

FY20 Annual Report July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020



Mission

*The Day Nursery provides exceptional early childhood education in an environment that welcomes **all** children, enhances individual strengths, and fosters the academic, social-emotional and physical development that leads to school readiness.*

Vision

The Day Nursery will serve as a model of Best Practice in the field of Early Childhood Education by ensuring all children and families have access to high quality early care and education through participation in our world class, exceptional programs.

Values

We are committed to:

- A Positive, Safe Environment *To provide an uplifting and positive atmosphere for our children and staff, a fun learning experience in a secure, safe, and loving environment for all children and families.*
- Individualized Learning *To embrace each child's unique strengths and needs individualizing every learning experience and ensure school readiness.*
- Engagement *To build strong, healthy relationships with each other, our children & their families, along with the community through communication and understanding of the cultures around us. To partner with families, empowering them to actively participate in their child's learning process.*
- Excellence *To achieve the greatest level of excellence, with integrity, in childcare, in education, and in everything we do so that our children and staff can reach their highest level of excellence. We aim to do this by being highly professional, innovative, creative, effective, and efficient.*
- Leadership *To serve as a thought leader for advocacy and best practice in early childhood education in the community and beyond.*

Quality Matters

- The Day Nursery has achieved the Gold Circle of Quality designation through the state's quality rating and improvement program: ExceleRate Illinois. Gold Circle programs, like the Day Nursery, meet or exceed specific quality benchmarks on learning environment, instructional quality, and all program administrative standards; group size and staff/child ratios; staff qualifications; and professional development.
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation is a national, voluntary accreditation system that sets professional standards for early childhood education programs through its identification of high-quality programs. NAEYC Accreditation represents the mark of quality and best practice in early childhood education today. *In January 2020, The Day Nursery successfully received their re-accreditation status through February 2025, scoring 100% compliance in all areas.*



Program Highlights

- At the 4th Annual Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce Spotlight Award ceremony in October 2019, The Day Nursery received the “Local Legend” Award for lifetime achievement in the community.
- During school year 2019-2020, The Day Nursery continued its partnership with Easter Seals, to host a community-based 12-week Parent Education Program, using the Chicago Parenting Program curriculum. The Collaboration for Early Childhood provided the funding for The Day Nursery to serve as a partnering agency in this project. Sunshine Room Teacher, Kira Smith, served as facilitator of the program that was open to the public.
- And continued its partnership with Fox College. For the last three years, The Day Nursery has served as the pediatric field work site for the Fox College Occupational

Therapy Assistants program.

- “Jump Bunch” began weekly physical education sessions in the fall of 2019 with all children funded in part by Village of Oak Park Community Development Block Grant.
- The Field Museum highlighted our partnership by creating a display at the Harris Learning Collection. The display was up when the children visited the Museum on Feb. 13, 2020.
- In the fall of 2019, The Day Nursery partnered with Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine to create informal public service announcements (PSA) related to allergies and young children. As part of this partnership, The Day Nursery was featured in the PSA regarding allergy awareness in early childhood education.



Fund Development Highlights:

- As part of our Japanese Chamber of Commerce Chicago (JCCC) grant funding, on August 26, 2019, all staff attended a full day of training at the Field Museum on “intentional” field trips and how to incorporate math learning standards in field trips. Additionally, The Day Nursery teachers received a one-year subscription to access *Field Museum Collections* for use in the classrooms.
- *Oak Park’s Trattoria 225* served as the backdrop for our Annual Wine Event on February 27, 2020 which had an attendance of more than 100 people. The Day Nursery honored Char Schwar with the Rocking Horse Award, for her endless support and tireless energy as a long time Board Member, volunteer, and all-round Day Nursery champion.

The Day Nursery Junior Board Inaugural Year

On January 27, 2020, The Day Nursery Junior Board met for their very first official board meeting. The Junior Board is comprised of 8 high school students from Oak Park River Forest High School. Organized by Junior, Sophie Tillotson and mentored by Advisory Council member Melissa Elsmo, the DN Junior Board’s mission of “being a youth committee dedicated to supporting and enriching The Day Nursery through fundraising, volunteer work, and gaining more community support” is off to a great start. They had plans to help with events, develop volunteer opportunities, and look for ways to raise awareness on the quality early childhood programs at The Day Nursery within their school community and the Oak Park community at large. However, less than two months after its establishment, the pandemic had other plans. Without blinking an eye, The Junior Board sprang into action and found ways to support remote learning and student engagement during the Governor’s stay at home order. We applaud their energy and commitment and look forward to all the wonderful things they have in store for FY21.

