

Community Child Care Center  
 FOUNDATION  
 555 NW 4th Street  
 Delray Beach, FL 33444

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 BOCA RATON, FL  
 PERMIT NO. 1767



The Community Child Care Center Foundation is a not for profit 501c(3) organization. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained by calling toll-free within the state 1-800-435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state. FL Reg. #: CH-12265.

## ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

The Annual Fund Drive is the Community Child Care Center's core fund-raising program and, therefore, one of the most important sources of income for the Center. This fund supports the CCCC programs and operations. Friends who contribute to the Center's Annual Fund will be recognized at these giving levels:

- Impact Society .....\$15,000 +
- Dream Maker Society ....\$10,000 to \$14,999
- Hope Society .....\$5,000 to \$9,999
- Care Society.....\$1,000 to \$4,999
- Benevolent Society .....\$500 to \$999
- Friend Society .....\$100 to \$499

### GIVE ONLINE.

Giving online is safe and convenient.  
 Put your gift to work immediately by donating at  
[www.delraychild.org](http://www.delraychild.org)

### ENDOWMENT GIVING

Endowments provide donors the assurance that their gifts will serve a purpose for as long as the organization exists.

Consider increasing your Annual Fund gift by 10% for the Endowment Fund.

### IRA CONTRIBUTIONS

Check with your financial advisor to see if you are eligible for a one-time IRA tax-free deduction.

Eligible donors will be recognized on the Community Child Care Center's 'Lifetime Wall of Giving' on display in the Family Resource Center which will be updated Spring of 2007.

# Little VOICES

A Newsletter for Friends and Supporters of the Community Child Care Center of Delray Beach

VOL. 2, EDITION 2 FALL 2006

## Community Child Care Center Announces New Name

By Nancy K. Hurd, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I'm sure you've heard the expression, "What's in a name?" We all become intimately identified with our own and it's no different for an agency. For 37 years we have been known as the Community Child Care Center and been proud to do our important work under that banner.

After the growth and expansion of almost four decades of service, we've changed. We no longer just serve the needs of very young children. With the more recent additions of the After School program and the assumption of a full range of Beacon Center services, we realize that we have now outgrown our name.

Of our 700 children, over 500 are elementary, middle and

high school age. We have a thriving teen program, adult education, and a wide range of community services.

From the beginning, we knew our new name had to capture the full scope of our mission and our work in the community; a name that would associate us with quality care and a devotion to excellence. Coming up with this new name was no easy task. It was the culmination of months of researching and working with marketing professionals to guide us through the process. We spent two years examining all aspects of the need and prudence of this move.

I am proud to announce that we will move forward under the name: *Achievement Centers for Children and Families*. The word 'achievement' is synonymous with success; it is defined as something that somebody has succeeded in doing, usually with effort. 'Achievement' encapsulates the core of our existence.

We hope you will join us in embracing this new name under which we will move forward. As always, we give thanks for your steadfast support and know that we never could achieve our mission without the loyalty of so many wonderful friends.

## CCCC Celebrates 'Walk Our Children to School Day'

Mayor Jeff Perlman proclaimed October 4, 2006, as 'Walk Our Children to School Day'. As part of the 'International Walk to School Day', city officials, community leaders and volunteers, including the CCCC staff, accompanied students on their walk to Village Academy Elementary School. The event promoted safe walking and bicycling for children.

The City of Delray Beach coordinated the event, connecting parents, volunteers and local officials with children, and encouraged everyone to always consider the safety and health of our youth.

More than 5,000 schools in the U.S. participated in 'International Walk to School Day'. Nearly 4 million people participated in approximately 40 countries around the world.



Tony Strianese joins Village Academy student, Kareem Desir, age 6, on his way to school.

**COMMUNITY CHILD  
CARE CENTER  
2006**

**FOUNDATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Ann Bennett  
Anne Bright  
Meg Eaton  
Michael FitzSimons  
David Henninger  
Robert Irish  
George Jacobus  
Elizabeth Mellon  
Thomas Murphy  
Sheila O'Boyle  
Cleo Schimmel  
David Schmidt  
Nancy Touhey

**OPERATIONAL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Peg Bowen  
Anne Bright  
Lula Butler  
Marjorie Ferrer  
Stacy Hallberg  
David Henninger  
Catherine Jacobus  
Thomas Murphy  
Jeffrey Perlman  
Nancy Swaney  
Peter Vapnek  
Joan Weidenfeld

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Nancy K. Hurd

**FOUNDATION STAFF**  
Stephanie Seibel  
Director of Development

Sasha K. Stokes  
Development Assistant

Tracy Moffett  
Event Marketing Coordinator

**Chairman's Message...**

It was 11 years ago that I first set foot on the CCCC's campus. That day created a single memory for me that serves as my daily inspiration—it was a 'knee hug' from a toddler. He took one look at my beard and declared me Santa Claus. As I learned more about that little boy and his challenges, I was inspired to become involved. That little boy took my heart and left it where it stays today, at the Community Child Care Center.

