INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Giving Each Child a Strong Start
I was proud of the compassionate response that the Falls Church-McLean Children’s Center had this year to the struggles of many of our families as the region’s economy contracted, and parents at all levels of the economic spectrum experienced job losses and reductions in hours.

Although a decrease in hours may not sound like much of a burden, for our families that earn near-minimum wage and pay tuition in part with a Fairfax County Child Care subsidy, a cut to less than full-time starts a clock that is set for three weeks. The parent has just three weeks to find another job to be restored full-time status or the family loses the subsidy that makes it possible for their child to attend the Center. Imagine having to find a job in this economy in just three weeks!

Instead of adding to these parents’ burden, the Center allowed 11 children from nine low-income families to continue attending the Center after their subsidy was suspended, even after the Center’s $3,000 emergency tuition fund was exhausted. Executive Director Elizabeth Page reasoned that especially during stressful times of a parent’s job search, children need the security of their routines as well as the wholesome meals the Center serves them. And, of course, they also need to continue to build their skills through our educational activities and support services in order to be ready for Kindergarten. That meant a $12,240 loss of anticipated tuition, but it was the right course of action and in the spirit of the Center’s mission to stand by our families and children.

To make up the revenue, as some low-income families left in early 2012, the Center enrolled children from full-fee-paying families. By mid-summer, when our rising Kindergartners were poised to leave the Center, we enrolled greater numbers of children from low-income, working families to return to our targeted ratio of 60% subsidy/40% full-fee children.

This year’s experience underscores the crucial role of individual donors, faith groups, foundations and community organizations, as well as corporations that generously make up what parents cannot pay in tuition. Typically tuition revenue, which includes the subsidy, covers three-quarters of the Center budget. Private donations cover the remaining quarter of expenses, and more when tuition revenue dips. Without sufficient private support, the Center must serve fewer children who are at-risk, or eliminate the very program components that contribute to children’s success in becoming Kindergarten-ready, such as intervention services.

Children who are ages 2, 3, or 4, and in their precious, preschool years, can’t wait for a better economic time to build their fundamental skills. They and their families can be best-served when the Children’s Center has the funds to withstand the economic storms with them. With a commitment from the community, the Center can continue to provide children with a stable, child-focused environment. I urge you to continue your generous support of the Children’s Center.

Dear Donors:
At the end of the 2012 fiscal year, the Center concluded its search for its fifth executive director, a successor to Elizabeth Page who announced her retirement plans to end her 11-year tenure this calendar year. We thank Elizabeth for her boundless dedication to the children who received their early education at the Children’s Center and wish her the best in her retirement.

I thank you, our donors, for the investment you are making in the children of today that keeps the Children’s Center doors open to them. I invite you to turn the pages to see how the Center is preparing them even in their earliest years for all their challenges and opportunities ahead.

Sincerely,

Tim Shean
President

FY-2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Potomac Financial Private Client Group
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Vice President
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Jose Penado,
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Susan Poretz
Early Childhood Education Consultant

Elizabeth Page
Falls Church-McLean Children’s Center
Executive Director
Days at the Falls Church-McLean Children’s Center are full of songs and dance, reading, creative exploration, and ever-challenging activities. Yet what simply appears to be carefree, whimsical playtime is in fact much, much more.

Every day our well-trained teachers and specialists guide our 75 children to expand their language, vocabulary, critical thinking, and other physical, social, and cognitive skills.

Lessons promote a steady trajectory of building skills while encouraging curiosity and building confidence. Children learn to take risks and some even guide their peers.

However, 60% of the Center’s students need extra support to build these foundation skills. They come from low-income, working families where books, crayons, and the most important element, parents’ time, are all in short supply.

The Center is especially equipped to teach these children, who often have speech and language skills well below expected age levels.

Our Program Includes:

1) Teachers who are experienced and specially trained with an average tenure of 10 years.

2) Student-teacher ratios that provide ample time for loving attention and encouragement.

3) Specialists who provide speech, language, physical, or emotional therapy. Children receive therapy on site, at no extra cost to parents.

4) A research-based curriculum and frequent student assessments that promote each child’s developmental progress and support potential delays.

