WHAT HAPPENS EARLY IN LIFE LASTS A LIFETIME

ANNUAL REPORT 2013
This is our story... 2013 was a year of profound growth and learning for University City Children’s Center. Successes include:

- the board and administrative staff worked hard to strengthen UCCC’s infrastructure and financial position
- we identified and met the needs of our Leadership Team – which resulted in increased management capacity
- each of our educators received 75+ professional development hours (60+ more hours than is required by the state of Missouri)
- 100% of our Kindergarten-aged children were Kindergarten ready as confirmed by their DIAL-4 scores (this is a widely-used Kindergarten readiness assessment tool)
- we served 238 children and 195 families in 30+ zip codes
- we provided tuition assistance to over 50% of our families

As we look toward the future, and as we continue to grow and learn, we face every challenge as an opportunity. We are working to add more clarity to the way we communicate our philosophical approach and methodology. Most critical is that our families truly understand WHY we do what we do. We recognize our need to communicate the “messiness” of early childhood.

It is certainly physically messy, but it’s intellectually and emotionally messy too. While there are times that messy feels uncomfortable, we work through it with children, families, and teachers with an approach that is built on the soundest theory and research that has been validated by the most current brain research.

Your feedback is always welcome as we anticipate continued growth. The year 2013 has given me, our entire staff, and board great satisfaction and we are grateful that you choose to invest in us. Thank you for being an important part of our story.

Steve Zwolak
UCCC Executive Director and LUME Institute CEO
Looking Back... 2013 was a successful year for University City Children's Center. Our financial position stabilized as we focused on applying discipline to a number of our frameworks, including reporting and accountability. That discipline, and the strong foundation we have been building, enabled us to move forward with the creation of LUME Institute.

LUME Institute works with teachers, families, and communities to foster an all-inclusive understanding of young children “from the inside out.” LUME is dedicated to promoting innovative thinking, exploration, and knowledge sharing, while developing methodologies that deepen understanding of how children learn and grow.

Necessary to LUME’s and UCCC’s continuing development in 2013, the Board was actively engaged in strategic messaging and decision making, program evolution, and careful talent resource assessment and management. This work has paid off for both entities, and we are seeing each grow and complement, support, and enhance the achievements of the other.

My tenure as Board President was cut short by a job relocation, but I am proud of University City Children’s Center and look forward to watching it grow. The entire Board joins me in thanking you for sharing our vision of a world in which all children are emotionally, socially, and academically ready to succeed.

Thank you.

Mark Hood
UCCC 2013 Board President
“A critical time to shape productivity is from birth to age five, when the brain develops rapidly to build the foundation of cognitive and character skills necessary for success in school, health, career, and life.”

James J. Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics
Looking Ahead...As a former parent at University City Children’s Center, I am thrilled to “give back” to my boys’ first school by assuming the position of Board President. There is no more important work than providing nurturing, innovative, quality care and education to a racially, culturally, developmentally, and socio-economically mix of young children.

This is a time of growth and expansion for UCCC and I am energized that we’re enhancing our Caldecott Medal award-winning book series and formalizing our robust volunteer program. I am amazed at UCCC volunteers’ cumulative hours and impactful accomplishments.

During challenging times when low and middle income families feel the burden of slow economic progress and mediocre wages, UCCC’s Tuition Assistance Program gives economically diverse families from all over the region the opportunity to experience our psychodynamic approach to early childhood education. I am proud to say the entire Board places a high value on providing tuition assistance to families who need it.

The LUME Institute is flourishing, and one of its biggest projects, the Flance Early Learning Center, is now a reality. Our excellent UCCC teachers are now joined by equally fine Flance teachers, and as they nurture and educate children, both groups use the LUME “Spheres of Understanding” Approach and provide supportive services to families.

As always, we are most grateful to you, our stakeholders, who believe in what we do and join us as we discover a more holistic understanding of young children. My ambition as Board President is to keep the Board’s eyes on the prize, maximizing the reward and impact of all our work as we align with UCCC’s most compelling statement: “what happens early in life lasts a lifetime.”

LaToya Wilson, DMD
UCCC Board President
History
Founded in 1970 by nine community synagogues and churches, today UCCC reflects the founders' visionary desire to create a safe, nurturing environment where children from different socioeconomic, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds can learn and play together in an atmosphere that is respectful of diversity and individuality. The Center opened with 28 children and was one of the very first programs to achieve accreditation with Missouri Voluntary Accreditation. Throughout the 1970s and 80s, UCCC was a leading program in St. Louis. During the 1990s, suffering from lack of leadership, the program deteriorated and the building fell into disrepair. At this point, UCCC served only children from low-income families—all requiring tuition assistance—which was not a financially sustainable model. In 2000, under new leadership, UCCC improved its program and made plans to serve a diverse population of children and families.

UCCC now has the capacity for 164 children daily in a pioneering facility. We have a growing reputation as a thought-leader in early childhood education and human development. Our innovative, creative thinking in the classroom drives the continuous improvement of our programs. We are able to care for and educate a large group of underserved children because of our ability to provide financial assistance to our families, and are successful because we put sound child development theory into practice.

Mission
University City Children’s Center is committed to providing innovative, quality care and education to a racially, culturally, developmentally, and socio-economically diverse population of children between the ages of six weeks and six years in a nurturing environment that provides supportive services to families.

