



Downtown Ithaca
Children's Center
Growing and Learning Together



2014 Annual Report

Downtown Ithaca Children's Center 506 First Street, Ithaca, NY 14850

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2014 Board of Directors

Brenda Pepe, President

William Harris Sr, Vice President

Jay Giesy, Treasurer

Courtney Gray, Secretary

Lisa Bontempi

Tami Bogausch

Chi Wah Tillberg

A Message from the Board

As members of the Board at the Downtown Ithaca Children's Center, it is always a great honor to issue our Annual Report. We take great pride in the environment that we have been able to create with the strong support of our talented staff and loving families. As such, we are able to declare that the Downtown Ithaca Children's Center, a staple in the Ithaca community for approximately four decades, celebrates 2014 as yet another year of accomplishment, stability, and growth.

Over the course of the past year, our focus has been on continued improvements to our program. We are constantly seeking new ways to improve the opportunities for growth and development among our children, and to prepare them for their transition into the city's schools. As a Board we have remained committed to providing any support and resources required by our staff and teachers in order to accomplish these goals. We continue to meet the physical, emotional and educational needs of all of our students, providing them with one of the area's preeminent nutritional programs in concert with a clear and focused daily program.

In support of our desire to provide for the needs of our children, 2014 also witnessed the beginnings of our playground redesign efforts. Rather than simply a place for play, as a Board we believe that children gain the most from play spaces designed to challenge their bodies as well as their minds. As we work to develop the whole child throughout the course of the day, it is our belief that playtimes can serve a similar purpose. The foundations for such a project were laid throughout much of 2014. As we move forward, we look with anticipation towards its completion and the benefits that it will provide for our children.

We as a Board remain committed to providing for the needs of the DICC as the Center continues working to serve our community. We are appreciative of our dedicated and hard working staff and administrators, without whom the success of the DICC would not be possible. We are grateful for the opportunity to look back on another successful year, remaining hopeful for even further growth in the years to come.

Our Mission

The Downtown Ithaca Children's Center provides a creative and culturally diverse environment that fosters the emotional, social and intellectual development of children. We do so by incorporating the involvement of families, staff and our community in all of our work.

The Downtown Ithaca Children's Center serves children aged six weeks to twelve years old. It is also an Ithaca City School District Universal Pre-K provider.

Reflection from the Executive Director

2014 proved to be yet another exciting year at the Downtown Ithaca Children's Center. As we completed our process of rebranding and renaming the Center, we successfully maintained many of the strengths and traditions from our past while continuing to expand our efforts to provide the Ithaca community with the best possible childcare for our youth. The Downtown Ithaca Children's Center, like its predecessor the Drop-In Children's Center, remains committed to the growth and development of Ithaca's Children.

We understand that it is not the name of the Center that makes the DICC an integral part of this community. Our true value comes from our continuing commitment to the development of the whole child. As such, throughout the year we have continued to focus on the development of our program and the ways in which our teachers and staff can positively impact the lives of our children. This is seen, for example, through our expanded use of the Devereaux Early Childhood Assessment Tool, which enables our staff to better understand the skills, abilities, and needs of our students and to use that knowledge to improve their experiences at the center.

An additional step taken this year was the decision to move forward with a major new building project at the DICC: a redesigned playground. We understand that a playground has the opportunity to provide a great deal for our children. Designed properly, such a space provides an opportunity for the development of a child's physical and motor skills, but also for the expression and growth of creativity and imagination. In 2014, this dream of a better space for our children became an actual plan of action. The process of design, fundraising and building, once completed in 2015, will allow the Downtown Ithaca Children's Center to provide one of Ithaca's premier spaces for play and growth in the Ithaca community.

We are grateful for all of the support from the many government agencies, foundations, and private donors who make it possible for us to continue our efforts to provide quality service for our clients. Support and grants received from the Tomkins County Health and Human Services Department, the United Way, The Parks Foundation, the Legacy Foundation, the Community Foundation, Downtown Business Women, Friends of the library, along with numerous private donations and family foundations makes all of our efforts achievable.

In closing, I'd like to thank all of our staff, Board Members, families, donors and supporters. With the continued support of the Ithaca community, I can look with great optimism as we move forward into 2015 and beyond.

2014 Program Highlights



The Downtown Ithaca Children's Center program continued to make steady and positive gains over the 2014 year. We had our official ribbon cutting ceremony for our name change during the summer of 2013. At that time, we highlighted our many program changes, such as consistency in standards across classrooms, updating program layout and efficiency, and hiring and training in new ways for our teaching staff. Our over-seeing agency is New York State OCFS (Office of Children and Family Services), and several new regulations were written in 2014, that also serve to augment the attention to quality and care provided by our early childhood center.

