

news from our neighborhood

THE ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE

YOU ARE GIVING 32 MORE CHILDREN A QUALITY START! PIC set to create two new preschool classrooms

This month, we begin construction on two new classrooms, adding 32 more preschoolers to PIC’s enrollment. These classrooms will be made up of children of mixed ages (3-5 years), who come from families with different levels of income—families who receive public subsidy for childcare and families who pay full tuition.

Ten years ago, PIC kicked off a similar expansion, after losing PIC’s longtime Executive Director Marni Sweet to cancer. Our goal then was the same as it is today—to give more neighborhood children access to the high quality early childhood programs at PIC.

As the dust settled on the last expansion, we saw our waiting lists continue to grow. It is with incredible gratitude that we are able to respond again to the growing need for high quality early learning programs in our community.

We are grateful to the University of Pennsylvania for all the work they have done to make this project a reality.

And, we are grateful to you, our supporters, for your continued commitment to PIC as we strive for greater



PIC classrooms, where children from families with diverse backgrounds and experiences are learning together.

diversity among our families and to give every child access to the high quality early learning and care they deserve.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.



Safia surrounded by PIC alumni, including Eva Grill (second from right) who was enrolled at PIC 30 years ago!

CELEBRATING SAFIA!

Last month PIC celebrated Safia Abdullah and her 30 years of service to the children and families at PIC. Over 100 PIC families, alumni, staff, and members of Safia’s family celebrated with food, drink, and by sharing lots of good memories. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate, as well as friends who were unable to make it, but sent Safia their best wishes. Over her 30 years, Safia has watched PIC grow and her position change. But one thing that remains unchanged is that children and their families are at the center of what she does.



inside...

2015 - 2016 results report	pre-k family portrait	closing the funding gap	PIC at DVAEYC	school age enrichment
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Experience a new fundraiser at PIC—a day-long event that includes the PIC Plant Sale!

“PLAYFUL” CHANGES TO THE PLANT SALE

Don't miss PIC's first *Day of Play* on Saturday, **May 20**, featuring family activities, a plant sale, a midday children's concert, and a night-out for grown-ups.

Morning Fun

Start on PIC's nature playground with activity stations for children, tables on composting, gardening, and other "green" topics, plus a great selection of annuals, herbs, hanging baskets, and pre-potted planters for sale.

A month long online plant sale pre-order period will kick off during the week of April 15. All orders will be available for pick-up on May 20. Look for the PIC Plant Sale online store at picplantsale.org to open soon.

Midday Children's Music

Alex Mitnick of Alex and The Kaleidoscope will play a "pay-as-you-can" concert for children and their families, with a suggested ticket price of \$10.

Alex has performed with his band at World Café Live, the Princeton International Children's Festival, and the Philadelphia Science Festival. *Perfect for the entire family!*

Evening for the Grown-ups

Come back and play at PIC with an adult-only concert in St. Andrew's chapel headlined by West Philly's own *The Papas and the Papas*.

Every band member is a current or former PIC parent, and they are thrilled to support a place that has meant so

much to their families. Their music ranges from 70s yacht rock, 80s pop, 90s alternative and R&B, and even traditional Irish music!



The Papas and The Papas, (l to r) Bimal Desai, Michael Mullins, Will Nathanson, John Myers, Jules Dingle, and Kevin Kearney.

The evening will also include food, drinks, and more. A final line-up of artists is still to be announced. Tickets will go on sale later this spring!

Proceeds will benefit PIC's Tuition Assistance Fund, established over 30 years ago by PIC parents who wanted to maintain socioeconomic diversity among our families.

To learn more, email Development Manager Karen Stachelek at kstachelek@parentinfantcenter.org.



TOP: ArtStart Chair Mary Beth Fedirko (left) with PIC Executive Director Debbie Green. BOTTOM: PIC Board Member Marla Nesbitt-Laws (left) and ArtStart guest Amy Friedlander.

ARTSTART 2016 BROKE BOX-OFFICE RECORDS

On Thursday, October 20, PIC's *Lights! Camera! Auction!* ArtStart fundraiser officially surpassed the record for the top-grossing year of all-time!

