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## 2015 COMMUNITY REPORT

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# DEAR FRIENDS,

We are pleased to offer this update on all the exciting work we have been engaged in over the past year. Our partnerships across Colorado have allowed us to extend our reach to serve young children in Summit and Eagle Counties and the San Luis Valley as well as expanding our numbers in Denver. We are also providing more training to early childhood programs in Mesa, Garfield, Pueblo and Arapahoe counties, and in the state of Georgia, to support their quality improvement efforts. We have partnered with the Colorado Office of Early Childhood to create online training that all licensed child care providers in the state will complete as they move up the quality ladder under Colorado Shines. Our innovative work with higher education partners promises to create new pathways for early educators to obtain degrees while better preparing them to meet the developmental and learning needs of our youngest children. The young students in our Educare Denver school, our second school in Far Northeast Denver and our other programs continue to thrive as we strengthen our focus on their emotional growth and behavioral needs as well as their academic achievements. Through expansion, collaboration and our dedicated team of staff, we are incredibly proud to have reached more than 17,000 children in 2015. Even still, there is much to look forward to as we continue to work tirelessly toward our goal of reaching 25,000 children through direct and indirect services by 2017.

We deeply appreciate the support of our contributors, colleagues and friends. We could not make such progress in improving the early childhood experiences of so many children without your engagement in this critically important work. We look forward to seeing you throughout the next year!

Sincerely,



*Charlotte M. Brantley*

Charlotte M. Brantley  
President & CEO



*David J. Kubik*

David J. Kubik  
Chairman, Board of Trustees



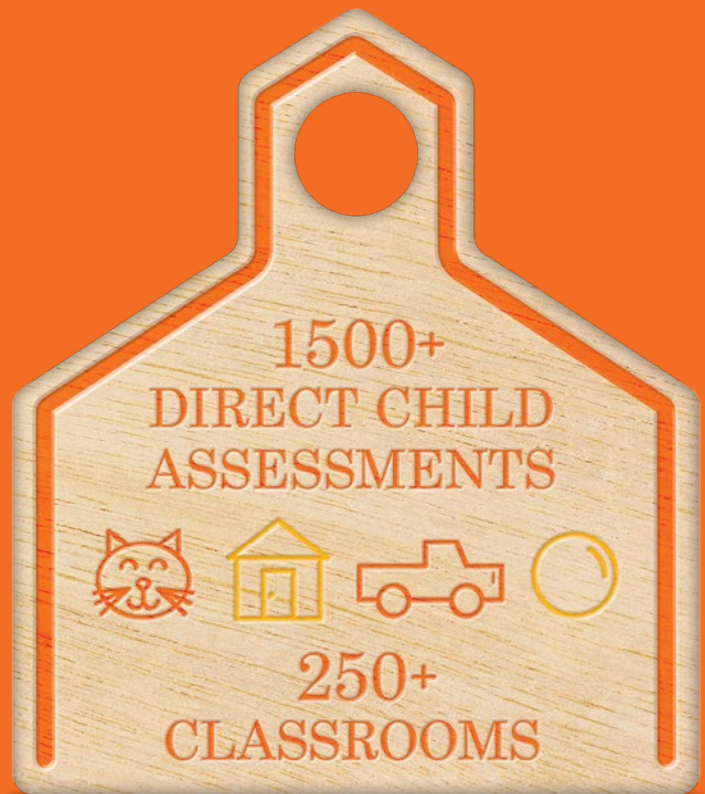


# RESEARCH

*Our comprehensive research program helps us evaluate the most effective practices for preparing young children for later academic success. We conduct rigorous research on our own programs and evaluate other early childhood education organizations to support educators with the information that they need to individualize teaching strategies for children of all abilities. Partnering with agencies that include Boulder Mental Health Partners Community Infant Program, Colorado Parent and Child Foundation, and the Arapahoe Library District informs our efforts in strengthening the working relationships between practitioners and researchers.*

Translating research to practice is a collaborative effort. Clayton Early Learning conducts over 1,500 child assessments in more than 250 classrooms annually. These efforts play a key role in local, state and national efforts to evaluate quality practices and improve student outcomes.

