

## Children's Institute's biennial Community Update and Coterie Award presentation

In October, Children's Institute hosted our biennial Community Update at the Genesee Valley Club. This forum invites community members to learn more about selected Children's Institute programs. This year's main presentation was entitled, "Looking Beyond a Crystal Ball to Predict Student Success" by Guillermo Montes, Ph.D., Director of Research and Evaluation.



In addition to his work with Children's Institute, Guillermo is also an Associate Professor at St. John Fisher College. He has authored numerous research papers, chapters, and a book entitled, "Unmet Needs: Child Care for Children with Autism in the United States." His primary interests include the use of large national datasets to measure social competence and other elements of emotional intelligence, particularly in at-risk subpopulations, such as children with autism spectrum disorders.

IBM has provided a grant valued at \$20,000 to support Children's Institute's research for organizations that serve children in our community. The Impact Grant for SPSS licenses received from

IBM will ensure an improvement in the models gathered from the research. Children's Institute would like to thank IBM for the use of this technology and ongoing support.

The research and evaluation team at Children's Institute uses a range of established research methods, and depending on needs, designs and studies new approaches to problems confronting schools, children, caregivers, families, and physical and mental health service providers. Our goal is to ensure that children's problems are identified sooner, access to effective interventions is available, and accurate and current data is provided to policymakers who make decisions for children.

(continued on page 3)

## A note from the director

**Children's Institute is wrapping up a big year...and we're expanding our reach even more next year.**

We're actively participating in the Monroe County Anti-Poverty Initiative which has been sharing their vision of how to make meaningful changes to address Rochester's poverty crisis. Children's Institute's expertise in data collection and evaluations will be a critical piece when setting up programs that will have measurable goals, and more importantly, change lives. Just to recap, the goals of this initiative are to reduce poverty by 50% in 15 years and increase the number of families who are self-sufficient.

We rolled out a new fundraiser this fall called KIDS & TRUCKS. This event allowed children and their families the chance to "climb aboard and explore" all different types of vehicles. We saw children's imaginations at work and feel that this event will help raise awareness of who we are, what we do in the community, and help raise additional funds to support programs that impact children's lives. Watch for information on next year's event when we hope to have more kids and more trucks!

Our biennial Community Update was held in October and featured Guillermo Montes, Ph.D., Director of Research and Evaluation, who presented, "Looking Beyond a Crystal Ball to Predict Student Success." A suburban school district in Upstate New York provided Children's Institute with 10 years of student data for its current 10th graders, as well as the district's criteria for success. Although school districts have a great deal of data, it is difficult for them to analyze it on a macro level and determine what factors could be strongly predictive of academic



Executive Director Dirk Hightower (pictured on right) was interviewed by Channel 13/Fox/CW at Frontier Field about the KIDS & TRUCKS event.

outcome. Thanks to a technology grant from IBM, we are now expanding our research capabilities and look ahead to more projects next year and beyond.

We have many new opportunities in the coming year and are thankful for supporters like you who make this all possible. I want to wish you happy holidays from everyone at Children's Institute.

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

***"Guillermo and Stas are making invaluable contributions to the Monroe County Anti-Poverty Initiative data needs. I am delighted to have Children's Institute as part of the team."***

—PATRICIA LEO, DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT,  
UNITED WAY OF GREATER  
ROCHESTER

***Children's Institute would like to welcome Villa of Hope program and staff to our location. They are leasing office space for their evidence-based outpatient addiction treatment program designed specifically for adolescents.***

**Continued from page 1 – Children’s Institute’s biennial Community Update and Coterie Award presentation**

In addition, the newest Children’s Institute Coterie inductees were announced. A Coterie is a group of special friends whose contributions to Children’s Institute is ongoing and significant; whether it be intellectual talent, financial support, volunteerism, or a combination of the above. **Children’s Institute 2015 Coterie inductees are:**



**Carol R. Gravetter**  
*Director of Corporate Relations, American Cancer Society – Retired  
Board member: 1992-2015*

Carol Gravetter was president of Children’s Institute’s board of directors from 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. She served on the board’s Development, Executive, and Strategic Planning committees as well. Carol is retired from the American Cancer Society, where she was the Director of Corporate Relations.



