

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



Food program cost CLC over

\$180,000

WITH \$0 ADDITIONAL CHARGE TO FAMILIES

Breakfast, lunch, and snacks follow FDA nutritional guidelines

How we *have risen* this year

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.



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.



"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

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



"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

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



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.

Here are a few examples:

Cooperative wall murals

Studying mountain lions

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

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



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

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

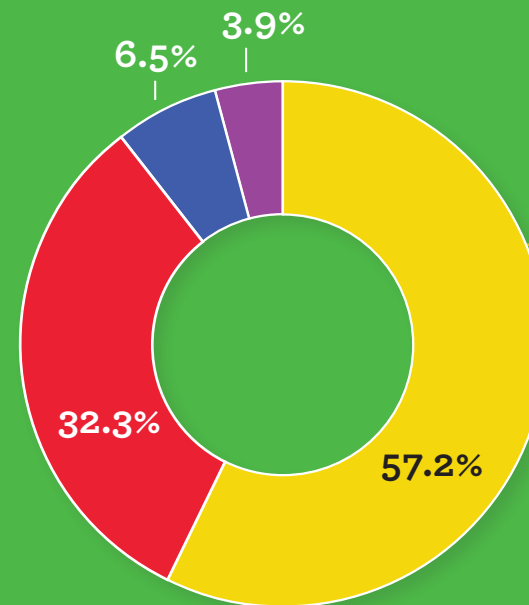
Every year, it takes about 20 percent more than we take in through government grants and tuition to run the CLC program at the level we do. And 90 percent of our overhead goes to staffing 598 man hours every day.

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.

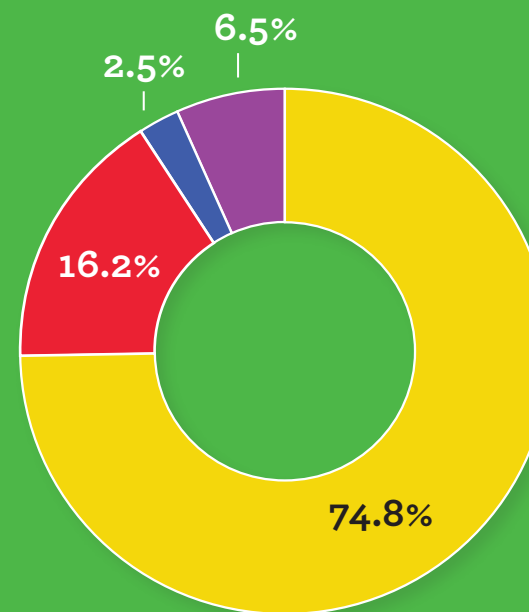
Last year, we paid off debt for the new Mercill building by selling our Gill Street property to keep costs as low as possible. Still, we always lean on fundraising to care for this community's children. And we're grateful that the community cares back.

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

RONNEY 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
tax id number: 83-0222566

*"Children's Learning Center is an
equal opportunity provider."*