



**2025**  
**REPORT OF**  
**GIVING**



## LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear CCC Community,

Thank you for your generosity and support this year – a year full of both excitement for our 50th anniversary celebration, and fond farewells as beloved members of our community moved on to their next chapter:

This Report of Giving highlights the daily impact your financial support has in sustaining and strengthening the Concord Children's Center mission—to cultivate an intimate and welcoming community where children develop respectful relationships and inquisitive minds, build confidence in their individual gifts, and are engaged, prepared, and inspired to learn.

This year, our **Fund for CCC raised more than \$117,000—the highest total in our 50-year history.** This remarkable achievement reflects both an increase in the number of donations and a rise in the average gift compared with FY24. It also includes two special fundraising initiatives honoring beloved staff and volunteers. Thanks to contributions to the Fund, CCC is able to provide the highest quality educator training and benefits, which translates directly into the exceptional care and education our children experience every day. Your generosity also ensures that CCC remains accessible, allowing children from Concord, Carlisle, and surrounding towns to benefit from the extraordinary expertise of our teachers.

We also devoted significant effort this year to our **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation** process. CCC has been accredited by NAEYC since 1987, one of the first programs in the country to achieve this recognition. In FY25, we sought reaccreditation for our West Concord location, and initial accreditation for our East Concord site. Under the leadership of **Jordan Zirkel**, our NAEYC Coordinator, and with the dedication of educators **Julia Abreu, Marie DiPace, Rebecca Garvey, and Isabelle LeChauve**, we navigated the preparation and submittal of documentation during the course of the year and then hosted the assessor for visits at both locations in the late spring. After the close of the FY25 fiscal year, we learned that both sites received the highest accreditation level, earning a combined 94% score—affirming once again our unwavering commitment to quality early childhood education and setting CCC apart as a leading provider in our nation. We are proudly displaying our Accreditation+ status in FY26 and beyond.

This was also a year of transition and gratitude as we celebrated the retirements of three extraordinary leaders. **Penni Hensley Wagner** and **Joanne Saideh** together devoted more than 80 years of service to CCC, touching the lives of countless children and families with their wisdom, humor, and care. The funds raised in their honor will continue their legacy by supporting professional development for our educators by covering costs to send educators to the annual NAEYC conference and funding nature-based learning trainings. We also honored **Stephan Bader**, our longest-serving Board member and Treasurer-extraordinaire, whose stewardship has been vital to CCC's financial strength and sustainability. In his honor, we will plant a tree this fall at the corner of Church and Main Streets—a living symbol of his lasting impact on our community.

Looking ahead, we are filled with excitement as we celebrate **CCC's 50th Anniversary in 2025.** For nearly half a century, CCC has remained steadfast in its mission, providing exceptional care and education even as early childhood trends have shifted. Our longevity and impact are the direct result of the generosity of this community and the dedication of our educators. This milestone year is both a chance to honor our history and a joyful opportunity to shape the future. I hope you will join us at our anniversary gala, CCC50, on October 18 at Nashawtuc Country Club, as we come together to celebrate.

I look forward to building on these 50 years of quality care and joyfully anticipate the profound impact CCC will continue to have on future generations. Thank you for being an essential part of this work.

With gratitude,

**Suzie Kornblum**, Executive Director



**2024-2025  
CONCORD CHILDREN'S CENTER  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Christina Anderson  
*Chair*

Grace Giles  
*Vice-Chair*

Jackie Fishbein  
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Stephan Bader  
*Treasurer*

Elie Adam

Phil Barr

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Isabelle Lechauve  
*CCC staff rep*

Katherine Manning

Sarah Sample

Shannon Sweeney

Jordan Zirkel  
*CCC staff rep*



## **Our Mission Statement**

The mission of the Concord Children's Center is to cultivate an intimate, welcoming community where children develop respectful relationships and inquisitive minds, build confidence in their individual gifts, and are engaged, prepared and inspired to learn.



# 2024-2025 EVENTS



## FALL SOCIAL

Around 100 people attended this year's fall social which took place on September 20. Originally scheduled to take place in the backyard of CCC Board Chair Christina Anderson and her husband, James, the event had to be moved inside at the last minute due to mosquito-borne illness concerns. CCC Development & Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Saxe and her husband, Andrew Fletcher, opened their home for a fun evening featuring wines and craft beers selected by West Concord Wine & Spirits.

