

SUCCESS  
STARTS  
HERE!



Educating children, empowering families,  
strengthening communities!



Dear Friends,

I am honored and privileged to serve as the Executive Director of Denise Louie Education Center. Being new, I appreciate the opportunity to listen and learn from our community. As I hear the stories of our families, I am amazed at their perseverance and resourcefulness and how our work can change the trajectory of our community one child and family at a time.

We remain committed to our efforts to support the immigrant and refugee population. We received a grant to assist our families to sign up for health care. We participated with Harborview Hospital staff and the American Academy of Pediatrics in learning more about trauma-informed care, and worked with our families to understand its impacts on their health and well-being.

On behalf of our children and families, I thank you for your dedication, time, and investment in our work to make the lives of our community stronger and healthier now and as we look to the future. We could not do this work without you.

Warmly,

Susan Yang  
Executive Director



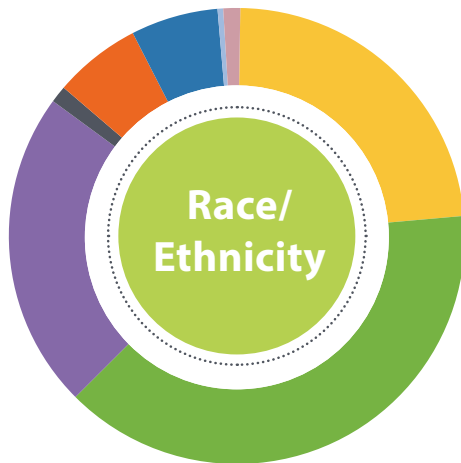


“Before entering kindergarten, the average cognitive scores of preschool-age children in the highest socioeconomic group are 60% above the average scores of children in the lowest socioeconomic group.”

– Lee, V. E. & Burkam, D. T. (2002). *Inequality at the starting gate: Social background differences in achievement as children begin school*. Washington, DC: Economic Policy Institute.

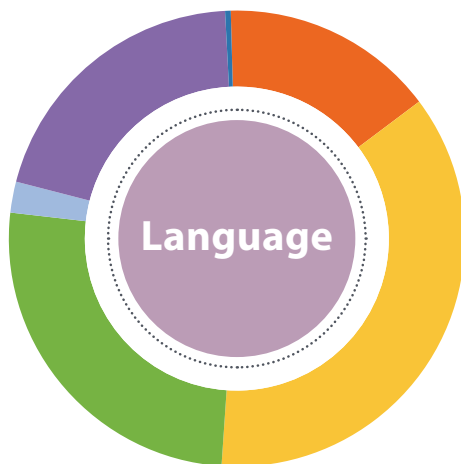
## Whom we serve

### Race/Ethnicity



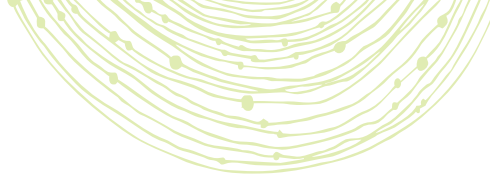
| Race/Ethnicity                      | HS*        | CP*       | EHS*       | Total      |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Hispanic/Latino                     | 58         | 9         | 50         | 117        |
| Asian                               | 124        | 27        | 44         | 195        |
| Black or African American           | 49         | 9         | 55         | 113        |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 5          | 0         | 1          | 6          |
| White                               | 11         | 1         | 19         | 31         |
| Bi/multi-racial                     | 9          | 0         | 22         | 31         |
| American Indian or Alaska Native    | 1          | 0         | 1          | 2          |
| Unspecified                         | 6          | 0         | 0          | 6          |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>263</b> | <b>46</b> | <b>192</b> | <b>501</b> |

### Primary Languages



| Languages      | HS*        | CP*       | EHS*       | Total      |
|----------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| African        | 28         | 8         | 40         | 76         |
| Asian          | 114        | 24        | 44         | 182        |
| English        | 68         | 6         | 55         | 129        |
| Middle Eastern | 2          | 0         | 9          | 11         |
| Spanish        | 50         | 8         | 43         | 101        |
| Unspecified    | 1          | 0         | 1          | 2          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>263</b> | <b>46</b> | <b>192</b> | <b>501</b> |

\*Note: HS = Head Start, CP = Camp Panda, EHS = Early Head Start



# Preschool Education Centers

Our preschool program serves predominately immigrant and refugee families whose children are between ages three and five, and have an income under \$24,250 for a family of four. Priority for enrollment into the program is given to children in foster care, homeless families, and children with special needs.

