



# Strengthening Young Families

HELPING VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

**2020 ANNUAL REPORT**





On average, children from lower income families start Kindergarten 12 to 14 months behind their peers in pre-literacy and language skills.<sup>1</sup>

We aim to close this gap for children in our community!

<sup>1</sup> A Matter of Equity: Preschool in America, Department of Education, April 2015

## OUR MISSION

Family ACCESS empowers and strengthens families and the community by providing programs that nurture child development, prevent trauma, promote effective parenting skills and support working parents.

For over 100 years, our organization has served thousands of families from racially, economically and culturally diverse backgrounds in local communities across Middlesex and Norfolk counties.

Our four integrated programs are based on decades of research in neuroscience and early child development that points to the importance of early formative experiences and the power of engaged parents to raise strong, resilient children.





## STRENGTHENING YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

At Family ACCESS, we believe that all children deserve access to quality educational experiences and the necessary resources that prepare them for a vibrant future.

<sup>2</sup>Based on parenting assessments, parent report, and clinician observation.

**100%** of parents in our Counseling and Consultation program showed improvement in their parent-child relationship skills after a minimum of 6 months of intervention.<sup>2</sup>

### ◆ **EARLY LITERACY SERVICES**

Provides a variety of evidence-based programs that build literacy-rich homes, support parents in understanding their child's development and offer opportunities to engage with other families in the community.

### ◆ **COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION**

Provides comprehensive clinical services and social-emotional support to parents and their children to address present challenges and mental health concerns in order to enable full and healthy lives.

### ◆ **CHILD ASSAULT PREVENTION**

Empowers young children to be "Safe, Strong & Free" from emotional, physical and sexual abuse through age-appropriate workshops for students, parents and teachers.

### ◆ **EARLY LEARNING CENTER**

Provides high-quality, play-based early education and family support services to infants, toddlers and preschoolers from economically and culturally diverse communities.



**90%** of Early Literacy Services participants report they are reading more than before the program. Most are reading every day.



## AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

### COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION

100% of parents showed improvement in their parent-child relationship skills after a minimum of 6 months of intervention, based on parenting assessments, parent report, and clinician observation.

### EARLY LITERACY SERVICES

Served 5,341 clients — an increase of more than 3,291 clients from the year before!

### CHILD ASSAULT PREVENTION

CAP has newly developed resources to assist parents and teachers in coaching children on personal body safety, stranger safety, and bullying — including a new parent meeting via Zoom.

### EARLY LEARNING CENTER

We supported 315 families, offering children and parents safe childcare during a global pandemic.



## COVID-19 AGENCY UPDATE

Like many organizations across the country, Family ACCESS was able to pivot its programming due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Initially we closed the doors of our physical building in April of 2020 to help stem the spread of the virus and to comply with the state mandated closures. During that time our counselors and specialists continued to work virtually to help the vulnerable families in our community.

As our building reopened in early summer, we began to emerge stronger and better than ever. While implementing new policies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we initiated a small summer child care program

for families. Our Early Learning Center student population grew as parents needed a quality childcare experience. We also continued to work with vulnerable children and their families in our Counseling and Consultation program and our Early Literacy Service program on a virtual basis. Simply put, the need for our services by our clients was even greater due to the stresses of the pandemic.

As the fall turned into winter, our programming continued to thrive with our safety measures in place. Both children and parents found Family ACCESS programming to be safe and a welcomed opportunity for children to learn

among their peers. With more than 55 children enjoying the classroom spaces at Family ACCESS, a small sense of normalcy once again graced the halls. Because of the commitment of our teachers and staff and the trust they established with our families, Family ACCESS was once again doing what it does best — strengthening children and families in our local community.

