

**ASSOCIATED EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION**



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **FISCAL YEAR 2013**

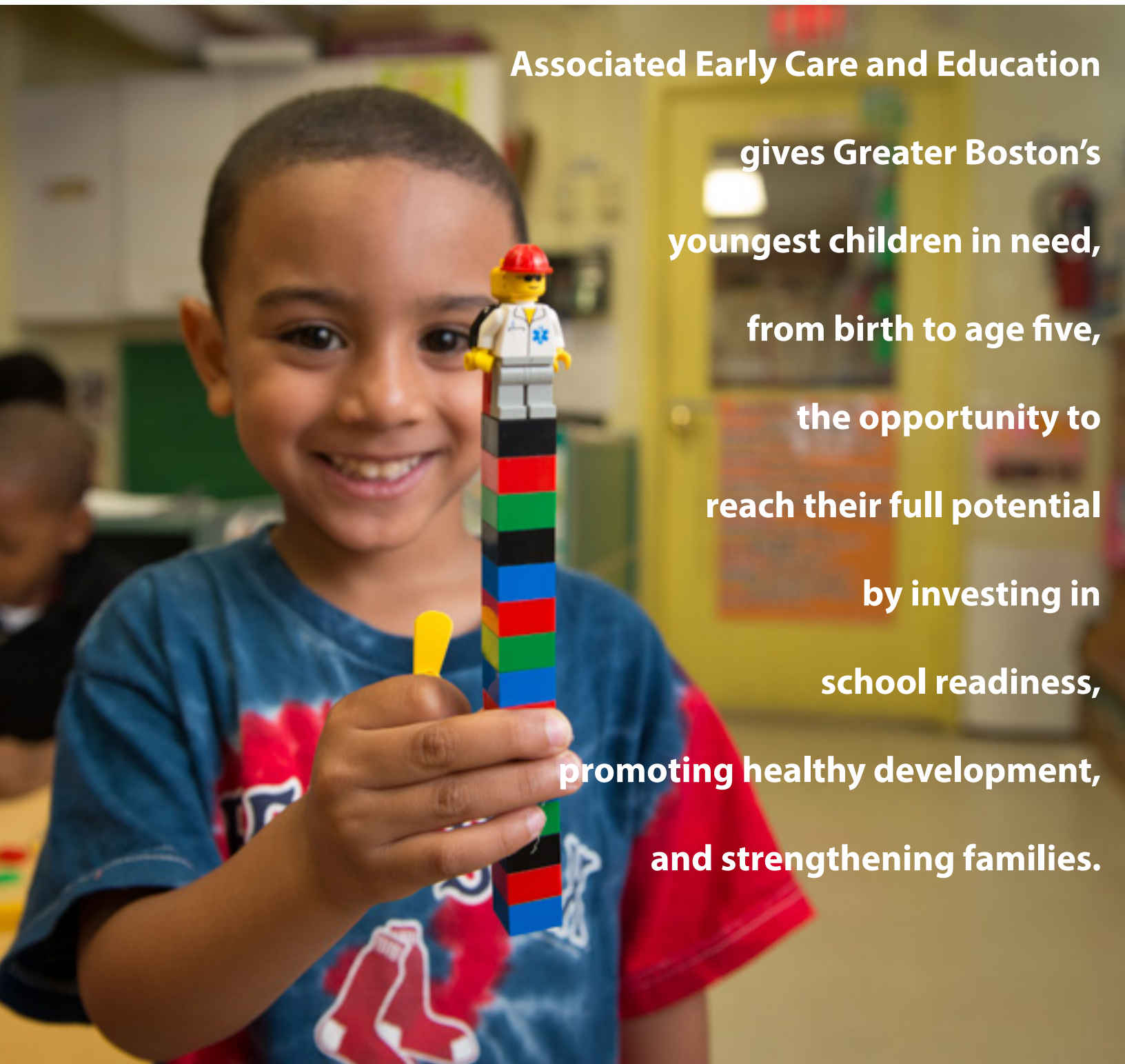


# **INTRODUCING:**

## **The Learning Center at Bromley-Heath**



# MISSION



**Associated Early Care and Education**

**gives Greater Boston's**

**youngest children in need,**

**from birth to age five,**

**the opportunity to**

**reach their full potential**

**by investing in**

**school readiness,**

**promoting healthy development,**

**and strengthening families.**

Photo credit: Peter Goldberg

# WORDS FROM WAYNE

## Dear Friend,

Let me begin with a thank you: our supporters have given more of their time, energy, and funds to our children and families than ever before. For the first time in Associated's 135-year history, our Annual Fund has bubbled over the \$200,000 mark in a fiscal year. You made that happen.

In November, we had a fantastic groundbreaking ceremony, at which state representatives and thought leaders spoke in front of a packed audience, for our new state-of-the-art Learning Center in Bromley-Heath housing development. Construction on the new Learning Center began in December. CWC Builders is working diligently to not only erect the building, but also to engage and hire minorities and women, including Bromley-Heath residents, on the construction project.

Developing this Learning Center has become a catalyst for a larger shift in Associated's mission. We are embarking on a new framework for serving our young children because **when you nurture a child, you nurture a community**. To best serve the child, we must also address the family and community in which a child thrives, and vice-versa. This new framework is reflected in our partnerships that connect our Bromley-Heath families with high-quality health, adult and financial education resources, and more.

This has been a year of relationship-building for our entire organization – not only for the new Learning Center. We have partnered with the Longwood Medical Area (LMA) in connecting doctors and employees with family child care providers. We piloted a Boston Public Schools K-1 classroom in one of our centers. Our Board of Directors, staff, parents, and supporters made a huge push for early education funding in the FY14 Massachusetts state budget. We worked with many partners and Representative Jeffrey Sánchez's office to secure the passage of a bond bill for early education programs to receive capital financing. If there's one thing this year has solidified for us, it's this: in working together, we can better achieve our goals for our children to be ready to succeed in school and in life.

