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 11TH ANNUAL
Mount Kisco Child Care Center
Feed Me Fresh
AN EDIBLE EVENING

An event to benefit working families
in order to provide access to quality child
care and early education.

For additional information,
please contact Chris Meyer at
914.241.2135 x 243
cmeyer@mcccc.org

Go to www.mkccc.org
to order your tickets online

Saturday 9·26·2015



Mount Kisco Child Care Center THE CONNECTION

Not-for-Profit Early Care and Education Program Since 1971

Spring/Summer 2015

A LETTER FROM DAWN MEYERSKI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The sun is shining, our Feed Me Fresh gardens are in full bloom and we are enjoying another wonderful summer here at MKCCC. Summer tends to be a time of bittersweet transition; as we bid a fond farewell to our preschoolers who will be starting Kindergarten in the fall, we welcome many new faces who are just starting their journey as part of our MKCCC family.

In keeping with our core mission, we are so excited to welcome 8 new children this year to our infant program as part of our new '**Early Head Start**' initiative. MKCCC was chosen as one of only six child care centers in Westchester, Dutchess and Putnam Counties to participate in a new tri-county grant for this program, designed to promote school readiness for children in low-income families.

This year our **Spring Challenge** focused on playground repairs. We are thrilled to have surpassed our goal and raised a total of \$15,579. Our children have logged many joyful hours on our new and improved surfaces. Thank you to all who contributed to that effort! Special thanks to **Garon Fence Company Owner, Gary Prato, and General Manager, Philip Weatherup**, who generously donated time and materials to repair gates, install locks and straighten fences. The playgrounds are safe and beautiful thanks to them and to all of you who contributed to our Challenge this Spring.

In June, our **2nd Annual Family Fun Day and Multi-Family Tag Sale** was another huge success, thanks largely to two of our parent volunteers, **Anna Canoni** and **Anne Buckingham**. They, along with many other parents and staff, worked tirelessly to ensure the day was enjoyed by all! In recognition of the dedication demonstrated by our teachers throughout the year, our staff was treated in July to a wonderful evening barbecue at the home of **Tony and Margie Cerone**. Tony, along with the entire **MKCCC Board of Directors**, wanted to express gratitude for everyone's hard work and commitment. We all had a wonderful time and really appreciated the generosity of the board and the Cerones!

Last, but certainly not least, we hope you will save the date for our **11th Annual Feed Me Fresh, An Edible Evening** which will be held on **Saturday, September 26th** from 6pm-10pm. Invitations are in the mail, and you can visit our website for more information or to purchase tickets (www.mkccc.org). We encourage you to invite friends and family to what we promise will be an extraordinary evening!

With warm thanks,



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ENDURANCE VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Twenty-six energetic and helpful employees from **Endurance**, a Property and Casualty insurance and reinsurance company, volunteered at MKCCC on May 4th 2015. They readily took assignments in our gardens for hands-on spring clean-up, dug in to help organize our Plant Sale, and actively participated in the JEWEL intergenerational program with our children and senior partners from My Second Home, next door. Thank you to our Endurance friends, including the project leaders **Robyn Fonde** and **Michele Stockwell** as well as **David Griff**, MKCCC Board member and former MKCCC parent. This is the third time Endurance has participated in volunteer projects at MKCCC and, as always, we were so grateful for their help.

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Dawn Meyerski

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS

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Janet Schloat

Stuart Shamborg

Maryann Simpson

Cecily Stone

Beverley Streeter

Twink and Jim Wood

Steven Wysmuller

JOEY AWARD

The Child Care Council of Westchester, Inc. held its 2015 Awards Breakfast on Friday, June 5th. The Awards Breakfast is The Council's annual opportunity to thank those who work so hard to prepare children for learning and success in school and acknowledge professional care providers and community leaders who make outstanding contributions to child care and quality of life for children and working parents. **Dawn Meyerski, Executive Director of Mount Kisco Child Care Center**, was one of four Joey Award honorees for 2015. Dawn's commitment to ensuring high quality care and education for children in the community, regardless of ability to pay, is paramount. She works tirelessly as an advocate for all children (and their families), helping them maximize their full potential in every aspect of development.



