



2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends of Denise Louie Education Center,

As we close out the 2024-2025 year, I am filled with gratitude and hope. This has been a year of reflection, growth, and resilience for Denise Louie. One of the highlights was celebrating Executive Director Susan Yang’s ten years of leadership, marked by a well-deserved three-month sabbatical supported by Ile Kimoyo. This time of renewal for Susan also gave our team and board space to strengthen shared leadership and plan for the years ahead.

We are also thrilled to share a historic milestone: DLEC has secured funding to build our first permanent home in the Rainier Valley. This investment ensures long-term stability for our mission and deepens our commitment to serving Seattle’s children and families with consistency, care, and community connection. While we celebrate these successes, we remain mindful of the challenges surrounding us—uncertainty in public funding, rising costs of living, and growing barriers for immigrant, refugee, and low-income families. Through it all, DLEC continues to stand alongside families, offering a safe, welcoming place where children can learn, grow, and prepare for kindergarten and for life.

For me, this mission is deeply personal. Like many of our families, I share an immigrant story. My mother came to this country as a single parent and worked tirelessly to build a better future. Her strength and determination shaped my own journey—and inspired me to volunteer my time so that children, just like how I once was, can have the same opportunities to learn and thrive.

Though the winds may have shifted, our commitment has not. With your partnership, Denise Louie Education Center continues to nurture resilience, expand opportunity, and build brighter futures for the next generation.

