



Celebrating 50 Years of Service to  
Our Children & Community





"We will always strive to provide our children with the best early childhood education possible, so one day, they can share their success story."

## A Message from the Executive Director



Rina Irwin, Executive Director

When our journey started in 1969 as Day Care Services, Inc., the focus was simple – provide community-based child care for working families. Fifty years later – now known as Child Development Centers, Inc. - our focus has evolved from daycare to educational excellence and student achievement.

Our non-profit organization's advancement in philosophy has directly coincided with its physical growth. After having a modest beginning in Franklin, we now serve nearly 2,000 children across 16 locations in Venango, Crawford and Erie counties. We are extremely proud of the progress we have made over the past five decades and we feel like there is still room for growth.

Our mission of "Educating Children To Succeed" continues to motivate us each day to provide the best early childhood education possible for children as

young as 6-weeks old all the way through preschool, as well as having a safe and fun school-age program. Child Development Centers, Inc. wants each and every one of the children who walk through our centers to make seamless transitions to their next level of schooling and perform above their peers.

I truly believe we are uniquely equipped to make meaningful impacts in the lives of these young learners. We do that through our highly-qualified teachers, state-of-the-art facilities, deploying our own Health Services Team, implementing curriculum during the most important stages of brain development and carefully utilizing grant funding and community donations to equip our staff with necessary materials.

We remain committed to continuous improvement as an organization, so we can best serve the children and families in our communities.

As we look toward the future, we want to maintain our same core values and keep our focus where it has been all along – on

the children. We will always strive to provide our children with the best early childhood education possible, so one day, they can share their success story.

While 50 years of service to the community is something to celebrate, it hardly leaves us satisfied. There is still work to be done. We owe it to the children.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and everyone at Child Development Centers, thank you for your interest and support of our mission.

Sincerely,

Rina M. Irwin  
Executive Director



"I have both of my children in CDC and I can't thank each of my children's teachers enough. My youngest just finished her second year of preschool and her teacher helped her accomplish so many goals. My daughter learned so much between writing her first and last name, her letter recognition, rhyming, numbers and so much more with the curriculum they follow!

- Amanda H.  
FSA CDC Parent

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# Memorable Milestones through the years

**January 26, 1969**  
Day Care Services, Inc. begins providing community-based child care in Venango County.

**1987**  
Clarion CDC Opens

**1992**  
Hasson Heights CDC Opens

**1997**  
Day Care Services, Inc. nears bankruptcy

**1999**  
Name changes to Child Development Centers, Inc.

**1999**  
School-Age program Camp Funshine launches

**2000**  
Franklin Infant-Toddler CDC Opens

**2006**  
Cranberry CDC Opens

**2007**  
Added Pre-K Counts program at its inception

**2011**  
Oil City CDC Opens

**2014**  
CDC awarded a five-year, \$2.3 million grant to operate Early Head Start in Venango County

**2016**  
CDC awarded a five-year, \$19 million grant to operate Head Start in Venango & Crawford Counties

**2017**  
Willow & Grant St. CDC Open

**January 26, 2019**  
50 Year Anniversary

**June 2019**  
CDC awarded a five-year, \$40 million grant to operate Head Start in Erie County

1969 1979 1987 1991 1992 1997 1998 1999 2000 2002 2006 2007 2011 2014 2016 2017 2019

**1979**  
Enrolled in Child and Adult Care Food Program

**1991**  
Seneca CDC Opens

**June 23, 1997**  
Executive Director Rina Irwin joins organization

**2002**  
CDC participated in pilot program of Keystone STARS, a continuous quality improvement effort led by the state of Pennsylvania. Many of CDC's current facilities maintain a STAR 4 rating, the highest that can be achieved.

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**2016**  
East End Head Start, Gill Commons Head Start & 7th St. CDC Open

**2017**  
Reached 1,000 total enrolled children

**2017**  
CDC becomes Top-10 employer in Venango County

**2019**  
Six Erie Head Start Locations Open

**2019**  
Six Erie Head Start Locations Open

*"I love Willow CDC and so do my kids. My 5-year-old has flourished and learned so many skills there - from recognizing and writing letters and numbers, to skipping and building strong friendships while improving social skills. I can't say enough good things about the program and the people who work there."  
- Meggan B. Willow CDC Parent*



50 Years  
of Growth

“Everything at CDC revolves around children and making decisions that are in the best interest of the boys and girls so they can succeed later in life. As the children grow, CDC grows right along with them.”

