



Collaborative for Colchester's Children

HEALTHY, HAPPY & SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN

Annual Report July 2017– June 2018

Notable News!

- Provided 9 subsidized school-day preschool spaces and 20 part-day spaces through School Readiness
- Reached 89 families with our programs
- Provided 125 sessions of programming to families
- 50 new families participated in our programs or workshops
- People Empowering People™ offered to 3rd Cohort; subsequently raise over \$2K for C3 as part of their class community project
- Provided Circle of Security® with support from Dime Bank of \$1510
- Colchester Lions Grant of \$550 helped support Play and Learn Groups

C3 Celebrates 10 Years of Service to Community

In January of 2008, the Colchester community was given an amazing opportunity to come together with a new leadership body to improve the lives of Colchester's youngest citizens and their families. A grant, jointly funded by the Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet through the State Department of Education and the William C. Graustein Memorial Fund, was awarded to develop a community plan to improve the success of Colchester's youngest citizens – from birth through age eight – and their families. With the excitement of this opportunity and this responsibility before us, we pulled together representatives from a broad range of Colchester stakeholders and worked together to develop a plan to help our children succeed. In July of 2009, a Community

Blueprint action plan was released that set our direction to ensure that all of Colchester's youngest citizens are healthy, happy, and successful children. Since that time, we have partnered with numerous community organizations, the public schools, town departments and community members through our local early childhood council to bring in nearly \$2.5 million dollars to Colchester in grants for early childhood efforts to support preschool attendance, early literacy, social-emotional skill development, parent education and professional development. Our work continues today with a revised and updated Community Plan that sustains our focus on healthy children, strong and empowered families, and early care and education. Here's to another decade serving our Community!

The Power of Partnerships

Research shows that a main predictor of a child's success in school and life is the strength of the relationship with his or her primary caregiver. This relationship, known as the attachment bond, impacts a child's future mental, physical, social, and emotional health. This attachment bond can be formed or strengthened at any time or at any age. **Circle of Security®** is a seven-week evidence-based program for parents that develops skills which

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

promote a secure attachment with their child, building greater emotional regulation and empathy in both parents and children. Last year, three Colchester individuals were trained as facilitators at no cost through the CT Department of Children and Families. Though ready to offer the program, funding was lacking. The **Dime Bank Foundation, Inc.** saved the day with a \$1,510 grant that allowed us to bring Circle of Security® to 10 families!

Laurie Buyniski
C3 Co-Chair

Kate Byroade
C3 Co-Chair

Staff

Cindy Praisner
Coordinator

Dawn LePage
Assistant to Coordinator

Our Vision is a Colchester where:

Children are Healthy

Healthy children are part of a caring, supportive network that meets their physical and emotional needs within an environment that enriches their development.

For healthy children, we work to ensure:

- Women of childbearing age and those already pregnant will have good health.
- Colchester babies will be born healthy.
- Infants and young children will be physically active, have good nutrition, and healthy sleep habits.
- All children will have access to quality health and dental services.
- All relationships within our community will be physically, intellectually, and emotionally safe for children and adults.

Primary Actions:

- Regular social media messages about nutrition, sleep habits, screen use, and exercise
- Provide opportunities for social-emotional skill development for adults and children
- Work to align the community's approach to mental health and behavioral challenges

Children are Happy

Happy children have loving, nurturing relationships within strong, empowered families that are able to meet life's challenges.

For happy children, we work to ensure:

- Families will have the five protective factors in place as defined by the Strengthening Families Model, i.e. Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Concrete Support in Times of Need, and support for Children's Social and Emotional Development.
- Families with young children will be decision-makers and leaders in our community.

Primary Actions:

- Offer Play and Learn groups for children and caregivers
- Host parent workshop series on Conscious Discipline®, Circle of Security®, and People Empowering People™ (PEP)
- Provide opportunities for family voice through our Parent Council and parent representatives on our Leadership Work Group and School Readiness Council

Children are Successful

Successful children participate in high-quality, affordable, early learning experiences and are supported through their first years of school.

For successful children, we work to ensure:

- All children, from birth to age five, will participate in high-quality, affordable, early learning opportunities and services necessary to enhance individual school readiness.
- All School Readiness program sites will be of high-quality and meet program requirements.
- Families will have the knowledge and skills to support their child's development and success in school.
- Our Colchester community will understand and partner with the educational system.

