



CENTER FOR
NEW COMMUNITIES

Early Learning Program

Center for New Communities

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*Transforming lives and neighborhoods
by providing opportunities for
children and families to reach
their greatest potential*



Our Leadership

C4NC is led by a group of highly talented individuals who are committed to our mission of providing the best opportunities for families to reach their greatest potential. Our Board is comprised of individuals from across the country, including San Antonio, who have demonstrated a **life-long commitment** to vulnerable children and families. In addition to the Board, the C4NC EHS Policy Council provides guidance in the direction of our early child learning program. Comprised of community representatives and parents whose children are in our program, the Policy Council provides important insight and valuable guidance to our efforts. Reporting to the Board and Policy Council is the Director of our early child learning programs who manages our operations and staff.

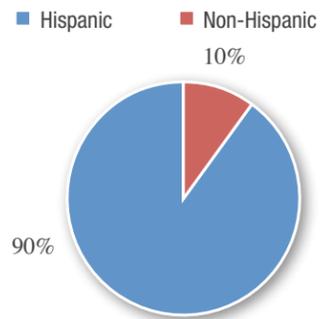
Program Staff

Members of our staff provide the foundation for our efforts, and we work hard to ensure our team is comprised of individuals who can best serve our target population. As of June 2011, nearly half of the staff live in the communities in which our centers are located. As part of our interest in continual improvement, our staff receives ongoing training and professional development.

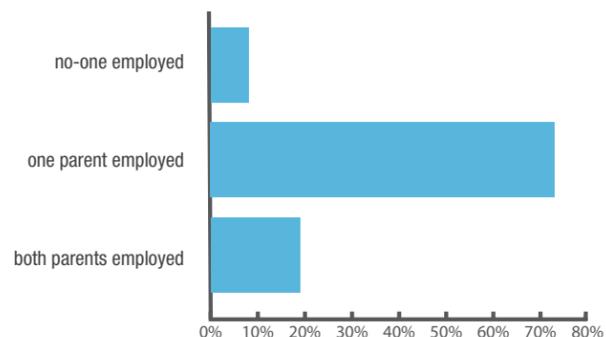
Parent Leadership

The Policy Council and Parent Committees are made up of parents and individuals in the community who have an interest in educating children. In addition to making recommendations to the board on programmatic needs, the council and committees provide an opportunity for parents to lead. Our objective is not to create leaders but to allow parents to demonstrate the leadership abilities they already possess. EHS staff are intentional in building the confidence of parents, and in helping them realize the impact they have in their own homes, neighborhoods and communities.

Ethnicity of C4NC EHS Families



Employment Status of C4NC EHS Two-Parent Families



Center for New Communities

The Center For New Communities (C4NC) was founded in 2005 with the explicit goal of providing comprehensive, **holistic services** to vulnerable children and families. We search for opportunities that provide **brighter futures** for families in need. Our belief is that empowering families requires resources that really work, and have a **long-lasting impact**. We believe partnering with community and faith-based organizations is the key to building a network of support for families. We also know that **strengthening families** is a vital investment in the future.

Serving Children and Families

A core project of C4NC's work in San Antonio is focused on early child development. A growing body of research shows that a child's early experiences in life have a significant impact on their development in later years. Stimulating care in the early years can help shift the outcomes of children who are raised in disadvantaged families. In partnership with Early Head Start (EHS) and other local community and faith-based organizations, C4NC works with 224 mothers-to-be and children from zero to three to enhance the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive aspects of San Antonio's children and families.

Comprehensive Services

Center-Based

Two-thirds of the children and families we serve are in one of five **state-of-the-art**, licensed centers where a research-based curriculum - *Creative Curriculum for Birth to Age Three* - is used. These centers are equipped to provide age-appropriate developmental opportunities, such as rocking chairs where staff and volunteers provide infants with a nurturing touch, or small and low toilets for potty training.

Families enrolled in the center-based programs also benefit from three home visits each year where teachers have the opportunity to become familiar with the settings in which children live. These teachers work one-on-one with the child to assess and further language, social, and emotional development. Additionally, the home visits provide our teachers with a unique opportunity to demonstrate for the parent or caregiver how they can become teachers at home and continue activities to promote the child's development. Parents are taught to recognize teachable moments and are given information about available resources to keep their child healthy and active.

