

Excellence in Everything

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends,

2023 was a most exciting year for Educare DC as we entered into our second decade! It was also a rewarding one for us as individuals, as Jamal assumed his new role as Educare DC President and CEO. We know that as you review all that Educare DC accomplished, you will agree that our organization fully embraced Jamal’s guiding principle of “Excellence in Everything.”

You will learn about the incredible work our staff does to implement our whole-family approach, to prepare children for kindergarten, and to help make a lasting impact on the lives of children and their families. Additionally, we are proud to share about the successful continuation of our Early Educator Fellowship as well as the launch of several new programs, including the Professional Development Institute, Teacher Recruitment Ambassadors, and Parent Ambassadors.

It has been incredibly satisfying for Jamal to work with staff in bringing his ideas and goals fully to life in response to the needs of children, families, and teachers. We know you will share our amazement at the many ways Educare DC contributes to each child’s long-term success—and we have already begun the process of creating our three-year strategic plan. It is an honor and privilege to do this work, but we could not do it without your support. We thank you in advance for your continued partnership!

With deep appreciation,



Rick Calder

Rick Calder
Board Chair



Jamal Berry

Jamal Berry
President and CEO



“Educare DC has a great impact. Every morning when I drop (my daughter) off, the staff are embracing and the teachers are very hands on. I can ask any questions I have. The social-emotional learning aspects I really like. They explain her emotions and why she is feeling the way she feels and I think that’s really important.”

— Whitney Duncan



Enabling Every Child to Succeed



Educare DC's mission is to eliminate the opportunity gap for young children experiencing poverty, and to help them develop the skills necessary for success in kindergarten and beyond. We are a proud member of the national Educare Learning Network (ELN) of 25 independently operated, high-quality, research-based early childhood schools.

Our vision is for all children in DC to have access to an early education that helps them flourish throughout their lives. Using a holistic approach, we partner with families to identify their goals and guide them on their journeys to success. We follow research-based best practices for instruction and provide all that children need to learn and grow, both at home and in the classroom. And our commitment to using data and research ensures that we work toward continuous improvement for the families we serve.

In its first decade, Educare DC's impact has grown from serving 160 children at a single location to a capacity of 424 children across two campuses and four partner centers. We also leverage our expertise through training programs and advocacy to improve outcomes for children not enrolled at Educare DC.

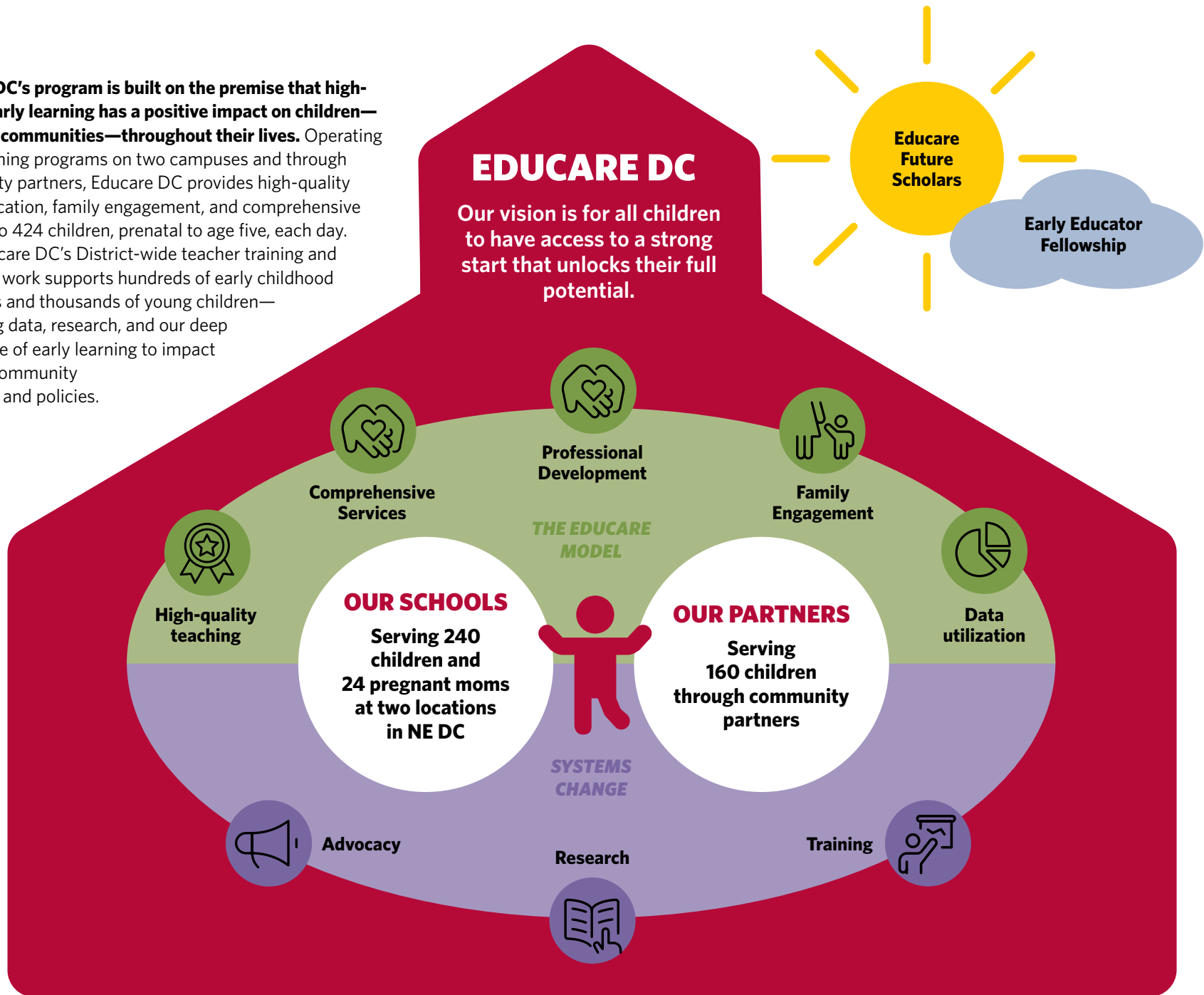
In 2023 we were committed to "Excellence in Everything" and to achieving the following goals:

