



celebrating 25 years of
**PRINCE GEORGE'S CHILD
RESOURCE CENTER, INC**

Putting Prince George's County's Children First

A quarter of a century... 25 years? How is that possible? Hard to believe but the Prince George's Child Resource Center has reached its silver anniversary. At this milestone we look back with pride and ahead with continued commitment of meeting the needs of children, families and the child care community.

When we opened our doors in 1990, George Bush (the father) was President, Parris Glendening was Prince George's County Executive and the country was finally realizing that women were in the workplace to stay. We knew the demand for LOCATE: Child Care, our brand new referral service was going to far exceed our projections when we logged hundreds of calls from parents requesting child care slots for their children... before we opened! We answered those calls and many more as our services expanded. We offered training and mentoring to those caring for our youngest residents, opened the Adelphi/Langley Park Family Support Center to welcome and nurture the growing immigrant population and became part of a partnership that offered home visitation to families countywide through Healthy Families Prince George's.

What stands out the most to us and ensured the success of each of these programs are the people associated with the Resource Center. As Executive Director and Board President we take great pride in our staff. Yes, they are professional, efficient and effective, but what makes this organization really special is their warmth, caring, nurturing and deep respect they demonstrate to everyone that walks in our doors. Over the years our board of directors has truly understood this special organization and collectively supported the work we do. We can say the same for our long term partners and funders. Through good economies and not so good times, they continue to support our mission.

So what does the future hold? Woven into the very fiber of the Resource Center is the belief that change is not only a good thing, but necessary to ensure that we are meeting community need. Years ago we could not have predicted the population and economic changes that occurred. With keen strategic planning and a growing advocacy effort, we hope to keep ourselves knowledgeable and ready to respond. As long as we continue to keep our hearts in the right place, another 25 years is a given.



Marti Worshil
Executive Director



Pamela J. Green, SPHR
Board President

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PROVIDING VITAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

Healthy Families Prince George's

This evidence-based home-visiting program focuses on positive parent-child interaction, prevention of infant mortality, healthy childhood development to enhance school readiness, and the prevention of poor childhood outcomes including child abuse and neglect. Credentialed by Healthy Families America, Healthy Families Prince George's has been serving families in the County since 1998.

Adelphi/Langley Park Family Support Center

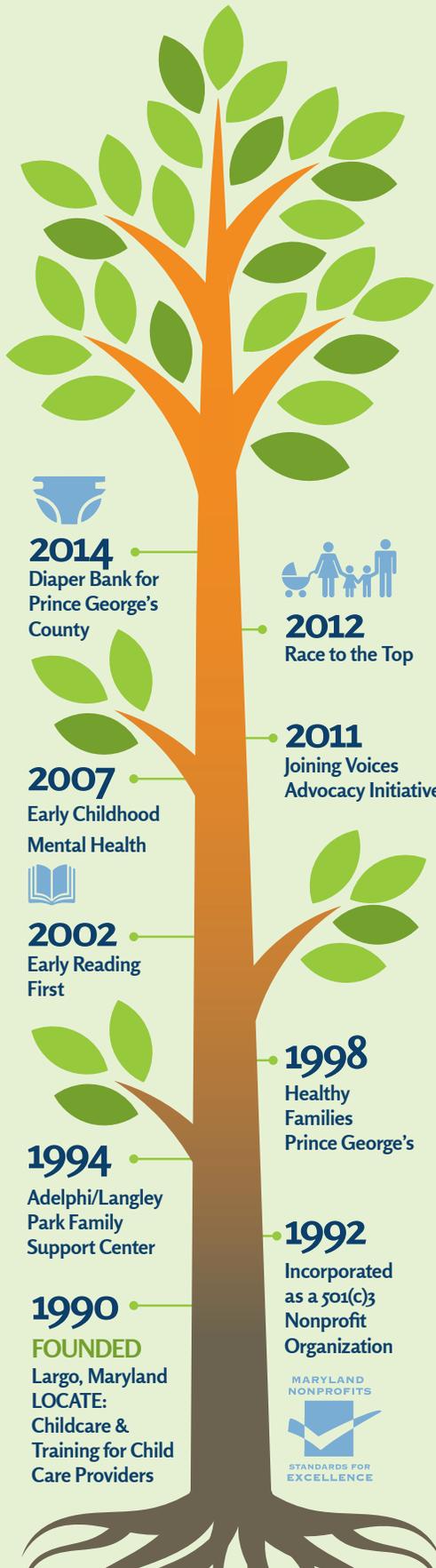
The Family Support Center provides direct supportive services for families including parenting education, adult basic education, and employment readiness services to families with children age 0-4. All services are free, including on-site child care and door-to-door transportation.