The record-breaking figure of \$40,000 is a significant jump over past years. We are grateful for the tireless efforts of this year's ArtStart Chair Mary Beth Fedirko, who led a hard-working committee and secured stellar sponsorship support. The evening also featured an elaborate buffet dinner generously donated by Alex Yuen from Beijing and amazing appetizers by STARR Restaurants.

PIC is grateful for generous support from our sponsors:

Presenting Benefactor - FS Investments

Event Benefactors - Jeff "City" Block, Starr Restaurants

Program Benefactors - Desai/Mullins/Balamuth Families, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Tim Sabol and Judd Flesch

Cocktail Napkin Sponsors - Bluestone Construction Company, Pepper Hamilton LLP, Tired Hands Brewing Company

To learn more about PIC fundraising, email Development Manager Karen Stachelek at kstachelek@parentinfantcenter.org.



pic
parent infant center

- children reaching their potential
- families finding community
- teachers defining a profession
- diversity driving our journey



results
2015 / 2016

2016 - 2017
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Debbie Green



Today, we are delighted to see our vision of having more children from differing socioeconomic backgrounds enrolled in our early care and education program become a reality.

For nearly two years, PIC's Board of Directors has discussed the importance of socioeconomic diversity. A lot has happened since those initial conversations. I am so pleased to report on the following:

- **Funding:** The funding began with a lead gift from a private donor. The Fund for Quality, a project managed by the Philadelphia Health Management Corporation (PHMC) to support the expansion of high quality providers, awarded PIC planning and capital grants. This initiative has also been made possible by the many friends who have given to the Annual Fund and the Cindy Fund, which was set up by the family of former Executive Director Cindy Roberts.
- **New Spaces for School Age Programs:** Through this project, all of our afterschoolers have moved into expanded program space. We have leased new space for our 2nd-5th graders, which lends itself to enriched programming and are grateful to the University of Pennsylvania for their generosity in supporting this project. Our kindergarten and 1st graders have relocated to our Stucco Building, a large space that was fully renovated just a few years ago. I invite you to come see these two "new" spaces that have been dramatically transformed by School Age Program Director Anjali Gallup-Diaz and her talented team of teachers.
- **Renovations for New Classrooms:** We are ready to begin construction on two new preschool classrooms in the space previously occupied by the After School Center. We expect construction to be completed in June, and plan to open the first of the two new classrooms in July.
- **New Enrollment:** We will be able to enroll 32 additional children through our expansion, which includes 20 children whose families receive public subsidy for child care.
- **Lunch Program:** Enrolling children on public subsidy requires that we provide hot lunch. Our goal is to offer a lunch program to all of our families. Food will be served family-style, which encourages children to try new foods, as well as take appropriately-sized portions. We are currently considering possible food vendors.

While we have made a lot of progress on our expansion over the last year, and though there continues to be much work to do, we know that there is so much to look forward to upon its completion.

PIC's expansion vision includes more children experiencing our program, more children better prepared for school, more children learning beside peers who are different than themselves, and probably most importantly, more children having an early childhood experience NOW that we believe should be available to all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie".

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT: Leah Finnegan



Expansion has been the dominant topic for PIC's Board of Directors for the past 18 months. Increasing socioeconomic diversity at PIC has long been a goal of the Board and was part of the five year strategic plan adopted in 2011.

The past year and a half have been filled with board work focused on translating this goal into a reality.

While increasing socioeconomic diversity was widely embraced by the Board, equally important to us was that any expansion should not result in an increased cost burden to existing PIC families.

We spent many hours alongside PIC administrators exploring expansion feasibility, understanding funding

sources, and reviewing enrollment and financial projections. Board members heard from various consultants and experts on pre-k initiatives, participated in identifying additional space to accommodate a larger enrollment, and led lease negotiations with the University of Pennsylvania.

After much planning and consideration, the Board voted unanimously to move forward with the expansion, which will provide high quality early childhood education to 32 more children. At least 50% of these new seats will be dedicated to children receiving subsidies for their childcare/pre-k education.