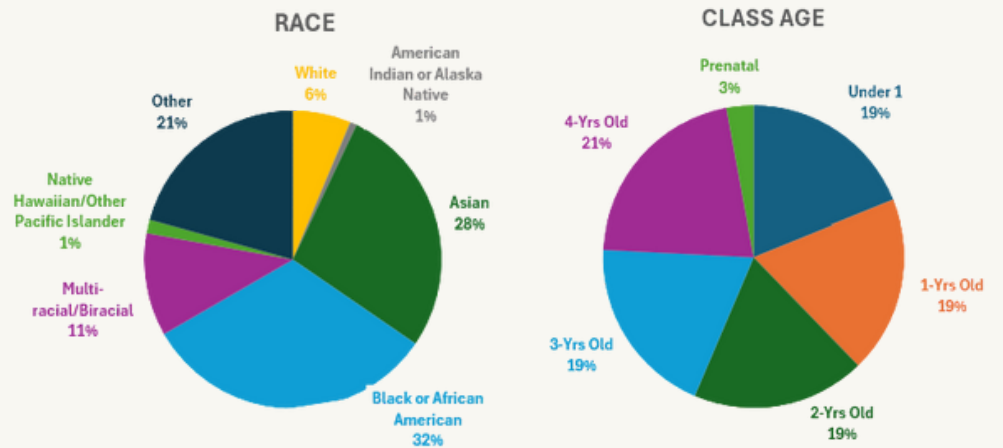
With heartfelt gratitude,

Kai Shih
Board of Directors President

Who We Served

1,146
children under
the age of five

2,168
children and
caregivers



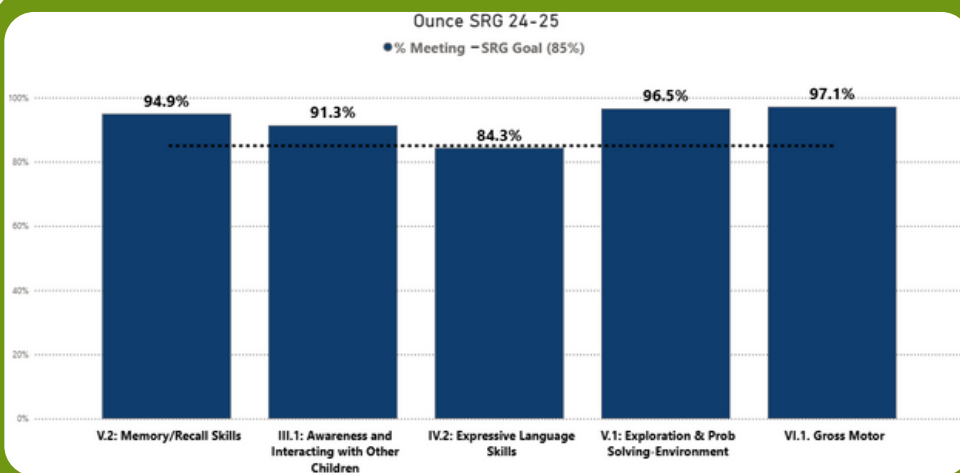
Preparing Our Children for the Future

Our Early Head Start (EHS) program assists low-income families and women with children ages birth to three or who are pregnant. We conduct weekly 90-minute home visits to provide caregivers with early learning activities, parent support, and health services in their home languages. We also facilitate bi-monthly socialization events that educate caregivers on topics they are interested in, such as financial literacy and nutrition. We engage in early intervention through regular assessments of children's developmental milestones, in order to identify special needs and provide resources promptly.

In the 2024-2025 program year, we served **65** infants, **119** toddlers, and **12** pregnant mothers!

Developmental Milestone: Nathan M.

Nathan M. and his family have been part of our program for about 4 years. His mom had an older daughter and joined us as a prenatal with her son. When her daughter transferred to a DLEC preschool, she continued home-based services with her newborn son. She learned, with the help of her home visitor, child development milestones for children. During a screening for her son's development, we learned that he may require Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program support. The home visitor walked the mom through the referral process and supported the visits with a ESIT specialist. We have completed the latest developmental screening with Nathan and he has met all of his developmental milestones for the first time since he was 1 years old!



In **4 out of the 5** developmental domains that indicate school readiness, **85%** of our EHS children met or improved in those domains!



