

**EXPERIENCE  
EXPLORE  
DISCOVER  
CREATE  
DEVELOP  
LEARN**





## OUR MISSION

To provide high-quality early education and child care, to promote healthy child development, meet the needs of families, and encourage children to discover the joy of learning.

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# Exploring Since 1970

## A Message from the CEO

Lehigh Valley Children's Centers had another strong year making a positive impact in our community. This past year has once again reinforced our commitment to creating high-quality early education and child care in unmet service areas. We strived to support our community by building partnerships with dedicated individuals and organizations.

More than ever, our teachers are at the forefront of our success. The challenges in early education they faced this past year, and will undoubtedly face in the future, are no small task. Their commitment to child care and development is instrumental to both a child's success and our region's economic growth.

We would not be where we are today without our childcare workforce. Their lessons, coupled with their creativity and in-center creations, make our classrooms a destination where education begins for our children and families.

We continue to utilize tools, strategies, and skills to overcome the complexities and challenges in the childcare industry. We continue to grow our partnerships, like our collaboration with the Da Vinci Science Center, IU 20 & 21, and local community colleges and universities. We have established a strong foundation and support for our teachers and families.

We thank our contributors for their continued trust and support for our efforts to inspire success and well-being in the lives of the children we educate.



Charles Dinofrio, M.Ed  
President & CEO





# Exploring New Destinations

Field trips are a great way to reinforce lessons children learn in the classroom. Having an experience outside the classroom can provide children with real-world references that they would not gain from only reading or hearing about the concept. When children learn from hands-on educational experiences, they become stronger academically.

Children at LVCC gain exposure to new experiences and develop an appreciation for different cultures, lifestyles, and ways of thinking.

Children learn the social and emotional abilities needed to communicate effectively, to work in teams, and to respect other's viewpoints.

Children at LVCC gain exposure to natural environments by visiting parks and farms on field trips and develop a sense of appreciation for nature.

*meLVin from the Lehigh Valley Phantoms paid us a visit during the Kiwanis' Picnic*



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**There is no extra cost paid by families for their children to attend special trips and presentations**

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## Learning beyond the classroom

The Program Enrichment Fund is helping make new memories with educational and cultural out-of-classroom experiences as well as special guest presenters which enhance the core curriculum.

Enrichment Fund programming is provided to our children at no extra cost to their families. Viewing a live theatre production, discovering the mysteries of the scientific world, or playing catch with a local sports mascot will create lifelong memories.

A few programs and activities experienced this year included visits to the Da Vinci Science Center, The National Museum of Industrial History, Wildlands Conservancy, National Canal Museum, and many more!



There's few better places to take a water sample than Wildlands Conservancy



Children learn about the power of water at the Da Vinci Science Center



The National Museum of Industrial History works to inspire tomorrow's inventors by teaching them the vital role that the Lehigh Valley served in building America.



# Kiwanis Community Partnership

Children of all ages can enjoy the benefits of experiential learning and cross-generation relationships through school-community partnerships. The Kiwanis Club of Allentown has been a long-time partner of LVCC. The Kiwanis Club has offered numerous community involvement experiences for our families and children. In March, they visited our LVCC Muhlenberg Elementary school-age program and created a Read Across America event. They donated books of various reading levels for the children to read at home and within the center in small groups.

The Kiwanis Club of Allentown created two large interactive events again this year for our Pre-K children.



## Kiwanis Picnic

In May, Kiwanis members and LVCC teachers had a picnic with games and activities for the children. The event had over 200 children attend, with local school district's Key Clubs volunteering and assisting Kiwanis members to put on this wonderful event. This event means so much to our children who get to explore different activities and interact through an intergenerational program.

## Annual Holiday Party

The Kiwanis Club of Allentown also holds an annual holiday party for our children that comprises volunteers from local Key Clubs, Kiwanis members, and LVCC teachers. The event allows children to participate in singing, dancing, and holiday-themed activities. The event featured a visit from Santa Claus, and each child got a personalized photo of them with Santa along with a special gift donated from Toys For Tots.

