

# Rising Up



2018-2019 Annual Report





## MISSION

CLC supports the development of the whole child through: Quality Care and Education, Early Interventions, and Access for All

## VISION

We believe that all children reach their full potential when given a strong start.

## INCLUSION

As an inclusive program, we work hard to ensure that all kids reach their full potential regardless of backgrounds or abilities with caring classroom environments.



## Dear Parents & Supporters,

After fiscal year 2018-2019, we're 48 years into the mission of CLC.

We've enhanced countless lives through early education in Teton and Sublette counties.

Both teachers and students have improved together.

We've seen challenges. And we've risen to meet them.

The mentality of rising to meet challenges filters into our children through amazing teachers and staff.

We watch, like you, as children rise to meet their own challenges in a new environment with us.

Occasionally, we end up with frustrated children who don't know how to communicate wants and needs.

Then, the magic.

Through kind and loving efforts of teachers and staff, children rise past frustration and toward competence and confidence.

We've seen the cycle for nearly 50 years, and it's always amazing.

The best part? We know the uplift from this rising generation only begins here.

Like a little yeast sown into the community, children graduate from CLC and help lift the whole community.

Their new schools, new friends, and, of course, families all benefit:

*"Last week our 2-year-old son did yoga, worked on his fall animals and made soup the friends ate for lunch — all from vegetables they learned about in a book that inspired much discussion. He counts, he sings the alphabet in its entirety and is engaged and loves learning. This is all thanks to the amazing staff at CLC."*

*- Allison and Brian*

This year, we've risen to meet new challenges. And we've watched children rise to meet their own.

We're grateful to be part of the leaven of this community by interacting with your children every day.

Here's to a 2020 where we all rise up together!

Warm Regards,  
Patti Boyd



# Our Programs

Including Special Education, the area's largest Childcare, and Head Start/Early Head Start

CLC is constantly working to improve safety, education, and programs for our children. We hold ourselves accountable to you and the children.

**25** SPECIAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS provide services in **28** LOCATIONS (home, childcare and preschools) in Teton and Sublette Counties



"Bad guys don't like good smells, only stinky ones because bad guys stink."  
- 4-year-old CLC student

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

PROGRAM DIRECTOR Davey Hough

CLC is the Special Education provider for kids birth through 5 in Teton and Sublette counties and now offers online developmental screenings for parent and childcare provider convenience.

FUNDED BY **84%** GOVERNMENT GRANTS

**16%** SUPPORTED BY fundraising and other resources

FY19 **150** CHILDREN received special education and related services

FY20 **147** CHILDREN are identified as needing special education and related services

MORE THAN **30%** OF CHILDREN in CLC classrooms receive special education and related services

**FREE** **762** DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS **90** DEVELOPMENTAL EVALUATIONS

**HOME-COOKED  
BREAKFAST, LUNCH, & SNACKS**  
provided at no extra charge to families



## CHILDCARE PROGRAM

PROGRAM DIRECTOR Nicole Philbin

CLC offers year-round childcare services for children as young as 6 weeks old through age 5.

FY19 **212** CHILDREN ENROLLED



**10**  
HOURS  
of childcare  
each day

**226**  
DAYS  
each year



**10**  
INCLUSION  
CLASSROOMS

at two sites:  
Rafter J Ranch  
and Mercill Avenue  
campuses

**36**  
FACULTY MEMBERS

26 teachers along with  
cooks, custodians,  
site managers, curriculum  
coaches, and our wonderful  
program director



**86%**

of TC Ed faculty  
have been with  
CLC for 2+ years

**69%**

of TC Ed faculty  
have been with  
CLC for 3+ years

**19%**

of TC Ed faculty  
have been with  
CLC for 5+ years

## HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START

PROGRAM DIRECTOR Leticia Liera

Education is a great differentiator, and our Head Start programs provide it (and meals) to the most economically disadvantaged and at-risk families in Teton County.

**2,208** EARLY HEAD START home visits

FY19 **102**  
ENROLLED CHILDREN

**58**  
EARLY HEAD START  
(ages birth through 2) through  
a home-visiting program

**44**  
HEAD START CHILDREN  
in 2 class rooms

**22%**  
OF CHILDREN  
were high risk and homeless

FY20 **92**  
ENROLLED CHILDREN

**52**  
EARLY HEAD START  
(ages birth through 2) through  
a home-visiting program

**40**  
HEAD START CHILDREN

**14%**  
OF CHILDREN  
were high risk and homeless



**45%**  
OF HEAD START  
CHILDREN

AND

**16%**  
OF EARLY HEAD START  
CHILDREN

receive special ed services  
through Individualized  
Education Programs.



