



At the Bronx Zoo

Where
Children
Learn
to Love
Learning

OSSINING CHILDREN'S CENTER

Highlights



HABITATS

Our Pre-Kindergarten children expanded their unit on habitats and climate zones. They made individual shoe-box dioramas to depict varying environments, and then took a trip to the Museum of Natural History to see the life-size versions of these amazing natural scenes.



Winter diorama

Our entire staff attended the New York State Association for the Education of Young Children Conference this year and we have



Sensory learning with bubbles



Infants wash their cars



Toddlers explore trains

incorporated many new experiences promoting learning: from having infants wash their own toys with sponges or bubbles at the sensory table; to toddlers

Thanks to OCC's generous donors and community supporters, OCC has stayed on the cutting edge of early childhood education and after-school enrichment this past year.

and young three-year-olds learning in detail about planes, boats and trains.

The program for older three-year-olds has also been updated, facilitating the transition to pre-kindergarten -- specifically by using new processes to promote early recognition of print and number concepts such as one-to-one correspondence.

Fall 2016

www.ossiningchildrenscenter.org



Touchscreen Smart Board in pre-k class

Our pre-kindergarten program has embraced the newest educational technology. We installed two state of the art touchscreen Smart Boards. These enable teachers to use computer-based lessons in calendar work, mathematics, social studies and pre-reading, etc. We also purchased additional iPads that our children can use for the new Building Blocks computer-based math curriculum.

The pre-k classes also benefited from a new collaboration, namely the Jacob Burns Center's Preschool "Image, Sound and Story" program, in which the children functioned as writers, actors, and filmmakers. In this program, the youngsters learned to develop a logical, progressive storyline which they later enacted and filmed using their own iPads.



High Tech-High Touch Learning



Lego Robotics



Jacob Burns Center: Image, Sound and Story, a pre-school storytelling program

Remember OCC!

Imagine what the Children's Center might accomplish a generation or two from now if our current supporters also remembered OCC in their wills? Please consider OCC in your estate planning.

Consult your financial advisor about how you can take care of your heirs while also leaving a legacy to OCC. Our legal title is "Ossining Children's Center, Inc."



Cardboard and rice honeycomb

The Kindergarten class has had a variety of new learning experiences. They spent an intensive three weeks studying the life cycle, hive structure and social hierarchy of the honeybee. The children then made a larger-than-life bee comb out of cardboard tubes with rice representing the eggs. Also, for the first time, our Kindergarten class used seeds rather than



Greenburgh Nature Center

Exploring the World Around Us



Growing plants from seed

seedling plants for our vegetable garden. After nursing the sprouts for several weeks, they transplanted them to the garden.

Under the guidance of our new School-Age Enrichment Program Director Ana Kabashi our school-age staff has continued to expand the ways that the curriculum builds on academic skills. The children used the internet to study the Native American Sint Sinck, the original inhabitants of Ossining, and then illustrated the tribe's pictographs on a 7-ft. by 6-ft. hand-stitched appliqued quilt. They also have become involved in playing intense games of floor chess. Finally, the staff has instituted a wonderful student-to-student math tutoring program in which the 5th and 6th graders are supporting the younger children.

Our Center has also expanded its team of visiting specialists. In addition to our usual fare, this year we enjoyed concerts by the NYC Funkjam Band, as well as Ginny Hill, a guitarist whose specialty is performance for young children. Mike Risko and family treated the Kindergartners to a presentation about stringed instruments followed by a string trio performance. Teens in St. Ann's Youth Group held

a carnival for our younger students. Our school-agers benefited from the generosity of the Taveira family who hired a computer specialist to provide the children with multiple opportunities to engage in Lego robotics. Finally, we kept fit with preschool movement classes with Susan Griss, Yoga with Beverly Spencer, and hip-hop classes for school-agers by our own Tangi Walker.



Susan Griss:
preschool movement class

Excursions beyond Ossining this year included trips to see the Nutcracker, Bounce U, the Greenburg Nature Center, and Barton Farms for apple picking. The children had the opportunity to see 12-foot-tall mastodon fossils at the Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum.