In 2014-2015, we supported 167 children as part of our Head Start program, 74 children funded by the City of Seattle Families and Education Levy's Step Ahead program, 6 children as part of both Head Start and Step Ahead, and 16 private pay families.

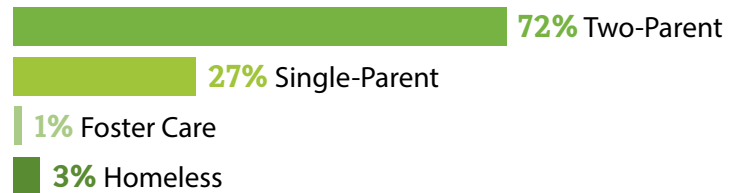
Our program goal is that children will meet or exceed age-level expectations by the end of the school year in seven areas of development (social-emotional, gross motor, fine motor, language, cognitive, literacy, and mathematics) as measured by the Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment System. Over 85% of our enrolled children have either met or exceeded expectations.

Our Family Satisfaction Survey results show that the program has an average approval rating of 4.7 out of 5. Parents who rate Denise Louie as a high-quality program tend to believe that their child will be well-prepared for kindergarten and are more likely to recommend the program to other families with preschool-age children.

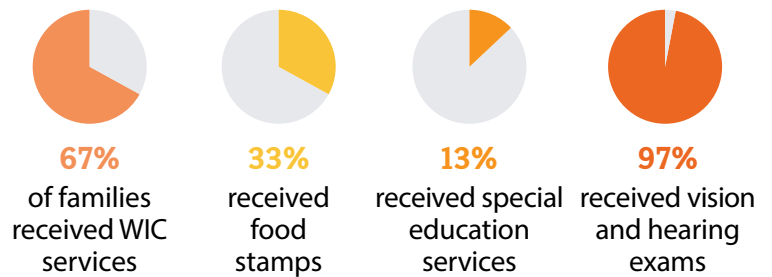
## The Numbers



### The parental status of the children



### Additional services received



## Summer Program

Camp Panda is a free 6-week learning program designed for children with little or no preschool experience and those who are behind. The goal of the program is to prepare children for kindergarten in the summer prior to their enrollment. We served a total of 55 children at all three of our preschool sites.



## Family Support Services

Our family support program informs and connects parents with resources on kindergarten readiness, nutrition, financial literacy, housing, immigration rights, and healthcare. Going hand-in-hand with this support is parent involvement. In addition to volunteering, parents are encouraged to join our Policy Council, 94% of which are people of color and 96% are current and former parents from our programs. The Policy Council must approve all hiring decisions, budget, agency and program goals, and policy changes.

Many of our immigrant families have been through numerous obstacles in their lives. One of these families is the Guzman family with three children. Alicia Guzman has had a challenging time since she immigrated to the U.S. when she was fourteen. Her father did not allow her to go to school and made her work in the fields and around the house starting at 4 a.m. every day.

When she was sixteen, she left home to stay with her boyfriend for the freedom that she had desperately desired. She had her first child with him. When he became physically abusive, she decided to leave “home” again for the sake of her child. As a young and single mother with a toddler, Alicia struggled to look for stable housing. They stayed at a domestic violence shelter in Bellevue, then at the house of a woman who ended up stealing her food stamps and paychecks, then finally at the home of two good Samaritans who taught her to paint houses and to save money. She then met her current husband and they had a child named Christian.



In 2010, when she was looking for a preschool for Christian, she learned about Denise Louie Education Center and met our Family Services Specialist, Rosa Hernandez. Rosa helped her obtain a Driver’s License and navigate resources for her family. Alicia also actively volunteered in her children’s classrooms and was hired as a classroom aide.

