


ANNUAL REPORT 2020

*Pioneering equity & innovation in
early childhood since 1951*





I just want to let you know how impressed we are with our experience this year. Our daughter is absolutely thriving during a time of such uncertainty, thanks to you. You provide a safe and loving environment and show them they are valued. **THANK YOU** for all you do for our kiddos.

-HP Community Parent

**OUR VISION
IS EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO THRIVE**

**OUR MISSION
IS TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY, AFFORDABLE CARE
AND EARLY EDUCATION TO ALL CHILDREN**

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LISA ADELMUND



Dear Friends of HP Community,

The COVID-19 pandemic has tested us in every way possible. But HP Community is here for you and we're working hard to meet the needs of children and families during this difficult time. As professionals in early childhood education, we have the privilege of being in the presence of young children who remind us, day in and day out, what in life is important. They remind us of the importance of being in the moment, to play, to notice what and who is before us, to make friends, to share feelings, to give hugs, to be honest, to dare to ask questions and to enjoy the excitement of finding answers. We may think we are lighting the way for these young children, when they, in fact, are the little beacons. They shine their little lights on our adult constraints and preconceived expectations and every day open up a world of possibility, wonder, and magic. What a gift.

We believe that every child deserves to thrive. We work diligently to provide an environment rich in opportunities to explore not only materials and ideas, but also relationships between children, adults, and the world around them. Like our name, we believe in community and all that that word entails. Also know that our door is always open for further conversation.

Welcome to a place that is dedicated to protecting and celebrating childhood. Welcome to a place that appreciates and values diversity, play, creative thinking and problem-solving. Welcome to a place whose staff sees it as an honor to care for and teach young child(ren).

Gratefully,
Lisa Adelmund, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Lisa Adelmund". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

OUR PROGRAMS

For almost 70 years, Highland Park Community Early Learning Center has provided exceptional and affordable early care and education to families from a diverse array of economic, cultural and ability backgrounds.

Support of our students uses a holistic approach, providing education that goes beyond the classroom to consider circumstantial needs of the entire family. HP Community works with families to ensure they are utilizing all the resources that are available to them to provide a stable, nurturing environment for their children.

Founded in 1951, HP Community was created for the purpose of providing affordable, high-quality early childhood education to working families.

HP Community offers year-round programming for children ages 2 to 5 from 7 am to 5:30 pm.

Our qualified educators include bilingual and ISBE licensed teachers in each classroom as well as specialists in art, music, social work and curriculum development.



THE HIGHEST QUALITY EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE TO *ALL* CHILDREN



- AWARDED THE GOLD CIRCLE OF QUALITY THROUGH EXCELERATE ILLINOIS FOR THE 5TH YEAR
- THE FIRST INDEPENDENT PROGRAM IN LAKE COUNTY TO RECEIVE THE GOLD CIRCLE; EXCEEDING QUALITY ON EVERY MEASURED STANDARD
- PIONEERING EARLY CHILDHOOD THROUGH EQUITY AND INNOVATION SINCE 1951



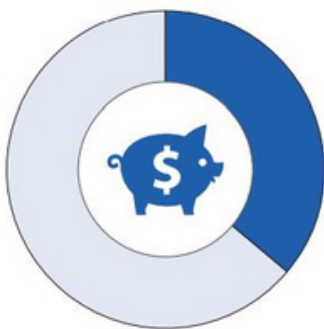
OUR IMPACT

Children from lower-income earning households often arrive at the kindergarten door substantially behind children from higher-income households. On average, children from poor families score far below their higher-income earning peers in vocabulary & literacy development, early math, as well as in social skills (Halle et al., 2009; Lee & Burkham, 2002).

A 2018 study by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation found the short-term benefits of a high-quality ECE program included school readiness skills such as language development, numeracy and math skills and long-term benefits, including achievement through secondary education, into college and college graduation.

HP Community narrows this achievement gap by preparing students for social and academic success when they enter Kindergarten through:

- Licensed and credentialed teachers and support staff
- Implementation of a research-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum
- Individual screenings, assessments & portfolios
- Regularly scheduled parent/teacher conferences
- Resource referral by social work consultants
- Dedicated art and music specialists
- Dedicated indoor and outdoor playspace