- Delivering high quality programming through a culture of excellence, that results in children being ready to thrive in kindergarten and beyond.
- Being an active voice for racial equity and agent of change in the community for young children, families, and early educators.
- Sustaining our organizational financial health for long-term impact.

Thanks to your support, we have moved toward a future where all children in DC get a strong start that unlocks their full potential.



Educare DC's program is built on the premise that high-quality early learning has a positive impact on children—and their communities—throughout their lives. Operating early learning programs on two campuses and through community partners, Educare DC provides high-quality early education, family engagement, and comprehensive services to 424 children, prenatal to age five, each day. Also, Educare DC's District-wide teacher training and advocacy work supports hundreds of early childhood educators and thousands of young children—leveraging data, research, and our deep knowledge of early learning to impact broader community programs and policies.



Educare in 2023: By the Numbers



Number of events held for families: **18**



Number of children and families served in 2023: **355**

Number of children and families served since 2012: **1,465**



Average monthly enrollment*:

Early Head Start Infant/Toddler programs: **94%**

DC Universal PreK Program **75%**



Percentage of Head Start eligible children served*:

Early Head Start Infant/Toddler programs **95%**

DC Universal PreK Program **88%**



Percentage of children receiving health screenings*:

Medical: **100%**
Dental (age 3+): **100%**



Complete and nutritious meals served: **84,918**

**For the 2022-2023 Head Start grant year, for open and operating classrooms.*



Holistic Support for Families & Children

Educare DC's early learning program uses a two-generation, holistic family approach because we know that the best way to address a child's needs is in the context of family.



Comprehensive Services Support for Health & Wellness

Educare DC's comprehensive services and family engagement teams provide wraparound support to help meet our families' changing needs, including:

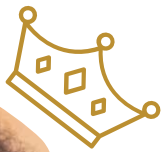
- developmental, nutritional, and mental health support
- vision, dental, and hearing screenings
- tracking and reminders for well-baby visits and chronic health condition support
- therapeutic care and early interventions
- health and wellness embedded professional development for teachers
- prenatal support
- family engagement services

In addition to the three healthy meals served daily, provided free-of-cost via the Child & Adult Care Food Program, this year our comprehensive services team was able to expand our focus on nutrition and healthy food even more.

In partnership with Truist Bank and its employee-volunteers, we were thrilled to be able to establish the Educare DC garden at our Parkside campus, planting vegetables in seven garden beds throughout the summer and fall. This school garden will serve as a source of healthy food and learning for children and families for many years to come.

In November, we held a Health & Nutrition Expo with seven community partners—including Children's National Hospital and the Nutrition Group. Another partner, FRESHFARM, conducted a food tasting and distributed 60 bags of fruits and vegetables to children and families.

We are grateful to all of our collaborative partners—including the District of Columbia's Department of Behavioral Health, Generation Hope, Georgetown HOYA Clinic, Mamatoto Village, and Mary's Center—who help make sure our children and families are as healthy as they can be.



Prenatal Support for Moms2Be

Our prenatal support program, Moms2Be, provides a continuum of support from pregnancy through childbirth and parenting. In 2023, a total of 24 pregnant women were enrolled in the Moms2Be prenatal program and activities included:

- an open house outreach and recruitment event, featuring gifts and prizes from community partners, including East River Family Collaborative;
- monthly educational workshops focused on maternal nutrition, breastfeeding, child development, and self-care;
- one-on-one meetings with a perinatal coordinator to set personal goals and access to prenatal care;
- resource distribution—such as pack and plays, high chairs, car seats, and Thanksgiving food baskets—as well as information about supplemental food programs, scholarships and emergency resources; and
- a group baby shower celebration with three community partners: Stork's Nest, the District of Columbia's Department of Behavioral Health, and FRESHFARM.

Once their infants are 6 weeks or older, participating mothers also have priority for enrolling their babies into the early Head Start program at Educare DC or one of our childcare partner programs.



