



**Minnesota Child Care
Resource & Referral Network
2008-2009 Annual Report**

**Child Care Matters:
Getting Minnesota on Track**

“ I am thrilled to see what a stand Minnesota is beginning to take on quality child care.

The opportunities to learn more and the resources available have really taken off!

I think more and more people in a position to make change are realizing it's not just the K-12 system that needs support. I am hopeful that this change in thinking will help families and child care professionals. Having well-trained caregivers they can count on is incredibly important for children's well-being.”

Cisa Keller is director of government and community relations for New Horizon Academy.



Child care has long kept Minnesota's economy moving and it will now provide the foundation for our state's economic recovery. Our working families and those hoping to return to work and school will depend on child care each day.

This year's annual report is filled with the stories of these families and the child care professionals working alongside them. I am proud to report that the Child Care Resource & Referral community has remained responsive to the changing and growing needs of those we serve. We have offered timely services that help families understand child care, afford child care and make increasingly complex child care choices. We have supported child care providers in their efforts to raise the quality of care they offer and weather difficult financial times. We are proud, now more than ever, to be the state's leading voice in child care education.

Join me in working toward quality care and education for every child,



Ann McCully
Executive Director



Child Care During Tough Times

“As soon as I was laid off, we were forced to take our children out of a child care program they loved. We are just hoping that when I find work again our provider, Joanna, still has room for us, and that she’s still in business. It’s a tough situation all around—we need Joanna because she’s been a part of our kids’ lives since the beginning. We also need care we can count on to work and find work. What I had never thought about is that Joanna needs us too—she needs families to keep her business going.”

Paul Lundgren called the Child Care Resource & Referral information line for help paying for child care and for guidance on easing his children’s transitions out of and back into care. He is still searching for work. The Lundgrens’ child care provider has lost three of eight enrolled families this year. She attends Child Care Resource & Referral classes designed to help keep her business strong and market her program during these sluggish economic times.



The Role of CCR&R

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) is a trusted resource for parents.

- This year, CCR&R counseled 4,219 parents living at or below the poverty line on their child care options.
- This year, CCR&R offered over 2,200 training classes to child care providers. These trainings included sessions on marketing, business management and child development.
- With current numbers of Minnesota children in licensed child care topping 367,000* and over 14,000 licensed/regulated care facilities operating in the state, child care is a key component of Minnesota’s economic and education picture.
- Minnesota parents invest in their children’s child care experiences. In 2009, parents paid an average of \$13,650 for infants, \$10,250 for preschoolers and \$8,700 for school-age children attending child care centers. Parents paid an average of \$7,600 for infants, \$6,583 for preschoolers and \$6,800 for school-age children attending family child care programs.

Parent and Child Care Professionals Shared Struggles in 2009

Mary Beth Polecki considers it her job to keep children in her care safe and healthy. This past year, she says, this role took on new importance. "This flu was a scary one for us. Making sure my program is a safe place and educating the kids about good health habits was more important than ever. I do feel proud of how this crisis was managed."

Despite the low wages child care professionals typically earn, child care bills added up to more than many parents were able to pay in 2009. Child care is the one area of the educational system in which we expect parents to foot the whole bill. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that child care workers earn an average of \$9.12 per hour.

The Role of CCR&R

CCR&R is a resource to child care professionals and parents during times of crisis.

– CCR&R agencies throughout Minnesota mobilized around a flu-free child care campaign in 2009.

– Minnesota has seen a net loss of child care programs across the state this year (with a total of 1,183 closings). Each closure represents the disappearance of a job, an experienced educator and the stability of close relationships that help children learn.





“Child care centers seem to have escaped the brunt of the H1N1 flu outbreak in Minnesota, surprising even the experts.”

– Minneapolis Star Tribune

“As families deal with layoffs and reduced working hours...day care providers across the Twin Cities area are feeling the pinch. Parents whose hours have been cut back are reducing the number of days their children are in day care.”

– St. Paul Pioneer Press

The State of Child Care in Minnesota

For Emily Davis and her 5-month-old son, Erik, child care is a necessity. A legal aid attorney, Davis struggled with the decision to leave Erik in child care. "I just couldn't imagine how we'd both adjust. I am really the center of his world and that's how it should be. I spoke with the staff at Child Care Resource & Referral and learned this is a very normal way to feel. They then connected me with Shining Stars Home Learning Center right in my neighborhood and on my way to work. Anna, our care provider, explained to me that she cares for children the way she'd like her own children to be cared for. She is committed to keeping Erik comfortable and loved so he can learn and grow. He squeals when he sees me in the afternoon. I am still the center of his world. Shining Stars has given him a comfortable and nurturing introduction to the bigger world. This makes it all work!"