We are committed to preparing each child to learn, because research shows that children who start kindergarten without essential skills never catch up. With a nation in need of a highly trained workforce, we can’t afford to let 60% of our children begin school on a path toward failure. We owe it to each child and to society.

Luckily, we don’t need to. More than 40 years of experience has shown us what research is now verifying: young children can quickly overcome delays and develop essential skills. Those who receive therapy when their brains are still developing have the greatest likelihood of triggering latent connections and rapidly acquiring fundamental skills.
You’ll see children who are developing as caring, capable, and contributing citizens.

And you’ll see, as we do, that these foundation skills are preparing them for a great future.
We see innovators.

How high can she count?

Does he know his age, address, and phone number?

Instead of memorizing facts like these, we believe children ages two to five learn best by using their senses to explore and discover as they play. Guided by teachers, they play with water and sand, the thick, wet goo of finger paint, and hard clay that becomes more pliable as it heats. Each tactile experience becomes new information that children can draw upon.
Pre-math and pre-science concepts become working knowledge effortlessly as children knock over a block tower or set a paper airplane into the wind. They’ll memorize definitions of “gravity” and “wind power” in the years ahead. Today, as preschoolers, they learn by “experiencing” the concepts, especially if they have plenty of time to play, uninhibited by notions of how these principles are expected to behave.

In fact, teachers encourage children to develop good work habits and personal traits that will make them successful in school and at a job someday. Teachers ask questions to spark curiosity and risk-taking, all building a child’s desire to learn. Children often choose their activities throughout the day to pursue their interests and innate skills. And they’re always encouraged to stay with a project until it’s completed, to develop perseverance and experience the satisfaction of working through a challenge.

One of the most important traits our children develop is the ability to work cooperatively on a classroom task, or on the playground. Children are given plenty of time to take on new roles, suggesting ideas, negotiating for a chance to lead and accepting times when they follow the design of others.

By the time children leave the Center, they have a solid foundation for the skills that future employers want along with their brightest minds.

“Employers need a capable, flexible, innovative and productive workforce with English proficiency, problem-solving skills, good communication and creativity…”

~ National Association of Workforce Boards
We see caring

Children love routines. They love the certainty of knowing what activity comes next, what is expected of them, and even, the outcome of the story as it is retold.

Routines fulfill an essential need for safety and security. Once children feel safe, they can relax, engage in and enjoy activities, and let their own personalities and interests blossom. They also can begin to recognize the feelings, needs and desires of other children and begin to decide whether to act cooperatively. They discover how to care about their classmates, the foundation for empathy and compassion.

Our teachers carefully guide children to develop social skills that include communicating their needs, standing up for themselves, respectfully and directly communicating with a classmate who may have taken a toy or hurt their feelings. These are the foundations for caring citizens and confident leaders.

All these grown up lessons result in heart-warming, spontaneous exchanges between children in our classrooms every day: A 3-year-old girl visiting the Center is greeted by two girls who take her by the hand and invite her to play. A boy is struggling to button the uniform of a fireman in a classroom play area and a classmate, without being asked and without speaking a word, helps pull the button through the hole.

When a quiet boy raises his hand to answer a question for the first time, a usually boisterous classmate announces that Miguel wants to answer, encouraging the teacher to notice his courageous efforts.

In our culturally and socially diverse classrooms, which reflect the diversity of any workplace of the future, we are especially pleased to note that children connect with all classmates. Bilingual teachers, at least one in each classroom, bridge language differences, simultaneously translating to enable all children to participate equally in activities. Classrooms offer cultural and linguistic common grounds where children readily identify with others whose heritage may be different, but is no longer foreign, to them.

With these connections made at an early age, our children will be well equipped to take part in a widely diverse community and able to make decisions that respect differences and promote fairness.
We see caring citizens and leaders.

