

# 2018-2019 Highlights

*All about KC Ready 4s' 8th year of serving children, families and Pre-K programs in Kalamazoo County!*

## Pre-K Programs & High-Quality Support

- \* **55** private programs participated with KC Ready 4s, and **28** were at 4 or 5 stars on Michigan's Great Start to Quality.
- \* **2460** mentoring hours and **39** PD sessions were provided to directors and teaching staff, at little or no cost to the program.
- \* We provided high-quality pre-K to **1105** 4-year-olds throughout Kalamazoo County.

## Tuition Support

- \* **\$543,175** was spent on **281** 4-year-olds. This was for a half-day pre-Kindergarten experience for children from families at up to 400% of the federal poverty level, on a sliding fee scale. We partnered with Kalamazoo County Pre-K to ensure families could afford a high-quality experience.
- \* **\$231,128** was spent on **30** 3-year-olds. This was a pilot program, a full-day preschool experience for children from families up to 150% of the federal poverty, at no cost to the family. It was so successful, we are making it available again during the 2019-20 school year.

## Family Support

Our Family & Community Liaisons (Erika Hamlet & Abra Steppes) had **268** family contacts this year, assisting them in areas of employment, training, housing and food insecurity, through partnerships with KYDNet, The Kalamazoo Promise, Michigan Works!, WSI, Robert Half Agency, and others. **266** families participated in Munch & Learn events on a variety of fun and informative topics, such as: *Everyday Fun with Math*, *Preschoolers as Scientists*, *Mindful Moments*, *Cooking with Kids*, *Creative Movement*, *Language & Literacy*, and *Michigan Works! Resources*. Another **282** family members attended a Back-to-School orientation session or had contact with one of our speech or challenging behaviors team...for a grand total of **816** family contacts this year!

## Enrichment Activities

- \* **Kalamazoo Institute of Arts:** **11** visits of **15** partnering classrooms at **8** pre-K programs.
- \* **Wellspring Ready Movers:** **10** classrooms at **4** sites, **8** visits per classroom; **5** Wellspring dancers.
- \* **WMU Movement Exchange:** **5** classrooms at **3** sites, **20** total onsite visits; **97** pre-K children and **17** WMU dancers.
- \* **WMed Pediatric Residents:** **14** residents were placed in **7** sites, to learn about developmental milestones for 4-year-olds.
- \* **Kalamazoo Air Zoo:** **36** 4-year-olds in **2** classrooms participated in the Scientists in Residence program.

## Speech/Hearing and Challenging Behaviors Support

- \* **Speech & Hearing:** KC Ready 4s' Speech Pathologists (Jayne Trombley & Heather Hudson), WMU Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences graduate students, and a GVSU graduate student provided over **760** hours of speech support (screenings, direct therapy, and instructional support). **62** children were screened, and as a result, **54** had identified concerns. The speech team gave families results of screenings, provided referrals for service, and trained teaching teams to provide in-class strategies.
- \* **Challenging Behaviors:** Our contracted clinical therapist from Family & Children Services received referrals for **29** children from **27** classrooms at **20** sites. She observed children in the classroom, made recommendations to the teaching teams, and followed up to ensure successful implementation of strategies. She also communicated with families and provided referrals for further assistance as necessary.

## Community Development

- \* **New fundraising events/programs:** Family Fun Event, Kalamazoo Candle Company, Five Below, and Bookbug! New donors from younger generations were responsible for an increase in community support.
- \* **Volunteer Reading Program:** There were **14** recurring volunteers at **14** sites, and **8** one-time volunteers at **6** sites. The Kalamazoo Public Library staff trained volunteers and provided donations of books that were left at the site.
- \* **Communications:** An **e-newsletter** is being developed to be rolled out this fall—be sure to sign up! Our social media has taken off with the addition of **Instagram** and **Twitter** in addition to **Facebook**. As a result, our Director of Community Development (Ali Schwartz) was recognized as the **Social Media Guru of the Year** during Kalamazoo Social Media Week! Visit our website [KCReady4s.org](http://KCReady4s.org) for more info and links to our social media pages.

## Kindergarten Transition

**251** 4-year-olds, **60** 3-year-olds, and **153** kindergarten children participated in the KC Ready 4s' Kindergarten Readiness Assessment this year. Results indicating continued benefits for children attending a program associated with KC Ready 4s are expected soon from our research partner at The Upjohn Institute.

Child Assessments were done three times a year to inform teaching staff how best to create learning environments specific to the needs of each child in the classroom. Information was shared with families and the school where the child is enrolled in Kindergarten (with parent approval). Kindergarten teachers were grateful for the ways this allows them to continue supporting the child as they transition to K-12.

*Another great year! We're grateful for the support of generous donors, community partners and families!*



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

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