

EDWARD STREET CHILD SERVICES

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Empowering families and communities to provide quality care to children from birth to third grade through education and advocacy.



edwardstreet  
childservices



# Edward Street is



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

2016 has been a year of change and growth at Edward Street Child Services. We are opening the doors to new possibilities as we welcome new leadership and chart the organization's direction for the next decade. We are excited about the strategic connections and partnerships Edward Street has forged this year.

In 2016 Edward Street Child Services articulated the community's vision for the integrated early learning supports we want for our children and families. *Growing the Heart of the Commonwealth*, our latest publication, solidifies our community's commitment to create a solid foundation for children's growth and learning. It is the centerpiece of advocacy and action moving forward.

We crafted new collaborations with our regional partners, re-imagining how we can connect our resources in new ways to better support young children and their families. Our work with Worcester Reads amplifies our community's message of investing early as organizations, public schools, health professionals, and early education and summer learning programs all share a common goal to engage and empower families. The simple acts of reading, talking and playing are critical building blocks for children's lifelong success.

We also continued our direct work with teachers and the engagement of families with tools and resources to strengthen their own capacity. With support from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation our Master Teacher coaching program expanded its impact in classrooms and across the early childhood field with targeted professional development addressing children and trauma. We hosted our 5th annual Day of Play Family Festival engaging more than 5,000 children and families, expanding corporate investment and sponsorship of this celebratory family event.

Finally, thank you. It is through your partnership that our collective leadership transforms our community and creates the change we seek. Together we can work towards the day that all children open their doors to a world of possibility.

With sincere thanks,

*Thomas Belton*

Thomas Belton  
Board Chair



# Opening Doors...



## OUR MISSION

*Edward Street Child Services* is a private, non-profit agency dedicated to promoting the growth of children and strengthening families by improving the delivery of early learning services in greater Worcester through interagency collaborations, resource development and direct funding of programs designed to address the social, intellectual, emotional, and physical needs of children.



# Opening Doors to 4

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016 – 2017

**THOMAS BELTON**

President  
*Bay State Savings Bank*

**MARC ROBITAILLE**

Vice President  
*Unum*

**DARLENE BELLIVEAU**

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**ERIN CARPENTER, PT, DPT**

*Kennedy Donovan Center*

**GEORGE JOSEPH**

*Morgan Stanley*

**SHARON NUTTER**

*College of the Holy Cross*

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## STAFF AND CONSULTANTS 2016 – 2017

**EVE GILMORE**

Executive Director

**JO ANN BORINSKI**

Master Teacher

**KIM DAVENPORT**

Managing Director  
Birth to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Alignment

**ROSE HAYES**

Director of Special Projects

**DENISE WHITE**

Consultant  
Web/Social Media

**TONI OSTROW**

Consultant  
Administration

**KATY WATSON**

Intern  
Holy Cross - Summer 2016

**LISA MCCARTHY**

Consultant Finance



## ADVOCACY IN ACTION

*Strengthening the birth to age 8 continuum of education and support for children.*

Collaboration is one of Worcester's strengths. In 2015, Edward Street channeled that collaboration into a coordinated and integrated system that supports young children and their families. Edward Street led an initiative to develop and launch an innovative Birth to 3rd Grade Strategic Framework that brings together City officials and stakeholders from business, education, social services, health and mental health, and other key agencies to create healthy, dynamic and positive services and environments in which our children can thrive. The resulting framework, *Growing the Heart of the Commonwealth: Early Alignment for Children's Lifelong Success*, articulates a set of community principles and goals related to early learning, family engagement, health and behavioral health. The framework is galvanizing conversations and planning to align existing resources making new investments for children in Worcester.

## HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Community's Birth to 3rd Grade Strategic Framework**
- **Worcester's Preschool Expansion Plan**
- **School-Community Data Working Group**

# Opening Doors to

## COMMUNITY AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

*Partnering to strengthen families as their child's first and most important teacher.*

Now in its fifth year, the Edward Street Day of Play Family Festival is a one-day festival with more than 40 fun, interactive activities across six play areas which emphasize how young children learn through play. Held at Elm Park, this annual event attracts 5,000 people. A companion monthly newsletter highlighting a dozen activities reaches more than 10,000 families in Central Massachusetts. It takes a village to run an event of this size and we are able to offer the festival free of charge because of the generous support of local sponsors, community partners, and agencies who volunteer their time to make this day a success. Musical performances, art activities, an obstacle course, STEM and early literacy activities entertain participants large and small.

## HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 5th Annual Day of Play Family Festival
- Co-chair Worcester Reads – focused on the importance of reading
- Early Childhood Central – an online resource for families





# Our Community...

PROMOTING LEARNING THROUGH PLAY





# Opening Doors

## PARTNERSHIPS

*Enhancing community collaboration on behalf of young children.*

Collaboration is at the heart of our work. Worcester has a tremendous array of community and cultural assets to apply towards its goals and aspirations, and to marshal to solve problems. Our community-based partnerships convene resources on behalf of young children and are designed to bring a collective voice to children's needs and their family's issues.

Early learning is at the table across a number of projects that more typically center on older youth, graduation rates, and self-sufficiency. Over the past year, Edward Street brought the lens of early childhood and the critical importance of early learning supports for young children to planning efforts across the City. We are advancing a framework for early learning that engages all sectors of our community from schools and organizations, to local government, to health care, to business.

When Worcester's leaders took an in-depth look at the challenges for Worcester teens involved with the criminal justice system, they found a majority of them had experienced or witnessed domestic or neighborhood violence as very young children. This led to an intervention strategy that is highlighting the partnership of Worcester's police and domestic violence prevention service teams to identify young children at a call site and provide supportive trauma response services to the affected family and children within 24 hours. Understanding the impact of early trauma on the subsequent development of young children through resources identified by Edward Street Child Services and the early education and care community is helping our City's public service providers change the potential outcomes for our youth in later years.

## HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Youth Violence Prevention Planning with City of Worcester**
- **Expanded the investment of the community in early childhood mental health services in area preschool to grade 3 learning environments**
- **Connected immigrant and refugee community organizations to education programs and resources**





# to Engagement...

## TEACHER CAPACITY

*Strengthening early learning programs and environments for young children.*

In 2012, with support from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, Edward Street created a bold pilot to strengthen and elevate early educator performance through an embedded Master Teacher. Each year, the Master Teacher has the opportunity to collaborate with new teaching teams, identifying goals to enhance them as professionals. The Master Teacher provides coaching and feedback, modeling, curriculum resource support, problem-solving and in-depth training on identified topics. In 2016, the Master Teacher Project extended its impact to several infant/toddler teaching teams, responding to program partner needs.

The Master Teacher Project's work is highly contextualized. On any given day there are a variety of opportunities to engage and develop educators, none more exciting than when it happens in the classroom – in the moment.

One late September morning, a child approached the Master Teacher asking to learn about bats. Not in the curriculum plan but on target for following children's curiosity, the Master Teacher modeled an exploration with the child. Over the next several days, they explored bats using an iPad, books and conversation. What do bats look like? How many fingers do bats have? What do bats eat? Where do they live? Why are they out at night?...

Soon, more young scientists and explorers joined the investigation. A simple question transformed the classroom curriculum. By week's end the children were using their new knowledge and creativity to share their learning through dance, art, dramatic play, and drawings. The Master Teacher was able to model how to draw on children's interests to develop a rich and meaningful learning experience.

## HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Master Teacher Project enters 5<sup>th</sup> year
- Launched Early Educator Scholarship program
- State and local advocacy on workforce issues



## ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Strengthening the birth to age 8 continuum of education and support of children. Birth to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Strategic Framework.



## COMMUNITY AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Partnering to strengthen families as their child's first and most important teacher. Worcester's City Manager, Ed Augustus reading to preschoolers for Worcester Reads!



## PARTNERSHIPS

Enhancing community collaborations on behalf of young children. Collaboration is at the heart of our work!



## TEACHER CAPACITY

Strengthening early learning programs and environments for young children. Master Teacher Program.



# Opening Doors to

## DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

*Edward Street's partners offer insight.*

“The wealth and well-being of a community is heavily dependent on the quality and range of its educational services. As the Chief Academic Officer for the Worcester Public Schools (WPS), I am proud of the great partnerships we have developed in Worcester to support our families in accessing programs and services. WPS is also fortunate to have the Edward Street Child Services (ESCS) as a partner in our collective quest for improving alignment of services for children from birth to third grade.

Edward Street Child Services brings tremendous value to early education in our community and it has been the driving force behind the milestones and achievements of the Early Learning Advisory Council. I commend the ESCS organization and its leadership team for building excellence within their industry and for their undivided commitment to ensuring that the product of their labor strengthens children's educational experiences and success as they transition into their kindergarten to twelfth grade journey.”

– Dr. Marco Rodriguez  
*Chief Academic Officer, Worcester Public Schools*

“We are grateful for the impact Edward Street's initiatives have on the early education community. There is great work being done for children and families in Worcester, and through the work of Edward Street, we are able to channel our strengths and increase our effectiveness through coordinated efforts. Whether the work is at the State House, in the Superintendent's office or in the classroom, Edward Street is ready to serve.”