A strong evaluation system supports the alignment of teaching practices to outcomes, assesses the quality of classroom environments and documents student progress in developing school readiness skills. Because a child's social and emotional strength is a major predictor of future success in school, we use evaluation and teaching strategies to strengthen student resiliency, attachment, initiative and self-regulation. Together, these skills are the foundation for school success.

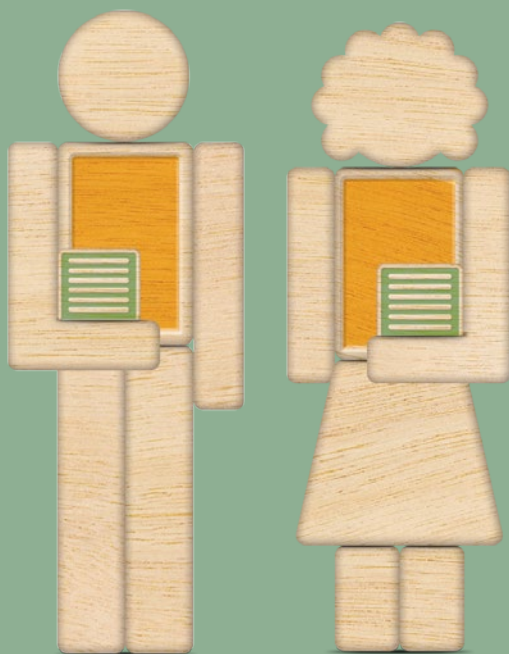






# TRAINING

*Each year, Clayton Early Learning trains and provides professional development coaching for early care and education programs statewide to enhance the teaching practices and overall program services provided to children and their families.*



Effective preparation and longitudinal support is critical in preparing teacher candidates for success. For this reason, Clayton has partnered with Arapahoe and Red Rocks Community Colleges to launch a **mentor training program** for students in the field of early childhood education.

In collaboration with the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation and University of Colorado Denver, 20 early childhood professionals from around the state completed 18 graduate credits in leadership development through the **Buell Early Childhood Leadership Program**.

Because early literacy is a key indicator for children's later success in school, Clayton Early Learning ensured that more than **200 parents received training and coaching** in effective language interactions and reading techniques with their children. As a result, the students of participating families demonstrated significant auditory comprehension gains in post-training assessments.

In 2015, we provided **20,724 hours of direct training** and **3,240 coaching hours** for **2,070 professionals**<sup>1</sup>, including providers from PAT, HIPPY<sup>2</sup> and other partner programs. These services impacted more than **17,000 children**.



<sup>1</sup>This figure may include duplicates of some ECE professionals

<sup>2</sup>Parents As Teachers (PAT) and Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) are in-home programs that provide families with training, resources and tools to support school readiness.







# PRACTICE

*At Clayton Early Learning, we support the cognitive, physical, social and emotional wellness of children, staff and families through research and evidence-based strategies. As early childhood mental health becomes a growing state and nationwide focus, we are committed to embedding social and emotional development into every aspect of the services we provide. This emphasis ensures that students and families are equipped with a solid foundation of social/emotional skills in transitioning to kindergarten and in the years beyond.*


 700+   
CHILDREN SERVED EACH YEAR

Through our two schools, home-based and community programs, Clayton Early Learning directly serves more than 700 children each year.

Highly qualified teachers and low student-to-teacher ratios allow for more one-on-one classroom instruction and promote strong relationships between families and staff.

All staff receive ongoing training in the **Conscious Discipline Approach** to address challenging student behaviors and to further enhance each family's school experience.

Through a strong partnership with Denver Public Schools, we integrate children of all abilities into our classrooms and develop individualized teaching and learning goals.

