

Bright Ideas



HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER ~ Fall 2022 ~ www.highlandscommunitychildcare.org

Fall Update from HCCDC Director Pat Hedden

Graduation is always a time of mixed emotions. We are so happy for all that our graduates have accomplished but so sad to see them leave us. This year we had 7 graduates including Troy Keener, Ella Lovelady, Jaycie Owens, Iker Pioquinto, Daniel Ruiz Garcia, Jack Swain and Cooper Williams. See page 4 for pictures.



To Friends of HCCDC, new and old,

The childcare dilemma in Highlands continues. HCCDC is licensed to serve 75 students/families at a time. Currently, we are at full capacity and have a waiting list of over 50 families. There are no longer any other day care alternatives in Highlands. And, you have to travel a long way from Highlands if you have an infant you need to put in daycare, as HCCDC is the only center in the area that will take children as young as 8 weeks. The lack of available day care is negatively impacting our community, as potential employees are often unable to accept employment opportunities in Highlands because there is nowhere they can comfortably leave their children during the business day.

This issue has been front of mind at HCCDC for a long time, and this year, we are excited to share with you that an opportunity has presented itself whereby we can make progress towards helping more families.

HCCDC and the Church of the Incarnation have united to create two additional classrooms adequate to serve 20-25 additional children under HCCDC guidelines and programs. The biggest concern for HCCDC in taking on these additional children is that currently tuition revenues only cover approximately 40% of total expenses. While the Church of the Incarnation has been incredibly generous, we will need significant additional financial support to add the new classrooms on a breakeven basis. And we are turning to you to help us make this opportunity a reality.

Your continued support will allow us to serve more families in Highlands and reduce the childcare anxiety of many working parents in our community. Can you think of any better way to give back to our extraordinary community than to start our future citizens and leaders off on the right foot? Please join us by contributing to our growth for the families who need us!

Cathy Manning, HCCDC Board President czmanning53@gmail.com



Staff Spotlight: Autumn Beck

Autumn has worked with us for 3 years and is currently in the Infant Room. She knew from a young age she wanted to work with children and feels HCCDC has given her the opportunity to excel in learning about child development. She looks forward to continuing to learn how to guide the children, so they can achieve their full potential. She appreciates all of the support she's gotten from HCCDC, the board and sponsors helping her take classes at Southwestern Community College and believing in her. Go, Autumn!



Tea Party Time

Our students recently had their annual tea party, complete with fancy hats and a formal table setting. Teachers Amanda Barnes and Jeanna Owens with the 2 & 3 year old class get ready for the event.



Happy July 4th!

On Friday July 1, students celebrated the upcoming July 4th holiday with a parade down Main Street. Business owners and visitors stopped, waved and took pictures. It was a wonderful reminder of what a great place Highlands is to raise our children.



Taking Care of Your Teeth

Katie McCall and Cori Sellers of Corbin Dental visited recently to talk to the 2-3 year old and pre-k classes about dental hygiene. They read a story, talked about good dental hygiene, and gave each child a packet containing a book, toothbrush, floss, and a sticker.



PLAYGROUND FUN!

All of the children continue to love the recently improved playground. Daily exercise and recreation are vital for growing bodies, and our policy of providing LOTS of toys and vehicles prevents squabbling! We hope for many mild days this fall.



We all LOVE ice cream! What could be more fun than having a real ice cream truck visit our parking lot for an ice cream social? Each child was able to choose a favorite temptation from a picture menu. Community organizations made contributions to underwrite the experience, and it received rave reviews from the participants!



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The mission of the Highlands Community Child Development Center is to provide affordable high quality child care and early childhood education to promote cognitive, physical, emotional, and social development in a safe and loving environment to young children and their families regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, religion, or financial status.



OUR PROUD GRADUATES

Seven excited members of the preschool class received diplomas on August 11 in a ceremony held at the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands! All are ready to enter kindergarten and continue to love learning.

All of the members of the preschool class, graduates included, entertained a rapt audience of parents and friends with songs learned from Miss Angie's music classes.

WE NEED YOU NOW!

"Lack of space, staffing, and COVID-19 are just some of the things that formed a perfect storm to bring childcare to a crisis situation across the nation." (Highlands included!)

Socialization and early learning are key to later success, and HCCDC serves this need for our community. Your generous support helps fund childcare for working parents, early childhood education for the students, certification for our teachers, supplies for the classrooms, and so much more. Please consider investing in the future of Highlands' children.

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT HCCDC!

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- Scholarships
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Our mailing address is PO Box 648, Highlands, NC 28741.