

COMMUNITY REPORT
2014-2015



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DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

Thank you for making 2014-2015 yet another impactful year for Mile High Early Learning (MHEL), formerly Mile High Montessori Early Learning Centers. This marked our 45th year providing a quality educational experience to Denver's most vulnerable young children. Through the extraordinary efforts and commitment of our staff, parents, volunteers, funders, and our incredible students themselves, MHEL reflected its mission to enable all children in Denver to succeed in school by providing resources and education to inspire a lifetime of learning and self-sufficiency. Some highlights of our work this year include:

- Serving over 650 children at our five early learning centers throughout Denver.
- Holding our second annual Stone Soup breakfast to celebrate MHEL and build new relationships.
- Strengthening MHEL's Professional Learning Center to support and develop internal education staff.
- Developing a Montessori Inspired Education Rubric through a months-long collaborative effort by ten teachers across the MHEL agency.
- Launching our new Short & Sweet Book Clubs program in an effort to give children and their parents or caregivers more time to focus on literacy and language development.
- Managing the transition of the state's child care QRIS rating system to Colorado Shines and obtaining a Level 4 for all MHEL centers.

In 2016, Mile High Montessori Early Learning Centers was rebranded as Mile High Early Learning. The goal of this change was to have a name that more clearly and succinctly communicated the totality of the agency's efforts, which in addition to our early learning and drop-in centers include a focus on community programming and professional development for early childhood educators. As our new tagline suggests, our curriculum remains inspired by the principles of Montessori, which place an emphasis on individualized, self-directed learning. We've combined this philosophy with other leading-edge teaching methods to deliver an exceptional educational experience tailored to meet the specific needs of children who may be at-risk due to economic and social circumstances.

We appreciate you taking the time to view this annual report and look forward to another year of progress as we work to cultivate each child's unique potential. Thank you again for your ongoing support and partnership!



Mary Fowler Elliman
Board Chair



Pamela K. Harris, PhD
President & CEO

PROGRAM PROFILE 2014- 2015

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED

Children Served:

675 in five core early learning centers

Age Breakdown:

Infants/Toddlers:

ages 6 weeks to 3 years: 215/30%

Preschoolers:

ages 3-5 years: 499/70%

Family Income:

Sixty-five percent of the families were one-parent households;

Over 95% of families were living at or below the Federal Poverty Level or \$24,250 for a family of four.

84% were employed and/or enrolled in school.

Ethnicity:

41% Hispanic

31% African American

13% European American

11% Multi-racial

3% Asian/Pacific Islander

1% Native American

Community Education Programs:

BABIES READY FOR COLLEGE:

258 children and families served

PLAY AND LEARN:

43 children and families participated

SHORT & SWEET BOOK CLUB:

83 children and 68 parents/caregivers participated

Drop-In Centers:

MHEL Centers serving clients doing business with the Denver Courts and Department of Human Services had a combined total of 8,667 child visits.

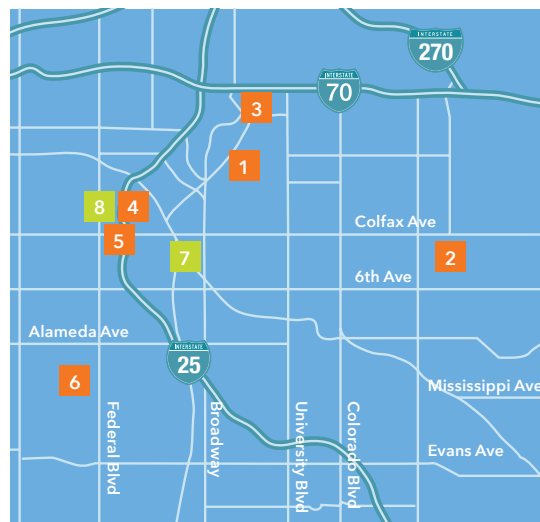
Mile High Early Learning Centers operates six early learning centers, two drop-in centers, and a community education center, all located in Denver.

EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

- 1 Edna Oliver, 2851 Tremont Place
- 2 Lowry Montessori, 957 Ulster Way
- 3 Northeast, 3503 Marion Street
- 4 Rude Park, 1275 Decatur Street
- 5 Sun Valley, 990 Alcott Way
- 6 Westwood, 980 S. Lowell Blvd.

DROP-IN LOCATIONS

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



PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2014-2015

Child Outcomes:

- For all age children, only **59%** started at MHEL with the skills they needed to be successful in school.
- By the end of the year, **89%** of children had achieved their school readiness objectives.
- Children made significant gains in cognitive development, **56%** were at an educationally appropriate level in fall, which increased to **93%** in spring.
- **100%** of children received early intervention learning screenings; and of the **16%** of children identified with special needs, all received services through an Individualized Education Plan.
- All children were current on immunizations and physicals and had a medical home.
- **78%** of children had continuous, accessible dental care; **82%** received preventive care; **19%** were identified to need advanced care and **85%** of them received treatment.

Program Outcomes:

All MHEL's centers are evaluated by Qualistar Colorado; Sun Valley and Westwood achieved a prestigious Star 4 ratings while the other three centers maintained a Star 3, a standard of excellence.

Through a partnership with Denver Public Schools, MHEL has been able to expand its core program to serve special needs children. MHEL is operating two inclusive classrooms where fifty percent of the 64 students have special needs.

Staff Development:

- Staff education achievements
- **3** teachers with MA degrees
- **19** teachers with BA/BS degrees
- **9** teachers with AA degrees
- **9** staff are Montessori certified
- The 5th annual weeklong **MHEL Professional Development Institute** was held in March 2015 offering staff the opportunity to engage in collaborative discussions and attend a wide variety of workshops to cultivate their professional skills.

