

A Message From Our Executive Director

"The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind."
—Maria Montessori

The holiday season ushers in the New Year where we look at how far we have come to know where we will aim to go next. In this issue of *News and Views*, we do the same and invite you to share some highlights of our experiences in both the recent summer and current fall seasons. [Read more](#)



Gold Award for Team Excellence! GRQC 2022 Performance Excellence Awards



October 2022: Over 200 people attended the GRQC 2022 Performance Excellence Awards at Locust Hill Country Club. Three award categories were celebrated: Organizational Excellence, Customer Experience, and Team Excellence.

Children's Institute's **Get Ready to GROW** team was honored with a Gold Award for Team Excellence – Get Ready to GROW Referrals: Let's "Close the Loop!" This was one of 9 Gold, 6 Silver, 1 Bronze, and 1 Pathfinder Team Excellence honorees. [Read more and pictures](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE RECENT HIGHLIGHTS](#)

Children's Institute Welcomes New Staff and Board Members



Venita Byrd
Executive Assistant



Lindsay Dryden, MS
Primary Project
Coordinator



Krista Nicolaisen
Project Coordinator



Natalie Ramirez
Client Intake
Coordinator, Get Ready
to GROW

[Introducing new Board Members](#)

ROC the Future Announces New Leadership



Brian Lewis is the new ROC the Future Alliance executive director. He replaces Jackie Campbell, who retired as executive director after serving in that role since 2015.

Brian was recently introduced at an event at Monroe Community College. He spoke about the group's mission to set kids up for success academically and in their future careers.



"This job, to me, means making sure that every young person in the City of Rochester is school-ready, is supported from cradle to career, and that they're improving the outcomes for high school graduation rates, for literacy, and for all the things we know our young people need to advance and be successful in the City of Rochester," Lewis said.

Lewis comes from a group called Exalt Youth where he led efforts focused on juvenile justice and youth development.

[Press release](#)



Sara White-Smith is the new director of the Whole Child Initiative at ROC the Future Alliance. She brings over 25 years of experience working with children and families in the greater Rochester region.

Sara comes to ROC the Future Alliance from the Bivona Child Advocacy Center where she served as the Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator, providing oversight of 23 partner agencies that made up the multidisciplinary team.

[Read more](#)

Next Gen Leaders Join Our Team



We are excited to welcome our **2022-23 Youth Leadership Council (YLC) members** to the Children's Institute (CI) team. This group of young leaders, now CI employees, recently met for a kick-off retreat event where they got to know each other through interactive and engaging activities and learned about the Teacher Pipeline Project they will be working on. With funds from CI's recently awarded Farash Foundation's Teacher Pipeline Innovation Project grant, this group of "Next Gen" leaders will co-develop and deliver training, resources, and content for pre-service and existing teachers focused on how to build caring and supportive relationships with students. We can't wait to see what this group will do!

Children's Institute's Young Children's Wellness Council

Prenatal & Post Partum Wellness Expo

Join us for an educational day for the entire family and baby. We will be highlighting the importance of experience, doula companionship, prenatal & postpartum care, placenta encapsulation, and the importance of Fathers. There will also be giveaways, refreshments & much more!

Guest Speaker: Dr. LeKeyah Wilson
Date: October 22, 2022
Event Time: 1pm
100 Andrews St. Rochester, NY 14606
Blackfamilymentalthr@gmail.com
or 585-258-3700

Baby Casting Memory Giveaway
Featuring: DouLaLa
No RSVP Required
Dad's welcomed



A Prenatal & Post Partum Wellness Expo with guest speaker Dr. LeKeyah Wilson was presented by Children's Institute's Young Children's Wellness Council. It was an educational day for families and babies with giveaways, refreshments, and more!

Released: RECAP 2021-22 Annual Report by Children's Institute

Children's Institute, in partnership with the Rochester City School District (RCSD) Office of Early Childhood, is pleased to announce the publication of the 25th annual report of the Rochester Early Childhood Assessment Partnership (RECAP).

This report marks the first full evaluation of Rochester's pre-K system since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Highlights include:

- Pre-K student outcomes for the 2021-22 school year
- Family perspectives, including updates from the Caring Connectors program
- Screening outcomes from the Brigance Early Childhood Screen and the Get Ready to GROW program

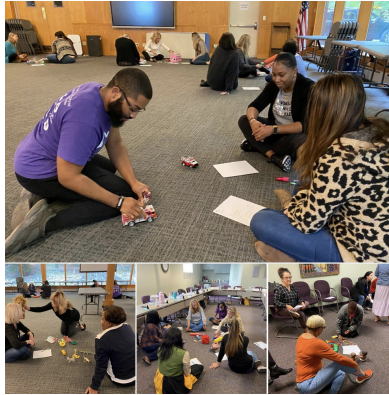
[Read the full report](#)

[Facts-at-a-glance](#)

[Article in Minority Reporter](#)

[WROC News item](#)

In-Person Training is Back!



[Primary Project](#) staff held fall training sessions for the Rochester City School District and new Primary Project teams across the state in Pearl River, NY, and at Children's Institute.

Support Children's Institute

*We truly value your commitment to Children's Institute and your continued passion for children and families. Please support our **Annual Appeal** today by making an [online donation](#); your gift will benefit every aspect of our mission: **Joining together to raise every child's complete wellbeing.***

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