



A Mile High United Way Community Partner

*Providing Quality Early Childhood Care and Education
for Denver's Most Vulnerable Children Since 1970*

FY 2009-2010

Report to the Community



1780 Marion Street, Denver, CO 80218

303-861-2602

www.milehighmontessori.org



Dear Friends and Supporters:

Transitions – an ideal word to summarize Mile High Montessori Early Learning Centers (MHM) in 2009-10.

2009-10 was the first full year in its 40 year history that MHM transitioned to operating under new leadership. Dr. Pamela Harris joined MHM in mid December 2008 as President and CEO, bringing a wealth of knowledge about and experience in Denver's early childhood education community. Former Executive Director, Anna Jo Haynes, transitioned into the new role of President Emeritus, and remains an active contributor in the agency's business.

During the year, 652 children from 526 families benefitted from MHM's quality early education program. Transitions in staffing and employee responsibilities resulted in improved oversight and accountability at the centers. The establishment of a team of Family Resources Assistants (FRA), located at each center, ensures the delivery of comprehensive family resource referrals and services and assists each family in maintaining its individual funding sources.

A survey of parents conducted during the year by MHM indicated that more than 90% of parents rated MHM's strengths due to the Montessori approach, high teacher quality, size of the classes, family resources that are available, location of the centers and hours of operation. One hundred percent were satisfied with the educational and developmental progress their children were making, with the amount of individualization their child was receiving, with the ease in talking with their child's teachers and the overall increase in their involvement with their child's education.

MHM remains committed to supporting the highest teacher qualifications and standards. In order to meet expanded Head Start teacher requirements, MHM's professional development opportunities evolved to include the usual 15 hours of training, supplemental intensive Montessori education, and new this year, a Professional Development Institute. All 115 staff members attended this week-long series of seminars covering over 40 topics, and participated in the rare and very productive occasion to share experiences and create a communal vision statement.

With federal, state and local governments facing ongoing, critical economic conditions and enacting major cuts to education and services funding, MHM began to transition to new and creative funding approaches. To this end, MHM is working diligently to strengthen existing partnerships, generate new sources of revenue and identify other strategies that will address these economic deficits.

Each year hundreds of MHM students make the successful transition into kindergarten. A small sample of 137 MHM children showed that a significantly higher percentage of MHM students who took the Developmental Reading Assessment upon entering kindergarten were reading at the expected level as compared with the DPS average.

An uncertain future of prolonged economic struggles and unpredictability will surely necessitate more transitions ahead. We are confident that MHM will successfully adapt to these challenges and with solid support from the community will achieve its mission of preparing Denver's youngest and most vulnerable citizens to leave MHM with the tools necessary for success in school and life.

Our sincere gratitude for your generous contributions and consideration.

Sincerely,

Devy Altman
Board Chair

Pamela Harris, PhD
President & CEO



Mile High Montessori Early Learning Centers Program Profile 2009-2010



Children and Families Served

Children Served: 652 in 6 full-day, full-year early learning centers

Age Breakdown: Preschoolers 73.6% Toddlers 15.1% Infants 11.3%

Families Served: 526

Family Income: Over 97% of children served in the six core centers were living below 130% of the federal poverty level.
(As of January 2010, \$22,050 for a family of 4)

Ethnicity: 53% Hispanic, 34% African American, 9% European American, 3% Asian American and 1% Native American

Services Provided Include: *School Readiness Program using Montessori Method of Instruction
* Developmental Assessments * Health Screenings *Dental Care
*Special Needs Referrals & Follow-up *2 Nutritious Meals Daily
*Parental Involvement * Family Support & Emergency Services

Drop-In Centers: A combined record-breaking 8,459 child visits were received at two drop-in centers operated by MHM serving clients doing business with the Denver Courts and Department of Human Services.



Staff Training and Development

All MHM teaching staff participate in ongoing training commensurate with their level of skill and experience. In addition to the standard 15 hours of required training:

20-25 classroom staff took college courses each term in pursuit of an AA or BA degree
17 teachers attended Montessori Education Center of the Rockies (MECR)
2 staff enrolled in a Montessori certification program

All MHM staff attended a one week in-house Professional Development Institute, offering 44 different options focusing on developmentally appropriate practices, Montessori approach, family support systems and health and wellness.