## NIGHT AT THE DISCOVERY MUSEUM

Our second CCC Night at the Museum took place on Sunday, February 2, at the Discovery Museum in Acton. Around 150 people attended the evening, including current and past CCC families and staff. The children had fun exploring the Museum's many exhibits and installations, and everyone enjoyed pizza in the Play Labs!

## SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY

We welcomed our students' special friends and grandparents to both of our sites the morning of May 9. Special friends visited classrooms and shared snack with the children before enjoying a musical performance at West Concord and playing outside with the children at East Concord.

## VOLUNTEER THANK YOU

CCC's annual evening to celebrate and acknowledge its volunteers took place on Thursday, May 15, at the home of CCC Board Chair Christina Anderson and her husband, James. Volunteers enjoyed an evening of snacks, socializing, and being appreciated.





CCC kicked off its 50th anniversary celebrations in early 2025. We are celebrating 50 years of Care, Curiosity, and Community throughout this year and into 2026!



## CELEBRATING JOANNE AND PENNI

Over 200 CCC community members came together on Sunday, May 18, to celebrate long-time staff members **Joanne Saideh** and **Penni Hensley Wagner** in advance of their retirement this past summer after a combined **83 years** at CCC! The event took place at the Playscape at Ripley and featured speeches from both Joanne and Penni and appreciation gifts for both of them. Before the event, CCC leadership donors gathered at CCC East Concord to toast Joanne and Penni on their upcoming retirements.



## HARVESTING THE SPIRIT OF TRANSCENDENTALISM

CCC kicked off its 50th anniversary year and helped celebrate **Concord250** with a panel discussion at the Concord Free Public Library on Wednesday, April 2, featuring four past CCC parents discussing how Concord's Transcendentalist roots have informed best practices in education up to the present day. Moderator **Jenny Rankin** gave an overview of Transcendentalism and its beliefs around education, while educators **Betsy Siebert**, **Elise Mott** and **Tracie Dunn** discussed how Transcendentalism is reflected in their teaching practice and also gave examples of "passion projects" that are grounded in Transcendentalist beliefs. Over 50 people attended the event which was part of the Concord250 celebrations in addition to honoring CCC's 50th anniversary.



## FUND FOR CCC

This year's Fund for CCC raised \$117,062.54, **the highest-grossing Fund for CCC in CCC history!** We are grateful to our community for its generosity. Each donation makes a difference for our children, our educators and staff, and our school.



### FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

CCC honors donors who contribute \$1,000 or more to the Fund for CCC by designating them members of the Friendship Circle. Years of consecutive giving at the Friendship Circle level indicated in parentheses where applicable.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SOCIETY, GOLD LEVEL

(\$5,000+)

Christina+ and James Anderson\* (3)  
Kara and Phil Barr+\*\* (5)  
Pam Gannon and Dave Douglas\*\* (3)  
Pat and Andrew Goldstein\*\* (3)  
Dawn and Jon Rennert\*\*\* (3)

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SOCIETY, SILVER LEVEL

(\$2,000+)

Faith and Stephan Bader+\*\* (6)  
Amantha+ and Jason Butler\*\* (4)  
Jeanne and Ed Connolly\*\* (4)  
Jan and Stephan Hirschler\* (4)  
Sarah+ and Ryan Sample\* (5)  
Shannon Sweeney+ and Tyson Seely\*\* (5)

### CURRENT FAMILIES

Romy Nehmé and Elie Adam+ (2)  
Hannah and Henry Burchenal  
Lindsay Dudgeon and Kevin Belmonte (5)  
Jackie+ and Matthew Fishbein (4)

Carolyn and Stuart Horgan (2)  
Laurie and Stacy Layton (4)  
Lynn and Stephen Markowitz

### ALUMNI FAMILIES

Holly Rothermel and Michael Dettelbach  
Kelly and Thomas Doherty (6)  
Mary and Jonathan Ells (5)  
Joan and John Ferguson\*\*\* (2)  
Grace Giles+ and Patrick Sedney (3)  
Carolyn and Eric Stein (5)  
Yumi and Jeff Suarez (6)