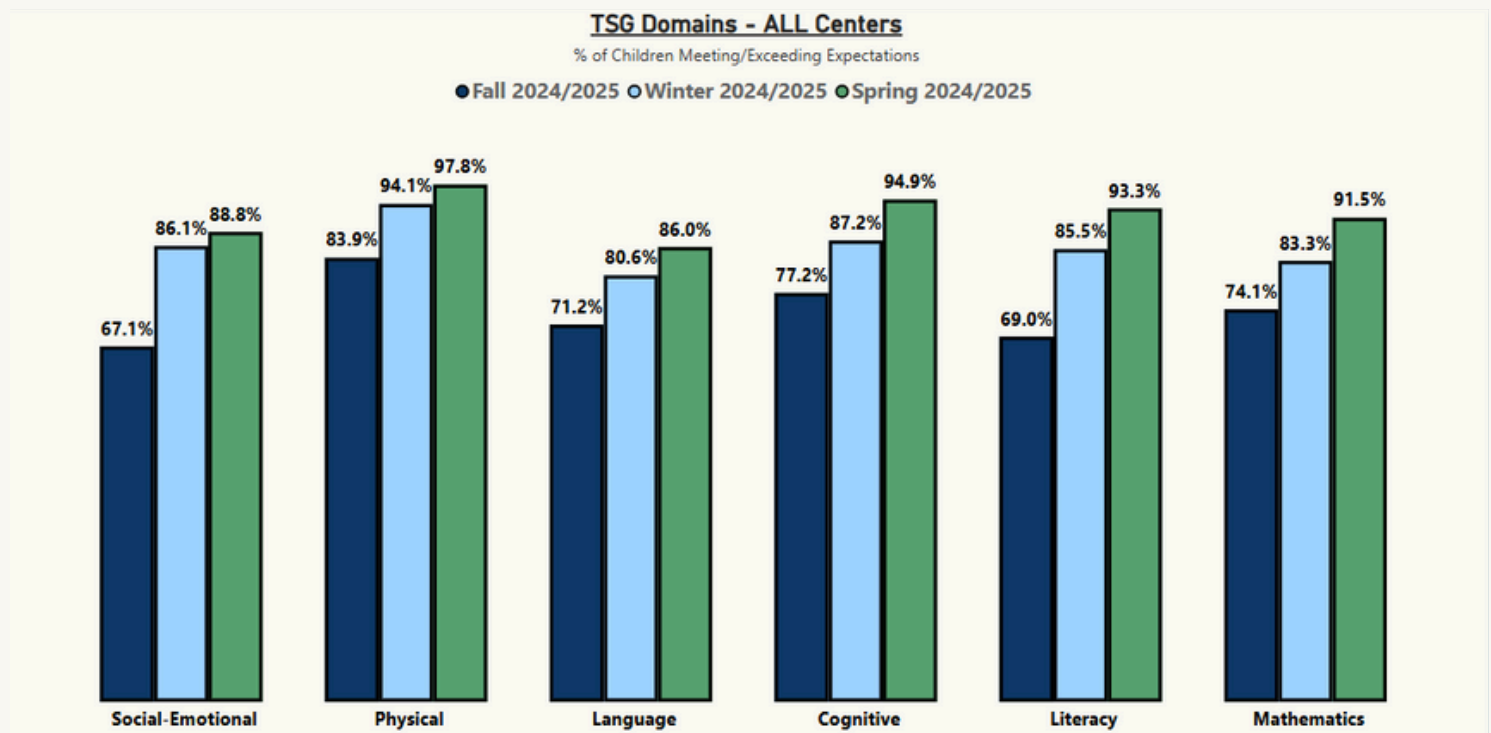
Ensuring Kindergarten Readiness

Our education centers predominantly serve immigrant and refugee families with children ages three to five. Many of our families have an income of under \$31,200 for a family of four, which was the 2024 Federal Poverty Guideline in order to qualify for Head Start services. Children in foster care, families experiencing homelessness, and children with disabilities are given priority in enrollment.

In the 2024-2025 program year, across our 3 education centers, we served **413** children!

- **89%** of enrolled Head Start children received Developmental, Behavioral, Hearing, and Vision screenings within 45 days of enrollment.
- **75%** were up-to-date on Well-Child Exams (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)).
- **91%** received oral health preventative care.
- **15%** of children served qualified for receiving early intervention, special education, or related services under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

Our goal is for all DLEC children to be ready for school. Our school readiness goals are tailored to each program and are designed to ensure student success. Each school readiness goal was created using information from caregivers, teachers, education partners, and data collected through assessment and observation tools. We measure school readiness three times a year using the Teaching Strategies GOLD® (TSG) Assessment.



Understanding the Assessment Illustrated:

- During the 2024-2025 program year, our goal was that 85% of our preschoolers would meet or exceed in each of our kindergarten readiness domains by Spring 2025.
- The percentage of children meeting or exceeding in every domain increased each quarter.
- **In all 6 domains, at least 86% of children met kindergarten readiness goals by Spring 2025!**

Engaging Our Families

We regularly connected families to vital services, in order to address their various needs.

Caregiver Involvement

We value and encourage caregiver involvement through various initiatives. Program caregivers make up our Policy Council and they play a vital part in approving organization policies, budgets, and staffing decisions. In addition, we host monthly caregiver committees, open to all program caregivers, where they give feedback on class policies and activities.

