



NEWSLETTER

(Happy Back-to-School!)

A NOTE FROM DEIDRA



I love the back to school season, don't you? I hope you had a wonderful summer filled with fun, relaxation, and time with family and friends. I'm excited to start a new school year, one that is sure to be full of new adventures, challenges, and opportunities to learn and grow together.

We have quite a year ahead of us! We anticipate our CSC Downtown location operating at full capacity, our school district Head Start and Pre-K counts classrooms are buzzing with preparations for the first day, and the Early Learning Resource Centers have spent the summer meeting with families and childcare providers all in an effort to start the year strong.

At CSC, we strive to care for our team in a way that allows us to thrive together, serving hundreds of children and families across the Lehigh Valley and beyond. Our goal is to create an environment where everyone feels safe, supported, and encouraged to do their best. For CSC, this means children, families AND staff. Over the last 24 months, CSC has made a strategic effort to enhance our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion practices. We've conducted DE&I surveys and completed intensive management training. From these trainings, action learning projects have developed promoting stronger connections within CSC. While we all agree this is a great start, we also know that DEI is never complete. As an organization, we are committed to continuous evaluation and growth. More to come as we move forward with this critical initiative.

It's Gala time! We're busy preparing for our 2024 Annual Donley Awards & Gala! We hope you'll join us at Northampton Country Club on Friday, Sept 27th as we celebrate our community's fiercest advocates and supporters. As always, it promises to be a wonderful evening. More information at the end of the newsletter.

I hope you'll join me in wishing our staff well as they embark on a new program year. This work is fueled by our dedicated team of professionals who show up every day to make a difference for children and families. Their commitment is the heart of our mission, and our programs simply wouldn't be possible without them.

I'm honored to be a part of the CSC team.

Debra Z. Vachon
CSC President



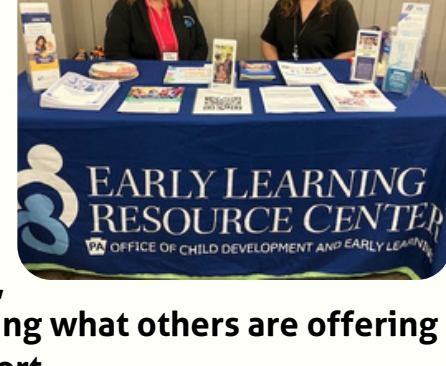
EARLY LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY LEARNING



This summer the Early Learning Resources Centers have been incredibly busy meeting families and childcare providers as they gear up for the start of the school year. The ELRC staff pride themselves on steadfastly focusing on collaboration, access, and partnership, and each of the regions made these pillars their priority. At CSC Downtown, collaboration and networking with Head Start staff

has increased significantly because of their new shared workspace, including establishing quarterly meetings between all staff, leading to better holistic support for families. Since the move in October 2023, staff have had 900 visitors! In Allentown, ELRC Region 14 hosted several PreK Counts Community Partners meetings, bringing together providers to share ideas and plan for future growth. Local organizations, such as DaVinci Center, WIC office, and Parent to Parent, have been invited to present to share the most up-to-date information with staff.

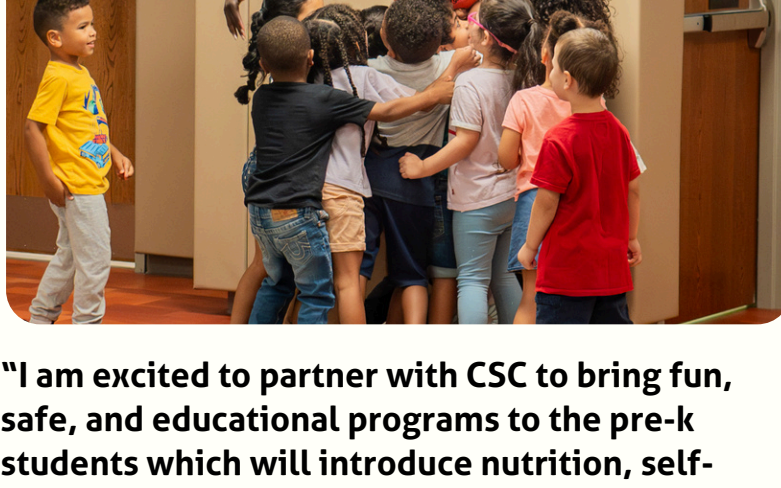


Across the network, staff from each region participated in community outreach events hosted by local partners. These events not only enable staff to meet families on the ground, they strengthen and bolster neighborhood networks. Knowing what others are offering in the community creates a stronger system for family support.