### EDUCATORS AND STAFF

Jennifer Saxe and Andrew Fletcher\*\* (4)  
Suzie and Rob Kornblum\*\* (2)  
Joanne and Skip Saideh\*\* (5)  
Penni Hensley Wagner and John Wagner (3)

### GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS

Jacquelin and Robert Apsler (4)  
Deborah Begner (5)  
Steve and Sara Zirkel (4)

*Years of consecutive giving at the Friendship Circle level indicated in parentheses where applicable.*

+ Board member

\* CCC current family

\*\* CCC alumni family

\*\*\* CCC grandparent/special friend

## DONORS

### CURRENT FAMILIES

Gretchen and Coleman Adams  
Zhaleh Safikhani and Pouya Amini  
Allison and Matthew Annese  
Casey Leathers and Leo Balsom  
Camille and Scott Barnard  
Kristin and Bob Belisle  
Jaclyn and Robert Bentinck-Smith  
Cory Ferguson and Mike Besserer  
Samantha and Dan Booth  
Stephanie and Bonsal Brooks  
Sarah and Toby Callahan  
Nat and Katie Carr  
Heidi and Benjamin Cashman  
Maggie Russell and Nick Chigas  
Renee and Donald Coburn  
Ashley and James Cohane  
Angelina Gennis and Ross Collins  
Christine and Dennis Corkery  
Mahra and Bryan Davidson  
Greg and Sharlene Dorothy  
Jamie and Chris Dutton  
Julia and David Ekelund  
Annemarie and William Ellicott  
Sarah Franzen and Andrew Stevens  
Isabel Jerchel-Furau and Calin Furau  
Emily and Robert Gallagher  
Whitney Gallivan and Meghan Hinds  
Wendy and Ethan Geil  
Emily Simons and Joseph Gester  
Alina Monteagudo and Rafael Gil de Rubio  
Tooba Cheema and Ronald Gomez Jr.



Christine and Jon Grabenstatter  
 Jessica and Quentin Hart  
 Carly and Jesse Heller  
 Maryna Sivaieva and  
 Joseph Cole Hershkowitz  
 Elizabeth and Sean Hetherman+  
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 Yvonne Chan and Justin Kahler  
 Susan+ and Shawn Kelly  
 Karen Kieser and Daniel Green  
 Katie and Davis Knox  
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 Morgan and Robert Lacy  
 Melissa and Christopher LaFrance  
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 Louisa Lovell and Andrew McNamara  
 Meredith and JB Lynch  
 Katy Goldman and Dave Mackey  
 Carmen Welton and Samuel Malcolm  
 Katherine+ and Matthew Manning  
 Molly and Patrick Mascia  
 Eliza and Devin McGrath  
 Kathryn and James McKenna  
 Farhanah Sheets and  
 Evan Milstein-Greengart  
 Desiree and Ricky Misiaszek  
 Stacia Stornetta-Morabito and  
 Scott Morabito  
 Jenny Sharp and John Moran  
 Mary and Jay Mottla  
 Ingrid Orvedal  
 Meredith and John Palusci  
 Kendra and Tom Scalfarotto

Elizabeth and Robert Scanlon  
 Marissa and Kenneth Seastrand  
 Cailly Carroll and Dan Serna  
 Danielle and Matt Snyder  
 Lily and Jonathan Sonis  
 Heather and Zander Strange  
 Julie McClure and Joseph Terry  
 Hilary and Tom Vassil  
 Tatiana Klinoff and Mark Veilleux  
 Meryl Ayres and Max Wall  
 Courtney and Matt Ward  
 Megan and Scott Wood

### ALUMNI FAMILIES

Susan and Bill Adams  
 Kenneth and Lynda Anderson\*\*\*  
 Kellie and David Anjoorian  
 Demi Ayres\*\*\*  
 Adam and Kayte Bellusci  
 David and Susan Clark  
 Michelle and Drew Clemens  
 Hao Feng and Jenny Wang  
 Hannah Jones and James Gosset  
 Dianne Jiao  
 Susan and Pete Masters  
 Jamie and Nick Morris-Kliment  
 Jennifer and Stephan Newbold  
 Whitney Kocher-Nguyen and  
 Duc Nguyen  
 Patty and Chris Popov  
 Naomi and Michael Rosenfeld  
 Stephen and Katherine Wilson  
 Sarah Kaufman and Paul Zinn