Community Programs

Working with parents and child care providers, Community Programs strives to ensure access to quality child care, especially for low-income families. In addition to providing training, onsite mentoring support is offered to early childhood educators. Early childhood mental health programs provide support for children experiencing difficulty in the child care setting. Joining Voices, an advocacy project, empowers parents and providers to educate community stakeholders on the importance of quality early care in breaking the cycle of poverty.

HOW WE'VE GROWN

Timeline from 1990-2015



Helping Families Thrive – Jennifer Ivison's Story

Jennifer Ivison's relationship with the Prince George's Child Resource Center spans nearly two decades, even though it has been more than 12 years since she participated in any of its programs. And her fondness for the staff at the Resource Center speaks to their steadfast commitment to helping families thrive.

"I got pregnant with my first child at 17 and Danitza Simpson at the Resource Center was there for me," says Ivison. "Aside from my mother, Ms. Simpson was the first person I went to."

The support Ivison received began with home visits that included a wide range of pregnancy and parenting tips - from managing doctor visits to diaper changes. Ivison's participation in Resource Center activities also included regular group meetings covering the importance of good health, nutrition, quality early care and education, and more. The Resource Center continued supporting Ivison's family until her son was five-years-old.

"As a first-time mom, there is so much to learn, and the Resource Center made sure I did all the right things," says Ivison. "Ms. Simpson was kind of like a second mom and she really taught me a lot about being the best parent I could be for my new son. The staff really works hard to help you. You're family to them."

Ivison's interaction with the Resource Center didn't end when her son Anthony turned five.

"Years later, when they found out I was pregnant with my second child, they offered to help in any way they could," she says.

It's no wonder Ivison forged a long-term bond with the staff and why she continues to check in with them frequently.

"I tell Anthony and my other children about how the Resource Center helped us when we were struggling and how they helped me realize I could do anything I put my mind to. I now have a full-time job. I own my own car and townhome, and I have a husband who I've been with for 19 years."

Anthony is now thriving in high school. He is an aspiring college student and dreams of pursuing a career in engineering or as a professional football player. Rest assured, everyone at the Resource Center will be rooting for him all the way.

"When my son graduates high school, they will definitely get an invitation," Ivison says.

"AS A FIRST-TIME MOM, THERE IS SO MUCH TO LEARN, AND THE RESOURCE CENTER MADE SURE I DID ALL THE RIGHT THINGS."



For more details about these programs go to www.childresource.org.



A WORD FROM OUR PARTNERS...

Congratulations to Prince George's Child Resource Center on 25 years of serving and strengthening your community. You are a shining example of what it means to support families. Your team is ready for every family that comes through the door and shows each of them respect and caring, making us proud to be your partner in both the Child Care Resource Center and the Family Support Center.

*Margaret Williams
Executive Director, Maryland
Family Network*

"I know the work the Resource Center does for families, children, and the child care community. I have visited their site and supported their work. Marti Worshtil and her staff are caring, knowledgeable, and efficient. They are an asset to our County and I congratulate them on 25 years of great service."

*Rushern L. Baker III
County Executive, Prince
George's County*

Going the Distance for Our Children – Lydia Stewart's Story

L Lydia Stewart has been a family child care provider in the Suitland area for nearly 30 years. With the comprehensive support of the Prince George's Child Resource Center, she has transformed her life and the way she cares for children.

In 2008, Stewart participated in the one of many professional development programs offered by the Resource Center. Stewart has been able to apply much of what she learned, sometimes in unexpected ways. When her home child care center flooded, Stewart knew she had an opportunity to transform her space. She knew that putting photographs, artwork, and mirrors at eye level allows children to visualize their own experiences in a new way while providing positive reinforcement.