Visits to each region over the summer found staff to be energized and hopeful about the upcoming school year. They are ready to meet families and do everything they can to ensure their success!

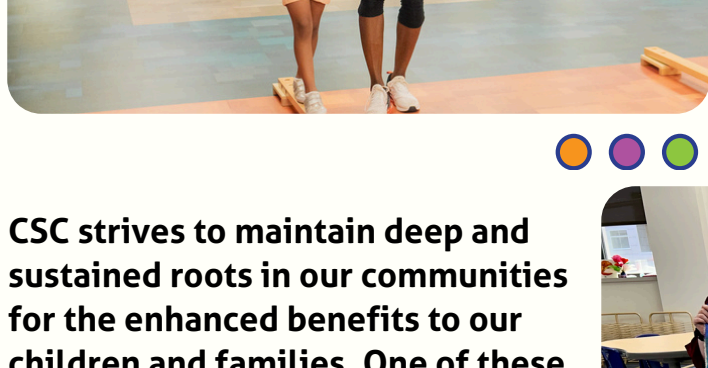
HEAD START

We are so happy to share that we operated a thriving 5-week summer program at CSC Downtown to enhance kindergarten readiness! Children attended academically rich classroom sessions to provide continuity during their summer downtime. Summer sessions allow a time for children to engage in social interaction, focus on building new skills and school confidence, and provides much needed structure and routine. Our children were also engaged with community partners such as ArtsQuest and Joetta Sports and Beyond.



Joetta Sports and Beyond, LLC, the organization founded by 4-Time Olympian, Joetta, joined our children and teachers to share her successful Head 2 Toe Fitness Program™. Joetta's program is all about celebrating and promoting health and wellness among our youngest Head Start learners, instilling the values of physical fitness and nutritional awareness.

"I am excited to partner with CSC to bring fun, safe, and educational programs to the pre-k students which will introduce nutrition, self-awareness and physical activities at an early age and make life-long beneficial habits," stated four-time Olympian, Author, Motivator and Entrepreneur, Joetta.



The enthusiasm was shared by Deidra, "CSC is grateful to Joetta and her team for sharing their expertise, talent and joy. Our young learners benefit immensely from spending time alongside our favorite four-time Olympian!"

CSC strives to maintain deep and sustained roots in our communities for the enhanced benefits to our children and families. One of these partnerships is the long-lasting partnership with The Allentown Art Museum (AAM). Our partnership, which was initiated in 2018, stands as one of AAM's most significant school collaborations.

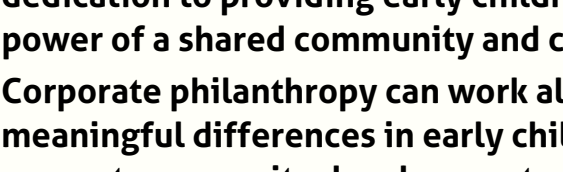


This past year, students, families and teachers worked with art educators at AAM providing classroom art sessions, professional development for educators, enrichment programs, and two parent events. Notably, CSC families frequently engage with the Museum, particularly for Arte y Español. And, after five years, our art culminated in a community exhibition!

As expressed so aptly by Nicole, Manager of Education at the museum, "Art is vital at every age, but especially so for the youngest members of our community. Art teaches us vital lessons about ourselves, our lives, and the world. I'm proud to see students grow, learn, and express themselves over the course of the year."

We are thrilled to have partnered with AAM over the years as they have graciously shared their expertise to provide arts infused education to our children, parents and teachers.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



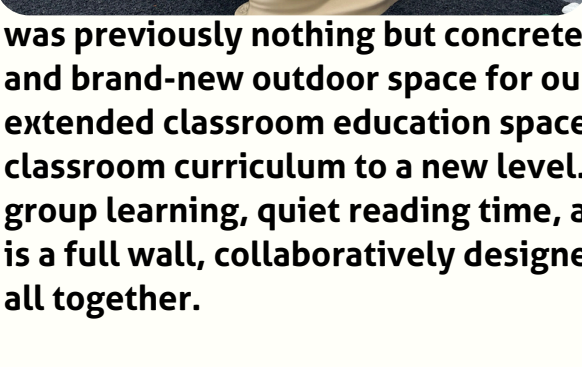
"Ready, Set, Grow!" How perfect is that phrase to describe a shared vision with Community Services for Children? This theme is at the heart of a new project that is now taking shape as part of the PNC Foundation's *Grow Up Great*® initiative.