LVCC is very grateful for the Kiwanis Club of Allentown and all of its partners. When an organization establishes a community partner, both the organization and the community grow. It is truly a full collaboration for our families, children, and community.





# Subsidized Programs

## Pre-K Counts and ITCS

LVCC is proud to provide Pennsylvania's state-funded preschool program, Pre-K Counts. The program is free for those who qualify and operates on an academic calendar year (September - June).

If a child is currently three or four years old and their household income falls at or below 300% of the federal poverty level (approx. \$90,000 annually for a family of four), the family may apply for Pre-K Counts.

Children are selected based on age, income, developmental delays, and other risk factors. Families of children younger than three receive help as well with our Infant Toddler Contracted Slots (ITCS) program at select LVCC locations. The program serves Child Care Works eligible infants and toddlers via contracted slots at a ZERO co-pay cost to families and operates year round.



## At home learning with Waterford

Lehigh Valley Children's Centers engages The Waterford Early Learning as a supplemental curriculum. Through evidence-based research and the science of reading, each student's reading development is optimized to accelerate learning and provides targeted intervention.

Learners develop foundational math, science, and literacy skills through an adaptive learning path. Authentic texts and engaging songs develop academic vocabulary and background knowledge aligned to Common Core and state standards.

**11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>**  
**MINUTES**

The average time spent on Waterford Reading, Math and Science each day.



# Extended Support for Families across the Greater Lehigh Valley

## Scholarships

The LVCC Scholarship Fund provides financial aid to working families who need temporary help with childcare costs. Receiving LVCC scholarships enable parents to work or train for a new career knowing their child is safe in a high-quality childcare program.

Children from low income households

**= 49%**

**600+**

Pre-K Counts Students

**1** Schuylkill county center

**4** Carbon county centers

**1400+**

6 weeks through 12 year old children served

**15** Northampton county centers

**13** Lehigh county centers

## Food Program

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) ensures that children in child care settings receive nutritious, well balanced meals. Through an agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, LVCC serves as a sponsor for this federal program. Our goal is to improve the diet for children 6 weeks to 12 years of age by providing training and reimbursing child care providers for the nutritious meals and snacks they serve.



## Teen Parent Program

The area's only teen parent program at William Allen High School serves children from ages 6 weeks through 36 months to parents enrolled in the Allentown School District.



# Preparing for Education after LVCC

LVCC utilizes Gearing Up for Kindergarten, a proven curriculum from North Dakota State University to get children ready for the next part of their educational journey. LVCC understands that entering kindergarten is a major transition in a child and family's life. Children need to have the support that readies them for school. This curriculum is a family involvement program that supports child development, school readiness, and healthy parenting.

LVCC uses the curriculum to help families and children in the summer months prepare for the school year ahead. This year, we partnered with the Allentown and Whitehall Coplay School Districts to ensure children receiving summer preschool services were equipped to succeed at the next level.



## Learning continues at school age

Children K-6 can continue learning at one of our 23 centers before and after school. The Summer Explorers Program helps prevent the regression of academic excellence during the summer with engaging educational guests and trips!





# Measuring Success of our Children

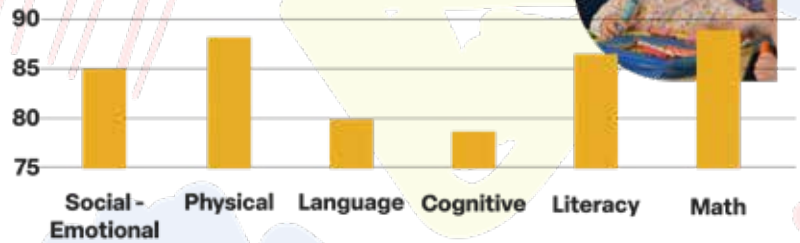
Understanding a child's needs based on developmentally appropriate milestones allows teachers at LVCC to individualize lesson planning for each child to succeed. Children enrolled in a LVCC classroom grow within the areas of social-emotional, language, cognitive, and physical development.

