



Inspiring curiosity
Empowering families
Transforming lives



Connecting for Children and Families Annual Report 2019

Dear Families and Supporters,

On behalf of Connecting for Children and Families (CCF), thank you for your caring support of our community members.

CCF's positive impact in Woonsocket, and beyond, is possible thanks to the generosity and dedication of many kind individuals like you. You transform lives!

In 2019, CCF worked closely together with our kids and families to make a positive difference in their lives:

- Early childhood programs provided our youngest children with a nurturing and structured educational foundation so they could have the best possible start in life.
- Cutting edge afterschool and summer enrichment programs continued to reach Woonsocket children with high quality, hands on learning experiences. These programs help children not only to thrive in school, but also to enhance their social and emotional skills, build strong friendships, and cultivate new talents.
- Parenting education and support programs, such as Parents as Teachers, parent workshops, and family nights increased parents' confidence in caring for their children and promoting positive family relationships.

And CCF's Center for Financial Success worked with adults and families to ensure everyone had opportunities to develop job and financial literacy skills to improve their economic stability.

All of this critical work continues to be possible because of your dedication and we are beyond grateful for your support!

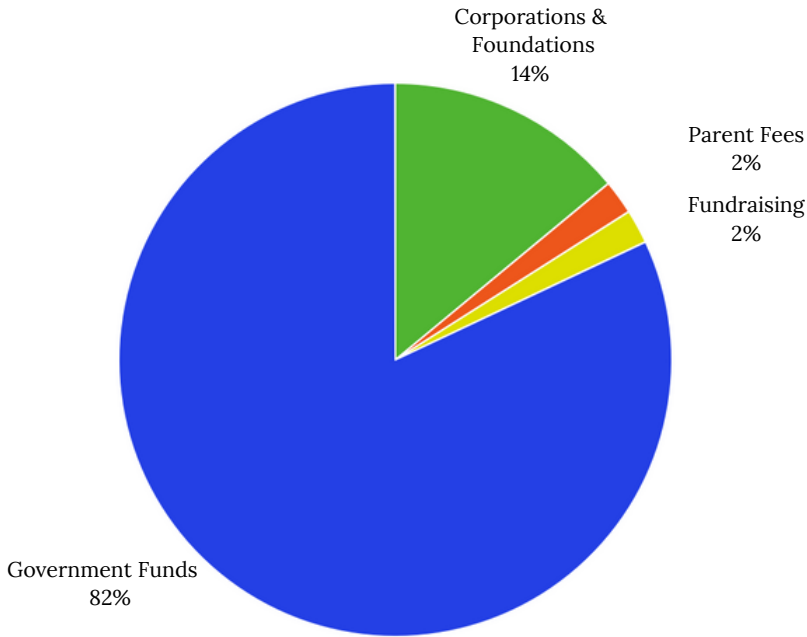
Sincerely,
Terese Curtin, MSW
Executive Director



