

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



TOGETHER WE ARE FRAMING THE FUTURE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



The past year was one of evolution for our organization. We grew in partnership with the community, we grew our voice, and we positioned ourselves for ambitious impact across our community.

Edward Street Child Service's new strategic plan boldly positions young children at the heart of the community's work and our collaboration efforts.

Part of our work is to elevate our advocacy to ensure children and families have the resources and support needed to thrive from birth onward. Towards that end we testified at the State House, hosted a panel presentation on the critical need for investment in workforce compensation for Board of the Dept. of Early Education and Care, and facilitated discussions with Worcester's local delegation.

We championed efforts to embed trauma-informed practice across our community, placed a spotlight on Worcester's efforts and success in driving 3rd grade level reading proficiency through the All-American City Award competition, and we participated in advisory councils at the state level to raise issues, share innovations, and insist on action that drives high-expectations and high-quality early learning environments for all children.

Locally, we invested in emerging leaders and advocates who work directly in classrooms. Our Scholarship and Master Teacher Programs are both supporting success inside and beyond the classroom. They are leading change in their programs and welcoming new teachers entering the workforce.

Finally, we value partnerships that give a voice to children. This fall Edward Street designed and co-published The Smile Book where we captured the very heart of our Commonwealth's youngest citizens. They resoundingly told us what is important to them and the community in which they live. Our work is to continue to strive to meet their vision.

When children and families thrive, our city grows and our community develops. Thank you for the support you have shared with Edward Street Child Services. Together, we are framing the future.

With gratitude,

Thomas Belton

Thomas Belton
Board Chair





OUR MISSION

Edward Street Child Services collaborates to improve the quality and impact of early education and care, enhancing the development of young children and strengthening families in Central Massachusetts.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 2017 – 2018

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Birth to 3rd Grade Alignment

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Web/Social Media

TONI OSTROW
Consultant
Administration

WORCESTER BOOKKEEPING COOPERATIVE
Consultant Finance





STRATEGIC GOALS | 2017 – 2022

1. Lead cross sector alignment for early learning
2. Influence the investment in early education and care
3. Advance high quality early learning environments
4. Support a thriving early learning workforce of valued, well-compensated professionals

LEADING CROSS SECTOR ALIGNMENT FOR EARLY LEARNING

Trauma-Informed Practice Embedded in Community

It began at the YWCA's Daybreak Breakfast in 2016. Dr. Heather Forkey delivered a powerful keynote about the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on children's health, mental health and future health, earnings, and quality of life as adults. Edward Street staff knew this information needed to be shared widely and an integrated approach to supporting our community was necessary. Throughout 2017, Edward Street collaborated with partners across the community to raise awareness and share strategies for trauma-informed care.



- Collaborated with Quinsigamond Community College and Center for Childcare Careers to sponsor specialized early educator training session with Dr. Heather Forkey.
- Supported the development and implementation of a follow-up Professional Learning Community (PLC) for educators to explore specific strategies to implement trauma-informed practice in partnership with the Center for Childcare Careers.
- Collaborated with The Health Foundation to sponsor a presentation and discussion by world-renowned pediatrician, Dr. Nadine Burke Harris who specializes in trauma-informed care. Pediatricians, nurses and mental health professionals sat beside teachers, principals, business and community leaders, and politicians to learn about ACEs and begin to develop an integrated approach to addressing the impact of ACEs in our community.
- Served as Planning Team member of Worcester ACTs (Addresses Childhood Trauma), supporting the design and pilot development of a “first responder” model for children who witness trauma.



Strategic Planning Efforts Aligned

This year, Edward Street re-examined its mission and undertook strategic planning. Our vision is a community that puts children and families first, and one that understands and invests deeply in early education as a core component of a thriving community.

Building our plan in isolation was not an option. Our work includes intersections with strategic planning efforts by organizational partners, schools, the City, and the State.