Despite these stellar highlights, we were met with some tough challenges. Lou Casagrande, our close friend and Learning Center visionary, is ill. My own health took a turn for the worse earlier this year when I suffered a heart attack. I am much better now – in fact, healthier than I've ever been – but I've been forced to think about and better appreciate the need to live a healthy lifestyle. This knowledge has led me to reinvigorate our focus on the child and family's overall health and well-being.

With your help, we made great strides in advocating for and securing early education policies that benefit our families, yet we've also felt the painful effects of sequestration and frozen state funds. Massachusetts has been consistently cutting early education funding over the past decade. Over the past two and half years, the state has frozen funds designated to supporting its most vulnerable children and then redirecting those funds to a general account, thus producing a false surplus in the budget. We've taken a hit as a result of sequestration and federal gridlock, and we know that we are only seeing the tip of the iceberg; the negative effects will only increase in the years to come. Grappling with these facts has been hard for us. We have been forced to scramble to make ends meet in an increasingly tight budget climate. I can see our staff dipping into their energy reserves.

Despite these challenges, we have many reasons to look forward to a surely momentous year. Our immensely supportive Board of Directors, now led by Board chair Gayle Slattery, is joined by our new friends Jerry Goldstein and Jeff Davis. Peter Pedro and Jonathan Lonske have taken the lead in an ambitious advancement strategy. Our exciting rebranding effort will be rolled out in the near future and the new Learning Center will be completed and opened in the coming months.

We know that we can do these things because you've supported us and stood by us. You know what they say: it takes a village. Thank you for being a part of the Associated family.



**Wayne Ysaguirre**  
President and CEO





Associated is proud to introduce the **Learning Center at Bromley-Heath** public housing development in Jamaica Plain. The Learning Center is a comprehensive approach to helping children succeed in school and life, an approach that looks at the whole child and family in the context of community.

The center incorporates the most creative thinking and evidence-based practices from a variety of fields to create a unique and comprehensive neighborhood-centric early childhood education program that will serve families as well as their children. We broke ground in Bromley-Heath in December 2012 and have raised over 90% of the \$15.6 million needed to construct the Learning Center.

