



ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019



2018 Cally's Helping Hands Award winner and Discovery Center Board member Emily Paravicini pictured above (right) with CDC Executive Director Allison Bolgiano (left).

CDC BOARD MEMBERS:

Jeff Goltz – Chairman

Jake Radakovich – Vice Chairman

Julie Maxam – Treasurer

Meghan Monteith – Secretary

Emily Paravicini – Board Member

LET'S CONTINUE TO ENGAGE

I moved to Pinedale from South East Texas in August 2015, and immediately fell in love with the community, the endless amount of adventures, and most of all the Children's Discovery Center. I can think back to the times of my own childhood when I made mud pies, had pet frogs, loved fishing, and enjoyed being outside from dusk till dawn. As most of you are reading this, I'm sure you can think back to a time in your life when you were outside playing, somehow uniquely involved in nature. Don't we want that for our kids? Let's continue to engage this generation of kids into nature, and practical life activities so they can explore AND appreciate the world we live in.

I'm excited to share this Annual Report from this past year and how fortunate I feel to be part of such a wonderful organization that is so loved and supported by our community. Successful fundraising and grant writing, full enrollments, and quality staff made for a successful year! With 2018-2019 being our highest enrollment to date, we were able to send 23 preschoolers off to Kindergarten. We are thankful for our parents, community partners, and financial sponsors! With ongoing support and dedicated staff, we look forward to an exciting 2019-2020 school year!

ALLISON BOLGIANO

Executive Director

office@pinedalediscoverycenter.org



HOW TO ENROLL

The CDC offers full-day childcare services to children as young as age 2. A waiting list is in place, so be sure to contact Allison Bolgiano-Director, or Kalie Miles-Assistant Director at 307-367-6272 or office@pinedalediscoverycenter.org to add your child(ren).

www.pinedalediscoverycenter.com

WHO WE ARE

The Children's Discovery Center is a non-profit licensed early education facility that has served Sublette County since 1998. The CDC offers year-round, all day pre-school programs for children ages 2-5. Our environment is structured so our curriculum is child-centered which implies that learning is both child initiated and teacher facilitated. We focus on the process of learning in all its intricacies, not just the end result or the product.

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Open year-round from 7:15 – 5:30 from Sept - May, and 7:30 – 5:30 for June, July and August. Classes include: a 2-3 year old Toddler Class, 3-4 year old pre-school class, and a 4-5 year old Pre-Kindergarten class.

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Want to check out our activities? Like our page on Facebook and follow us on Instagram.



@pinedalediscoverycenter



@childrensdiscoverycenter



WHAT WE DO

The Children's Discovery Center offers a wide range of services related to early childhood education to preschoolers in the Sublette County Community. Our goal is to introduce interactive programs with a curriculum that will include activities to help children develop their cognitive, social and motor abilities through hands-on activities.

INTER-GENERATIONAL PROGRAMS

Partnering with our local senior citizen nursing facility, the Sublette Center, our preschoolers and the seniors combine together to form fun and meaningful relationships, resulting in a magical way for kids and seniors to bond by creating art together. Once a week, our 3-4-year-old group walks to the nearby Sub-

lette Center to visit a handful of seniors who are eagerly waiting. These interactions result in a magical way for kids and seniors to bond and build meaningful relationships.

YOGA

Every Thursday, our 4-5-year-old group participates in meditative Yoga and movement, with yoga instructor Tillie Dibben. This type of ac-

tivity seems therapeutic with children showing marked improvement in focus on all types of life activities.

LITERACY PROGRAM

Additionally, Michelle Humber, our local Children's Library Specialist reads to our students at the Sublette County Library on a weekly basis. Before our preschoolers reach Kindergar-

ten, they need several important foundational skills that will allow them to become successful readers in the future.

PLAY-BASED CURRICULUM

Research shows that a play-based curriculum plays an important and critical role in children's learning and development. Play doesn't look the same for each child, as there are a wide variety of experiences offered at the CDC.

GARDENING SPACES

Gardening is an integral part of our program, where our students are actively engaged in all stages involved with growing. In Wyoming, gardening can be a difficult task. The students at the Children's Discovery Center are lucky enough to have structures (Growing Dome and Hoop House) that allow us to extend the season in this sub-alpine climate. This program



helps establish healthy behaviors that have a lifelong impact on the child's quality of life. Students gain a first-hand understanding of local food production by sharing the wealth of crops at the local farmer's market. From prep-

ping the soil, choosing seeds, planting, watering, and tending the students are hands on, the full circle completed with them prepping and eating the crops in the Kitchen and during cooking class.

SUMMER PROGRAM



The CDC not only provides summer child care with certified staff, but our Summer Program integrates outdoor education into the student's everyday activities. Having child care continue throughout the summer allows parents to continue to work as most parents' jobs do not stop in the summer.

In our Summer Program, we are able to provide transportation every day to many sites around Sublette County. Letting the children explore these various locations, helps the children respect, love and explore the world around them encouraging them to become responsible adults who want what is best for the community.