FCMLCC Student Demographics:

- 1% Multi-Racial
- 1% Middle Eastern
- 8% African & African-American
- 4% Asian
- 32% Caucasian
- 54% Hispanic

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Financial Summary

Statement of Income and Expenses for FY-2012

July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

INCOME

Tuition from Parents ....................... $757,422
Contributions* ........................... 337,134
Fairfax County .............................. 223,034
Child Care Tuition Subsidy
Contributed Rent .......................... 98,000
USDA .................................................. 35,363
Contributed Services ..................... 12,920
Virginia Quality Assurance .............. 5,365
Investment Income ....................... 2,871
Miscellaneous Income ................... 1,414
Fundraising ....................................... 1,356
Total Income ............................... $1,474,879

EXPENSES

Early Childhood Program .................. $702,376
Early Intervention ........................... 463,697
Management and General Operations .... 105,664
Fundraising ....................................... 68,786
Total Expenses ............................. $1,340,524

Change in Net Income ..................... $579,547

Audited Financial Statement available upon request.
* $60,000 Restricted to Capital Campaign for school bus.
Investing in the Future: Giving Each Child a Strong Start

Donations

The Falls Church – McLean Children’s Center gratefully acknowledges the following gifts made during the school year, July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012.

$35,000 – $40,000
The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
Freddie Mac Foundation

$25,000 – $34,999
Devotion to Children Scholarships
The Philip L. Graham Fund

$10,000 – $24,999
Cox Charities
Fairfax County Consolidated Community Funding Pool
John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation
Jon and Judith Gabel
Kids Connect Charitable Fund
McLean Community Foundation
Eugene & Agnes E. Meyer Foundation
O’Shaughnessy-Hurst Memorial Foundation
PNC Foundation

$5,000 – $9,999
Anonymous
Gannett Foundation
Kathleen Hough Fund
Home Veterinary Care of Northern Virginia
Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Mission Committee

$2,500 – $4,999
Civitan Club of Tysons
Carl and Susan Kalish
Lewinsville Presbyterian Church
McLean Baptist Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
St. John’s Episcopal Church
St. Thomas Episcopal Church

$1,000 – $2,499
James Cummings
Mary Jackson
Liz White Tax Law
McLean Rotary Club Foundation

$500 – $999
Erica Bomsey and Chris Marrow
Renée Boyle & Paul Emmons
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Paul Denis and Cheryl Edwards
Lisa Dicarlo and James Bellora
Erin Skoosky
Falls Church Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Women
David Harrison and Tenia Nauheim Harrison
Ana and Daniel Hilton
Van Ness and Nancy Hough
Matthew and Megan Kratz
Sally Larisch and Tim Brown
Ledo Pizza of Falls Church
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Beth and Paul Melby
A. Phoebe Meyer
Cindy Oh and Wes Bricker
Sonya Powell and Michael Devine
Peter and Helen Rauenbush
Sarah and Lee Rock
Brigette Sebring
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William Stell
Women of Temple Rodef Shalom

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American Legion Post #270
Robert and Ann Barth
Margo Buchanan
Erin and Jason Carver
Clayton and Wendy Chinn
Nadine Cipriani
Mahmoud Davar Farah and Mahdieh Alaghemand

$100 – $249
Cecilia Alonso
Rochelle Antoniewicz
AOL Matching Gifts Program
Arete Associates
Baja Fresh
Shannon Barrow and Mike Stark
Chuck Berlin and Carol Gabel-Berlin
John and Deborah Blacksten
Sandra Blanco
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Alice and Ralph Braibanti
Linton and Barbara Brooks
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Craig Bury and Julie Kosterlitz
Carlton and Wendy Carroll
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Women
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Lara Sweet
Eric and Sarah Ten Siethoff
Marvin and Suzanne Tenenbaum
Teresa Terrones
Gloria Turner
Juan Villar and Jennifer Jones Villar
Diane Wachtel
Deborah and Theodore Weigel
Maurice and Brenda Whalen
Susan Whitmore and Gary Frisch
Beverly Willis

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Mary Friedman and Alan Pelser
Al Amori and Linda Pfeifle
Cynthia Allen

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Anonymous Collective Donors
Anthony's Restaurant
Eileen and Peter Baldwin
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Gustavo Cerqueira
Doris Clifford
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Kathleen Dolan
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Barbara Edgerton
Jennifer Gambardella
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David and Ila Good
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Ruby Hissam
Thomas and Debbie Jackson
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Marsha and Dana Kaufman
Keith Horenstein
Abby and Bernhard Knutsen
Kishore and Neeraja Koya
Carol Lasch
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John and Jeanine Bonds
Our Kids
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Red Tomato
Barbara Shean
Sylvia Shenk
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Louis and Julie Smith
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Bill and Vivian Thomas
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Jhury Garcia and Zhenia Revollo
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Matthew Swartz
The Artisans
Jennifer and Carl Wallace
Doris Webb
Elijah and Velma Williams
April Wu
Veronica Zarsuela