"When my home flooded, I had the contractor put in special wainscoting so we could put up pictures of the children's work," Stewart says. "The children want to see what is happening—and so do the parents. Now, the first thing many visitors say when they come in the door is that they would have liked to be in a facility like mine."

"WE ALL WANT THE SAME THING—HELPING ENSURE EVERY CHILD CAN PROGRESS AND BE A PRODUCTIVE MEMBER OF SOCIETY."

Through her training, Stewart was able to recognize a child in her care who needed special attention. The Resource Center connected her with professionals who observe children and make recommendations for appropriate follow up.

"The Resource Center helped me understand how to get children special help when they need it and to navigate very sensitive conversations with parents," says Stewart. "We all want the same thing—helping ensure every child can progress and be a productive member of society."

During her training sessions, Stewart also learned about the Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund administered by the Maryland Department of Education. The fund offers no-cost tuition and textbooks for early childhood

professionals who want to pursue a degree in the field.

Stewart enrolled in Prince George's Community College in 2009 and earned her associate's degree in 2013. Today, she is on track to earn her bachelor's degree from Washington Adventist University in 2017.

"The Resource Center has been an excellent vehicle to help improve my skills as an educator and keep me updated on the latest information in early childhood education," Stewart says. "I have recommended the Resource Center to educators, providers, and parents who want to better serve our children."

25 YEARS ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

1990 - 2015

Prince George's Child Resource Center exists to help make sure that families have access to quality, affordable child care, health care, and other support services. Each year the Resource Center supports more than 1,500 families and trains more than 2,000 child care providers, parents, and human services workers. Since 1990, we have touched the lives of nearly half a million children in Prince George's County.

We've come a long way in 25 years. Prince George's Child Resource Center has seen an array of research used to influence policy change regarding what's best for young children, and it confirms what we've always known: *quality early care matters*.

Advancements Across the Country and at Home

Boosted by the knowledge that learning begins at birth and quality matters for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, we provide crucial bedrock services to child care centers, family child care homes, and to families seeking child care.

In 2014, the Child Care and Development Block Grant law was reauthorized by Congress for the first time in 18 years. It calls for new health and safety baselines, inspections and support for providers, and improvements to the child care subsidy assistance program. Our attention now turns to our state agencies and state legislature as we work to meet new requirements with limited

dollars. The Resource Center sees first-hand the local realities and stands ready to help providers and families succeed.

Our Healthy Families home visiting program – in coordination with Healthy Families America – has made huge strides for families since we began the work in 1998. Through the Resource Center, trained home visitors provide education to new parents facing adversity, supporting and strengthening the new family. We expanded these efforts after Maryland took advantage of new federal investment in Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), authorized by Congress in 2010.

Child nutrition, health, and hunger all play out in our community's child care centers, family child care homes, and pre-K classrooms. Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are paying close attention to the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and so are we.

We see investments in quality and endeavors to bring together a system to connect the pieces and parts that contribute to child well-being and family success through early care and education.

The Need Continues

The advancements have been tremendous, but challenges remain and the need for PGCRC is clear every day as we work with families. We face significant obstacles to making sure every child in Prince George's County receives an equal opportunity to realize their full potential. Poverty,

hunger, homelessness, and other challenges persist, with far-reaching effects throughout our community. Often, families that come to us find it difficult to meet very basic needs. Consider:

- From 2006 to 2013, 5,600 Maryland children lost access to child care subsidy assistance. In March 2014, there were more than 1,600 children on the waiting list for assistance.
- Only 43 percent of child care centers and only 22 percent of family child care homes in our county are participating in Maryland EXCELS quality rating initiative
- Licensure is the foundation of quality, but unregulated care in Prince George's County undermines quality and our drive for improvement
- Only 36 percent of Maryland's four-year-olds are enrolled in pre-K

The Way Forward

The most important thing we can do to strengthen our community and build a brighter future is to invest in high-quality, early childhood care and education, health care, and family support services. With more than 60,000 residents in our county under the age of 5, these investments set the foundation for better schools, safer communities, and a stronger workforce.

Marti Worshtil
Executive Director

Jennifer Hoffman
Deputy Director

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