



**581**

children under the age of five



**542**

unique families served



**1,300**

referrals made

**76%**

immigrants  
and refugees

**19+**

languages  
spoken



## Dear Friends,

This year, as in every year, I'm thrilled to share our annual outcomes. During the 2016-17 program year, DLEC has touched the lives of 587 children and their families. I'm very proud to share that once again we reached our goal that 85% of our preschoolers were prepared for kindergarten. And this year, 100% of our infants and toddlers improved and maintained their progress in four out of five developmental domains that indicate school readiness. I am very thankful to our staff members for their talent and perseverance. Their stalwart support of our mission to close the opportunity gap for our city's low-income, immigrant and refugee children and their families is DLEC's biggest asset!

I am also always grateful for our hundreds of volunteers, including our board members and Policy Council for their deep commitment to the quality of our programs and to the growth and sustainability of DLEC. One of our glowing achievements this year is kicking off and completing our capital campaign to build the Mercy Magnuson Early Learning Center in partnership with Mercy Housing. Our Capital Campaign Committee secured nearly \$4.2 million in public and private funding for our new center, located in Magnuson Park area and will provide services for children birth to age five. More importantly, this new site will allow us to serve an additional 300 children and their families each year. We look forward to opening the doors to our new site in fall 2019 and hope you'll join us on a tour of the facility this coming year!

And finally, on behalf of the board and staff of DLEC, I would like to thank you, our donors, funders and supporters for sticking with us this year. Your commitment to the well-being of DLEC means the world to us and our families. We've made huge strides towards a bright and strong future for our young children and with your continued involvement and generosity, we will continue to grow and prosper for many generations to come.

Sincerely,

Susan Yang  
Executive Director

谢谢 **Salamat**  
Nuwari  
Galatoomi धन्यवाद  
謝謝 **THANK YOU**  
ຂອບໃຈ Yekeniyey  
MAHADSANID شكرا 唔該  
Cảm ơn bạn **Gracias**

## 2016-2017 Program Budget

FY16 Audited Revenue	
Head Start	\$1,547,526
Early Head Start	\$1,252,906
Other Govt Grants	\$933,785
Fundraising & Grants	\$581,467
Capital Campaign Contributions	\$115,000
United Way	\$58,905
Tuition & Fees	\$215,335
Investments & Other	\$2,779
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,707,703</b>

FY16 Audited Expenses	
Educational & Program Services	\$3,756,460
Management & General	\$562,795
Fundraising	\$143,604
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,462,859</b>

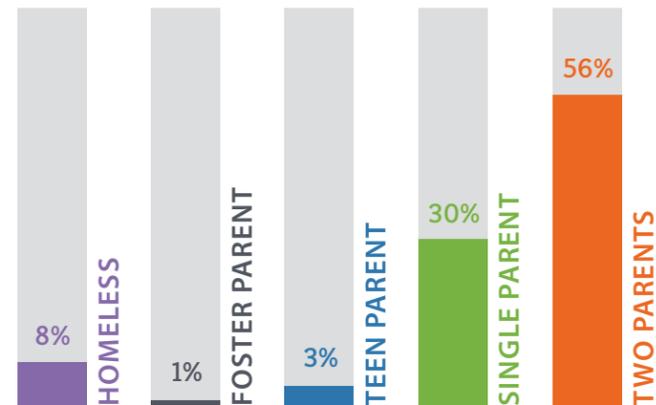
FY17 Budgeted Revenue	
Head Start	\$1,637,088
Early Head Start	\$1,332,906
Other Govt Grants	\$815,331
Fundraising & Grants	\$226,500
United Way	\$29,452
Tuition & Fees	\$322,000
Investments & Other	\$2,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,365,877</b>

FY17 Budgeted Expenses	
Educational & Program Services	\$3,821,917
Management & General	\$568,303
Fundraising	\$116,541
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,506,761</b>

