






## USING SOUND DATA AND A HISTORICALLY PROVEN APPROACH

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

-  **Phase IV of Window Rehabilitation at Historic Day Nursery began**
-  **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.

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## 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

**\$15,800**

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 throughout CO)

**1**

number of National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited centers in Downtown offering toddler care *(that's us!)*

**0**

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

125th anniversary of Early Connections, public announcement of *Building Futures* campaign



**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



Construction 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 enthusiasm, 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,  
Inc.  
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  
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Mr. William Corrigan and Mrs. Jane  
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Hobson

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Mr. and Mrs. Howard and Karen Kunstle  
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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  
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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  
Dr. and Mrs. Sidney and Karen Rubinow  
Mr. and Mrs. Brad and Jessica Shubert  
State Historical Society  
Ms. June Wolf Steahlin  
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Mr. and Mrs. Gerald and Cheryl Tolley  
The Woman's Club of Colorado  
Springs  
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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:

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