Quality Ratings

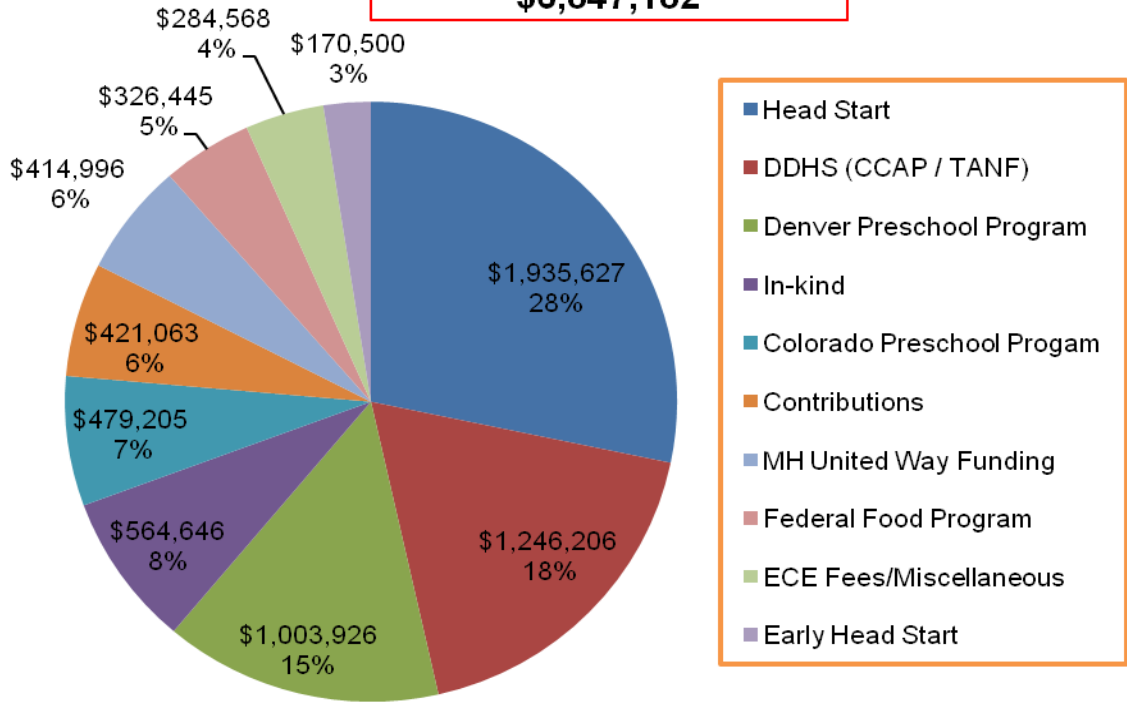
Five of MHM's six full-day, full-year early learning centers maintained a 3-star rating from Qualistar Early Learning for their performance on the four key components of quality while Sun Valley improved to a 4-star rating.



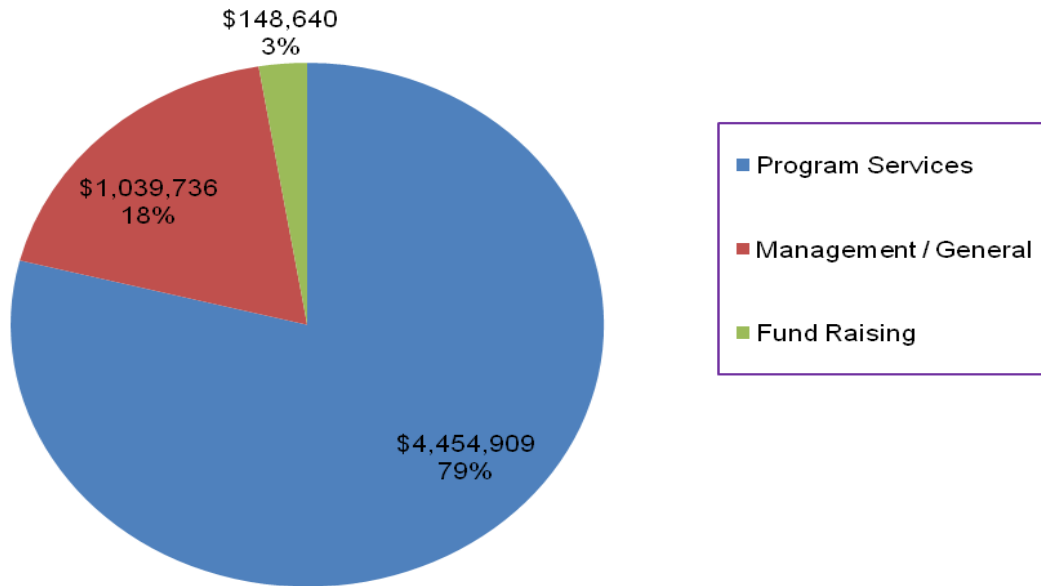
FY 2009-2010 Financial Profile



MHM Revenue FY 2009-10 \$6,847,182



Expenses FY 2009-10 \$5,643,285





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\$5,000 to \$10,000

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\$1,000 to \$5,000

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Early Head Start Parents**

If we have inadvertently failed to include your name or have misspelled it, we apologize. Please let us know. Thank you!



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Edna Oliver
2851 Tremont Place
Lowry
957 Ulster Way
Northeast
3503 Marion Street

Rude Park
1275 Decatur Street
Sun Valley
990 Alcott
Westwood
980 S. Lowell Blvd.



Denver Warm Welcome Court Child Care Drop-in Center
270 W 14th Street
Good Beginnings Drop-in Center
1200 Federal Blvd.