COMMUNITY REPORT 2016-2017





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DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

For over 45 years, Mile High Early Learning has been closing the achievement gap among Denver's most vulnerable children - ensuring that they have access to quality early care and education that inspires a lifetime of learning and self-sufficiency and prepares them for success in school and beyond. This past year was no different. Thanks to partners like you who make our work possible, we have many successes to celebrate.

As always, our most notable achievements are reflected in the experiences and accomplishments of the children who thrive at our early learning centers and their parents and caregivers who are served through our programs. Mile High Early Learning served over 9,000 children, ages 6 weeks to 5 years old, in 2017 through our seven early learning centers, two drop-in centers, and community programs.

Three of our key achievements of 2017 include:

• Receiving an Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Grant: Mile High Early Learning is one of only 10 new federal grantees in the nation. With this new partnership, we are expanding to provide comprehensive services to children in centers and family child care homes across Denver and Aurora – providing not only our premier early learning programming, but also enhanced health, social/emotional, nutrition, and family support services to children and their families.



• Achieving the Child Development Associate (CDA) Gold Standard for Our Innovative New Professional Development Program: Mile High Early Learning was awarded the CDA Gold Standard by the Council for Professional Recognition for the organization's training and student services provided in preparation for a career in early childhood education. In 2017, 43 individuals participated in Mile High Early Learning's CDA program – 40 percent employed by MHEL and the remainder employed by partner agencies. The CDA Gold Standard is a testament to the work we are doing to help solve one of our field's most intractable problems – the shortage of qualified early educators.



• Establishing a New Strategic Framework: Mile High Early Learning created a strategic framework informed by our community, government, and philanthropic partners, Board of Directors, staff, and parents that will provide guidance for the organization as we face exciting new opportunities to both grow our services and deepen our commitment to quality in the coming years.



We are grateful to everyone who joined with us to make this work possible and to help Denver's most vulnerable children succeed in school.

Cody Belzley Cody Belzley Board Chair Pamela Hawus Pamela K. Harris, PhD President & CEO

PROGRAM PROFILE 2016-2017 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED

Children Served:

627 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in seven core early learning centers

Family Income:

60% of the families were one-parent households

91% of families were living at or below the federal poverty level (\$24,300 for a family of four)

72% of families were working and13% were going to school

Ethnicity:

45% Hispanic

30% African American

12% European American

11% Multi-racial

1% Asian/Pacific Islander

1% Native American

Community Education Programs:

BABIES READY FOR COLLEGE:

646 children and caregivers served PLAY AND LEARN:

80 children and families participated SHORT & SWEET BOOK CLUB:

200 children and parents/caregivers participated

Drop-In Centers:

MHEL Centers serving clients doing business with the Denver Courts and Department of Human Services had a combined total of **7.635** child visits.

Mile High Early Learning operates seven early learning centers, two drop-in centers, and community education programs, all located in Denver.

EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

Edna Oliver, 2851 Tremont Place

2 Lowry Montessori, 957 Ulster Way

3 Northeast, 3503 Marion Street

4 Rude Park, 1275 Decatur Street

5 Sun Valley, 990 Alcott Way

6 Westwood, 980 S. Lowell Blvd.

7 SWIC, 1000 S. Lowell Blvd.

DROP-IN LOCATIONS

8 Denver Warm Welcome Court Child Care Drop-in Center, 520 W. Colfax Ave.

9 Good Beginnings Drop-in Center, 1200 Federal Blvd.





PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2016-2017

Child Outcomes:

- 85% of students achieved their school readiness objectives by the end of the year.
- Only 73% of children started with the skills they needed to be successful in school.
- **100**% of children received early intervention learning screenings; and 14% of children identified with special needs received services through an Individualized Education Plan.
- 100% of children had a medical home and health insurance and were current on immunizations and physicals.
- **96**% of children had continuous, accessible dental care; **90**% received preventive care.

Program Outcomes:

All early learning centers are rated a level 4 on Colorado Shines, the new Quality Rating and Improvement System, in recognition of the high quality of programming provided.

MHEL uses the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) to measure the quality of teacher interactions with children. The quality of teacher/child interactions showed growth in all domains: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support.

Staff Development:

Staff education achievements

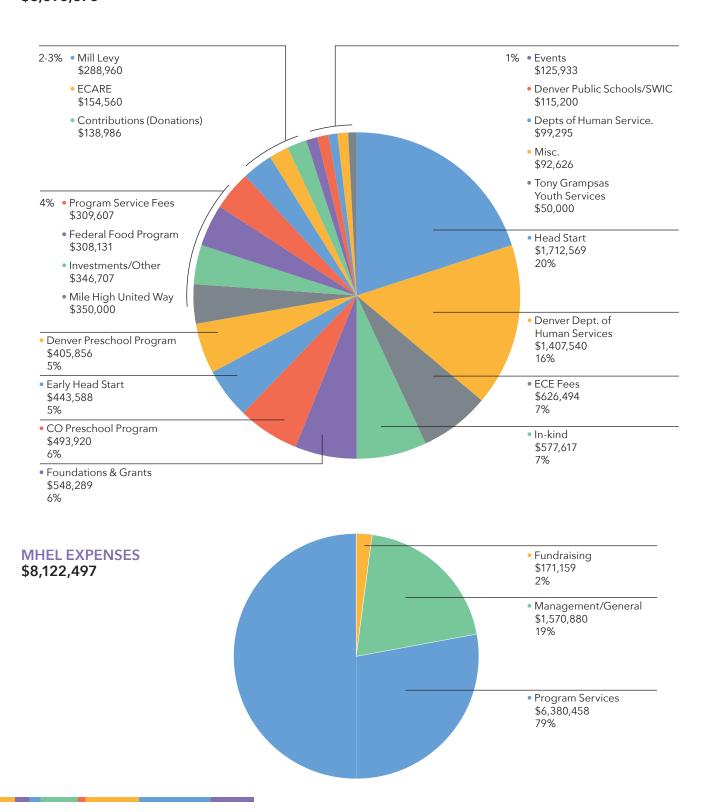
- 29 teachers with BA/BS (or higher)degree
- **12** teachers with AA degrees
- 7 staff are Montessori certified
- 4 staff received their CDA credential
- 13 staff completed 45 hours of training on the Pyramid Plus model that supports children's social/emotional development
- The 7th Annual weeklong MHEL Professional Development Institute was held in March 2017 offering staff the opportunity to engage in collaborative discussions and to attend a wide variety of workshops to cultivate their professional skills.



FINANCIAL PROFILE FY 2016-2017

MHEL REVENUE

\$8,595,878





2016-2017 DONORS & VOLUNTEERS

We gratefully acknowledge the following companies, civic groups, foundations and individuals for giving their resources so generously.

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