### FACULTY AND STAFF

Julia Abreu\*  
 Lillian Albanese  
 Doris Ascencios  
 Marcela Bean\*\*  
 Lauren Becker

Ghada Bitar  
 Kayla Blake  
 Tiffany Boisvert\*  
 Rebecca Bromark  
 Emily D'Arcy\*  
 Laurie DiMartino  
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 Joe Gustafson  
 Erika Gutermuth  
 Audrey and Jaide Jemlich  
 Davis Kornblum  
 Diane Krug  
 Isabelle Lechauve+\*\*\*  
 Jennine Giaquinto Lesser\*\*  
 Natalia McLoud  
 Jenny Mitchell\*  
 Anna Morreale  
 Sashi Qualitz\*  
 Julie Recco  
 Janet Sauer  
 Shannon Saywell  
 Lynn St. Germain\*\*  
 Holly Swanson  
 Nassima Tizi-ougdal  
 Jennifer Turini\*\*  
 Carmen Warren  
 Andrea Whitney  
 Jordan Zirkel+

### GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS

Deborah and Clinton Conley  
 Mary and Michael Curran  
 Janine DiBenedetti-Gliddon  
 Ana and Andy Flaster  
 Katrina Kelner and Norm Hershkowitz  
 Pat and Peter Nelson



### CORPORATE MATCHING AND GIVEBACK GIFTS

- AbbVie
- Analog Devices
- Bayer
- Boston Consulting Group
- Citizens Bank
- The Concord Bookshop
- CVS Health
- Fidelity
- Geoengineers, Inc.
- Google
- Income Research + Management
- JPMorgan Chase
- Liberty Mutual
- Manulife
- McKinsey and Company
- Microsoft
- Nike
- Pfizer
- Red Hat
- ServiceNow
- Takeda
- Westfield Capital

### HONORARY GIFTS

We are grateful to the following CCC community members who donated to the CCC professional development program to honor long-time CCC educators Joanne Saideh and Penni Hensley Wagner upon their retirements.

### CURRENT FAMILIES

- Cory Ferguson and Mike Besserer
- Katie and Nathaniel Carr
- Greg and Sharlene Dorothy
- Jackie+ and Matthew Fishbein
- Isabel Jerchel-Furau and Calin Furau
- Emily and Rob Gallagher
- Katy Goldman and Dave Mackey
- Carly and Jesse Heller
- Katherine+ and Matthew Manning
- Molly and Patrick Mascia
- Sarah+ and Ryan Sample
- Kendra and Tom Scalfarotto
- Lily and Jonathan Sonis

### ALUMNI FAMILIES

- Karen Belinky and Les Charm
- Jeanne Connolly
- Kelly and Thomas Doherty
- Pam Gannon and Dave Douglas
- Christine and Robert Gerzon
- Becky and Patrick McCullough
- Kathy and Bob Miner
- Tom Titchener and Claire Greene

### FACULTY AND STAFF

- Suzie and Rob Kornblum\*\*
- Penni Hensley Wagner and John Wagner

### CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS

- Liberty Mutual
- Nike

Board member and alumni parent **Stephan Bader** stepped down from the CCC Board in June after 15 years of service. We are grateful to the following current and past Board members who contributed to plant a tree at West Concord honoring his service to CCC and the Town of Concord.

- Christina Anderson\*
- Amantha Butler\*\*
- Thomas Doherty\*\*
- Jackie Fishbein\*
- Grace Giles\*\*
- Becky McCullough\*\*
- Shannon Sweeney\*\*



- + Board member
- \* CCC current family
- \*\* CCC alumni family
- \*\*\* CCC grandparent

*This listing includes Fund for CCC donations received between **July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025**. Every effort has been made to ensure that each of our donors is listed accurately. Should you find any errors or omissions, please accept our sincere apologies and notify CCC Development & Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Saxe on (978) 505.4030*

Many thanks to this year's Fund for CCC volunteer team for contributing their time and talents to this year's Fund.:

### FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Jackie and Matthew Fishbein

### CURRENT FAMILIES

Carly Heller, Fund for CCC Chair, East Concord

Camille and Scott Bernard, West Concord

Jamie and Chris Dutton, new families

Cory Ferguson, departing families

Tatiana Klinoff and Mark Veilleux, East Concord

Julie McClure, West Concord, departing families

### ALUMNI FAMILIES

Kellie and David Anjoorian

Demi Ayres



## PROFILE OF GIVING: The Ayres Family



Ayres family photo from 2017 (l-r): Meryl, Eliot, Demi, Rob, and Ursie.