I am extremely excited by this plan and the benefits it will offer to both existing and new PIC families. Finally, I want to express my sincere thanks to Executive Director Deb Green and to my fellow Board members for their hard work, dedication and commitment to PIC during this very busy time and recognize the efforts put forth to achieve this significant goal.

LENA IS A LEAPFROG | Pre-K Counts at PIC



Lena began in the Leapfrog classroom at the age of three. This fall she will head to kindergarten.

Rowaida Hashem is originally from Dubai and her husband Khalid Mokbel is from Ethiopia. They have three children, a boy and two girls, who were born in the US. She works as an accountant for the City of Philadelphia, while her husband works at the University of Pennsylvania.

Rowaida and Khalid first learned about PIC's Pre-K Counts program, a fully subsidized preschool program for eligible families, from a friend whose child was enrolled here. After filling out an application, Lena was put on PIC's Pre-K Counts waiting list. In September of 2015, Lena began in the Leapfrog classroom. She was three years old.

Prior to PIC, Lena was cared for at home. Rowaida believes that being in a classroom has been good for

Lena. She made new friends and has skilled, caring teachers. Lena has learned to share her ideas and to engage in group activities.

Rowaida and her husband feel very involved in the classroom and find that Lena's teachers work side by side with parents. The weekly email from the teachers shares class activities during the week. Rowaida currently volunteers as a Room Parent for the Leapfrogs, a role that helps strengthen the classroom community.

Rowaida appreciates the regular assessment meetings they have with Lena's teachers. At an early conference, they learned that Lena was having trouble expressing herself verbally when she felt sad. Her teachers suggested some strategies to try at home when Lena would start crying, while they worked with her in class. After a couple of months, Lena's verbal skills improved and she began using more words to express her feelings.

Lena is now five and ready to start kindergarten in the fall. Rowaida doesn't think she would be as prepared without the support and help they have gotten from PIC. For her, being a part of the PIC community has been great for the entire family. "We have met new parents, shared new cultures, and exchanged ideas to help raise our kids to be better citizens in the future."

Lena's younger sister Maya will join the Leapfrog classroom this fall. With PIC's preschool expansion in September, more children like Lena will be better prepared for kindergarten and their families will be ready to support their educational experiences.

CLOSING THE FUNDING GAP | The Cindy Fund

As the cost of high quality child care continues to grow, program tuition is taking up a greater portion of a family's monthly income. For families at lower income levels, the percentage of earnings used for child care is greater.

State reimbursement rates for publicly-funded programs like Pre-K Counts, do not come close to covering the true cost of high quality care. In fact, the gap widens every year.

This significant gap has only recently come to the attention of government funders. Discussions have begun at the local, state, and national level to figure out how we can deliver high quality care, as well as pay for it.

PIC is grateful to have a fund established specifically to support children in PIC's pre-k classrooms whose families are unable to afford the high cost of tuition.

The Cindy Fund was created last year upon the death of former Executive Director Cindy Roberts as a way to pay tribute to Cindy and her belief that quality child care must be available to every family, regardless of income.

In 2016, the Cindy Fund raised over \$30,000 to help close the funding gap.

Cindy Fund donors understand the importance of giving all children the best possible start. Giving more children a chance to come to PIC is our priority and the Cindy Fund helps make that happen.

We are grateful to our Cindy Fund supporters, along with PIC friends who attend and sponsor our events, give to our annual fund, and support other special projects, such as caring for our nature playground and program expansion. Your gifts help us maintain the highest quality programs and give more children access to the PIC learning experience.



2016 HIGHLIGHTS

REACHING POTENTIAL

276

children learn through play every day.

139

Cindy Fund donors helping children come to PIC.

48

children prepared to start kindergarten.

26

families awarded PIC grants to make tuition more affordable

DEVELOPING PROFESSIONALS

8

PIC teachers earned a master's, bachelor's, or associate degree.

57

future teachers learned hands-on in PIC classrooms.

4

PIC teachers and administrators presented at professional conferences.