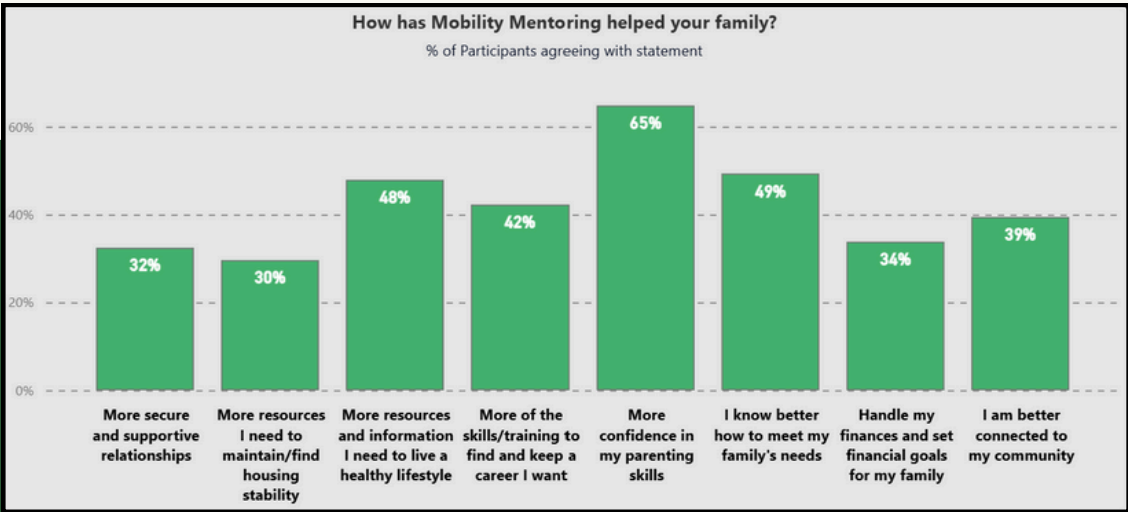
We offer monthly trainings on topics our caregivers selected to address their needs. Through caregiver-teacher conferences and home visits, caregivers and teachers can discuss each child’s progress. We believe caregivers are important teachers in their child’s life so we encourage them to support their children's learning and share feedback.

Mobility Mentoring®

Mobility Mentoring® is a family engagement approach that our Family Support Services team utilizes to learn about each family's strengths and needs, and assist families in meeting their personalized goals. By offering culturally competent individualized support, we meet families where they are, follow their lead, and collaborate along the way to self-reliance.



Caregiver Training Topics in 2024-2025
Health Insurance
Conscious Discipline - Trauma-Responsive Self Regulation & Parenting Skills
Financial Literacy - Banking
Information for Immigrant Families
Kindergarten Enrollment
Nutrition & Picky Eating
Oral Health
Home Buying
Transitioning to Kindergarten
Special Education - Referrals, Evaluations, and IEPs



Kaleidoscope Play & Learn

Our Kaleidoscope Play & Learn (KPL) groups are free sessions open to all children and their caregivers. Play & Learn groups are held weekly at the Columbia, Lake City, and Rainier Beach public libraries. Participants meet others in their community and foster healthy child development through 90 minutes of open-ended play, circle time, and resource-sharing. Kaleidoscope Play & Learn continues to be a place of connection, learning, and support, not just for children, but for families navigating early childhood together.

Between July 2024 and June 2025, DLEC facilitated **135** Play & Learn sessions, registering a total of **733** children and **615** caregivers.

Overall attendance grew by **6%**, with Columbia City increasing by **33%** and Lake City by **10%**.

According to our Spring 2025 caregiver survey, we learned:

- **100%** of respondents would recommend KPL.
- **53.6%** of respondents learned about KPL through Seattle Public Library's website.
- **25%** of respondents learned about KPL through word of mouth.
- Families reported **strong community bonds**, **developmental benefits** for children, and **access to toys and activities** otherwise unavailable.
- One caregiver shared, "My child is more outgoing after coming to Play & Learn."

Participants come from diverse ZIP codes and speak a wide range of languages including Spanish, Chinese, Somali, and Amharic. About **40%** of respondents reported low income, reinforcing the importance of this free, accessible program hosted in welcoming public spaces.



"It is a good place to socialize, a safe and fun learning space."

Thank you to our Community Partners and Funders!



Program Budget

Our Program Budget covers our organization's revenue and expenses for the fiscal year. Program expenses include teacher salaries, classroom supplies, student meals, family engagement, and kindergarten transition support. Management expenses cover staff salaries, benefits, professional development, rent, and other miscellaneous charges.

