

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of **Connecting for Children & Families (CCF)** is to improve the quality of family and community life in Woonsocket. Through community partnerships and advocacy, **CCF** provides children and their families with quality support programs and services.

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PROGRAMS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Each and every year, I am touched by the positive stories about children and adults who participate in our family support initiatives. From the middle school student who played the leading role in our theatre performance of Little Women, to the culinary arts workforce training graduate who was offered a position at Uno Chicago Grill, I am inspired by the heart-felt work and compassion of so many people, working to beat the odds for at-risk kids and families in Woonsocket.

This annual report presents highlights of our community-based work over the past year. In 2013, we were thrilled to receive grant awards from several new funders to support critically important programs and services. Just to touch on a few: The Red Sox Foundation funded our Parents As Teachers Program, which provides parenting education and promotes school readiness for our youngest children. CVS Caremark awarded a community grant to CCF, which allowed us to offer Fit and Fun, an after-school health and nutrition program for special education high school students.

We also launched the "Beacon of Hope" Campaign, a major fundraising effort to purchase the historic Hope Street School (our current headquarters). Anchored in the heart of the Fairmount/Constitution Hill neighborhood, CCF hopes to be a resource to families for years to come. Many community-minded corporations, foundations, banks, and individuals have stepped forward to support this exciting endeavor and we are so grateful for everyone's commitment.

Already, 2014 promises to be a tremendous year for CCF. Recently, we learned that the United Way Women's Leadership Council has funded CCF to support after-school and summer STEM Programming (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) for middle school students. Also, with the announcement of a second year of funding from the RI Governor's Workforce Development Board, we will expand and enhance our culinary arts job training program. I invite you to learn more about all of our initiatives by visiting CCF's website www.ccfcenter.org.



My personal thanks to all of our amazing champions and supporters who allow us to accomplish so much for kids and families in Woonsocket.

Terese Curtin, MSW
Executive Director

Basic Needs & Service Linkage

- Emergency assistance with food, clothing, and utilities.
- Translation services to meet the needs of diverse families.
- Information and referral to partner community agencies.

Family Support Initiatives

- Parents as Teachers -Home-based parenting education and support program for families with young children.
- Parent Workshops and Family Activity Nights.
- Case management services.

Center for Financial Success

- Financial workshops and individual financial counseling.
- Workforce development training in culinary arts, health care, and financial services.
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA)- Free tax preparation services.
- Financial education for students in grades K-12.

Early Care & Education

Hope Street Childcare Center - quality care for toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children. 4-star quality rating from Bright Stars.



- Opening the World of Learning—evidence-based curriculum that ensures children enter kindergarten with the language and literacy skills necessary for school success.

