



EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCE CENTER

A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System

1718 CLEVELAND AVENUE NORTHWEST
CANTON, OHIO 44703

ecresourcecenter.org

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Early Childhood Resource Center is to promote the healthy development of young children by strengthening families, improving the quality of early learning experiences, increasing school and community readiness, and informing public policy.

CENTER HOURS

Monday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Center is closed on weekends.

877.691.8521

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ECRC Community Chronicle

EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCE CENTER :: Winter News 2018

TRAINING IN ACTION: ROSE'S STORY



When she was 61, Rose Ebner decided to return to child care after a 20-year break. She opened Akron's Once Upon a Daycare in late 2016. She's now in the process of changing its name to Once Upon a Childcare, after learning about the early childhood

concept that *we care for children, not days.*

When Rose started her latest journey, she was skeptical about just how different early childhood practices are now, and especially about Step Up To Quality requirements. But she's since embraced the changes. She's enthusiastically in favor of developmentally appropriate practices, and she values learning about the conditions young children need in order to thrive.

In the past year, Once Upon a Daycare earned its first Step Up To Quality star, thanks to Rose's hard work and guidance from Early Childhood Specialist Tina Lemon. Rose is a huge advocate for her staff as well; she's taking Child Development Associate (CDA) classes right alongside three of her staff members. When her first staff member began the classes, she started improving her lesson plans and classroom environment accordingly. Rose was

Pictured above, Rose Ebner with her students.

astonished to see that classroom become a model for others. The children eagerly seek out the quiet reading nooks and designated science area. A toy and puzzle rotation system reduces overstimulation and enhances play and learning. Dramatic play areas with dress-up vests spur imaginative play. The children have responded positively and naturally to the improvements. The staff members are excited and motivated to continue the work.

Rose is encouraging all her teachers to earn their CDAs, and she's making sure the center as a whole continues to improve. She's even installed a SMART Board that keeps parents updated on the center's progress toward earning three stars, which is her most ambitious goal yet.

Tina sees Rose's story as a true testament to the Early Childhood Resource Center's power to enhance the lives of providers, and in turn, the families they serve. ♦

Rose is just one of more than 180 providers taking Child Development Associate classes through the Early Childhood Resource Center. Learn more at bit.ly/SUTQmatters

ECRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The ECRC Board of Directors plays an important role in providing fiscal and legal oversight, making policy decisions, conducting strategic planning, and more. Chosen for their professional expertise and understanding of early childhood issues, each board member can serve a maximum of three three-year terms.

Back in May, we asked parents, educators, and community members throughout our six-county service area to tell us about their experiences with the Early Childhood Resource Center and about how we can serve you in the future. We appreciate the input we received from all who took the time to respond. Here's a brief summary of your responses, and our plan to meet your needs:

Professional Development

- In response to stated training needs, we will offer a three-part training series on early literacy.
- We are organizing an administrators' conference that will include sessions on human resources and on how to run and sustain a high-quality program.
- In spring 2019, we will be offering a conference focusing on trauma-related topics.
- Our Strengthening Families Coordinators are helping child care centers in nine counties to institute trauma-informed practices that support children and families.

Step Up To Quality

- We are ensuring that outreach and technical assistance more readily meet providers' stated needs and support as many programs as possible in earning an initial star rating, maintaining a star rating, or increasing a rating.
- Because 40% of staff at responding centers have a high school diploma or GED, we doubled the number of Child Development Associate offerings to meet the demand.
- We have launched new programs like SUTQ SOS, which is offered in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to support providers who need licensing support. The program helps providers reduce the likelihood of serious and moderate risk non-compliances.

Parent Engagement

- We will continue making our parenting education classes as convenient as possible, by keeping programs free for participants, scheduling classes at varied times and in varied locations, and offering free child care.
- We will continue our *Follow the Stars* public relations campaign to inform parents why it's important to choose high-quality care and how to find high-quality care that meets family needs.

The full needs assessment is available at bit.ly/ECRCneeds. In accordance with all respondents' most-cited communication preferences, we will continue communicating to educators, families, and the community via social media, email, and our website—and via this newsletter as well.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL HOWARD, ECRC BOARD CHAIR



SCOTT HASSELMAN, ECRC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SPARK IN THE NEWS



Ideastream's M.L. Schultze recently covered our SPARK kindergarten readiness program, focusing on the SPARK experience of four-year-old Elijah Rowland and his mom, Alisha.

Schulze discusses the SPARK program's growth and results, as

well as the crucial element that really makes SPARK work: the relationship between the family and the SPARK parent partner, the specially trained home visitor who works with the family to get the child ready for school. On the day Schultze features, little Elijah is proud to show his parent partner, Missy, that he can write his name all by himself. He's bolstered by encouragement from his biggest fan: Alisha, who reminds him, "You did it yesterday. I know you can do it." Her encouragement works wonders: empowering parents to become their children's greatest learning advocates is the main focus of SPARK.