The Role of CCR&R

- This year, 27,891 parents received child care referrals and information on quality through our personalized phone service or through mnchildcare.org.
- Over 700 parents received child care information in languages other than English.

- In Minnesota, 367,449* children currently attend child care.
- Research has shown that children's brains develop fastest during the early years (up to 90 percent of brain growth takes place between birth and age 5). If we are to improve our children's readiness for school and life, we must address the availability, affordability and quality of child care.

Empowering a Changing Field, Standing by Parents

CHILD CARE SERVICES FOR ARMY FAMILIES



“Child care issues during times of deployment can be a huge challenge,” explains Jennifer Becker, a working mother of two whose husband was recently deployed to Afghanistan. Following her husband’s deployment she needed full-time child care as well as occasional respite care. Child Care Services for Army Families, a program of the CCR&R, offers

soldiers help finding and paying for both types of care. “I rarely miss any time from work thanks to the financial support that these two programs have offered me. I found a provider in my area who helps families like ours with a deployed parent. She has been wonderful for my children and a great advocate for my husband and me. She understands the trying times we are facing while my husband is away.”

- There are currently 18,000 active duty Army Reserve and Army National Guard members in Minnesota. This number is expected to increase in 2010.

The CCR&R community is proud to partner with the U.S. Army Child, Youth & School Services and the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies to support Army families in Minnesota.

The Role of CCR&R

- In Minnesota, 568 child care professionals have been recruited to provide volunteer and subsidized care for our state’s military families. In 2009, child care professionals served more than 500 military families.
- The T.E.A.C.H. (*Teacher Education and Compensation Helps*) Early Childhood[®] MINNESOTA program awarded 166 scholarships this year totaling \$594,000.
- R.E.E.T.A.I.N. (*Retaining Early Educators Through Attaining Incentives Now*) awarded 131 workforce retention bonuses to child care providers totaling \$308,500.
- CDA (*National Child Development Associate*) credential support services and coaching were provided to 36 child care professionals.
- Eager-to-Learn held 101 classes this year for 1,380 participants. This represents a 68 percent jump in participants this year.

T.E.A.C.H. EARLY CHILDHOOD® MINNESOTA

Mary Jo Bjornson is a veteran family child care provider working in St. Paul. She recently received a T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® MINNESOTA scholarship, which allowed her to complete a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Development. "It is critical that policies and dollars are in place to educate child care providers. Most of our children are in child care and so the single greatest impact we can have on the lives of children is to educate their caregivers and teachers. T.E.A.C.H. did this for me. I feel rewarded and am proud to have graduated with honors and made lifelong friends along the way."

- Studies show that the quality of care and education T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipients deliver increases following their participation in the program.**

R.E.E.T.A.I.N.

(Retaining Early Educators Through Attaining Incentives Now)

Tami Rogers is a family child care provider with 18 years of experience. This year, she received a R.E.E.T.A.I.N. bonus designed to keep qualified professionals in the field. "My business is slow now. The missing income that R.E.E.T.A.I.N. has replaced has been a huge relief. I also appreciate the recognition. What matters is helping the children grow up with lots of love, caring and good self-esteem to become healthy adults. It's my hope to continue with this important work!"



NATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (CDA) CREDENTIAL

Sue Heitzman is an early childhood assistant with Head Start in St. Cloud. This year she received support, coaching and dollars as she worked toward her National Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential.

“My CDA work seemed overwhelming at first, but with the help of CCR&R it was something I could achieve. This support helped me gain new knowledge to take back to my center. Helping the children to learn and deal with struggles and conquer those things and watching as they progress is amazing. It is great to have this credential and the knowledge that goes along with it.”

EAGER-TO-LEARN

In 2009, Massiel Birk of Willmar, completed an intensive online course designed to empower her teaching and build a learning community of Spanish-speaking child care professionals. The Minnesota Child Care Resource & Referral Network offers the online learning program, Eager-to-Learn.

“We learned to encourage the early literacy skills that are so important for little ones to be successful in the future.”

