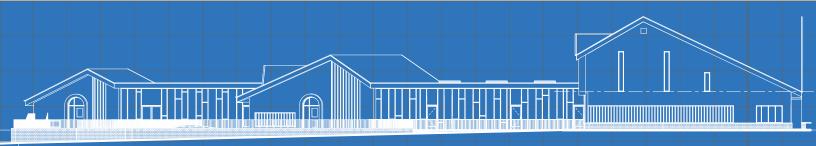


Building FuturesMarch 2023



Board of Directors

George Luke, Chair
Tammy Rahaim, Vice Chair
Claire Nutter, Treasurer
Lauren Ragland, Secretary
Janet Brugger
Dr. Sandra Dye
Robert Gonzales
Sandy Jaray
Janae Langreck
Maureen Smith Lawrence
Deborah Layne
Kim Roberson
Sandy Schroeder

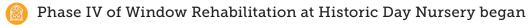
Founding Cabinet of *Building Futures* Campaign

Diane Bell
Mike Bell
Mimi Cavanaugh
Susan Edmondson
Gary Feffer
Cheryl Harding
Sandy Jaray
Tom Neill
Denny Weber
Mary Beth Williams
Chuck Murphy



USING SOUND DATA AND A HISTORICALLY PROVEN APPROACH

Since we last connected in Fall of 2022, we have seen major milestones come to life:



🕜 Downtown Review Board unanimously approved our project

We went to bid and are reviewing proposals from local contractors

Additionally, Early Connections has received significant attention over the last 3 months as the crisis in child care continues to impact our country and great State of Colorado. Just recently, we were provided data from the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) that supports our efforts and the work we are doing to expand our capacity and reach more children and families across the Pikes Peak Region.

The data points highlighted by the Colorado OEDIT are daunting, and we have included some below. Locally, we know we have a solution, and at the heart of the solution is Early Connections and our Alice Bemis Taylor Center. By replicating our historically sound model that ensures over 90% of the children in our care meet or exceed expectations before entering kindergarten, we can expand capacity, build a highly trained workforce, and directly impact the economic growth of Colorado Springs.

As we continue to secure the remaining funds to break ground on our Alice Bemis Taylor Center, we ask you stand alongside us as we advocate on behalf of early care and education, both the need and the critical urgency. Our proven approach and model, paired with sound data that supports the need, will undoubtedly provide impactful and meaningful outcomes that will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

COLORADO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

900

child care facilities have closed in Colorado in the last three years 100,000

women in Colorado have left the workforce since the pandemic 1 in 3

parents reported major difficulty in finding child care 45%

of a family annual income with two children is spent on child care

OUR APPROACH WORKS

Our Behavioral Health team changed the narrative surrounding a child, helping them thrive

A mother and her 4-year-old daughter, Angela, walked into one of our Centers asking for a tour. One of our Curriculum and Instruction Coordinators. Brandi, was present that day and toured the family. The child was bright-eyed and eager to see all the fun happening, but her mother was reserved and visibly upset. During the tour, Brandi quickly learned that the little girl had just been suspended from her second preschool program. Mom had concerns of Autism, ADHD, and behavioral issues. The mother needed to work to survive, but she also needed a place for her child to thrive. Immediately, the team wrapped their arms around this mother and child. The behavioral health team and teacher met to create a plan and identify goals that would lead to success for mom and her daughter. Our team specifically focused on social skills, such as taking your turn, understanding personal space, and asking permission. Our team noted that routine was critical to this child's success and supported

the mother in creating and maintaining a routine at home. We know that through individualized curriculum, proactive behavioral health intervention, and parent/ guardian support, any child can thrive.

Just a few weeks ago, that same bright-eyed little girl ran up to one of our teachers bursting with excitement.

"You could tell she was doing everything in her power to control her body," Brandi shared. She paused just

She paused just moments before stepping on Brandi's toes and asked, "May I have permission to tickle you?"



moments before stepping on Brandi's toes and asked, "May I have permission to tickle you?" In that moment, the tremendous amount of work, dedication, and care was reflected, highlighting how we work together to support a child and help build a foundation for success that will continue to serve them after they leave Early Connections. This sweet child is succeeding in school, is undoubtedly ready for kindergarten, and her mom couldn't be more happy or grateful.

This is just one story of the many ways we are changing the lives of the children and families in our care. We see and experience firsthand how our families and communities thrive when they have access to early care and education.

BY THE NUMBERS

the annual cost to a family to receive care for one infant at a center in Colorado

120 +

current number of families on the waitlist for toddler care at Antlers location (and true througout CO) number of National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited centers in Downtown offering toddler care (that's us!) number of NAEYC accredited facilities in Downtown currently offering infant care (we're working on it!)