Schultze also details the crucial partnership between SPARK and the schools. Schreiber Elementary School Principal Aaron Bouie is a strong supporter, claiming he can tell which students were SPARK kids, because their self-confidence stands out. And their parents' does, too. [Read more: bit.ly/SPARK15](http://bit.ly/SPARK15) ♦

Year After Year: SPARK Works!

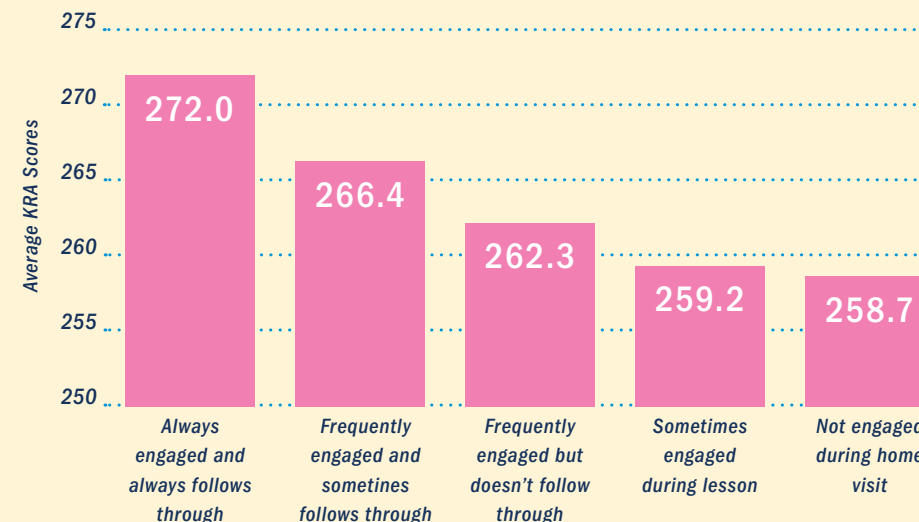
This year's independent evaluation results show, for the 13th consecutive year, that participating in SPARK gives Ohio's children the school readiness edge they need.

Read the latest evaluation report: bit.ly/SPARKOhioEval17

PARENT ENGAGEMENT: THE "SECRET SAUCE"

It's clear that parent engagement is the key to SPARK's effectiveness. When parents are more engaged, their children start kindergarten more ready to succeed.

OHIO SPARK FAMILIES: 2017 PARENT ENGAGEMENT IMPROVES KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT SCORES



From left: Sharell Burnett, Sonya Dillard, and Early Childhood Specialist Jennifer Scott.



Innovative Community Partnership is a Big Win for Participants and the Community

The City of Canton has awarded \$40,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to the Early Childhood Resource Center for a year-long program that's helping Canton residents start their own family child care businesses.

The program, which began in August, paves a career path for participants while increasing the amount of high-quality child care that's available to the community.

The Early Childhood Resource Center worked with the Stark County Department of Job and Family Services to identify seven participants who are interested in pursuing early childhood careers, either own or rent a single-family home, and have passed a background check.

Early Childhood Specialists are helping them earn the Childhood Development Associate credential while becoming licensed to provide in-home child care for up to six children.

Once they're credentialed and their home facilities are ready, they'll receive individualized guidance over several months to help them qualify for a high-quality rating through the state's Step Up To Quality child care rating system.

Those high-quality ratings are important for both parents and providers: higher quality care increases children's school readiness, and high-quality providers receive higher state reimbursement than providers who are merely licensed.

Program participants hope to have their family child care businesses operational by the end of 2018, and they hope to earn their first Step Up To Quality star by the end of next summer.

SHARELL & SONYA *are working toward careers in early childhood. The Early Childhood Resource Center is helping them get there.*

Sharell Burnett

While Sharell isn't a mom, she's taught dance and art for years and is an artist herself. The mother of one of Sharell's dance students suggested she consider early childhood after seeing her daughter gain confidence through Sharell's teaching.

She loves learning educational theory and terminology; she's already starting to see the bigger picture of how children's brains develop. She's finding it helpful to learn about how children acquire knowledge; she didn't expect the process to be so complex.

Sharell can't wait to learn about the differences between scheduling and lesson planning, and about how a curriculum can help keep children on track. She's also looking forward to using the arts to help the children in her care explore their feelings and abilities.