Now, as I enter into my last few months as Foundation Board Chairman, I joyfully reflect on all the good things that have come about because of the Center's existence.

I am amazed at what wonderful achievements can be made with the right support. Provisions for day care, hot meals, early education, adult education and after school activities have made a significant difference in the lives of so many of our families. For them, it has made the difference between continuing a cycle of poverty and the righteous feeling of knowing they have risen above it and started down a new path.

What has been most rewarding in my close relationship with the Center is not what one might expect. It is not the improvements within the infrastructure or the sophistication of the governing boards, but rather it is the achievements that have been made by so many disadvantaged families over the years. It is these results that are

a direct reflection of Executive Director Nancy Hurd's philosophy: dedication, hard work and the desire to accept nothing short of excellence. Nancy Hurd has set the standards that resonate throughout the Center's staff and its Boards.

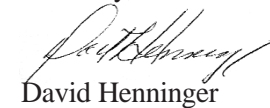
During my tenure, I have also been amazed by the generous out pouring of stewardship by our many volunteers and donors. Many of them have their own stories and inspirations through the Center's children that they carry.

In many ways I do feel like Santa Claus. I have been blessed to work along side the Center by supporting its mission in giving hope and the gift of opportunity to so many. While I will always be involved, I pass leadership to my worthy friend, Tom Murphy, knowing it's only the title of Chairman that passes. My

heart and my dedication to Nancy and her kids will always live at the Center.

I thank God for the opportunity I have been given to be part of this amazing and dynamic organization.

Sincerely,



David Henninger  
Foundation Board Chairman

*P.S. That little boy that had inspired me 11 years ago continues to do so as an honor student in his first year of high school.*



Dave Henninger with CCCC toddlers.

*Little Voices is an official publication of the Community Child Care Center Foundation, the fund raising organization established to support the Community Child Care Center. Published by the Foundation twice a year, it is designed to inform donors and volunteers of the many aspects of the Foundation and key happenings at the Community Child Care Center.*

*It is our hope that our supporters will share this publication with friends and neighbors. If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive your own copy, or would like to make a change to your contact information, please email us at info@delraychild.org.*

*Community Child Care Center*  
FOUNDATION

Development Office  
Community Child Care Center  
555 NW 4th Street  
Delray Beach, FL 33444  
Phone: (561) 276-0520  
Fax: (561) 276-8189  
www.delraychild.org

**JCS Supports Center**

On September 7, representatives from Jarden Consumer Solutions (JCS) visited the CCCC to present a \$5,000 grant for scholarships. They toured each classroom, and witnessed first hand Center operations.

JCS is a wholly owned subsidiary of Jarden Corporation and may not be a household name, however, the brands they design manufacture and market are: Crock-Pot, FoodSaver, Mr. Coffee, Oster and Sunbeam, to name a few.

Along with the grant, JCS also donated several small appliances.



JCS rep. engages Jeremiah Jackson, age 4, in conversation.

The JCS Community Fund is the company's employee-funded charitable arm. The JCS Fund provides grants to qualified charitable organizations that engage in community development programs and are located within Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties. JCS is focused on organizations that provide for at-risk women, children and youth, low-income families, and food programs.




Below, CCCC preschoolers hold check for \$5,000 from JCS.



**Hella Graphics**  
Custom printed and embroidered apparel at a great price.  
hellagraphics@yahoo.com



**Boheme Bistro**



1118 E. Atlantic Avenue | Delray Beach, Florida 33483  
Phone: (561) 278-4899 | Fax: (561) 278-4873  
Email: info@bohembistro.com

Boheme Bistro blends the tradition of family, friends and good times with authentic mediterranean and Italian cuisine encompassed in an ambiance all of it's own.

