



Investing in School Readiness

FAIRFAX FUTURES

Annual Report

2017

INTRODUCTION

Many people think that a child's education begins in elementary school.

But did you know that:

- the achievement gap begins well before young children enter kindergarten?
- more than 85 percent of a child's brain is developed by age five, laying the foundation for 21st century skills including communications, critical thinking, and collaboration?
- every dollar invested today in quality early childhood education is a high-yield investment in the future of our community, our workforce and our quality of life?

Research tells us that since so much of a child's brain is developed during the earliest years of life, it is essential that both educators and family understand how best to support that child's development, resilience and path to school readiness. The early experiences caring adults provide to children from birth to age five not only shape children's futures, but ultimately influence the well-being and prosperity of the communities in which we all live.

Unfortunately, equitable access to high quality early learning experiences is not a given for every child. Working families often struggle to access safe, high quality early care and education for their young children. Our ability to meet the school readiness needs of all young children in Fairfax County depends on the sustained commitment of the public, private, nonprofit and philanthropic sectors to work together toward that shared goal.



Cathy Lange
Chairman



Vera Steiner Blore
Executive Director

Fairfax Futures continues to foster cross-sector collaboration between its corporate and other philanthropic partners, and with Fairfax County Office for Children. Together, we are strengthening the knowledge and skills of early childhood educators in family child care and center-based programs that partner with families to support young children's school readiness.

We are grateful to all our supporters who helped make 2017 such a wonderful year for early childhood education in our community.

With your continued investment in our work, the best is yet to come!

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2017, Fairfax Futures:

- Provided training, technical support and resources to a cohort of educators interested in incorporating STEM experiences in their early childhood education programs; this group of early childhood educators support the school readiness of approximately 500 preschoolers in Fairfax County.
- Introduced more than 250 educators to effective mindfulness strategies at our Annual School Readiness Symposium. Mindfulness practices help minimize unnecessary preschool expulsions and help build cooperation, collaboration and communication skills.
- Created four new early childhood STEM videos in collaboration with The Teaching Channel to introduce early math, engineering, science and nature concepts to educators and families.
- Introduced more than 70 early childhood educators to the fundamentals of executive function, engaging them in an interactive workshop experience to help them better support the developing executive functions skills of the young children in their care.
- Collaborated with five child care centers to bring early childhood STEM experiences to approximately 100 families across the county.
- Mentored a cohort of family child care providers as they implemented developmentally-appropriate curriculum to support young children's school readiness.
- Expanded outreach to the business community around the importance of quality early childhood education and school readiness through our Annual Business Leaders Reception.





Fairfax Futures is dedicated to ensuring that all young children enter kindergarten well-prepared for success in school and in life. Quality early childhood education helps young children develop the social-emotional, intellectual and physical skills they will need to enter kindergarten ready for success. Their ability to thrive will not only benefit them directly, but will also help sustain the economic well-being and quality of life for everyone who lives and works in Fairfax County. As a result,

everyone has a strong incentive to invest in young children's quality early childhood education and school readiness.

Since its inception, Fairfax Futures has worked in partnership with Fairfax County Office for Children to ensure that all children in the county have the great start they deserve. Encouraging the active commitment and engagement of the region's business community also remains a core focus.



Statement of Purpose

To work in partnership with the public and private sectors to raise awareness and increase support for quality early childhood education and school readiness in Fairfax County, including the professional development of early childhood educators and the enrichment of early childhood education programs.

Supporting Young Children's School Readiness through Partnerships with:

EDUCATORS

Fairfax Futures partnered with Fairfax County Office for Children (OFC) and key donors to offer several professional development and technical assistance opportunities.

SYMPOSIUM

In 2017, Fairfax Futures held its 13th Annual School Readiness Symposium attended by nearly 250 early childhood educators. This professional development opportunity brought together educators from family child care and center-based programs to learn about the role of mindfulness in supporting the development of children's self-regulation skills.

WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

Through the STEM Ready Project, Fairfax Futures and OFC introduced 37 early childhood educators to early childhood STEM experiences and collaborated with The Teaching Channel to enable instructor feedback in response to educator implementation of lessons learned. The course was further extended

as five of the participant centers engaged their families in STEM experiences with their young children. Three additional educators agreed to be part of early childhood STEM videos created in partnership with The Teaching Channel for use by early childhood educators around the world.

A separate Fairfax Futures-OFC collaboration supported two workshops focused on helping young children develop life skills essential to academic and later workforce success.

MENTORING

A cadre of family child care providers received mentoring in the implementation of the Creative Curriculum to support the implementation of developmentally-appropriate practices with the young children in their care. Mentors introduced providers to the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) as a tool to help families identify potential developmental delays with the young children in their care. Mentors also helped to model best practices with young children in the participating family child care programs.

RESOURCES

Participants in all of the Fairfax Futures-supported workshops and programs received useful resources to bring back to their early childhood programs. These included children's books, backpacks filled with early childhood STEM materials, child development books, art supplies and other materials to support young children's school readiness.

BUSINESSES

Fairfax Futures continued to engage with the Northern Virginia business community through outreach and at its November Business Leaders Reception. Such gatherings continue to provide a unique opportunity for members of the business community to hear from public and private sector experts who share their perspectives on the importance of cross-sector investment in quality early childhood education.

