



Fiscal Year 2022

Maryland Family Network



Ensuring that all young child in Maryland have strong families, quality early learning environments, and a champion for their interests.

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# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



"During the pandemic, they helped with activities, food, clothing, child care, & got us set up with a therapist.
We love the Center and are grateful for our Center."

-- Family Support Center Parent

# The Pandemic Didn't Stop Us

GOVID-19 did not stop us from serving families with young children. In fact, all of our Family Support and Early Head Start Centers were either open or providing virtual services to families throughout the pandemic. In fact, at some Centers, participation rates for families attending events and receiving services doubled during the pandemic, indicating that needs in the community had intensified. All our Centers distributed food, diapers, personal hygiene kits, household cleaning items, books, as well as child and adult activity packets to support families during the pandemic.

# **An Infusion of Funds**

Thanks to expanded federal funding from the American Rescue Plan, we were able to hire an additional Program Consultant and add an Assistant Director to our EHS team.

# Growing to Meet the Needs

As a result of the passage of the landmark Blueprint for Maryland's Children, MFN laid the groundwork this year for an expanded Family Support Network. To that end, two community-based organizations have been awarded contracts to open Family Support Centers. The first is the United Way at Excel Academy located in a high school which serves young parents. The second is in Southern Maryland where we have joined our long time partner in that region, the Promise Resource Center. Several more Centers will open in the coming fiscal year.

# **Strengthening Families**

Congratulations to over 30 parents from across our Network who completed the Leadership Institute for Parents which teaches leadership, decision making, critical thinking, effective communication, and public speaking skills. Great things lie ahead for them!



# FAMILY SUPPORT BY THE NUMBERS

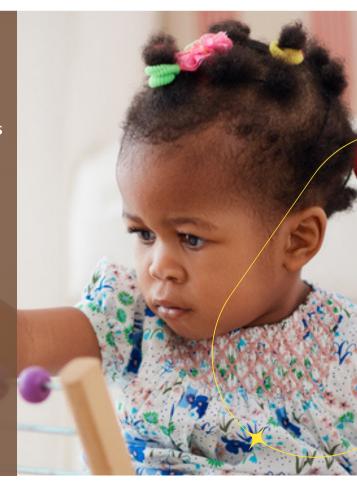
During FY22 our 12 Family Support Centers served 909 children.

- 90% of parents say they would recommend the Family Support Center to friends or family who are in a similar situation.
- When asked, "How well has your center met your needs," 56% of parents said "extremely well" and 34% said "very well."
- When asked if their Center "strengthened your relationship with your child," 38% of parents said an "extreme amount" and 44% said "very much."
- 39% of parents "strongly agree" that "my family unit is stronger as a result of attending this center" and 45% say that they "agree".

# EARLY HEAD START BY THE NUMBERS

During FY22 our 19 EHS Centers served 667 families with 744 children.

- 94.1% of children were up-to-date on immunizations.
   (up 4.3% over the enrollment year)
- 87.2% of children had a dental home.
   (up 6.6% over enrollment year)
- 93.4% of children diagnosed with a chronic medical condition received medical treatment.
- 35.1% of families experiencing homelessness acquired housing during the enrollment year.





# YOU'RE NEVER ALONE

LOCATE: Child Care can help find care that works for your family.

During COVID-19,

Marylanders couldn't help but feel isolated from each other. So when parents needed safe child care, they turned to MFN. We let them know they were not alone. MFN's LOCATE: Child Care has the experts, advice, and referral specialists to help parents when they need it most.

So how do you decide which child care provider is best for your family? Easy. Always go for quality.

To make sure parents found the care they needed during COVID, LOCATE: Child Care

walked parents through exactly what quality means such as the teacher's experience, adult to child ratio, identifying safe environments, nutritious foods, and other factors. We were also ready with the latest information about the cleaning protocols in child care programs as well as current information about social distancing, masking, and other health and safety protocols to keep young children safe.

We do this during a pandemic and during the best of times, because quality never goes out of style.

# PARENTS LOVE LOCATE: CHILD CARE!

We we asked parents to tell us what they love about LOCATE: Child Care, they said it is the service and helpful information.



94%



of families rated LOCATE: Child Care as "Good" or "Very Good."



91%



of families said they would use LOCATE: Child Care again.



94%



of families found the education materials that

they received from Resource Specialists to be useful. This includes information related to child care as well as additional family support resources.



# FAMILY RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

Parents are super busy. That's why MFN's Family Resource Specialists are here. Whether you're looking for child care, help paying for care, or just trying to find resources to help you along in your parenting journey, MFN's Family Resource Specialists have you covered.

