



# Mount Kisco Child Care Center

## THE CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Mount Kisco Child Care Center

Winter 2012

### A message from Dottie Jordan...

2012 was another year of INVESTMENT! Investment in our children, our staff and our community!

MKCCC began the year by receiving NAEYC accreditation. An NAEYC-Accredited program is the mark of quality in early childhood education, and we are thrilled with our accomplishment!

This year, we once again welcomed many volunteers at MKCCC and continued to highlight our Feed Me Fresh program and the great benefits that are realized as a result of this initiative.

We congratulate our teacher, Vanessa Cicchelli, who received the Teacher of the Year award from the Terri Lynne Lokoff/Children's Tylenol National Child Care Teacher Awards.

In May, MKCCC raised more than \$50,000 during its Spring Challenge. Funds raised through the challenge will be allocated toward the Center's Scholarship Initiative. In June, more than 250 adults and children enjoyed a MKCCC benefit performance by Sarah Lee Guthrie and Johnny Irion, and September featured our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Feed Me Fresh: An Edible Evening.

As 2012 draws to a close, we must bid a fond farewell to Pam Moskowitz as she moves on to other endeavors. Pam has been an important part of MKCCC for many years, most recently serving on MKCCC's Board of Directors and as the Coordinator of our Volunteer Program. MKCCC has volunteers in every classroom, every afternoon and a waiting list of middle school and high school students who want to have this experience. She will be missed by all, and we wish her the very best of luck in the future.

As we soon turn the calendar to 2013, we wish you the best for a happy and safe Holiday Season!

With deep appreciation,

Dottie Jordan  
Executive Director

### VOLUNTEER PROJECTS!



This summer, MKCCC benefited from the volunteerism and ice cream expertise of the staff from Mount Kisco's local **Ben & Jerry's Scoop Shop**. Employees volunteered their time and talents, dedicating an entire afternoon to a variety of activities with the children. The mint chocolate chip ice cream was even made using the fresh mint from the Center's garden!

In October, MKCCC was the grateful beneficiary of the time and hard work donated by more than 35 local volunteers, all employees of **Endurance Specialty Holdings Ltd.** The Endurance employees pitched in - as part of the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation's Week of Giving - by caring for the grounds, painting, and working in the classroom with The Center's children.

MKCCC also teamed up in November with local volunteers from **IBM** in an effort to expand the Center's environmental focus. The volunteers visited the Center in an effort to continue to support environmentally-friendly recommendations provided during a previous visit. In addition to assessing the practices of the Center, the volunteers worked with children and staff, discussing the environment and the impact they can make as an individual in the classroom or in their community. The children participated in activities including making terrariums from recycled 2 liter soda bottles. Plants for the activity were generously donated by **Michael's Garden Gate Nursery**.

### County Executive Child Care Cuts

A press conference held on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, at MKCCC addressed County Executive Robert P. Astorino's decision to raise the parent share for child care subsidies and also freeze the number of Title XX day care slots. Astorino has announced that the parent share for child care will increase from 20% to 35%. MKCCC serves 160 children ages 3 months to 11 years of age, and over half of the families need some form of tuition assistance and 25% of those families depend on County child care subsidies. MKCCC relies on multiple sources of funding to operate our programs, and in the last two years we have seen a drastic cut in government funding. Our Scholarship Program increased 30% over the past 2 years. MKCCC cannot sustain these increases without government support. Please visit [www.westchesterlegislators.com](http://www.westchesterlegislators.com) for more information about this important issue!

### MKCCC receives NAEYC accreditation

Since 1985, The National Association for the Education of Young Children's national, voluntary accreditation system has set professional standards for early childhood education programs and helped families identify high-quality programs for their young children. MKCCC has worked hard this year to achieve NAEYC accreditation, and we are extremely proud of our achievement!



*Did you know that local teens fulfill community service requirements by volunteering in classrooms at MKCCC? If you know a teen interested in volunteering, please send an e-mail to Ruth Goodman: [rgoodman@mkccc.org](mailto:rgoodman@mkccc.org).*

## Mount Kisco Child Care Center

The mission of Mount Kisco Child Care Center is to provide high quality affordable care and early education to a diverse group of children in a safe and healthy environment.

Dorothy F. Jordan, Executive Director  
Dawn Meyerski, Program Director

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MKCCC is a not-for-profit organization.  
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Mount Kisco Child Care Center  
95 Radio Circle Drive  
Mount Kisco, NY 10549  
[www.mkccc.org](http://www.mkccc.org) | [info@mkccc.org](mailto:info@mkccc.org)  
914.241.2135  
Find us on Facebook and Twitter



*Mount Kisco Child Care Center provides scholarship support to 92 of our families. Your financial contributions to MKCCC will help us to continue to provide quality early care and education to the children in our community.*

## Feed Me Fresh: Nourishing Minds and Bodies

### An Ode to our 2012 Feed Me Fresh Program

We grew lettuce, radish and beans, cabbage, peas and greens, Carrots, and beets, were yummy and sweet.

Strawberries and herbs all tasted superb!

Next year, we'll do more of the same. Gardening and cooking is a great game!



Feed Me Fresh teaches that if we grow and cook it, we'll eat it!

And we are proud to say this winter our greenhouse will be germinating seeds for local elementary school gardens!

## Feed Me Fresh: An Edible Evening 2012

MKCCC hosted its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Feed Me Fresh: An Edible Evening in September at Eric Hadar's beautiful Ivanna Farms located in Bedford Corners, NY. The event honored



local community advocates, Frances and Isidoro Albanese and Curtis Beusman (pictured left with MKCCC Board President, David Griff). MKCCC recognizes these individuals for their admirable commitment to giving back to the northern Westchester community and for supporting MKCCC in its efforts to provide educational programs

which promote a healthy lifestyle among students and their families. The event was co-chaired by Clark Robson and Phyllis Herz. Esteemed actor, John Bedford Lloyd, served as the evening's master of ceremonies.

## JEWEL

Painting with pine cones in the fall, making bird feeders in the winter, planting seeds in the spring and playing in the water in the summer – what a year our children and seniors have had! This summer Teri Svendsgaard, staff from MSH, developed an art show featuring artists like *Matisse, Paul Klee, Cindy Sherman, Jackson Pollack, and Andrew Goldsworthy*. Ingrid Chacon, staff from MKCCC, was the coordinator with the children. After all the work was completed the gallery opened to the public in the court yard and got great reviews! JEWEL was also chosen this year to participate in the New York State Intergenerational Network (Westchester Chapter) conference. The program centered on the Feed Me Fresh program at MKCCC.



## MKCCC Gives Back!



Knowing first-hand the importance of community-involvement, MKCCC participated in many efforts this year. Among them, in early October, we collected costumes and decorations that were donated for a Halloween party for the kids at Blythedale Children's Hospital. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, we launched a relief drive for the victims that live in the hardest-hit parts of Coney Island, The Rockaways and Oceanside, NY. Thanks to the generosity of our families and neighbors, we distributed more than 3,000 diapers and 4,000 baby wipes, along with dozens of blankets and towels, many containers of formula, baby food, non-perishable food, clothes, batteries and first-aid supplies.