FY24-25 Unaudited Revenue

Federal Funding	\$5,017,549
Other Govt Funding	\$2,217,286
Tuition and Fees	\$790,593
Fundraising & Other	\$865,579

Total **\$8,891,007**

FY25-26 Budgeted Revenue

Federal Funding	\$4,902,549
Other Govt Funding	\$2,290,172
Tuition and Fees	\$902,324
Fundraising & Other	\$954,066

Total **\$9,049,111**

FY24-25 Unaudited Expenses

Program Services	\$7,444,618
Management & General	\$1,255,719
Fundraising	\$269,082

Total **\$8,969,419**

FY25-26 Budgeted Expenses

Program Services	\$5,485,063
Management & General	\$3,693,956
Fundraising	\$90,000

Total **\$9,269,019**



Our Year at a Glance

Genesee Building

DLEC officially acquired a building in January of 2025. This site will serve as both a dedicated Early Head Start facility and a central administrative hub for staff. Our vision is to provide high-quality infant and toddler care and socialization opportunities for families in South Seattle who face barriers to accessing affordable childcare. We anticipate to open this new site between Fall 2027 and Winter 2028.



Mary's Place Partnership

In May, we successfully launched a new partnership project with Mary's Place. This partnership is focused on providing cohort-based group socializations at Mary Place's downtown Seattle shelter. It is designed to provide individualized support while fostering peer connections and reducing social isolation among children and families. We hope to expand this partnership to other Mary's Place shelters in the future.



2025 Auction

Our 2025 Dinner & Auction was a major success! We raised over \$315,000 and celebrated 47 years of service with our donors, community partners, staff, and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the event or support us virtually!



We recognized Ted Saedi and Sheng-Yen Lu Foundation as our 2025 Dream Awardees. Ted has been a long time supporter as he provided DLEC with below-market rent, helped us navigate complex facility challenges, and generously contributed to our auctions. Similarly, for over a decade, Sheng-Yen Lu Foundation has partnered with us to expand our reach through capital projects, sustain essential programs for vulnerable children, and provide critical resources to empower families.



Susan's Sabbatical

Our executive director, Susan Yang, was awarded the 2024 Sabbatical Leadership Grant by Ile Kimoyo (formerly known as the BIPOC Executive Directors Coalition of Washington State) and Byrd Barr Place. After over a decade of service, she was able to take a well-deserved 3-month sabbatical. We are so thankful to Ile Kimoyo, Byrd Barr Place, our staff, and board of directors who made this possible.

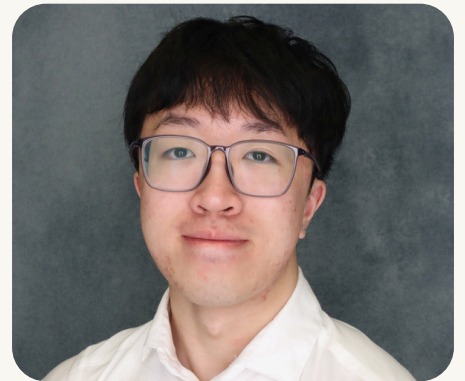


Pursuing Higher Education

At DLEC, we build the educational foundation for our students to succeed in the future. To support that, we established a scholarship opportunity for DLEC alumni who are interested in or are pursuing higher education. This year we selected Angel X. and Alvin T. as our scholarship winners.

Angel is currently studying at the University of Washington with the hopes of becoming a dentist. Her dream is to create a practice where no one feels ashamed of their smile. Alvin is also a student at the University of Washington in the Education, Communities, and Organizations major. He hopes to bridge gaps in the classroom and ensure all students can thrive. In addition, we are excited to welcome Alvin as our Development Intern!

DLEC is grateful to former students such as Angel and Alvin for their commitment to serving and improving the community.



Home Ownership: YanHua C.