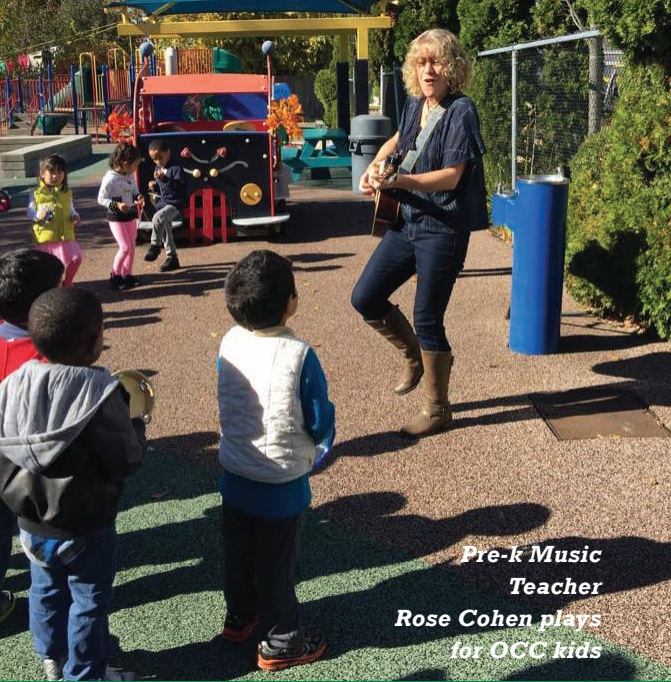
With help of Dawn Greenberg, OCC participated in voter registration. And, to celebrate African American Heritage Month, school-agers performed a routine at the Ossining Public Library created by dance specialist Beverly Spencer.

OCC Family Involvement

Opportunities for family involvement have also expanded in the past year. Through our community partnership with Neighbors Link, we hosted a 5-day, 15-hour Eco-Cleaning Training for individuals hoping to start or improve housecleaning businesses, including use of eco-safe products. Our parents also participated in Open Door’s food shopping experience, “Cooking Matters Grocery Store Tours.” Finally, our Parent Committee sponsored a first-ever Center-wide free family movie night including a pasta/pizza dinner.



OCC kids dance
for African Heritage Month
at the Ossining Public Library



Pre-k Music
Teacher
Rose Cohen plays
for OCC kids



Field Trips and Guest Teachers



OCC thanks parents, donors and local community supporters!



Our thanks to the parents who created and ran events that promoted a new level of family participation at the Center this year. And, our sincere gratitude to the many loyal donors, community members and agencies whose contributions and participation helped provide OCC’s services to working families.



St. Ann's Youth Group:
Carnival for OCC children



NYC Funkjam Band



Mid-Hudson
Children's Museum



Learning to swim
at Briarcliff's Law Park pool



OCC Executive Director
Howard Milbert with
Dine A Round Honorees
Marilyn and Richard Wishnie



Chinese New Year Banquet
at Darryl and Cha Moy's



Renowned chef Peter X. Kelly, here with Sue Bicksler Taub,
introduced his signature vodka, "Slovenia," to Festive Stroll
participants at Holbrook Cottage.

Staff News

Tangi Walker, one of our after-school teachers, has just received her Master's in Social Work from Fordham University.

Lina Sanchez, our head teacher in the infant room, obtained her Associates Degree from Westchester Community College.

Rosa Rojas, the head teacher of our young three-year-olds, has enrolled in a program to become a teacher of English as a second language.

Teaching Assistants Blanca Gallego and Chistina Collantes received their Child Development Associate Certification, which was paid for through a QUALITYstarsNY grant.

OCC also is very pleased to announce that we have hired Vik Gupta, Financial and Operations Consultant, to serve as our CFO on a part-time, consulting basis. Vik, who was recommended by our auditor, has already instituted a number of measures to make our business operations more cost effective and efficient, and he provides welcome expert advice for our dedicated office staff when they need it.



Events Fund Scholarships & Enrichment

Festive Stroll 2015

The November 2015 Festive Stroll featured a tour of three homes decorated for the holidays and raised \$152,000 for child care scholarships. Huge thanks to our designer/sponsors: Sue Bicksler Taub and Chris Child of Holbrook Cottage, John Gualtiere of Hudson Landscapes, and Roberta Socolof of Hudson Interiors; and to the homeowners who graciously opened their homes for the tour.

Chinese New Year Banquets

An annual favorite, Darryl and Cha Moy's Chinese New Year Banquets raised \$2,900 for OCC scholarships this year. Thank you to Darryl and Cha and to their sons for again hosting two delectable banquets to benefit the Center. We also thank the generous old and new friends who paid to attend. As always, the food was out of this world.

Dancing for the Children

An amazing team of Briarcliff High School students led by Jasmine Bar raised nearly \$5,000 for our enrichment programs through "Dancing for the Children," a concert with performers from many Westchester dance studios. The April event featured a variety of dance genres: classical ballet, modern dance, Irish step dance, traditional Indian dance, and Bollywood. Also featured: a great a cappella singing group and a martial arts demonstration.

Dine A Round

The traditional "Dine A Round" was brought back by popular demand to wrap up a year of celebrations commemorating OCC's 120th anniversary. The June event included a tribute to beloved community leaders Marilyn and Richard Wishnie. Kimberly and Stuart Woody hosted the cocktail party, after which guests scattered to 14 local homes for the entrée and dessert courses of the meal. The event raised \$162,000 for child care scholarships.



