



Newsletter

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| Denise Dorsz | Executive Director, Leaps and Bounds Family Services |
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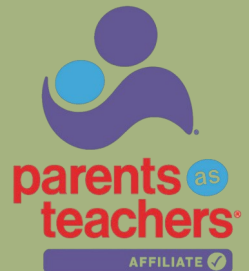
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Special Thanks to Leaps and Bounds' Business, Foundations, and Government Support October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024

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|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bowen, Radebaugh and Milton, PC | Early Childhood Investment Corporation | Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle | United Way for Southeast Michigan |
| Carter, Reddy & Associates | Elite Imaging Systems | Mount Calvary Lutheran Church | |
| Community Foundation for SE Michigan | General Motors | National Realty Centers | Wayne Resa |
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| Detroit Tigers | Learning Gizmos | Timberlane Resorts | |
| Detroit Zoo | Macomb Intermediate School District | Total Sports | |

Our Mission: To advance an equitable society by supporting early childhood educators and parents who seek to provide the highest quality care for children.



Save the Date!
2025 Annual Fundraising Dinner & Silent Auction
April 30, 2025

Greetings:

I am so proud to be a part of Leaps and Bounds Family Services! For 36 years, this agency, with very strong support from staff, Board members, program participants and YOU, our donors, has consistently supported families with young children and the thousands of childcare providers who care for them in southeast Michigan!

In this past year, our services have continued to increase...and we are doing more with less!

Services to parents with young children, through our **Parents as Teachers** program, continues providing home visiting which focuses on early learning, parent/child interactions, case management and we remain nationally model-certified. In the past twelve months, staff completed over 360 in-home visits with families and distributed over 2,000 children's books, diapers and learning materials

We ensure our commitment to high quality care from workers/childcare providers for all children in childcare settings by providing best practice, professionally-developed training and professional development through the **ECE (Early Childhood Educators) Career Center**. Over 6,500 childcare providers participated in over 500 trainings. Trainings are provided through taped, live virtual and In-person settings.

Our **Child Development Associate (CDA)** credential program provides nationally certified trainings and individual support to childcare workers. This national certification is a post-high school credential and allows those in the childcare industry to become childcare assistants and teachers. Leaps and Bounds Family Services has been one of only a few training providers in the state to receive the national CDA Gold Standard for our quality training and support. In the past twelve months, 326 individuals have completed their training.

Through the work of the **Wayne Oakland Macomb Great Start to Quality Resource Center** we realize our commitment to quality improvement and services for childcare providers. Staff work one-on-one and in small groups with over 1,300 licensed childcare providers in the region to support their efforts. Coaching assistance and support to directors and owners of childcare facilities are designed to improve quality care and ensure the best possible outcomes for young children. Monthly network meetings, special informational sessions, access to all training through the agency's ECE Career Center and the distribution of over 2,250 resource materials and classroom materials support quality improvement. The agency also worked with over 100 family, friend and neighbor childcare providers to provide health and safety checks and necessary items to ensure children's safety and well-being. Over 500 health and safety items were distributed.

And we did this with some staff vacancies!

The dedication of the staff, the Board of Directors and the continued generosity of all of our donors move me greatly! I am so Grateful. Please accept the gratitude of those we serve. Hoping that 2025 brings each of you good health and peace in your lives and throughout the globe.

