

 UNI-PRES

Kindercottage

Home of the Busy Bees!

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564 Veronica Avenue, East St. Louis, Il. 62205, www.unipreskindercottage.org

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Mission Statement:

Uni-Pres Kindercottage is a quality early childhood program in East St. Louis serving low-income families with at-risk infants and preschool children six months to five years old.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BRENDA CRISP

This year has been extremely stressful for me. The headaches and pains experienced by so many because of the decisions of the State of Illinois have made my body hurt, my heart ache and I have prayed more often. I found myself advocating for children, seniors and healthcare but especially children and their families. How can you say, "Continue working and I'll pay you in 3 months?" How can you say "You've worked overtime so you no longer qualify for assistance or your co-payment has tripled?" Yes, the money was found but the payments still did not come. WHY? I wanted all of Illinois to call, write, fax, email or whatever their legislators! Some have heard me say, "The fight is over but the war has just begun." Please read the item below from Illinois Action for Children. We share this information in a Q & A format.

Q: Was child care cut in the final Fiscal Year 2013 budget?

A: Yes, the actual Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) line item in the final FY13 budget shows a cut of about \$7 million compared to the 2012 budget. However, because the cost of running CCAP goes up each year, the actual overall programmatic cut will be about \$26 million to childcare services and programs in Illinois.

Q: How will the Dept. of Human Services (DHS) cut \$26million from CCAP?

A: The funding will be made up through an increase in parent co-payments. The new payment scale will go into effect on July 1, 2012.

Q: I heard that eligibility was going to be reduced. Is this true?

A: That was a possibility but that would require a change in the law. Since the General Assembly did not pass such a bill, income eligibility remains the same.

Q: Why did child care providers experience a delay in payments and why were we told that CCAP was out of money for the rest of the year?

A: In May 2012, DHS announced that they had spent all of their childcare money for fiscal 2012. This meant that providers would not be paid until July 2012 for services they had already provided in April and services they would provide in May and June. However, thanks to the tireless efforts of providers, parents and others advocates, the General Assembly was able to find the needed funding to fill the hole for the rest of 2012. They passed a \$73 million appropriation and DHS was able to pay providers through June.

Q: How are communities affected by so much uncertainty around the funding of CCAP?

A: Delayed payments put thousands of child care providers at risk of not being able to pay staff or rent. Unlike most big business, childcare providers don't have the funds to survive the months of non-payment. Without childcare, tens of thousands of parents would no longer be able to work and employees and employers suffer the consequences. (continued page 2)

Q: How can I help?

A: VOTE on November 6, 2012. Every seat in the Illinois General Assembly is up for a vote. Be an educated voter. Go to www.actforchildren.org and click on the Advocate tab.

And now, I want to share my breakfast with you. The plate is filled with LOVE and PRAYER, the cup is filled with FAITH, there is a bowl full of PATIENCE and a spoonful of TOLERANCE and the napkin is made with JOY to wipe a smile on your face. Eat until you are full, and then share this meal with others!

Thank you for everything that you do.

Blessings,
Brenda



A Mom at Uni-Pres By Brenda Crisp

There are people you meet and you feel like you have known them forever. This young mom and her 2 children are examples of these kinds of people.

I met them when Sharonda was a student and Shanyla and Shamontae were being enrolled at Kindercottage. She shared that she was working full-time and attending school. She had to have them here at 6 AM each day as she had to be at work. They would arrive, sometimes asleep, but she would carry them in one by one.

One day, I received a frantic call from Sharonda. She did not want the children's dad to pick them up. She arrived, frantic, after work. The kids were here and safe so she sat in my office and shared more of her life and journey that day. I learned that her car broke down, she lost her house, she lived in a shelter, more problems with the father, she must sell her food stamps, she had no place to stay, had no money and had to finish school. WHEW. I knew that she needed to just sit-breath-relax. She managed to stay in school, maintain an A average, work full-time, give time to her children and her church and continued to praise us for helping her! We began to count down the days until her graduation so that we could watch her walk across the stage and accept her diploma. She made it and we are so proud of her. She studied and took her State Boards on July 7, 2012. A new job, a degree and a home because she believed in the work of God and discovered that she was good and loveable. Her children are moving forward, hopefully, prayerfully, never to look back! She is officially an LPN. Congratulations are in order. Now let's keep going forward!