Denise Louie Education Center and met our Family Services Specialist, Rosa Hernandez. Rosa helped her obtain a Driver’s License and navigate resources for her family. Alicia also actively volunteered in her children’s classrooms and was hired as a classroom aide.

Christian is currently in fourth grade and his younger brother Jesus is enrolled in our preschool program. She has become one of our Head Start substitute teachers and hopes to someday become a Family Service Specialist so that she can help more families like her own. She feels strongly that the program gave her kids an opportunity she always wanted for herself—the opportunity to learn and receive a quality education.

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“Immigrant parents must gain literacy, language proficiency, and systems knowledge and navigation skills in order to meaningfully access engagement opportunities.”

— Park, Maki and Margie McHugh. 2014. *Immigrant Parents and Early Childhood Programs: Addressing Barriers of Literacy, Culture, and Systems Knowledge*. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute.

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# Home Visiting Program

Since 2010, our Early Head Start program has provided quality home visiting services for low-income women and families with children prenatal to 3 years of age. In 2014-2015, we served:



**75**  
Infants



**107**  
Toddlers

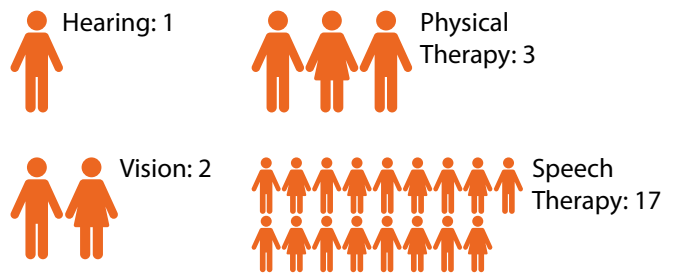


**10**  
Pregnant Moms

Out of the 28 children who aged out of Early Head Start, 22 entered a Head Start program and 5 entered another early childhood program.

We have strong community-based relationships with other agencies to engage our families, create mutual referral systems, and provide educational opportunities for one another. Recently, we established a new partnership with Harborview Pediatrics and were able to create a referral system between early learning and the medical home, educate medical staff on early learning, and conduct parent workshops on the impact of toxic stress and interventions.

### Child development referrals made by Denise Louie to community partners in 2014-2015:



“High-quality home visiting is proven to help parents provide safer, more supportive, and stimulating environments for their children while mitigating risk factors that can limit future success. Over time, improvements in birth outcomes, maternal and child health, and reductions in child abuse, child neglect, poverty, and crime can return as much as \$5.70 per taxpayer dollar invested.”

- States and the New Federal Home Visiting Initiative: An Assessment from the Starting Line. Pew Research Center, Washington, D.C. (August 2011). [http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/reports/home\\_visiting/HomeVisitingAugust2011Reportpdf.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/reports/home_visiting/HomeVisitingAugust2011Reportpdf.pdf).





**O**ur home visiting program provides early childhood education activities, parent support, and health services to children and families in their homes for ninety minutes on a weekly basis. All Home Visitors are bilingual and provide services in the family’s home language. Parents participating in the program share that they feel more capable, less isolated, and are better able

to connect with community resources. Socialization events have a bi-monthly parenting education topic selected by the families; community partners donate their time to lead these parenting education groups. We also provide eight-week Circle of Security Parenting Groups, a research-based program designed to enhance attachment security between parents and children.

**In 2014-2015, Denise Louie’s Home Visitors referred families to the following services:**



**95** received emergency/crisis intervention to meet basic needs



**130** received health education



**64** received housing assistance



**10** received domestic violence or child abuse support



**46** received English as a Second Language training



**89** received educational services



**133** received parenting education



**70** received mental health services

## Program Outcomes

**O**ur programmatic decisions are data-driven. To assess progress toward school readiness goals, we aggregate scores from assessment tools such as the ASQ-3, DECA, and HELP to determine if children meet or exceed benchmarks on the Early Learning Framework, which was designed and implemented in collaboration with our parents, board members, and staff.