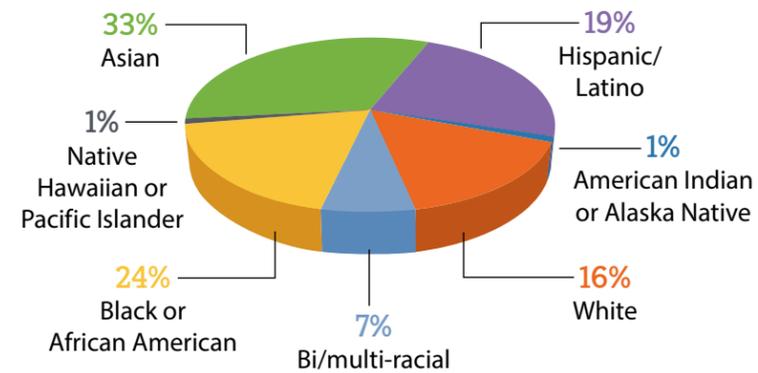


## Our Community

### Welcoming of All Households



### Embracing Diversity



## Our Children

### Ensuring a Successful Start

Early Head Start (EHS) provides low-income families and women with children ages birth to three or who are pregnant with services to prepare their child for success. These services include weekly 90-minute home visits to provide caregivers with early learning activities, parent support, and health services in their home languages; bi-monthly socialization events to bring together caregivers to learn about topics they choose, from financial planning to health education; and early intervention through regular assessments of children's development milestones to identify special needs and provide resources as early as possible.

- 129 infants, 54 toddlers, 8 pregnant mothers
- 100% of EHS children improved or maintained progress in four out of five developmental domains that indicate school readiness

Of the 49 children who aged out of EHS, 32 entered a Head Start program and 16 entered another early childhood program.

### Preparing Kids for Kindergarten

Our Head Start (HS) preschool program serves predominately immigrant and refugee families whose children are between ages three and five, and have an income under \$24,600 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.

- 3 preschool centers
- 241 children
- 4.8% of Head Start eligible children in Seattle were served by DLEC
- 97% received dental, hearing, vision and/or physical exams
- 85% of preschoolers met or exceeded expectations and were prepared to enter kindergarten

## From Early Learners to Top Readers

This year, we had 61 EHS families participate in our annual Read-a-Thon, a three-month literacy event to support learning experiences at home. Parents and caregivers received training on interactive reading practices, such as describing illustrations and asking open-ended questions to their little readers.

We distributed 56 books in five different languages and Braille for our families. With the help of parents and caregivers, our top three readers Luis (16 months), Zeth and Palynn (31 and 16 months), and Juliana (22 months) submitted a total of 11,080 reading minutes—an average of nearly 40 minutes a day!





## Barnabas Lo's Success Story

After Barnabas and Jo Lo moved to the United States, Barnabas began working with DLEC as a volunteer at the International District site. He learned English through his work with DLEC in the classrooms of our full day preschool program.

Barnabas later became a DLEC employee, and a year later, his and Jo's oldest daughter, now in high school, enrolled in Denise Louie preschool. Their four other children have also attended Denise Louie for preschool! Jo is also a DLEC employee, working as a Teaching Assistant at the International District site, while Barnabas is the Family Service Coordinator at Beacon Hill.

Barnabas and Jo's story exemplifies DLEC's mission: promoting school and life readiness not just in children, but entire families, so that they have the tools they need to reach their highest potential. Thank you, Barnabas and Jo, for your commitment to DLEC over the past 14 years!

## Our Families

### Building Stronger Communities

Our family support and home visiting teams connect and educate parents on available resources ranging from housing and nutrition to immigration rights and healthcare.

1300 referrals made for 296 families, including the following:

- **189** received emergency/crisis intervention to meet basic needs
- **73** received housing assistance
- **219** received adult education or English as a Second Language training
- **82** received job training
- **203** received health training
- **285** received parenting education
- **87** received mental health services
- **9** received child abuse or domestic violence support

### Engaging and Listening to Our Parents and Guardians

Last program year, Denise Louie hosted bi-monthly parent nights where families help choose topics and speakers to identify and support their most immediate needs. Our preschool classrooms also have parent-teacher conferences and home visits throughout the year to facilitate more intimate dialogues on children's educational progress.