## EMERGENT, PLAY-BASED CURRICULUM

Kids learn better when they're engaged. We use an emergent curriculum based on research and creativity that builds around the kids' interests. We use the best assessment tools for both child development and teacher development.

# FEEDING GREATNESS

We feed greatness both figuratively and literally as the only early childhood center other than the hospital to serve meals to students.

Beyond feeding curiosity, intelligence and artistic endeavors, we served 534 meals every day between breakfast, lunch, and snacks. It's just part of our curriculum, and a part we're proud of.



# NO ONE DOES MORE

CLC is the largest early childhood full-day, year-round care and education facility in the area with kids as young as 6 weeks through age 5.

**33%** OF ENTERING KINDERGARTNERS graduated from CLC

# A SAFE HAVEN

We follow Department of Family Services guidelines for safety and training and Wyoming state standards of best practices for early childhood education and development. We also go above and beyond.



The only early childhood center to employ **SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS IN CLASSROOMS** for safety and training purposes.



**REGULAR SAFETY TRAININGS**  
CLC faculty has regular trainings in safety, CPR, infant toddler first aid, and inclusion classroom techniques like the pyramid model and addressing challenging behaviors. This year we redoubled our efforts in trainings and state requirements.



**Following FDA Guidelines:**  
We provide most of the nutrition & food students need in a day – especially Head Start children  
**40 backpacks of food are sent home every weekend** in cooperation with the Mission in Jackson  
We don't charge extra for food; it's included in tuition rates or through Head Start

# MIRROR, MIRROR

This year we put mirrors in the corners of classrooms to help teachers monitor all areas of their classrooms and bells on classroom doors to ensure that teachers can account for all their children all the time.



## QUICK-SNACK STATS FY19:

**534**

HOME-COOKED meals each day

**178**

CHILDREN were fed

**2 Meals**

AND SNACKS provided daily



# How we

It's been another great year for CLC and the children and families who spend time here. On the following pages are just a few highlights as we continue to rise.

# have risen this year



## STEAM-POWERED

STEAM education — also known as Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math — is more important than ever. This approach unites right and left brain to give your children what they need most — creative problem-solving across the spectrum. And understanding how each individual subject ties to another.

This year, we hired a STEAM educator who floats between eight classrooms in Teton County to provide that foundation for our children.

At this age, it's simple, fun stuff. In science, you start where they are.

## Dissecting Fruit

One track looked at fruits and vegetables and worked in math, art, and conceptual skills.

The kids basically “dissected” a pumpkin in one class. They hammered a golf tee into it, broke it apart and took out seeds.

Then they hypothesized what it would taste like. They all thought it would taste like a mango.

Or other orange foods. They made the common early childhood mistake of associating taste with color.

But instead of correcting them, this wonderful teacher let it stand as their hypothesis until they found out otherwise through experimentation. At that point, they own it as their own fact.

Imagine how much more powerful that is than saying,

“Pumpkins don't taste like mangoes.”

They also learned that fruit always has seeds inside as they took apart other fruits and vegetables to figure out which was which.

One little guy figured out that an orange is a fruit because it has seeds inside and ran all over the classroom telling about it because he was so proud he learned it himself.



## Sizing It Up

Another STEAM activity with fruit and vegetables worked on estimation skills, artistic skills, and others. The children arranged everything from a pumpkin down to a lime by size. Then by color. Then by flavor.

The first round was never perfect, but it became a valuable learning exercise as the children put things in order and started to classify their world.

We love seeing our children progress like this, and can't wait to share more stories from our STEAM time!

## Body Works

Another track, for instance, has been teaching about body parts, and will ultimately end up with kids understanding a little bit about the systems that make their bodies work.

It's been so cute to watch them learn and see how proud they are of themselves and their new knowledge.





## SETTING THE PACE OF EARLY EDUCATION

We've been working with state researchers to identify ways to improve, and our new emphasis on STEAM has been part of these efforts.

This is just one of many improvements you'll see throughout this program, so get ready to watch our children take leaps and bounds forward.



## GOING GREEN... HOUSE

Two of our programs — Rafter J and Pinedale — both allowed kids to plant and harvest fruit and vegetables from greenhouses at the school.

This taught them a lot, and then they got to enjoy the literal fruit (and vegetables) of their labors as our cooks worked their homegrown goodness into the daily menus at harvest time.



"I can love others by I give them a turtle."  
- Chloe, age 2

## CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

The kids show they care about community often.