An important indicator of early childhood development is social-emotional growth. One of our program goals is that children will demonstrate an increase in attachment behaviors. Data from the DECA shows that 59% of

our children demonstrated an increase in attachment compared to their previous assessment.

In 2014-2015, we implemented the PICCOLO observational tool. Parents choose a developmental parenting goal to support their children’s ability to meet their developmental milestones. By the end of the year, 98% of parents demonstrated an increase in parenting skills and 96% of children either maintained or increased in 4 out of 5 developmental domains (communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving, and personal-social) in the ASQ-3.

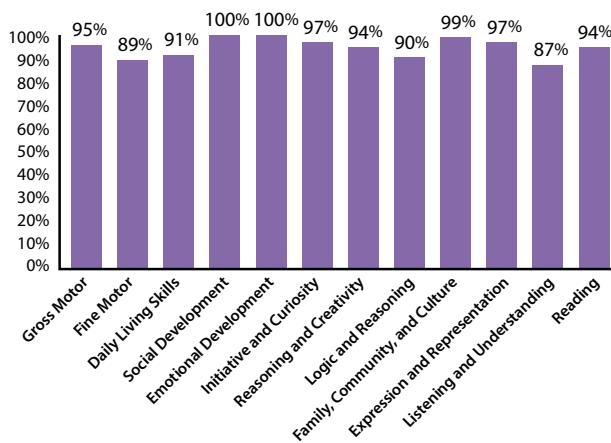
# School Readiness

Denise Louie uses the Early Learning Framework to determine if children are making progress on school readiness goals. For the purposes of continuous quality improvement, we use the lowest scoring areas to identify goal-directed activities in home visits, family time, and/or socializations. For instance, the summer Read-a-Thon was initiated in response to a drop in

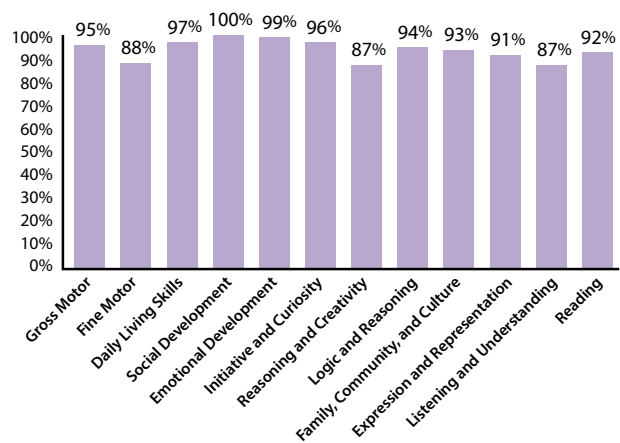
reading scores; it was successful in raising the reading level of children in the targeted group.

These graphs show the percentages of children who demonstrate at least one of the observable indicator skills specified for each age group in various domains.

