

GROW-Rochester kicks-off free comprehensive screenings for 3-year-olds in the city

Children's Institute has launched GROW-Rochester, a comprehensive initiative that screens 3-year-olds for vision, hearing, dental health, language and speech, cognitive, and social-emotional development. The community response has been outstanding.

Shannola Brown had noticed her 3-year-old son Jaime was holding his iPad rather close to his face, but she wasn't in a position to do much about it. She's a single mother working at a child care center, and has out-of-state insurance that isn't accepted here.

Through GROW-Rochester, however, she was able to schedule a vision screening and eventually an eye doctor's appointment, both free, to get Jaime a pair of glasses.

"I don't know if I could have paid for the testing, so it was great for me they could get him a free screening," she told the Democrat & Chronicle.

ROC the Future helped to secure \$836,000 in funds for GROW-Rochester, with major funders including the City of Rochester, Greater Rochester Health Foundation, New York State, Rochester's Child (an initiative of the Rochester Area Community Foundation), Rochester City School District, and United Way of Greater Rochester. Other partners include Action for a Better Community, Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ABVI), Anthony L. Jordan Health Center, Early Childhood Education Quality Council, Eastman Institute for Oral Health, Hillside Family of Agencies—Family Resource Centers, Monroe County Department of Human Services, Regional Early Childhood Direction Center, Rochester Childfirst Network, Rochester Hearing and Speech Center, Rochester Regional Health, St. John Fisher College, The Children's Agenda, University of Rochester Medical Center, and over two dozen early education and care centers.



Currently there are 28 child care centers within the City of Rochester that will have screenings for their 3-year-olds. In addition, there are nine community screening sites (i.e. rec centers and libraries) for children not enrolled in a preschool program. The goal for this school year is to screen 750 children, but now, based on the initial community response, the number is expected to



exceed 1,000. GROW consent forms were included in the Rochester City School District's Extended Pre-k registration packets and we have received over 600 signed forms to date, with more outreach planned throughout the year.

Why 3-year-olds? That's the time period when most children have finished getting all their immunization shots at the pediatrician's office, but before they get routinely screened at school. This screening helps to identify issues and gives parents links to possible resources before the child starts school. Here's what the screenings are checking:

Vision – An electronic photo of the child's eyes will show if there are any vision concerns

Thinking, language, and communication skills – A check of the child's communication skills

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A note from the director

a·ha mo·ment. NOUN – a moment of sudden insight or discovery.



Sometimes it just takes one moment for things to become clear. It can be the moment that researchers feel that the data is coming together to verify the

question asked. It can be the moment when a Child Associate in a Primary Project training understands what will work best for the child trying to express a feeling. It can be the moment when a child sees his/her favorite truck as they are waiting in line to enter our Kids & Trucks event. It can even be the moment when community leaders looking for answers turn to Children's Institute for help. We've seen more and more of these "a-ha" moments as Children's Institute looks for growth opportunities in our community and beyond.

Everyone at Children's Institute can feel a new sense of momentum building towards 2017. Evaluation requests are increasing from agencies that want more data before proceeding or expanding children's programs. New York State's preschool program expansion for 3- and 4-year-olds gives us additional opportunities to help communities across the state evaluate their programs and provide feedback on areas for improvement. In observing Primary Project training for Child Associates, we're seeing a lot of enthusiasm and passion towards

working with their students. Even noting the number of attendees more than double for this year's Kids & Trucks means that the community recognizes a great family event. We feel the momentum and are encouraged, but there's always more to do.

We also sense that there is momentum in Rochester to make real changes, to address real issues, and to create more opportunities for children to succeed. For decades Rochester has been rich in community efforts, initiatives, and zones and many have failed. Failed not because of a lack of need or interest, but rather because of a lack of understanding as to how to create system change through collective impact and understand how much time and effort it takes to realize real change.

For the past four years we, as a community, have pivoted from partnering and collaboration to collective impact frameworks including ROC the Future, the Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative, the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, and Connected Communities to name a few. And, true to the spirit of collective impact, these efforts are actually working together, which is very encouraging. So, if we are able to leave our egos at the door, develop a realistic time perspective, continue to work together intelligently, develop community "grit" (i.e. motivated perseverance), and develop a greater

understanding of collective impact with coaching from FSG¹, the group that has been involved with and has researched collectives more than any other group in the nation, we believe we have a chance for real change.