MONDAYS MATTER AT QUAKER HILL TAVERN

More than 200 friends, families and staff joined the festivities on Monday, April 13th for 'Mondays Matter' at **Quaker Hill Tavern** in Chappaqua to benefit Mount Kisco Child Care Center. Guest bartender **Joe DiMauro** entertained guests behind the bar and 10% of the restaurant's proceeds were donated to MKCCC. The evening also featured our **2nd Annual 'Cheers For Children' Wine Grab** and raised more than \$3,300 in total. Huge thanks to former MKCCC parents **Kelly & Tim Sullivan**, owners of Quaker Hill Tavern, for including us in your newest philanthropic adventure! **Look for QHT at Feed Me Fresh on September 26th!**

BEN & JERRY'S SCOOP DAY

We would like to thank **Ben & Jerry's** in Mt. Kisco for selecting us as their non-profit partner for 'Free Scoop Day' on April 14th for the third year running! We are so fortunate to have such loyal and philanthropic friends in the community. **Look for them at Feed Me Fresh this year!**

SPARKLE FOR A CAUSE

Mount Kisco Child Care Center once again sparkled in the beautiful **Crabtree's Kittle House Restaurant & Inn** on Tuesday, July 14th. The annual **Sparkle For A Cause** event is always one of our loveliest and most well-attended fundraisers of the year. Guests enjoyed delicious small bites and specialty drinks and a generous donation of the evening's proceeds was made by Kittle House to Mount Kisco Child Care Center in support of the Scholarship Fund. **We are so happy that the Kittle House will also be participating in Feed Me Fresh again this year!**

VOLUNTEER CERTIFICATE PARTY

Each week, we welcome more than 25 high school volunteers to MKCCC, and they are a vibrant part of our community. Student volunteers are encouraged to work with all age groups and to create projects based on their own interests and talents. They are asked to make an initial commitment of 6 consecutive weeks on a set day and time but many stay with us for much longer! In June, we held our first **MKCCC Certificate Ceremony for Youth Volunteers**. More than 40 students, along with their families, attended the party to acknowledge all the hard work and dedication of these youth volunteers.



PRESCHOOL GRADUATION

On June 16th, we celebrated the graduation of 21 of our preschoolers who will be "moving up" to Kindergarten in September 2015. The children serenaded us with songs and nursery rhymes and more than 100 family members gathered to mark this exciting milestone. We say a very special thanks to **Gina Bergamini** for choosing songs, choreographing and organizing this special event and extend our gratitude to all of the teachers and assistant teachers who worked very hard all year long preparing the children for their next academic adventure!

FEED ME FRESH PROGRAM



Recipe for Kale Chips

Remove stem from kale, and tear the leaf into bite sized pieces

Place on a parchment lined cookie sheet

Gently massage the kale with a small amount of olive oil.

Sprinkle sea salt on top

Put kale into a 375 oven, check it every 3 minutes. Cooking times vary with every oven.

Here's what you're looking for:

First the kale gets bright green.

Then the kale gets crispy, crunchy.

If it goes too far, the kale becomes brown/burnt!

It's a fine line, so you want to check every 3 minutes.

It only takes 5 or 6 in the ovens at MKCCC

JEWEL PROGRAM

All summer long, children from all classrooms continue to enjoy 'Breakfast Buddies', dog therapy and intergenerational activities with the seniors from My Second Home. We have also started 'Snack Buddies' which is already proving to be so much fun! The children don't even realize they are learning very important social skills, like good table manners and the art of conversation! The intergenerational horticultural therapy is also a favorite of children and seniors alike.

NEWS FROM OUR CLASSROOMS...

What a great summer we've had in **Infants** thus far. We enjoyed many buggy rides and playing on the playground. One of our favorite outdoor activities is water play! The infants experiment with items that sink and float, catch water in buckets from the sprinkler and splash around! Inside we are often busy playing on the climber, building with manipulatives, trying on hats and dress-up clothes, and getting messy with art!



The **Toddlers** have jumped into Summer with a splash! They've been enjoying their weekly visits to the pool, special events and weekly cooking! So far the toddlers have enjoyed visits from the Bruce Museum, Come and Drum, Mad Science and more!



The **Pre-K** classrooms have had a great start to summer! We have been taking advantage of these hot days to really enjoy our water play and pool time. The children have been having a blast with our Summer special events. At the Nature of Things show we learned all about animals and even got to pet them! We were lucky enough to be able to visit the beautiful Steinhardt garden. The children were amazed by the array of animals they found there- lemurs, zebras, ostriches and wallabies, just to name a few. We even got to feed the camels! During our trip to Stepping Stone Museum in Norwalk we had a chance to explore hands on! Our favorite part of the exhibit was the Energy Room where we learned about air and water power.



The **School Age Camp** has been very busy over the first half of this summer! In addition to the daily swimming at Leonard Park, they have been playing golf, gone hiking and participated in a pond study at Westmoreland. Our annual summer circus was held on August 5th, and the kids have been learning a little magic and Zumba. A trip to Splash Down and a visit to the private Steinhardt Gardens and Farm was a true highlight of the summer!