Left to right: Joanne Gravell, Heather Forkey, MD, Charlene Mara and Eve Gilmore

- WPS Strategic Planning Subcommittee on School Climate & Social-Emotional Learning
- Worcester Child Development Head Start Needs Assessment Committee
- Worcester Family Partnership Needs Assessment and Planning Subcommittee
- City of Worcester Strategic Planning
- Department of Early Education and Care Advisory Committee

INFLUENCING INVESTMENT INTO EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE

Elevating Voices to Act Early

Testimony on the Hill

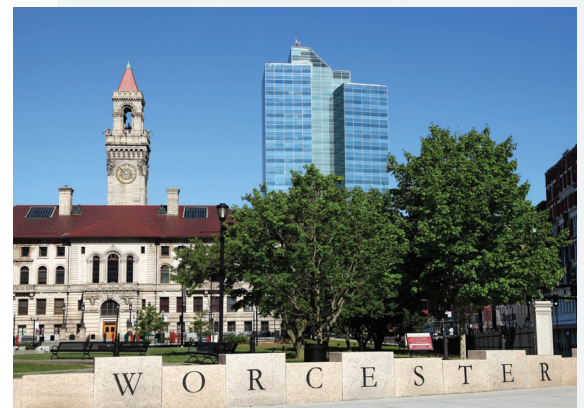
“We know the research – high-quality preschool leads to greater school and life outcomes. In Worcester, nearly 40% of Kindergarten children enter school each year without any formal preschool experience. That’s approximately 800 children annually in a class of just over 2,000. Eighty percent of this year’s kindergarten class was classified as high need and close to 50% are English language learners. We have a gap.” Thus began testimony from Kim Davenport to the Joint Committee on Education at the State House in June. Davenport represented Edward Street and its community partners in supporting An Act Ensuring High-Quality Early Education, one of several bills focused on supporting programs and services for children 0-5. ESCS joined colleagues from across the state to offer testimony about the need and the readiness of communities across the Commonwealth. Now is the time to invest early. Davenport highlighted key aspects of the community’s plan to expand high quality preschool programs should the State step in with funding. “No one partner – from district to centers to Head Start – has the capacity to meet the need...alone.” It will take a community-wide collaboration and Edward Street is leading the way.

WPS School Committee Hears Community Plan

Last winter, Edward Street’s leaders presented the community’s Preschool Expansion Plan to the WPS School Committee. Through support from a grant from the Department of Early Education and Care, Edward Street led the development of a community plan with center-based providers, Head Start, Worcester Public Schools, and institutions of higher education. The plan outlines how a collaborative partnership would expand high quality preschool opportunities to more children through expanded and integrated services, a highly-trained and well-compensated workforce, aligned curriculum, and improved facilities.



Left to Right: Kim Davenport, Valerie Gumes, Lisa Kuh, Am





...y O'Leary, Cecile Tousignant, Chris Martes

Worcester Local Delegation Engaged in the Investment

Learning begins long before children arrive at the school-house door. In January, Edward Street leaders joined WPS School Committee members in advocating for key investments by Worcester's local delegation. Alignment across the birth to 3rd grade continuum is critical to provide children with a strong foundation for school and life success. Edward Street spoke to three shared goals: (1) Restoring funding for high-quality kindergarten, (2) Acting on recommendations to adjust the Foundation Formula, and (3) Investing in high-quality early learning which begins with strong, healthy families, an educated and well-compensated workforce, and the availability of high-quality preschool for all children.

ADVANCING HIGH QUALITY EARLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

TOOLS & SUPPORT FOR EDUCATORS & FAMILIES

Edward Street's Master Teacher Program Impacts Local Programs and Educators

"To speak of the Master Teacher Program sponsored by Edward Street Child Services is to deal in superlatives, especially the Master Teacher. Webster Square Day Care Center, Inc. has been a participating agency since its inception. Master Teacher, Jo Ann Borinski, has worked in several of our classrooms assisting teaching staff with curriculum goals, team building, and providing professional resources," shares Eileen Lavallee, Executive Director at Webster Square.

This year the Master Teacher is working in a 4-year-old classroom with a Lead Teacher and Teacher Assistant. Both are supported by Edward Street in unique ways. Lead Teacher, Krystiana, previously participated as a mentee and is now participating in the ESCS Scholarship Program as she pursues advanced education. In addition, she is now coaching a new assistant teacher under the guidance of the Master Teacher.