The CDC also participates in the Pinedale Farmer's Market throughout the summer with handmade items, fresh produce, baked goods, and a variety of other items! This summer alone, the CDC was open 58 days and had 52 students! We collaborated with 19 different organizations/businesses in Sublette and Teton Counties, visiting 21 locations in Sublette, Teton and Sweetwater counties. Unique to the 2019 Summer Program the CDC added: Rock Climbing at the PAC, clay pottery classes with local artist, Mae Orm, and gymnastics with Anastacia Hamilton at WYLD Dance Studio.



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

One of the most exciting features of our school is our Outdoor Classroom. In February 2018, the CDC became 1 of 3 schools recognized as a certified Outdoor Classroom in the State of Wyoming. The Outdoor Classroom evolves from the real needs of children, offers activities that are personally meaningful to them, and fully embraces developmentally appropriate practices in early childcare. Some of the areas include: Sand Area, Mud Area, Bike Area, Action Area, Music and Movement Area, Upper and Lower Messy, Climbing Area, Gathering Area, Gardening Areas, a TeePee, and a Gazebo.



OTHER PROGRAMS



SKI PROGRAM WITH WHITE PINE RESORT

We are thankful to continue our Ski Program at White Pine Ski Resort with our 'Penguins' every Monday for 8 weeks during the Winter Season. This past year we had 22 - 4 and 5 year olds enrolled into the ski program. We look forward to continuing this wonderful enriched program for our preschoolers!

EARTH DAY

April 22 – Our preschoolers picked up 4 bags of trash around the bike path, behind the high school and in the ditches. This day in particular, reminds our preschoolers the importance of the 3 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. We are thankful for Earth Day to help remind our preschoolers to be good stewards of our planet. In addition to Earth Day, our preschoolers take a short walk to the local Pinedale Recycling Center weekly delivering cardboard, paper, plastic and anything else that the school can recycle.



SWIM LESSONS

Every Fall and Spring, our preschoolers enjoy indoor swim lessons at the PAC. In a county of 1,200 lakes, it is important that preschoolers know how to swim. There are many benefits for kids to learn: Safety,

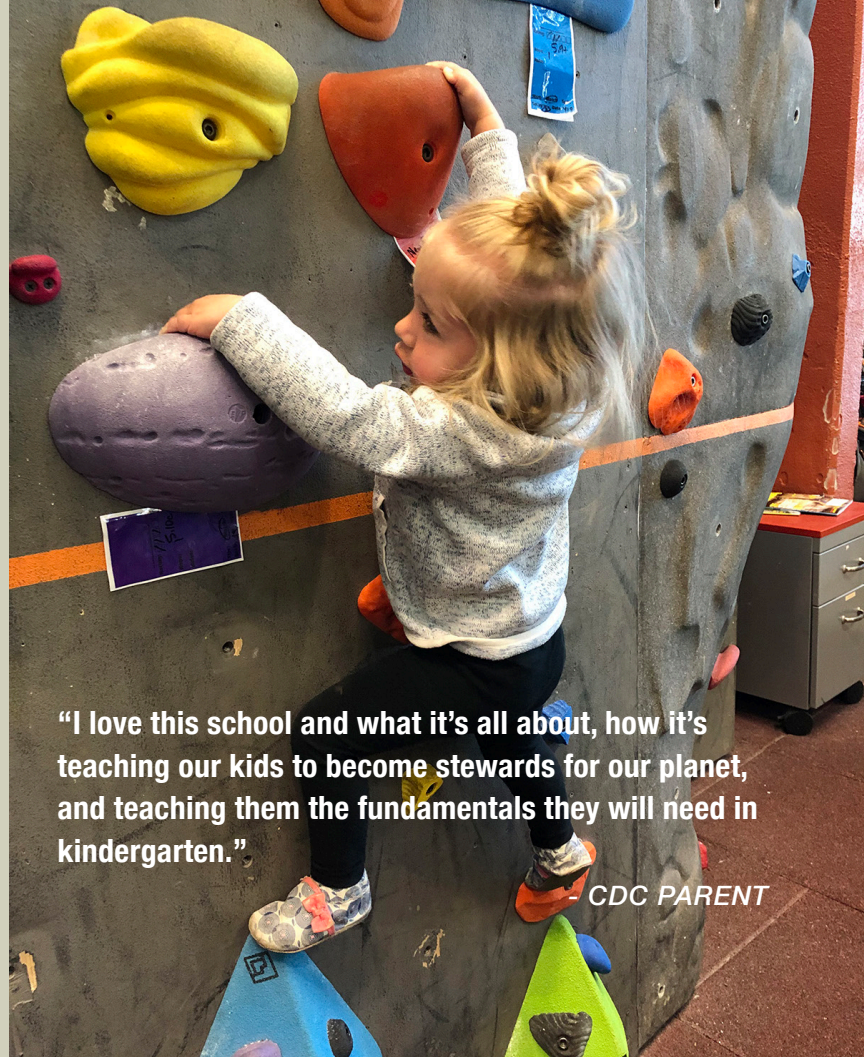
increases strength and fitness, social development and confidence, and overall lifelong skills. Thank you to the PAC for allowing our students to participate in these invaluable activities.

