

# 2017-2018 Highlights

Here's an end-of-year update on our 7th year of serving children, families and pre-K programs in Kalamazoo County!

## Supporting Pre-K Programs in Kalamazoo County

- ◆ **962** children, **54** program directors and **120** teachers have been impacted by KC Ready 4s this year!
- ◆ **54** programs are actively participating with KC Ready 4s, and **29** have attained or maintained their 4 or 5 star rating from *Michigan's Great Start to Quality*. Curriculum was purchased for **2** programs working on attaining 4 or 5 stars.
- ◆ **6** KC Ready 4s' Teacher Mentors have provided **1250** on-site classroom guidance hours and **1157** training & resource hours for a total of **2407** hours of mentoring support.
- ◆ **628** directors, teachers, and program staff have participated in **24** PD sessions, or **68** hours, at no cost to the programs.
- ◆ **116** early childhood professionals attended a KC Ready 4s sponsored presentation, "There's a New Law in Town," regarding the new state licensing requirements on background checks for employees and volunteers.

## Recruiting, Enrolling and Funding Children

- ◆ **222** 4-year-olds at **25** high-quality pre-K programs received some level of tuition support.
- ◆ **\$412,830** was spent on tuition support this year.
- ◆ A **Family Outreach Coordinator** was hired to recruit and follow up with potential families throughout Kalamazoo County, assisting all *Kalamazoo County Pre-K* programs. For the **2018-2019** school year, **\$586,980** has been approved in tuition support for **210** children as of June 30th.

## Extending Learning through Enrichment Activities

- ◆ **169** children from **11** sites went on a field trip to the *Kalamazoo Institute of Art*.
- ◆ **9** volunteers from *Humphrey Products* (in collaboration with the *United Way of the Battle Creek & Kalamazoo Region* and the *Kalamazoo Public Library*) visited **29** sites to read with groups of children on their *Day of Caring*.
- ◆ **29** Dance Diplomats from *WMU's Movement Exchange* worked with **91** children at **6** pre-K sites.
- ◆ **6** Dancers from *Wellspring Cori Terry & Dancers* visited **6** pre-K classrooms to lead literacy-focused movement and mindfulness activities with children.
- ◆ **5** KC Ready 4s' staff were readers at the *Kalamazoo Public Library's Party in the Park*, attended by 1600 preschoolers, many of them from sites participating with KC Ready 4s!

## Enhancing Medical Students' Knowledge Base

- ◆ **11** *WMU School of Medicine* Pediatric Residents have been interacting with infants, toddlers, and preschool/pre-K children, comparing what they observed with what they've learned about growth and developmental milestones.
- ◆ **5** *WMU School of Medicine* 1st Year Students engaged with children at **30** pre-K sites as part of their Active Citizenship rotation, increasing their understanding of growth and developmental milestones. They will be conducting a *Landscape Analysis* of KC Ready 4s in 2018-2019.

## Attending to the Needs of the Whole Child

- ◆ **2** KC Ready 4s' Speech Pathologists and **4** *WMU Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences* graduate students provided **426** screening & classroom support hours and **244** training & resource hours for a total of **670** hours of speech support. **66** children were screened for speech concerns. Some were referred to community services and some received direct on-site therapy from the KC Ready 4s Speech Team.
- ◆ **64** *WMU Department of Occupational Therapy* graduate students screened **36** children at **2** pre-K sites. **5** children were identified as having OT concerns and were referred to community services.
- ◆ **12** children from **10** pre-K sites were identified as having challenging behaviors and referrals were made to a clinical therapist from *Family & Children Services*. She provided **136** hours of consultation, observations, training, and intern supervision. She also provided transition support for a child who entered kindergarten this year, continuing the support started last year in pre-K.
- ◆ **39** children from **5** sites received dental screenings and/or cleanings at the *Family Health Center Dental Clinic*.
- ◆ **2** *WMU School of Social Work* graduate students assisted with pre-K classroom behavioral support and planned & implemented parent engagement events.

## Engaging and Supporting the Entire Family

- ◆ **10** pre-K sites worked with KC Ready 4s to provide Munch & Learn events for their families. Topics included:
  - ◇ Michigan Works! Resources
  - ◇ Everyday Fun with Math
  - ◇ Reading & Talking Together
  - ◇ Cooking with Kids
- ◆ **43** referrals were made for family members who identified needs in the areas of employment, food insecurity, and housing. They were connected with the appropriate community resources and received follow up as needed.
- ◆ **536** family contacts were made by KC Ready 4s' staff this year. This included group meetings at the beginning of the school year, **19** Munch & Learn events, and individual family meetings.
- ◆ A **Family & Community Liaison** was hired to work closely with families to build and maintain healthy and strong support systems which extend the impact of pre-K for all children. She is currently providing case management support to **32** families.

## Helping Children Transition to Kindergarten

- ◆ **202** pre-K children and **157** kindergarten children participated in the KC Ready 4s' *Kindergarten Readiness Research* project. Results indicate continued benefits for children attending a program associated with KC Ready 4s.
- ◆ All **29** programs with 4 or 5 stars participated in assessing children using their curriculum tools. **435** families gave permission for this information to be shared with the school their child will be attending this fall. This will give teachers advanced information about incoming students that otherwise would not be available.



**Joyful, Intentional, Life-Changing: The Power of Pre-Kindergarten!**

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