**Spring 2007 'Little Voices' Feature...**

The CCCC is proud to present the Media Club, a highly sought after new teen program at the Beacon Center. The Media Club teaches students the art of digital photography, filming, editing, and technical computer skills. This feature article will present original work from CCCC teens.

# Mark Your Calendar

## Home Tour 2007

Thursday, March 8, 2007  
Exquisite Homes in Delray Beach  
10a.m. - 4 p.m.

Ticket prices include tour of homes, valet parking, trolley service, and lunch, provided compliments of

**OUTBACK**  
STEAKHOUSE

1300 Linton Blvd.  
Delray Beach, Florida 33444  
(561) 272-7201

## Foundation of Friends Luncheon

Wednesday, February 21, 2007  
Delray Beach Marriott  
12p.m. - 1p.m.

The CCCC Foundation will host the  
Second Annual  
*Foundation of Friends Luncheon.*

The purpose of this luncheon is to introduce the Center to new people in the community. Bring a friend to this *free* luncheon and help spread the CCCC's mission.

Sponsorship opportunities available for both events, call 561-276-0520 for information.



We pride ourselves on providing customers with the best quality products and personal service.

Whether you are looking for party items, guest services, baby needs, medical equipment, or that special item...Better Rentals can meet all of your needs. JUST GIVE US A CALL!

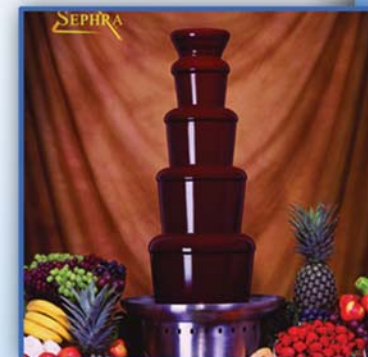
We also offer event planning services. Our experienced event planning staff are available by phone or appointment.

1140 Holland Drive | Suite 11  
Boca Raton, FL 33487  
Email: info@betterrentals.net | www.betterrentals.net  
Phone: 561-893-9900 | Fax: 561-893-9500

Mention this ad and receive a 15% discount\* OR Better Rentals will contribute the 15% discount to the Community Child Care Center.

\* Discount does not apply to linens, tents, labor or delivery.

[www.betterrentals.net](http://www.betterrentals.net)



## Summer Fun in the Sun

This summer, the CCCC was filled to capacity with 600 children enrolled in its Summer Camp program. 'Fun in the Sun' was more than just the summer camp slogan...IT WAS HOT! Despite record high temperatures, students enjoyed three field trips per week.

Adorned in light blue t-shirts created from artwork by students Shakavious Luma and Kavis Reid (centered on page), the children went to local museums, theaters, cultural centers, parks and much more. The Summer Camp program combines academic enrichment with fun activities. The students discovered Florida's indigenous wildlife through the Daggerwing Nature Center. Through the Solid Waste Authority, children were taught about the environmental benefits of recycling.

'Spirituality for Kids', a new program introduced this summer, taught the consequences of negative behavior and problem solving with a positive attitude.

The Summer Camp program provides students with the opportunity to experience events and activities that they might otherwise not be able to enjoy. By engaging the students in the world around them, they learn new skills and discover their own talents and dreams.

NSF Foundation (an anonymous

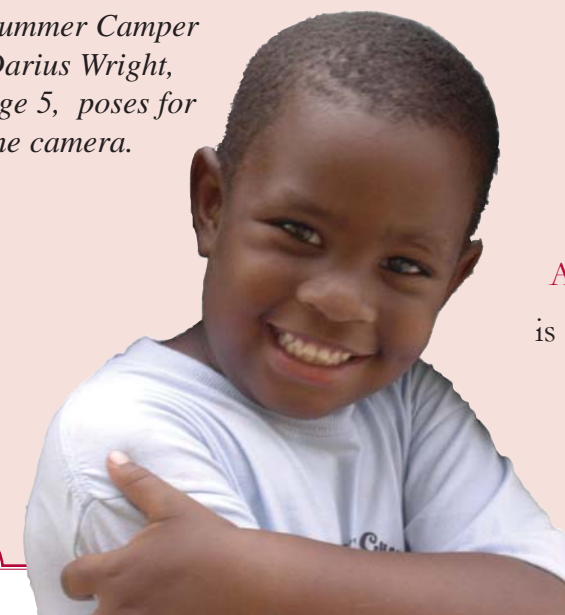


Third graders gather while waiting to go on a trip to the park. From the left: Cafiie Jerome, Jada Stevens, Latina Sidol, Alexis Gums, and centered in front, Raelyn Brown.

foundation) provided funding for this year's summer program. This \$6,000 grant allowed campers to attend special field trips.