Falls Church — McLean Children’s Center 2012 Annual Report

Monica Salgado
Rachel Sullivan
James Tyss

Gifts of Services
David Beigel, Licensed Professional Counselor
SCA direct

Gifts of Food for Breakfast and Snack
Judi and Mike Alexander
Erica Bossey and Chris Marrow
Renee Boyle
Margo Buchanan
Charles Wesley United Methodist Church
Michael Devine and Sonya Powell
Dulin United Methodist Church, Methodist Women
Falls Church Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Women
Molly and Josh Grayholt
Deanna and Rob Heier
Ana and Daniel Hilton
Luisa Hurtado
Immanuel Presbyterian Church
Lawinsville Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Women
McLean Baptist Church Community Missions
Alan and Karen Ram
Ivania Ramos
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Sara and Tim Shean
Erin Skootsky
Mark Skootsky
St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church, Women of the Church
St. John’s Episcopal Church, St. Helena’s Guild
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Temple Rodef Shalom Sisterhood
Teresa Terrones
David Travers and Anhar Karimjee
Temple United Methodist Church, Church and Society Committee
Gloria Turner

Gifts of Books, Materials and Supplies
Cristina Carriazo School Supply Fund
Travis Cossitt
Alison Holmes
PNC Financial Services Group
Elizabeth Regan

Gifts of Items for 4-Star Event Silent Auction
Balducci’s Market
Betty Boyle
Clay Cafe Studio
Diane and Christopher Clifford
Elana Curo
Dominion Jewelers
Adrienne Eliaides
Embassy Suites of Tysons
Jason’s Deli
Keurig Company
Joe and Jayne McGrath
Merrifield Gardens
Steve Nauheim
Kristin and John Offenbacher
Cindy Oh
Arthur W. Pierson
Sfai Italian Trattoria
Nina Un
Vantage Fitness
Wildfire

Special Thanks to
International Cellars
and The Vineyard
Parents, Teachers, and Staff of the Children’s Center

Honorarium/Memorial Donors
In Honor of Elizabeth Page
Margo Buchanan
Mary V. Jackson

In Honor of Elizabeth Page’s Birthday
Sandra P Blanco
Renee Boyle
Luisa Hurtado
Mary V. Jackson
Ivania Ramos
Elizabeth Page

In Memory of Frances Neuhaus
A. Phoebe Meyer
Elizabeth Page

In Honor of Ann Barth’s Birthday
Donald and Susan Poretz

In Honor of Cindy Oh’s and Wes Bricker’s Baby
Matthew Berthinet
Kathleen Dolan
Chris and Lenore Kelly
Rachel Mincin
Rosanne Nadenichek
Nilima Shah
Lara Sweet

$5 - $24
Mary and Fred Brumfield
Lynn Cannon
Silvia Colindres
Erin Henderson
Michele and Charles Hoffman
Greg and Jamie Kerr
Gladys Lopez
Kenneth Mayer
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Max and Yadira Muzo
Steven Osse
Andrea Potts
Robert and Gail Rosen
Jennifer Sallah
Ariana Schibi
Rana Smith
Smooky’s Garage

**S**
Brad Avery
Harriet Beckman
William and Fern Bekenstein
Matthew Berthinet
CARE to Lunch
Joy Carlson

**$25 – 49**

**$5 – $24**
Mary and Fred Brumfield
Lynn Cannon
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Michele and Charles Hoffman
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Kenneth Mayer
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Rachel Mincin
Jose and Mercedes Muzo
Max and Yadira Muzo
Steven Osse
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Robert and Gail Rosen
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Ariana Schibi
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Eric and Laura Mensing
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Max and Yadira Muzo
Steven Osse
Andrea Potts
Robert and Gail Rosen
Jennifer Sallah
Ariana Schibi
Rana Smith
Smooky’s Garage