PARENT SPOTLIGHT

When **Jordan Pickett's** son, Jaxon, first started at Educare DC, Jordan was concerned that Jaxon's speech was not as strong as it could be. To make matters harder, Jaxon was also frustrated and often threw tantrums because he wasn't able to express himself. Since that time, Educare teachers have worked with Jaxon to grow in his speech and communication development, and also taught Jordan parenting techniques to better handle her son's behavior. Today Jordan says she no longer has concerns about Jaxon because her son is thriving, and went on to declare that, "no other program out here is doing what [Educare] does—they are closing the education gap."



“Educare DC has been pivotal. The process of finding childcare was hard at the time, and I can walk there. I felt comfortable all around. With my other children, child care wasn't like this. This was a seamless process. Educare DC does a good job to make sure parents are taken care of and don't have to worry about stuff like formula, training pants, and more.”

— Shanae Bond



Family Engagement Support for Strong Families

Our dedicated family engagement team works closely with parents to build goal-oriented relationships that support family wellbeing across multiple dimensions, including employment, housing, financial, health, and educational. We support family success with ongoing family needs assessments and by providing follow-up support—and through this process, parents develop strong, nurturing relationships with their children and take important steps to achieving their own personal goals.

Throughout 2023, Educare DC also hosted a number of parent activities, including Parent Cafés, a program originally developed by Be Strong Families to help strengthen families. Other events included:

- Celebrating Grandparents Day in September with a sit-down breakfast and an opportunity for grandparents to read to their grandchildren's class. We were joined by 20 grandparents for this special event!
- Both Educare DC campuses held clothing exchange "Yard Sales," where families and staff could donate lightly-used clothing and other families could shop for free. Children do have a tendency to grow out of things so quickly!



Shared Governance through the Parent Policy Council

In 2023, Educare DC's Parent Policy Council and Committees grew even stronger. Based on important Head Start performance standards and key to building our culture of shared governance, these groups enable Educare DC parents to influence hiring decisions, instruction and curriculum, budget and calendar, and other significant aspects of our operations. Parent Committees are also active at each of our Child Care Partnership sites.

PARENT SPOTLIGHT

Shawn Price was experiencing homelessness when his family first connected with Educare DC. Shawn credits our family engagement team with assisting him to secure permanent housing, improving his parenting skills, and even with helping him to gain full custody of his daughter, Shamiyah. When she started at Educare, Shamiyah struggled with a stutter and was very shy. Today, she no longer stutters and is far more outgoing and talkative.



PARENT SPOTLIGHT

Both of **Shonda Bragg's** children have attended Educare DC and she has been so pleased with their care. "I admire how family-oriented Educare DC is—they really care." Shonda's daughter, Brielle, was born with a mild clubfoot and was hesitant to crawl, but with Educare DC's support, she walked before her first birthday and did not need leg braces. Shonda adds that Educare DC helped her personally, as well, pushing her to be more focused. She participated on the Parent Policy Council and is even back in school. "Educare DC has provided me with endless opportunities."



Collaborating with Child Care Partners



In our fifth year of operating the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (CCP) program, we continued ensuring that students were given exceptional experiences through our community child care centers: St. Philip's Child Development Center (through November); First Rock Baptist Child Development Center; Kiddies, Inc.; National Children's Center; and St. Timothy's Episcopal Child Development Center.

Our Child Care Partnership work for 2023 centered around building relationships and optimizing our classrooms to improve the learning environment for children. Families enjoyed fun activities and delicious treats at events where they bonded with each other, including:

- Kiddies, Inc., hosted an event where children ate donuts with their dads.
- National Children's Center held a Tasty Tuesday event where the staff made smoothies for parents and guests were given ingredients to make the recipes at home.

Our partner sites achieved tremendous progress in 2023. By increasing the number of home visits and building relationships by meeting regularly with parents, enrollment increased to 76%, compared to 53% the year before. Physical environments were optimized, too, with the building of new playgrounds, the installation of soundproof walls to limit classroom disruptions, and adding more sinks and food preparation stations. We look forward to another five years of successful collaboration!



★ STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Kathryn Draper came to Educare DC in August 2022 as Director of Recruitment and Enrollment, and her expertise in Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance (ERSEA) has already made a huge impact. After 4 years of under-enrollment within Child Care Partnerships, Kat's support and guidance to direct reports has resulted in a 20% increase. Talia Newman, Director of Early Head Start Partnerships shares that "Kat is diligent in her planning, strategy and execution to best support our partner sites." Kat also helped to facilitate a series for training site staff on diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) to promote disability awareness and acknowledge hidden biases. Kat adds that she loves connecting with families to share the opportunities available. "People don't always know we offer health and wellness services—we provide families with the best possible care."

Early Educator Fellowship

We are so proud that Educare DC's Early Educator Fellowship is in its fourth year. This citywide program provides a shared learning experience for early childhood educators across the District of Columbia—whether they work in center, home-based, or public school settings. After two years of meeting virtually and one year using a hybrid model due to the pandemic, our fourth cohort of 17 fellows now meets wholly in-person. Including our current cohort, the Fellowship has served a total of 72 educators since its launch in 2020.