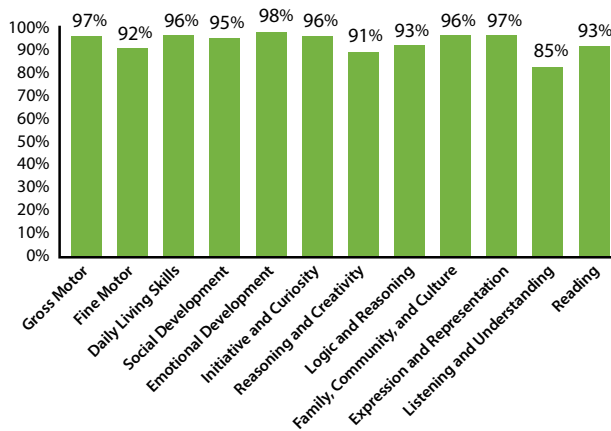
### Q1 Program Domain Scores



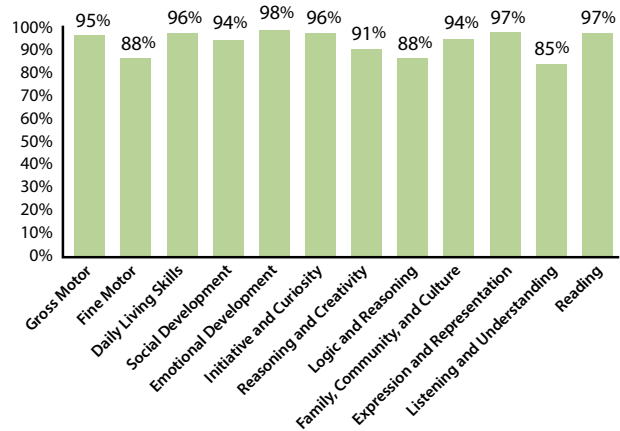
### Q2 Program Domain Scores



### Q3 Program Domain Scores



### Q4 Program Domain Scores



By age three, children from low-income families will have heard **30 million fewer words** than their more affluent peers.

— Hart, B. & Risley, T.R. *The Early Catastrophe: The 30 Million Word Gap by Age 3*. (Spring 2003). American Educator, pp. 4-9. <http://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/periodicals/TheEarlyCatastrophe.pdf>





# Play and Learn

**K**aleidoscope Play and Learn is a program for parents and caregivers of young children to learn and explore together in a safe and culturally diverse environment. It is a weekly 90-minute facilitated program designed to support the development of children's school readiness skills and provide education and support for parents and caregivers. Denise Louie is

in its seventh year offering this free, drop-in program to families regardless of their income. Our Play and Learn program takes place at three Seattle Public Library branches—Columbia City, Rainer Beach, and Lake City. All sessions have bilingual staff present which attracts a diverse group of children and caregivers.



**In 2014-2015, we served at least 140 parents and caregivers.**

**82%** eligible participants achieved the outcome of strengthening or acquiring parenting skills

**65%** were people of color

**20%** were fathers and grandfathers

**84%** reported that they were in the very low to moderate income categories

**45%** attended more than 12 sessions, or the equivalent of three months

**75%** of our staff were former program participants



*Mayra, Saul, and Anahi in 2014*

Mayra Vargas first heard about Denise Louie through our Play & Learn program at the Columbia City library when she was 22 years old in 2009. Her journey as a mother began roughly as she neither had a car

nor any friends. She started bringing her son, Saul, who was six months old at the time to play with toys and learn to share and interact with other children. After going to Play & Learn for three years, Saul was old enough to enroll in our preschool program. Mayra became actively involved in our Policy Council, volunteered on field trips, and attended all

of the parent meetings. She believed that the only thing parents have to do is to be involved and ask questions. That way, they will receive the help that they need and their lives will improve. In January 2014, she was nominated by Teacher Jeri and received the Parent Recognition Award for the admirable job she had been doing as a parent in her child's school and the community. With the help of Denise Louie, she is currently studying at Seattle Central Community College to become a preschool teacher. She expressed, "Now my family is happy. There were a lot of changes in 2015 for us. We are stable now and there are no words to say how thankful I am to everyone here."



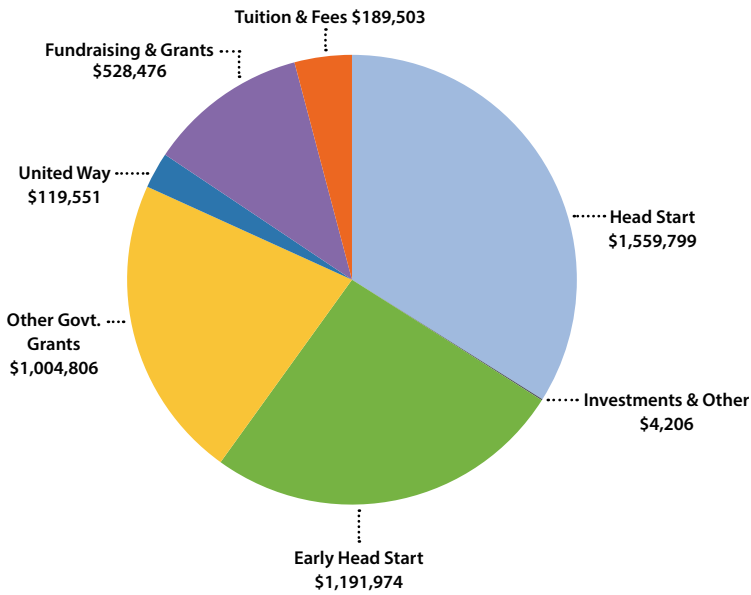
*Mayra and Anahi in 2016 (Saul was at school)*

Many thanks to **United Way of King County, Child Care Resources, Seattle Public Library, Medina Foundation, KeyBank Foundation, and Kawabe Memorial Fund** for their support in making this program possible for many children and families!

