

**Cradlerock Children's Center
January, 2006
Year One**

A Year of Accomplishments

This has been an amazing year for the Children's center. It is hard to believe that one year ago we were still in the fuzzy idea stage and were preparing for the congregational meeting that approved the project. So much has been accomplished and most of the goals for the center have come into place. This has truly been a labor of love. The labor part has been intense. We have benefited from the work of many, many volunteers who helped in the renovation, in the classroom and in many other ways. The love part has been apparent as well with the generosity, enthusiasm and commitment from so many. Take a look at all the things that happened this year shown below to appreciate just how much has happened.

- Congregational Meeting Jan 30, 2005 - Approval to proceed/borrow \$100,000.
- Developed a Unique Program based on UU values
- Hired Director and 8 Staff – personnel policy, payroll, taxes and more.
- Start-up Loans - \$100,000 was borrowed, and \$50,000 more is needed.
- Applied /Awarded - Two grants totaling \$20,000 and more to come.
- Renovation-Ann Wing ,100 volunteers, over 1000 hrs, \$40,000 of sweat equity
- Furnishing the space \$26,000 of new furnishings purchased
- Startup came in under budget - \$76,000 vs \$79,000 budgeted
- Lease Signed with OBIC – with a 10% discount including cleaning service.
- Teacher training - 2 weeks of training and orientation in August
- Startup – August 29, on time and without a wrinkle
- Licensing - tedious, time consuming, but we are now licensed for 57 children.
- Partnership with Even Start and Head Start – we support 12 children here at OBIC
- Scholarships Support Community Children – estimate of \$53,000/yr in subsidy!
- Fundraising - \$18,000 in gifts. Large and small. Thank you, thank you.....
- Finding an Attorney – Tracey Skinner is helping us pro-bono!
- Incorporation – Incorporated as of May 13, 2005
- Bylaws Established and Officers Elected on August 25, 2005
- Non Profit 501C3 status applied for October 13, 2005
- Insurance – We have lots of insurance!
- Outreach – a dozen open houses, 6 fairs, and more
- UUCC volunteers in the classroom – 12 help on a weekly basis.

The program is wonderful! We have created a respectful, caring, playful, and learning environment to be proud of. We got Columbia Magazine Honorable Mention as Best in HoCo. We now have 53 children today from very diverse backgrounds.

Thanks to all of you on behalf of the CCC Board:

Rich Dean

Board Members: Jess Duvall, Martha Fulda, Judy McDermott, Candy Wachterman

Cradlerock Children's Center Year Two

This has been another amazing year for the Children's center. It is hard to believe that just two years ago we were still in the fuzzy idea stage in the creation of the center. So much has been accomplished and most of the goals for the center have come into place. This has truly been a labor of love. The labor part has been intense. We have benefited from the work and generosity of many. The love part has been apparent as well with the generosity, enthusiasm and commitment from so many. Many wonderful things happened this year. Here are just a few:

- We provide quality child care and preschool to more than 60 children.
- We operate 11 hours per day, 5 days per week, 51 weeks per year.
- Our children and our staff are from many different backgrounds, cultures and socioeconomic levels reflecting the Owen Brown Community.
- We offer a program that involves the whole child, encouraging spiritual, social, and intellectual growth, while empowering each child to develop at his/her own rate. We believe these reflect our UU values.
- We provide partial scholarships to about 30% of the children in our center amounting to more than \$60,000 per year
- We have a staff of 17 full and part time employees. They are skilled and dedicated professionals. Our salaries are above the norms for other centers and we provide a range of benefits. About 75% of our expenses are for salary and benefits.
- We are led by our wonderful Director, Darla Edmiston.
- Our business plan is progressing on schedule.
- We are filling up our program and will likely have a waiting list by Fall.
- Our income from tuition is about \$30,000 per month. This should grow to more than \$40,000 per month by Fall. We are operating at a break even point today and expect to begin to see modest profits by next fall. Next year budget is more than half a million dollars.
- We received 2 grants this year totaling \$30,000. We have received about \$10,000 in donations and another \$10,000 from the fundraising cruise.
- We have about \$190,000 in debt. This includes the \$80,000 we needed for renovation. We expect to begin loan repayment in Fall 2008.
- Lease with OBIC –We currently pay \$48,600 per year. Next year we will pay about \$55,830.
- We have added two CCC parents to our Board as well as a member of CUMC, totaling 7.
- We recently added additional space for infant care. We will be sharing space with the UCC Nursery.
- Columbia Magazine Honorable Mention as Best in HoCo in 2005 and 2006

The program is wonderful! Recent studies show that exposure to quality daycare and preschool benefit children significantly over their entire life. For disadvantaged children this is truly a lifesaving experience. Children learn most of their social skills before kindergarten. Children who are not ready academically for kindergarten may never recover.

This all sounds good but it has not been easy. We continue to struggle with finances. Even as we break even next year, we will continue to need help to fund the scholarships and staff benefits we believe are key to this program. We appreciate UCC's continued support.

Thanks to all of you on behalf of the CCC Board:

Jorge Aquino, Brandi Carter, Rich Dean, Martha Fulda, Judy McDermott, Joann Piersall, Candy Wachterman