

M K K E C



Mount Kisco Child Care Center
Making The Difference – When It Counts





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MKCCC's Mission

Mount Kisco Child Care Center (MKCCC) provides high quality, affordable care and early education to a diverse group of children in a safe, healthy environment through innovative and developmentally appropriate programming.



Why It Matters

Every day at MKCCC, children of all backgrounds, abilities, and socio-economic statuses come together to learn and grow, from both our incredible teaching staff and from each other. We believe that every family should have access to high quality, equitable child care. Since 1971, the MKCCC Scholarship Program has worked to bridge the gap between families who are able to afford the rising cost of childcare and those who cannot, while also providing care that considers the individual needs of each child for the most nurturing care possible. MKCCC believes in caring for the whole family. This includes actively advocating for child care legislation, providing in house guidance when applying for child care subsidies, and partnering with local schools in order to provide special services. MKCCC works tirelessly so that our families know that their children are in a place dedicated to meeting each child's individual needs and to celebrate all of their successes.

Child care for families of low and moderate income levels-- especially high quality, affordable, equitable child care!-- is in short supply in Westchester County. Many low income families at MKCCC struggle to pay their bills and to afford the child care necessary to look for work or remain employed-- an issue that has only been exacerbated by Covid-19. With wages that have not increased enough to offset increases in everyday expenses, the need for affordable child care is greater than ever. Every donation we receive is essential to provide our families with affordable child care.





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"We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails."

- Dolly Parton

Everyday as I walk through the Center, I am in awe of our staff and the children's ability to adapt to our changing world and to help each other through it. In every classroom, there is a desire to help one another and to care for each other. Each child, regardless of their family's income, brings their own wealth of experiences and skills to the group. They learn and grow together while working and playing in all areas of the classroom, sharing their knowledge and expertise with each other.

I am so proud of Mount Kisco Child Care Center and our ability to carry on. At the end of 2020, we had no idea what 2021 would bring but we as a community moved forward to meet it and take it on together. And in 2021, with each month that passed, while Covid did not suddenly disappear, the world began to look a little brighter and we found a happy middle ground between "the new normal" and the moments that we've always loved. It is with much thanks to all of you, our families, donors, and our community, that we continue to weather this storm. Though much is still uncertain and we are reminded each day of how far we have to go, I am confident in our ability to meet each new challenge, with your support. Your patience, generosity, and dedication to our children has been invaluable and for that we are so grateful.

Together, we look forward to everything that 2022 has to offer.

Wishing you the happiest new year, filled with love, light, and good health.

Dawn Meyerski

Dawn Meyerski, Executive Director





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Winter 2021



2021 was an eventful year for sure! Between adapting to life in a Covid-conscious world and another adventurous year at MKCCC, the kids have taken it all in stride and continue to grow and connect with one another as they always have. Here are some of the amazing things that went on in the Center in 2021:



Whether there was snow on the ground or not, the children of MKCCC didn't let winter weather stop them from plenty of playground games! Between games of make-believe, bicycle racing, and snowball fights, they sure know how to stay warm during the chilliest season. They had just as much fun inside with tons of fun projects that taught them all about the letters of the alphabet and how to recognize and create patterns. We had days filled with music with Mr. Graham, Ms. Rebecca for yoga, and dance with Ms. Gina, literary adventures such as Dr. Seuss Week. We also enjoyed plotting out all of the great fruits and veggies for the garden for spring. It's no wonder winter was over in a flash!





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Spring 2021



Favorite Spring Activities:

Digging in the Garden

Music Class Outside

In the Spring, the kids shed their winter coats and eagerly dug into the mud and leftover plant matter in the gardens to plant a variety of goodies from carrots and strawberries to watermelons and peppers. Every step of the way, they learned about the different stages of plant growth and how to meet the needs of each one. Speaking of plants, in May, we held our Annual Plant Sale, which was wildly successful with over 550 plants sold! Luckily, we had a bunch of helpers from the Early Morning Club to unload the massive number of flowers. Thank you to everyone who participated!



What's in the Garden?

Strawberries, carrots, cucumbers, peppers, watermelon, herbs, corn, tomatoes, squash, and potatoes!





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Summer 2021



We kicked off summer with Pre-K graduation! This year, we graduated 26 preschoolers to kindergarten and as sad as saying goodbye was, we were so excited to send them off toward their next chapter. Luckily, we didn't say goodbye for too long as plenty of them stayed with us for Summer Camp or moved up to join our Early Morning Club and after-school programs!

School may have ended for the year, but the learning certainly didn't stop at MKCCC! Our campers learned about gravity and inertia while building rollercoasters with Challenge Island. They learned about the power of our senses with our friends from Northern Westchester Hospital while making custom aromatherapy pouches. Campers were also fortunate enough to go on some incredible field trips this year, from daily swims at the town pool to Monster Mini Golf and an amazing excursion to the Steinhardt Estate where they got to explore the incredible grounds and the fantastic animals that live there.



Favorite seasonal garden snack:

Strawberries!



Fall 2021

After a refreshing summer break, the MKCCC kids dove back into their classes with gusto and have been so excited to share the new lessons they've learned with everyone they can! When they weren't hitting the books, all of our classes could be found soaking up every last bit of warm weather on the playground and collecting the last of their harvest from the gardens before getting them ready for winter. The weather started to get colder and the kids were excited with Halloween right around the corner! They couldn't get enough of all the spooky stories, crafts, and games that lead up to Trunk or Treating at the Center. The parking lot was lit up with ghoulish grins and laughter. We then took time at Thanksgiving to reflect and give thanks for all the wonderful things that happened this year.



Scan the QR code with your camera to see the event menu!



17th Annual Feed Me Fresh: An Edible Evening

MKCCC held its 17th Annual Feed Me Fresh: An Edible Evening at the end of September! We were so happy to be able to celebrate outside and in person. We are grateful to **Isi Albanese of Exit 4**, **Tommy Calandrucci and Gianni Piccolino of Stone Fire** and the fabulous restaurants that helped make this event possible. Their design and coordination of an unbelievable 19 course tasting menu was the star of the show. With over 200 guests raising more than \$230,000 in scholarship support, it was tremendously successful and truly a magical evening



Happy 2022!



Which brings us into the new year! The children and staff have fully embraced the winter and continue to have as much fun as ever. From menorah lighting and mischievous elf shenanigans to a much anticipated New Year, the holiday season came and went in a whirlwind and now we're looking forward to everything that 2022 has to offer.



Introducing The Helping Hands Legacy Society



If everyone lends a helping hand, no hand is left empty.

MKCCC recognizes the generous donors who have named the Center as a beneficiary in their will with the Helping Hands Legacy Society. We would like to acknowledge the founding members of the society, which includes **Twink and Jim Wood, Christie Noelle Krase, Elizabeth Marwell, Janet Schloat**, and several anonymous members. From your hands to theirs, Helping Hands assures that the legacy of your giving spirit lives on in the lives of our MKCCC children for generations to come.

Contact your financial advisor for information about planned giving and the MKCCC Development Office or request more information about the Helping Hands Legacy Society via the checkboxes on the remittance envelope included in this mailing.