From the beginning, Child Development Centers, Inc. has always looked for ways it can better serve the children that come through the doors on a daily basis. As the number of enrolled children continues to rise, so does the need for CDC to provide services that directly support children’s learning in the classroom while staying true to the mission of “Educating Children To Succeed.”

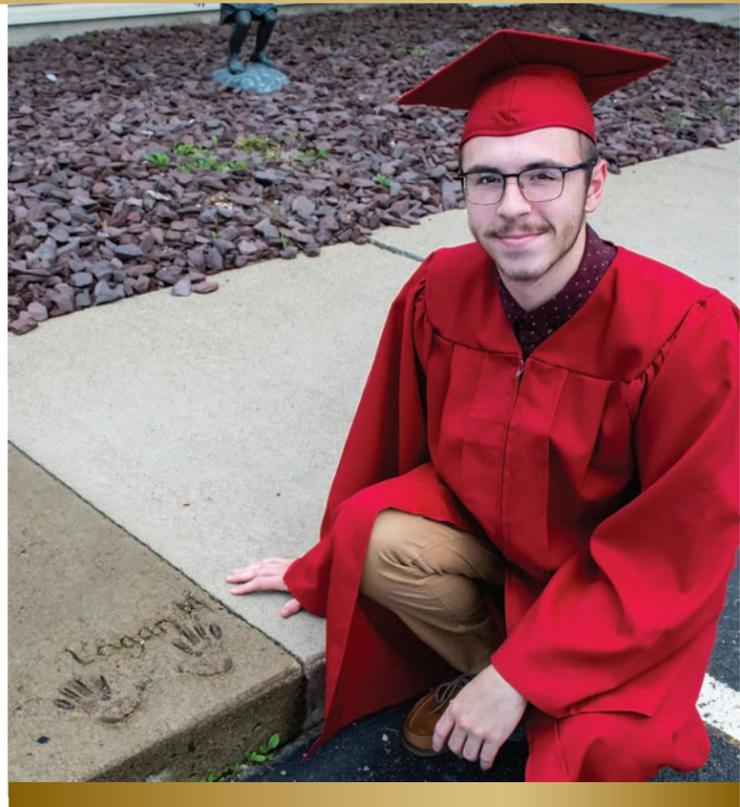
One of the largest additions recently was the creation of the Health Services Team, led by board-certified pediatrician Dr. Scott Cartwright, M.D. Dr. Cartwright has surrounded himself with a well-rounded team of medical professionals to include nurses, speech-language pathologists, medical assistants, a dentist and a dental hygienist. The Health Services Team was implemented to maintain the well-being of children and to promote healthy habits so children are in the best position to learn and grow.

Another key piece to enabling children’s learning is providing them with appropriate meals throughout the school day, including breakfast, lunch and snack. CDC enrolled in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) in 1979 to receive assistance in providing the much-needed meals and is still an active participant 40 years later.

CDC is also proud to be using The Creative Curriculum in all of its preschool and infant-toddler classrooms. The curriculum allows teachers to guide children’s daily educational experiences and it transforms the classroom into a learning community revolving around their current Study.

Everything at CDC revolves around children and making decisions that are in the best interest of the boys and girls so they can succeed later in life. As the children grow, CDC grows right along with them.

“My husband and I can’t say enough about CDC. Our son goes to the Franklin Infant Toddler center. We wanted him to go to a place where we knew not only that his needs would be met, but also that he would receive the quality of care and love that we give him. **The staff at CDC has gone beyond our expectations.**”  
- Kayla J.  
Franklin CDC Parent



From Preschool to High School Graduate

2019 Cranberry High School Graduate Logan McFarland poses with his handprints he left in the cement at the Cranberry Center where he attended preschool. Logan is currently pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Safety Management from Slippery Rock University and hopes to travel in the future. Logan credits his early childhood education at CDC as a strong foundation for his success in high school and goals in college.