Gaining Recognition in the Field

Led by Amber Woodruff, the Fellowship has helped educators to build a community, develop their professional skills and knowledge, and become agents of change through advocacy. Throughout 2023, current fellows and alumni continued to grow their leadership in the field:

- Current Fellow, **Austin Leem** was awarded a District of Columbia Association for the Education of Young Children (DCAEYC) Scholarship in October.
- Alumna, **Alethea Etinoff** was recently elected to the position At-Large Board Member, DCAEYC.
- Alumna, **Casi York**, was invited to speak at an Oxfam America event in July.
- Alumna, **Angelique Marshall** was selected in May to receive the DC Action-DCAEYC 2023 Early Educator of the Year Award, home-based.

Growing Individually and Together

Evaluations of our third cohort show that Fellows strengthen their confidence, grow in knowledge and skills, and build community during the Fellowship. One Fellow noted that they “see the relationships made during the Fellowship as long lasting” and that the people they met “have now become a part of my family circle.”

At the start, the Fellows expressed wanting the early childhood field and the workforce as a whole to “gain more respect from families, administration, and everyone else that view us as anything other than the stepping stone for education.”

By the end of their experience, members of our third Fellowship cohort grew by an average of 33% in their understanding of advocacy compared to prior—showing an overall increase in their knowledge about DC and national early childhood policy, as well as gender and racial equity in early childhood education.



Advocating for Educators & Families

Educare DC deeply values its role as an advocate for the early childhood education community. This work involves our Educare DC parents, our teachers, and our leadership, and fully leverages our position as a demonstration site. Here are a few highlights from 2023 that demonstrate our national and local advocacy work.



Parent Ambassadors

The primary way we are now implementing our federal leadership, policy, and advocacy agenda is through our Parent Ambassador program, which we launched in February 2023. The program brings together Educare DC parents, identified by our family engagement team, to participate in this eight-month cohort program where they learn about, discuss, and prepare for direct advocacy opportunities.

The goal of the Parent Ambassador program is to elevate the voices of parents with lived experiences so that they may actively engage in policy discussions and issues within the early childhood education sector. This way we ensure that the voices of parents are heard by policymakers. Likewise, parents are provided with decision-making power and influence by proactively preparing them for participation in local and national advocacy activities and events.

GIVING PARENTS A NATIONAL VOICE

Our inaugural cohort included seven Parent Ambassadors who attended monthly meetings in which they learned about the local and federal policymaking processes, how to share their stories to affect change, how to testify at DC Council hearings, and more.

The following are just a sampling of advocacy events where our Parent Ambassadors shared their stories and views on the need for accessible, affordable, equitable, and high-quality early childhood education:

- On March 29th, Parent Ambassador Kevin Smith participated in the Congressional Dads Caucus' Parents & Advocates Roundtable at the U.S. Capitol and shared how the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) subsidies help him and his wife afford quality childcare.

- On May 23rd, Parent Ambassadors Jontice Small and Shanae Bonds met with DC Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton's Legislative Aide who manages her education and social policy portfolio to discuss the importance of the Early Head Start and Head Start programs.
- On May 25th, at the Democratic Women's Caucus press conference at the U.S. Capitol, Parent Ambassador Tiana Franks spoke about the debt ceiling negotiations and proposed cuts to federal early care and learning programs.
- On September 13rd, Parent Ambassador Jontice Small and Educare DC Advocacy Manager, Adam Barragan-Smith, attended a press conference on Capitol Hill where the Child Care Stabilization Act was introduced.



Demonstrating Excellence Through Leadership

Outside of our Parent Ambassador Program, Educare DC conducts federal advocacy through our leadership and our position as a demonstration site.

- In March, Educare DC president and CEO, Jamal Berry, was a panelist at the First Five Years Fund Capitol briefing for congressional staff members on “ABCs of Federal Early Learning and Child Care Funding Streams.”
- In December, our advocacy manager, Adam Barragan-Smith, was a panelist for the “Empowering Parents: Strategies for Successful Parent Engagement” session at the National Head Start Association’s Parent and Family Engagement conference in New Orleans.



Local Advocacy with National Impact

Educare DC also leverages our work as an early childhood education practitioner to address local policies and issues that may have national repercussions.

Our local policy priorities currently include championing and ensuring the fair implementation of the District’s landmark Pay Equity Fund, which is using local tax revenue to raise early childhood educator salaries to parity with DC Public Schools teachers, advocating for equitable access to special education services for Pre-K students enrolled in community-based organizations, and addressing the Black maternal health crisis.

The following are a sampling of local advocacy events from 2023:

- On March 1st, our Advocacy Manager, Adam Barragan-Smith, and Educare DC president and CEO, Jamal Berry, testified at the DC Council Committee of the Whole - Education Agencies Performance Oversight Hearings to advocate for oversight and thoughtful implementation of the Pay Equity Fund.
- On April 5th, our first cohort of Parent Ambassadors testified for the DC Council Committee of the Whole - Education Agencies FY24 Budget Oversight Hearings, advocating to increase income eligibility for the childcare subsidy program—an expansion the Council later voted to support.
- On October 4th, Adam Barragan-Smith and Parent Ambassador Nashema McBeath testified in support of the District’s Home Visiting Reimbursement Act of 2023, which would allow evidence-based home visiting programs to be reimbursed by Medicaid.

