A Message From Our Executive Director

"The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind." —Maria Montessori

The holiday season ushers in the New Year where we look at how far we have come to know where we will aim to go next. In this issue of News and Views, we do the same and invite you to share some highlights of our experiences in both the recent summer and current fall seasons. Read more

Gold Award for Team Excellence! GRQC 2022 Performance Excellence Awards

October 2022: Over 200 people attended the GRQC 2022 Performance Excellence Awards at Locust Hill Country Club. Three award categories were celebrated: Organizational Excellence, Customer Experience, and Team Excellence.

Children’s Institute’s Get Ready to GROW team was honored with a Gold Award for Team Excellence – Get Ready to GROW Referrals: Let’s “Close the Loop!” This was one of 9 Gold, 6 Silver, 1 Bronze, and 1 Pathfinder Team Excellence honorees. Read more and pictures

Children’s Institute Welcomes New Staff and Board Members

Venita Byrd
Executive Assistant
Lindsay Dryden, MS
Primary Project Coordinator
Krista Nicolaisen
Project Coordinator
Natalie Ramirez
Client Intake Coordinator, Get Ready to GROW

Introducing new Board Members

ROC the Future Announces New Leadership

Brian Lewis is the new ROC the Future Alliance executive director. He replaces Jackie Campbell, who retired as executive director after serving in that role since 2015.

Brian was recently introduced at an event at Monroe Community College. He spoke about the group’s mission to set kids up for success academically and in their future careers.

“This job, to me, means making sure that every young person in the City of Rochester is school-ready, is supported from cradle to career, and that they’re improving the outcomes for high school graduation rates, for literacy, and for all the things we know our young people need to advance and be successful in the City of Rochester,” Lewis said.

Lewis comes from a group called East Youth where he led efforts focused on juvenile justice and youth development. Press release

Sara White-Smith is the new director of the Whole Child Initiative at ROC the Future Alliance. She brings over 25 years of experience working with children and families in the greater Rochester region.

Sara comes to ROC the Future Alliance from the Bivona Child Advocacy Center where she served as the Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator, providing oversight of 23 partner agencies that made up the multidisciplinary team. Read more

Next Gen Leaders Join Our Team

We are excited to welcome our 2022-23 Youth Leadership Council (YLC) members to the Children’s Institute (CI) team. This group of young leaders, new CI employees, recently met for a kick-off retreat event where they got to know each other through interactive and engaging activities and learned about the Teacher Pipeline Project they will be working on. With funds from CI’s recently awarded Farash Foundation’s Teacher Pipeline Innovation Project grant, the group of “Next Gen” leaders will co-develop and deliver training, resources, and content for pre-service and existing teachers focused on how to build caring and supportive relationships with students. We can’t wait to see what this group will do!

Children’s Institute’s Young Children’s Wellness Council
A Prenatal & Post Partum Wellness Expo with guest speaker Dr. LeKeyah Wilson was presented by Children’s Institute’s Young Children’s Wellness Council. It was an educational day for families and babies with giveaways, refreshments, and more!

Released: RECAP 2021-22 Annual Report by Children’s Institute

Children’s Institute, in partnership with the Rochester City School District (RCSD) Office of Early Childhood, is pleased to announce the publication of the 26th annual report of the Rochester Early Childhood Assessment Partnership (RECAP).

This report marks the first full evaluation of Rochester’s pre-K system since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Highlights include:

- Pre-K student outcomes for the 2021-22 school year
- Family perspectives, including updates from the Caring Connections program
- Screening outcomes from the Brigance Early Childhood Screen and the Get Ready to GROW program

Read the full report
Find this report in the News item
Article in Minority Reporter
WROC News item

In-Person Training is Back!

Primary Project staff held fall training sessions for the Rochester City School District and 2020 Primary Project teams across the state in Pearl River, NY, and at Children’s Institute.

Support Children’s Institute

We truly value your commitment to Children’s Institute and your continued passion for children and families. Please support our Annual Appeal today by making an online donation; your gift will benefit every aspect of our mission: Joining together to raise every child’s complete wellbeing.

Donate Today!

Stay Connected!

Subscribe to News & Views and Receive the Latest Updates from Children’s Institute.