LVCC measures development using the accepted assessment by the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) - Teaching Strategies GOLD; which follows widely held expectations for children from birth through third grade.



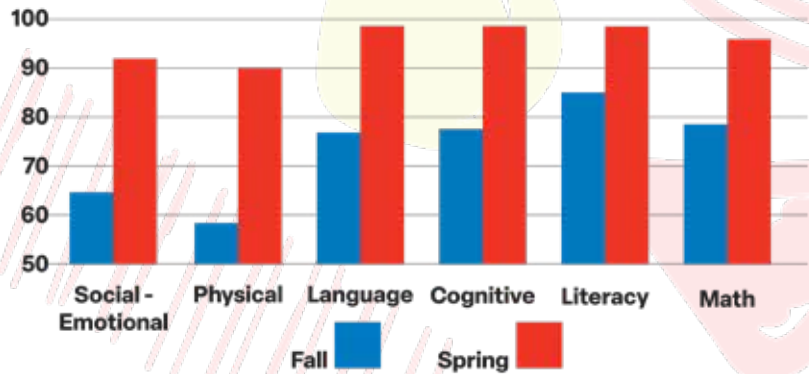
## Infant/Toddler

Based on 148 children ages 6 weeks through 36 Months



## Kindergarten Readiness: Preschool & Pre-K Counts

Teaching Strategies GOLD learning outcomes based on 624 children ages 3 through 5 years old



# 98%

of children assessed met or exceeded expectations in Cognitive and Language ability.

**A 27% INCREASE** Physical expectations improved the most from Fall to Spring, with 85% of children meeting or exceeding expectations in the Spring compared to 58% of children the previous Fall.



## Literacy before kindergarten

LVCC focuses on literacy at every age level. Early literacy plays a key role in enabling early learning experiences associated with academic achievement, reduced grade retention, higher graduation rates, and enhanced productivity later in life. It is essential in giving children a head start before going to kindergarten.

LVCC utilizes Preschool Early Literacy Indicators (PELI) to measure essential pre-literacy and oral language skills needed for kindergarten.

The PELI assessment measures alphabet knowledge, vocabulary and oral language, phonological awareness, and listening comprehension.

**79%**  
of children  
assessed are at or  
above benchmarks at  
the end of the year,  
compared to only  
50% at the beginning  
of the assessment  
period.



## Teach Me To Read At Home

Planning and organizing a successful family literacy training requires many considerations. LVCC throughout our Pre-K/Preschool school year has implemented “Teach Me To Read At Home” over the past 5 years. This program is designed to enable parents to continue to be their child’s first teacher.

### 4 defined outcomes upon workshop completion

- Family members are engaged and responsive.
- Family members ensure child-based activities for in-home learning are explored.
- Children gain and begin to develop early literacy skills.
- Children learn to read without struggling.

“Teach Me To Read At Home” is designed for success! Each section builds on the previous section, and is developed for both family and children to succeed when they are going through the activities. LVCC invests fully in family engagement because when all of the pieces of the puzzle are together everyone achieves more, and the child is ready for their future.





# Modernizing our Facilities

Our new facilities and play spaces represent our commitment to providing the highest quality educational environments while keeping access to childcare equitable, accessible, and affordable.



*The new playground at LVCC Campus perfectly compliments the surrounding area's nature filled walking trails.*



*The playground at LVCC Fowler features a raised stage where children can reenact their favorite stories.*



*The upgraded playground at LVCC South Mountain can fuel a child's imagination, with tunnels, bridges, hills, slides, and a "river" that surrounds the central play area.*



*Infants and toddlers join in on the fun too with their own dedicated playgrounds.*



*The new preschool to school age playground at 555 Union Blvd provides ample of room for children to run, jump, and climb!*



*Two indoor gyms at 555 Union Blvd means it's playtime year round.*



## Classrooms designed for the next generation of learners

Recently completed renovations to Allentown, Palmerton, and Jim Thorpe centers highlight the power of positive change that grants and contributors will provide the children of today to become the explorers of tomorrow.