 *I've helped children develop the vocabulary they need to find their voices and express their wants, needs and thoughts.*

— Clayton Early Learning Teacher



*I have learned to have much more patience and also that education starts in the home. We are our children's first teachers.*

*— Parent of preschool student at Clayton Early Learning*



Our **Family Liaison Specialist** is a trained counselor who provides individualized onsite therapeutic mental health support to families, as well as staff training around the cultural issues that can impact service delivery.

Child Family Educators remove barriers in access to mental and physical health services for families. This includes an **on-campus food bank** with weekly bread and fresh produce distribution, and healthy cooking classes for parents and staff. In addition, we provide **mental health screenings** for children and parents, provide and monitor referrals, and ensure that families have health insurance.

We empower parents as the primary teacher of their child through ongoing parent education opportunities, including monthly classroom workshops and training in Dialogic Reading; an interactive strategy that engages both parent and child as active participants in book reading. Using this technique, the child becomes the storyteller and the adult is the active listener; prompting back and forth engagement with comments and questions.

Training parents in **Dialogic Reading** supports early literacy and has shown to have a positive effect on children's oral language and vocabulary.

We offer a **prenatal program** that provides expectant families with early and continuing risk assessments, exercise, health promotion and treatment, mental health interventions as well as pre and postnatal education and support.

Our **Fatherhood Committee** provides father figures with safe and inviting opportunities to engage with their children and build healthy connections to other male caregivers. The annual Touch-a-Truck event and Fatherhood Breakfast provide a unique opportunity for fathers to strengthen the parent-child relationship and engage with our school community.









# ADVOCACY

*As we see first-hand how policy and regulatory decisions impact our most vulnerable populations, Clayton Early Learning plays a valuable role in advocating for effective and equitable early childhood policy and public funding. We regularly serve as subject-matter experts to inform policy makers and elevate the early childhood system in Colorado.*

*The policy and advocacy work of Clayton Early Learning is strengthened through our collaboration with partners across Colorado and on a national scale. Through these partnerships and collaborations, we have witnessed significant victories for early education in 2015.*

## 2016 victories

The bipartisan House Bill 15-1323 protects school readiness assessments and early literacy requirements and streamlines the system to be less burdensome to educators and programs.



The **Pay For Success** funding mechanism allows the state to leverage private and philanthropic dollars to fund social programs that only get repaid by the government if agreed-upon outcomes are achieved. This opens the door to new investments in early childhood and prevention-oriented health services for vulnerable children and families.

Increased funding for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) equates to a net **115 percent increase in state funding for child care** over the past two legislative sessions, effectively expanding access to quality early education for Colorado families.

A microloan program and new grant funding will improve the health, safety and quality of family, friend and neighbor care and, ultimately, increase the supply of family child care in rural and underserved communities.

A **\$3.7 million investment in early intervention services** addresses rapidly growing caseload demands and gaps in mental health support for children.

## *Mental health partnership victories*

Clayton Early Learning supports a variety of mental health initiatives to help prioritize the issue and integrate it into all areas of practice, including public policy and funding.

We are a member of the Colorado work group on early childhood suspensions and expulsions that informs the state's policy and future actions.

In collaboration with All Kids Covered, Colorado Children's Campaign, Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved, Colorado Covering Kids and Families, Children's Hospital Colorado and The Civic Canopy, Clayton Early Learning welcomed over 100 attendees from the health, early childhood, policy and financing sectors to a **Children's Mental Health Policy Summit** in November 2015.

We serve on the steering committee for the Early Childhood Colorado Partnership's shared messaging project on toxic stress and early adversity.