"This additional funding allows us to do extra things with our children that make the summer really special for them," said Tanise Cox, Assistant Director. "This year our kids got to go to the IMAX Theater and learned about space exploration." The kids also attended the Coconut Cove Water Park, Morikami Park and Museum and the Miami Heat's Fun Day where students got to meet the players.

Summer Camper  
Darius Wright,  
age 5, poses for  
the camera.



## Women of Grace

The Community Child Care Center is proud to have five named 'Women of Grace' recipients on its Board of Directors. Now joining Anne Bright • Lula Butler • Nancy Hurd • Catherine Jacobus is 2006 Women of Grace recipient & CCCC Board Member, **Kari Shipley.**

They are honored for their dedication to CCCC's mission and passion for our children and the community.

Delivery Available Throughout South Florida · Visit [www.delraychild.org](http://www.delraychild.org) and click on the link for Better Rentals.

# 2006 Graduating Class

On June 23, 2006, thirty-five pre-school students marched across the Family Resource Center stage to receive their diplomas. They are now prepared for their next milestone in life: kindergarten. These youngsters have big plans for their future.....



**Christopher Touze, age 5**

*"When I grow up, I want to be a Power Ranger. It looks like fun to fight evil."*



**Kimecia Anderson, age 5**

*"I want to be a fire-fighter so I can drive the big red truck."*



**Dashai James, age 5**

*"I want to become a teacher because a teacher teaches people to learn."*

## Israel Visits the CCCC



*The Caravan Alon Tribe performing for the children of the Center.*

Singing and dancing took place at the CCCC in the midst of learning during a visit from the Tzofim (Israeli scouts) Friendship Caravan. On June 27, 2006, children from the Family Resource Center and Beacon Center enjoyed the interactive learning experience presented by the Scouts. By incorporating song and dance, the scouts gave an educational performance that taught the children about Israeli culture.

"The 'Tzofim,' which is Hebrew for 'scouts', visit North America during the months of June, July and August each year," says Shelly Weil, Israeli Scout National Board member and group organizer. Weil has coordinated the stays of different Tzofim groups for 35 years and brought the Caravan Alon Tribe's performance to the Center.

The Scouts, ages 16 and 17, represent the diversity of Israel's young population. "The selective process of being a part of the Tzofim is not a question of race or religion." Weil states, "There are not just Hebrew scouts, but Christians, Muslims and those of Hebrew faith."

"They are here to act as ambassadors," stated Weil. "After completing their high school education, each scout will continue to serve and represent their country by serving in the Israeli military."

CCCC Assistant Director, Ellen Saposnik, said, "this was truly a multi-cultural event. The children in attendance represented all aspects of the [CCCC] programs. We had children from all of our programs and diverse backgrounds under one roof."

CCCC is grateful for Shelly Weil's contribution to the Center. "I thought it would be a great experience for your kids," said Weil, "I hope to bring the Scouts to the Center again next year."

## Coldwell Banker Employees Donate



This past July, Dana Bathurst, Office Manager, presented a generous \$1,000 check on behalf the employees of Coldwell Banker at 1185 East Atlantic Avenue, Delray Beach. Money is collected from

various events that the agents participate in. Most recently, they held a scavenger hunt from the beach to Swinton Ave., raising over \$400. "This office has a good sense of community," says Dana. "100% of the employees in our office participate in charitable giving in some way."

## YOUR AD HERE.

Become a Little Voices Supporter

The CCCC Foundation is excited to offer advertisement space in our bi-annual newsletter publication.

The newsletter has an ever increasing circulation of 4,500 in the Delray Beach area.

Prices include artwork and design. Space is limited.

To inquire about rates contact the Foundation Office at 561-276-0520.

## Education Foundation Supports Center

The Community Child Care Center was awarded two \$1,000 grants from the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation. Grant amounts range from \$500 to \$1,000 and are raised by the Education Foundation's annual Valentine Auction for Education. Nancy Hurd, CCCC Executive Director, was presented with a check for \$2,000 at the New Teacher Breakfast on Friday, August 14, 2006 at the Delray Beach Golf Club.