Family Engagement

- Families gathered at The Day Nursery in November 2019 to share a meal together and create decorations for The Day Nursery tree at the Brookfield Zoo.
- More than 300 families and friends attended the 2019 Annual Winter-Sing-along held at Brooks Middle School auditorium. The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) members created kits of hot cocoa and apple cider to raise funds for The Day Nursery.
- In January 2020, PAC helped sponsor The Day Nursery Family Pizza Making & Movie Night.
- In early March 2020, Day Nursery families enjoyed a meal together, activity stations, story hours, music, and movement activities during the Annual Literacy Night. Over 100 take-home libraries were distributed to families as part of the event.
- In May 2020, The Day Nursery hosted an online Parent Support Forum that addressed the unique challenges parents faced as they attempted to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. The forum was facilitated by Heather Zeman, DN Board member and partner at *Proficio Consulting*.



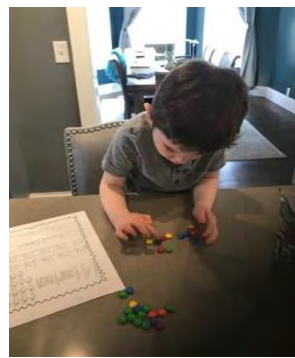
Community Partnerships in FY20

19th Century Club
Byline Bank
Collaboration for Early
Childhood
Concordia University
Easterseals
The Economy Shop
The Field Museum
Forest Park Public Library

Fox College
IL Farm to School Network
New Moms
Northwestern University
Oak Park Fire Department
Oak Park Public Library
Oak Park School District 97
OPRF Chamber of Commerce
OPRF Community Foundation

Park District of Oak Park
Pleasant Home
Radius Bank
River Forest Community Center
Trattoria 225
United Way of Metro Chicago
West Cook YMCA
Wonderworks:
Children's Museum

... and then COVID-19 changed EVERYTHING



On March 17, 2020, The Day Nursery proactively instituted a temporary closure of programs, following guidance from IL State Board of Education and Village of Oak Park. On March 21, 2020 Governor Pritzker issued the initial “stay at home order” for the entire state which included the shut-down of all licensed childcare centers in the State of Illinois. It would take almost four months before The Day Nursery welcomed back children into the building. During the closure, The Day Nursery was able to:

- Apply for and receive the Payroll Protection Program loan funds and Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Disaster Injury Loan (EDIL);
- Ensure sustainability due to loss of tuition revenue and thanks to the generosity of parents, friends and more who made donations in support of The Day Nursery;
- With the addition funding support, continue employing 100% of Day Nursery staff;
- Provide all children daily remote learning activities and resources for the duration of the closure;
- Establish an Ad-Hoc committee comprised of Day Nursery staff from all areas of the organization to create a comprehensive Virus Protection Plan based on best practice and CDC recommendations. The Plan was used for the re-issuance of our Department of Children and Family Services childcare license to re-open on July 13, 2020.

The Day Nursery Difference - Pandemic Edition

Four-year-old Arthur and his mom, Lana, recently moved to Oak Park. Mom was employed as a medical professional at a nearby hospital and needed a safe place for her son to be while she worked that would help prepare him for Kindergarten. It had been a rough couple of years, lots of moves, new schools, and job changes. Because of all the recent changes, Arthur really resisted making friends and often chose solitary play. Mom had a good feeling about The Day Nursery. From their first visit, she noticed a difference. The classroom teachers and children welcomed them both and immediately began to look for ways to help Arthur and Mom feel a part of the classroom community. Arthur’s “PreK” experience was going just as Mom had hoped, and the program year seemed to be moving quickly. Arthur was beginning to talk about the activities he and “his friends” were doing.

When The Day Nursery closed as part of Governor Pritzker’s stay at home order, Arthur’s teachers worked to help continue Arthur’s progress with remote learning and regular ZOOM groups. A few weeks later, Day Nursery teachers received word that Mom had tested positive for COVID-19 and while she was being treated, Arthur would need to stay with a relative he did not know very well, and not be able to have contact with his mom for possibly several weeks. To help Arthur through this extremely difficult time, his teachers requested the contact information of the relatives Arthur was staying with. They worked with Arthur’s family members to ensure that Arthur could have daily zoom interactions with his teachers and peers. In addition, Arthur was given activities and resources so that he could keep his routines while away from Mom. Staff checked in with Mom regularly to ensure she had the resources she needed for recovery.

