



Happy Anniversary

65 years of building better futures for children

October 1953, when most of ECA's employees weren't even born, was ECA's incorporation date. October 16, 2018, marked 65 years of ECA caring for children.

Things have certainly changed since the beginning of ECA, both in scope and breadth of our services and programs, including serving ten northern Indiana counties. Over the last 65 years, ECA has made its mark as one of the premier child care and early education resources, not only in northern Indiana, but also at the State level. In addition, our position in the early education field has been acknowledged by businesses and employers as they look to us for help with their employees' child care challenges. They recognize that the child care issues of their workers directly impact their businesses -- recruitment, retention and productivity of their workforce -- and not addressing them results in the loss of revenues, and even worse, inability to sustain the business.

Today, ECA is a thriving nonprofit organization with dedicated and talented professionals and a governing Board of Directors that keep us on track to advance our mission to build better futures for young children! Each of them makes valuable contributions to the success of ECA, as classroom teachers, program managers, service providers, trainers, coaches, specialists,

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(Above) Jozlyn, one of the children in Room 9 at ECA's Downtown Learning Center celebrated ECA's anniversary with some hearty noisemaking.



(Left) Children in Room 10 at ECA's Beacon Learning Center gave a stirring rendition of "Happy Birthday."

65 years (continued)



and support staff -- the engine that helps the ECA train run smoothly on the mission-focused tracks! The continual success of ECA hinges on the dedicated hard

work of the staff and Board, plus the generosity of donors, partners, and advocates. Thank you to all as we look forward to many more years of success.

Madeleine Baker

Madeleine Baker, CEO

1953... Incorporated, with the organization's first child care center built in 1957 in a public housing development

1963... Name changed to Neighbors, Inc. to reflect broader services; renamed **Child Care of Allen County** in 1971. Within three years, the organization operated four child care centers

1979... First sponsored the Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

1984... Began Child Care Resource & Referral service in six counties

1997... Changed name to Early Childhood Alliance (ECA)

2000/2008... Paths to QUALITY was launched in Allen County, expanded to five more counties in 2001, and adopted statewide in 2008 as Indiana's quality rating and improvement system

2000/2010... The Downtown Learning Center was built in 2000; ECA partnered with Parkview in 2010 to manage the Beacon Center

2018... With the addition of four more counties in 2014, ECA now serves 10 counties, with a budget of \$7.6 million

Coalitions advocate for children, families

Child care issues are complex ... for families, employers, and communities. No one entity has the answers, but the collaboration of many stakeholders is a good start.

Early Childhood Alliance is engaged with active and emerging coalitions across northern Indiana, each providing a platform for the community to invest in its children and families, together. Several counties have active coalitions - - although at different stages of development - - while others are just beginning to talk about community needs.

A wide range of stakeholders add perspective and value as they join forces to be a part of a network that focuses on the needs of young children and/or those who impact children. Business leaders, elected officials, health and service agencies, educators, families, community volunteers and advocates all have a stake in advancing the availability, accessibility and affordability of high quality early learning for children along with the self-sufficiency of families.

- Since 2014, **Ready to Grow St. Joe** - - a network of nearly 100 stakeholders - - has committed to ensuring that all young children in St. Joseph County, birth to eight, have the foundation to thrive in school and in life. The coalition works through its members to engage the community, build systems and empower families, with efforts focused on Quality Early Learning, Health & Wellness, and Family Support. Emily Rupchock is the coalition director, and ECA is the fiscal agent.

- **Gr8t Beginnings** is in the early phases of collaboration for young children from birth to eight in **Elkhart County**. Under

the leadership of Carla Biro, a shared philosophy is working toward providing "great developmental experiences, strong and safe environments in which to play and grow, and support systems for parents."

- As part of an emerging coalition, **Allen County** stakeholders are formalizing their direction. Initially led by ECA and United Way of Allen County, the group has created work groups to assess and identify the compelling challenges for children, prenatal to age five. Initial efforts include using surveys to collect data and other vital information from people and organizations that impact young children and families.

- Sherry Searles was recently appointed the director of the **Kosciusko County Child Care and Early Learning Coalition** with a goal of advancing community access to quality child care and early learning for children 0-5.

- Established prior to the current coalition movement, **DeKalb County's Learning Link** was initiated by the Community Foundation of DeKalb County, and continues to focus on shared learning goals from early learners into adulthood.

For information on starting or getting involved in a local coalition, contact CEO Madeleine Baker, mbaker@ECAAlliance.org



Board Update

New Board Members Named

ECA's Board of Directors approved four new Board members.

- **Jeri Burkhart** (Kosciusko County) - Senior Enrollment Manager, Indiana Tech
- **Brandon Neftrouer** (St. Joseph County) - Associate Risk Advisor, Gibson
- **Hayley Sauer** (Allen County) - Director of Elementary Education, Fort Wayne Community Schools
- **Ann Waters** (Allen County) - President, Travel Leaders

Officers for 2019:

- President - **Dena Jacquay**, Parkview Health
- Vice President - **Kim Sabrosky**, Indiana Michigan Power
- Secretary - **Tim Green**, Sterling Associates
- Treasurer - **Heather Teagarden** - U.S Dept. of Justice

ECA welcomes new CFO

Dave Allen is ECA's new Chief Financial Officer. An IU grad, he was previously with BP in Texas.