Denise Dorsz

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



CDA Participant



Infant Toddler Training and Event



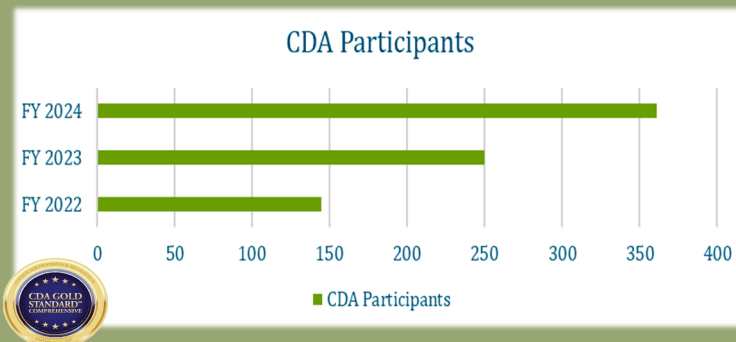
Home Provider Network Meeting



First Aid Training

Child Development Associate: CDA

The CDA is a national credential for early childhood educators. Designed for those providing childcare in licensed centers and homes, this credential is achieved through rigorous training that covers key areas, including child development, instructional strategies, and classroom management. The training equips educators with the tools necessary to create a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment for young children and ensures that educators are up to date on the latest research and best practices in early childhood education. The agency provides a comprehensive training and support effort to support participants. 120 live- virtual and/or in person training hours are provided, support with homework, portfolio development, preparing for the national credential test and mentoring are all part of the agency's CDA program. In FY 24, **361** individuals participated and **326** completed the training and began the national credentialing process. To date, **17%** have received the national credential. The Agency is one of only two organizations in the state of Michigan who have attained the CDA Gold Standard for high quality training.



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: WAYNE, OAKLAND, MACOMB RESOURCE CENTER

Quality improvement is a continuous process. Experts and child care providers in Michigan developed the quality guides based on research and best practice in the field of early care and education. Taking time to examine one's program helps to highlight strengths and areas on which the program can adjust and make improvements. This program works with over **2500** childcare providers in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. The program is designed to improve overall quality in childcare programs through services including support to providers in improving their quality levels through professional development, grant information and guidance, lending libraries, infant/toddler learning community, director/home provider groups, CDA and State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECH), and MiRegistry support.

With staff support, **55.22%** of all centers and **42.27%** of home participated in the state's GSQ Level of Quality system. Services include quality improvement support, coaching and workshops focused on improving quality for children. Additional services include access to the agency's professional development for the staff as well as support in applying for grants.



ECE (EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS) PROGRAM

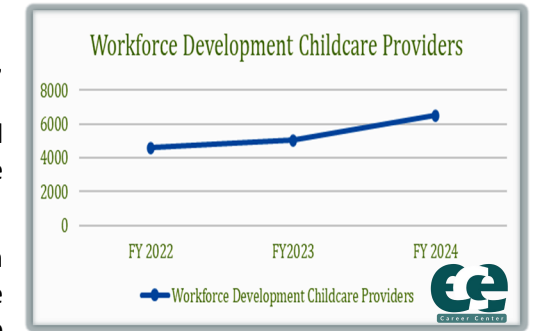


Childcare Provider Conference

ECE provides professional development training to all childcare providers in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties. These trainings are developed using the Instructional Design model. Over **70** training sessions have been developed.

Training emphasizes effective communication techniques such as active listening, positive reinforcement, and conflict resolution skills to

foster healthy relationships. All trainings are designed to support early educators and childcare providers gain skills and knowledge to provide high quality care and education to young children. **6,526** participants participated in an average of **40** trainings held each month, through in person and virtual trainings.



SUPPORT TO CHILDCARE PROVIDERS THROUGH ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

- **Healthy and Safety Home visits:** assisted over **100** licensed exempt childcare providers with information, resources and safety supplies, including fire extinguishers, first aid kits, baby gates, cabinet locks.
- **Grant Support for Providers:** Assisted **75** providers who received one time only grants from the state to enhance their services for infants and toddlers.
- **Individuals Opening Childcare Facilities:** Over **50** informational sessions were provided for a 3-month period for individuals needing assistance and support with the state of Michigan's childcare licensing process.

PARENT & FAMILY SERVICES

The parent and family services program is designed to ensure all children birth—4 years will learn, grow and develop, reaching their full potential, and instill that parents and caregivers are a child's earliest and BEST teachers.

This evidence-based home visiting model is designed to increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve positive parenting practices, provide early detection of developmental delays and connection to services, prevent child abuse and neglect, and increase children's school readiness and success. Items and materials distributed include new children's books, learning materials, formula and diapers. Throughout Wayne and Macomb County **360** visits were completed, primarily to Arabic and Bengali families.



FINANCIAL STATUS, MARKETING & RECRUITMENT, VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

The organization continues to practice sound, conservative financial management and ended the year within its approved operating budget. Sources of revenue include United Way (20%), state and county grants/contracts (68%), grants (2%), interest (1%), fees (7%) and special events/general donation support (2%) The agency's cash reserve remains strong. The agency's Annual Fundraising event was an in-person dinner and silent auction.

Over the past year we our marketing and recruitment has proved successful as a direct result of the **14,500** emails, **22,700** phone calls, and **31,300** text messages. This in addition to the strong support from volunteers included 700 hours of Board members ensure the success of Leaps and Bounds Family Services.