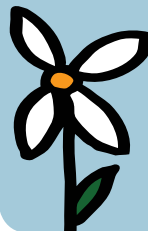
ENRICHING CURRICULUM

20

new After School clubs for enriched STEAM learning.

224

new books reflecting the diversity of PIC families and other under represented groups.*



**purchased through a grant from the Terry Lynne Lokoff Child Care Foundation*

CREATING COMMUNITY

3,500

hours parents volunteered in the classroom or to support the center.

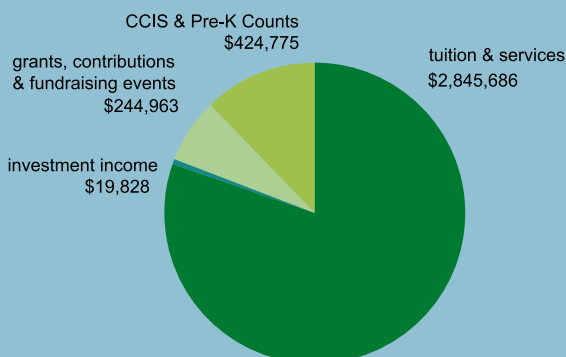
212

friends, families, alumni, and staff supported PIC at ArtStart.

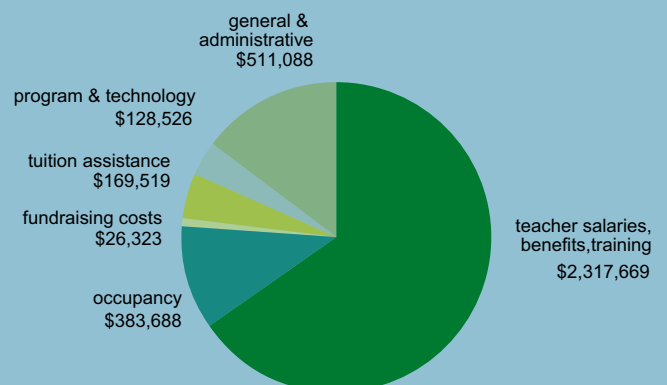
30

corporate volunteers helped with PIC events and facility improvements.

INCOME 2015 - 2016



EXPENSES 2015 - 2016



SPOTLIGHT ON PIC | DVAEYC Conference



This year, PIC was honored to participate in the annual conference organized by the Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children (DVAEYC) in an unprecedented way. We served as a satellite site for conference workshops, which also gave us the chance to shine a spotlight on our classrooms.

We hosted close to 50 DVAEYC conference attendees for two workshops and for classroom visits. We were very excited to share our program space and classrooms with colleagues and hope we can inspire others in our field.

Executive Director Deb Green presented an extended-session workshop titled *Sharing Our Reggio Inspired Journey*. On a guided tour of PIC, participants saw how elements of the

Reggio Emilia educational philosophy have been incorporated into our program. Visible were ways in which teachers are implementing long term-projects throughout their curriculum and making children's learning visible through documentation. Participants also saw natural elements brought into the classroom, along with more aesthetically pleasing and home-like environments.

PIC preschool teachers Jacob Kerner and Joann Schock led an extended-session workshop on literacy entitled *Building Literacy Skills Through Play* hoping to get teachers excited to return to the classroom with new ideas on how to incorporate literacy throughout their room.

Michael Roach, who has been promoted to a lead teacher position beginning this June, presented a session titled *Gender-Less: Creating Early Childhood Spaces that Welcome Gender Diversity*. At the heart of diversity work is the idea of truly and wholly respecting a student. Michael offered participants materials, strategies, and language for teachers to use that allow young children to explore their identity more freely.

Our visitors shared many accolades in seeing the classrooms, and our teachers showcased their experience and classrooms on social media.

Helping this field continually move forward is a part of PIC's mission. We were grateful for the opportunity to share what we learn through the work we do with young children every day.



Annual Giving

Our 2016 Annual Fund Campaign raised over \$16,000. Annual donations give children the highest quality child care, help families better afford tuition, and allow us to remain a diverse community of families from different backgrounds, family composition, and socioeconomic levels.