The Ayres family's almost fifty years of engagement with Concord Children's Center began in the mid-1970s when Demi and Rob enrolled their oldest child, Ursie, at the Harvey Wheeler Center:

"I had heard CCC co-founder Deborah Begner address the Town Select Board about the need for a day care facility in town," recalls Demi. "No such opportunity existed in Concord in the early 1970s. I was so impressed with Deborah's presentation, and Rob and I enthusiastically enrolled Ursie. Deborah and [CCC co-founder] Chris McVinney (Gerzon) hired an exceptional staff, and our daughter thrived in the environment of the Harvey Wheeler Center."

"Our son Eliot and daughter Meryl came along in the 1980s, and we wanted them to be exposed to this opportunity as well," continues Demi. "Many of the staff we got to know well in the 1970's were still there, and CCC felt like extended family to us. Neither Rob nor I had grown up in Concord, so we did not know many families with young children and were new to parenting. As a young mom I felt so supported by the CCC staff and learned so much from them."

Meryl is now a CCC parent herself. Her son, Arlo Wall, joined CCC in 2021, and she and Arlo have shared some of the same teachers.

"It's amazing that some of the same teachers who were at CCC during my time – including Anne Doherty and Diane Krug – are still there today!" notes Meryl.

"When we started looking for childcare for Arlo, CCC was at the top of our list," observes Meryl. "The first drop-off felt almost like coming home. Experiencing CCC as a parent has been a whole new joy – it's given us an even deeper appreciation for the community, the teachers, and the values that shape the program. We feel incredibly lucky to be part of it!"

Both Demi and Meryl have volunteered with CCC over the years. Demi served from 1977-1982 as one of CCC's first Board members, and Meryl volunteered at the Emerson program as a high school student. Both Demi and Meryl have helped grow CCC's fundraising work since Arlo has enrolled, and both also support CCC philanthropically.

"We feel it's more important than ever to support institutions like CCC that prioritize inclusivity, kindness,

## PROFILE OF GIVING: The Ayres Family *(continued)*

and community,” states Meryl. “We have no doubt that the money we give is truly well spent.”

“Periodically I am asked why I choose to support CCC,” adds Demi. “My answer is threefold. Foremost I wholeheartedly support its mission of supporting young families and their children at such a critical juncture in their lives. CCC’s rich and expansive curriculum allows students to learn and thrive and to have fun doing it! For these young children to be welcomed each day by a nurturing and supportive staff whom they trust and feel safe with allows their confidence to flourish.

“Another critical component to CCC’s success – and one which I find equally compelling – is its emphasis on ensuring that staff are well compensated and can continue their professional growth. Deborah and Chris, along with the exceptional leadership that has followed through the years, made this a priority. It continues to serve as a core element of CCC’s mission.

“Lastly, for a community to thrive, it needs to continue to attract new, young families who want to engage with and invest in the town. Early childhood care and education are critical, especially now with so many young parents both working full-time. CCC has contributed significantly to the vitality of this community for 50 years – a great track record by any measure!”

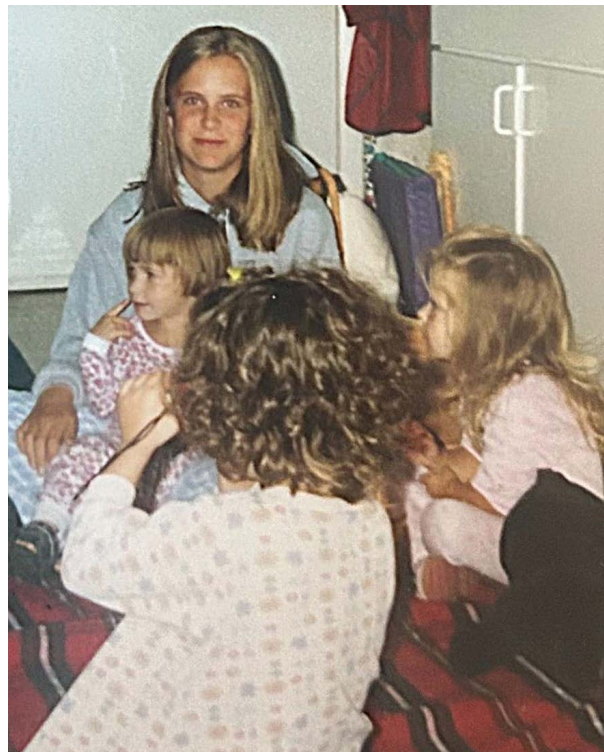
While Arlo moves onto Kindergarten this fall, the Ayres family’s relationship with CCC will continue – Meryl is expecting her second child in October and is looking forward to him/her joining CCC in 2026!