This year's grant requests were over \$30,000 and total available funds were \$18,500. "Obviously we cannot fulfill requests beyond what we have; however, I am pleased to announce that every school who applied received either full or partial funding," said Nancy Reagan, Chairman of the Chamber's Education Foundation.



*2006 Delray Beach Education Foundation grant recipients.*

## 'Back to School Bash' Distributes Free Backpacks



*From left to right, Jethro Guerrier, Peterson Merant, Chris Pierre-Louis and Marcline Ellie rest on one of several bounce houses as Darien Spencer, front, sports his new backpack filled with school supplies.*

The Center was filled with excitement as hundreds of children and parents arrived to collect free school supplies at the Community Back to School Bash held at the CCCC. The Community Back to School Bash was established as a coalition-driven event in 1995 providing 120 children with new school supplies. Now in its 11th year, it continues to provide children at risk for homelessness, foster care and poverty the opportunity to begin school equipped with the right materials.

At first sight, the Center's parking lot resembled a carnival, equipped with a bounce house, DJ and free food and snacks. "This year's Back to School Bash was very successful. We helped to eliminate the stress in preparing a child with the proper school supplies," said Mary Lazier, CCCC Curriculum Specialist. The annual event is now comprised of 19 non-profit agencies, CCCC being one of them, serving 8,065 children last year alone.

"Our 'Bash' represents how we try to do all that we can to ensure the academic success of our children," said Lazier. The Community Back to School Bash supports the CCCC's mission to help children succeed in school at a level at or above their peers. "The teacher asked us on the first day to pull out our notebooks, I was the only one who had one," boasted Lotina Sidol, 5th grader, after her first day of school at Crosspointe Elementary.

This event was successful getting students excited about starting a new school year.

## Students Decorate New Downtown Entrance

This summer, the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) of Delray Beach worked with children from the Community Child Care Center to create an art piece that will be part of the 'Gateway Feature', the new entrance to the downtown Delray area.

Seventy-five CCCC children designed and painted images on silk quilt blocks, depicting what their community means to them. The blocks will be put together to make one large art piece. This segment of the 'Gateway Feature' has been titled the 'Community Quilt Project'.

Some of the children painted their schools and churches while others represented Delray staples such as Doc's All American.

By participating in this hands-on project, these children were given a platform to creatively express themselves and gain a sense of community.



Bru-shauda Atkins paints the 100-foot tall Christmas tree that is annual displayed during the holidays.

## Drumline, Dance Group On Parade

On May 11, 2006, for the first time ever, CCCC participated in the Wacko Ona Bed Race and Parade.

In its ninth year, this annual event is an opportunity for local organizations and businesses to showcase their presence in the community. Creativity was displayed when each group designed 'wacky' racing bed floats. Following the race, the parade gave community members an opportunity to enjoy more fun and music.

At the height of the parade, CCCC's Drumline and Creative Dance Group commanded the attention of the hundreds of onlookers in Pineapple Grove.

"We are proud to have the dance group and the Drumline from CCCC," said Sue Keleher, Program Manager for Pineapple Grove, in thanking the Center for its participation, "they really enhanced our parade, making it more exciting."



The Creative Dance Group members.



## Jason Taylor Foundation Donates Scholarship Funds

Jason Taylor Foundation (JTF) generously awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Center for the second consecutive year. Funds will be used to provide scholarships for CCCC students.

The Jason Taylor Foundation's mission is to support and create programs that facilitate the personal growth and empowerment of South Florida's children in need by focusing on improved health care, education and quality of life. "Jason Taylor and his Foundation are grateful for your organization's efforts toward building a better future for the children of south Florida," said JTF Executive Director Seth Levit, "We are pleased to help raise money for such a worthy cause."

## A CCCC Tale...

Once upon a summer's day, professional 'storyologist' Page Turner and her bumbling assistant Kenny took the children of the CCCC on riveting adventures. They transformed the Family Resource Center stage into an enchanted land with cookie-hungry giants, sleeping princesses and haunting magic.