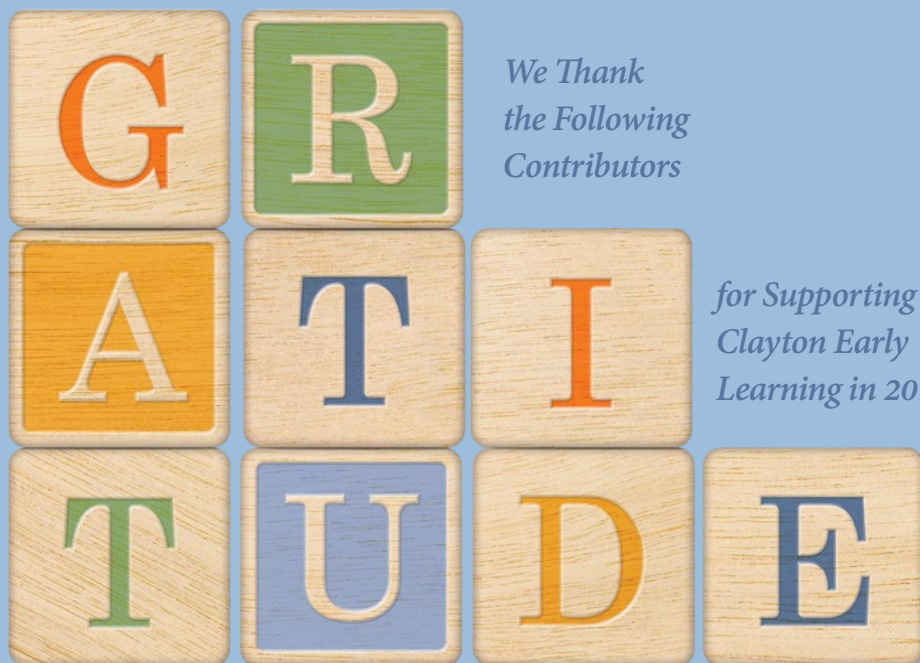
We are a member of the **Colorado Young Child Wellness Council**—part of the federal Project LAUNCH grant to promote the wellness of young children ages birth to 8 by addressing the physical, social, emotional, cognitive and behavioral aspects of their development.

## *CCCAP implementation progress*

Clayton Early Learning continues to play a critical role in supporting the work to implement reforms to the state CCCAP program. By leading the Joint Implementation Task Force, we have advised the rule-making process to **expand eligibility and continuity of child care** for working families, support and promote access to high quality care for low-income children, and create a more streamlined process for the application and reporting process for child care assistance.







*We Thank  
the Following  
Contributors*

*for Supporting  
Clayton Early  
Learning in 2015*

Catherine Goodwillie  
Mark Gould  
Brenda Greicar  
Elaine Grossman  
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All Copy Products  
 Alliance For Early Success  
 Amazon Smiles Foundation  
 Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield  
 Bai  
 Bespoke Event Group  
 Breckenridge Brewery  
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 CoBiz Financial  
 Chop Shop  
 Colorado Creative Industries  
 Colorado Department of Education  
 Colorado Department of Human Services  
 Colorado Trust  
 Comcast Foundation  
 Community First Foundation  
 Cravitz Family Charitable Fund  
 Daniels Fund  
 Deane Family Fund  
 Denver Early Childhood Council  
 Denver Great Kids Head Start

Denver Museum of  
 Nature and Science  
 Denver Preschool Program  
 Denver Public Schools  
 dfine Branding  
 Early Learning Ventures  
 Eldorado Artesian Spring Water  
 Elite Roofing  
 EON Office  
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 Child Development Institute  
 Gary Community Investments  
 General Mills  
 Grogan Family Fund  
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 HIPPY USA  
 Istonish  
 Kahn Family Fund  
 Kaplan Early Learning Company  
 Keller Lowry Insurance, Inc.  
 Kingsbury Foundation  
 Lakeshore Learning  
 Lala's Winebar  
 Lärabar  
 LibertyGives Foundation

Little Man Ice Cream  
 Magnolia Hotel  
 Marlowe's  
 Mental Health Center of Denver  
 Mile High Montessori  
 Mile High United Way  
 Network For Good  
 Occasions Catering  
 Ounce of Prevention Fund  
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 Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation  
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 The Heavy Heavies  
 The Mally Fund  
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 The Rothkopf Family  
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 Tony Grampsas  
 Youth Service Fund