UCCC partnered with 195 families in 2013.
"I wanted my son here because of the diversity, no processed food, they teach through play, and problem solving, I knew he would learn so much. From the tour I could tell the teachers care, they interact with them. I wanted Giovanni in a safe environment."

Richelle Works, Mom to Giovanni
UCCC has a highly engaged and supportive Board who serve on a variety of committees including Executive, Finance, Fund Development, Board Development, Marketing, Human Resources, and Program. In 2013, we received financial support from 100% of the Board.
This is our story...

Accomplishments

- UCCC received Youth Opportunity Program Tax Credits (YOPs)
- 100% of UCCC’s Kindergarten-aged children were Kindergarten ready in 2013
- 8th Annual Fairy Tales Can Come True Concert raised over $100,000 for UCCC’s Tuition Assistance Program
Program

- As part of UCCC’s mental health program, we formalized *Family Matters*, staff driven discussions on early childhood topics for families.

- New curriculum was developed at UCCC based on current neuroscience research: *Mirroring* between teachers and children is an approach that helps develop empathy.

- UCCC integrated early childhood mental health consultations with our Director of Clinical Services.
Award
16th Annual What’s Right with the Region! Awarded to UCCC for promoting stronger communities

95% percent of the brain is developed by the age of five.
University City Children’s Center services go far beyond that of a typical early childhood center – and the efforts are paying off. A six-year DECA (Devereux Early Childhood Assessment) Outcomes Study shows that UCCC is preparing our socioeconomically underserved children for Kindergarten – a critical factor that will keep them from falling behind their more affluent peers through high school.

We find that children who are enrolled at UCCC for more than 36 months have an average score of 91% on the DIAL-4 (Developmental Indicators Assessment for Learning), a widely-used Kindergarten readiness tool.

**100% of UCCC’s children were Kindergarten ready in 2013.**
Childhood is changing, but childhood development is not. UCCC is influencing a generation every five years.
2013 Revenues Totaling $3,046,001

2013 Expenditures Totaling $2,934,526

Net assets as of December 31, 2013 were $2,945,182. For complete audited financials, please visit http://www.uccc.org/financial-information.
Please visit http://youtu.be/QOm7w2Qso9w to view this video.
Founded in 2008, LUME Institute is now a legal entity – a single-member limited liability company wholly-owned by University City Children’s Center for the purpose of introducing organizations, teachers, children, and families to our model methodologies in early childhood education. LUME provides professional development, family services (Family Matters), and consulting services. Outcomes from the last several years show our approach to teaching produces better outcomes, including closing the achievement gap.

University City Children’s Center is the founding school for the LUME Approach.

Accomplishments
Modeled after UCCC, and a project of LUME Institute, Flance Early Learning Center, an early childhood center in downtown St. Louis with a capacity for 154 children, broke ground in 2013 and opened in June 2014.

Special Programs
What happens early in life lasts a lifetime. Collaboration between LUME, Incite/Emmis Communications, and PNC Grow Up Great®, this campaign reached over 30,000 people. As a part of the campaign LUME launched an online quiz, Are You Smarter than a Preschooler? The campaign ended with a community concert at the St. Louis Central Library based on the popular children’s book, My Bodyworks.

Through a partnership with Child Care Aware® of Missouri, LUME had 1,560 participants in LUME professional development courses.

We project that LUME will reach 5,000 central and eastern Missouri teachers by 2015, directly impacting 50,000 children.
LUME Video

Please visit http://youtu.be/FyNY-DnlXEc to view this video.
Thank You for Your Support
Gifts received from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013

Thank You
We are grateful to ALL our donors – we are indebted to every one of our champions who donates his or her time, talent, and treasure to University City Children’s Center. Without our donors and volunteers it simply would not be possible for us to serve the number of children and families we do. Additional thanks go to our Board, parents, faculty, and staff.

In an effort to manage the size of this publication, we have limited the print version of our donor list to those whose 2013 support of our programs, events, and initiatives exceeded $1,000. This list is limited in space - our gratitude is not.

For a complete donor list, please visit www.ucce.org/donors2013.

We have made every effort to ensure our donor lists are correct. If your name is missing or misspelled, or if we have made a mistake of any sort, we are sincerely sorry and ask you to please contact the Director of Development at 314-726-0148 ext. 140 or jmcdonald@uccc.org so we can correct the error immediately. Thank you.
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*Deceased

Your support enables us to enroll more than 80 children, from 30 ZIP codes in the St. Louis region, from families who could not otherwise afford UCCC’s tuition.
Volunteers Make the Difference

We hosted many volunteers and groups of volunteers during 2013. The work they accomplished continues to make a difference in the beauty, comfort, and usability of our building and our grounds. Here is a sample of what was accomplished by volunteers at UCCC.

**Firefly Reading Garden**

Created by volunteers from Rebuilding Together and Maritz, the Firefly Reading Garden offers additional outdoor space for classrooms. There are trees for shade, a picnic table, toadstools to sit on, and whimsical touches.

**Pergola on the Adventure Playground**

The Pergola was created by volunteers from the U.S. Coast Guard, Boeing, and Andrew Finkenkeller, whose work on this project earned him his Eagle Scout designation. It runs the entire length of the building and provides much needed shade for the 2 year-old and pre-k classrooms.

**Equifax Volunteers**

Equifax volunteers have taken charge of a number of large, ongoing projects at UCCC including painting, gardening, and general construction support. Their long-term commitment to the Center helped us to make many improvements.
Meet the entire dedicated and fun-loving staff here: www.uccc.org/staff-at-uccc.