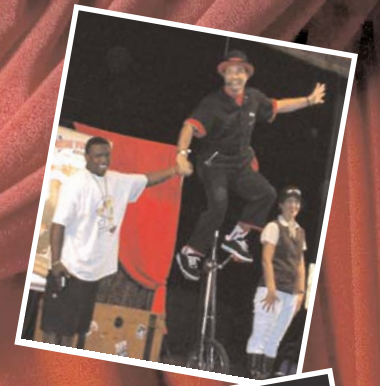
On July 21, 2006, the Emmy Award-winning performers Riley Roam, who plays the quirky narrator Page Turner, and Kenny Mikey, who plays her assistant 'storyologist-in-training' Kenny, graciously donated their performances to the CCCC. They told interactive stories where the young audience became the main character. The tales were complete with elaborate costumes, juggling acts, music and sound effects, and to top it all, a unicycle performance! Each performance encouraged the children to discover the excitement of reading.

"A 'storyologist' is someone who goes around the world collecting and telling stories,"

Page began as she explained her unique profession to the audience. Kenny, who added a humorous element to their adventures, tried to stay focused as

Page unfurled stories and engaged the young spectators in dialoguing, walking, climbing and dancing in place. The children, full of excitement from their adventures, eventually emerge as the true heroes of the show.

At the close of the performance, Page and Kenny officially promoted the entire audience to 'storyologists.' "Go to the library and check-out books so you, too, can make up your own stories. You are now all official 'storyologists,'" Page declared, "When you read...everyday is an adventure!"



## Beacon 'Lights On' Rally

Celebrates Importance of After-school Programs



CCCC children gather by 'Games on the Go' mobile arcade with Delray Beach Vice Mayor, Rita Ellis (top center).

This October, more than 1 million Americans celebrated 'Lights On After School', a nationwide event organized by the Afterschool Alliance to rally support for after school programs. The CCCC held their own celebration, one of 7,500 across the nation, sharing the successes of its own programs. According to Afterschool Alliance, today in the U.S., 14.3 million children go home alone after school.

Activities at the CCCC 'Lights on After School' rally included face painting, clowns, bounce houses and a new mobile arcade donated by 'Games on the Go'. Student performances included CCCC's Drumline, Creative Dance Group and the Beacon Dance Troupe. All three groups are part of elective programs in CCCC's after school curriculum. "Our children are involved in activities that they enjoy. They get to choose which activities they want to participate in," said Johnny Bennett, Beacon Center Director. "Too many children are missing the opportunity to join clubs and organizations and we give them this opportunity."



Creative Dance Group performs at CCCC's 'Lights On' rally.

## QUICK FACTS

- In Palm Beach County, approximately 1 in 5 children live in poverty. To be considered 'in poverty', a family of four's annual income is less than \$19,000 per year.
- CCCC strives to break the cycle of poverty for working poor families. 95% of families served are at or below the poverty level.
- 100% of the families that have followed our program have gone off and stayed off welfare.
- Since parental education is the single greatest predictor whether or not a child will be raised in poverty, Beacon Services offer adult education including ESOL, GED prep, literacy competency, and computer training and repair.
- There have been over 5,000 children enrolled at the CCCC since it opened its doors in 1969.
- Out of every dollar donated, 92¢ goes directly to the programs and children.
- Over 150,000 free, nutritious breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks were served on the Lake Ida Campus.
- 50% of juvenile crime and violence against children occur between 2 pm - 7 pm, the hours both CCCC campuses are operational for 700 children.
- The CCCC's Barbara D. Smith Toddler Center is one of the top recommended locations in Palm Beach County for court-appointed care of abused, neglected or abandoned children age 1 - 3 years.
- The Center creates a partnership with each family and all families pay a fee on a sliding scale, ranging from \$5 to \$60 weekly.
- All CCCC Pre-K students achieved 100% on the "School Readiness Scale" upon entering kindergarten.

Sources: US Dept. of Health and Services, Census Bureau, Children Services

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Angelina Fiorini

From birth, it seemed as though Angelina Fiorini's life would be rather bleak. Her mother dropped out of high school and fell into a life of drug addiction and crime at the age of 17. This behavior eventually led to her incarceration, but not before having Angelina. Angelina's father, age 33, was a known drug dealer in the community. He was extradited to Haiti before she could capture any memories of his existence. Louise, Angelina's grandmother, watched over Angelina as her mother continued down a self-destructive path. With the best intentions, Louise assumed full custody of her granddaughter, taking on child-rearing for the second time in her life. Although she was working more than forty hours a week at a local Eckerds Drug Store, Louise could neither afford to provide for Angelina's childcare nor could she afford to stop working. She felt she was running out of options. "I honestly didn't know what to do or where to go, but I knew I needed help," recalls Louise.