We encourage families to help children with their homework, as well as to provide us with ongoing feedback. We also welcome families to volunteer in classrooms!



Our Policy Council is integral to our programs' success and represents the families we serve. Every year, parent representatives are elected from both HS and EHS programs. Our parent-led Policy Council functions in partnership with our Board of Directors to approve policies, budgets, and hiring decisions, as well as provide program feedback.

- **24** parent nights
- **12** Policy Council meetings
- **Over 10%** of education staff is former program parents

## Our Commitment

### More School Readiness: Camp Panda

Camp Panda is a six-week learning program hosted at our ID site that is designed for children with little to no preschool experience. The program goal is to prepare children for kindergarten during the summer prior to their enrollment.

- **17** four- and five-year-old children during summer 2017

### More Bonding: Circle of Security

Circle of Security is an eight-week, research-based intervention program designed to help parents understand child attachment patterns, increase their awareness of children's needs, and improve their responses to meet them. Each group focused on eight to 10 parents, and was offered in English, Spanish and Mandarin.

- **15** families served through Circle of Security

### More Wellness: Health Care Institute Training

Health Care Institute (HCI) trainings empower staff and families to be the first and most important guardian of their children's health. HCI focuses on coping with common childhood illnesses through tips, a health book, and various tools, to help keep the doctor away 11 year long.

- **87** families participated in HCI trainings

### More Caregiver Support: Kaleidoscope Play and Learn

For eight years, Denise Louie has partnered with the Seattle Public Library (SPL) and Child Care Resources to offer Kaleidoscope Play and Learn—a free, drop-in program designed to create a safe, culturally diverse environment for caregivers and young children to learn and explore together. Current facilitators speak English, Spanish, Amharic, German, Cantonese, and American Sign Language.

- **129** 90-minute Play & Learn sessions held last year at three SPL branches (Columbia City, Lake City, and Rainier Beach)
- **114** unique families served throughout the year
- **80%** of caregivers reported that Play and Learn gave them a better understanding of their role preparing their child for kindergarten
- **53%** participating households came from very low- to moderate-income households



## More Students: Mercy Magnuson Early Learning Center

We are thrilled to announce our partnership with Mercy Housing Northwest to open an Early Learning Center at Mercy Magnuson Place in 2019. The center will serve at least 300 children and their guardians annually, transforming the community into a space where families from diverse economic and cultural backgrounds can thrive. The new space will have preschool and infant toddler classrooms, as well as rooms for socialization, therapy, music, art, gross motor skills, and administrative offices. Mercy Magnuson Place is part of a larger development project that is a collaboration of health care, affordable housing and early learning creating a community-based environment to best support our most vulnerable population. For more information, please visit [www.thefirstyears.org](http://www.thefirstyears.org).



# Our Donors

We are incredibly thankful for all of our donors' generous support last year. Their contributions have helped to create more opportunities for and to ensure the success of the children and families we serve every day!

\* Dinner & Auction Corporate Sponsor   + Dinner & Auction Table Captain   ▲ Contributed more than \$1,000   ● Grantor

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We have included all donors who made financial contributions between November 1, 2016 to October 31, 2017. If your name has been omitted or misspelled, please accept our sincere apology, and contact us at ekilkelly@deniselouie.org or (206) 973-1810 x316 so we may update our records.

# Our Volunteers

Thank you to our 121 volunteers for their donating their time and energy to the families and children we serve! Your 4,617 hours of service in our classrooms and at our events have made an immeasurable impact on the lives of the people we serve. Thank you for believing in our mission of educating and empowering Denise Louie children and their families!

- |                      |                  |                       |                  |                      |                |
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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 justice and peace.

# 2016-17 Board of Directors

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### **International District**

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### **Rainier Beach**

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