LOOKING FORWARD

Quality early childhood experiences help establish a strong foundation of social, emotional, physical and intellectual skills children need to succeed in school and beyond.

The key to school readiness is ensuring preparedness from birth at every step along the learning continuum:

- Early childhood educators work in partnership with families to support children’s development and school readiness.
- Children and families know what to expect in kindergarten.
- Elementary school educators and administrators know what to expect of the children entering their schools and are ready to receive them.



Presenters at 2017 School Readiness Symposium including Dr. Francisco Duran, FCPS; Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins; Dr. Joan Isenberg; Steven Day, PNC (Program Sponsor); Anne-Marie Twohie, Office for Children.



L to R: Richard Bynum, PNC; Cathy Lange, Human Capital Advisors and Fairfax Futures Chairman; Roderick “Rocky” Mitchell, PenFed; Penny Peng, PenFed; Chuck Mills, Salera Capital Management.



Dr. Kartik Athreya, executive vice president, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond



Family STEM Night, UCM Early Learning Center



L to R: Vera Steiner Blore, Fairfax Futures Executive Director; Deborah Johnson, Dominion Energy; Babette Arnold, Logos Academy and class receiving STEM kit materials, thanks to Dominion Energy.

Fairfax Futures greatly appreciates the generous support of its corporate and foundation partners:

- ◆ Apple Federal Credit Union Education Foundation
- ◆ Boeing
- ◆ Cox Charities
- ◆ Dominion Energy
- ◆ Holland & Knight
- ◆ Human Capital Advisors
- ◆ PenFed Credit Union
- ◆ PNC Financial Services Group/Grow Up Great Foundation
- ◆ Process Point Consulting
- ◆ Washington Area Women's Foundation/Early Care and Education Collaborative
- ◆ Wells Fargo

Fairfax Futures would also like to thank the following individuals for their financial support:

- ◆ Balan and Kristin Ayyar
- ◆ Don Britton
- ◆ Jennifer Branch
- ◆ Kimberly Caccavaro
- ◆ Shirley Clark
- ◆ Jim Corcoran
- ◆ Deanna Doan
- ◆ Michele Duell
- ◆ Lynne Halbrooks
- ◆ Dr. Joan Isenberg
- ◆ Dorothy Keenan
- ◆ Cathy Lange
- ◆ Stephen Lynn
- ◆ Amy Mackay
- ◆ Stu Mendelsohn
- ◆ Mary Nichols
- ◆ Penny Peng
- ◆ Cindy Shao
- ◆ Vera Steiner Blore
- ◆ Anne-Marie Twohie
- ◆ Jean Schiro-Zavela & Vance Zavela

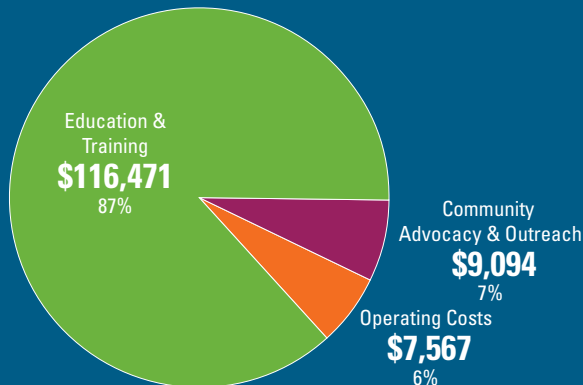
Fairfax Futures Board of Directors

- ◆ Theodore Austell III, Boeing
- ◆ Balan Ayyar, Percipient.ai
- ◆ Kimberly Caccavaro, Holland & Knight
- ◆ Steven Day, PNC Bank
- ◆ Deanna Doan, Eleccion LLC
- ◆ Michele Duell, Process Point Consulting
- ◆ Dr. Joan Isenberg
- ◆ Cathy Lange, Human Capital Advisors
- ◆ Amy Mackay, Wells Fargo Private Bank
- ◆ Linda Odorisio, Haverford Partners
- ◆ Penny Peng, PenFed Credit Union
- ◆ Anne-Marie Twohie, Fairfax County Office for Children

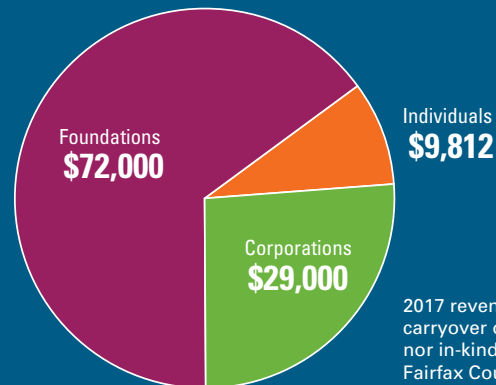
Staff

- ◆ Vera Steiner Blore, Executive Director

2017 PROGRAM EXPENDITURES



2017 REVENUES



2017 revenue total does not reflect carryover of \$61,957 from 2016 nor in-kind support received from Fairfax County.

For More Information:

■ Fairfax Futures

www.fairfax-futures.org



Investing in School Readiness