



CHILD CARE
CONNECTIONS

*Advocating for the
well-being and quality
care of children since 1978.*

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2020

October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020



CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS' 2020 HIGHLIGHTS



*by Jane Arntzen Schumacher, M.Ed.
Executive Director*

You hear it everywhere – child care is a key factor in workforce recovery and development and attracting high-paying jobs into our communities. Our mission at Child Care Connections is to improve the quality of child care. We know from our work that quality is irrevocably tied to accessibility and affordability and will continue to work for an early childhood system that provides quality child care that is accessible and affordable for all families.

2020 was a year marked by our response to the pandemic. Much of the work we began in 2020 has enabled us to respond effectively to the pandemic's unique challenges. From leading emergency child care efforts as active members of area disaster relief coalitions to creating stories that help children understand facemasks to reducing stress on essential workers by finding care for their children, we ensured all six counties served by CCC received our support.

All of this work was made possible through our collaboration with an extraordinary group of partners and funders; we are deeply grateful for their continued support, which has given us the flexibility to adapt to the changes around us.

Yet even as we celebrated the success of our response to the pandemic, we had to acknowledge that accessible and affordable quality child care has a long way to go and families continue to face significant disparities in their access to quality child care. To further address this over the next year we are redoubling our efforts to make sure that the voices of child care providers and families with young children are heard as Montanans grapple with the economic impacts from the lack of child care. We are working closely with and are launching new relationships with child care providers, families, community organizations, cities, counties, and state government to help us build a better early childhood system for all of Montana's families. These partnerships will help us during the upcoming legislative session to encourage public policy that focuses on delivering the support for quality and affordability that families need.

We are proud of all the accomplishments detailed in our 2020 Annual Report that follows. But today's global crisis has made it clear that much remains to be done to realize our vision of ensuring that families and children have access to foundational early care that is essential for the lifelong success of our children.

MORE
THAN **10,000**
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS IMPACTED



FAMILY IMPACT

BEST BEGINNINGS CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP

Funded by MT DPHHS, and administered by Child Care Connections (CCC), this scholarship helps families in need afford safe licensed child care while caretakers are working or in school.



This project is funded (in part) under a contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department. CCC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving Gallatin, Park, Meagher, Jefferson, Broadwater, and Lewis & Clark counties.



530

Families received scholarships each month

770

Children attended care each month because of the scholarship



CCC helped local families receive **\$5,046,037** from the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship Program, helping them afford child care while caretakers were in work or school.

6 MONTANA COUNTIES

Gallatin, Park, Meagher, Lewis & Clark, Jefferson, Broadwater



From the bottom of our hearts, we are so grateful for your leadership and advocacy on behalf of all Montana [child care] centers. We appreciate all you do to protect our wellbeing, and that of every child in our care. With huge thanks, Victoria and Bozeman Montessori Team

PROVIDER IMPACT



5,106

Children received quality care from licensed providers



188

Licensed providers were supported by CCC's services



42 STARS PROVIDERS!

The more STARS, the higher the quality of care!



COMMUNITY IMPACT THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC

CHILD SAFETY

This program is fully funded by community support and offers free resource and education around bike and vehicle safety. Impacted by the pandemic, CCC offered these services on a limited basis.

5 STAFF

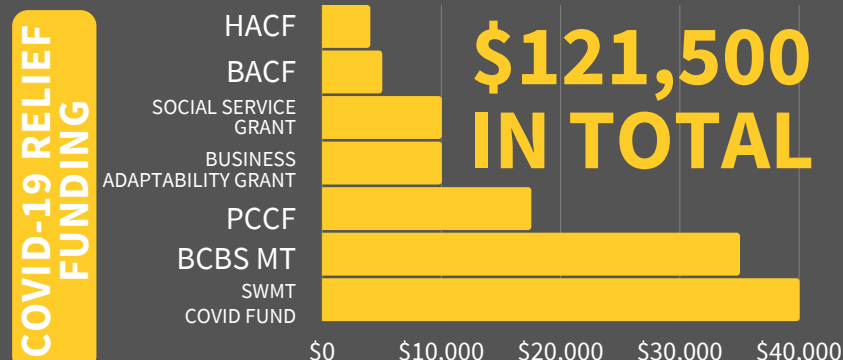
were certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians and assisted with **16** car seat installations

14 CAR SEATS

were provided to families in need.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

As one of MT's seven Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, **CCC is a community leader in emergency preparedness** specific to child care. When struck by the pandemic, we teamed up with our community partners to offer critical support to essential workers, families, and child care providers. This support was funded by generous donors, and the impact of their support is lasting on CCC and our community.



"This [scholarship] has taken a huge weight off me during an extremely stressful time. This will allow me the time to focus on getting back to work after taking 6 months off due to COVID-19. My kids will be taken care of and not deprived of the undivided attention and care they need. With much appreciation, Kaylin - Mother of two children with special needs

\$2,000,000

in \$4,000 scholarships was given out to **500** families in CCC's service area for in-home child care due to special circumstances including respite, health & safety, limited access to child care, and remote learning support.