Family Resource Specialists are experts in early care and education who support parents and other caregivers as they navigate the ever growing amount of child care and parenting information that's out there. Family Resource Specialists help them weed through it all to find what's needed to nurture *your* child to be productive and to grow up healthy.

On our free telephone service, LOCATE: Child Care specialists helped 1,757 parents find and select care for 2,230 children that was best suited to their individual needs, preferences, and ability to pay. Online, 13,335 users conducted 38,201 searches for child care.

Meanwhile, in May 2022, the Family Resource Specialists began a new service: helping parents understand, navigate, and submit applications to the Child Care Scholarship program. We look forward to helping thousands more in this effort every year!



# PUBLIC POLICY

2022 was the right time for Time to Care.

## TIME TO CARE

After years of work culminating in a veto override on the final weekend of Session, Maryland became the tenth state (plus the District of Columbia) to establish paid family and medical leave. HB 496 / SB 275 "Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2022)" will create an insurance fund to provide partial wage replacement for workers taking time away from jobs to care for new babies, loved ones with serious health conditions or disabilities, or themselves.

## PUBLIC POLICY

# CHILD CARE PACKAGE

In an extraordinary sweep, eight pieces of legislation that focused on the needs of young children, their families, and child care providers won passage, most of them on Sine Die. The centerpiece of the package—HB 995 / SB 920 "Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations and Study"—will establish presumptive eligibility for child care scholarship applicants pending final determination. The bill also removes the requirement that applicants pursue child support enforcements, eliminates copayments for parents enrolled in certain safety net programs (such as WIC), mandates prompt payments for providers, and requires streamlining of the scholarship application itself. Other bills in the package provide targeted sales tax relief for new parents, codify and increase funding for key early childhood mental health initiatives, and dedicate resources for child care stabilization, capacity expansion, and hiring and retention.

## BUDGET

An influx of federal pandemic relief funds combined with an unexpectedly robust state economic rebound made Maryland's fiscal outlook sunnier than at any time in recent history. With support from the Governor and the General Assembly, advocates scored tremendous gains. Early childhood programs funded by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, such as pre-K and Family Support (or "Patty") Centers, will see an increase of \$125.6 million over baseline in FY23. New State spending on the Child Care Scholarship Program and on the Child Care Package will total an additional \$110.9 million.

Don't believe the doom and gloom reports that nothing much gets done in the hallowed halls of our legislature. This past year has shown us that legislative victories are quite possible thanks to the combined efforts of all of Maryland's early childhood advocates.









# LETS TALK ABOUT

# TRAINING, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND COACHING

Our professional development programs are second to none. Thanks to the Maryland Child Care Resource Network (MCCRN), MFN is the largest provider of training, technical assistance, and coaching for the child care community in Maryland. MFN is committed to making sure the MCCRN serves our child care community as efficiently as possible. That's why in 2022, we redesigned the MCCRN to allow sponsoring organizations to invest in more trainers, coaches, infant and toddler specialists, and family resource specialists. This increase in support staff means faster service delivery and more flexibility to serve child care providers at locations that work best for them.

Under the new structure, each Child Care Resource Center (CCRC) will still have at least one main office, but they have established multiple collaborative partnerships to utilize space throughout each jurisdiction. Instead of driving up to an hour away to the CCRC headquarters, collaborative offices make coaches available at the local library, Judy Center, coffee shop, or other location closer to provider's businesses. Providers are still welcome to come to the CCRC to utilize various resources such as laptops, scanners, photocopiers, and of course, to meet with a coach or specialist.

Ultimately, the greatest benefit of these changes will be felt by Maryland's families with young children who will have increased access to quality child care in their communities.

# TRAINING, COACHING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Here's a few good reasons why so many people look up to us!

During FY22 MFN and the MCCRC provided:

5,118 professional development hours and

1,390 training workshops for

20,458 attendees.