Locations By County

- Venango County**
- Cranberry CDC - est. 2006**  
Infant, Toddler, Early Head Start, Pre-K Counts, Preschool, Head Start, Elementary School-Age
  - Franklin CDC - est. 2000**  
Infant, Toddler, Early Head Start
  - Franklin School-Age CDC - est. 1998**  
Preschool, Elementary School-Age
  - Seventh Street CDC - est. 2016**  
Head Start
  - Grant Street CDC - est. 2017**  
Head Start
  - Hasson Heights CDC - est. 1992**  
Pre-K Counts, Elementary School-Age
  - Oil City CDC - est. 2011**  
Infant, Toddler, Early Head Start, Preschool
- Crawford County**
- Willow CDC - est. 2017**  
Infant, Toddler, Pre-K Counts, Preschool, Head Start
  - East End Head Start - est. 2016**  
Head Start
  - Gill Commons Head Start - est. 2016**  
Head Start

- Erie County - est. 2019**
- Asbury CDC**  
Head Start
  - Century CDC**  
Head Start
  - John E. Horan Head Start Center**  
Head Start
  - Shiloh Head Start Center**  
Head Start
  - Elk Valley Head Start**  
Head Start
  - Corry Primary Head Start**  
Head Start

This year Child Development Centers, Inc. celebrates a monumental milestone - their 50th anniversary - and I am more than proud of the agency's accomplishments during this time. I first became familiar with Day Care Services, Inc. in the mid 70's as an employee of another social services agency housed in the same building. I then became an interested bystander watching the growth and evolution of the agency through the eyes of my good friend and neighbor who was an employee. I watched as classrooms were moved from church basements to buildings where there was space for outside playgrounds. I watched as more classrooms and teachers were added as enrollment increased. I watched as the name was changed from Day Care Services, Inc. to Child Development Centers, Inc. to better reflect the mission of "Educating Children to Succeed."

Over 40 years later I am still watching CDC, but this time as President of the Board of Directors. During my time on the Board I watched as teachers and assistant teachers went back to school and became certified in Early Childhood education. I watched as more employee benefits were offered to attract and retain qualified staff. I watched as the program expanded beyond Venango County to include first Crawford County and then Erie County. I watched as medical, dental, nutritional and psychological services were added to benefit the students. I watched as CDC classrooms became PA STARS certified and NAEYC accredited. I watched the implementation of the Creative Curriculum in each classroom. And I watched as CDC received well-deserved state and national recognition for the quality and breadth of the educational and other services offered to our early learners.

CDC's growth and long term success would not have been possible without the dedicated staff who go above and beyond every day, the exemplary leadership team and the hard working Board of Directors.

I can't wait to see what the future holds! Congratulations Child Development Centers, Inc. for 50 years of service to the early learners in our communities.

### Janet Aaron

President, Board of Directors  
Child Development Centers, Inc.

## A Board Member's Reflection



Over the course of CDC's 50-year history, there have been few stories like Nicole Novicki's. She is an alumnus of CDC in addition to being a former employee and a current parent of three enrolled children.

Nicole attended CDC in the early 1990s in Seneca where Dr. Joneja's office is now located before moving to the Hasson Heights center shortly after it opened its doors for the first time. "I remember the creation of the room names as animals because we voted at the time and we became the Cheetahs," Nicole said. "I loved that we got to walk to and from school at Hasson Heights as well as walking to the Hasson Pool during the summer."

Nicole, who is a supervisor for Venango Children, Youth and Family Services, believes CDC prepared her for adult life by helping her become more eager to learn and further her education. "I was also one of the older kids when I was there, so I sort of fell into a role of being a helper, which I believe has helped guide me into my career in human services," she said.

Nicole spent the summer of 2003 working at CDC to assist with Camp Funshine while on college break. She has degrees in psychology and criminal justice, and has worked with children for more than a decade between her current job, child care and serving as a TSS.

Nicole is still very much connected with CDC as her three children, Bethany (Age 11), Brent (Age 9) and Falyn (Age 4) are all enrolled at our Cranberry facility. One of the highlights of CDC for her family is Camp Funshine, the very program she assisted with more than 15 years ago. "Camp Funshine is a great summer program that gives kids the opportunity to get out and do a lot of activities and have different experiences that they may not otherwise have due to parents full-time work schedules," she said. "I am also thankful for the structured environment that is offered prior to school-age because it really helps prepare them for Kindergarten."

Along with Nicole, CDC has had many successful graduates who have gone on to obtain careers such as teachers, doctors, chefs, pilots, engineers and nurses. Each success story generates a sense of pride at CDC knowing that the foundation for their future began here.