Meryl during her CCC days.



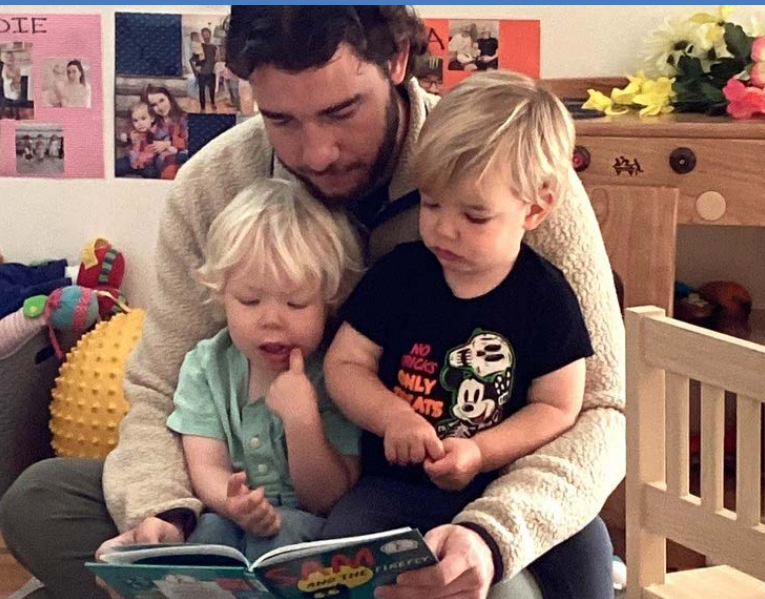
Meryl and her son, Arlo Wall, in the Hexagon Room.



Meryl volunteering at Emerson during high school.

## CONCORD CHILDREN'S CENTER GRANTS

Concord Children's Center is fortunate to receive funding from outside grant-making organizations. We are grateful to the following organizations for their support this year.



### GRANT-MAKING AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

#### **Concord-Carlisle Foundation:**

a grant to help provide tuition assistance to qualifying families. The Foundation (formerly the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest) has been supporting CCC since 1991.

#### **Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3):**

center-based grants to support:

- educators and staff, including in the areas of bonuses, incentive pay, and staff wellness;
- facilities improvements.

#### **Trinitarian Congregational Church:**

a grant to help provide tuition assistance to qualifying families.

#### **Concord Public Schools:**

a grant to support staffing in classrooms with children with high needs.

## PROFILE OF GIVING: The Anderson Family



Christina and James Anderson with their children, Claire and Ollie.



Claire with CCC educator Jordan Zirkel. Due to CCC's continuity of care approach, Jordan was Claire's teacher for Claire's first three years at CCC.

### **Choosing the Right Fit: Our Family's Journey with CCC**

By Christina Anderson

Finding a nurturing and stimulating environment was top of mind for our family as my husband, James, and I looked for care for our children. Concord Children's Center (CCC) quickly emerged as a standout choice. We were initially drawn to CCC because it was such a big part of the community, and everyone we talked to absolutely loved it.

As we learned more about CCC, we loved the play-based, child-led approach to learning and care. This focus on allowing children to explore and learn at their own pace resonated strongly with us.

Claire started at CCC during COVID. Everyone made us feel so comfortable that she would be safe and well cared for, despite our early nerves of sending our then 3-month old to daycare in a pandemic. It was truly heartwarming to see how quickly Claire formed genuine bonds with her teachers, Anne, and so many others. (Anyone at West Concord is familiar with Claire sprinting to Jordan giving her huge hugs and asking for new hairdos!) When we were considering our son Ollie's last year of preschool, we knew we definitely wanted him to be in the fun, engaging CCC environment for his last year before Kindergarten.

