



*Nurturing children. Supporting families. Strengthening community.*

## 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

### What We Do

Teaching Tree Early Childhood Learning Center provides quality and affordable early childhood care for families of all socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. We believe in supporting families and strengthening our community by providing a safe, nurturing and supportive environment for infants and young children. Recognizing that each child's needs are different, we provide stimulating classrooms and activities that allow children to develop skills according to their individual capabilities. Our teachers undergo continual training and adhere to the philosophy that children learn and grow best in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust and when they are actively engaged in their environment. Throughout each day, we strive to provide a wide range of hands-on activities that contribute to all areas of each child's growth and development.

### How Teaching Tree Helps Children and Families to Succeed

Fourteen percent of children in Larimer County live in poverty. Poverty often impacts every aspect of a child's life, affecting their access to high-quality health care, nutritious foods and academic achievement. Along with poverty come challenges like unstable housing and physical and mental health issues that also can affect a child's ability to learn. Teaching Tree helps families overcome adversity by keeping childcare rates lower than those charged by for-profit centers and by subsidizing the cost of child care for low-income families who are working to achieve self-sufficiency. While parents work, go to school or undergo job training, children receive quality care and nutritious meals and snacks that meet 100% of their daily nutritional requirements. They also participate in a school-readiness program that prepares them to succeed from the moment they enter kindergarten. To further strengthen families, Teaching Tree provides enrichment programs and delivers comprehensive services including nurse consultations, services provided by the Children's Speech and Reading Center and assistance with CHP+/Medicare applications.

### 2012 Highlights

#### ■ Children achieved developmental milestones that prepared them to succeed in kindergarten.

Child development research over the last three decades has consistently shown that children's social and behavioral competence is a greater predictor of academic performance in first grade than are cognitive skills and family backgrounds. Teachers implemented with fidelity the Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children. They provided supportive environments that helped children learn to identify, describe and appropriately express their feelings. In pre- and post-tests, evaluators found significant increases in children's social development, self control and communication and academic skills. The tests showed that Teaching Tree's early childhood program, rather than chance, led to children's improvement in these areas.

**■ Preschool graduates demonstrated school readiness.**

When queried by an outside party, kindergarten teachers attested to the school-readiness of several Teaching Tree alumni. Qualities that teachers observed in their new students from Teaching Tree included having a solid grasp of how to interact, understanding what is expected in an educational setting, being at or above grade level in academic skills, knowing their letters, sounds and numbers and ability to follow instructions and resolve problems on their own or with a friend.



**■ Teaching Tree provided a high quality environment that promoted the development of the whole child.**

Qualistar ratings conducted at Teaching Tree's Fort Collins center in December 2012 resulted in an overall rating of 3 stars (out of 4 possible) and confirmed that the program is achieving the desired outcomes. All six classrooms, from infants through preschoolers, attained scores of 7 (the highest number of points possible) in the areas of helping children understand language, helping children use language and using books. All classrooms also received very high marks in the areas of activities, peer interaction, staff-child interaction, discipline and program structure.

In Loveland, evaluators used the Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS and ECERS) to rate the quality of the learning environment in the areas of space and furnishings, personal care routines, language-reasoning, activities, interaction, program structure and parents and staff. The highest overall score possible was 7. Teaching Tree received an overall score of 6.22 in its preschool classroom, 5.28 in its 2-3 year olds classroom and 5.67 in its 1-2 year olds classroom.

**■ Served a high number of children from a variety of cultural and economic backgrounds.**

Teaching Tree continued to serve a very diverse clientele including many low-income families. Divorce, domestic violence, substance use, premature birth, low birth weight, teenage parents, abuse, single-parent families and developmental delays were among the risk factors of many children enrolled at Teaching Tree.

- Number of children served in 2012: 289 (as compared to 270 in 2011)
- Percentage of children from low- or very-low income families: 54%
- Percentage of children of diverse backgrounds: 27%
- Percentage of children residing in Fort Collins or Loveland: 92%
- Percentage of single-parent families served: 51%

**■ Helped reduce poverty in Larimer County.**

The biggest barrier for low-income families striving to become self-sufficient was access to affordable child care. In 2012, 40% of families served were low-income families who were empowered to work toward self-sufficiency because they had affordable child care. Teaching Tree enrolled a high percentage of families in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and provided childcare scholarships that made the cost of child care as low as \$20/day for low-income families who were working or in school or a job training program. (Childcare rates at for-profit centers in Fort Collins ranged from \$39.60-\$66.40/day.)

- Number of CCAP families served in 2012: 74 (as compared to 54 in 2011)
- Number of families who received childcare scholarships: 42
- Total amount awarded in childcare scholarships: \$86,065

**■ Provided programs all year round, better serving families' scheduling needs.**

Teaching Tree provided early childhood programs year-round, including days when regular schools were not in session. We served families Monday through Friday, 6:30 am-6:00 pm, at two locations. At no extra cost to families, children participated in enrichment programs in reading, music, exercise, nutrition and self-care and received healthy meals and snacks that met 100% of their daily nutritional requirements.