"This Master Teacher Program has truly raised the level of professionalism in our program. Webster Square is fortunate to be a participating agency and we look forward to a long relationship with Edward Street Child Services and the Master Teacher Program."



Book Buddy Program

With special support from the DCU for Kids Foundation, Edward Street was again able to bring books to preschool children across Worcester.

Carefully selected book titles were paired with classroom themes and activities throughout the year. Ten classrooms were adopted and more than 600 books are now part of children's home libraries.



Felicita (Fela) Delossantos,
Day of Play Planning Committee Member

Day of Play Turned 6!

Worcester's Day of Play 2017 received a record turnout as thousands of children and their families joined Edward Street and its partners at Elm Park for a day packed with fun and learning. The success of the festival depends on the creativity and commitment of the volunteers from across our community.

Felicita (Fela) Delossantos is a shining example of the infectious creativity and energy that powers Day of Play. As a member of the planning committee, she offers fresh ideas to engage families. Each year, she makes new props to incorporate into the play areas – a movable road, tools, tool boxes and cars for the Construction Area, exploration tools for Dora's adventures, and so much more. And each Day of Play morning, we can count on her smiling face and exuberance from sun up to sun down.

"I love Day of Play. It is a great opportunity for children and parents to work – and play – together. Regardless of the background language or developmental stage, every family can get involved. Day of Play is for everyone!"

And of course, families are the heart of the festival.

"I think the event was great. The kids had a great time doing all the activities. They have fun and learn at the same time. And it gives the parents something to do." ~Frankenia, parent

"One parent came up to the Construction Area and asked how we made it. It is simply boxes and contact paper. She was delighted, 'Wow! I love the idea and I can use it for the children I care for. Children will love it, just like I'm enjoying it.'" ~Volunteer, Day of Play 2017

SUPPORTING A THRIVING EARLY LEARNING WORKFORCE

Unlocking Potential in Educators

Edward Street's Early Learning Scholarship program supports educators committed to advanced coursework in leadership and certification. Our hope is the investment made now in educators continues to pay forward for young children well into the future. Peggy Menegakis is proving that theory. She is currently pursuing her Master's Degree through a joint degree program offered by QCC and WSU. It is anchored in the Leadership Certificate Program, a strategic set of five courses designed to support emerging leaders. Peggy works as a Lead Teacher at Rainbow Child Development Center in Worcester.

Her story inspires us.

Arts + Cooperative Learning = Voice for Children

Words aren't always an option. Words can get stuck. The children Peggy works with come from complicated backgrounds that can be dizzying and unsettling. Her classroom is a safe space that provides nurturance and consistency. Still words can be difficult. So Peggy turned to her passion – art – and researched ways to integrate music and art therapy techniques into her program. Some days, "Circle Time" begins with a concerto of kazoos. Later, soft music plays in the background as children gather around an oversized mural, each able to create his or her mark on the latest classroom tapestry. With the introduction of arts across the curriculum, children are finding ways to express themselves.

Eager to share her techniques with all families in the program, Peggy used a recent class assignment to design a family engagement activity for the center. During the fall Open House, families were treated to a special activity. Nestled into the lunch room, parents could stop, rest, and engage with their children in a simple art activity. Children connected with their families; families connected with each other. It was an opportunity to pause and be present, away from the chaotic schedules families keep. It was a chance for all voices to be heard.

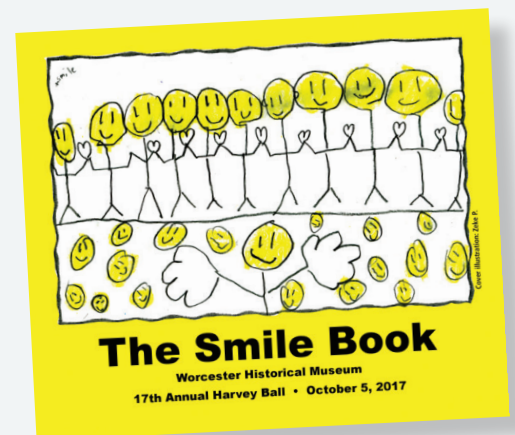


"The course challenged me to plan a family event for our program so I added an art activity to our Open House, inviting parents to create a Parent-Child Mural with their children. This event was an unprecedented success and it is planned to be repeated every two months."

