extreme kids & crew
A SPACE TO BE
2015 annual report
Squid

If you were a squid,
We could get rid of the baby clothes
And wooden blocks.
We’d put you in a sea chest
Glassy, sadly square, but filled with the best in pebbles
and shells.
We’d watch, noses smushed,
Landlubbing bugs with big eyes and tentacled fingers,
Asking each other: do you think it’s happy?
What would it like to eat?

It wouldn’t be that bad,
Except for the neighbors,
The snuffling relatives,
The asinine commentary.
And what, pray tell, is wrong with a squid?
My spittle spotting the sidewalk.
Passersby would shudder or smugly pity.
But when they were gone,
We’d have fun, swirling the water and wondering.

Eliza Factor
Each year has brought new families, new programs, and new insights, making for steady growth that reflects the need for creative, affordable spaces to accommodate New York City’s children with disabilities.

As anyone with a disability—or anyone close to a person with a disability—knows, the public arena can often be inaccessible, condescending, or unkind. At Extreme Kids, we wanted to create an alternative universe that was easy, fun, open, and creative—a place where everyone had air to breathe and a space to be free, whether or not they had money, arms, legs, speech, sight, conventional manners, and so on.

We started in 2011 with a small space within the Coop School in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. The experiment worked. Families came from all over the city, bringing children with a variety of disabilities. Parents, children, friends and relatives played, made art, danced, told stories, shared resources, cried, hugged—and kept coming back. Word spread, and by 2013, both the Coop School and Extreme Kids needed room to expand.

Our next host was—and still is—P.S. 15, a Title I elementary school in Red Hook, Brooklyn. At P.S. 15, our sensory playspace is used by school teachers, service providers, and students during school days, and by Extreme Kids’ members when school’s out. This wonderful space-sharing experiment showed us we could reach more families simply by aiding public schools in low-resourced areas. By opening our playspace to P.S. 15 during school hours, we give the teachers and service providers a valuable resource—and something their students love! We also provide free after-school programs for these students. On the weekends, we continue what we’ve been doing from the start: welcoming families of children with disabilities from all over the city, bringing people from diverse backgrounds and disabilities together through open-ended movement, play, arts workshops, events, and more.

The continued success of the P.S. 15 Red Hook Space led, in 2016, to the opening of a new space in another Title I school: P.S. 71 in Ridgewood, Queens. It has been a joy getting to know the parents, administrators, teachers, therapists, and particularly the students at our new facility. We look forward to expanding our Queens programming in the fall, and exploring further expansions in collaboration with the NYC Department of Education.

It’s been a great year, and we couldn’t have done it without the help of our donors, advisors, partners, staff and board. Thank you so much for participating, and for making New York City a more equitable, creative, and celebratory place for children with disabilities.

Sincerely,
Eliza Factor, Founder and Board Chair
Caitlin Cassaro, Executive Director

I feel like it’s priceless to have this community [at Extreme Kids & Crew], and the friendships. It’s open to all disabilities and that’s strangely rare. The fact that everyone can attend is impactful.

Jen Sellar, Parent Member and Board Member
From infancy, play is essential to the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical well-being of children. Children who live in poverty, however, often face socio-economic obstacles that cut into playtime, which in turn affects their mental health and social-emotional development. For under-resourced children to reach their highest potential, it is essential that parents, educators, and pediatricians recognize the importance and lifelong benefits that children gain from play.

American Academy of Pediatrics, 2012
More than 75% of families report they can’t find after-school care, non-institutional community services, trained and reliable homecare providers, summer care, or residential, respite and other services

60,889—number of persons under age 18 with at least one disability in NYC

38.1%—poverty rate for persons under age 18 with a disability in NYC

$14,880—mean household income for persons under age 18 with a disability in NYC

NYC People with Disabilities Statistics, updated 2016
Since we opened our doors in 2011, it has been our mission to provide a welcoming space where the families of children with any sort of disability could connect, and where their children could feel comfortable being themselves. In 2014, in an effort to bring our disability community to more families, we began a “space-sharing experiment” with P.S. 15, a Title I school in the underserved Brooklyn neighborhood of Red Hook. It worked in more ways than one: The year we moved to P.S. 15, we saw our membership increase by 100%. Just as importantly, we helped our host school better serve its children with disabilities by providing a top-notch sensory gym, which is treasured by students, teachers, and therapists.

The success of our partnership with P.S. 15 led to our “ball pit in every borough” campaign in 2015. In collaboration with the NYC Department of Education we found our next location in Queens. P.S. 71 is a Title I elementary school in Ridgewood, Queens, where 17% of students receive special education services (School Quality Snapshot, 2014–2015). At this new location, we emulated our space-sharing model, but tailored the space and programming to better serve the local community. Together with Principal Indiana Soto, the staff and service providers of P.S. 71, we will reach local families of children with disabilities, and provide disability-focused information and resources; parent support groups, and family-centered arts, movement and play programs.

This is the first time we’ve been able to have Kaden take part in an after-school or summer camp program. Now he’s doing both! I’m so grateful that he’s here and able to be a part of this. He has friends now, he’s happy, and even his teachers have seen his self-confidence grow.

Kirsis Cuello, Parent Member

Through our collaboration with Extreme Kids & Crew, we are providing supports to families with children who have disabilities by using the arts, movement and play. The playspaces at schools in Brooklyn and Queens give families a place to meet, get to know one another and build a supportive community. We look forward to continuing to work together to support families with students who have disabilities.