# Financial Report

## Overview of Annual Operating Budget

Income sources included client fees, Colorado Preschool Program tuition, CCAP reimbursements, public and private grants, individual contributions, fundraising events and interest income. Major expenditures were staff salaries and benefits, facility rent and maintenance, utilities, insurance, classroom materials, food, computer and office expenses, fundraising expenses, accounting and legal fees, advertising, printing and postage.

### Operating Budget

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Income	\$1,210,870	\$1,137,499
Expenses	\$1,210,847	\$1,137,484

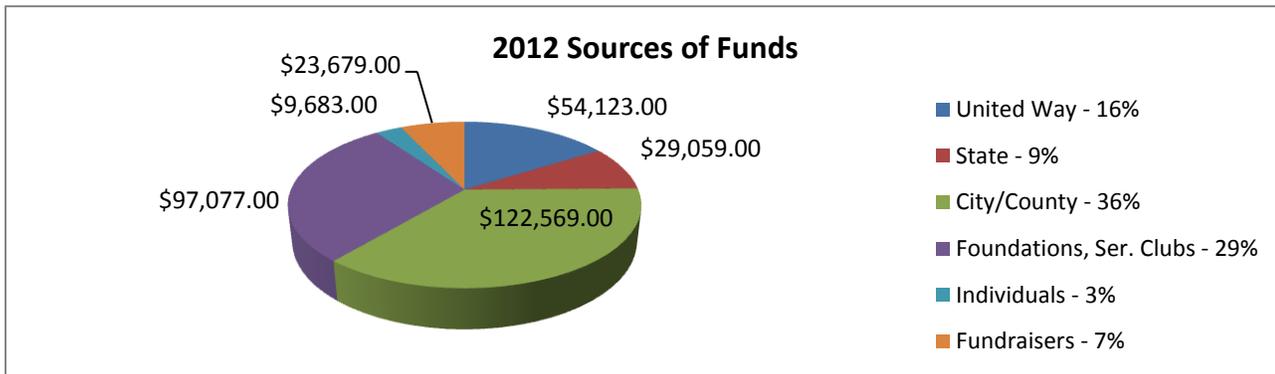
### Fundraising

In addition to coordinating our third annual signature fundraising event, "Little Plates for Little People," Teaching Tree secured new and repeat grants and collaborated with local businesses to conduct smaller fundraisers throughout the year. Monies raised primarily went toward childcare scholarships, teacher raises and enhancing program quality.

### Funding Sources

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
United Way	\$ 54,123	\$ 69,357
State	\$ 29,059	\$ 44,846
City/County	\$122,569*	\$ 53,552
Foundations and Service Clubs	\$ 97,077	\$121,770
Individuals	\$ 9,683	\$ 9,589
Fundraising events (after expenses)	\$ 23,679	\$ 13,201
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$336,193</b>	<b>\$312,315</b>

\*Includes a one-time \$50,000 donation from CCAP



## Thank You to our Major Donors in 2012

Sam S. Bloom Foundation	Kiwanis
Bohemian Foundation	New Belgium
Child Care Assistance Program	OtterCares Foundation
City of Fort Collins Community Development Block Grant	Rotary Club of Fort Collins
Community Foundation of Northern Colorado	Schuster Family Foundation
Community Services Block Grant, Larimer	Silpada Foundation
County Department of Human Services	Target
Early Childhood Council of Larimer County	Temple Hoyne Buell
Elevations Foundation	Tony Grampas Youth Services
	United Way

## 2013 Challenges

Raising funds to make needed capital improvements at both centers is Teaching Tree's highest priority in 2013. Other challenges are to continue building our individual donor base and increasing organizational sustainability, so we may pay teachers a living wage and serve a greater number of low-income families.

## 2013 Goals

- Raise \$80,000 to complete capital improvements at both centers.
- Net \$18,000 from 4th annual Little Plates for Little People fundraising event, which will provide childcare scholarships for low-income families working toward self-sufficiency and increase community awareness about the need for affordable child care.
- Increase operating support by \$24,000, so we can raise aides' and teachers' wages to \$8 and \$10.50 an hour, respectively, and give a 3% wage increase to long-term staff members.
- Develop a plan for engaging parents in Pyramid model training to enhance teacher-family relationships and further support children's social emotional development.
- Increase provision of childcare scholarships from 40% of families served to 60% of families served.
- Increase donor base and individual contributions by 15%.
- Add a ninth member to our board of directors.

## How You Can Help

**Make a donation.** Your contribution to Teaching Tree will increase the quality and availability of child care in our community, benefit at-risk children, and help bring in federal matching dollars.

**Become a board member.** Our Board of Directors governs Teaching Tree and is integral to advancing and promoting our organization and overseeing improvements to operations, facilities and programs.

**Engage.** Your involvement with Teaching Tree as a donor, volunteer, advocate, board member, event sponsor or with any number of other tasks is greatly needed and will help immensely.

## Contact Information

**Anne Lance**, Executive Director, Teaching Tree Early Childhood Learning Center, 424 Pine St. Suite #100, Fort Collins, CO 80524, (970) 493-2628, [alance@teaching-tree.org](mailto:alance@teaching-tree.org), or **Tara Streeb**, Resource Development Coordinator. Phone: (970) 493-2628. Email: [tstreeb@teaching-tree.org](mailto:tstreeb@teaching-tree.org). Website: [www.teaching-tree.org](http://www.teaching-tree.org).