This year, the children:

- Participated in food drives
- Raised money for the animal adoption center
- Thanked the firemen who fought the fire on saddle butte right near the Mercill building
- Adopted a lion
- Worked to be kinder in school and with their family through our kindness initiative
- Met regularly with residents of the retirement center at Legacy Lodge

## ENCOURAGING INTERACTIONS

Kids in the Head Start program are often marginalized in the community at large. They sometimes feel isolated from other kids their age.

At the Mercill building, we take down those barriers, letting these wonderful children interact with one another, learn from one another, and just be friends.

## FUN PROJECTS

Our teachers go to great lengths to create memorable, fun projects that tie in real-world knowledge and skills that take our children higher while feeding their interests.

"Art is like doing flowers."  
- Mo, age 4

Here are a few examples:

Cooperative wall murals

Studying mountain lions

Learning about the Titanic, artists, inventions, space, and stars



"I can love others in the summer with my dad when the grass is long."  
- Louis, age 2

## THIS IS GROWING UP

The kids at CLC really mature in so many ways. One of the most fun things we see is how they try new activities, and even bring them home into their own families.

Here are a few "grown-up" things we've introduced to the kids this year based on their interests.

YOGA • MINDFULNESS • MUSIC • DANCE  
NATURE EXPLORATIONS • ART • COOKING PROJECTS

"My mommy said I'm going to be happy and sometimes I'm crying like this — 'Waaah!' And my poppa says 'Oh my, you're not a baby,' and I say 'Uh-oh spaghetti-o!'" - Finn



## FIELD TRIPS

We do our best at CLC to make sure these children love where they live. Our field trips help cement that love as we introduce them to places and things in the area. Some of these were just for fun while others introduced them to the way the world works.

City parks • Grand Teton National Park • R Park • Rec Centers  
Idaho Falls Zoo • Airport • Grocery Stores • Post Office Fire Department  
Pumpkin Patch • Center for the Arts



# Our Schools



Did you know CLC operates 4 campuses in northwest Wyoming? Learn more about each below:

## RAFTER J

Home to CLC's main commercial kitchen, large outdoor natural play space, and a greenhouse that helps supply ingredients in home-cooked meals.

- BUILT IN 2011
- 12,000 SQUARE FEET
- Owned and maintained BY TETON COUNTY
- 65 CHILDREN
- 24 STAFF including Special Ed department
- 5 CLASSROOMS



## BIG PINEY Sublette County

Home to morning and afternoon preschool programs, a gross motor room, and large outdoor play space to encourage our play-based emergent curriculum.

- 4,800 SQUARE FEET in the Big Piney Recreation Center
- Managed BY THE TOWN OF BIG PINEY
- 36 CHILDREN attending morning or afternoon preschool
- 11 STAFF including Special Ed department
- 2 CLASSROOMS



## MERCILL CENTER Jackson

Home to a commercial prep kitchen, CLC administrative offices, and a whole lot of fun and learning.

- BUILT IN 2017
- 15,000 SQUARE FEET
- Owned and maintained BY TETON COUNTY
- 105 CHILDREN
- 30 STAFF
- 7 CLASSROOMS including 2 Head Start Classes



## PINEDALE

Home to morning and afternoon preschool programs, a gross motor room, large outdoor natural play space, and a greenhouse that helps supply ingredients in home-cooked meals.

- BUILT IN 2000
- 6,000 SQUARE FEET
- Owned and maintained BY TLC
- 36 CHILDREN
- 11 STAFF including Special Ed department
- 2 CLASSROOMS



# FUN- Raising

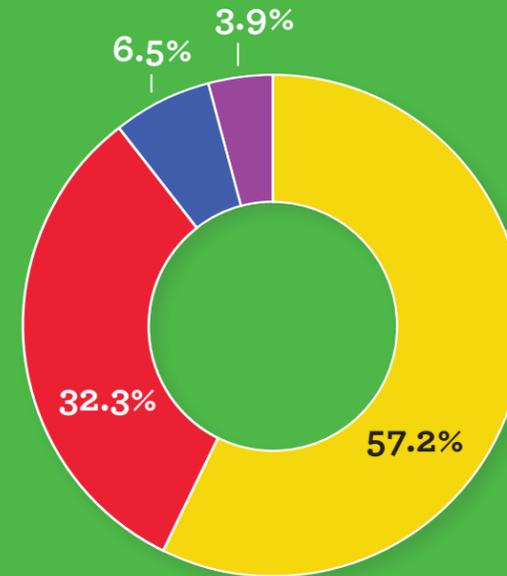
Every year, it takes about 20 percent more than we take in through government grants and tuition to run the CLC program at the level we do. And 90 percent of our overhead goes to staffing 598 man hours every day.