We continue to move our program in these positive directions, focusing on a new curriculum for our infant and toddler programs that we ordered at the end of 2014 through Frog Street, Inc. This multi-cultural curriculum is developed to address all areas of early childhood development through a comprehensive approach to learning styles, adding in lots of audio and visual supports, and providing activities for adapting to children with special needs. We will be moving toward acquiring the preschool Frog Street Curriculum during 2015 in order to have consistency across the Center in our classroom curriculum.

We take pride in how our teaching staff approach their roles with openness to learning and growing in their perspectives on what best serves our children and families. Attention is given to offering each individual child the best opportunities to develop positive sense of self, learn the value of independence, and that all areas of development are supported and encouraged in well set-up classrooms and learning environment.

DICC has set up a Facebook account, which allows a face and presence in the community. Each teacher offers some sort of activity, recipe, or story during the week, and we invite you to "like" our page, and to follow us on-line! This will give you a first hand peek into the life of our children at the Downtown Ithaca Children's Center.

We are so grateful for the community support that has allowed us to strengthen and grow throughout the years, and welcome your feedback and participation. We look forward to another year of success!



Parent Success Stories



“This spring our family celebrated its 10th Anniversary with the Downtown Ithaca Children’s Center!! Jay and I feel very fortunate that all three of our children have been ‘raised’ by MANY of the same teachers (4 of the head teachers and Alex have been at the center longer than we have!). As we have grown and developed as a family, so has the DICC, both in the size of the facility and in the quality of the program. The teachers and staff at DICC have been wonderful for our children and their development.”

Sarah Giesy, parent

“Daycare called me crying because Antonio stood up by himself today. In most almost 2 year olds lives this would not be a big deal but for him it is HUGE. They were crying because they were so happy for him !! Thank you all Downtown Ithaca Children’s Center care givers for everything you do for him. We are very grateful to have you.”