ROCK CLIMBING

Our newest activity added this year was Rock Climbing in our Summer Program. “I can’t” is a phrase that many parents don’t like to hear from their children. Indoor rock climbing is an activity that will not only keep a child involved, but will help them gain enough confidence to push through when things get tough.

STAINED GLASS

For the past 4 years, we have collaborated with local artist, Hayley Ru-land who introduces students to stained glass, providing each student with the opportunity to create a unique piece of work. Not many people would think of glass and toddlers as a good combination, but Hayley and the CDC staff are ready to tackle the challenge.



“I love this school and what it’s all about, how it’s teaching our kids to become stewards for our planet, and teaching them the fundamentals they will need in kindergarten.”

CDC PARENT

FOOD PROGRAM

During our meal times, we serve our food in a family style setting. Here children serve themselves, learn table manners, language and social skills, help set the table and put away their dishes.

Our staff are viewed as a model for the children, gently encouraging them to try new foods and educating them about what they are putting into their bodies (i.e. red foods are good for your heart).

At a young age not all kids eat well. At the CDC, our “picky eaters” who come often to the CDC really start to enjoy the foods we serve, due to the full circle of gardening. We are creative with our foods: i.e., Celery, peanut butter and raisins make ‘Ants on a log’. CDC staff members talk about how different foods help our bodies in different ways. For example, carrots help you see in the dark!

Along with mealtimes, we have cooking class where the students create meals (typically from the veggies at the local grocery store or from our greenhouse) and the process of them creating the meal and seeing the finished product helps encourage the students to try the dish.

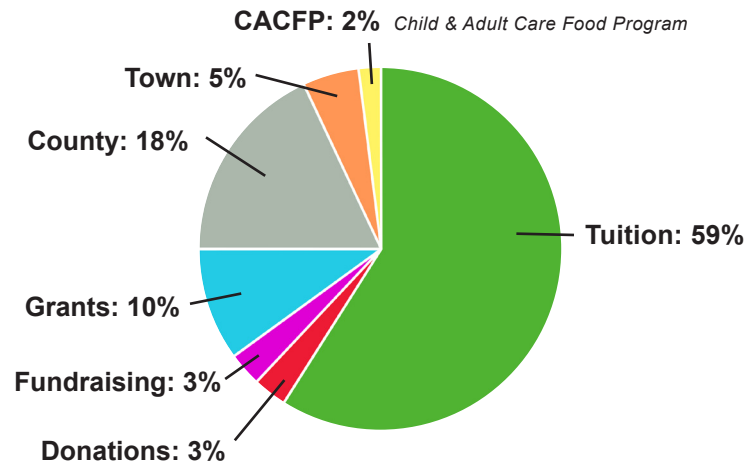


“As a parent who is very conscious of food choices at home it was wonderful to have the Discovery Center provide food that fit with our family’s lifestyle.”

INCOME / EXPENSES

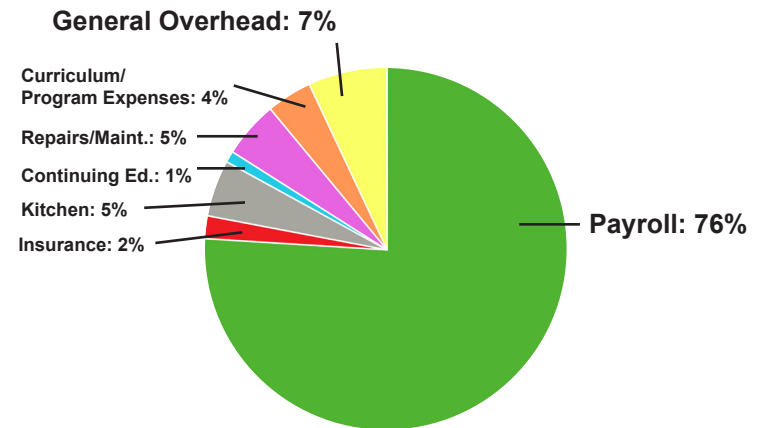
In 2018-2019, the CDC served 44 families, 56 children in Sublette County. We had 5 full time staff, and 2 part time staff members. We had our largest graduating Pre-Kindergarten class this year with 23 students.

INCOME



GRANTS: Wyoming Community Foundation, Sublette BOCES, Wyoming Arts Council, Sublette County Recreation Board, Rocky Mountain Power Foundation

EXPENSES



UPGRADES: Building Upgrades: New Flooring, New LED Lighting & and security system.



Photo credits: **BLUSHING CROW STUDIO**
Tara Bolgiano / blushingcrow.com
Annual Report Design: **BOXCAR ARTS**
Tim Ruland / boxcararts.com

OUR MISSION

Children's Discovery Center (CDC) provides a quality, affordable, early education, and childcare program with a focus on environment and community. Our mission is to maintain a safe, healthy, affordable and nurturing environment where the developmental and educational needs of children are addressed while providing engagement with the natural world, where nature is an integral and joyful part of daily learning.

USDA NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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