Teacher Advocacy

Our classroom teachers are at the forefront of identifying needs within the early childhood education sector, and as part of our ongoing advocacy work, several Educare DC teachers have also provided valuable insight to policymakers:

- On April 5th, Educare DC Lead Teacher Artia Brown testified at the DC Council Committee of the Whole’s FY24 Budget Oversight Hearing to advocate for full-funding of the Pay Equity Fund.
- On May 15th, Adam Barragan-Smith delivered 29 letters from Educare DC teachers to DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson’s office, demanding that the Council fully fund the Pay Equity Fund in the FY24 budget.
- On December 11th, Educare DC Lead Teacher Jannice Wright met with DC Councilmember Christina Henderson to advocate for incorporating a teachers’ years of experience into the funding formula for the Pay Equity Fund—similar to the scale that DC Public Schools use.



Professional Development

Educare DC's model includes embedded professional development days throughout the year. In addition to retaining and attracting the best early childhood educators, our professional development model is designed to prepare our children for kindergarten by supporting educators with highly effective and efficient professional development experiences. Here are a few highlights of the new and growing initiatives from 2023:

- During our pre-service week in August, we kicked off the week with a wellness day where staff members could enjoy massages, painting, yoga, and other wellness activities to help them prepare for the new school year. The week's sessions were highly beneficial, including staff-requested topics like homebuyer education and financial literacy, as well as Brazelton Touchpoints training, and an open house for our families. The week concluded with our annual Educare DC reunion—complete with a Luau theme and a special guest Hula dancer—which served as an all-staff morale booster to get us excited for the upcoming school year.
- During our designated professional development days, managers had the opportunity to spend time working with their respective departments on achieving departmental and organizational goals, as well as individual goals. Each manager created customized professional development goals for each direct report—to improve performance for the entire organization.
- Other professional development opportunities have included: Community of Practice meetings, learning walks, lesson studies, webinars and workshops, individual and group reflective supervision, team building, and one-on-one coaching.

★ STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Tamika Hill is a staff member at our Parkside campus who grew up in the DC area and has worked in education for 12 years. Compared to other places she has worked, Tamika says the consistency of staff training and the collaboration between departments are what make Educare stand out. "I feel like the other departments know the children in our care, and are familiar with the families. The streamline of communication is on point."



"I started off as an Educare DC parent who was able to find work within the organization. I've been able to grow career-wise through professional development. Now, I have a better outlook on life as a parent and as a professional. Educare DC gives people the chance to grow."

— Ashley Harris





What's New?

Educare DC strives to be at the forefront of the early childhood education field and to find and implement the best methods to help strengthen our children and families. Here are a few highlights of the programs and initiatives we grew or launched this year:



Professional Development Institute

In October, Educare DC launched the Professional Development Institute (PDI), which provides novice teachers with a paid living wage for 30 days while they receive intensive training based on the Essential Practices of Educare model. The PDI provides Educare DC with a pool of high-quality, trained professionals who can work as traveling teacher aides and provide classroom support, while reducing the need to hire outside temporary staff. A committee dedicated to the Professional Development Institute continues analyzing data to determine the best practices and lessons learned.

We are proud to be supporting the economic and social mobility of parents, as well—three Educare DC parents have participated in our first two cohorts of the PDI. Now, these parents have completed the program and are traveling teacher aides for our school, giving them steady employment and an opportunity to contribute to the education and development of our students.

★ STAFF SPOTLIGHT

April Jones is a staff member on our IDEA campus, and what she admires most about Educare DC is that it offers opportunities for employees to grow into other positions. She also notes that Educare is different from other places she's worked, because it has three-teacher classrooms, more classroom support, and resources for children with disabilities—adding that “staff members are able to build relationships and personal connections with everyone, no matter what their employee ranking may be.”



Educare DC Ambassador-Teacher Recruitment

In preparation for local job fairs and career recruitment season, Educare DC launched a staff ambassador program to support teacher recruitment. Here are some of the ways the Educare DC staff ambassadors have supported recruitment efforts:

- Participating in online job fairs and new teacher recruitment events
- Attending Black College Job Fairs and networking events
- Working closely with School Directors to identify opportunities for recruitment
- Screening and interviewing candidates, keeping them engaged throughout the recruitment process and introducing them to Educare DC's culture
- Participating in marketing campaigns

Our Educare DC Ambassadors play a crucial role in the recruiting process by engaging with teacher candidates to help fill staffing vacancies.