Primary Actions:

- Host professional development opportunities for all early care and education providers in the Colchester community
- Oversee the provision of the School Readiness program that provides 11 subsidized school-day spaces and 20 part-day spaces to community children
- Monitor School Readiness program classrooms

Our Collaborative is Effective and Strong

A fiscally stable and organizationally effective Collaborative is needed to ensure that our early childhood efforts will continue into future generations.

For an effective and strong Collaborative, we work to ensure:

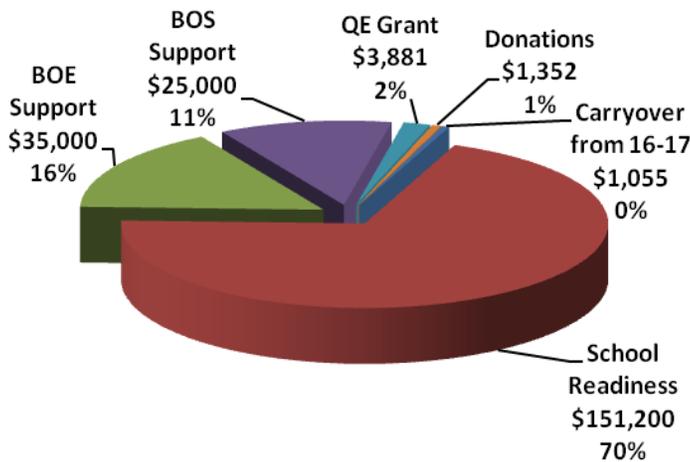
- The Collaborative for Colchester's Children will have an infrastructure that promotes, adequately funds and is accountable for its early childhood efforts.
- C3 will effectively and efficiently implement our strategies to achieve our mission.

Primary Actions:

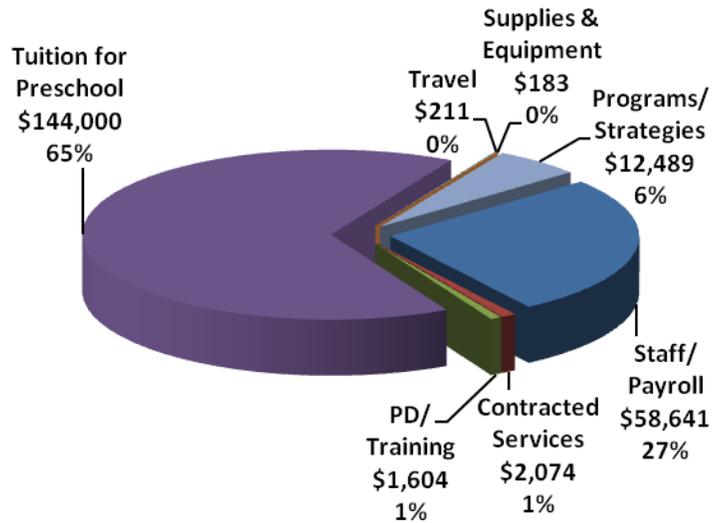
- Employ two part-time staff and maintain oversight of group facilitators
- Implement Plan through our Leadership Workgroup and School Readiness Council
- Host an Annual Meeting to share progress with the community
- Reach out to the community through our website and facebook page
- Complete an annual Community Assessment Tool to measure our effectiveness
- Present updates of C3's work to the Boards of Education, Selectmen, and Finance
- Continually seek out grant opportunities and support fundraising efforts for our work

Financial Information for 2017-2018

Monetary Revenues Total: \$219,498



Expenses Total: \$219,497



Thank you to our supporters and partners!



C.A.S.T.L.E.

Colchester Board of Education

Colchester Board of Selectmen

Colchester Lions Charities

Colchester Youth & Social Services

Cragin Memorial Library

Dime Bank Foundation, Inc

TVCCA

UCFS

William W. Backus Hospital

Donations Received in 2017-2018:

- Tag Sale by Jackie Lucco \$400 - Anonymous \$500 - 360 Defense \$635
- Scottie's Frozen Custard \$200 - Inishmoor Pub \$358 - Bodycare Treatment Center \$276
- Nick and Renee Behlman \$200 - Mom's Club Consignment Sale \$546

We need you! Contact Cindy Praisner at cpraisner@colchesterct.org to find out how you can help!

Visit our website at: www.ColchesterC3.org

Like us on facebook and follow us on Twitter!



Collaborative for Colchester's Children

315 Halls Hill Rd Colchester, CT 06415

860.537.0717