

Care Center Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT

Providing high quality early education services
to under-resourced families in West Chester.

2025-2026



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The Care Center Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Wendy Wallace, Board President

The Care Center Foundation (CCF) is GROWING rapidly, and our team is working hard to bring high quality, safe, nurturing care to vulnerable children while staying true to the roots of the organization – roots based in partnership and bringing together members of the West Chester community to help our neighbors when they need it most.

When you gather a group of community advocates and focus their sights on the mission – there is no stopping the energy – and that is what is happening with our current Board of Directors. The group is diverse, talented, assertive, and has truly created an energy at the CCF that is proving to move mountains. Agreeing to revise the mission was the first step.

From there the year has taken off with a variety of fundraisers, events for the community, and even more families benefiting from our services. Despite everything going on in our society, our country, and our community, one thing that remains true is the need for fiscal fluidity. With increasing expenses, it is essential for families to maintain their employment and sustain income in order to keep up with the rising costs of food, rent, gas, car expenses and utilities.

Most families that come to us are escaping violence that existed either in their homes or in their homelands. When families are in transition, it is important to create stable spaces and places for children to find comfort and feel safe. The stress that encompasses the adults in the family can trickle down to young, rapidly growing minds and stay there until adulthood and beyond. A child cannot learn, grow, develop, or feel safe if their nervous system is constantly in fight or flight mode.

At CCF, we focus on giving children a safe place to learn strategies that will contribute to a healthy body and mind for years to come. Staff are trained in trauma informed care, working to redirect negative behaviors, implementing structure, and in the developmental and nutritional needs of babies 6 weeks of age to children 12 years old.

Our experienced and dedicated staff continues to be the foundation of our program. Stephanie Brancato, Day Care Director, leads the team in providing a safe place where families feel they can leave their children while working, studying, or finding employment. With over 95% of families receiving financial aid, CCF acts as a bridge for families as they face economic challenges. Our easily accessible location in downtown West Chester allows us to be available to families living in the borough without having to drive or take public transportation.

THE CARE CENTER FOUNDATION SUPPORTS THE NEEDS OF AT-RISK FAMILIES IN WEST CHESTER BY OFFERING ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE SERVICES AND LEVERAGING COMMUNITY RESOURCES TO HELP THEM THRIVE.

Some of our families are new to the area while others are in crisis – possibly just having moved their family out of a violent situation in search of safety. These individuals need employment to sustain themselves and their families, and this doesn't happen quickly. CCF can provide immediate care for their children so that they can apply and interview for the jobs they desperately want and need. Our scholarship fund has been the bridge to provide financial aid to families and to keep operations going strong. This is our greatest challenge and our greatest need. Childcare remains prohibitively expensive for many families in Chester County. Philanthropic funding is essential to providing support to vulnerable families and nourishing the children so that they have a chance at a bright future.

CCF is proud of how we pull families into our network by providing guidance and support, care for their children, and by becoming a part of their safety net with the help of long-standing resources, services, and partnerships that have been built over 40+ years.

One significant focus has been on creating partnerships with local nonprofit agencies that are invested in serving the local community. West Chester University (staff), Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (family referrals), Uptown Knauer Performing Arts Center (events support), West Chester Food Cupboard (emergency groceries), and the Knights of Columbus (repairs and maintenance of building) are just a few of the agencies that have aligned with our mission and work with us to serve our families. We also partner with Sugarbridge Contractors (roofing repairs), Jerry D's cleaning service (employs our parents), Meridian Bank (annual sponsor and banking services), and members of St Agnes Parish (families provided Easter outfits and Easter baskets for all of our children). Calvary Lutheran Church sewing club created small quilts for our preschool and toddlers. St Marks Lutheran Church and St Elizabeths Catholic Church provide 120 turkey meals at Thanksgiving and 50 ham meals at Easter. Pine Street Carpenters has provided bikes for our children for over 20 years. St Maximus Catholic Church provides growth minded toys and books at the holidays as well. These are the relationships that sustain and build a healthy community. These are the partners that we rely on to holistically support our families.

With this renewed mission for our community, CCF is ready to grow and bring high quality safe nurturing care to more families that need it. The Board's operational efforts this year included a complete overhaul of the budget, a grant to hire an interim Executive Director, a Titanic Themed Tasting event held at a board member's home, a Frank Sinatra Tribute event at Uptown, a Breakfast with Santa event with 2 seatings (one exclusively for our families, free of charge, and one for the local community), and our final event was the Bunny Run that raised significant funds for our operations.

The FIRST FIVE YEARS of a child's life are the most critical for long-term health outcomes in adults. When children thrive, the family thrives, and the community is a vibrant landscape. It is the CCF's hope that we as a West Chester community invest in our children now for a healthy future for years to come.



YEAR IN REVIEW:

- Served 42 children and their families with education and childcare services.
- The Six Pillars of Mental Health monthly wellness education and training program reached 50+ families.
- Since inception, 18,000+ meals have been served to families during our Easter, Thanksgiving, and emergency food initiatives.
- Over 300 hours of volunteer time were contributed this year alone.
- Community awareness and partnership building initiatives were expanded.
- Successful Pancakes with Santa event hosted for CCF families and community members.
- 1st annual Bunny Run hosted in March 2026 bringing the West Chester community together to support CCF.

IMPACT:

105

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS
IMPACTED

42

CHILDREN IMPACTED WITH
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

300

VOLUNTEER HOURS
CONTRIBUTED

1

HEALTHY, THRIVING
WEST CHESTER
COMMUNITY!

250

EASTER MEALS

500

THANKSGIVING MEALS

GET INVOLVED:



You can be a part of the building blocks of life for at-risk children in West Chester. TOGETHER, we can do so much more than we can do alone.



- **DONATE**
 - Donate monthly or one-time to support CCF's mission.
 - CCF relies on the generosity of the community to support this work. Your gift in any amount goes to providing high quality childcare and educational services to at-risk families in our community.
- **VOLUNTEER**
 - Volunteer to help with children (clearances required).
 - Join us at a community event.
 - Support the birthday bag initiative.
 - Distribute meals at the holidays.
 - Collect toys for distribution to families.
- **SPONSOR**
 - Sponsor a family for basic needs or financial aid. Sponsorships provide families with financial aid to afford the cost of care.
 - Sponsor a community event to help raise money for CCF.
- **SHARE OUR MISSION**
 - Tell a friend about CCF.
 - Like and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.
 - Find out if your employer has matching gift programs or would be interested in supporting our work.
 - Coordinate a fundraiser with your school, civic group, or faith-based community.

For more information on all of the ways you can get involved, please visit us at www.carecenterfoundation.org.

Thank you to everyone who has
volunteered, donated, served, and
loved the children and families at CCF
over the past 40+ years!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Wendy Wallace, Board President

John Cigler, Board Vice President

Valerie Schaeffer, Board Treasurer

Pastor Chris Franz, Board Member

Christine March, Board Member

Michelle Benoit, Board Member

Andy Rongaus, Board Member

STAFF

Marjorie Constable, Interim Executive Director

Stephanie Brancato, Daycare Director

Yimari Santiago, Lead Infant Teacher

Gloria Aviles, Toddler Teacher

Olga Nagirna, Infant Teacher

Sharo Pulgarin, Preschool Teacher

Christina Organt, Teaching Assistant

Jonathan High, Community Advocate

Claudia Brown, Community Advocate

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