Summer Mission Workers



Ladue Chapel Interns

Saturday, June 30, 2012 was designated as the Walk Through Missions, "Jesus Called and We Followed." Local missions of the UCC Council on Health and Human Services Ministries and the Illinois South Conference were featured.

On that day from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Uni-Pres Kindercottage opened its doors to receive volunteers to clean and visitors to learn more about our mission. I thank all of you who came, shared, praised, worked so very hard and learned more of what Uni-Pres Kindercottage does.

I arrived at 8:15 AM to find the Mission Committee members of First Presbyterian Church in Belleville hard at work trimming grass and pulling weeds. It was extremely hot but here they were working! Next a couple of people from the community arrived ready to work where they were needed. More arrived including Board members Carla Monroe-Posey and Flo Jeffries and a friend, members of the Granite City church, parents and staff. Everyone

worked, drank plenty of water, talked and cooled off. Again, thanks to all of you. Our home is much nicer.

Each year, Ladue Presbyterian Church has allowed us to enjoy interns from their church. This year, there are 6 interns who are working with our children and camp children. Each week when they arrive, you see smiles come over both sets of faces. Sometimes during play, you forget the age of the interns! Thank you, Ladue Chapel!

Mortgage Retirement Initiative: Growing for Our Future

By Glenn Mullins, Development Committee Co-Chair

Through the faithful giving of so many churches, companies and individuals, Uni-Pres Kindercottage has been able to meet its financial obligations through challenging times with the State of Illinois budget issues.

Even as we meet today's economic challenges, the Kindercottage Board and Development Committee have looked at ways to ensure Kindercottage's financial health for the future. We realized that with today's interest rates on savings, it would take an endowment fund of at least \$1,000,000 to allow Kindercottage to draw \$40,000 for the proceeds each year to support its operational expenses. Then we had another idea--What about a campaign to retire the mortgage? The mortgage on Kindercottage's building is approximately \$285,000, and if we could pay off the mortgage, we would save approximately \$40,000 per year in payments on the interest and principal that we make. Thus, raising \$285,000 instead of more than a million would have the same impact--\$40,000 saved from paying the mortgage can be used for other operational expenses. We could even start thinking about building improvements and renovations!

We have learned that the 2012 tax year may be the last one for which charitable donations can be deducted on Federal Tax returns. While we know that not everyone could make extra contributions to retire the mortgage, we believe that some Kindercottage supporters might be able to help pay off the mortgage. And a charitable gift to Kindercottage might ease your income tax bill.

Gift annuities are another option. That would allow a donor to receive income for life while also assisting Uni-Pres Kindercottage. Of course, we want our donors to give what works best for them, in prayerful consideration of all of their commitments. Every gift, regardless of size, will make a difference to the success of this initiative. If you feel that a donation to the Mortgage Retirement Campaign would be possible for you, please send your check to Brenda Crisp, Executive Director, at Kindercottage or call me to discuss possible gift ideas. I can be reached at 217-823-3181.

We hope that you might consider this extra giving, and as ever, we THANK YOU for all the prayers, love and financial support that you shower on the staff and dear children of Uni-Pres Kindercottage.



A Word from the President of the Uni-Pres Kindercottage Board

By Carla Monroe-Posey

As always, lots of things are happening at Kindercottage, which you will see in this newsletter. Plans are well underway for our Second Annual Thank You Dinner. So, please mark your calendar for Friday evening, October 26, 2012, for our dinner, to again be held at Our Lady of the Snows. We'll have more out about the dinner by the end of the summer. Last year's dinner and program was an amazing experience, and we know this year's dinner will again be a very special THANK YOU for all you do to support the precious children, their families and the staff of Uni-Pres Kindercottage.



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Property and Building Needs:

-  As our building ages, we are in need of maintenance and several new items. Could you help us with any of the following?
 -  Infants Room: Installation of a window, installation of a double stainless steel sink, Installation of 2 wall cabinets (like the kitchen cabinets):
 -  Kitchen: Installation of 4 wall cabinets
 -  Removal and replacement of floor tiles in the kitchen and boys bathroom.
 -  Replacement of a ceiling light fixture.
-  Wanted: Donation or purchase of a floor Buffer/Scrubber
-  If you or your church would like to adopt a room to renovate, we have that available too.
-  Items on our usual WISH LIST are always needed as well.