This year, we had the privilege of walking alongside Denise Louie parent YanHua C. on her journey to homeownership through Habitat for Humanity. Together, we navigated the challenges of language barriers, cultural differences, and the many steps of the application process. With determination and support, the family successfully completed the paperwork and, most importantly, purchased their very own home. Their story is a beautiful reminder of the power of persistence and partnership, and we are honored to have been part of this milestone moment.



Our Donors

Thank you to all of our 2024-2025 donors! Your generous support made a difference in the lives of our families.

▲ Dinner & Auction Sponsors

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Wendy T.
Will & Stacy N.
William H.
William L.
Wyman Youth Trust ●
Xiu W. L.
Ye H.
Yolanda E.
Yuki C.
Yuma F.

Our Volunteers

We greatly appreciate all the volunteers that helped make this year successful! The service provided in our classrooms, office, and events made an unforgettable impact on the families we serve. Thank you for the continued support of Denise Louie's mission!

Alexandra B.	Deborah S.	Kainui S.	Reina K.
Alvin T.	Diahnae B.	Kathy K.	Sachmitt K.
Amanda L. C.	Elsie L.	Katrina F.	Savanna S.
Amanda S.	Emily Q.	Kayla L.	Selin T.
Amber G.	Emily R.	Kate H.	Sheila L. H.
Angeli B.	Ethan B.	Kulminder K.	Shruti P.
Angelina D.	Ethan T.	Lian C.	Sinan L.
Angelyn G.	Evelyn O.	Lin G.	Skye C.
Angelyn L.	Everett C.	Lin T.	Sophia D.
Annika K.	Fasai M.	Maddie M.	Stephen F.
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Christina C.	Jera L.-K.	Mitzi M.	Xingfang L.
Christina Z.	Jessie C.	Monika S.	Xiu W. L.
Christine B.	Jieying Y.	Nani O.-H.	Zoe B.
Claranese U.	John D.	Natalia L.-G.	Zoe T.
Daniel H.	Jonathan J. K.	Nicolas H.	Zheng Yang Z.
Daniela A.	Justine I.	Phan L.	Zhong Z.
Danika A.	Kai S.	Qi Zhong Y.	Zihan Z.
		Raven P.	

OUR MISSION

Denise Louie Education Center promotes school and life readiness by providing multicultural 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.

OUR VISION

Denise Louie Education Center's vision is to educate and empower children and families to reach their full potential so they can advocate for themselves, our communities, and the world.

Current Board of Directors

Kai Shih, President

2014 - Present

Owner, Shih Investments

Mitzi Moore, Treasurer

2013 - Present

Assurance Managing Director, Ernst & Young

Lin Trinh, Secretary

2019 - Present

Program Analyst Manager, Evergreen Goodwill

Amanda Lau Chen

2020 - Present

Senior Recruiter, Starbucks

Vivian Song Maritz

2021 - Present

Community Volunteer

Jennie Cochran Chinn

2021 - Present

Owner, Chinn Technologies

Xiu Wen Li

2022 - Present

Senior Talent Manager, Microsoft

DLEC Alumna

Whitney White

2023 - Present

Pre-K - 3rd Grade Systems Manager, Puget Sound Educational Service District

Kainui Smith

2023 - Present

General Counsel, Absher Construction

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2024 - Present

Owner, Riversouth Real Estate LLC

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2025 - Present

Assurance Senior Manager, Ernst & Young

Manaal Siddique

2025 - Present

Senior Business Analyst, Amazon Web Services

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Huideng H.



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with a donation!

deniselouie.org/give/donate



Our Locations

**Early Head Start & Administration Office**

6363 7th Ave S.

Tel (206) 347-3017

Suite 222 & 240

Seattle, WA 98108

**Mercy Magnuson Place**

7101 62nd Ave. N.E.

Tel (206) 767-8223

Seattle, WA 98115

**Beacon Hill**

3327 Beacon Ave. S.

Tel (206) 725-9740

Seattle, WA 98144

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1225 E Fir St

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