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 U.S. Department of Health and  
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 Wells Fargo Foundation  
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 Westernaires  
 Western Union Foundation  
 Woodruff Sawyer & Company  
 Xcel Energy Foundation





STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2015		
Assets	2015	2014
Cash & cash equivalents	\$523,087	\$922,513
Accounts & grants receivable	554,574	321,924
Contributions & private grants receivable	337,500	240,500
Investments	20,214,247	20,754,882
Property and equipment, net of depreciation	11,344,853	11,477,342
Prepaid expense & other assets	33,808	18,815
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$33,008,069</b>	<b>\$33,735,976</b>
Liabilities & net assets	2015	2014
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$409,475	\$306,300
Accrued payroll & other liabilities	552,991	485,230
Notes payable	123,650	175,000
Bonds payable	-	-
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,086,116</b>	<b>966,530</b>
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	10,829,750	11,176,074
Temporarily restricted	9,008,216	9,509,385
Permanently restricted	12,083,987	12,083,987
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>31,921,953</b>	<b>32,769,446</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$33,008,069</b>	<b>\$33,735,976</b>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015		
Revenue, Gains & Support	2015	2014
Program revenue:		
Early Head Start	\$2,551,168	\$2,313,548
Head Start	1,689,133	1,395,023
Other federal grant funding	454,358	496,731
Tuition & fee revenue	577,064	495,424
State & local government funding	2,161,692	1,957,230
Contract revenue	685,890	500,267
Private grants & contributions	1,392,989	1,086,182
<b>Total program revenue</b>	<b>9,512,294</b>	<b>8,244,405</b>
Investment income	551,882	3,352,900
Rental income	992,946	1,046,934
Gain on sale of land	138,505	-
Special events	106,488	104,714
Donated services & other income	53,975	36,689
<b>TOTAL REVENUE, GAINS &amp; SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$11,356,090</b>	<b>\$12,785,642</b>
Expenditures	2015	2014
Program	\$9,548,835	\$8,806,230
Campus improvements & facilities	752,817	857,594
Management & general	1,861,592	1,669,593
Development expense	303,624	206,775
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$12,466,868</b>	<b>\$11,540,192</b>
End of year net assets	2015	2014
Change in net assets before	(\$1,110,778)	\$1,245,450
Extraordinary income	263,285	-
Change in net assets	(847,493)	1,245,450
Net assets at beginning of year	32,769,446	31,523,996
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$31,921,953</b>	<b>\$32,769,446</b>

The most recent federal monitoring review of Clayton Early Learning in 2015 found the program in full compliance with all Head Start performance standards, with the exception of a community partner site finding relative to the temperature taking of milk. The financial audit for FY 14-15 of Clayton Early Learning done in compliance with Circular A-133 Federal Audit requirements resulted in a clean audit (unqualified opinion) with no findings. Budget for FY 14-15 was \$12,246,582, 74% of budget are personnel expenses and 26% is non-personnel.

# CHILDREN REACHED THROUGH EARLY HEAD START & HEAD START 2014–2015 SCHOOL YEAR

## *Number of Children Served*

284

313

## *Eligible Children Served*

94%

94%

## *Children Receiving Medical and Dental Exams*

*Medical*

*Dental*

96%

94%

97%

93%

## *Characteristic*

## *Number*

## *Percentage*

### *Race*

Asian	1	<1%
Black	177	32.0%
Multiracial	130	23.0%
Native American or Alaskan Native	70	12.5%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1	<1%
Unspecified/Other	68	12.0%
White	112	20.0%

### *Child's Primary Language*

English	356	63.5%
Spanish	187	33.5%
Other	16	3.0%

### *Parent/Primary Caregiver*

#### *Education Level*

Bachelor's degree	88	16.0%
Some college but no degree	203	36.0%
High school diploma or equivalent	151	27.0%
Some high school	19	3.5%
9th grade or less	57	10.0%
No high school	31	5.5%
Unknown	10	2.0%



100% of children had a medical  
and dental home in 2014-2015



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