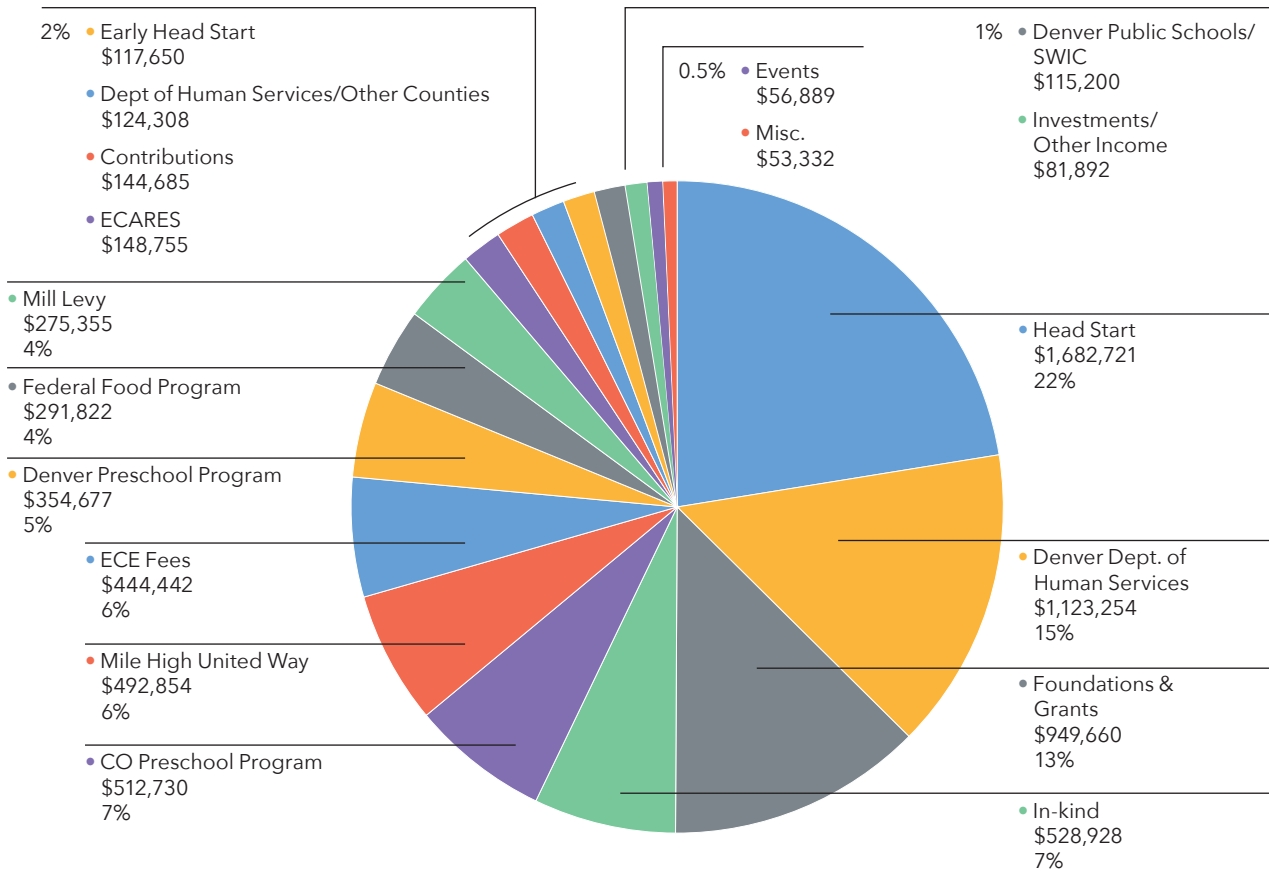


FINANCIAL PROFILE

FY 2014-2015

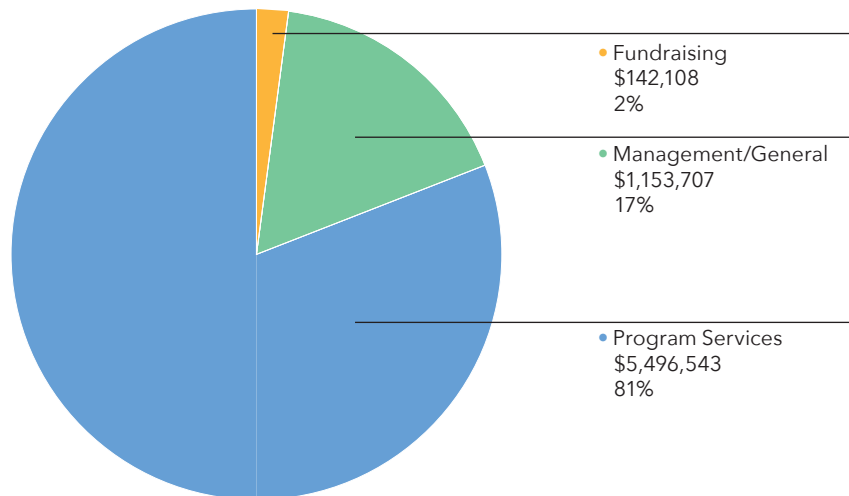
MHEL REVENUE

\$7,499,154



MHEL EXPENSES

\$6,792,358



2014-2015 DONORS & VOLUNTEERS

We gratefully acknowledge the following companies, civic groups, foundations and individuals for giving their resources so generously.

DONORS

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Sage Hospitality Resources
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COMMUNITY REPORT 2014-2015

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Enterprises, Inc.
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Lions Club of Denver
The Logan School for
CreativeLearning

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*Thank you for sharing your time
and talents!*

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Laura Barton, Co-Chair
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Frank Schuchat

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Joan Holtz, *Director of Education*



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Denver, CO 80218
P: 303.861.2602
F: 303.861.2604



info@milehighearlylearning.org



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