## Financial Statements

### Revenue | \$14,879,028

Contributions and Grants	\$7,063,247
Subsidized Child Care	\$2,999,963
Tuition	\$2,042,451
Child Care Food Program	\$2,573,126
Investment Income	\$180,306
Other Income	\$19,935

**Over 60%** of LVCC revenue stems from contributions, grants, and government subsidies, keeping tuition as low as possible for pre-school enrolled families. Your support helps us continue providing the highest level of early education in the Greater Lehigh Valley.

### Expenses | \$14,144,441

Child Care	\$11,866,066
Management and General	\$2,200,484
Fund Raising	\$77,891



# Thank You to our Contributors

The care children receive at LVCC would not be possible without our generous contributors.  
For corrections, please email [akeuscher@lvcconline.org](mailto:akeuscher@lvcconline.org) so we may update our records

## Ascent Club (\$25,000 and above)

Capital Blue Cross  
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Two Anonymous Donors

## Balloonist's Club (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

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UGI Utilities, Inc.  
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# Explorers Welcome

## LVCC LOCATIONS AND CENTERS

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

1501 Lehigh Street, Suite 208 • Allentown, PA 18103  
610-820-5333  
www.lvcconline.org

### ALLENTOWN

LVCC at Allen High School • 106 N. 17th St  
LVCC at CAI Learning • 1033 W. Washington St.  
LVCC at Hays Elementary • 1223 W. Gordon St.  
LVCC's Judith Chase Early Learning Center • 540 Chew St.  
LVCC at Muhlenberg School • 21st & Washington Sts.  
LVCC at Salisbury Elementary School • 1400 Gaskill Ave.  
LVCC at South Mountain • 2002 S. Albert St.  
LVCC on Union Boulevard • 555 Union Boulevard  
LVCC on Walnut Street • 1145 Walnut St.

### BETHLEHEM

LVCC's Campus Center • 410 E. 5th St.  
LVCC's Fowler Center • 938 Main St.  
LVCC at Monocacy Manor • 395 Bridle Path Rd.  
LVCC at St. Luke's • 729 Delaware Ave.

### COALDALE

LVCC at Coaldale • 150 W. Phillips St.

### EASTON

LVCC at Avona School • 2317 Front St.  
LVCC at Forks School • 1709 Richmond Rd.  
LVCC at March School • 429 Reeder St.  
LVCC at Palmer School • 3050 Green Pond Rd.  
LVCC at Shawnee School • 1315 Echo Trail  
LVCC at Spring Garden Early Learning Center  
• 401 W. Berwick St. #103  
LVCC at Tracy School • 1243 Tatamy Rd.  
LVCC at Wilson School • 301 S. 21st St.

### EMMAUS

LVCC at Lincoln School • 233 Seem St.  
LVCC at Seven Generations • 33 E. Minor St.

### JIM THORPE

LVCC at St. Joseph's Academy • 25 W. 6th St.

### NAZARETH

LVCC at Lower Nazareth School • 4422 Newburg Rd.  
LVCC at Nazareth Intermediate School • 355 Tatamy Rd.  
LVCC at Shafer School • 49 S. Liberty St.

### NEFFS

LVCC on Park Avenue • 3880 Park Avenue

### PALMERTON

LVCC Palmerton • 480 Delaware Ave.  
LVCC at S.S. Palmer • 298 Lafayette Ave.  
LVCC at Towamensing • 7920 Interchange Rd.

### WHITEHALL

LVCC on Fairmont • 1325 Fairmont St.

## YOUR CHANCE TO HELP FUTURE EXPLORERS

There are many ways to build a strong foundation for the educational success in today's children. Your support will help more children discover the joy of learning. Scan below to see how you can help.







1501 Lehigh Street, Suite 208  
Allentown, PA 18103 - 3892



**THANK YOU FROM LVCC STAFF**