### **Giving Back: Our Deeper Connection to CCC**

Our involvement with CCC doesn't stop at just being

parents. I felt a strong desire to contribute more to an organization that had given so much to our family. This led me to join the Long-Range Planning committee in 2022 and then the Board in 2023, ultimately Board Chair last year. It's been eye-opening to gain a deeper understanding of CCC's inner workings. I've been able to see how every decision made is truly centered on creating the best possible environment for our children and our dedicated teachers. It's been great to play a small part in helping to set up CCC for another fantastic 50 years.

### **Supporting CCC's Mission: A Family Effort**

Our family has always believed in supporting CCC in different ways – whether through volunteering our time, opening our home for events, or contributing philanthropically. Having seen how much CCC does for our children and educators, we loved being able to give back in a variety of ways. We know what we give helps CCC do more to support teachers, provide financial aid, and enhance our curriculums. We know that employer matching programs help to increase the impact of what we give.

Our journey with CCC has been incredibly rewarding – we've developed such a great community with other families and staff, and our children have developed such deep relationships with their classmates and teachers. We're so grateful for the vibrant community, the dedicated educators, and the enriching environment that CCC provides. It's truly a place where our children have flourished.

## PROFILE OF GIVING: Penni Hensley Wagner



First preschool Group at Emerson with Educator and Program Director Kathy Wile

CCC Director of Operations  
Penni Hensley Wagner retired in July after 41 years at CCC. During this time, Penni has held a variety of roles at different sites, including Ripley After-Kindergarten educator (1984-1986), Emerson mixed-age educator (1986-1987), Ripley Program Director/educator (1987-2010), Ripley Program Director (2010-2022), and Administrative Director/Director of Operations (2022-2025).

Penni has also served in a variety of roles outside the classroom, including (but not at all limited to!):

- serving on the Board and a variety of Board committees,
- planning and executing the annual CCC auction/gala as well as almost every other CCC event,
- assisting with the capital campaign for West Concord,
- serving on the committee that hired former Executive Director Pat Nelson, and
- helping to plan, fund and build the Playscape at Ripley.

With all the roles that she has held, what stands out most for Penni from her time here? She provides a

long list in response to this question! “The children, families, educators – a true sense of community. Being part of an organization that is deeply rooted in the Concord community. Seeing people when out and about and staying connected with them over time. Being there for families facing special circumstances, whether for their child, health related, or situational. Finding space, listening, and supporting when appropriate and possible.”

Two specific events hold a special place in Penni’s heart.

“The renovation in the 1990s of the playground at Ripley was a wonderful example of the CCC community coming together. Many families donated their time, know-how, and sweat equity to build the structures and spread yards and yards of mulch. When it got dark, people moved their vehicles to shine their headlights on the playground, allowing work to continue. Kathy Reticker, the Executive Director at the time, said that Ripley was a magical spot where you could see both the moon rising and the sun setting as a backdrop to our day.”

“A few years later, a parent visualized a garden outside the back windows at Ripley, and in 1998, this vision came to be. Again, this was able to happen only through the community coming together. One parent created the landscape drawings, a local farmer plowed the area, many families cleared the space and dug and moved the earth to create different areas of the playground, and other families donated

## PROFILE OF GIVING: Penni Hensley Wagner *(continued)*



Sharing professional resources with attendees at the spring 1985 Concord Children's Center conference.



Exploring with the Ripley toddlers.

and planted all the plants and trees as well as installed a bird house. Other people continued to keep the playground usable through spring and fall maintenance days.”

Because she has held so many roles at CCC, Penni has been involved with most of the organization’s changes, successes, and challenges over the past 40 plus years.

“We went from two sites to three and have now returned to two. The number of families has grown and is the right size for the organization. Correspondingly, we have more administration to keep things humming along and meet the needs of the families and growing staff.

“We received our first accreditation in 1985 which has been maintained through the years with us this year receiving another five-year accreditation. We have truly embraced accreditation as a road map for now and into the future.