FAMILY, FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR

Massiel’s class was made up of Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers. Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers provide legal, unlicensed care for children who are a part of their extended family, neighborhood or circle of friends. For many parents in Minnesota, FFN caregivers are the preferred type of care.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

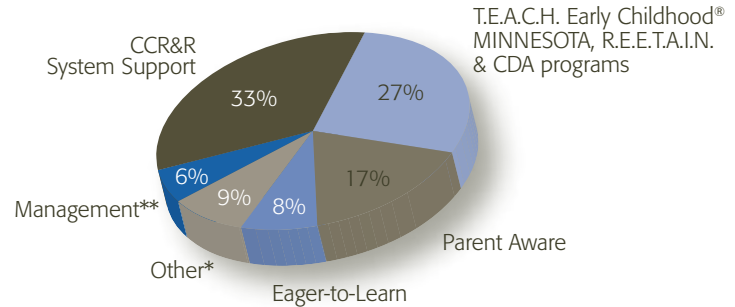
September 30, 2009 (With Comparative Totals for 2008)

	2009	2008
ASSETS		
Cash	\$1,203,571	\$ 1,130,140
Certificates of deposit	310,317	304,135
Grants receivable	697,263	665,423
Contributions receivable	7,500	125,000
Prepaid expenses	16,775	19,928
Total current assets	<u>2,235,426</u>	<u>2,244,626</u>
Equipment	67,548	67,548
Less accumulated depreciation	(50,686)	(42,331)
Net equipment	<u>16,862</u>	<u>25,217</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$2,252,288</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,269,843</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accounts payable	\$ 28,821	\$ 25,262
R.E.E.T.A.I.N. scholarships payable	191,000	228,000
Accrued expenses	78,835	70,043
Refundable advances	<u>1,361,378</u>	<u>1,216,268</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>1,660,034</u>	<u>1,539,573</u>
Net assets:		
Unrestricted net assets	412,811	412,445
Temporarily restricted net assets	<u>179,443</u>	<u>317,825</u>
Total net assets	<u>592,254</u>	<u>730,270</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u><u>\$2,252,288</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,269,843</u></u>

NETWORK EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM AREA 2008-2009



*Other includes statewide conference and Surge Support funds.

**Management includes: management, administration and fundraising costs.

2008-2009 Donors/Funding Sources

Beverly Foundation
 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation
 The McKnight Foundation
 Minnesota Department of Human Services
 The National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies
 Rochester Area Foundation
 The Ronald Fingerhut Family Foundation
 The Sheltering Arms Foundation
 STARS for Children's Mental Health
 Target
 WCA Foundation
 The Qwest Foundation

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the Year Ended September 30, 2009 (With Comparative Totals for 2008)

	2009			2008
	Unrestricted	Temporarily restricted	Total	
Support and revenue:				
Government contracts	\$2,525,668	\$ -	\$2,525,668	\$2,735,267
Contributions	-	57,000	57,000	273,000
Program income	91,124	-	91,124	60,606
Investment income	15,507	-	15,507	26,042
Miscellaneous	157	-	157	3,239
Net assets released from restrictions upon satisfaction of program restrictions	<u>195,382</u>	<u>(195,382)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total support and revenue	<u>2,827,838</u>	<u>(138,382)</u>	<u>2,689,456</u>	<u>3,098,154</u>
Expenses:				
Program services	2,676,242	-	2,676,242	2,845,251
Management and general	142,801	-	142,801	120,622
Fundraising	<u>8,429</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,429</u>	<u>6,971</u>
Total expenses	<u>2,827,472</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,827,472</u>	<u>2,972,844</u>
Change in net assets	366	(138,382)	(138,016)	125,310
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>412,445</u>	<u>317,825</u>	<u>730,270</u>	<u>604,960</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 412,811</u>	<u>\$ 179,443</u>	<u>\$ 592,254</u>	<u>\$ 730,270</u>

(A full copy of our audited financial statement is available upon request.)

A Growing Commitment to Quality in Minnesota

PARENT AWARE

A Rating Tool for Selecting Quality Child Care and Early Education

Because up to 90 percent of brain development occurs before age 5, the quality of child care and early education children receive is important. In an effort to help the community better understand which programs are delivering the type of quality, nurturing care that will prepare babies, toddlers and preschoolers for school, a group of community and public partners have launched Parent Aware: A Rating Tool for Selecting Quality Child Care and Early Education.