And county commissioners have directed that we keep our programs at the mid-range of the market despite the high-end touches we offer like meals, STEAM education, field trips, and more.

Consequently, it takes significant fundraising to provide families the subsidized tuitions we offer. We do this through fun events as often as possible like our Wanna-Be fundraiser that let people bid on unique experiences, Old Bill's and others. But without these, we couldn't operate.

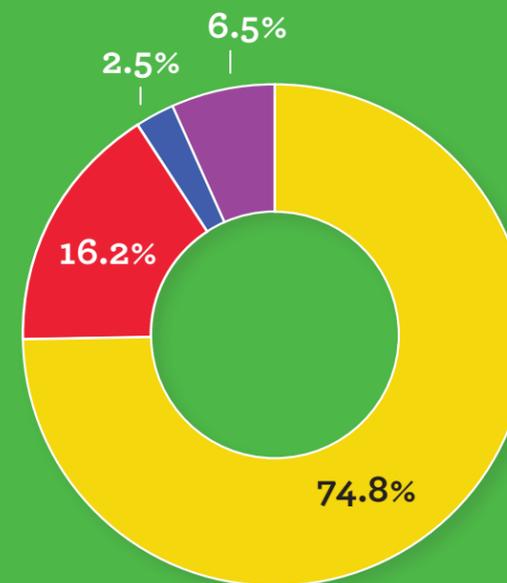
Last year, we paid off debt for the new Mercill building by selling our Gill Street property to keep costs as low as possible. Still, we always lean on fundraising to care for this community's children. And we're grateful that the community cares back.

# BY THE Numbers



**INCOME \$5,826,349**

- Government - \$3,336,358
- Program Services Tuition - \$1,884,601
- Fundraising - \$377,000
- In-Kind contributions - \$228,390



**EXPENSES \$5,800,733**

- Total Payroll & Benefits - \$4,338,751
- All Other Expenses - \$939,195
- Tuition Discounts & Scholarships - \$141,6089
- Occupancy, Repair & Maintenance - \$381,179

\* An additional \$142,000 was raised the previous fiscal year and earmarked for FY19. Difference between income and expenses: \$25,161, earmarked for FY20 Projects.

Old Bill's  
Fun Run 2018-19  
raised over  
**\$119,789**  
from 162 donors

Old Bill's  
Fun Run 2019-2020  
raised over  
**\$136,486**  
from 164 donors

**24**

donations from foundations

**184**

donations  
from individuals

**22**

donations  
from businesses

**274**

donations for programs CLC received from all categories (Old Bill's Fun Run, individuals, foundations, businesses)

**\$519,000**

total donations FY19

# Our Staff



## REGIONAL OFFICE

- PATTI BOYD  
*Executive Director*
- MIRIAM MORILLON  
*Finance Director*
- MARIEL NELSON  
*Human Resources*
- ABBY O'NEILL  
*Operations*
- JUAN CARLOS PEREZ  
*Tuition Billing Manager*
- JODI SIEGFRIED  
*Development Manager*

## HEAD START

- MARCELLA BADILLO-CARRILLO  
*Early Head Start Teacher & Home Visitor*
- CYNTHIA FISCHER  
*Head Start Teacher / Coach*
- CRISTINA CAMPOS  
*Early Head Start Teacher & Home Visitor*
- RONEY DE LA CRUZ  
*Head Start Bus Driver & Maintenance Manager*
- CHERIE FLORES  
*Early Head Start & Head Start Data Manager*
- HITZIA GARNICA  
*Early Head Start Teacher & Home Visitor*
- SONIA HERNANDEZ  
*Head Start Teacher*
- ELSA LEMIN  
*Early Head Start Teacher & Home Visitor*
- LETICIA LIERA  
*Early Head Start & Head Start Director*
- MARIANA MCFARLANE  
*Early Head Start & Head Start Program Manager*
- ESTHER MONTIEL-MORENO  
*Bus Monitor*
- CONY CERVANTES  
*Head Start Teacher*
- YADIRA SOSA  
*Head Start Teacher*
- JOY STEINER  
*Head Start Teacher*