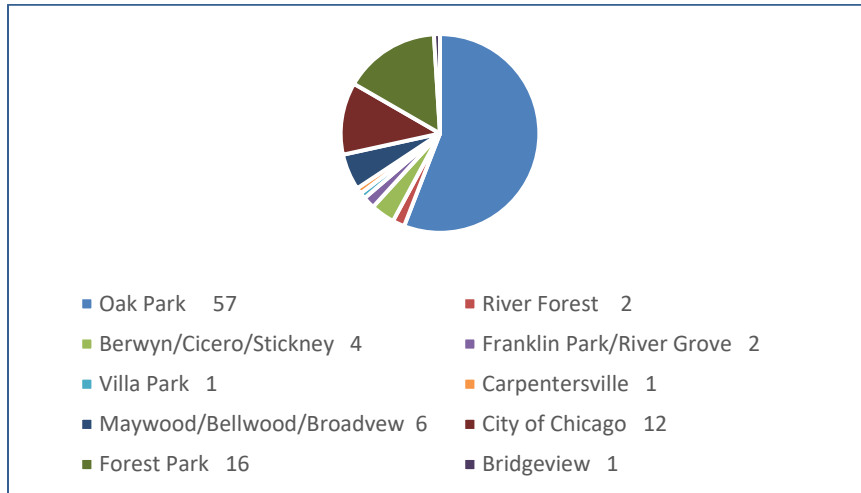
When The Day Nursery received word that the doors could be re-opened in early July, Arthur and Mom were one of the first families to commit to returning. Mom told our Parent Coordinator that she was grateful to her Day Nursery school family for helping support her and Arthur. She believed that Arthur learned how to build healthy positive relationships and build self-confidence because of his Day Nursery experience.

The Day Nursery Demographics

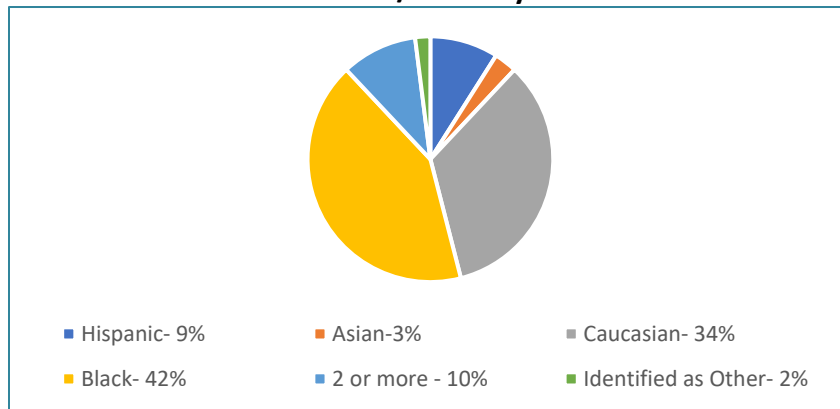
In FY20, 102 children attended The Day Nursery.

The following graphics highlight some of the many ways The Day Nursery celebrates diversity in its programs.

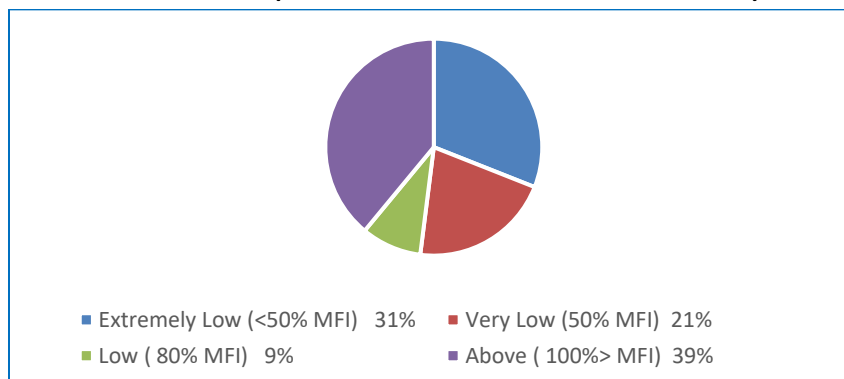
Communities We Serve



Race/Ethnicity



Economic Status (Based on IL Median Income Guidelines)



Statement of Finances

The Day Nursery revenue sources include parent tuition and fees, government funding, individual and foundation gifts, earnings from investments, and private grants, including the Chicago Metro United Way. Government funding is from contracts with the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois State Board of Education and a loan from the federal Payroll Protection Program.

As of June 30, 2020, from unaudited financial reports, The Day Nursery revenue total was \$1,144,801. Estimated expenses' total was \$1,067,062. The budget surplus is due to an increase in fundraising efforts and loans in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the loss of tuition revenue.