Coffee with Colleagues

To support the mental health and wellness of staff, Educare DC entered into an innovative partnership with the Wellbeing in School Environments (WISE) Center at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital. In August, we launched Coffee with Colleagues, a group wellness series with the WISE Center's Dr. Brenda Terry-Leonard, a psychologist who earned her doctorate from Howard University and has extensive experience providing clinical services to children and families across the developmental spectrum. At the August all-staff meeting, Dr. Leonard presented on the importance of mental health and wellness. Each week thereafter, Dr. Leonard alternated between Educare DC's two campuses to hold sessions on topics such as wellness strategies, how to support children with challenging behaviors and how to engage families. Additionally, one-on-one sessions are available for individual wellness support.

Parent Ambassador Program

As described previously, through our new Parent Ambassador program, we work with a cohort of Educare DC parents to provide them with training in how to directly advocate for policy issues related to the early childhood education sector, both at the local DC level, and at the federal level.

PARENT SPOTLIGHT

Tanesa Quick and her two children, Ji'Neiyah, age 4, and Ace, age 2, became part of the Educare DC family in 2021. After Ji'Neiyah's biological mom (Tanesa's older cousin) passed away in December 2020, Tanesa took Ji'Neiyah in, and it was a very difficult time for both of them. But Tanesa built a relationship with Educare DC family engagement manager, Tamisa Brooks, that helped her through hard times. "Tamisa was there every day, keeping me strong," Tanesa shared.



Today, Tanesa is actively involved in our Parent Cafés and was elected as the recording secretary for our Parent Policy Council. She is eager to point out how Educare DC has made a difference for her family: "I have a voice now, even though I'm not big on public speaking. The teachers and staff at Educare DC have helped pull me out of my shell." Educare DC's services have been an anchor for Tanesa's family to prosper in the midst of unforeseen hardship.



Research & Strategic Development


Educare DC's model is based on the science of early childhood learning, and we use research and data to create impact, drive results, and constantly improve that work. To measure our growth and improvement over time, our local evaluation partner (LEP) at the University of Maryland conducts annual evaluations.

Our 2022-2023 school year evaluation demonstrated that:

- Educare DC parents are actively involved in supporting their children's learning, with parents more involved with their children than in previous years across most family activities, including telling children stories, playing counting games, singing songs, and talking about Educare DC experiences.
- Educare DC parents need support—families at both our Parkside and IDEA campuses struggle financially, as cutbacks to social assistance programs continue to impact food security.
- Educare DC children met or exceeded widely held expectations in social-emotional, physical, language, cognition, and literacy—pointing to the systemic influence of Educare DC.
- Longitudinal data points to Educare DC's classroom quality remaining high, and increasing slightly over last year.

Additionally this year, our evaluation partner started diving into the mechanisms surrounding the coaching and mentoring practices, so we can show how the support of our classroom teachers makes a difference over time.

Tracking our program progress and outcomes in this way helps to ensure that our programs are achieving their intended results and reaching annual quality goals.



In May, we invited business leaders, philanthropists, education advocates, and policymakers to our **7th Annual Learning Event Breakfast** with featured guest, Dr. Sarah Watamura. Dr. Watamura is a professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of Denver, and also serves as co-Director of the Stress, Early Experiences and Development (SEED) Research Center.

Dr. Watamura discussed her research on intervention approaches for the unique stressors of families experiencing poverty, and emphasized the importance of investments in both children and parents during early life and the transition to parenting. Her findings, that targeting parents and children together in prevention and intervention programs protects against toxic stress and fosters healthy growth and development, echo Educare DC's holistic mission. We were pleased to highlight her work and most recent publication for [Ascend at the Aspen Institute](#).

Moving Up Ceremony



In July, our rising kindergarteners and their families enjoyed a fun and inspirational Moving Up Ceremony. As Ronnell Nathaniel, Educare DC's Vice President of Programs, told families it was just the beginning:

“Today your child will receive their certificate, but tomorrow they will receive their high school diploma, bachelor’s degree, master’s degree, and their doctoral degree.”

Students received their own “big kid” backpack filled with school supplies and a copy of the book *Only One You* by Linda Kranz. The children also sang Whitney Houston’s “Greatest Love of All,” which resulted in the adults shedding a few tears—because we all agree that “the children are our future.” Although we were sad to see them go, we are equally excited to watch them take the next step in their educational journey. We know they are ready to thrive in kindergarten and beyond!



In November, we hosted **Fall for Educare DC: An Annual Affair**, a donor event that kicked off our annual appeal. As a Head Start program, Educare DC serves the children and families who need it the most. We combine federal funding, local Pre-K and childcare subsidy funds, as well as private philanthropic dollars to provide full-day, full-year comprehensive education, health, mental health, nutrition, and family engagement services. However, additional financial support is needed to bridge what we call the “quality gap” between what government dollars cover and what we know children really need to thrive.

To help bridge that gap, attendees supported Educare DC by donating at the Giving Tree that night, and were invited to tour our Parkside facility and to meet teachers and staff on a “learning walk” through the halls. A special screening was held of the impressive **“Where Are They Now?”** video, featuring a handful of Educare DC alumni who are now thriving in school—including our very first student! The event also included a community art project to create artwork for both the Parkside and IDEA campuses. It was a fun night, and we hope attendees will continue to share what they learned about Educare DC’s work with others.