~Peggy Menegakis

Lead Teacher

Rainbow Child Development Center





PARTNERSHIPS MOVE THE MISSION

Collaboration is at the Heart of Our Work

Worcester Wins National Pacesetter Honors and Became Finalist in All-American City Award

Collaboration with Leadership Worcester alumni, Patrick Lowe and the LW Class of 2016, led to the development of an extensive community application to the Campaign for Grade Level Reading and National Civic League regarding Worcester's achievements, learning and future plans to advance literacy and health outcomes for young children. Edward Street was a leading author on the application and, with support from the Regional Chamber of Commerce, led a community team to Denver to deliver a presentation highlighting Worcester's recent innovations and achievements.

Worcester's Children Share Smiles

In the fall of 2015 in honor of World Smile Day, Worcester Reads asked children to share what makes them smile about Worcester. Children from 3 to 13 shared their favorite places, activities, and people. We received more than one thousand entries...and they had a lot to say! Entries were fun, poignant, and heartwarming. Honored in The Smile Book were selected entries representing a range of things that make Worcester's children smile.

Edward Street led the writing and production of the book, which framed children's submissions as a delightful ABC tour around the City. In partnership with the Worcester Historical Museum, The Smile Book debuted at the 2017 Harvey Ball and was dedicated to Patty Eppinger for her community leadership around education and early literacy. Student artists, Edward Street, and the Worcester Historical Museum were honored by the WPS School Committee with a certificate of recognition and copy of The Smile Book. The Smile Book represents a new piece of Worcester's history as told through its children.



SPONSORS & FUNDERS

AbbVie Inc.	Hester Wetherell Trust
Bay State Savings Bank	Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care
Children's Trust	Pernet Health Center
Coghlin Construction Services Fund	Seven Hills Foundation
Commerce Bank	Unibank
Cornerstone Bank	United Way of Central Massachusetts
Davis Publications	Worcester Area Association for the Education of Young Children
DCU for Kids Foundation	Worcester County Fathers and Family Network
Greater Worcester Community Foundation	Worcester Family Partnership
Hanover Insurance Group Foundation	

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

ArtReach Studio	Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook
Boy Scout Troop 9	South High Marching Band
Cambridge Science on the Street	The Southeast Asian Coalition
Central Mass Autism Resource Center	Tufts Health Plan
Child Care Resources and Referral	Unum
Coghlin Electrical Contractors	Vantage Printers
Crocodile River Music	Vital Emergency Medical Services
Daedal Creations	Worcester Bravehearts
Jumpstart	Worcester Center for Expressive Therapies
Kids Zone	Worcester Child Development Head Start
Dental of Oxford	Worcester Fire Dept.
Family Behavioral Health	Worcester Historical Museum
Family Services of Central Massachusetts	Worcester Music Academy
Girl Scouts of Central and Western Mass	Worcester Public Library
	Worcester Public Schools

EDWARD STREET CHILD SERVICES, INC.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

ASSETS

	2017	2016
Current		
Cash	43,663	23,337
Contributions Receivable	685	15,852
Prepaid Expenses	341	-
Interest Receivable	13,199	11,358
Investments	<u>2,956,458</u>	<u>2,889,747</u>
Total	<u>3,014,346</u>	<u>2,940,294</u>
Property and Equipment		
Computer Equipment	16,897	11,897
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>12,453</u>	<u>11,897</u>
Net	<u>4,444</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>3,018,790</u></u>	<u><u>2,940,294</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	<u>5,374</u>	<u>19,107</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	2,938,416	2,841,367
Temporarily Restricted	<u>75,000</u>	<u>79,820</u>
Total	<u>3,013,416</u>	<u>2,921,187</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>3,018,790</u></u>	<u><u>2,940,294</u></u>



TOGETHER WE ARE FRAMING THE FUTURE

“Edward Street is a pivotal leader and thought partner in early education in the Worcester community and at the state level. They understand the complex issues and work collaboratively with partners designing solutions to maximize resources to ensure young children and their families thrive.”

– **Amy O’Leary**

Director, Early Education for All, Strategies for Children
President Elect, Governing Board of NAEYC