**Esther Axt Karp, Ph.D.**  
*Administrator, New York Education Department – Retired  
Board member: 2009-2015*

Esther Karp worked as a school psychologist and then administrator with the New York State Education Department. A former Fulbright Scholar and employee of Children’s Institute, Dr. Karp has produced educational videos and secured grants to support her work in the fields of child abuse prevention and early literacy. She has been associated with the National Association of School Psychologists, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the American Orthopsychiatric Association, and is a current member of the American Psychological Association.

**PAST COTERIE INDUCTEES**

- 2001 Mary L. Consler  
Eleanor Eksten  
Thomas R. Frey  
Kenneth F. Harris  
Kathleen E. Leary  
James Starkweather
- 2003 William G. Haffey  
Roger J. Robach
- 2005 Ann Farie  
Richard Huxley  
Barbara Purvis
- 2007 Primary Project Child Associates  
1957-2007
- 2009 Andrew Doniger, MD  
Donna Fielding  
Robert Silver
- 2011 The Community Foundation  
Eleonore Hanson Herman
- 2013 David Broadbent  
Audrey Cummings  
Sharon DeVita

**Recent grant funding**

Children’s Institute would like to thank the following organizations for funding our grant requests for screening, assessments, and program observations that support child outcomes and program quality improvement:

**Rochester Area Community Foundation**

- \$18,000 – Greater Rochester After-School Alliance (GRASA) youth assessment of social-emotional skills
- \$30,000 – RECAP community-wide assessments of Pre-K classrooms in Rochester
- \$15,000 from Rochester’s Child Fund of Rochester Area Community Foundation – RECAP classroom observations in Rochester
- \$55,000 – Greater Rochester After-School Alliance (GRASA) youth program quality assessments
- \$25,000 – Behavioral Supports for Children
- \$15,000 – Stage of Change Approach to Professional Development
- \$10,000 Rochester’s Child Fund of Rochester Area Community Foundation – Stage of Change Approach to Professional Development

**Community Foundation of Herkimer County and Wesley & Marion Small Fund**

\$51,550 – RECAP community-wide assessments for Pre-K classrooms in Herkimer and Oneida Counties

**United Way of Rochester**

\$114,000 to fund GROW–Rochester, a more comprehensive screening of three-year-olds to identify challenges in hearing, vision, dental, and speech.

**City of Rochester**

\$50,000 to fund GROW–Rochester

**Greater Rochester Health Foundation**

\$600,000 for three years to fund GROW–Rochester

**Welcome aboard**



**Charles Infurna, MS**, has joined Children’s Institute as an information analyst.

He is currently an Ed.D. candidate in the DEXL program at St. John Fisher College

with his dissertation research focused on preschool teacher self-efficacy.

Before coming to Children’s Institute, Charles spent the previous three years working for Head Start both in Rochester and Williamson, NY. He was the Center Director for Migrant Seasonal Head Start in Williamson for just over one year. He was also the Education/Disability Manager for Head Start in Rochester, located at the Volunteers of America Children’s Center.

Charles enjoys spending time with his family, especially his wife Laura and sons Joseph (two-years-old) and Dominic (six-months-old). He is also an assistant coach for the Nazareth College track and field program.

We also welcome work-study student **Kelsey Swinter** who is a research assistant for the Greater Rochester Health Foundation Childhood Healthy Weight program evaluation.

CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE  
PRESENTS



# KIDS & TRUCKS



CLIMB ABOARD AND EXPLORE!

Children's Institute would like to thank our sponsors, donors, truck owners and staff, volunteers, and supporters for kicking off our first annual KIDS & TRUCKS event.

Over 1,000 tickets were sold or distributed to families of limited means so that they could 'climb aboard and explore' 30 different types of vehicles – we saw smiles all day!

Stay updated about KIDS & TRUCKS 2016 by visiting our Facebook page or website at [www.childrensinstitute.net](http://www.childrensinstitute.net).