To date, 365 child care/early education programs have received or are in process of receiving Parent Aware ratings.

“An important new tool for the parents of the children dropped off at licensed day care providers in the state.”

Minneapolis Star Tribune

“A lot of people don’t come into this business with an education background but are fantastic at caregiving and would love to increase their skill levels in preparing children for kindergarten and bringing their program in line with what’s necessary. The Parent Aware stars are nice. But I think more than that, I know how hard I worked to earn the stars. Parent Aware could be the best thing to happen to family child care.”

Lisa Thompson, Parent Aware, Star Provider

“You do not get these early years back with your children. Part of my job as a parent is to ensure that I am helping my daughter receive the love and education she needs throughout her day at child care. Parent Aware helped me do this.”

Amina Djoury

MINNESOTA CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REGISTRY

The well-being of our state's children begins with parents and child care providers. With this in mind, the Minnesota Department of Human Services has partnered with Metropolitan State University and the CCR&R community to introduce the Minnesota Center for Professional Development. As Minnesota's training delivery system, the CCR&R community is proud to join this collaboration. The Registry provides new tools for better access to training and the ability to track, verify, document and market training accomplishments.

Phyllis Porter is the director of Mount Olivet Day Services, an intergenerational care program in Minneapolis founded in 1995. She has been an early childhood educator for 29 years. She proudly reports that her child care program has experienced no staff turnover in two years. Parents are committed to Mount Olivet and several, who are facing layoffs, have prioritized tuition payments in an effort to keep their children in the care of Porter and her staff. Porter has joined the new Minnesota Center for Professional Development Registry.

"Many child care professionals enter the field with little or no training. It is vital that they keep up with child development as well as all that is new to the field. The more options they have, the more they will offer to children. The process of approving trainings on the Registry allows people to know they are taking classes that are meaningful and well thought out. I am a trainer

myself and have had all my courses listed on the Registry. I am hoping that this will provide broader opportunities for me in that area. As a director, I am encouraging my teachers to sign up and am encouraged to see them so excited about this new process of delivery."

CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS, BY THE NUMBERS

A growing number of Minnesota child care professionals speak languages other than English. In 2009, over 2,000 child care providers advertised bilingual or multilingual care through the CCR&R caregiver database.

Supporting and educating these child care providers in their home language is a priority of the CCR&R community. This year, 86 trainings were offered to child care providers speaking languages other than English.

"It was important for this class to be available in Spanish, the language in which we're most comfortable. We face daily language challenges and these sessions provide a safe space for us to ask questions and gain skills in accessible ways. The child care providers participating in this class are now a community of friends and educators and we are exceeding our own expectations."

Olga Ahumada-Forero, Eager-to-Learn coach

CCR&R is an important partner in building child care quality.

- This year CCR&R sponsored or cosponsored 2,229 trainings and conferences for 34,484 child care professionals.
- Over \$2 million in grants helped child care providers improve their programs and keep their businesses viable.

CCR&R is an essential community partner and information source.

- This year, 3,933 Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers received education and/or grant dollars through their local CCR&R agency.
- CCR&R staffers created and sustained critical community relationships across the state. Our goal is to partner with other organizations to reach out to those in need of child care/early learning information and ensure that child care issues are among those addressed by Minnesota communities.

SOURCES:

*Estimated number of children who spend some portion of their day in a licensed/regulated care program. Wilder Research. Child Care use in Minnesota: 2004 statewide household child care survey. 2004.
Note: 2006 American Community Survey. Estimates subject to sampling error. Please refer to source documentation for more information: <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

**National Center for Children in Poverty. Impact of Training and Education for Caregivers of Infants and Toddlers. 2006

Minnesota Child Care Resource & Referral Network. Data Tracking Program; NACCRR Aware

Wilder Research. Child Care Resource and Referral: Results of Referral Outcomes Follow-up Surveys, July 2008 through June 2009. 2009

Wilder Research. Child Care Workforce in Minnesota: 2006 Statewide Study of Demographics, Training and Professional Development. 2007

Wilder Research. Family, Friend and Neighbor Caregivers: Results of the Minnesota Statewide Household Child Care Survey. 2006



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The Minnesota Child Care Resource & Referral
community helps families find child care and
understand their care options, supports child care
providers through grants and education and informs the
community on the importance of child care.