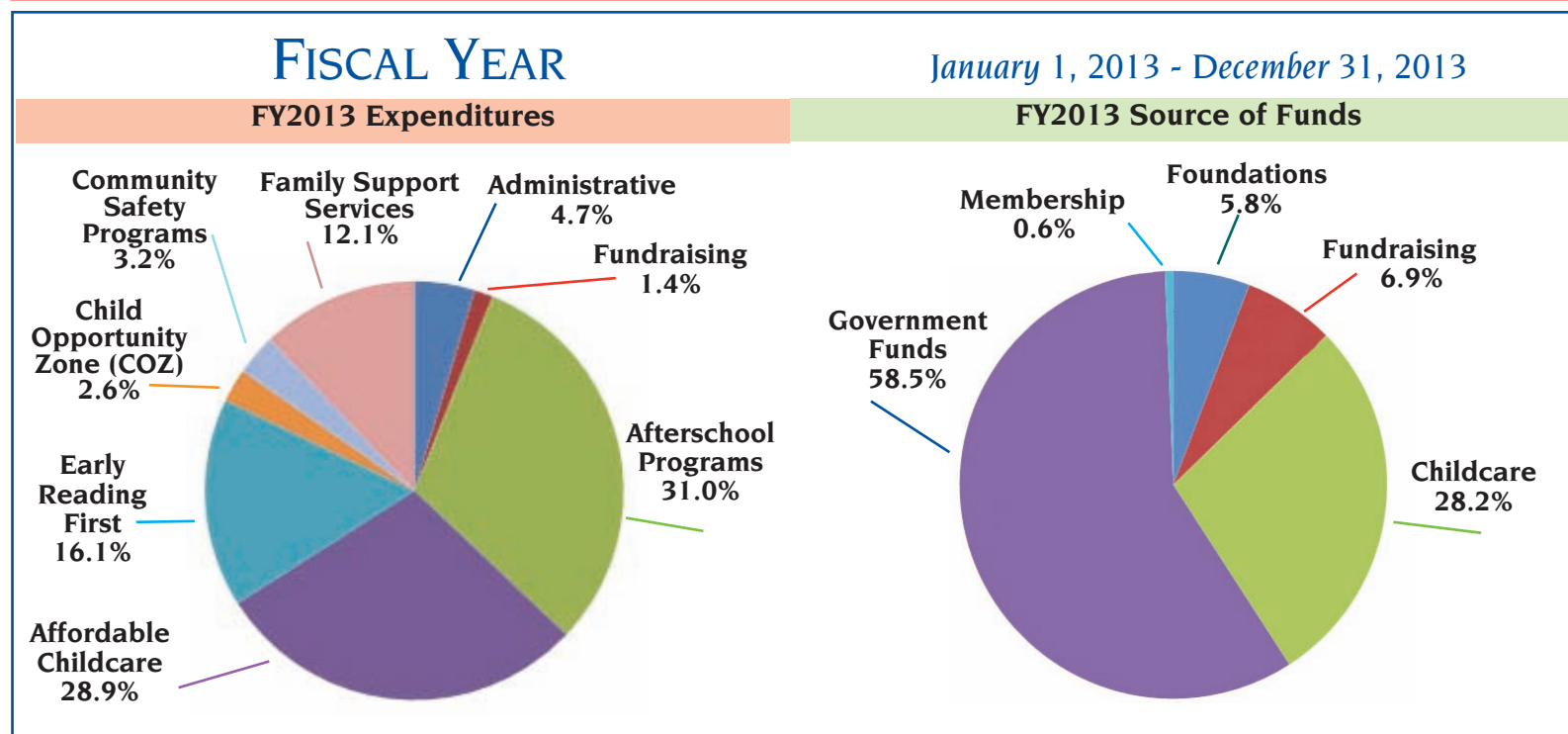
School-linked Initiatives

- Designated by the Rhode Island Department of Education as Woonsocket's Child Opportunity Zone (COZ), CCF coordinates educational, health and social services in Woonsocket schools to promote academic success.
- After-school and school vacation camps providing homework help, tutoring, and enrichment for students in grades K-12.
- Summer Learning Initiatives offered district-wide for grades K-12 students, including credit recovery for failing 8th graders.



Community Safety

- Woonsocket Safe Communities - a citywide coalition providing education and information on injury prevention and traffic safety issues, including child passenger seat and bicycle safety.
- Shield for Life Project- Outreach and Education in Northern Rhode Island on the new RI seatbelt law.



YEAR AT A GLANCE

2013 INITIATIVES

- Served more than 3,000 children and families in Woonsocket.
- Offered 29 parenting workshops for teen mothers.
- Obtained a mini grant from Rhode Island.
- Provided after-school and summer enrichment programs for 1,768 students in grades K-12.
- Increased after-school enrichment at Coleman Elementary School by offering 13 additional programs, primarily focused on science, technology, engineering, and math.
- Assisted 1670 individuals with emergency basic needs, including food, rental and heating assistance, clothing, and baby formula.
- Offered free tax preparation services for 441 tax filers through our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), totaling \$1,057,379 in federal tax refunds to low-to-moderate income families.
- Launched a workforce training program for unemployed adults looking to gain bookkeeping and accounting skills for entry level positions in the financial services industry.
- Raised over \$15,000 from CCF's 3rd Annual Make Tracks for Kids 5K Race/Walk held at Bryant University.

LOOKING AHEAD

We are ever mindful of our goals to effectively meet the needs of families. CCF will continue to strive to build and maintain a community where there are numerous opportunities to succeed. We are pleased to share a few highlights of upcoming initiatives and events for 2014:

- Expand STEM programming for Woonsocket Middle School girls in math and science through a grant from the Women's Leadership Council at United Way.
- Strengthen our culinary arts workforce training through a Year Two Innovative Partnership grant from the RI Governor's Workforce Board, allowing CCF to enhance its partnership with the RI Hospitality Education Foundation and employer partners.
- Pursue a 5-Star quality rating from BrightStars for our Hope Street Childcare Center.
- Continue the "Beacon of Hope" Capital Campaign to purchase the historic Hope Street School, allowing CCF to achieve its mission in the city of Woonsocket.