*"I want to drive this when I grow up!"*

HEARD THROUGHOUT THE EVENT



*"This truck brings presents!"*

US POSTAL TRUCK

*"Why don't we have one of these?"*

GOLF CART



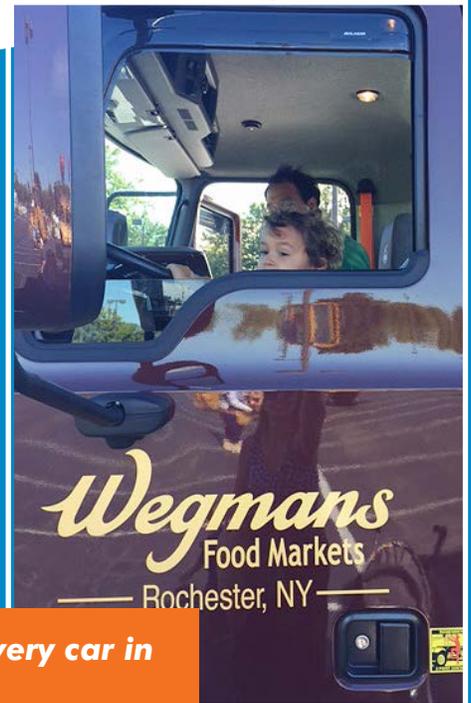
*"I can't wait to ride one of these every day!"*

SCHOOL BUS

*"This truck smells great!"*

DUNKIN' DONUTS TRUCK



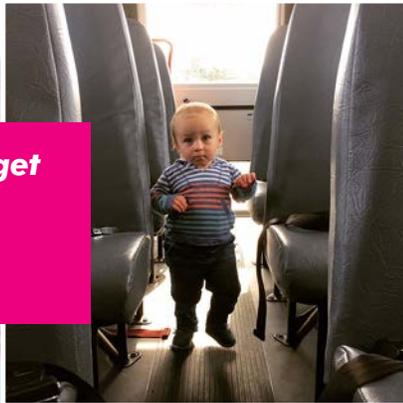


***"You can't get out of the back seat yourself, cool!"***  
POLICE CAR

***"I would beep at every car in this truck!"***  
WEGMANS SEMI TRUCK



***"There's a job where you get to dig dirt all day!"***  
MONROE COUNTY & ALL AMERICAN EXCAVATORS



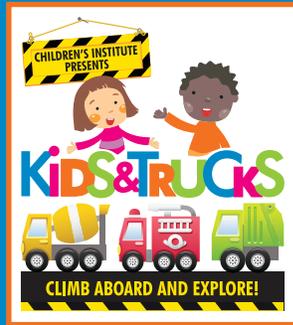
***"You can fit a whole house in this truck?"***  
CORRIGAN MOVING TRUCK



***"You can touch the sky!"***  
LEWIS TREE TRUCK

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS **Wegmans** **ALESCO ADVISORS** **LABELLA Associates, P.C.**

Media Sponsor: 13WHAM ABC | FOX ROCHESTER | THE CW ROCHESTER | Print Sponsor: PANTHER GRAPHICS



## Thank you!

### Children's Institute would like to thank the following companies for providing trucks and staff:

American Equipment  
 Brighton Fire Department  
 City of Rochester Fire Department  
 City of Rochester Police Department  
 Corrigan Moving Systems  
 Doodlebugs Childcare Center  
 First Student Inc.  
 High Performance Heating and Cooling  
 Indus Hospitality  
 Lewis Tree Service  
 Monroe Ambulance  
 Monroe County Department of Environmental Services & Bomb Squad  
 O'Connell Electric  
 Rush Henrietta School District  
 U.S. Border Patrol  
 U.S. Postal Service  
 Wegmans Food Markets Inc.

### We would also like to thank the following individuals for the use of their cars for this event:

Vincent Harper: Handicap accessible van  
 Tom Rogers: Ford pick-up truck  
 Genemarie Van Wagner: Smart car and golf cart

### Thank you to all the individuals and businesses that donated to our raffle, guest bags, and food for truck staff:

Altitude Trampoline Park  
 Bill Gray's IcePlex  
 BodyMind Float Center  
 City of Rochester Fire Department  
 Classy Cookie & Deli  
 Coca Cola  
 Diamonds Limousines  
 Dunkin' Donuts  
 FM Resources  
 Pole Position Indoor Karting  
 Target  
 The Harper Family  
 The Hartmann Family  
 Visit Rochester  
 Wegmans Food Markets Inc.

### Thank you to all who donated to our KIDS & TRUCKS ticket fund:

Family passes were distributed to nearby schools, city recreation centers, Ibero, Rochester City School District Office of Parent Engagement, and Rush Henrietta School District families.

**Media sponsor:**  
 Channel 13/Fox/CW

**Print sponsor:**  
 Panther Graphics

**"Little Truckers" sponsor:**  
 Doodlebugs Childcare Centers  
 RCSD School No. 25

## Some ideas for holiday giving that will have a long-lasting impact in the Rochester community

**Celebrate with a purpose!** Consider requesting a donation to Children's Institute in lieu of receiving gifts at your next celebration such as birthday, holiday, anniversary, or other milestone. You'll have the satisfaction of supporting our efforts to change the lives of children right here in our community!

