



The Wesley Gazette

2014 Year in Review

Wesley Education Center
for Children & Families
525 Hale Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45229
(513) 861-9865
Open Monday – Friday 6:30am – 5:30pm
www.wesleyed.org

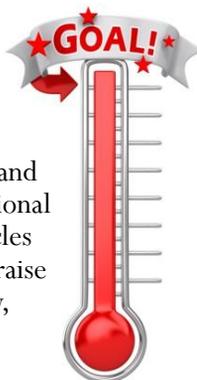
Wesley Reaches 95 Years!



The predecessor agency of Wesley Education Center for Children and Families was opened in January, 1920 by the Woman’s Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Church in response to needs voiced by young working mothers. Housed in one room of Friendship Home at 641 West Fourth Street downtown, (a mission boarding home for young African American women) the agency was called Friendship Home Nursery- Kindergarten. 95 years later Wesley continues to serve parents in need. Wesley is the oldest daycare in the city of Cincinnati.

Ninety-eight percent of our parents are African American’s who fall below the poverty guidelines and receive assistance from Hamilton County/State of Ohio. These parents, most of them single heads of household, are considered the working poor. They must work to continue receiving support from the County/State but need a safe place to send their children.

Wesley has survived 3 moves, 2 major construction projects, 4 name changes and constant state licensing and payment changes. Wesley has always strived to be the best. Over the years we have participated in the National Association of Education for Young Children (NAEYC), United Way Success By Six, Teacher Learning Circles and Step Up To Quality. To continue providing quality early childhood education, this year our goal is to raise \$95,000. We are asking 1000 entities to donate \$95.00 (or more 😊) This can be a single person, a family, United Methodist Women Unit, Boy/Girl Scout Troup, fraternity/sorority, business, church or any organization.



With government support failing to keep pace with the demands of the economy, Wesley faces an increasing shortfall between daycare revenues and expenses. Last year, daycare expenses equated to about \$38 per child per day. Parent fees covered less than \$5 of this. Government support supplied \$27, leaving a gap of about \$6 per child per day, or roughly \$60,000 (16% of expenses). This year that gap is projected at \$80,000 (17% of expenses). There is a critical and continuing need for financial contributions as we continue to rise above being seen as babysitters and provide higher quality service. Will you help us meet our goal? For more information please call Ms. Carla at 513.861.9865.



In honor of our 95th Anniversary Wesley will be holding a Homecoming Celebration. Everyone who has ever attended, worked at, volunteered, sat on the Board of Trustees, donated and prayed for Wesley is invited. The Homecoming will be in July so watch the website for more details. Our Circle of Care will be held on April 23, 2015.

Wesley Earns 2 Stars



On December 4, 2014, Wesley received its 2nd Star in the State of Ohio’s Step Up to Quality. Step Up To Quality is a quality rating and improvement system for early learning and development programs. Programs can earn a 1-, 2-, 3-, 4- or 5-Star Rating by meeting Ohio’s quality program standards. Children have 1,892 days from the day they are born until they enter Kindergarten and what happens on this journey lays the foundation for success in school and life. Step Up to Quality means highly trained teachers, development of school readiness skills, commitment to continuous improvement and focus on family engagement.



Wesley Activities



This summer the Pre-K class participated in the creation of our new garden. The children enjoyed getting dirty while digging in the soil to plant the seeds. Each child was given a milk jug to paint and put their name on to use for watering. They also learned how to weed and turn the soil over without damaging the plants. The garden gave the children a sense of pride and responsibility.” Every day, as soon as they saw Ms. Carla, they would ask “are we going out to water the plants.” In the evening they would take their parents out to see the garden. As the plants begin to grow group discussions centered around different vegetables. We felt their textures, tasted them raw and cooked and talked about how and where they grow. Once the greens became large enough to pick, the children picked bags full, washed them and took them to the kitchen to be cooked. They enjoyed the greens for lunch the next day. Besides the greens the children planted tomatoes, green peppers and red and banana peppers. Ms. Lisa made fried green tomatoes.



The Preschoolers visited the Zoo, Children Museum and Parky's Farm. They were excited to pet the cows and see the sheep, horse and ducks. They visited the pumpkin patch, went on a hay ride and watched a puppet show. During the summer they participated in Fleishmann Garden's summer science and nature program to learn how trees grow and what type of food they produce. They interacted with live birds such as owls, parrots and red birds. They engaged hands on art activities, making bird feeders and bird houses. All the children participated in Muffins with Mom for Mother's Day. As the moms arrived in the morning, they had assorted muffins and juice with their children. For Easter the children had a great time coloring eggs and hunting for them after nap. At the harvest party in October, the children came dressed as their favorite characters, and had good time playing in the leaves with Mr. Will.