Gratitude



OUR WORK DEPENDS ON SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU! Educare's work to eliminate the opportunity gap for children experiencing poverty is only possible through the generosity of our donors and partners. Your dedication to supporting children and families helps us achieve Excellence in Everything we do!

Thank you to the following donors who supported Educare DC's **Annual Fund** between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023.

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 Julian Ivan Scott
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 Karli Swift
 Richard Keintz
 Keenan Keller and
 Donna Murphy
 Wendy Kibler
 Hilary and Steve Klein
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 Gabrielle Person
 Alyse Phoenix
 Rose Catherine Pinkney
 Maryvonne Plessis Fraissard
 Lesley Poole
 Jessie Rasmussen

James P. Rathvon
 Glenn and Maria Reicin
 Ramin Riahikhoee
 Lucy Rimalower
 Syriha Robinson
 Faye Roy Hunter
 Justin Rydstrom
 Rachel Schumacher
 and Jason Tulley
 Joyce Segarra
 Pamela and Douglas Selin
 Jacqueline Sellers
 Leigh-Kirstin Sims and
 Mahmoud Aly
 Hassan Khalil
 Laura Farrell Smith
 Charles Song
 Bruce Spiva and
 Anna Gelpert
 Janet Tenhula
 Bernie Treidl
 Pamala Triveti
 Venus Tuazon
 Diane Ty and Daniel Connors
 Jenna Umansky
 United Methodist Women
 of National United
 Methodist Church
 Natalie Vanderbilt
 Mark Walker
 Paula Wardynski
 Robin Weisman
 Hilary Weston Joel
 Sarah Yergeau
 Adam Zweiback and
 Kimberly Marshall

In celebration of Educare DC's 10th anniversary in 2022, we held a special campaign to ensure a bright future for Educare DC, its children, families and our community. We're grateful that during our 10th anniversary year we raised \$1.5M to fund the future of Educare DC!

Thank you to the following donors who made commitments to Educare DC's 10th Anniversary Campaign from January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2023.

\$100,000 +

Walter and Deborah Cohn *
 Caroline A. Davis
 Andrew and Julie Klingenstein

\$25,000 - \$99,999

Rick and Laurie Calder
 Carlisle R. Davis, Jr.

\$5,000 - \$24,999

Karen and Kent Allen
 Suzanne Anthony
 Wendy and Fred Goldberg
 Pyper Davis and Eric Imperial
 Amanda and Tom Lister
 Charis B. Menschel
 Diana and Bruce Rauner
 Anita and Francis Rothwell
 Mary Zients

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Tifarah Allen
 Carol Calder
 Kristin Cecchi
 Michelle Lee and Dan Chou
 Peter Farrell (Parkside Holdings
 and CityInterests Development
 Partners LLC)
 Leslie and John Oberdorfer, Esq.
 Daniel Pedersen

\$1 - \$999

Sarah and John Barpoulis
 Winthrop and Sarah Brown
 Ryan Daniels
 Susan and John Diekman
 Jessie B. Brown and Christopher
 A. Fanelli
 Hilary and Steve Klein
 Mike and Alice Leiter
 Khosi and Patrick Mathias
 Daniel Neal and Heller Shapiro
 Nkechi Nneji
 Jessie Rasmussen
 Rachel Schumacher and
 Jason Tulley
 Robyn and Frank Sims
 Leigh-Kirstin Sims and Mahmoud
 Aly Hassan Khalil
 Charles Song
 Ashley Taylor Bronczek
 Karli Swift
 Grace Tenhula

* Founding member of the Educare DC Legacy Society



*Established in 2022 as a result of two generous planned gifts to the 10th Anniversary Campaign, the **Educare DC Legacy Society** recognizes donors who are making a big impact on children and families with a future gift. Thank you for funding our future!*

Have you already included Educare DC in your estate plans? Let us know or reach out if you have questions about making a legacy gift. Contact development@educaredc.org or 202-727-5604.

Special thanks in honor of:

Rick Calder	Mike and Alice Leiter
Pyper Davis	Rachel Schumacher
Andy and Julie Klingenstein	

Special thanks to our in kind donors and volunteers:

Aspire 2 Inspire	Elizabeth Johnson
Capital Area Food Bank	The Junior League of Washington
Conn Maciel Carey	Marcum LLM
Donald Crawford	National Women’s Law Center
First Five Years Fund	Start Early
The Graduate Brothers of Epsilon	Truist Bank
Sigma Chapter of the Omega	Vanguard DC
Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.	Zion Baptist Church of Eastland
Hogan Lovells	Gardens

Winter Wishes Coat Drive

Tifarah Allen	Brenda Diabate
Laurie and Rick Calder	Khosi and Patrick Mathias
Alice and Michael Leiter	Angela McIntosh Davis
Faye Roy Hunter	Jessica Sarra
Pyper Davis and Eric Imperial	

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 Jewell Barber, Reporting Secretary
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 Community Representative
 Jamess Goddard, Community Representative