The Learning Center will open in spring 2014.

### **ANNUALLY**, the Learning Center will:

- Serve 175 children ages 0-8 years, their siblings and families through **wraparound preschool** and **after-school programming**.
- Provide 148 slots for parent/adult learners in **career-focused courses**.
- Train 150 early educators in Boston to bring **best practices** to all Centers and Family Child Care programs.
- Reach 1,000 low-income families with **parenting workshops, financial literacy, and health/nutrition programs** in coordination with the United Way.
- Support other **place-based initiatives**.



**On November 2, 2012, Associated and partners held a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the new learning center.**

The event was a great success; speakers included: (left to right) Secretary Paul Reville, Jonathan Lonske (Associated Board Member), Mike Durkin (United Way), Carol Johnson (Boston Public Schools), Representative Sanchez, Secretary Bialecki, Representative Sonia Chang-Diaz (not shown), Wayne Ysaguirre (Associated) and Bill McGonagle (Boston Housing Authority).

# STORYTIME

## Children Excited for New Center



Painting her interpretation of a cardboard Learning Center

Our children are just as excited as we are about the new Learning Center, so our teachers have led the young students through a construction-related curriculum filled with creative, hands-on, stimulating projects that engage them in the construction of the new building.

Our current early education center in Jamaica Plain is located across the street from the site of the new building. The children regularly take walks across the street to see the building's progress, then come back to the classroom to create projects of their own. Visit our blog to see the building's progress as well as the children's projects at <http://associatedblocksandbricks.wordpress.com/>.

## Justin Vargas: Associated Alum

Our President and CEO, Wayne Ysaguirre, sat down with Justin Vargas, Associated alum and current garbage cook at The Ritz-Carlton in Boston. Wayne and Justin shared stories of his compassionate mother, growing up in Associated's programs, and his journey to becoming the first college graduate in his family and having a career at The Ritz-Carlton.

On his mother's support: "When there are different things I want to get done, and if I feel like I can't, she would say, 'No. You want to do it, so do it.' It's not about getting as much done as you think you can, it's about getting what you want to get done. She would always push me to go further."



Wayne Ysaguirre, Justin Vargas

## Parents Lead Community Engagement Project



Left to right: David Paige, Laurie Proulx, and Romelia Webb

Parent Partners David Paige, Laurie Proulx, and Romelia Webb led an impressive family engagement program in Jamaica Plain this year called "Livin' It Up in JP" under the guidance of Lauren Morse, the Outreach and Partnerships Coordinator for the Jamaica Plain Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant. The program provided free activities, events, transportation, healthy food, raffle prizes and more for low-income families in Jamaica Plain to come together and spend time with their families, as well as connect them with family support services, child development knowledge, and school readiness resources.

# GENERAL OPERATING DONORS

The following individuals, foundations, and corporations made gifts to Associated Early Care and Education's Annual Fund between September 1, 2012 and August 31, 2013. We gratefully acknowledge their generous support of our programs and our children.

## **\$10,000+**

### **Individuals**

Anonymous  
Dana and Jeff Davis  
Marlene and Jerry Goldstein  
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Tammy and John MacWilliams  
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Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program

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Athalia O. Barker  
Louis Casagrande  
Lucy Mitchell

## **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS**

The following individuals, foundations, and corporations made gifts to Associated Early Care and Education's Capital Campaign benefitting the new Learning Center at Bromley-Heath to-date through August 31, 2013.

We gratefully acknowledge their generous support of our programs and our children.

#### **\$1,000,000-\$5,000,000**

##### **Corporations and Foundations**

MA Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development  
US Department of Housing and Urban Development

#### **\$300,000-\$999,999**

##### **Individuals**

Jonathan and Tamaki Lonske

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Rick and MyDuc Mayo-Smith  
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##### **Individuals**

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##### **Corporations and Foundations**

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FINANCING PROVIDED BY CITIZENS BANK, MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING INVESTMENT CORPORATION, AND BANK OF AMERICA

Thank you.



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