M.H., parent



2014 Financial Statement

Assets

Current Assets

- Total Checking/Savings 89,573.77
- Total Other Current Assets 53,218.25

Total Current Assets 142,792.02

Total Fixed Assets 760,398.16

TOTAL ASSETS 903,190.18

Liabilities & Equity

Liabilities

- Total Credit Cards 1,555.01
- Total Other Current Liabilities 3,652.89

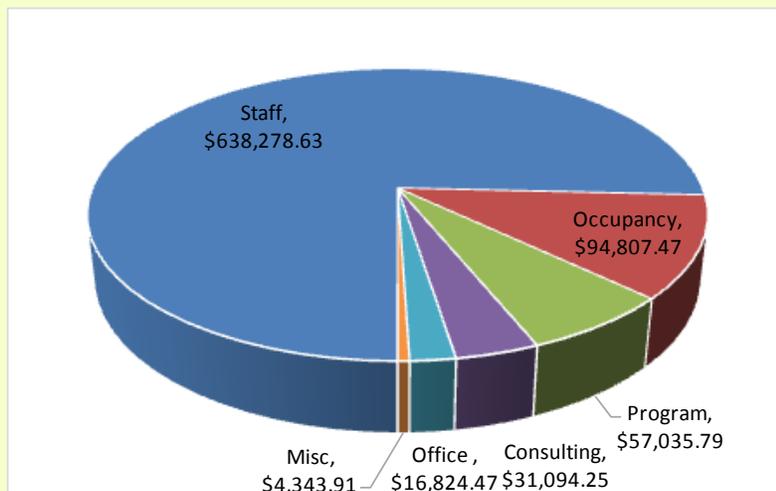
Total Current Liabilities 5,207.90

Total Long Term Liabilities 40,044.32

TOTAL LIABILITIES 45,252.22

TOTAL EQUITY 857,937.96

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 903,190.18

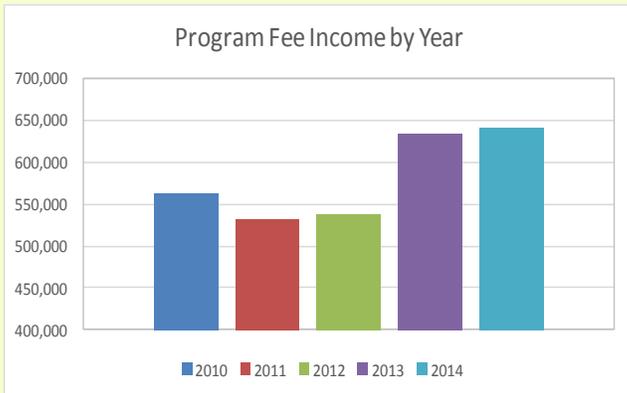


Operating Expenses

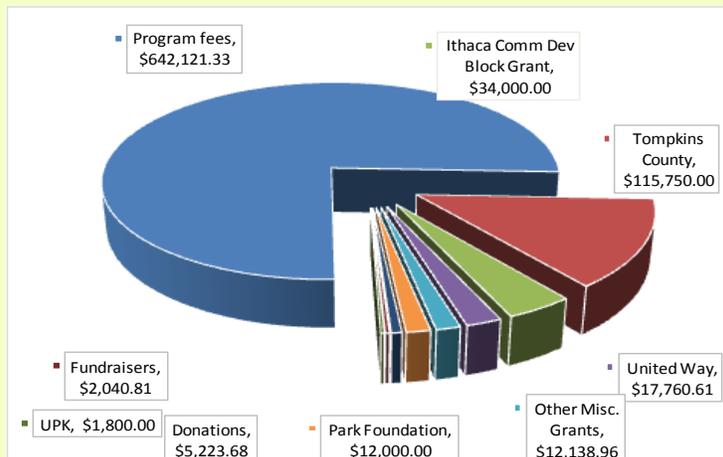
Staff	\$ 638,278.63
Occupancy	\$ 94,807.47
Program	\$ 57,035.79
Consulting	\$ 31,094.25
Office	\$ 16,824.47
Misc	\$ 4,343.91
Total	\$842,385

Revenues and Public Support

Program fees	\$ 642,121.33
Tompkins County	\$ 115,750.00
Ithaca Comm Dev Block Grant	\$ 34,000.00
United Way	\$ 17,760.61
Other Misc. Grants	\$ 12,138.96
Park Foundation	\$ 12,000.00
Donations	\$ 5,223.68
Fundraisers	\$ 2,040.81
UPK	\$ 1,800.00
Total Revenues	\$ 842,835



The Downtown Ithaca Children's Center program served almost 180 children in 2014.



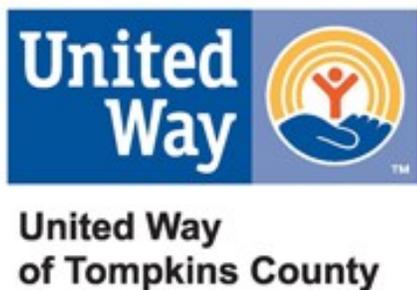
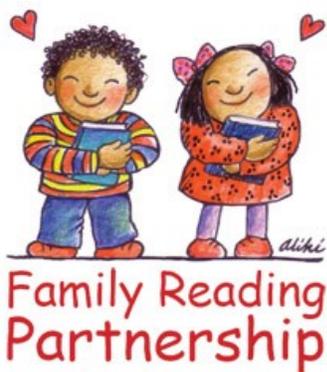
2014 Grants Received

Tompkins County Health and Human Services	\$115,750.00
CACFP Food Program	\$46,976.00
Ithaca Community Development Block Grant	\$34,000.00
United Way	\$17,760.00
Park Foundation	\$12,000.00
Tompkins Trust Company/Legacy Foundation	\$3,500.00
Community Foundation	\$2,500.00
Tompkins Charitable Trust	\$2,338.96
Norathco	\$1,500.00
Social Service League	\$700.00
City Federation of Women	\$600.00
Norathco Foundation	\$500.00
Social Service League	\$500.00



Community Partners & Sponsors

Downtown Ithaca Children's Center is extremely grateful for the generosity of its partners and sponsors.



Our Heartfelt Thanks to Our Generous 2014 Donors

\$500 to \$999

First Congregational Church
David Schwartz

\$250 to \$499

First Unitarian Society
George Field
Brenda Pepe

\$100 to \$249

Tami Bogausch
Cargill Incorporated
Cascadilla Tree Care
George & Virginia Field
Rita Melen

Marilyn Selman
Kathleen Schlather
Tompkins Insurance Agencies
Tompkins Trust Company
Marguerite Uphoff

\$99 and under

Terry Clingen
Allen Back
Joan Bechhofer
Richard Berg
Nancy Burston
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Jo Todd
Nancy Tresner
United Way of Hunterdon
County NJ
Robert Van Reese
Lori Yelensky

Sponsors & Donations for Events & Efforts

ABC Oriental Rug & Carpet Cleaning Co.	Hal's Deli	Rasa Spa
Alternative Federal Credit Union	Bruce & Heather Lane	Sciencenter
Boatyard Grill / Ciao	Maguire	Sim Redmond Band
Tami Bougasch	Joyce Marsh	John Simons
Cayuga Lake Cruise	Maxie's Supper Club	Target
Cleo Leach	David Moreland	Ten Thousand Villages
Fairleid Inn	Museum of the Earth	True Insurance
Jerry Feist	Patterson's Service Station	Walmart
Greek Peak Mountain Resort	Brenda Pepe	Wegmans
	Ramada Inn	

"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."

— Fred Rogers

In Kind Donations

Erin Baker	Susan Hirschberger	James Spaulding
Tami Bogausch	Cathy Julian	Chi Wah Tillberg
Lisa Bontempi	Brenda Pepe	Sandy True
Jay Giesy	David Pepe	United Way
Courtney Gray	Elaine Quaroni	Allison Vorhis
William Harris, Sr.	Jennifer Royer	



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