This comprehensive, bilingual philanthropic initiative is designed to prepare children from birth to age five in school and life.

The relationship between CSC and PNC Foundation has the perfect synergy. PNC's initiatives focused on early childhood education and development, and CSC's dedication to providing early childhood education and family services exemplify the power of a shared community and corporate vision.

Corporate philanthropy can work alongside nonprofits to make meaningful differences in early childhood education and support community development, and we're seeing it firsthand.

Over the past 20 years, PNC has offered financial support, resources and materials, and volunteer engagement. From holiday drives, book drives, reading time in the classroom, supporting teachers, school readiness, hosting virtual field trips and more.



The next phase of our relationship has been under construction for several months and we couldn't be happier to share the news. It's been a secret that we're not so good at keeping!

Through a generous grant from The PNC Foundation, we are thrilled to announce CSC Downtown's newest adventure: The NatureScape. In the heart of Allentown, located in an area that was previously nothing but concrete and asphalt, now boasts an innovative, creative, and brand-new outdoor space for our children. An exciting fusion of outdoor play and extended classroom education space, this renovated area takes our immersive classroom curriculum to a new level. The NatureScape has designated spaces for small group learning, quiet reading time, and large group outdoor play. And, to top it off there is a full wall, collaboratively designed, nature mural to beautify the space and bring it all together.

"Through the PNC Grow Up Great initiative, we've been a long-time champion for high-quality early childhood education locally and across the country. Our relationship with CSC is a core component of our commitment to ensuring our future leaders are well prepared to succeed in school and beyond. PNC recognizes that outdoor play provides significant benefits for a young child's learning and development. We look forward to seeing this project become a reality in downtown Allentown at CSC," said Pete Danchak, PNC regional president for Northeast PA.

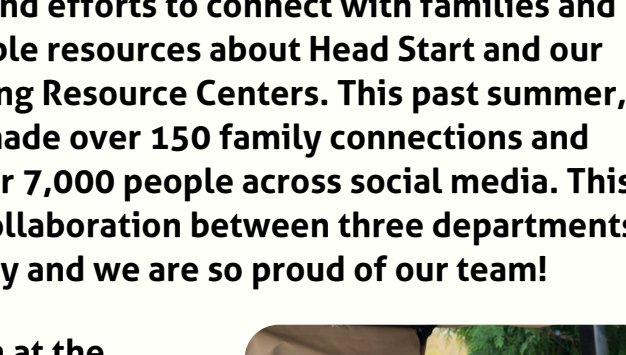
Together with PNC, we'll cut the ribbon on our new NatureScape on September 18, 2024, when the children return from summer vacation. We can't wait to witness the excitement and joy it brings. PNC Foundation, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you for understanding the needs of our children and caring enough to show them the very best. PNC and CSC have been partners for 20 years now - the longest-running PNC Grow Up Great connection in the Northeast - here's to 20 more!

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES & ADVANCEMENT



The Community Initiatives & Advancement team is incredibly proud of the most recent addition to the BUILD Health Challenge. Since April, our team has launched an afterschool program, Uplift. This program is designed to support the families in the Franklin Park neighborhood of Allentown.

Twice a week, CSC hosts this program in collaboration with colleagues from Valley Health Partners and Ripple Church. To date, over 300 meals have been distributed and we are seeing consistent children and families attend weekly. This program will continue through the fall and we are excited to see how the school year starts!



In partnership with Allentown Summer Playground Program, CSC outreach staff have continued their on-the-ground efforts to connect with families and share valuable resources about Head Start and our Early Learning Resource Centers. This past summer, staff have made over 150 family connections and reached over 7,000 people across social media. This effort is a collaboration between three departments in our agency and we are so proud of our team!

On April 29, 122 golfers joined us on the green at the gorgeous Northampton Country Club. What an incredible day! Many thanks to the volunteers, staff, and donors who made our annual Spring Golf Tournament a tremendous success. Save the date for April 28, 2025, we hope you can join us again at Northampton Country Club!



INTERESTED IN DONATING OR VOLUNTEERING?

If you are interested in donating to CSC, volunteering with our children, or getting a tour of our classrooms don't hesitate to reach out. Reach out to Gillian Smith Sharkey, Director of Communications & Advancement at gsharkey@cscinc.org or 610-437-6000 ext 2136.

[You can also donate online by clicking the link here!](#)



DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA TO STAY CONNECTED!