As we continue to focus on our Strategic Plan for the coming year, we are heartened by those moments when a direction or path becomes a little clearer. We continue to work towards our vision of positively impacting the social and emotional health of one million children by the year 2020 and could not achieve this goal without the support from the community, donors, schools, and others we work with. It's the "a-ha" moments that can sometimes give us a new outlook or perspective as we get ready for 2017. Thank you for supporting Children's Institute's mission.

¹Thank you to the ESL Charitable Foundation for making it possible for FSG to come to Rochester and Monroe County.

–A. DIRK HIGHTOWER, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Children's Institute Mission:
Children's Institute equips and supports those who work with children to ensure the success of every child.



Save the date!

Children's Institute hosts an educational seminar on trauma and its impact on young children

**Thursday, January 26, 2017
5:30-7:30 pm at St. John Fisher College**

Featured speaker: Dr. James Lewis, an expert on trauma informed care, is a current board member who received his Psy.D. in Pediatric Clinical Neuropsychology from Central Michigan University and holds masters degrees in Psychology and Clinical Psychology from Howard University. The seminar will be moderated by another current board member, Dianne Cooney Miner, Ph.D., RN, CNS, Dean, Wegmans School of Nursing, St. John Fisher College.

Please check our website for more information – registration opens online December 15, 2016.



Children's Institute has supported Lifespan's SCSEP program (Senior Community Service Employment Program) as a training site since July 2011. Pat Clancy was the first to be placed here and worked with us for four years. Yvonne Moss followed and was subsequently hired by Children's Institute. Dianne Johnson is Lifespan's current placement and we are grateful that she has joined us!

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Dental – A quick check for any signs of decay

Hearing – A check of the different levels of hearing

Movement skills – Parents or teachers review the **Ages and Stages Questionnaire** and mark the answer that best describes the child. Results show areas a child may be struggling with in motor or language skills.

Social and emotional development – Parents or teachers review the **Ages and Stages Social Emotional Questionnaire** and mark the answer that best describes the child. Results show if a child is struggling with friendships, relating to others, or self-control.

All of these results are reviewed and if a child needs additional evaluation, the family is given help in finding the right resources. A concern in any of these areas can impact how a child does in school. If their mouth hurts from tooth decay they may not focus on playing with others or speech delays may make a child feel unable to join in with peers. Our goal is to support the whole child and help them succeed in school.

Intrigued by the possibilities of GROW-Rochester, the United States Department of Health and Human Services continues to monitor this project as a model for possible implementation nationally. As of today, screenings are being done only within the city of Rochester but

could be expanded to reach 3-year-olds throughout Monroe and surrounding counties with additional funding. We expect that other communities will want to learn more once we have enough data to show that this is an effective program for the preschool members. Clarissa Pedrotti, a Roberts Wesleyan College social work intern, is on our team for the 2016-2017 school year.

Everyone at Children’s Institute is encouraged to see the response so far to GROW-Rochester. The Monroe County Department of Health estimates that approximately 3,300 babies are born each year in Rochester, so there’s more work to do to reach them. We know that 3-year-olds love to ask “why?” a lot – GROW screenings will help find answers for those questions.

Executive Director activities



Dirk Hightower was a featured guest on Fox’s Good Day Rochester with Norma Holland and Marty Snyder on Thursday, September 22. He was interviewed about the Kids & Trucks event coming up that weekend. Donna DePeters (board member) was also interviewed by Time Warner Cable and Channel 10 at the event.

Dirk partnered with Rick Costanza, a faculty member of Monroe Community College, Linda Sullivan, director at Rochester Early Childhood Direction Center, Lynn Lubecki, Executive Director at Rochester Childfirst Network, Christine Sheffer, Superintendent at Mary Cariola Children’s Center, Robin Hooper, Executive Director, and Karen Spawton, Chair, of the Preschool Committee on Special Education of the Rochester City School

District, Stas Lotyczewski, Director of Evaluation and Research at Children’s Institute, and other members of ROC the Future. Dirk briefed Regent Wade Norwood and Assistant Commissioners Attwood and Rider on the new “Report on Workforce Challenges for Pre-k Special Education and Related Services.” In essence, children in Rochester and many communities across NYS are experiencing significant delays in services or diluted services due to shortages of health related providers such as Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, and Physical Therapists. Primary reasons for these shortages include: inadequate reimbursement rates for these providers, large caseloads, and a lack of training programs. The full narrative and statistical reports are available at www.childreinsinstitute.net.