What are the facts?

65% Indiana children 0-5 in households where all parents work

\$1.8 billion

Direct cost to Indiana employers each year due to absenteeism and turnover related to child care issues

\$1.1 billion

Lost economic activity annually in Indiana due to breakdowns of child care

\$118.8 million

Lost tax revenue annually for Indiana from decreased earning power of parents as a result of child care issues

\$1 = \$4 ROI

Indiana taxpayers save approximately \$4 for every \$1 investment in high quality early childhood education programs

Whether you're an employer or employee, a parent or grandparent, a student or retiree, **child care issues impact YOU.**

During the Indiana Economic Summit in Indianapolis earlier this fall, business leaders, child care professionals, and social service agencies were among those discussing the facts. In reality, we are all working and living with child care issues.

While more and more people are recognizing the long-term impact of high quality early care and education on children's success in school and beyond, many more need to understand the short-term impact on business as well.

You can make a difference....

- Consider ways to support working parents in your own organization.
- Influence public conversations about the importance of early education to the economy and workforce development.
- Start or join a community coalition that is collaborating on child care issues.

From Lost Opportunities: The Impact of Inadequate Child Care on Indiana's Workforce and Economy. June 2018. Indiana University Public Policy Institute.

Where are they now?

Featuring children who participated in ECA programs in their very early years.

Trevor Willard - ECA Learning Centers, 1999 - 2007

I remember many things about the years I spent at Early Childhood Alliance. My favorite activities at school were painting at the easel each day and drawing in shaving cream. These were experiences I rarely had anywhere but at preschool. I also remember my teachers from pre-school including Ms. Sarah, Ms. Diane and Ms. Ashley. After I left ECA to begin elementary school, I still went back each summer for Summer Clubhouse. I remember countless field trips during the summer months. My most memorable field trip was a visit to the Embassy Theater where we learned of several ghosts who lived there.

Today I am in my junior year of college, working toward obtaining a bachelor's degree in business management. While attending school, I recently accepted a promotion to Operations Manager for Delta Airlines at the Fort Wayne International Airport. My job has offered me endless travel opportunities, and I have visited 10 countries in the past three years. I was prepared for school and ready to begin my education after my preschool years at ECA. I know ECA provided me with the tools I needed for success.



Mission

To build better futures for young children by promoting and providing quality early education and services for families, early childhood professionals, and the community.

Early Childhood Alliance

www.ECAAlliance.org

Child Care Resource & Referral
260-745-2501/800-423-1498

Early Childhood Alliance is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer and service provider.

Do you want to receive this newsletter electronically or at a different address? Contact us at sthomas@ECAAlliance.org or 260-745-2501/800-423-1498.



Building Better Futures for Children

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ADDRESS SERVICE
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Check out our Wish List at ECAAlliance.org/Make a Difference. Priority items are:

washable markers
Fiskar scissors (child)

glue sticks
large poms

Play Dough toys
play food

clay (all colors)
colored pencils

baby dolls (washable)
jumbo crayons

Contact Monica Chamberlain for donation information, mchamberlain@ECAAlliance.org, 260-458-0125.

Thank you!

Early Childhood Alliance appreciates these donations (August - November 2018)

- The **Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne** awarded a \$40,000 grant for operating support.
- The **Parrot Charitable Foundation** awarded a grant of \$5,000 for support of ECA's Learning Centers.

- The **Auer Foundation** awarded a grant of \$10,000 for support of ECA's Learning Centers and the family engagement program in Allen County.
- The family engagement program in Allen County and operations of ECA's Learning Centers was made possible in part with generous support from **Lincoln Financial Foundation** \$40,000 grant.
- The **Kosciusko REMC Operation Round Up Fund** awarded a grant of \$1,400 for the family engagement program in Kosciusko County.
- **Dekko Foundation** awarded a \$45,000 grant for the family engagement program for DeKalb, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben and Whitley Counties.
- The **DeKalb County Community Foundation** awarded a \$4,000 grant for the family engagement program in DeKalb County.
- The cost of hearing screening materials was supported by a grant of \$1,918 from the **St. Joseph Community Health Foundation**.
- A grant of \$3,000 was awarded by the **O'Rourke Schof Foundation** for general operating support.

Thank you for Building Better Futures for Children

As a non-profit agency, we depend on the contributions of individuals and organizations to continue services for children and families.

Donation options: Donate on line at ECAAlliance.org/make-a-difference Check enclosed (payable to ECA)
 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

How would you like your name(s) listed in the annual report? _____

For information on giving opportunities or planned giving, contact Monica Chamberlain at mchamberlain@ECAAlliance.org, 260-458-0125 / 800-423-1498, or visit <https://url.ecalliance.org/donate>