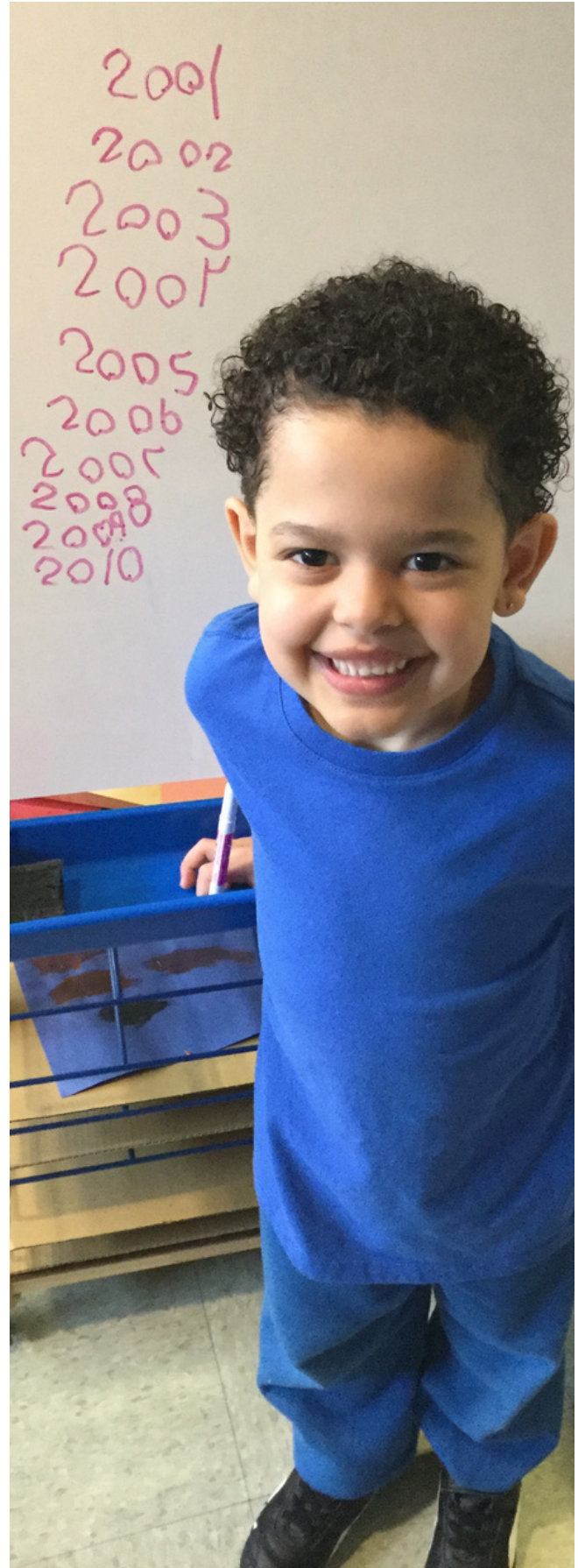
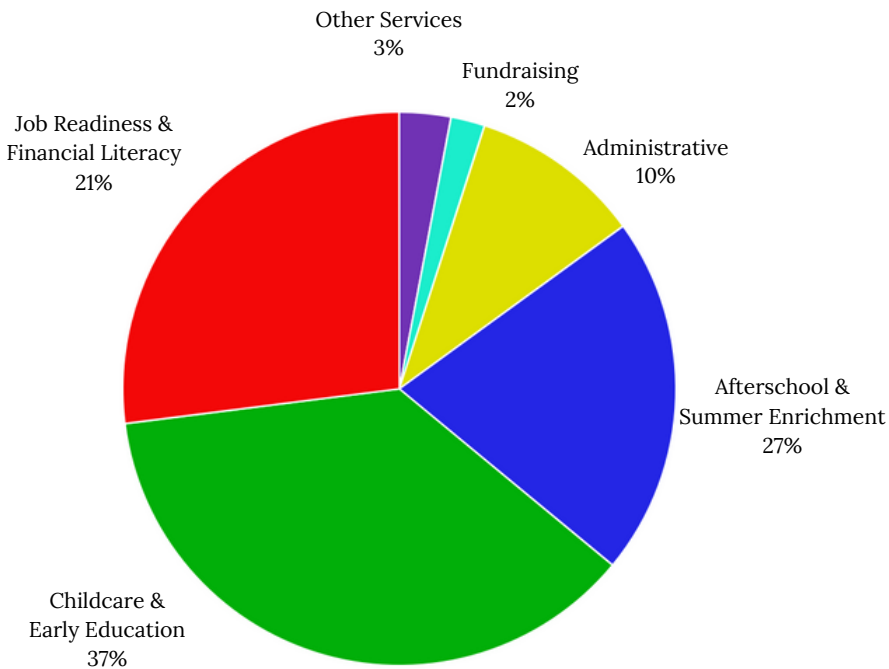
2019 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

For Budget Year January 1 - December 31

SOURCES OF FUNDING



EXPENDITURES





SPOTLIGHT: BRENDALEE ORTIZ

Brendalee moved from Puerto Rico to Woonsocket for better opportunities. She didn't speak English, which made finding resources in the community challenging.