Home-Based Services

The home-based component of the program is offered to 80 children and/or pregnant women. This service utilizes a research-based curriculum - *Partners for a Healthy Baby* - and is generally offered to children with stay-at-home mothers or caregivers. The program also is provided for children who lack the ability to attend the classroom. A family educator makes regular visits to teach the child language skills and further their social and emotional development. Parents also are included and are taught how to further their child's education at home and set attainable goals for their own growth.

Because healthy birth outcomes lead to healthier children, C4NC also reaches out to pregnant women to address prenatal needs including health, nutrition and social services. Family educators work with the expectant moms to design a service plan that leads them through their pregnancy and helps them prepare for a healthy birth outcome.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

LONG-LASTING IMPACT

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

NATURAL PLAYSCAPES

VIBRANT PARTNERSHIPS

Encouraging Movement And Outdoor Play

All five EHS facilities are equipped with natural playgrounds that expose children to the outdoors in ways that encourage freedom, mobility, and imagination. No large structures, such as swing sets, are found on the playgrounds. Instead, natural spaces have been designed where children can run, jump, skip, roll and use their large muscles.

The playgrounds are intended to connect children to their environment and expose them to nature, as they learn to plant flowers, herbs, and vegetables in very small spaces. Parents and children focus on nutrition with a hands-on experience they can duplicate in their own backyard.

Building Partnerships

C4NC recognizes the integral role faith and community organizations have in the life and long-term vitality of families. We work hard to build full and vibrant partnerships with local faith and community groups in San Antonio, providing a model of partnership that showcases the many benefits families enjoy as organizations work together to serve.

Our Partners

Zion Lutheran Church: Generously providing renovated classroom space, Zion Lutheran Church has facilitated a state-of-the-art setting for children and their families at the Little Lambs Family Learning Center in Fredericksburgh. In addition to ample space, the church supports a very active core of volunteers who desire to invest their retirement years in our families. These volunteers provide between 50 and 60 hours of volunteer services each month in our classrooms. From rocking babies and sharing books with the children, to making quilts for the cribs, helping with handyman tasks, and working on the playground, the volunteers are a tremendous asset to C4NC and the children and families we serve.

South San Filadelfia Church: As a result of its mission to support the whole family, South San Filadelfia Church serves the community by making over 6,000 square feet available for the Family Learning Center at South San Filadelfia. In addition, enrolled families benefit from many of the church's community services including a food pantry, computer lab, literacy classes, medical services, youth development activities, and a mentoring and partnering program for pregnant women.

Edgewood ISD: Edgewood Independent School District provides C4NC space to house our Family Learning Center at Stafford, which accommodates 40 children. Housed side-by-side with the school district's Head Start program, our children and families experience a smooth transition when they age out of our early learning program for children aged zero to three and benefit from a birth to five continuum of child development education and family support and strengthening services.

San Antonio College: In addition to providing state-of-the-art classrooms, kitchen, and age-appropriate play yard, our San Antonio College Family Learning Center provides practical experience for college student volunteers who, as part of their education in early child development, volunteer in the classroom as well as complete practicums for their course work and degree plans. The Early Childhood Department operates an accredited early childhood fee-based program side by side with our classrooms. This provides additional opportunities to share knowledge, training resources, and best practices from EHS and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

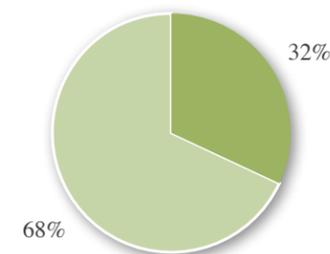
San Antonio ISD: As part of the Mayor's Very Early Learning Initiative, C4NC's program for mothers-to-be and children age birth to three is co-located with the City of San Antonio and San Antonio Independent School District Head Start program. The Family Learning Center at Tynan provides much needed services, and this partnership also facilitates a smooth transition of children and families into Head Start as they age out of our program. This concept of a birth to five community center has the goal of developing a one-stop service for families that includes education and access to community health and social services.

Urban Strategies: Providing expertise in developing Early Child Learning Programs as well as in implementing best practices to serve Hispanic communities, Urban Strategies is a critical partner in launching C4NC's early child learning initiatives in San Antonio. Their ongoing engagement and guidance supports our goal of becoming a national model of excellence for our quality of services and range of meaningful partnerships.



Composition of C4NC EHS Families

■ Two-Parent Families ■ Single-Parent Families



INNOVATION

SYNERGY FROM PARTNERSHIPS

LINGUISTICALLY AND CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE

HIGH QUALITY

FULL FAMILY SERVICE