# MFN and the MCCRN also conducted:

2,180 individual technical assistance activities and

104 group in-person group sessions and

633 group virtual sessions. As well as

9,962 individual contacts\*

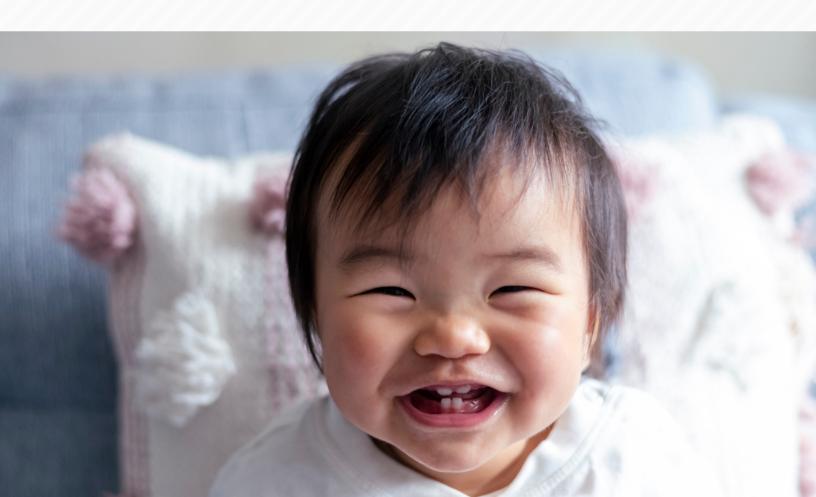
\*Individual Contacts are technical assistance activities provided in a single point of interaction, through phone or email, a visit to the resource center for in-person assistance, or a visit to the program.



# **CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN**

Champions for Children, our multi-year giving society, is dedicated to improving the lives and opportunities of Maryland's youngest children, their families, and early care professionals across the state. Our esteemed Champions not only ensure the organization's financial sustainability for many years to come, but also ensure that we remain the state's preeminent voice for the youngest, most vulnerable children regardless of the latest trends or political climate.

Become a Champion for Children by making a pledge to donate \$1,000 or more annually for the next five years. If you are interested in becoming a Champion for Children, please contact <u>Development Director Jennifer Andiorio</u>.



# CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN

#### **CHAMPIONS**

Annual Commitment of \$25,000+

Denise and Brian M. Eakes

#### **AMBASSADORS**

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## **BUILD THE NEXT SOCIETY**

Our Build the Nest Society recognizes a special group of donors who have made significant gifts to Maryland Family Network, many of them for more than five consecutive years, building a solid foundation from which all of our work grows.

Anonymous

Drs. Robert Wm. and Michael Blum

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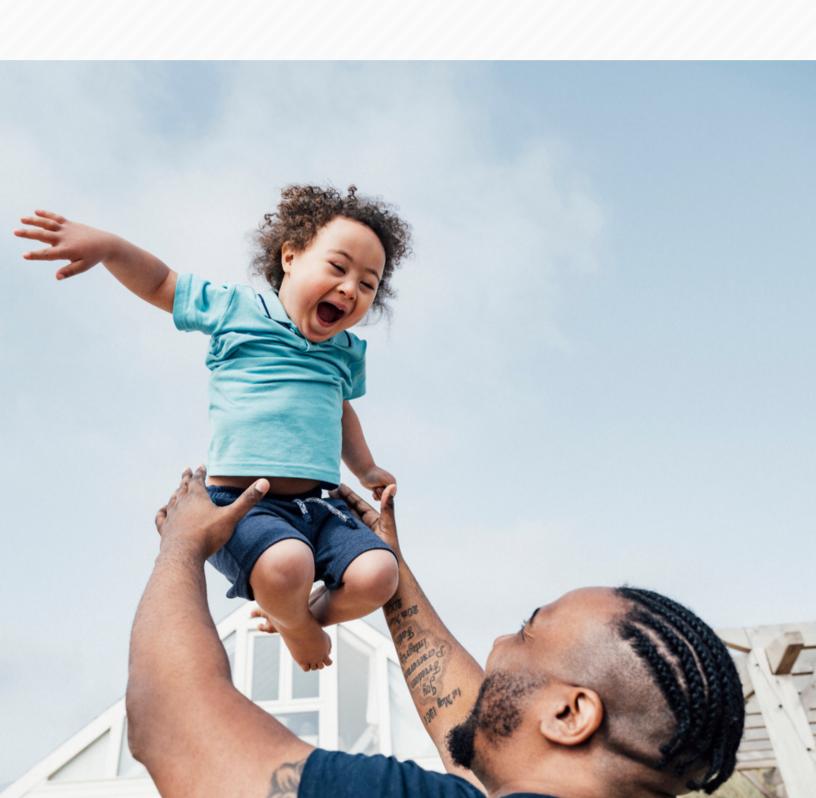
Steven Joseph Weisel

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Jennifer Williams and Bill Jacob

# THANK YOU!

We are grateful to the following individuals, organizations, and businesses who made contributions to support Maryland Family Network between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.



## \$25,000

**Alliance for Early Success** 

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Maryland Family Network members are important to our success. We benefit from your expertise and your voices in our advocacy efforts, while you benefit from being a part of a larger body of providers across the state. Thank you for your support!



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