22

families received emergency child care.

\$39,297

was spent on PPE and groceries for child care providers given out during four separate events: two in Bozeman and two Helena.



FIGHTING THE SHORTAGE IN CARE

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS
BELGRADE HELENA
LIVINGSTON
THREE FORKS
TOWNSEND
BOZEMAN

New, licensed child care providers

22

According the MT Department of Labor and Industry there is a shortage of safe licensed child care in Montana that leaves more than **20,000 children** without access to the care they need.

Supported by area community foundations and MT DPHHS, our **Provider Mini-Grant Program** helps new and expanding child care providers with costs associated with licensing.

\$104,210

IN MINI-GRANTS TO SUPPORT NEW AND EXPANDING LICENSED CHILD CARE PROGRAMS.

\$24,000 TO EXPAND EXISTING PROGRAMS

\$80,210 TO HELP OPEN NEW PROGRAMS

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM IMPACT



"The CACFP impacts Little Blessings and the families we serve greatly. Parents are comforted knowing that their children are eating healthy throughout the day, and the children learn and connect with each other as we serve the family style meals. -Amy Lenz owner of Little Blessings

\$314,199

in reimbursement went to our area Child and Adult Care Food Program providers for the cost of serving nutritious meals to children in their care.



244,142

nutritious meals were served in CACFP child care programs.



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The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability or political beliefs.



FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Receivable 19%

Current 11%

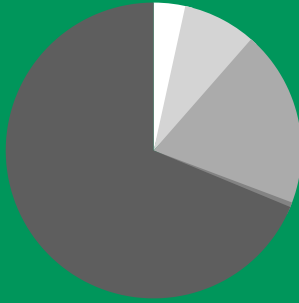
Fixed 19%

Other 1%

Checking/Savings 69%

Total Assets

\$1,308,879



LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Long-term 26%

Payable 2%

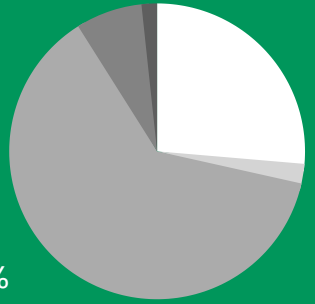
Equity 63%

Other 7%

Credit Cards 2%

Total Liabilities and Equity

\$1,308,879



Visit our [GuideStar.org](https://www.guidestar.org) profile for more details.



THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR DONORS

Montana Department of Health and Human Services
 Montana Child and Adult Care Food Program
 Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation
 Helena Area Community Foundation
 Community First Fund of Montana
 Greater Gallatin United Way
 United Way of Lewis and Clark Area
 OP & WE Edwards Foundation
 Park County Community Foundation
 Cargill Foundation
 Blue Cross Blue Shield Montana
 The City of Bozeman
 Bozeman Daily Chronicle
 Bozeman Health
 Imery's Talc
 Sprout Oral Health
 First Security Bank
 Wellness Montana
 Vine Kids' Dentistry
 Four Corners Family Dentistry

Crowley Fleck
 Roundhouse Sports
 Little Stinkers
 St. Peter's Health
 1st Choice Storage
 Arbor Medic
 Peach Tree Clinic
 Alan and Nancy Nicholson
 Timothy Speyer
 Jane Arntzen Schumacher
 Cassidy and Greg Leonard
 George Haynes
 Mary Bolick
 Suzanne Day
 Kelly Seymour
 Bridger Blinds
 Bridger Brewing

**AND THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS.
 YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR WORK!**

OUR STAFF & BOARD



THE STAFF BEHIND IT ALL

*Indicates staff in our Helena Office

Leadership Team

Jane Arntzen Schumacher, M.Ed.- Executive Director
Kami Ryles- Assistant Director & Family Services Coordinator
Brandi Thomas- Operations Manager & Provider Services Coordinator*
Tori Sproles, M.Ed.- Provider Services Coordinator
Gaby Loeza- Executive Assistant

Provider Services Team

Katy Reasoner- CACFP Coordinator
Kristin Horn, M.Ed.- STARS Coach
Heather Hildreth- Professional Development Specialist
Sara Silva- STARS Coach*
Larisa Moe- Professional Development Specialist*
Tammy Christofferson- New Provider Support Specialist

Family Services Team

Amber Kreis- Family Engagement Coordinator
Kristy Farriester- Eligibility Specialist
Cassidy Leonard- Eligibility Specialist
Sarah Peterson- Eligibility Specialist

Administrative Team

Rose Heider- Development and Communications Coordinator
Missy Bell- Administrative Assistant
Kemery Smith- Administrative Assistant*



OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jen Vero- Chair
Heather Grenier- Co-Chair
Lindsay Dodge- Vice Chair
Zach Dorrow- Secretary
Carissa Haas- Treasurer
Sandy Osborne, Ph.D., CFLE
George Haynes, Ph.D.
Angie Mallory, Ph.D.
Frank Smith
Mary Bolick
Molly Litzen

Our
volunteer
BOD meets nine
times each year.



CHILD CARE
CONNECTIONS

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