Sonya Dillard

Sonya feels she's a natural caregiver. Growing up, she helped raise her siblings. Since then, she's raised her own three kids, is a grandmother to 17, and has long served as the "neighborhood mom" for many children living nearby. She loves to listen, nurture, and help children develop. They seem to gravitate to her, and to her "office"—the kitchen she uses to both soothe and teach.

Sonya loves learning early childhood terminology, as well as the actual concepts that apply in specific caregiving situations. She wants to learn licensing rules, so she can apply them to what she's already doing. Since caregiving has long been part of her life, she's looking forward to getting paid for it!

Sonya's thrilled that, months down the road, when she has questions about how things are done, Early Childhood Specialist Jennifer Scott will be on hand to answer questions and provide individual guidance. ♦

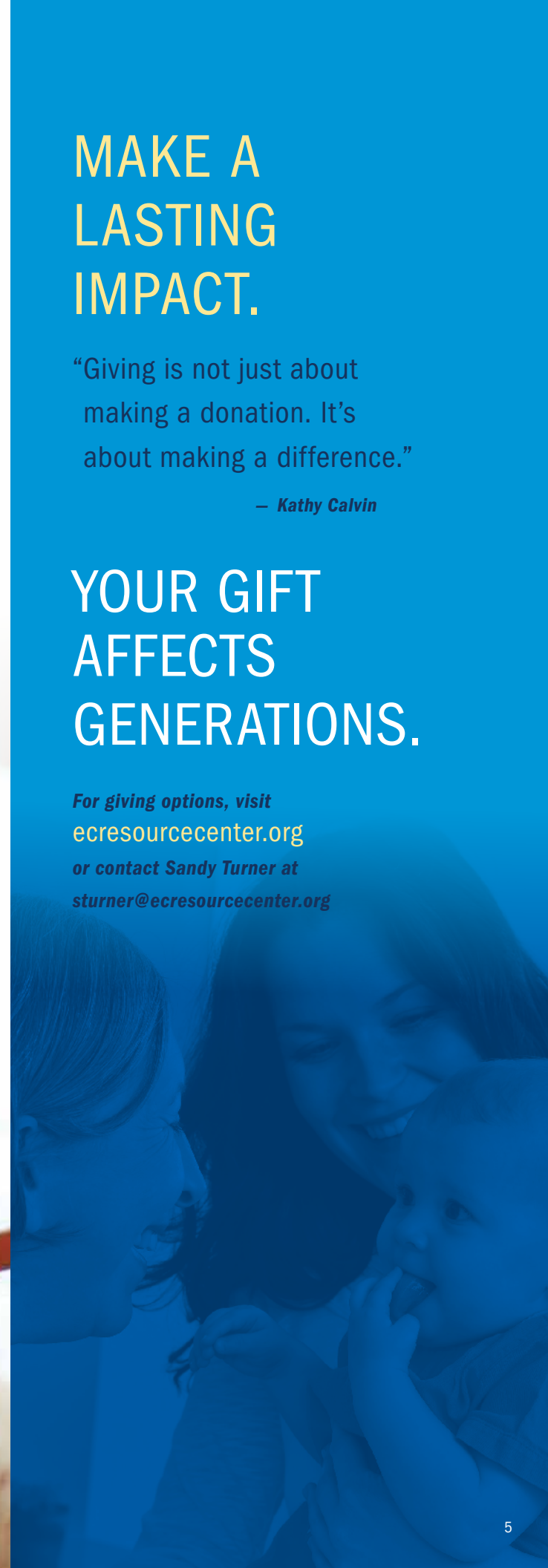
MAKE A LASTING IMPACT.

"Giving is not just about making a donation. It's about making a difference."

— Kathy Calvin

YOUR GIFT AFFECTS GENERATIONS.

For giving options, visit ecresourcecenter.org or contact Sandy Turner at sturner@ecresourcecenter.org



REACHING
OUT

NEWS BRIEFS

FIVE MINUTES FOR MOM

Our third annual *Five Minutes for Mom* women's luncheon featured a presentation by psychologist Sara N. Sayre, PhD, who discussed strategies for communicating and being present with young children.

Special thanks to committee members Jennifer Deuble, Evrim Fulmer, Amanda Kendle, Chrissy Rice, and the 60 women who attended!



Psychologist Sara N. Sayre, PhD



REALLY BIG THANKS!

We thank all those who sponsored, attended, and volunteered to make the *Big, Big, Really Big Toy Box* such a fun family event this year!



SPARK STATEWIDE MEETING

SPARK personnel from all over the state came together on October 12 for an energizing day of networking, sharing, and learning. Many thanks to the Ashland City School District for hosting this informative event, to presenters Linda Sklar and Brenda Brumbaugh for the marvelous training on speech and language acquisition, and to Quota International of Canton for its grant to support the day.

