



Mount Kisco Child Care Center THE CONNECTION

A Not-for-Profit Early Care and Education Program since 1971

Fall 2011

A message from Dottie Jordan...

This year, Mount Kisco Child Care Center marked its 40th anniversary. The idea was conceived in 1970 after a study conducted by the Interfaith Council of Westchester recognized the need for quality day care in our community. With the help of the Junior League of Northern Westchester, the Center opened in November 1971 with rented classrooms in the United Methodist Church on Main Street, caring for 25 three- and four-year old children enrolled in our program. The staff consisted of a Director, a Head Teacher, a Secretary and a Social Worker.

Today, MKCCC cares daily for 160 children, ages three months to eleven years, in nine classrooms with a staff of 45 in our own 20,000 square foot facility on Radio Circle Drive, built in 2002. Nearly 10 years later, our JEWEL intergenerational program continues to engage children and older adults from My Second Home, a program of Family Services of Westchester, in daily shared experiences. Our Feed Me Fresh garden-to-table nutrition education program teaches children where their food comes from, how to grow their own food, and how to make healthier choices. Oh, how far we've come!

The longevity of MKCCC continually reminds us that the services we provide are as important today as they were when we first opened our doors 40 years ago. We are truly grateful to our staff, our families, our Board of Directors and Advisory Group, our friends, supporters and volunteers that continue to make MKCCC a vibrant environment for children. Caring for our children is an investment in the future of our community, and we hope you will continue to share in our vision.

With deep appreciation,

Dottie Jordan
Dottie Jordan
Executive Director

MKCCC was named
Outstanding
Non-Profit of the
Year for 2011 by
the Mount Kisco
Chamber of
Commerce

THANK YOU, IBM!



This summer, local IBM employees and retirees partnered with MKCCC to educate our children as part of IBM's Celebration of Service program, marking IBM's centennial year. IBMers visited MKCCC on June 15th and helped children with seed planting, taught them how to use Excel spreadsheets to learn about garden yields and ran a lemonade stand on our front porch.

Additionally, MKCCC received a \$10,000 Catalyst grant from IBM. The grant recognizes work that MKCCC and IBM collaborated on to further educate MKCCC children as part of the Center's *Feed Me Fresh* garden-to-table nutrition program.

Thanks to funding from IBM and SlowFood Westchester/Hudson Valley, MKCCC has installed a Greenhouse in our Generations Garden. MKCCC parents and IBM volunteers built and installed the Greenhouse and a compost bin on November 12, 2011. A Ribbon-Cutting ceremony was held two days later. The first seedlings in the Greenhouse are garlic, generously donated by Amawalk Farm. Dr. Susan Rubin will oversee the Greenhouse and compost system throughout the Winter months and into Springtime, when the seedlings will be planted in each classrooms' gardening beds.

MKCCC opens its Computer Lab for School-Age Children

In October, thanks to a grant from Nancy and Kenneth Stein through the William and Dewey Edelman Charitable Trust, MKCCC has a new computer lab for our school-age children. Mr. and Mrs. Stein, long-time friends of MKCCC, felt it important that children use computers for learning and exploration, especially those who do not have computers at home. "In today's world, a child is at a disadvantage academically without access to a computer and the internet" said Mr. Stein. "It is for that reason that we've chosen to support programs that bring computers to the children and families who can benefit from them the most", he said. The computers, three desktops and three laptops, will be used by the children and supervised by their teachers in our school age program. In the months to come, use of these computers will be made available to our parents.

Did you know that local teens fulfill community service requirements by volunteering in classrooms at MKCCC? If you know a teen interested in volunteering, please send an e-mail to Pam Moskowitz: pammosk@yahoo.com

Mount Kisco Child Care Center

The mission of Mount Kisco Child Care Center is to provide high quality affordable care and early education to a diverse group of children in a safe and healthy environment.

Dorothy F. Jordan, Executive Director
Dawn Meyerski, Program Director
Keri Reitman, Development Director

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MKCCC is a not-for-profit organization.
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MKCCC applies for NAEYC accreditation



The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) sets and monitors standards of excellence for programs and teachers in early childhood education, and accredits programs that meet these standards. NAEYC accreditation has been helping parents make the right choices and improving the quality of education and care provided in programs for young children since the early 1980s. Through a rigorous application process, MKCCC's goal of accreditation demonstrates our commitment to quality and innovative early education. Nationally, this accreditation not only solidifies our mission, it also is an achievement that can help us in applying for grants from corporations and foundations and in receiving matching gift funding.

Feed Me Fresh continues to nurture our children

Our *Feed Me Fresh* garden-to-table nutrition program instills wonder and good habits in the minds of our toddlers, preschoolers and school age children. The 2011 season began in early May at "Spring Clean-Up Day" at which Parents and Staff came together to build new garden beds and dismantle ones that did not survive the harsh winter. Children later planted a wide variety of seeds including corn, strawberries, basil, peppers, squash, thyme, and eggplant, that, when at the peak of ripeness, were picked and used in that week's *Feed Me Fresh* recipe prepared in each classroom.

During the summertime, our school age children enrolled in our summer program visited Amawalk Farm in Katonah, almost every Friday when weather permitted. Children had the experience of being part of an actual working farm.



JEWEL shines as a model intergenerational program in the national spotlight



The JEWEL (Joining Elders with Early Learners) program joins our young children with older adults from My Second Home, a program of Family Services of Westchester (FSW), our on-site neighbors. JEWEL, a collaboration between MKCCC and FSW, is the first shared site, intergenerational program of its kind in the county. Everyday our children and the "Grandmas" and "Grandpas" come together in small groups and engage in a variety of activities that include creating artwork, music, dancing, and enjoying each other's company during mealtime. These daily interactions between the generations are filled with fun, acceptance and affection.

JEWEL received the 2011 MetLife MindAlert award at the National Forum on Brain Health, during October's Aging in America conference and was a national semi-finalist for the inaugural Eisner Prize for Intergenerational Excellence this year. The Eisner Prize is designed to recognize excellence by an individual or a non-profit organization in uniting seniors & youth, to bring about positive and lasting changes in their community.

In September, Program Director Dawn Meyerski & Intergenerational Coordinator Nancy Loden attended the Generations United (www.gu.org) conference in Washington, DC and gave a presentation on our JEWEL program, as a model for others.

Mount Kisco Child Care Center provides scholarship support to 88 of our families. Your financial contributions to MKCCC will help us to continue to provide quality early care and education to the children in our community.