OCC's 4-Star Rating Reaffirmed

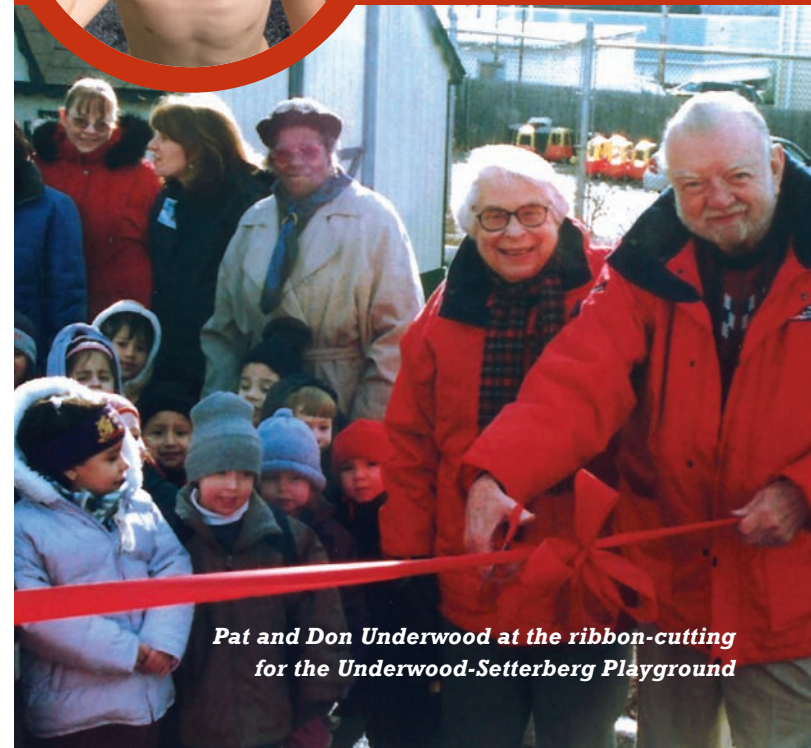
QUALITYstarsNY is a voluntary quality improvement and rating system for early childhood programs in New York State that serve children from birth through age five. OCC was rated using research-based, culturally responsive standards developed by leading early education experts for Learning Environment, Family Engagement, Qualifications and Experience, and Management and Leadership.



People Who Make a Difference

In Memoriam: Don Underwood

One of OCC's most joyful champions, Don Underwood, died at his home in Tucson, AZ, in June. Don's long tenure on OCC's Board was marked by his intelligence, humor and insight. As Chair of the Investment Committee, he used financial acumen honed at Merrill Lynch to protect and grow OCC's investments. Don contributed to and raised funds for OCC's spectacular, preschool Underwood-Setterberg Playground named in honor of his and his wife Pat's mothers. He traveled all over Westchester for ideas to ensure our kids had the best outdoor play environment. Don's widow Pat asks that memorial contributions be made to the OCC Playground Fund. There will be a memorial gathering at Shattemuc Yacht Club in Ossining in Fall 2016.



Pat and Don Underwood at the ribbon-cutting
for the Underwood-Setterberg Playground



SAVE
THE
DATE!

SEASON OF LIGHTS:
A TIME FOR ENTERTAINING

LUNCHEON AND SILENT AUCTION

Friday, November 18, 2016, 11 AM
Sleepy Hollow Country Club

The best moments of our lives often happen at special occasions with friends. Some of our community's most imaginative hostesses will create an array of holiday tabletop designs and entertainment ideas. A silent auction will give you the opportunity to take home your favorite design or entertainment experience to share.

Income Needed for OCC in 2016-17

Parent Fees	490,000
Gov't. Subsidies for Children	565,000
NYS Full Day Pre-K Support	360,000
Investment Earnings	76,600
Restricted Gifts & Grants	38,500
Scholarships & Unrestricted Gifts*	663,500
.....
2016-17 Operating Budget	\$2,193,900

***Gifts
Needed**



Please Support OCC

Your generous contribution will provide child care tuition assistance for low and moderate income working families:

- Building resilient families by enabling parents to be effective breadwinners and role models;
- Empowering children to reach their potential in school and, ultimately, in adult life;
- Strengthening our entire community.

Go to "www.ossiningchildrenscenter.org"
& click on "Donate."

Send a check, payable to *Ossining Children's Center*,
in the enclosed envelope.

Make a tax-free gift from your IRA

Individuals 70.5+ and older can consult their financial advisors about transferring funds from their individual retirement accounts (IRAs) to OCC as untaxed income.

Make your gift by Dec. 31, 2016
to qualify for the 2016 tax year.



Why YOU Matter

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Ossining Children's Center

90 S. Highland Avenue
Ossining, NY 10562
914.941.0230



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