We welcome your generous gift, no matter how small or large, as it will help our work with teachers and other child-serving professionals – Children's Institute knows what works for the healthy development of young children.



\$10 will help provide toys for our Primary Project trainings



\$250 will provide a 'Children of Divorce' manual for a school to use for group sessions



\$1,000 will help provide updated technology for our research efforts



\$2,500 will allow us to hire a graduate student as a summer intern to assist with current research while gaining valuable field experience

Please visit [www.childrensinstitute.net](http://www.childrensinstitute.net) to make a safe, secure online donation or mail a check to the address listed below.

We also are grateful for those that may be considering a major gift as a legacy and would be happy to meet and discuss options, whether it be securities, real estate, or other financial assets.

#### **Please contact:**

**Cindy Harper**  
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 Children's Institute  
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[charper@childrensinstitute.net](mailto:charper@childrensinstitute.net)

**Your tax-deductible donation will help us reach our vision of positively impacting the social and emotional health of one million children by 2020.**

**We can do it with your support!**

## Board and staff activities

### April 2015

**Lauri Strano**, Director of Programs and Services, accepted the role of co-chair of the Early Childhood Development Initiative (ECDI). ECDI was formed 15 years ago to maintain and improve the quality of preschool education in Rochester and Monroe County.

### May 2015

The Jordan Foundation honored **David Broadbent**, past Children's Institute board member and two-term board chair, for his years of dedication to improving children's health, including his advocacy to prevent childhood lead poisoning. David is a Jordan Health board member and received the inaugural "Heart of Healthcare" award.



A team from Children's Institute participated in this year's United Way Day of Caring by sorting food at Foodlink. Thank you to (pictured L to R, bottom to top) **Lynn Smith, Edy Zordan, Melissa Reynolds Weber, Marjorie Allan, Cindy Harper, Genemarie Van Wagner, Jonathan Richwalder, and GERALYN Cone**. We chose Foodlink because 1 in 7 Americans are hungry, including more than 1 in 5 children.

### June 2015



"Thank you and your team for the awesome services provided (behavioral support program) to our children, families, and staff. Thanks to (pictured on right) **Ellen Leopold**, Education

Consultant, we had many breakthroughs with families and have assisted them in so many ways we never thought possible." –Ida Pérez, Director, Ibero Children, Youth and Emergency Services Division

### July 2015

**Dianne Cooney Miner**, Dean of the Wegmans School of Nursing at St. John Fisher College and a Children's Institute board member since 2013, was selected to participate in the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative on the Health and Nutrition subcommittee.

"Those in the nursing profession have a deep – and perhaps unparalleled – understanding of the relationships between poverty, trauma, and poor health outcomes." –Dianne Cooney Miner

Children's Institute also is represented on the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative by **Stas Lotyczewski and Guillermo Montes** (data team) and **Dirk Hightower** (systems design team).

**Mike McDougall**, former Children's Institute board member and president of McDougall Communications, was appointed to the Public Relations Society of America's College of Fellows. His firm also won a 2015 Prism Award for its work with the National War Plane Museum.

### August 2015

Jackie Campbell has been hired as ROC the Future's new alliance director, succeeding Dr. Leonard Brock, who left in early June to become director of the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative. Children's Institute Executive Director **Dirk Hightower** is a key participant in both initiatives.

**Deborah Johnson**, Director of Programs and Services, returned from a 10-week leave where she interned at Strong Memorial Hospital as a chaplain. This was part of her studies with Luther Seminary, Minneapolis, MN.

### September 2015

**Dianne Cooney Miner**, Dean of the Wegmans School of Nursing at St. John Fisher College, was named an Honorary Faculty Fellow of Nursing and Midwifery by the Royal College of Surgeons, in Dublin, Ireland.

Children's Institute rolled out a new fundraiser, KIDS & TRUCKS, with **all staff involvement**. **Dirk Hightower**, Executive Director, was interviewed by Channel 13 and the Democrat & Chronicle.

### October 2015



**Kim Avery**, Early Education and Care Specialist, gave the keynote address and training on the Stage of Change Approach at the Indiana Paths to Quality Conference. Her presentation focused on how to work with child care center directors to determine their readiness to implement changes as determined by the Indiana Department of Education.