Falls Church — McLean Children’s Center 2012 Annual Report
In honor of Jose Penado, for all your hard work that led to your promotion as Front Desk Manager
Margo Buchanan

In Honor of Mary Jackson’s 38th Anniversary
Elizabeth Page

In Honor of Ms. Gloria’s 40th year
Donald and Susan Poretz

In Honor of Oliver Gravholt’s Birthday
Josh and Molly Gravholt

In Honor of Ms. Maya, Ms. Jennifer, Ms. Cary & Ms. Lucy
Mary Craver

In Memory of Martha J. Moore
Robert Moore

In Memory of Steve Blazek
Woodrith Blazek

In Memory of Louise Gabel
Harold and Adelaide Gabel
Jon and Judith Gabel
Theodore and Deborah Weigle Jr.

In Memory of Mr. Hageman
Joe and Shirley LeForge

In Honor of Mr. Matt
Margo Buchanan

In Honor of Ms. Susy’s 10-Mile-Run
Shannon Barrow and Mike Stark
Sandra P Blanco
Renee Boyle
Stephen Edmondson and Cynthia Hess
David and Sarah Hagy
Daniel and Ana Hilton
Mary Jackson
Abby and Bernhard Knutsen
Kishore and Neeraja Koya
Gladys Lopez
Jose and Mercedes Muzo
Max and Yadira Muzo
Elizabeth Page
Daniela Ramirez
Ivania Ramos
Lee and Sarah Rock
Monica Salgado
Erin Skootsky
Julie and Louis Smith
Teresa Terrones
Eric and Sarah Ten Siethoff
Gloria Turner
Jennifer and Carl Wallace
Velma and Elijah Williams

In Honor of Ms. Velma, Ms. Daniela, & Mr. Matt
Mary Craver

In Honor of My Children, Margo and Clayton, and in Memory of their Brother, Lee
Elizabeth Page

In Memory of Patricia Myers Sullivan
John Sullivan

In Honor of Rackley Ivey, Alex Rock’s Grandfather
Lee and Sarah Rock

Sponsorship of the Discovery Room, in Honor of Samuel Bricker
Cindy Oh

In Honor of Sue Kalish on the Occasion of her 60th Birthday
Tina Levine

In Honor of Susan Poretz
Arthur and Amy Kales
Marvin and Suznne Tenenbaum

In Honor of the Marriage of Tena Nauheim and David Harrison
Frank Philippi and Sandra Udy
Pat and Mary Loporcaro

In Memory of Virginia Morris Smith
Carlton and Wendy Carroll
Diana Smith

In Honor of Ms. Daniela, Margo, and Clayton
Mary Craver

BUS CAMPAIGN DONORS
Includes donations received from January 1, 2011, through November 1, 2011.

$10,000
McLean Community Foundation
PNC Foundation

$7,000 – $9,999
Immanuel Presbyterian Church

$5,000 – $6,999
Home Veterinary Care of Northern Virginia
Anonymous
The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

$1,000 – $4,999
Dan and Kristen Burnett
McLean Rotary Club Foundation

$500 – $1,999
Ledo Pizza of Falls Church
Tim and Sara Shean
Eric and Sarah Ten Siethoff
Ana and Daniel Hilton
Tim Brown and Sally Larisch
Deanna and Rob Heier
Tom Marsh and Stephanie Soza Marsh
ShounBach, P.C.
Sonya Powell and Michael Devine
Melanie and Tom Tillotson

$200 – $499
Renee Boyle and Paul Emmons
David Harrison and Tena Nauheim Harrison
Abby and Bernhard Knutsen
Sarah and Travis Holman
Ann and Robert Barth
Charles and Alla Campbell
Jean and Ric Edelman
Kiwanis Club of Tysons Corner/McLean

$100 – $199
Judy Leader
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Amelia and Jose Rojas
Shannon Barrow and Michael Stark
Rachel Damelin
Peter Frechtel and Michelle Light
Maritzabel and Reginald Hyde
Rosemary Inlow
Todd and Aimee Ossman

$10 – $99
James Cummings
Karrie McMillan
Sarah and Lee Rock
Sandra Blanco
Alice and Ralph Braibanti
Elizabeth and Michael Brown
Stephen Edmondson
Elena Hernandez-Ramon and Erickson Trejo-Reyes
Jeffrey Goldberg
Sarah and David Hagy
Luis Hurtado
Paul Karnis
A. Phoebe Meyer
Myong and Michelle Choi
Cindy Oh and Wes Bricker
Gloria Turner

Thank you!
Field trips for students at the Falls Church–McLean Children’s Center resumed in October 2011 after a spirited, seven-month campaign raised $60,000 in contributions for a new bus.