Recent grant funding

Children’s Institute gratefully acknowledges the following organizations:

Rochester Area Community Foundation

- \$25,000 for social and emotional supports for young children in early childhood centers
- \$30,000 for RECAP
- \$15,000 for Stage of Change
- \$55,000 for GRASA (Greater Rochester Afterschool Alliance)
- \$30,000 for DESSA assessment tool for community-wide social and emotional screenings within GRASA organizations

Brighter Days Foundation

- \$25,000 for social and emotional supports for young children

Greater Rochester Health Foundation

- \$101,220 for a Trauma Informed Care survey and literature review

Rochester’s Child

- \$10,000 for Stage of Change



Stay up to date on Children’s Institute’s partnerships, research, and latest information on social and emotional learning
www.facebook.com/childreinsinstituteROC



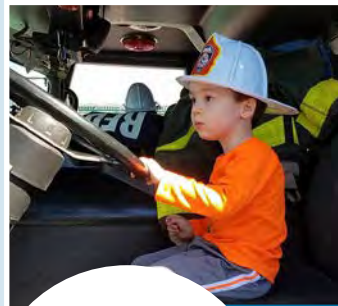
KIDS & TRUCKS



CLIMB ABOARD AND EXPLORE!

Kids & Trucks 2016

This year's Kids & Trucks event was held on September 24 & 25 at Frontier Field and was a big success! Over 2,500 people attended and had a fun day of exploration as they got to climb in their favorite trucks. We raised over \$19,000 which will be used to support Children's Institute's programs for children. A big thank you to all the truck owners, sponsors, special event groups, volunteers, and guests who made this one of Rochester's "must see" events - watch for news on our 2017 Kids & Trucks next September!



Featured event
SE / West Rochester



- Media sponsor
- Good Day Rochester interview
- 70 TV ads



Community events
calendar





@Rochester
Five things to do
this weekend



Day-of-event
news coverage



- Featured event
- E-newsletter
- Website ads





Thank you!

Trucks

- American Equipment
- A.P. Property Services of Webster
- ATV
- Bentley Bros. Inc.
- DiFiore Construction Inc.
- Dolomite cement mixer
- Doodlebugs bus
- First Student school bus
- Golf cart
- High Performance HVAC
- Kenworth Northwest
- Lewis Tree Service
- Mann's Taxi
- Monroe Ambulance
- Monroe County Department of Transportation
- Postal truck
- Poutine food truck
- Race car
- Rochester Fire Department
- Rochester Police Department
- Turkey Hill Dairy
- Upstate Milk trucks
- Vintage Chevy
- Wegmans semi and vintage truck
- West Herr truck

Donations

- American Association of University Women
- American Red Cross
- Children's Institute supporters
- Dunkin Donuts
- FM Office Products
- Genesee Country Village & Museum
- Geva Theatre Center
- Knighthawks Lacrosse
- Rhinos Soccer
- Rochester Museum & Science Center
- VisitRochester
- Wegmans

Special guests

- Eastman Dental Group
- Rex from the Rhinos
- Rochester Enchanted Princess/
Super Hero Parties of Rochester
- Rochester Lego User Group
- Truck characters
- Yoga w/Dora

Sponsors



\$5,000 – PEDAL TO THE METAL



\$1,000 – CRUISING



FRIENDS OF KIDS & TRUCKS



Welcome to new board members

Loisa Bennetto, Ph.D., joined the board of directors at Children's Institute. Loisa is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Clinical and Social Sciences in Psychology at the University of Rochester. She received her BA in Psychology from Yale University in 1988, and her Ph.D. in Clinical Child Psychology from the University of Denver in 1999. She then joined the faculty at the University of Rochester, where she has served as Director of the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program from 2007-2010, and Department Chair since 2010. Dr. Bennetto's program of research examines the neurocognitive bases of autism spectrum disorder with a particular focus on differences in basic sensory processing and how these differences impact children's ability to communicate and function effectively in their day-to-day lives. Dr. Bennetto also teaches and mentors students at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Joseph R. Foppoli, MBA, joined the board of directors at Children's Institute. Joe holds a BA from Sonoma State University and an MBA from the Dominican University of California. He is owner/COO of Christopher Creek Winery and Benevolo Wines in Healdsburg and Napa, CA. He previously was a partner in FFTV Import and Export in Vitorio, ES,

Brazil and managed exporting and distribution of wine throughout Brazil. Other experience includes a production supervisor for Think Films in San Francisco, CA.