## SPECIAL EDUCATION Teton and Sublette Counties

- ANA ASENCIOS  
*Sublette County Custodian*
- JEN BAXTER  
*Teton County Occupational Therapist*
- HEATHER BIXLER  
*Sublette County Data Manager*
- NATALIE STRONG  
*Sublette County Teacher*
- KRISTA DAVIES  
*Sublette County Speech & Language Pathologist*
- ROBBI FARROW  
*Teton County Occupational Therapist & Teton County Special Education Manager*
- CAMILLE GIFFORD  
*Teton County Teacher & Inclusion Provider*
- MARTHA GORDON  
*Sublette County Custodian*
- BECKY GREGORY  
*Sublette County Development & Pinedale Site Manager*
- ANNE BARRETT HAZARD  
*Teton County Speech & Language Pathologist*
- DAVEY HOUGH  
*Teton and Sublette Counties, Special Education Director*
- MICKEY LAPAN  
*Teton County Inclusion Provider & Speech & Language Pathologist Aide*
- STACI JONES  
*Sublette County Teacher & Inclusion Provider*
- HOLLY MADOLE  
*Sublette County Teacher & Inclusion Provider*
- LISA MASON  
*Sublette County Special Education Teacher & Special Education Manager*
- OLIVIA EIDEN  
*Sublette County Business & Big Piney Site Manager*
- SONIA SCHUPP  
*Sublette County Occupational Therapist*
- ANIKA LARSON  
*Teton County Special Education Teacher & Inclusion Provider*
- MARISSA STONE  
*Sublette County Teacher*
- KELSI SLUYTER  
*Sublette County Teacher*
- WENDY WILLIAMS  
*Teton County Special Education Teacher*
- KAT WOLAVER  
*Sublette County Teacher*
- JULIE WAITE  
*Sublette County Teacher*
- MEREDITH YETTER  
*Special Education, Administrative Assistant*
- TARA WUNSCH  
*Teton County Special Education, Teacher & Inclusion Provider*

## TETON COUNTY EDUCATION

- GLORIA AGUILAR  
*Teacher*
- ARIANNA ALIBABAIE  
*Teacher*
- ANGIE BILLGER  
*Teacher*
- LILIANA BULAT  
*Support Teacher*
- COLUMBA CARRILLO  
*Teacher*
- ADRIENNE COCA  
*Teacher*
- SUSAN DURKIN  
*Teacher*
- JUSTIN FINCH  
*Teacher*
- RILLA FERREIRA  
*Teacher*
- ALEJANDRA FRANCO  
*Teacher*
- DIANA GARCIA DUARTE  
*Teacher*
- LIGIA GALEANO  
*Teacher*
- ARCELIA GARCIA FLORES  
*Teacher*
- TERESA GONZALEZ  
*Kitchen staff*
- ALEJANDRA HERNANDEZ  
*Teacher*
- GUILLERMINA JIMENEZ  
*Custodian*
- ANNIE JOHNSON  
*Teacher*
- KATRINA LARSON  
*Teacher*
- HEATHER MENKE  
*Rafter J Program Manager*
- NORMA MONTIEL  
*Office Assistant*
- SAMANTHA O'BRIEN  
*Teacher*
- BERONICA OSEGUERA  
*Teacher*
- LORA OZ  
*Coach*
- CHRISTOPHER PHILBIN  
*Curriculum Coach*
- NICOLE PHILBIN  
*Teton County Education Director*
- EMILY RENDALL  
*Support Teacher*
- MARIA SANCHEZ  
*Teacher*
- HEIDI SCHRUM  
*Enrollment Coordinator*
- ANGELA SPLAVNIC  
*Teacher*
- VERONICA TZOMPA VARGAS  
*Support Teacher*
- SUSAN UPTON  
*Mercill Program Manager*
- ISIDRA VARGAS  
*Teacher*
- ABIGAIL WEBSTER  
*Teacher*

## BOARD

- BETSY CARLIN  
*Vice-chair*
- TAMI CROSSON  
*Co-chair*
- LISA PRICE  
*Co-chair*
- JIM LEWIS  
*Treasurer*
- MELISSA OWENS  
*Secretary*
- MELANIE BENNETT
- MARILEE GORDON
- STEPHANIE HARDEMAN
- KAREN HORSTMANN
- TOTE TURNER
- KARINA CARILLO
- ANN WILLOTT
- LANCE WINDEY
- JEFF GOLTZ  
*Emeritus*
- MARK MICKELSON  
*Emeritus*
- JANET WOODLAND  
*Emeritus*
- AUDREY COHEN DAVIS  
*Emeritus*
- GREG MASON  
*Emeritus*



# Special thanks

to our corporate sponsors  
who support CLC



PO Box 4100  
Jackson, WY 83001  
childrenlearn.org  
(307)733-1616 • info@learningcenterwy.org  
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*"Children's Learning Center is an  
equal opportunity provider."*