– Edward Madaus  
*Executive Director, Guild of St. Agnes*

“Edward Street Child Services is consistently taking the lead to develop and enhance quality education programs for young children and their families in Worcester. Not satisfied with a patchwork approach, their planning and action is comprehensive and proactive. I applaud their efforts to create realistic stretch goals for our community to ensure a better present and future for our youngest residents.”

– Joanne Gravell  
*Family Services of Central MA  
Center for Childcare Careers*



“The YWCA Central Massachusetts has collaborated with Edward Street for many years. With their support we’ve made great strides in aligning early childhood education efforts with kindergarten readiness through a partnership with the Worcester Public Schools. The Master Teacher program has provided tremendous support to our educators by providing coaching and mentoring on a weekly basis, and the annual Day of Play reaches out to the vast community about the importance of play. Thank you to Edward Street for providing the early childhood field with support, knowledge and expertise.”

– Linda Cavaioli  
*Executive Director, YWCA of Central MA*

“Quinsigamond Community College has had a long standing partnership with Edward Street Child Services. Our mutual interests in improving the quality of pre-K education in the City of Worcester has been advanced through the work of faculty from QCC’s Early Childhood Education Program and the professionals at Edward Street. The professional development of early educators as well as a common definition of “Kindergarten Readiness” in concert with the Worcester Public Schools have been but two of the important joint objectives advanced through our collaborations.

Edward Street has been a strong voice for changes in public policy that ensure quality childcare services. As a public agency, QCC attempts to magnify that voice to ensure that state leaders recognize the importance of early education and care in the Commonwealth.

Edward Street was instrumental in forging an Early Education Matters Taskforce in the City which I was privileged to chair for a number of years. This taskforce, comprised of community members, has advanced the agenda for local children, attempting to promote early literacy engagement, health, nutrition and quality of family life issues. Edward Street has been a driving force for education in Worcester in general and a champion for quality education of our youngest residents.”

– Dr. Gail Carberry  
*President, Quinsigamond Community College*



## SPONSORS & FUNDERS

AbbVie Inc.	Seven Hills Foundation
Bay State Savings Bank	Spencer Bank
Coghlin Construction Services Fund	Unibank
Commerce Bank	United Way of Central MA
Coney Island Lunch	Webster Five
DCU for Kids Foundation	Worcester Area Association for the Education of Young Children
George I. Alden Trust	Worcester Arts Council
Greater Worcester Community Foundation	Worcester Family Partnership
Hanover Insurance Group Foundation	Worcester Public Schools
Kruger Family Charitable Trust	Worcester Rotary Club
MA Department of Early Education and Care	

*We also want to thank all of our individual donors, too many to list, that support our annual appeal. We extend our sincere gratitude to all who made a gift during the year.*

## IN-KIND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

African Community Education	Quinsigamond Community College Children's School
ArtReach Studio	Regional Environmental Council
Ascentria	RSVP Volunteers
Autism Resource Center of Central Massachusetts	South High Marching Band
Boys & Girls Club of Worcester	The Southeast Asian Coalition
Child Care Resource and Referral	WGBH
Coghlin Electrical Contractors	Worcester Bravehearts
College of the Holy Cross	Worcester Child Development Head Start
Crocodile River Music	Worcester Fire Department
Family Services of Central MA	Worcester Historical Museum
Hanmi Tae Kwon Do Center LLC	Worcester Music Academy
Latino Education Institute	Worcester Public Library
Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook	

EDWARD STREET CHILD SERVICES, INC.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

**ASSETS**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Current</b>		
Cash	23,337	38,311
Contributions Receivable	15,852	48,874
Interest Receivable	11,358	9,161
Investments	<u>2,889,747</u>	<u>3,073,967</u>
Total	<u>2,940,294</u>	<u>3,170,313</u>
<b>Property and Equipment</b>		
Computer Equipment	11,897	11,897
Furnishings	<u>-</u>	<u>1,160</u>
	11,897	13,057
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>11,897</u>	<u>13,057</u>
Net	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><u>2,940,294</u></u>	<u><u>3,170,313</u></u>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

<b>Current</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	<u>19,107</u>	<u>45,912</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	2,841,367	3,124,401
Temporarily Restricted	<u>79,820</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>2,921,187</u>	<u>3,124,401</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<u><u>2,940,294</u></u>	<u><u>3,170,313</u></u>

*“Unlike any other agency in Worcester, Edward Street has the independence and credibility to expand understanding of how to best help create learning spaces for our most vulnerable children. With the Master Teacher Grant, we are able to reach generations of teachers and multitudes of children.”*

– Ann T. Lisi  
President and CEO  
Greater Worcester Community Foundation