EARLY CONNECTIONS + BUILDING FUTURES

1897

Early Connections Learning Centers founded by 14 determined women

1923

Alice Bemis Taylor constructs Historic Day Nursery on Rio Grande

1951

City of Colorado Springs donates land in perpetuity for the use of child care with the stipulation that it remain 100% dedicated to the care of children, otherwise, ownership returns to the City



1953

Junior League of Colorado Springs builds child care center at 108 Antlers Place

1973

Early Connections takes ownership of Antlers Place following merger of child care programs

2018

Growing community need for more infant and toddler care identified and an assessment of current center capacities completed

Building Futures campaign developed in response to grow organizational capacity to better serve and support the needs of our community



Campaign launches quiet phase

Major gift from State Historic Fund and individual donors secured to launch Phase I of Windows and Doors Rehabilitation at Historic Day Nursery

2019

Phase II of Window Rehabilitation funding secured

Major Milestones and Campaign Highlights

2020



Covid-19 Pandemic, all Early Connections Learning Centers remain open for families

Phase II of Window Rehabilitation begins at Historic Day Nursery

New facility designed to replace Antlers Place



Transformational gift from El Pomar names new facility, Alice Bemis Taylor Center for Early Education

Phase III of Windows Rehabilitation funding secured

2021

Phase III of Windows Rehabilitation begins at Historic Day Nursery

2022





50% of total funding secured for campaign!

Building Futures Ambassador program launch



Phase IV of Window Rehabilitation funding secured

Downtown Review Board unanimously votes approval



Contruction bids received from local contractors

Moving into 2023 and beyond



Break Ground!



Hard hat tours of construction site



Building Dedication



Official first day: kids learning, kids playing, kids thriving



Building Futures Ambassadors

Our most fierce, generous, and enthusiastic supporters of children who strongly believe in the role philanthropy plays to support the critical work taking place at Early Connections. They are integral to the success of *Building Futures*.

Ambassadors do all of the following: show up, stay informed, build enthusiam, foster friendships, and take action.

THANK YOU!

\$1,000,000 +

El Pomar Foundation Norwood Development Group

\$250,000-\$999,999

City of Colorado Springs Community
Development Block Grant
Ms. Kelsey Nolan, Mr. and Mrs. Bart and
Cathy Holaday
State Historical Fund
Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation

\$100,000-\$249,999

Anschutz Foundation Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Lisa Cleary Lyda Hill Philanthropies

\$50,000-\$99,999

Mr. and Mrs. Andy and Barb Aylward Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Diane Bell Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Sue Neill Qualistar The Shirley Strait Foundation

\$25,000-\$49,999

CALM Foundation
Colorado Springs Health Foundation
Gates Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Rick and Diane Price
Mr. Jordan Strub and
Mrs. Michele Strub-Heer

\$10,000-\$24,999

Mr. Michael Finkbiner and Mrs. Maureen
Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Mary Beth
Gathen
Inasmuch Foundation
Jerome V. Bruni Foundation
Mrs. Joan Frederick

Luther T. McCauley Charitable Trust
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Peter Grant Fund for Colorado
Mr. and Mrs. Ken and Sandy Jaray
Mr. and Mrs. George and Laurie Luke
Mr. and Mrs. Denny and Sandy
Weber

Mr. and Mrs. Larry and Mary Beth Williams

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous
BNSF Railway Foundation

Carl W. & Carrie Mae Joslyn Charitable
Trust

Celebration of Life Fund

Edmund T. & Eleanor Quick Foundation,

Energy Outreach Colorado (NEEP)

Mrs. Ama Couch Mr. Charles Curtis

Mr. and Mrs. Skip and Kathy Fleming

Mrs. Joanie Mooney H. Chase Stone Trust

\$4.999 or less

Anonymous AssuredPartners

Mr. and Mrs. Peter and Cindy Aubrey Mr. and Mrs. Jack and Elaine Brush

Ms. Miriam Cavanaugh

Mr. William Corrigan and Mrs. Jane McMahon

Mr. and Mrs. John and Liz Denson

Ms. Susan J. Edmondson

Mr. Robert Gonzales

Hester E. and Edwin W. Giddings

Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Clarissa Hobson Dr. and Mrs. David and Carol Hull Mr. and Mrs. Howard and Karen Kunstle Dr. and Mrs. Karl and Shannon Lackler Mr. Mark Tyson and Mrs. Noreen

Landis-Tyson

Mr. and Mrs. Lou and Cynthia

Lemesany

Mr. Perry Lewis

Captain William Loveall
Lunchbucket Creative, Ltd.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen and Pamela Marsh

Ms. Joan True McKibben Ms. Vivian McWhorter

Mr. and Mrs. Jon and Becky Medved

Ms. Felicia Mendygral

Ms. Joan Mullens

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson and Eloise Noland

Mr. and Mrs. Tyrone and Kathy

Olson

Ms. Tammy Rahaim

Ms. Susan Rose

RTA Architects

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Dr}}.$ and $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Mrs}}.$ Sidney and Karen Rubinow

Mr. and Mrs. Brad and Jessica Shubert

State Historical Society

Ms. June Wolf Steahlin

Ms. Helen Steindler

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald and Cheryl Tolley

The Woman's Club of Colorado

Springs

Ms. Jocelyn Wall

Mr. Alan Gregory and Mrs. Jan Weiland

Mr. Robert Williams

Mr. Terry Stiffler and Mrs. Wendy

Wolfswinkel

Ms. Cindi Zenkert-Strange

*Gifts as of 03/13/2023

Questions? Want to learn more and get involved? Contact us:

Ashley Groves, (719) 381-4804, agroves@earlyconnections.org Nicole Schiff, (719) 381-4803, nschiff@earlyconnections.org

earlyconnections.org