

DELAWARE INSTITUTE FOR  
*Excellence in*  
Early Childhood

### **Family Childcare Professionals Mobilize to Help Community**

In December, a group of family early childhood professionals worked on a service project to give back to our community after a difficult year. This idea was generated during a weekly Community of Practice meeting, a time when family early childhood professionals meet to support each other and share ideas. The group adopted the name “Family Child Care Angels” and decided, with the help of their Delaware Stars Technical Assistant, to conduct a food drive. The Family Child Care Angels group consisted of 17 family early childhood professionals.

The group worked together to create a flyer to generate interest. Each early childhood education program put out a collection box for their families to safely drop off donations. At the end of the food drive, they’d collected 33 containers of food! Technical Assistant Meghan Pallante dropped off the donations to the Food Bank of Delaware. During such a difficult time, when we are not able to be together physically, this gave the family early childhood professionals a chance to feel connected. Many of them expressed feeling joy and gratitude about being able to participate in this act of service.

Family Child Care Educator reflections:

“Participating in the FCC (Family Child Care) food drive gave me a feeling of GRATEFULNESS - to be grateful of what I have and being able to bless others.”- Desiree Bell, Children’s Laughter LFCC

“For us here at Sheila’s Dreams and Sheila’s Dreams TOO, it was a great pleasure to help the less fortunate at this time as we all try and safely navigate through this pandemic. We have been blessed to be able to be open and serve our community. We also look forward to doing it again.”- Stephanie Jackson, Sheila’s Dreams & Sheila’s Dreams TOO

“To me it’s important to serve the community especially when families and children are involved.”- Norami Perez, Lambs of Zion FCC

“It was a great honor and pleasure for me, my daycare children and families, and friends to participate in the FCC food drive. The opportunity was a great way to encourage children of all ages to give back to the community. It showed they can make a positive difference at any age. We look forward to adding this annually, to our list of give back events.”- Heather Wiktorowicz, Miss Heather’s Learning Center FCC

The Family Child Care Angels group plans to do another service project in the spring.