PARTNERS

Comprehensive Services and Family Support

Amerihealth	Healthy Generations Clinic
Colgate-Palmolive - Bright Smiles Bright Future	IMPACT DC
DC Breastfeeding Coalition	LIFT DC
DC Department of Health	Mamatoto Village
DC NEXT!	Martha’s Table
DC Primary Care Association	Mary’s Center
DC WIC	MECCA Group of DC
Dreaming Out Loud	National Therapy
Early Childhood Innovation Network (ECIN)	Paternally Yours – DC Health Help Me Grow
Early Stages	Prevention of Blindness
East River Family Strengthening Collaborative	Society of Metropolitan Washington
Educare Learning Network	Stork’s Nest
Generation Hope	Strong Start
Georgetown University School of Medicine	Thrive by Five
FRESHFARM	University of Maryland
Healthy Babies	WISE Center - MedStar Georgetown University Hospital
Health Futures	

Instruction and Enrichment

Children’s Art Studio
 Community Food Works
 DCAEYC
 DC Head Start Association
 IDEA Public Charter School - CDA Program
 Jumpstart
 OSSE Office of Early Learning
 PBS Kids
 PNC
 Trinity University

Advocacy

Alliance for Early Success
 Bainum Family Foundation
 DC Action
 DC Early Learning Collaborative
 DC Fiscal Policy Institute
 First Five Years Fund
 National Head Start Association
 National Women’s Law Center
 Spaces in Action
 Under 3 DC
 Zero to Three



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors
Educare DC
Washington, D.C.

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Educare DC (Educare), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2023, and the related statements of activities and change in net assets, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Educare as of June 30, 2023, and the change in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Educare and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Educare's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

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MEMBER OF CPAMERICA INTERNATIONAL, AN AFFILIATE OF CROWE GLOBAL
MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS' PRIVATE COMPANIES PRACTICE SECTION

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Educare's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Educare's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Report on Summarized Comparative Information

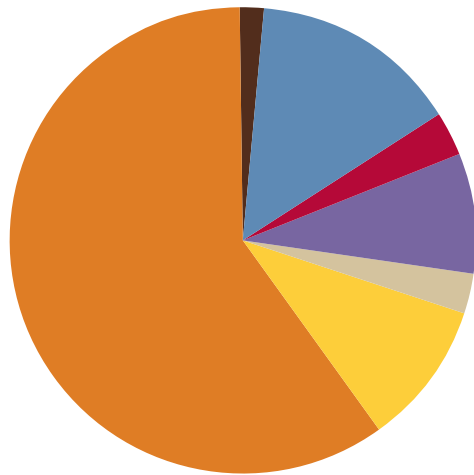
We have previously audited Educare's 2022 financial statements, and we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those audited financial statements in our report dated December 6, 2022. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022, is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 14, 2023, on our consideration of Educare's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Educare's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Educare's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

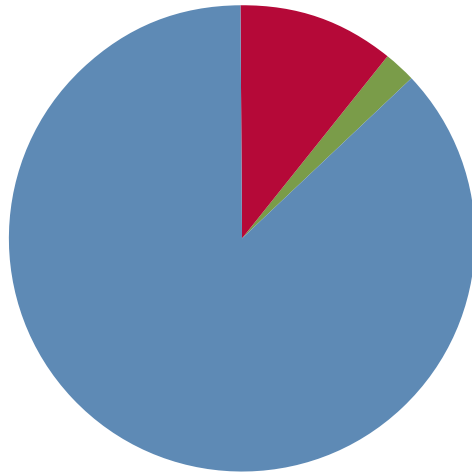
December 14, 2023

Revenue + Expenses Summary Educare DC's fiscal year ended June 30, 2023



Federal Grants	\$ 9,577,759	59.8%
Foundations	\$2,360,349	14.7%
District of Columbia Grants	\$1,583,930	9.9%
In-kind/Pro Bono Support	\$1,354,988	8.5%
Individuals	\$440,529	2.8%
Misc Income	\$447,396	2.8%
COVID Relief and PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$242,262	1.5%
Corporations	\$6,024	0%

SUPPORT & REVENUE
\$16,013,503



Program	\$13,676,352	87%
Management	\$1,686,225	11%
Fundraising	\$375,014	2%

EXPENSES
\$15,737,591



Stay Involved

Follow us on social media and share with your friends! Engage with all the amazing things our students, families, teachers, and staff are doing here at Educare DC!

Facebook: [/EducareWashingtonDC](#)

Twitter: [@DCEducare](#)

Instagram: [@EducareDC](#)

LinkedIn: [Educare DC](#)



Come for a Tour!

Please join us for a tour of one of our state-of-the-art facilities to experience the magic happening right here at Educare DC for yourself! You'll see first-hand how our dedicated teachers and staff work with children so that they develop the skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Just let us know you're interested by emailing us at development@educaredc.org.

Donate

At Educare DC, we believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of their family's income or zip code. Your generosity can help us continue to welcome 424 children into our bright, lively, language rich classrooms each day! Help close the achievement gap for young children. Visit educaredc.org/donate to learn how.



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IDEA: 4501 Lee St. NE | Washington, DC 20019

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