Vision: To ensure that children have a solid foundation in math and science and are prepared for Kindergarten.

Mission: To educate, strengthen and nurture children through their core values of:

- Creating a loving and safe environment for children
- Building a foundation for learning
- Strengthening families
- Working collaboratively to enhance service
- Fostering diversity.





This year, Wesley's most needed items were paper towels, toilet paper and tissues. We requested these items to try and reduce the budget. In 2013 we spent over \$2500 on these items alone. Because of your generosity this year we came in well under budget.

One of the organizations who assisted us this year, not only with a paper towel drive but with landscaping projects was Boy Scout Troop 360 of Independence, KY, lead by Eagle Scout Alex Cremeans. The scouts came at the beginning of the summer and weeded the playground and front yard. With about 20 minutes left to finish the project a thunderstorm rolled in and like the troopers they are, they continued to work in the rain. In September they returned and installed 4 benches and several planters Alex made out of wood and used tires. The children have a great time climbing on them and using them like a balance beam. We look forward to the scouts returning next summer.

Early in the morning on May 17th, 30 volunteers from Crossroads Church arrived at Wesley to help brighten the main hallway with shades of blue, yellow, green and red and paint a mural in the large muscle room. The children have enjoyed telling stories about the friendly bugs on the wall and learning their colors and shapes.

Thanks to the Avondale Running Club and our newest Board Member, Tracey Miller, for making the staff holiday party a memorable one. 14 of the staff had dinner at Buca di Beppo in Rookwood. Each staff member received a \$25 gift card from Kroger as a Christmas gift from Wesley. Thanks to the United Methodist Women, the Guild and all the United Methodist Church's for their donations and prayers.

Thank you to everyone who helped the children and their families for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

This does not represent all the organizations and individuals who have blessed Wesley. Unfortunately, we could not highlight all the contributions made to Wesley. But please know your support is always appreciated and has been a major part of Wesley's success.



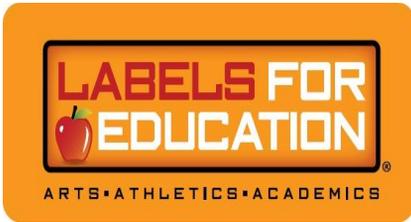


Ways to Donate to Wesley



Wesley participates in several programs where we receive a portion of the purchase price. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as an Amazon.com. The difference is when customers shop on AmazonSmile (www.smile.amazon.com), AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to Wesley. When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile you must first select a charitable organization. Once you have selected Wesley and completed your shopping experience, at check out the website will inform you the amount of your donation. AmazonSmile will deposit all donation's in our bank account on a quarterly basis.

In Kroger's Community Rewards program, all Kroger shoppers who have a Kroger Plus Card must register online at www.Kroger.com/communityrewards, using Wesley's name and our NPO #54123. All members must re-enroll on an annual basis during the month of April. Kroger will pay a maximum of \$50,000 quarterly to a participating organization.



Using the donated labels for Education, we purchased bikes, tables and chairs. Teachers and parents alike were happy to no longer sit in a child's chair during parent/teacher conferences. Labels can be mailed to Wesley and the teachers will sort, count, and prepare them for shipping. Did you know that following products participate in the Labels for Education program?



Wesley Education Center Staff

Carla Butler- Executive Director
 Janice Kenney-Office Manager
 Lafaun Rodgers - Receptionist
 Judy Stone- Lead Infant Teacher
 Grandma Thelma Fuller
 Cameya Latimore – Asst. Infant Teacher
 Darlene Harrison- Lead Teacher Toddlers
 Kenyauta Trimble- Asst. Teacher Toddlers

Priscilla Young- Lead Teacher 2's
 Rosalind Davis- Asst. Teacher 2's
 Lisa Brown- Lead Pre-K Teacher
 Sylvonica Lawrence- Asst. Pre-K Teacher
 Brandy Wilson – Asst. Teacher
 Barbara Towns – Kitchen Staff
 Marilyn Oliver- Kitchen Staff
 Will Parsons- Kitchen Staff

Board of Trustees

Anthony V. Ward- Board Chair
 Cynthia Oglesby- Secretary
 Henry Brown
 Evelyn Jones
 Tracey Miller

Advisors and Ex. Officio Members

Nikki Griffin
 Judy Grigsby
 Rose Palmieri