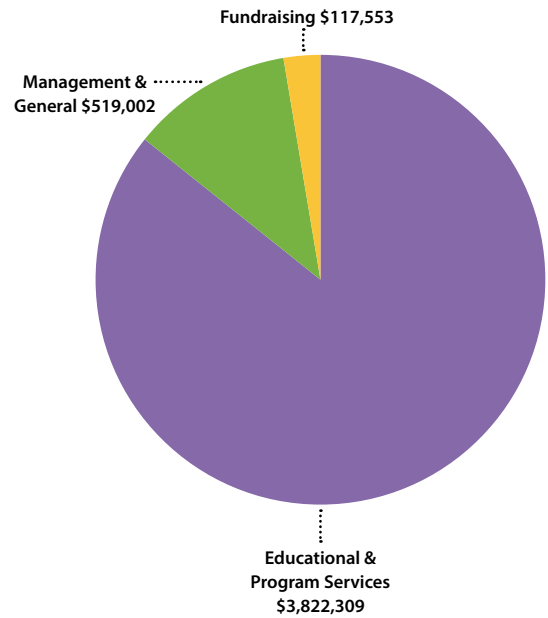
# Organizational Budget

## 2014-2015 Financials

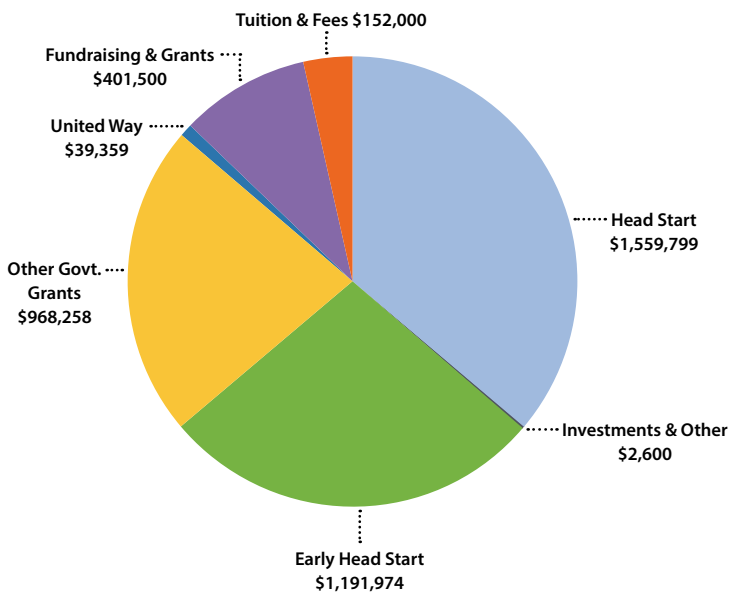
**FY15 Audited Revenue**  
\$4,598,315



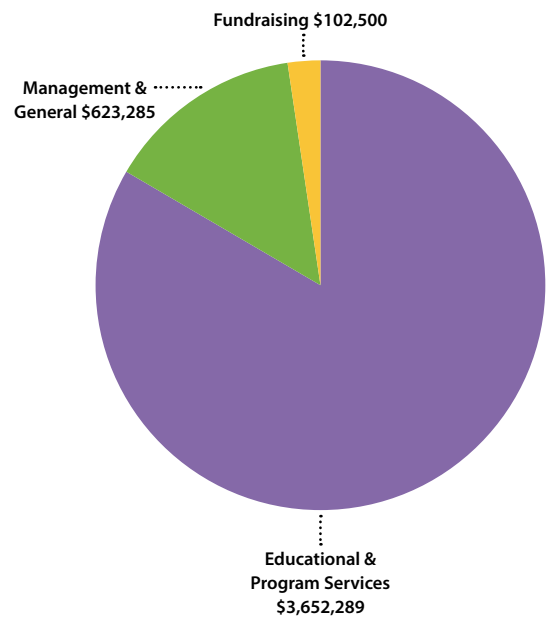
**FY15 Audited Expenses**  
\$4,458,864



**FY16 Budgeted Revenue**  
\$4,135,490



**FY16 Budgeted Expenses**  
\$4,378,074





## Volunteers

**Thank you to our 145 volunteers** for the generous gift of your time and energy. Your 11,684 hours of service have made an everlasting difference in the lives of many families and children we serve. Thank you for being a vital part in our mission of preparing children for a lifetime of learning and success.

Nancy Almaguer  
 Dominic Amorosa  
 Laura Arpin  
 Juliana Ayala  
 Samantha Bailey  
 Chris Balansag  
 Mildred Batres  
 Mariann Belleza  
 Enriquez Belter  
 Kimberly Bonilla  
 Sierra Brooks-Sothard  
 Noelle Brown  
 Valeria Calvario  
 Edlene Capistrano  
 Rosa Castaneda  
 Rosa Castro  
 Hasna Charbadoui  
 Zihao Chen  
 Tiffany Chiang  
 Cheryl Close  
 Barrie Cohen  
 Chelsea Cooper  
 Lesvia Corado  
 Zara Crump  
 Gilberto Cuevas Huz  
 Thanh Dang  
 Qing Ling Deng  
 Yan Deng  
 Zhibin Ding  
 Huyen Do  
 Jamie Dytioco  
 Ayan Elmi  
 Kallie Eng  
 Humberta Escamilla  