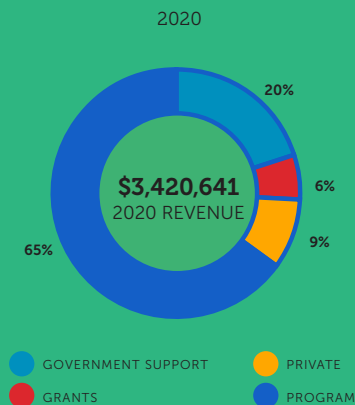




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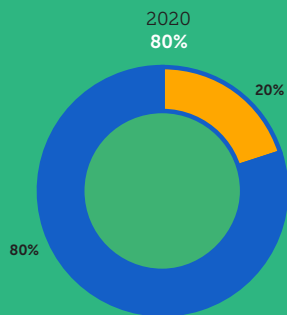
## FUNDING

Services provided by our programs generated 65% of our revenue with another 20% coming from government support and grants. The remaining funds are contributed by our generous donors — *Thank You!*



## WHERE YOUR DOLLAR GOES

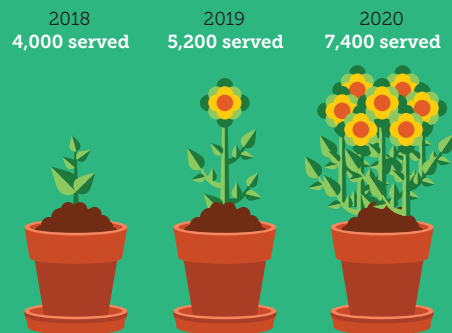
For every dollar raised, 80 cents goes directly to our mission-driven services.



**where your dollar goes**  
80% directly to services

## IMPACT

Our successful fundraising year allowed us to serve over 7,400 clients in 2020 — that's 2,200 more clients served in 2019!



**clients served increased 42% in FY20**  
over FY19



## GIVING HIGHLIGHT

November marks a special season when Family ACCESS recognizes all those who help and support our mission to positively impact the lives of children and families in our local community.

At our **3rd Annual Giving Thanks Brunch**, we honored Louise Hauser and Representative Kay Khan for their dedication and commitment advocating for families and children in need. In honor of the positive examples they have set for our community, our donors contributed over \$27,000.

We were graced to have Louise Hauser at our Giving Thanks Brunch in 2019, but we now honor her memory for her lifetime involvement at Family ACCESS. Louise passed away on December 3, 2020 at the age of 99, leaving behind a legacy of children and families that are better off thanks to her volunteer work and philanthropy. We will miss you, Louise, and know that you are looking down on Family ACCESS with a wide smile and a gracious heart.

We also honored staff members Debra Brush, Gail Sommer and Maggie Downing for their many years of service. Their leadership and commitment have forever impacted our people and programs.



Kay Khan, Jon Firger,  
Debra Brush, Maggie  
Downing, Gail Sommer,  
Louise Hauser (seated).



## STORIES THAT INSPIRE US!

Through our **Early Literacy Services** program, we worked with Juana, a single mother with two sons ages 5 and 2. She participates in our ParentChild+ program to better engage her sons in reading and playing. Her 5-year-old, Danny, was not enrolled in a preschool program so the Early Literacy Specialist focused on helping Juana help him with kindergarten readiness skills. Danny was very excited to be going to school, but due to the pandemic, he faced disappointment when he learned that kindergarten would start remotely. Juana signed up for a free school Chromebook from Waltham Public Schools but was placed on a waitlist.

As September and October passed, Juana and Danny had one cellphone to use between them for his online

instruction. Danny, who never went to school, was confused and frustrated. Juana spoke about this frustration with her Early Literacy Specialist who provides virtual home visits for 2-year-old, Pete. Fortunately, Family ACCESS was able to buy a Chromebook which was loaned to Danny to improve his school participation.

**Juana is beyond  
happy to see  
Danny learning  
and growing.**

This was the beginning of a great partnership. Danny is now able to log onto Zoom to go to school on his remote days, and Juana is learning how to set up an email address, search for resources and fill out school forms. Juana is beyond happy to see Danny learning and growing, which is a result of the beautiful collaboration between Family ACCESS and a young family eager to learn!





## 2020 DONORS AND PARTNERS

On behalf of all the families that we serve, we recognize and thank the hundreds of donors listed here for their support of our people and programs. Their generosity helped strengthen vulnerable families and their children in our local community.

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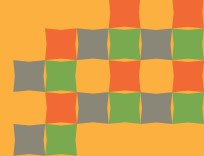
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Please make your donation **TODAY** and support our people and programs. Your gift will help vulnerable families in our local community to build a better future.

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