38%

of Community families earn less than \$53,000 annually



47%

our students come from single-parent households

53%

of our students are considered "at risk" for academic and developmental delays

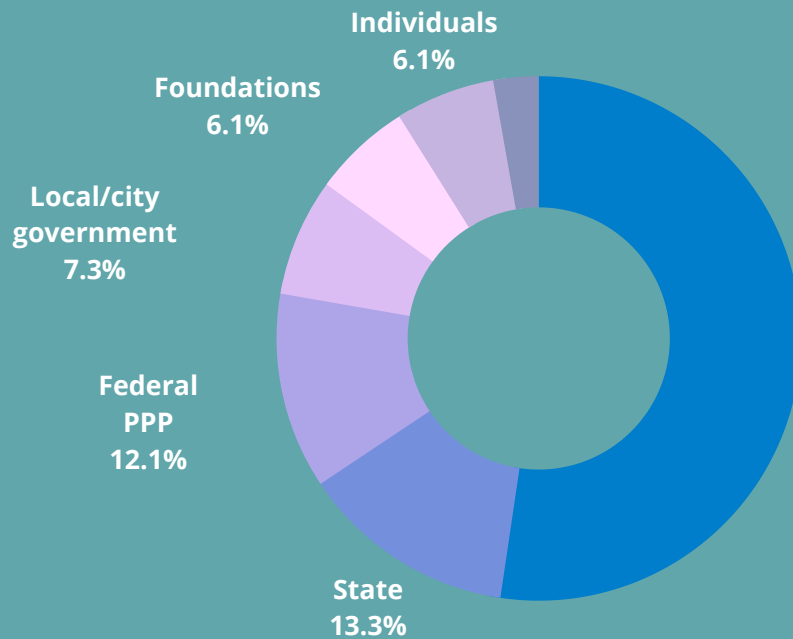
50%

of students speak a different language than English at home, 38% of which is Spanish

FINANCIALS

The 2020-2021 operating budget for HP Community is \$1,226,258. 58% of this funding will come from sliding scale tuition, 25% from the State of Illinois, 10% from foundations and 7% from individuals. Last year's 2019-2020 Budget for HP Community was \$1,235,398. The breakdown of income and expenditures are below:

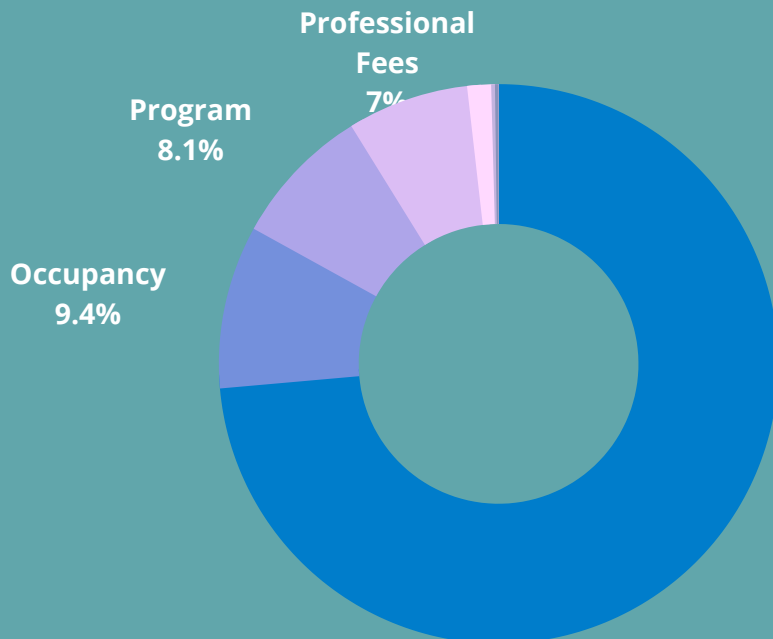
INCOME



**Program
Income
52.3%**

**During the 2019-2020 year, HP Community used \$34,000 of a \$150K Economic Injury Disaster Loan from the SBA to bridge a temporary loss in tuition income due to the mandatory stay-at-home order.*

EXPENSES



**Teacher/staff salary &
Benefits
73.6%**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

Board Officers

Zach Waickman, Board President
Sue Blumberg, Former President
Heather McGinley, Vice President
Katherine Wiswald, Treasurer
Eva Lok, Secretary

Board Members

Sofia Alvarez
Jaime Barraza
Nicole Henricks
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Anita Pildes

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Jennifer Bressler, Development Director
Pam Carlson, Program Director
Paula Johnson, Assistant Director

Support Staff

Rachel Magnani, Office Coordinator
Dominika Maksymiuk, Cook

Teachers

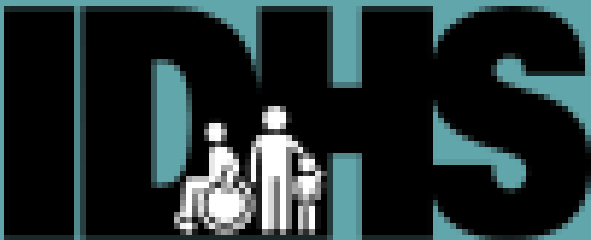
Darcy Fitzsimmons
Amy Garcia
Steve Leverick
Mary O'Day
Nita Patel
Karen Perez
Sej Saed
Cecilia Vasquez
Amelia Walsh

The staff at “Community” is experienced and highly qualified, degreed professionals in early childhood education and related fields. Educated and experienced staff is the core of “Community’s” programs. They attend, present, and actively participate in continuing education programs on an ongoing basis, including national and international early childhood conferences in order to improve their understanding of child development and best practices for early childhood education. The teachers and staff are nurturing professionals who are passionate about what they do.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



Google
for nonprofits



Get A Hand...



...Give A Hand



First Bank of Highland Park

Where Community is First!



HIGHLAND PARK COMMUNITY EARLY LEARNING CENTER

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