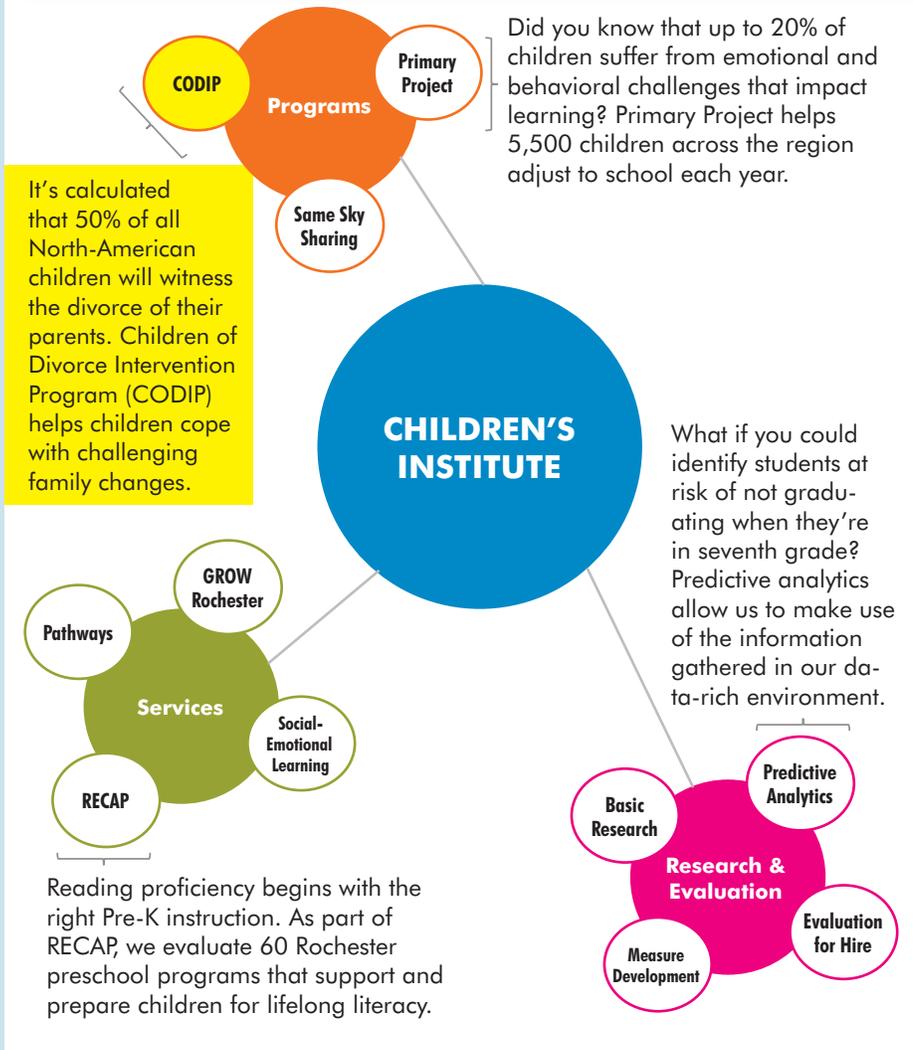
**Charles Infurna**, Information Analyst, did a research presentation for the Center for Early Education Evaluation at HighScope's 4th Annual Conference for Early Childhood Research and Evaluation. His topic was observing universal Pre-K students in an urban school district for school readiness. Executive Director **Dirk Hightower** and Directors of Research and Evaluation **Guillermo Montes and Stas Lotyczewski** also worked on this research.



Board member, **Donna DePeters** was selected as a Board Leadership honoree for the 2015 Greater Rochester Awards. This is presented to non-profit board chair people who have enhanced the mission and reputation of their agencies through effective leadership, fundraising, strategic planning, community collaboration, and problem solving. Congratulations Donna!

***"I look forward to working from your Children of Divorce Intervention Program (CODIP) manual. So many children that I work with are facing the break up of their parents' marriages, so it will be put to good use. Once again, thank you very much."***

—TRISH LEAVER, CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER, RUSTENBURG GIRLS JUNIOR SCHOOL, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA



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## News & Views

### WINTER 2015

A publication of Children's Institute, Inc.  
[www.childrensinstitute.net](http://www.childrensinstitute.net)

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