Amy V. Kahn, MBA, SPHR, has joined the board of directors at Children's Institute. Amy holds an MBA and BA in Organizational Communication from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She has been with Action for a Better Community, Inc. as the VP of Human Resources for the past year. Amy was previously at The College at Brockport/State University of New York as Director of Human Resources, Constellation Brands, Inc., FUSION as HR/Talent Lead, and GateHouse Media, Inc. as Director of Human Resources. She was previously a Board Member for Genesee Valley Society for Human Resources Management, Jewish Family Service, Hillel of Rochester Area Colleges, and currently serves on the Human Resources Committee at Temple B'rith Kodesh.

Rashid Muhammad, joined the board of directors at Children's Institute. Rashid received a BGS in Geography from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, a MA in Management from Webster University, and an Ed.D. (Executive Leadership) at St. John Fisher College. He is currently a Senior Engineering Manager at Harris Corporation Space and Intelligence Systems Division. Rashid is involved in the community as a Chair and Panel Member for the Commission on Jewish-Muslim

Understanding. He was previously a Board Member and Consultant at M.K.Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence. Rashid served in the United States Air Force from 1982-2003 as an Operations and Military Intelligence Officer in military field units, headquarters, and government agencies in multiple domestic and overseas locations with a distinguished record of achievement over his 20+ year military career.

Ronald N. Roberts, MS, joined the board of directors at Children's Institute. Ron recently retired from the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services where he was the SNAP Program Director. He has held various roles within the Department of Social Services since 1988 including Regional Administrator and Operations Manager. Ron's community involvement includes President of the Stamford Alumni Kappa Foundation as well as past roles with the United Way of Stamford, Stamford Hospital, and Young Fathers Program Coordinator.

Please consider making a gift today to Children's Institute!

You can donate on our safe, secure website by visiting www.childrensstitute.net.

Children's Institute is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your gift is tax deductible.

Children's Institute announces Director of SEL Center



As Director of the Center for Social and Emotional Learning, **Elizabeth Devaney**, MM, brings expertise, experience, and passion for social and emotional development, quality improvement, out-of-school time and expanded learning programming, youth development, and community-wide systems-building initiatives. She has worked in both research and

practice settings, most recently as a senior researcher at the American Institutes for Research where she studied the implementation and impact of out-of-school-time programs on social, emotional, and academic outcomes. She has authored numerous articles, briefs, and toolkits, including *Sustainable School-wide Social and Emotional Learning (SEL): Implementation Guide and Toolkit*. Elizabeth has worked at the Providence After-School Alliance in Rhode Island as well as the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) and was the recipient of a William T. Grant Foundation Distinguished Fellows award. She received a masters of management and social policy from the Heller School at Brandeis University.

The Center for Social and Emotional Learning at Children's Institute

The Center for Social and Emotional Learning builds on Children's Institute's long history of supporting the social and emotional development of children and youth. The Center is a local, regional, and statewide resource center for social and emotional learning, serving early childhood centers, schools and school districts, community-based organizations, after-school and expanded learning programs, and others. The Center provides information and resources, training and technical assistance, consultation regarding implementation and alignment with other initiatives, and research and evaluation services, all related to social-emotional learning and development. The Center complements and supports other efforts in the region to help children and youth thrive.

Staff activities



Children's Institute staff enjoyed an end-of-summer outing with a pedal tour of Rochester's architectural treasures – a unique way to learn about our city's history!



Marjorie Allan and Melissa Reynolds-Weber (R-L) did a presentation at the American Evaluation Association meeting in Atlanta on Thursday, October 27 entitled, "Designing and implementing a collaborative evaluation of a school-based obesity prevention program in the context of competing stakeholder needs and challenging contexts."

Arlene Bobin and Nancy Cook have announced that they have changed to part-time status. Arlene has been with Children's Institute for 15 years as a Senior Project Coordinator, while Nancy has been the Assistant to the Executive Director for 10 years. We are glad that they are remaining with us on a part-time basis as they look towards retirement.

Elizabeth Devaney was one of three keynote speakers at the Wyoming After-school Alliance annual conference on social and emotional learning in after-school programs in October. She has also been asked to serve on the editorial review board for the Information Age Press book series, "Current issues in out-of-school-time."



Aiden Ford, Strong Children's Research Center summer fellow, presented her summer project at the medical center on Thursday, August 4. The title of her project was, "What makes a Healthy Hero? An evaluation of summer camp programming aimed at increasing healthy weight prevalence in Rochester elementary-age children."

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