagner
- Rachel Weber
- Julianne and Michael Woronoff
- Adele Yellin

*deceased

- Tricia and Bill Flumenbaum
- William and Katherine Garland
- Charlotte Gendler
- Patricia Glaser and Sam Mudie
- Adrienne Grant and Paul Jennings
- Gabby and David Haen
- Penny and Travis Hansen
- Laurie and Christopher Harbert
- Sheri and Michael Hopkins
- Wilson Howard
- Leslie and James Hyman
- Jam Productions
- Mariel and John Joliet
- JP Morgan Chase
- Jo Ann Kaplan
- Giev Kashkooli and Catherine Lhamon
- Leah and John Ketcham
- Kimberley King-Joeckel and Peter Joeckel
- Ann Kronen
- Julie Lee
- Meg and Richard Leib
- Diana and Barry Levinson
- Live Nation Entertainment
- Vicki and Larry London
- Alyson and Ori Marmur
- Vaughan and Nick Meyer
- Andrew Peltz and Jennifer Raines
- PS Business Management
- Heather Pulier
- Amita and Harshith Ramesh
- Bea and Erik Ridgley
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Thank you to our donors!

We also count on the generous in-kind support that helps keep our programs running. Every donation is vital to the work we do. Please feel free to contact us at 310.846.4100.



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WE BRING TOGETHER AND STRENGTHEN FAMILIES,
CULTIVATING CONDITIONS FOR CHILDREN
TO SUCCEED IN LIFE.

Westside Children's Center (WCC) is accredited by the Council on Accreditation. WCC's early education center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). WCC is a member of the California Association of Nonprofits and the California Head Start Association. State of California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division Numbers: Infant/Toddler 197417101, Early Education 197408510 / State Adoption License No. 197804923 / State Foster Care No. 197804924