Donations started with a $10,000 challenge grant from the McLean Community Foundation and continued with gifts from parents — past and present — as well as community organizations, local companies, private foundations, fundraisers at local restaurants, a community flea market, a collection at a local farmer’s market, and a coin jar posted in the school hallway. In the end, a generous $7,000 donation from Immanuel Presbyterian Church took us to the top.

In February, more than 50 donors celebrated the new bus at a ribbon cutting ceremony. Children regaled donors with “Wheels on the Bus” before they set their rounded-tip scissors to work, snipping the construction paper ribbon they had created.

“We thank all donors who made the new bus possible for our children and the Center,” said Executive Director Elizabeth Page. “Field trips give children vital experiences with the natural and cultural world that are the foundation knowledge for ideas that they’ll read about and explore further for the rest of their lives.”

By the end of our school year, our children had logged 6,250 miles on the bus! We thank our donors for their generous contributions that will keep us rolling for many years to come.

Individual donors recognized on page 13.
Teachers, Unless Otherwise Indicated:

1. **Elizabeth Page**  
   Executive Director

2. **Velma Williams**

3. **Daniela Ramirez**

4. **Sandra Blanco**  
   Assistant Director

5. **Cary O’Bryan**

6. **Ivania Ramos**

7. **Teresa Terrones**

8. **Julie Smith**

9. **Gloria Turner**

10. **Susana Coro**

11. **Matthew Nieves**

12. **Bernarda Rodriguez**

13. **Renee Boyle**  
   Development Director

14. **Zach Emmons**

15. **Jennifer Wallace**

16. **Maya Good**

17. **Mary Jackson**

*Not Pictured:*

- **Luisa Hurtado**  
  Office Manager

*Teachers:*

- **Vanessa Villatoro**
- **Deborah Lamar**
- **Lucy Allca**

FY-2012 Staff
Your Gift can help keep the Center’s early childhood education program accessible to all children.

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE:

$50
Buys a class’ supplies for creative activities for a week.

$100
Covers an hour of special therapy for a child.

$150
Provides a partial weekly scholarship for one child.

$250
Supplies a healthy breakfast and 2 snacks of fresh fruit a day for a week for 72 children.

$500
Sponsors a classroom in honor of a teacher or child for a special activity.

$1,000
Underwrites an enrichment field trip to a performance, including bus driver and gas.

$7,450
Provides a full scholarship for one child from a low-income, working family to our 12-month, full-time program.

HOW CAN YOU GIVE?

Make a tax-deductible gift of any amount.
We promise to use to wisely! Give in honor or memory of a loved one, a friend or favorite teacher. Our Federal Tax ID # is 54-0841262

Donate online at www.FCMLCC.org, or send your tax-deductible gift to: Falls Church-McLean Children’s Center, 7230 Idylwood Road, Falls Church, VA 22043-2714.

To arrange a gift of securities, contact the Development Director at 703/534-4907.

Designate the Children’s Center for your gifts to the United Way, # 8213, or Combined Federal Campaign, #77346.

Become a Friend of the Center.
With a designated monthly gift that we’ll charge to your credit card, you can provide the Center with a steady stream of support. Indicate on your next gift reply card that you want to be a monthly donor or call our Development Director at 703/534-4907.

Include the Center in your will or estate plan.
Simply include this statement in your will: “To the Falls Church-McLean Children’s Center in Falls Church, I give ___% of my estate.” Or set a fixed dollar amount, specific securities, or an insurance policy.

Give a gift of time:
The Center welcomes volunteers. We can use assistance with our facility and grounds, administrative tasks, organizational and creative skills for fundraising or in our classrooms. Contact Assistant Director Sandra Blanco for details, 703/534-4907.