MISSION
To creatively and collaboratively address the economic, educational, social and community needs of at-risk children and families.

PROGRAMS

PARENT AND FAMILY SERVICES
Services include parent education seminars, early learning activities, home visiting, case management and referral and advocacy services. Services are provided throughout Wayne and Macomb counties. All parents received support, recommendations and assistance in identifying other programs to meet their children’s developmental, health, social emotional and childcare needs. Resources and materials for families include: new children’s books, emergency food and diapers, winter hats and gloves and learning materials. Services are designed to assist parents as their child’s first teacher and to provide support and resources to families during stressful times.

- 750 home visits were completed for Wayne and Macomb County high-risk children 0-5 years and their parents. Visits focus on early learning activities, early child development, health and wellness information, and support services. All visits were virtual.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: CHILDCARE PROVIDER TRAINING
The neighborhood-based Early Learning Communities provide home and center-based childcare providers with free training in early child development, health and safety as well as support services, access to free learning materials and to family/community events. The training sites are located in Detroit, Sterling Heights and Warren. The program helps childcare providers have the training and resources necessary to insure that children enter kindergarten ready. Additionally, the agency provides support and technical assistance to providers in improving quality.

- 433 training sessions were provided with 4,226 participants. 90% of these trainings were completed virtually.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: THE CDA, A NATIONAL CREDENTIAL PROGRAM
The agency provided a focused training series for childcare professionals wishing to earn their national credential from the Council for Professional Recognition. The Child Development Associate is a national certification for childcare providers. 95 individuals participated in this credential training. The Agency is one of only two organizations in the state of Michigan who have attained the CDA Gold Standard from high quality training.

MARKETING/RECRUITMENT
In FY 2021, the agency informed parents and childcare providers about services through 23,115 emails, 12,630 phone calls, and 3,340 texts.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION/ADVOCACY
The organization participates in a host of collaborative efforts including Great Start Macomb and Great Start Wayne Collaborative, United Way for Southeast Michigan’s Regional Early Learning Community, Wayne County Early On ICC and the Wayne Oakland Macomb Resource Center.
VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

Strong support from volunteers included 480 hours of Board members contributed time during this past year.

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The organization continues to practice sound, conservative financial management and ended the year within its approved operating budget. Sources of revenue include United Way (62%), state, federal and county contracts (16%), grants (12%), interest, fees and investments gains (3%) and special events/general donation support (7%). The agency remains committed to a diverse revenue mix. The agency’s cash reserve remains strong.

The agency’s Annual Fundraising event was an online silent that went well with over $8,000 raised.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jordyn Fields, Program Assistant  Natasha Griffin, ELC Trainer
Jazmine Johnson, Navigator  Diane Pritchett, Parent Educator
Lillian Ross, ELC Director  Katrina Stewart, Deputy Director
Mervat Tadros, Parent Educator  Jolayne Thompson, Accountant
Kylah Washington, CDA Project Manager