

2020 FALL PROGRAMMING

REACH DANE



What's New

Fall Programs- Protect the Pod

October Head Start Awareness Month

New Trauma-Informed Care Positions

Advancing Racial Equity

Giving Tree

Protecting The Pod

CLASS SIZE CONUNDRUM

This first stretch of fall programming included joyous reunions and modified routines as we welcomed kiddos back to select sites and virtual care. Health protocols and social distancing are in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to our children, staff, and their own families. In our sensory and play environments, every precaution must be taken. The approach we adopted, protect the pod, involves reducing class sizes in our full day programs to five children in Early Head Start and ten children in Head Start with each classroom pod protectively siloed from one another. This measure, however, comes at an enormous financial cost to Reach Dane.

Preschool classrooms traditionally operate with 15 children that each receive a childcare subsidy. Our full day program expenses are paid with a blend of child care subsidy and Head Start grant dollars, and the current lower enrollment is significantly impacting our child care subsidy revenue. Throughout the pandemic we have been able to avoid layoffs or furloughs of staff thanks largely to one time COVID-19 funding from the Office of Head Start and State of Wisconsin. However, we anticipate that lower enrollment and increased expenses will continue in our full day programs for the foreseeable future, and additional funding will be needed to support these critical programs that provide full working day child care to our community's youngest and most vulnerable children.

The gap between revenue and expenses widens as we continue to protect the pod.



A Core Value is Communication: "We value ongoing transparent communication that supports connection".

Jen Bailey, Executive Director, sent an agency-wide request for willing staff to support full-day classrooms to allow space for teaching staff to support their own mental health.



#WiStartedHere

October is Head Start Awareness Month

CELEBRATE WISCONSIN'S IMPACT

Wisconsin Head Start Association encourages state-wide participation from its Head Start grantees. #WiStartedHere is a video project to capture the positive outcomes of Head Start alumni, parents, and staff. We hope it encourages struggling parents to enroll and promotes community support and congressional action. [Follow on our YouTube!](#)

Help celebrate and get involved!

- [Learn and share Wisconsin's 2020 Head Start Facts.](#)
- Share Head Start Awareness over social media. Follow our social channels and [use these images.](#)
- Encourage an eligible parent [to enroll](#). Applicants are entered into a giveaway of fun prizes on 10/24!
- Reach out if you are a Head Start alumni or parent and want to share your experience.
- [Make a donation](#) to our programs.

Child & Family Resilience Specialists

WELCOMING NEW POSITIONS

Four of our Family Outreach Workers recently transitioned into the newly created Child and Family Resilience Specialist (CFRS) positions to work more intensely with Head Start Preschool Parents. The CFRS will help parents to:

- Nurture children's social and emotional competencies including attachment/relationships, self-regulation and initiative.
- Strengthen their own social and emotional competencies.
- Learn parenting practices that promote children's overall safety and well-being.

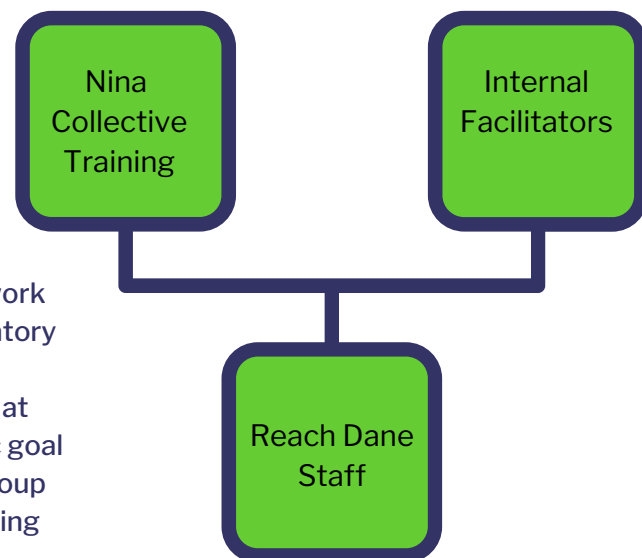


Advancing Racial Equity

IMPLEMENTATION

The internal work toward racial equity is already carving channels of responsibility, hope, and new leadership in our staff. Our work with [Nina Collective](#) so far included a mandatory all-staff training and the first Affinity group meetings. Participants have homework due at session 2 and leadership is deep in strategic goal setting to shape the years ahead. A small group of voluntary staff will receive intensive training to become internal facilitators at future meetings and moderate dialogue in our internal Yammer Race & Equity Group.

Last week over 20 Reach Dane staff members attended the yearly [YWCA Madison Racial Justice Summit](#) and shared a deeper understanding of the work yet to do and the inspiration blazing within our community.



A small group of Reach Dane staff will receive training by Nina Collective to co-facilitate and later facilitate Affinity groups

Community in Action

STAFF IN THE NEWS

- Shalicia Johnson, Reach Dane employee, discusses the Madison Black Lives Matters movement in "Through the Lens", in the August digital edition of BRAVA Magazine. She was selected as the featured photographer in the August issue where her work features powerful images of Madison residents speaking to the local Black Lives Matter Movement.
- Andrea Steliga, Family Advocate with Reach Dane, was interviewed by the Wisconsin State Journal to highlight diaper need and the work Dane County Diaper Bank is doing to combat this.

Giving Tree 2020

A VIRTUAL TWIST

Giving Tree 2020 is right around the corner! This yearly tradition brings community businesses and residents together to give to our 900+ children. In late December, enrolled child receives 2 toys and 1 book, BRAND NEW, gifted by their parent. This brings so much joy to both the parent and child.

Would your business or community center like to host a virtual and/or in-person Giving Tree?

Please contact jeverson@reachdane.org

Stay tuned on our website and social media pages for updates on how to gift toys for Giving Tree 2020.

Thank You, Donors

THANK YOU for your recent donations

Epic Employees, \$17,000 through employee giving program

Oak Bank, \$2,000 for program support

Mutual of America, \$1,000 for classroom supplies

*We have deep gratitude for your interest in our organization and the work that we do..
Please consider a donation to support our programming.*