 Jonathan (Jonny) Esparza  
 Min Ling Feng  
 Cheyenne Fields

Arianna Flores  
 Nancy Flores  
 Tsz Wing (Gemma) Fong  
 Teresa Frayoso  
 Ruinan Fu  
 Lyssa Fukuhara  
 Wingsze Fung  
 Heber Garcia  
 Maria Gonzalez  
 Alicia Gorman  
 Jordan Green  
 Erica Hall  
 Tina Han  
 Lazar Hernandez  
 Nancy Huang  
 Qi Na Ma Huang  
 Suqiong Huang  
 Yaneli Iman  
 Neeshma Jaffer  
 Yin Jiang  
 Ruxin (Miranda) Jin  
 Maria Johnson  
 Ellena Jones  
 Bende Kay  
 Yoojin Kim  
 Brian Lam  
 Haley Lam  
 Dan Le  
 Lam Thuong Le  
 Minh Le  
 Heng Tung (Ashley) Lee  
 InYoung (Irene) Lee  
 Joanna Lee  
 Wenmin Lei  
 Fulan Li  
 Llerenda Lightner  
 Hui Yin Liu

Jessica Locke  
 Thomas Locke  
 Adrian Lopez  
 Nancy Lopez  
 Muoi Lu  
 Lisa Luu  
 Nina Luu  
 Yem Ly  
 Harnoor Mahal  
 Maribel Martinez Gomez  
 Chris Mhley  
 Asha Mohamed  
 Kay Mok  
 Jennifer Morales  
 Kim Mored  
 Soumagail Moussa  
 Alice Msheda  
 Anna Murray  
 Maryam Naushab  
 Jade (Yuk) Ng  
 Chau Nguyen  
 Dalena Nguyen  
 David Nguyen  
 Elizabeth Nguyen  
 Jennifer Nguyen  
 Minh Nguyen  
 Thuxuan Nguyen  
 Tina Nguyen  
 Marycruz Orduno  
 Luisa Ortiz  
 Al Pacheco  
 Hortencia Palascencia  
 Dalia Perez  
 Nhung Pham  
 Mia Philichi  
 Kelly Plese  
 Johnathan Preshaw

