ABOUT US: VCLC provides programs and services for young children, ages birth to seven, with learning, language, social and behavior challenges, including autism, and support services for their families. Early Intervention (EI), the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE), and the Committee on Special Education (CSE) services are for children who have or are suspected of having a developmental delay or disability and are eligible based on New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) or New York State Education Department (NYSED) guidelines. Nassau County Department of Health/ Suffolk County Department of Health (NCDOH/SCDOH) for EI and local school districts for CPSE and CSE must refer children for evaluations. Type of services, frequency, duration, location, and provider are determined by the municipality for EI and the school district for CPSE and CSE. Families have no out-of-pocket expenses but are responsible for fees/costs associated with childcare. All therapists and teachers are licensed and/or certified according to NYSDOH and NYSED regulations.

MISSION•

Promote the development, education, and inclusion into the community of children with or at risk of disabilities.

Increase the capabilities of families whose children have or are at risk of disabilities and reduce the stresses on those families.

Initiate improvements in the delivery of services to children and their families.

Provide training and technical assistance to early childhood personnel.

Promote programs, research, attitudes, policies, and collaborations that improve child development and family life.

VISION•

VCLC is committed to providing high quality programs for young children with disabilities and their families that focus on the educational, social-emotional, and physical growth of the children, and home/school collaboration. • We believe that all children are capable of learning. Our programs respect each child’s individuality. Staff is responsible for developing relationships with each child. Decisions about programs and interventions must be based on the needs of the children. Always ask “Whose needs are being met?”

MOTTO•

“Helping children become the best that they can be.”
FINANCIALS:

2019-2020 Revenue: $19,162,692

- Preschool: 73.61%
- School Age: 13.03%
- Early Intervention: 6.21%
- Grants/Fees/Other: 5.52%
- Contributions & Special Events: 1.19%
- Other Non-Operating Revenue: .30%

2019 - 2020 Expenses: $19,855,762

- Education: 86.35%
- Management: 10.63%
- Other Programs: 2.78%
- Fundraising: .24%
COVID-19:

The rapid spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in March of 2020 presented numerous challenges to the provision of both educational and therapeutic services to the children serviced in all VCLC programs. Our buildings were unexpectedly forced to close mid-March and remained closed through the remainder of the school year. Staff, children, and families had to adapt to a new way of learning. VCLC staff swiftly changed from face-to-face instruction to remote instruction. They provided the children with telehealth related therapies as well as special education instruction.

The transition was not only spearheaded by our administration team and VCLC’s talented teachers, therapists, social workers, teacher assistants, and support staff but also by our IT consultants who worked tirelessly to enable services to be continued by expanding our accessibility to new platforms and ensuring that staff working offsite were able to connect to our existing network. Chromebooks were purchased and set up for distribution to each child enrolled in VCLC’s school-based programs to ensure that no child would be without the needed equipment for offsite learning in the future.

The uncertainty as to the date when schools would reopen created the need to quickly order appropriate PPE equipment and begin to re-evaluate space to accommodate changes needed to ensure the safety of both the children and staff upon their return to the buildings. Maintenance staff worked diligently to prepare the buildings for the changes.

VCLC did not escape the fiscal impact of COVID-19. Several programs were unable to continue or dramatically decreased while the buildings were closed, including childcare, evaluations, Sunday respite, the Early Intervention group developmental classes, and several other fee-based programs. Although VCLC was able to reduce expenses during this period in certain areas, other costs increased dramatically, including those related to IT and PPE.

VCLC applied and received PPP funds in May, 2020 which, in addition to other available funding, supported existing programs and prevented the furloughing of most staff. The financial statements FYE June 30, 2020, however, do not reflect the revenue to be recognized from the PPP funds. The application for forgiveness for the portion of the funds utilized during the June 30, 2020 fiscal year will be submitted to the financial institution during fiscal year 2021. Revenue will be recognized when forgiveness is granted.

VCLC is looking forward to reopening its doors to children, families, and staff in the forthcoming fiscal year in a safe and secure environment and to continue to provide our students with the opportunity to become the best that they can be!
RENOVATIONS:

VCLC is excited to report that we were able to reconstruct and beautify an original children’s bathroom located on the first floor of the Syosset building. We are thankful to both donors and families who generously donated at fundraising events the past year. The bathroom that was once dull and uninviting welcomes children with a submarine theme and colors to match. The cool blues and greens of the walls and stalls bring a new vibrance to the hallway and projects a welcoming appearance to all. As mentioned, we are grateful to all those who have donated to help make significant improvements for the students of Variety Child Learning Center.