When Brendalee met her husband and had her first son, Manuel, she enrolled him in a CCF childcare program and gained access to resources that helped her transition into life in America. While pregnant with her daughter, she was introduced to the Parents as Teachers program at CCF, which helped her prepare for the baby's arrival.

The programs and support services offered at CCF helped Brendalee access resources and gain knowledge while she also formed friendships and a strong foundation for her new life here. She discovered a support network to help her give her children everything they needed for the best possible start.

Being a member of the CCF family not only helped Brendalee provide everything her children needed to grow – Brendalee grew as well. By volunteering at one of CCF's afterschool programs, she found her calling.

Today, Brendalee is CCF's Family Engagement Coordinator. She has become bilingual, and uses her skills to help families in our community who are facing the same challenges she first faced in the U.S.

Brendalee is an inspiration to the children and families she helps, the co-workers who rely on her, and most importantly, her family. She transformed her life to give them the best foundation for theirs.

Bulldog Park Redesign

In 2018's annual report, you discovered that CCF was planning to renovate Stan "the Bulldog" Eason Park, the neighborhood park across from CCF's Hope Street Early Learning Center.

In 2019, thanks to grants provided by the Rhode Island Foundation and Local Initiative Support Corporation, staff, neighbors, friends, and volunteers came together to transform this space.

Once a dirt lot with just a few benches and two trees, Bulldog Park, as it's locally known, is now a vibrant outdoor play and learning environment for children. This inspiring new outdoor area is a great space for our students to play, and also provides the chance to give back to our neighborhood by providing a beautiful space for everyone to enjoy.

Bulldog Park has become an accessible community hub equipped with a safe and durable synthetic play surface and a variety of equipment to promote motor skill development, cooperative play, communication, and imagination.

We hope you come by to see it, and enjoy the space, too!





Henry's Story

Henry is one of the best students in his class - he and his family always look forward to report card time! He is proud of his grades.

In fall 2019, Henry's report card looked unusual. His grades were much lower than normal.

Hoping to find help, Henry's parents enrolled him in one of CCF's afterschool programs. During afterschool, Henry participated in enrichment programs and received homework help from devoted staff and volunteers.

At report card time, Henry and his family were surprised to see that not only had his grades improved - they were **even better** than before.

Henry's grades are still up, and he is making many new friends. He loves coming to afterschool, and his parents are so proud of his progress.

Because of caring community members like **you**, children like Henry can attend the programs **they need to grow and succeed**.



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Ericka Moore, Vice-Chairperson
Kathleen Orovitz, Treasurer
Meka Hamilton, Secretary

Parent Representatives:

Meka Hamilton
Sharon Harmon
Ida Jagne
Lynn Kapiskas
Adriana Spellman

Representatives of Community Agencies:

Lisa Carcifero, *Woonsocket Prevention Coalition*
Nancy Giambusso, *RI Regional Adult Learning*
Ericka Moore, *Neighborhood Health Plan of RI*
Jennifer Renigaldo, *Principal, Hamlet Middle School*

Community Leaders:

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Cynthia Carlozzi
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Cynthia Kelly, *Santander*
Carolyn Kyle, *Landmark Medical Center*
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Kathleen Orovitz, *Navigant Credit Union*
Stacey Phommatheth, *Federal Hill House Association*



Connecting for Children and Families (CCF)

Transforming the lives of Woonsocket children through high quality educational opportunities and family support.

Thousands of lives transformed

-Each and every one as bright as her smile-



All made possible by your caring support, and the generosity of dedicated community members like you

Connecting for Children & Families

46 Hope Street
Woonsocket RI 02895
Tel: (401) 766-3384

www.ccfcenter.org