Thank You for Supporting Quality Early Childhood Education at The Day Nursery

\$10,000 or more

Anonymous (2)
Nancy Clark
Sharon Cole
The Economy Shop
Michelle Arnold & Paul Martin
Bette and Craig Williams

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation
Fred J. Brunner Foundation
Christopher Family Foundation



\$1,000 - \$4,999

Daniel Baker
Mary Berg
Matt Cebulak
Justin and Bethany Costello-Stebelton
Nina Diemer
Angela and Scott Dolezal
David Donovan

Jeana and Matt Garms
Chad Ingram
Colleen and Ryan Kelly
Jana and Terry McIlroy
Alan Nesburg
Kate and Thomas Nye
William Schmalz
Karen Tard

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous
The Day Nursery Parent Advisory Council
Melissa and Leif Elsmo
Shira Enbar
Erin Ficker and Kevin Jerbi
Christina Jackson-Bailey
Julie Laney
Eric & Laura Jordahl
Dawn Kerth

Elise Melrose and Angelo Labriola
Susan Murphy
Mary Lou and Marty Noll
Charlene and Scott Schwar
Donald Southworth and Marilyn Cantisano
Jeffrey Stocker
Christina Tribbia and Matthew Malloy
Unity Temple Congregation

Under \$500

Deborah Ashe	Jim Greco	Karen Newton
AmazonSmile	Vicki Gregor	Cam Niederman
Forest Agency Inc.	Nancy & Victor Guarino	Christine Osborne
Forest Park National Bank	Emily Hahn & Faraz Sultan	Sarah Patton
Bernadette Aguilar	John Hedges	Kara Peterson
Carisa Alvarado	Norman Hirsch & Ann Courter	Edward A Petrick
Anonymous	Raymond Heise	Wendy Planek
Edward Augustin	Julia Huff	Selene Plum
Mike Baker	Stephen & Judy Humowiecki	Marilyn & Thomas Pratt
Edward Barker	Tim & Maureen Hunter	Raymond Raspatello
Tom Benson	Wendy Irvine	James Rohlfing
Brian Bobek	Boni Jenson	Carl Roode
Ann and Jerome Bolan	Rochelle Jeffries	Diana Rosenbrock
Kenneth Boyer	Gregory Jones	Jenna Russell
David Brumirski	Saretta Joyner	Suzanne Saxman
Stephen & Elizabeth Bruner	Kara & Robert Kalnitz	Vicki & John Scaman
Michael Caprile	Kathryn Lamantia	Kathy Schrock
Kirsten Carlo	Kathleen Langston	Carol Sciacatta
Judith Chrisman	Michael Lavery	Jerry Sjostrom
Scott Christopher	Janet Lazewski	Ruth Soppett
Elizabeth Chlumecky	Barbara Le Breton	Kevin & Elizabeth Smith
Sara Cohen	Mary & John Sr Lesch	John Sullivan
Mary and Martin	Emma & Karl Lietchty	Sean O'Shea
Colchamiro	Frank & Theresa Lipo	Barbara Solheim
Michael Condon	Larry and Cathy Lund	Eddie Swift
Michelle Couturier	Nell & John Lurain	Debra Taylor
Aisha Dalley	Kerri McBride	Mary Taylor
Maureen & Dan Delaney	Rebecca McFall	Briana Thompsen
Tari & Mark Delisi	Matt & Erin McMurray	Carol Ann & Michael Trisko
Jan Dressel	William Mavrelis	Rudi Vanderburg
Renita Duncan-Kerr	Sarah Maxfield	Carolyn Van Ermen
Paul Edwards	Christina Marciniak	Joyce Volpe
Sara Freer	Catherine Marshall	Richard Waichler
John Garofaloo	Joyce Miller	Phyllis Walden
Joanne Garrick	Larry & Carole Mitchener	Erin Weber
Louise Gates	Meghann Moses	Camilla Wilson
Jeffrey & Val Gee	Ralph Muehleisen	Travis Wilson
Ginet/Spatz Family	Megan Murphy	Jolene Wise-Silverman
Dan Gleason	Patricia Nelson	Donald Woulfe
Mary Fran Gleason	Carolyn Newberry-Schwartz	Heather Zema

The Day Nursery Staff as of June 30, 2020

Tamera Allen, Custodial
Cari Christoff, Executive Director
Kristen Delmedico, Teacher
Victoria Gregor, Program Director
Linda Jennings, Teacher Assistant Floater
Latrice Jones, Teacher Assistant
Latrenda Mabins, Teacher Assistant
Beatrice Maldonado, Cook
LaKeshia McAllister, Operations Manager
Tiffany McHarland, Teacher
Marion Moore-Rounds, Teacher
Corey Nekimken, Parent Coordinator
Susan Panico, Teacher
Charletha (Rene) Richardson, Teacher Assistant Floater
Kira Smith, Teacher
Roschelle Starnes-Moore, Teacher Assistant
Merry Vercillo, Teacher Assistant
Lyndell Wilson, Teacher Assistant

The Day Nursery Board of Directors as of June 30, 2020

Michelle Arnold, President
Scott Dolezal, Vice President
Nancy Guarino, Treasurer
Heather Zeman, Secretary
Aisha Dalley
Maureen Delaney
Emilie Elick
Erin Ficker
John Lesch
Karen Newton
Eric Olson
Kevin Smith