## A CDC Success Story



Nicole Novicki, CDC Alumnus



Aaron Baker, Sous Chef



Alexis Fox, Child-well Being Specialist



Erik Larson, Pilot



Erie Expansion

"The 760 total children are spread across six locations in and around the city... CDC placed much of its focus on serving children who reside in the city because research indicates the greatest need is there."

Child Development Centers, Inc. is always looking for new opportunities to serve children in need. During its 50-year anniversary in 2019, CDC took on its biggest addition yet by expanding to Erie County. The Administration for Children & Families, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded CDC a five-year, \$40 million grant in June to operate the federal Head Start program in Erie County.

The grant allows for 680 children between the ages of 3 and 5 in Erie County to be served through the Head Start program, which is designed to prepare young learners from economically disadvantaged households for the transition to kindergarten. CDC also acquired 80 state-funded preschool slots through the Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program (HSSAP), enough to fill four more classrooms in Erie.

The 760 total children are spread across six locations in and around the city including John E. Horan Head Start, Shiloh Head Start, Elk Valley Head Start, Corry Head Start, Century Child Development Center and Asbury Child Development Center. CDC placed much of its focus on serving children who reside in the city because research indicates the greatest need is there. Leading up to the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year, extensive renovations were completed at the Asbury and Century locations, including removing walls to increase classroom size, plumbing/electrical work, painting, cleaning and much more.



Two additional locations - Gilson Child Development Center and St. Matthews Lutheran Church - have been purchased with plans to open for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Both sites will undergo renovations of their own beginning in early 2020 to ensure all of CDC's safety and quality standards are met. Once those locations are open to the public, Gilson CDC will offer infant-toddler care on top of tuition-based preschool and Head Start classrooms. St. Matthews will hold six or seven Head Start classrooms upon completion.

Roughly 170 new employees have been hired at CDC to help administer the program in Erie, the majority of which were a part of the Head Start program under the previous grantee. In addition to the teachers, bus drivers, custodial workers and food service staff, CDC also brought on Child-Well Being Specialists, Practice-Based Coaches, Disabilities Specialists, Health Services staff and administrative assistants.

CDC is extremely excited to have a presence in Erie County and plans to build and foster relationships with other community organizations to best serve families in need.





# Our Centers

## Venango County

**Cranberry CDC**  
(Infant/Toddler/  
Preschool/School-Age)  
180 Salina Road  
Seneca, PA 16346  
(814) 676-5779

**Franklin CDC**  
(Infant/Toddler)  
1215 Railroad Street  
Franklin, PA 16323  
(814) 437-9222

**Franklin School-Age CDC**  
(Preschool/School-Age)  
614 11th Street  
Franklin, PA 16323  
(814) 437-9293

**Grant Street CDC**  
(Head Start)  
701 East Third Street  
Oil City, PA 16301  
(814) 493-8923

**Hasson Heights CDC**  
(Preschool/School-Age)  
255 Park Avenue  
Oil City, PA 16301  
(814) 677-5865

**Oil City CDC**  
(Infant/Toddler/Preschool)  
210 East Bissell Avenue  
Oil City, PA 16301  
(814) 670-0240

**Seventh Street CDC**  
(Head Start)  
702 Liberty Street  
Franklin, PA 16323  
(814) 518-5309

## Crawford County

**East End Head Start**  
640 Walnut Street  
Meadville, PA 16335  
(814) 807-1588

**Gill Commons Head Start**  
275 Walker Drive  
Meadville, PA 16335  
(814) 807-1799

**Willow CDC**  
(Infant/Toddler/Preschool/  
Head Start)  
15438 State Highway 86  
Meadville, PA 16335  
(814) 807-0778

## Erie County

**Century CDC**  
(Head Start)  
504 East 27th Street  
Erie, PA 16504  
(814) 480-9505

**Asbury CDC**  
(Head Start)  
3814 Asbury Road  
Erie, PA 16506  
(814) 480-9505

**John E. Horan Head Start**  
730 Tacoma Road  
Erie, PA 16511  
(814) 480-9505

**Shiloh Head Start**  
909 East 5th Street  
Erie, PA 16507  
(814) 480-9505

**Elk Valley Head Start**  
2556 Maple Avenue  
Lake City, PA 16423  
(814) 480-9505

**Corry Head Start**  
423 Wayne Street  
Corry, PA 16407  
(814) 480-9505



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