Schools Chancellor of the NYC Department of Education, Carmen Farina
Children with disabilities and their families report higher stress levels and feelings of stigma and isolation.

Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, 2016

A vast majority of adults caring for children with disabilities suffer from physical fatigue (88%), emotional stress (81%) and emotional upset or guilt (81%) some or most of the time.

The Arc, 2011
summer camp experiences in partnership with Gallop NYC and Speak, Learn & Play

135 OPEN PLAY sessions

28 SUMMER CAMP experiences in partnership with Gallop NYC and Speak, Learn & Play

98 days of DROP-OFF programs

70 sessions of FREE AFTER-SCHOOL for P.S. 15 host-school students with IEPs

90 hours of ARTS & MOVEMENT classes

6 Mostly Monthly MUSIC & ART workshops

6 Cocktails & Bureaucracy caregiver seminars
### Statement of Financial Activities

**Support**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Contributions</td>
<td>$152,593</td>
<td>$272,264</td>
<td>$301,065</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Income</td>
<td>12,580</td>
<td>12,633</td>
<td>15,602</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind Services/Donated Goods</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>7,135</td>
<td>30,007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Event Income</td>
<td>2,229</td>
<td>5,370</td>
<td>20,154</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$167,964</strong></td>
<td><strong>$297,413</strong></td>
<td><strong>$366,857</strong></td>
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</table>

**Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Expenses</td>
<td>$159,919</td>
<td>$223,674</td>
<td>$248,714</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>18,784</td>
<td>29,213</td>
<td>35,380</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising Expenses</td>
<td>5,548</td>
<td>17,417</td>
<td>20,573</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$184,251</strong></td>
<td><strong>$270,304</strong></td>
<td><strong>$304,667</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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**Change in Net Assets**

- $16,287  
  
**Net Assets Beginning of Year**

- $27,400  
  
**Net Assets End of Year**

- $11,113  
  
- $38,231  
  
- $100,421  

### Statement of Financial Position

**Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$52,561</td>
<td>$38,586</td>
<td>$79,341</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>2,660</td>
<td>1,691</td>
<td>6,794</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants Receivable</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>9,661</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and Equipment, Net</td>
<td>14,443</td>
<td>10,962</td>
<td>8,359</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$69,664</strong></td>
<td><strong>$51,239</strong></td>
<td><strong>$104,155</strong></td>
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**Liabilities and Net Assets**

**Liabilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>$8,551</td>
<td>$3,008</td>
<td>$3,734</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans from Related Parties</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$58,551</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,008</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,734</strong></td>
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</table>

**Net Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Funds</td>
<td>11,113</td>
<td>38,231</td>
<td>90,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted Funds</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>9,699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$69,664</strong></td>
<td><strong>$51,239</strong></td>
<td><strong>$104,155</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percentage Breakdown for 2015**

- Program Services: 82%
- Management & General: 11%
- Fundraising: 7%
Grants
ALL IN BKLYN
Butler Family Foundation
City Council Member Carlos Menchaca
Department of Youth and Community Development
Hycde and Watson Foundation
Mary Duke Biddle Foundation
Meringoff Family Foundation
Magic Pebble Foundation
Marymount School of New York
The O’Connell Organization Family Foundation
William J. & Dorothy K. O’Neill Foundation
Ronald McDonald House Charities
TerraCGR
The Matthew R. Stone Trust
The Joseph Leroy and Ann C. Warner Fund

Partners, Teaching Artists, and Supporting Organizations
Alba Somozzo
Atlas Foundation for Autism
Audra Rux and Jennifer Milich
Brooklyn Academy of Music
Brooklyn Children’s Museum
Brooklyn Public Library
Cleaning with Meaning
Dancewave
Freddy’s Bar
GallopNYC
Gary Shulman
GiGi’s Playhouse New York
INCLUDEnc
Jalopy Theatre and School of Music
Jessica Zippin, Dance/Movement Therapist
KEEN New York
Kentler International Drawing Space
Mark Morris Dance Group
Michael Bean
MusicWorks
New York Cares
New York Transit Museum
NYC Department of Education
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation
Red Hook Boaters
South Brooklyn Children’s Garden
Speak, Learn & Play

A Very Special Thank You To
501 Union
Amelia Wilson
Brooklyn Friends School
Carmen Farisla, Chancellor of the NYC Department of Education
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Dry Dock Wine & Spirits
Indiana Soto and the P.S. 71 Family
Jennifer Volpe
Jim Cassaro
Lawyers Alliance for New York
Maysoon Zayid (2015 Felix Award recipient in Performing Arts)
Michael McDarters
Movers, Not Shakers!
NY Printing & Graphics
Peggy Madison and the P.S. 15 Family
The Fuqua Family
Van Brunt Stillhouse
Vitor Calise, Commissioner of the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities
Zach Hochkoppel

Extreme Kids & Crew is a 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in 2010. We celebrate children with disabilities, promoting socialization and confidence-building through arts and play-based programming. Our organization believes in creating an inclusive community for the whole family to play, relax, laugh, cry and connect. There are many ways to make this community of disability thrive:

• Volunteer to be a “Play Partner” to the many children visiting our spaces
• Donate and financially support the programs the organization offers
• Join a committee and lend your specific talents
• Join the board and be a leader to this growing organization.

Please contact us at info@extremekidsandcrew.org
347 410 6050
Visit us online at extremekidsandcrew.org.

Photo of Felix on page 2 by Eliza Factor
All other photos by Filip Wolak
Design by Rob Kimmel / robkimmeldesign.com
All photos taken at Extreme Kids & Crew locations and events.
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