From living and working in Delray for most of her life, Louise knew of the Community Child Care Center. "They were right up the street from my house and my job," Louise remembers. "I came in one day and spoke with the director, Nancy Hurd, and I told her about Angelina. They took her in." The Center offered

Angelina and Louise a solid foundation. Louise continued working to support her and Angelina. To this day, Louise credits the

Center for preparing Angelina for school and for being a staple in keeping their family together.

Today, Angelina is all grown up at the age of 17. Though she is the same age as her mother was when she was pregnant with her, Angelina has chosen a different path for her own life. She has recently graduated from the theater program at Dreyfoos School of the Arts at the top of her class.

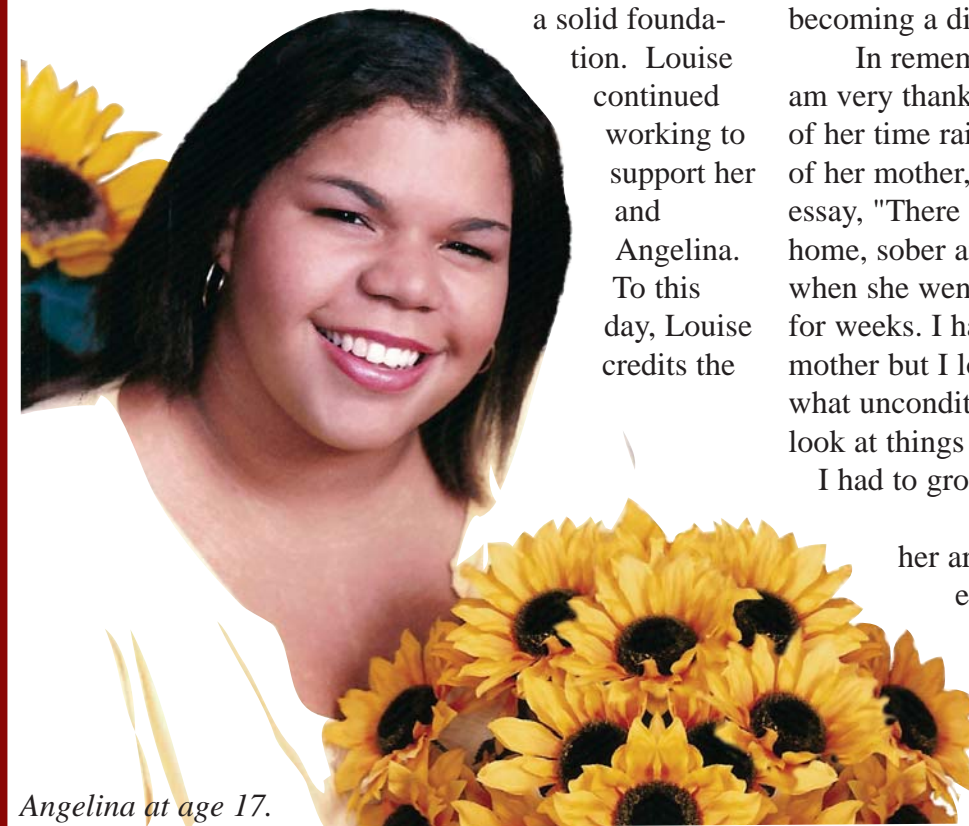
She received a full scholarship, \$36,000 dollars a year, to Southern Methodist University's Meadows School of the Arts, in Dallas. (She also was accepted at Florida State, Marymount Manhattan and Webster) Angelina enjoys both the technical and performing aspects of theater and aspires to study abroad in London. She is well on her way of accomplishing her dreams of becoming a director.

In remembering her childhood, Angelina says, "I am very thankful for my grandmother. She spent most of her time raising me." When reflecting on memories of her mother, Angelina writes in her college entrance essay, "There were moments where [my mother] was home, sober and happy. There were other moments when she went on drug binges and I wouldn't see her for weeks. I had such strong feelings of anger for my mother but I loved her at the same time. I understood what unconditional love was. I understood that I had to look at things in perspective. My mom needed help and I had to grow up fast."

Angelina used these emotions to hone her art skills in theater performances. She embraced her tragic experiences as life lessons and has never looked back, only forward, to bigger aspirations. "My existence proves that you can break away from whatever is holding you down and rise above it," she says.



Angelina Fiorini at age three when she first started attending the Community Child Care Center.



Angelina at age 17.