



333 SW 1st Avenue, Suite A, Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Friends and Family,

A warm hello to the friends and extended family of Joyful Noise Child Development Centers!

The lament of professionals in our field is *“Parents can’t afford to pay, teachers can’t afford to stay, there’s got to be a better way.”* Research shows, and I hope your experience at Joyful Noise attests, that high-quality Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs offer lasting positive results for children, families *and communities*. Research proves these programs raise high school graduation rates and test scores, lead to higher incomes, contribute to a lower crime rate and less need for social services; all in all making better citizens of each child and, in turn, a greater society.

The ability to attract and retain impassioned, highly qualified teachers to care for and educate our young children is critical to our kids’ success. Child care workers’ wages are historically low and shouldn’t be! Our efforts to pay our teachers a worthy wage - with 90% of our centers’ budgets dedicated to employee wages and benefits - is escalating tuition rates beyond parents’ ability to pay. Financing ECE programs is generally a parental burden in the United States. Public resources for ECE programs are insufficient to help families afford care and ensure that high-quality programs are accessible for all children.

Your donation will help by providing financial resources beyond parent fees, breaking the direct connection between what parents can pay and the quality of care their child will receive. *Your donation will help* us continue to offer tuition assistance to families so that all children have access to high quality care. *Your donation will help* raise the average salary of the tenured teachers you see in this flyer that have cared for your children! It is well past time to recognize that society can’t afford *not* to pay more for Early Childhood Education teachers.

My hope is that your child’s current or past experience with Joyful Noise was nurturing, stimulating and challenging. My hope is that your child is blossoming with a love of learning, growing strong in their sense of self, and that we inspired confidence, competence and a sense of community in those that have already become young adults. *Please help me expand the village by “Paying it Forward” to the future children of Joyful Noise and the staff that cares for and teaches them.*

Sincerely,
Alice Smith, Executive Director

“I’m so glad my sons could be at Joyful Noise for their early years - it provided them with a wonderful foundation... I wish [Joyful Noise] went through eighth grade!”

- Karen Gregos

“ We feel extremely fortunate to have had all of our kids attend Joyful Noise.”

- Tom & Stacey Lee

“ Thank you, it takes a village and we’re lucky to be a part of this one.”

- Dawn Ridenour

“...I think the stability and continuity of the teaching staff made a huge difference in her breaking out of her shell. She had Janis & Rose for her entire time in the Toddler room and has had Rose, Molly and Lynn for her entire YP experience which gave her the ability to feel secure and at home at Metrokids.”

- Carol Bernards



HOW DOES YOUR DONATION HELP?

Improves quality of the centers

Quality care hinges on one of the most important factors: the quality of the staff. Higher salaries attract and retain higher educated staff and increases funding for training. Tuition alone can not adequately offset the need for higher staff compensation.

Provides financial resources beyond parent fees

By raising money from private and public sources we can break the direct connection between what parents can pay and the quality of care their child will receive.

LETTERS FROM JOYFUL NOISE ALUMNI

Both of my children attended pre-school at Joyful Noise, Kyran at City Kids downtown, and Sofie at Joyful Noise East. The program was great for both of them. It encouraged their creativity, inspired their curiosity, challenged their thinking and reinforced their self confidence. At both centers the teachers were loving and creative and truly interested in the kids, to the point of creating social gatherings outside of school hours. I believe that the Joyful Noise centers gave both of my children a very solid beginning in so many ways - today both of them are happy and social and thriving in school.

- Shelby Kardas

"Joyful Noise centers gave both of my children a very solid beginning in so many ways - today both of them are happy and social and thriving in school."

"Joyful Noise provided an environment that fostered the kind of positive relationships that are crucial to early learning and development. The staff at Joyful noise inspired confidence, competence and a sense of community in my children. "

It was my good fortune to have all three of my children enrolled at Joyful Noise. Joyful Noise provided an environment that fostered the kind of positive relationships that are crucial to early learning and development. The staff at Joyful noise inspired confidence, competence and a sense of community. As a result, all my children were well-prepared for elementary and secondary education. My oldest child is now a senior at Lewis & Clark College and is currently in France on a semester abroad. My middle son is a citizen of Portland and is gainfully employed in a specialty leather goods company and my youngest daughter is well into her third grade year in Portland Public Schools. All my children look back with fond memories on their time at Joyful Noise and we all love to peer into the center whenever the MAX makes its stop at 1st and Oak.

- Laura McCulloch

Teachers at Metro Kids have lovingly tended the social development of both my daughters, helping them learn how to live harmoniously in a group, to face and overcome inevitable bumps along the road of negotiating friendships, and to grow toward independence. Each school day, the girls have gotten to make reasonable choices and take on appropriate responsibilities—from caring for the classroom to noting the weather outside. Such lessons have firmed up the foundation from which they've continued to grow. Our family's appreciation for the caring and professionalism of Olivia and Sydney's teachers and the school's director/teacher is heartfelt.

Sincerely, Anmarie

"Our family's appreciation for the caring and professionalism of Olivia and Sydney's teachers and the school's director/teacher is heartfelt. "

Thank you, from all of us at Joyful Noise C.D.C.

Thad



13 years

Leslie



13 years

Terri



15 years

Maria



13 years

Valerie



8 years

Brent



6 years

Molly



4 years

Amanda



6 years

Ophelia



4 years