“COVID was a challenge, but we not only survived but kept the children and organization thriving due to the commitment of the educators, administration, families, Board, and the government. The CCC community is strong and an integral part of the broader Concord community.”

In addition to everything that Penni has done both inside and outside the classroom over the past 41 years, she is also a Friendship Circle donor. Penni explains that she chooses to support the organization where she has been able to build a career for over 40 years.

“I have benefited from the CCC community, professional development, strong health benefits and vacation time, and I am forever grateful.”

As Penni moves on from being a CCC employee, what are her hopes for the Center for its next 50 years?

“I hope that CCC continues to stay true to children and families first, to be a place for all through acceptance and inclusion, and to have nature as a vital principle.”



## 2024-2025 CCC FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

**FY25** was the first full year operating on a two-site model as envisioned by CCC *Reimagined*. Operating receipts were well over \$4.5 million.

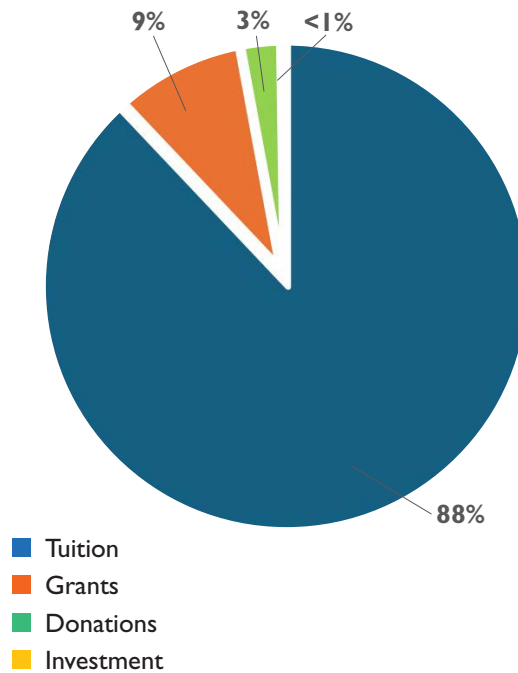
CCC served 159 children from 143 families from 13 towns, with 80 percent of our children coming from Concord. We are proud that CCC provided tuition assistance to 13 percent of our families, the highest level ever, enabled by participating in the state's voucher program and thanks to the generosity of donations from the Concord-

Carlisle Foundation, the Trinitarian Congregational Church, the Concord Public Schools, and private donors. All private donations are 100% matched by CCC. At the same time, record giving to the Fund for CCC as detailed in this report rounded out our revenue sources.

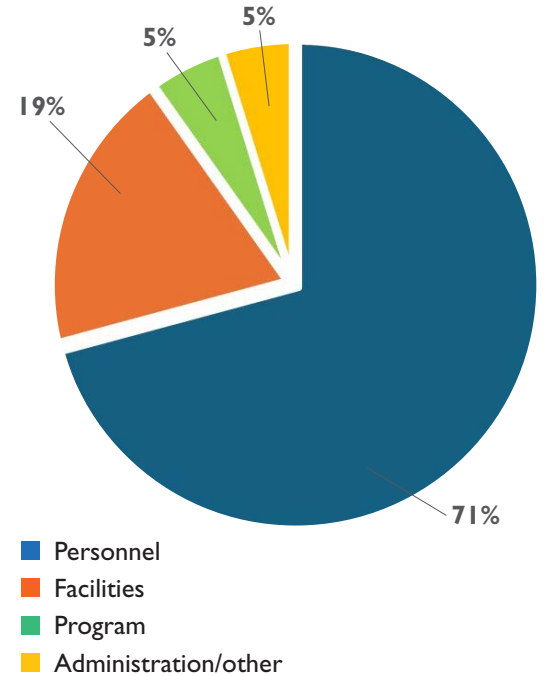
FY25 featured higher occupancy costs due to our new East Concord facility as well as our reconfigured West Concord facility. We continue to monitor our other expenses as our programs adapt to our new spaces.



CCC FY25 OPERATING INCOME



CCC FY25 OPERATING EXPENSES





.....

East Concord Program • 250 Old Bedford Road, Concord MA 01742  
West Concord Program • 1300 Main Street, Concord MA 01742 (mailing address)  
Telephone: 978.369.6790 • [concordchildrenscenter.org](http://concordchildrenscenter.org)