We are grateful for the gifts we received throughout the year from individual donors, as well as support from area businesses and organizations. While we are unable to recognize you all by name in this publication, **please check the online *Neighborhood News Spring 2017* edition for a complete list of our friends and supporters from 2016. Visit PIC's website at parentinfantcenter.org.**

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE: Make a donation and ask if your company has a **matching gift program**. Designate PIC to receive your gift to the **United Way or Penn's Way Campaigns by using our number: 02671**. Kindly remember us in your **estate planning**. For more information on these and other ways to support PIC, please contact Development Manager Karen Stachelek at 215-222-5480 or send an email to kstachelek@parentinfantcenter.org.

EXPANSION ENRICHES SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS

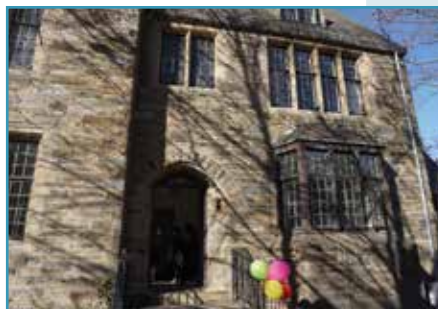
In March, without interrupting a moment of programming for the children, PIC's After School Center relocated to make space for two new preschool-age classrooms at PIC. The older Hawks and Eagles have moved into a new space that they have appropriately named The Aviary. Our younger children have moved into the Stucco Building, formerly occupied by their older peers.

With the move to new spaces come new possibilities. The Aviary offers three floors divided into a library, a lounge, a game room (think board games and legos), a movement studio, a music room, an art studio, common area/snack space, and commercial kitchen.

The Stucco Building has been transformed into two distinct classrooms, each side exhibiting its own personality.

PIC's After School program is known for its extensive club curriculum, eight weeks of themed-activities according to children's interests and teacher talents. Teachers are already developing plans for exciting new topics such as gardening and environmental responsibility. There will be enhanced opportunities for STEM-related activities, such as robotics, 3-D printing, sophisticated graphics and animation, and music technology. The new spaces also afford plenty of room to keep up with the old favorites: arts and crafts, dancing, drama, and yoga.

For early learners PIC's expansion offers more children the chance to come to PIC. For our afterschoolers and summer campers, the move to new spaces will provide opportunities for deeper discovery, exploration of more topics, and lots of room for creative expression.



"I felt my heart swell with proud admiration as our teachers turned empty rooms into dynamic classroom spaces, cleaned, sorted and stored supplies, displayed children's art, made beautiful signs, and welcomed the excited children into their new afterschool digs without skipping a beat."

*Anjali Gallup-Diaz,
Director School Age programs*

A LOOK AT LEARNING



The Leapfrogs created instruments by using recycled materials. They considered which pieces could be combined and tested different combinations to see how they could produce the sound they were seeking.



A group of Bumblebees took a short trip to the PIC library by climbing two flights of stairs. They found some great new titles and enjoyed a read-aloud story.



SATURDAY MAY 20

Family activities, plant sale, a midday children's concert, and a night-out for grown-ups! Details inside!

Want to keep up with PIC? Find us on facebook.com/parentinfantcenter

OUR GRATITUDE: We are very grateful for the support of our friends whose generous contributions we received in 2016

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 Jacquelyn Caridad
 Lily Cavanagh
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 Ellen Napier
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 Michelle and Keith Niedermeier

We make every effort to recognize all of our donors. If we have accidentally omitted your name, please accept our apology and let us know of our mistake. Contact Development Manager Karen Stachelek at kstachelek@parentinfantcenter.org or call 215-222-5480.

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in honor of Brooks Wilson and family
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in memory of Marni Sweet
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in memory of Marni Sweet
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in honor of Chris and Michael O'Neill
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Barbara and John Stanley
Mariel and Jon Staszewski
David Stotz and Shawn Berven
Mary Williamson Strasser
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Al Suh & Nancy Rimmer
David Sweet and Elaine Kihara
in memory of Marni Sweet
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