Donna Quach  
 Sandra Quiroz-Soria  
 Brianna Richardson  
 Timothy Ro  
 Lowell Rodriguez  
 Rafael Salazar-Flores  
 Sakirah Sales  
 Martin Santos  
 Hae Young Shin  
 Sandy Shum  
 Britni Stewart  
 Katie Stukbauer  
 Mariama Suwaneh  
 Jieyi Tang  
 Anh Than  
 Hai Thau  
 Patricia Tinker  
 Thao Tran  
 Thuan Tran  
 Jeanine Tsang  
 Natalie Tuck  
 Tamara Vargas  
 Nhi Voong  
 Tu Vu  
 Guilan Wang  
 Brooke Webber  
 Christina Wicks  
 Kendal Wilcox  
 Derek Wong  
 Mei Juan Wu  
 Carney Yim  
 Rochelle Yuen  
 Yan Zheng  
 Huiya Zhou



# Donors

We are exceedingly grateful for all of our donors' generous support. Their gifts have helped create more opportunities for the children and families we serve every day.

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- Ms. Jennifer Carlisle
- Ms. Tere Carral
- Ms. Hannah Casey
- Ms. Heidi Cassidy ▲
- Ms. Emma Catague
- Mr. Nicky Chan
- Ms. Wing Chan
- Mr. Michael Chang
- Ms. Cherry Chen
- Ms. Fengdan Chen
- Ms. Katherine Cheng
- Ms. Gildas Cheung
- Mr. Dan Chhan ▲
- Ms. Soo Chhay
- Ms. Phoebe Chin
- Ms. Man Wai Chiu
- Ms. Janet Choi
- Ms. Patricia Christensen
- Ms. Susana Contreras-Mendez
- Mr. Jake Cooney
- Ms. Ximena Cuevas
- Ms. Nikki D'Onofrio
- Ms. Liz Dang
- Ms. Cindy Davis
- Ms. Mae Deguchi
- Ms. Janice Deguchi & Mr. Chris Grabowski + ▲
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Mr. Randle Inouye  
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Ms. Karen Ko  
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Mrs. Grace & Mr. Johnny Lee + ▲  
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Ms. Ye-San Lin  
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Ms. Suet Lock  
Ms. Mona Locke  
Mr. Josh Lohman  
Ms. Christine Loredo  
Ms. Leeza Lorence  
Mr. Cliff Louie  
Mr. William Lukov  
Ms. Maya Lusic  
Mr. Ian Luttrell &  
Mrs. Matilda Nguyen Luttrell  
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Ms. Ly Nguyen  
Mr. Paul Nguyen  
Mr. Steven Nguyen  
Ms. Tina Nguyen  
Ms. Mai Nguyen & Mr. Lester Tran ▲  
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Ms. Brittny Nielsen  
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We have included all donors who made financial contributions from September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015. If your name has been omitted or misspelled, please accept our sincere apology and contact us at (206) 973-1810 x316 so we may update our records.

## Locations

### Administrative Office

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 Seattle, WA 98134

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 Fax (206) 260-8853

### International District

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 Fax (206) 621-8814

### Early Head Start Office

5333 15th Avenue South  
 Seattle, WA 98108

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 Fax (206) 767-2919

### Rainier Beach

9061 Seward Park Avenue South  
 Building 16  
 Seattle, WA 98118

Tel (206) 721-0214  
 Fax (206) 721-8025

### Beacon Hill

3327 Beacon Avenue South  
 Seattle, WA 98144

Tel (206) 725-9740  
 Fax (206) 725-9775



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Our Board of Directors meets monthly and provides general oversight of the organization. Members are recruited from the community and voted onto the Board to serve two-year terms.

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Community Member

**Joan Duffell**, *Vice President (2012-Present)*  
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Ernst & Young LLP

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Summit Power Group

**Laura East** *(2014-2015)*  
Communications Associate  
PATH

**Jennie Fox** *(2014-2015)*  
Community Volunteer

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Fuchsia-Rose Camacho

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**MISSION** Denise Louie Education Center promotes school and life readiness by providing multi-cultural early learning services to children and families, especially those who need our services the most. We will respect and preserve each child and family's individuality, cultural heritage, and home language. We will promote personal and social responsibility with integrity and love in an environment defined by social injustice and peace.

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