

Making Our Mark

A Connection to Friends, Families, and Supporters of United Inner City Services
Home of St. Mark Child and Family Development Center

Spring 2017

United Inner City Services celebrates 50 years in serving children and families to thrive and flourish

Much has changed in our world in the past five decades, but United Inner City Services (UICS) has been a steady, guiding light in its service to Kansas City's 12th street community.

In 1967, Rev. Samuel E. Mann became the pioneer for family- and child-centered multi-services offered at UICS, offering employment, emergency assistance and violence intervention. By 1972, the very first early education program was launched to meet the urgent community needs in the 64127 zip code.

The St. Mark Child and Family Development Center was established with an emphasis on high quality education to address a range of social, economic, and academic needs. By 2004, UICS opened the doors to a new facility to serve more families and children. The Center also introduced a new curriculum focused on kindergarten readiness to ensure children are well prepared academically, socially, and emotionally for kindergarten.

The learning at St. Mark is an innovative arts-infused curriculum, with a "whole family" approach that inspires community empowerment. The Mamie Lee Isler Early Childhood Theater located inside the Center complements the curriculum with a focus on art and early childhood development. Additionally, Arts@St. Mark connects children and families to plays, concerts, the arts, field trips, and local community events.

With a rich history behind, and bright future ahead, the Center continues to serve as a neighborhood anchor - a safe, warm, and inviting place for community services, education and arts programs, and neighborhood outreach for children to thrive and families to flourish.



Focus on families. For the 80+ families benefitting from the innovative curriculum and parents-as-partners approach, St. Mark plays an integral role in getting kids ready for kindergarten – and future success!



Join us!

Save the date!

50th Anniversary
Appreciation Celebration
Thursday, Oct. 26, 2017

Fall Festival

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017

Both on the grounds at St. Mark

Visit uicskc.org

On the Mark

A Message from Executive Director
Deidre Anderson

Dear Friends,

110. That's how many reasons we have to smile each morning at United Inner City Services (UICS).



Deidre Anderson

That's because smiling back are 110 joyful, creative, and inquisitive little people, each with a future of promise, hope, and infinite possibility!

These little lives – and the thousands who came before them – are the inspiration behind 50 years of UICS in our community. This anniversary year is a time of reflection and celebration. More importantly, it is a time of gratitude: an opportunity to express our appreciation to families,

friends, community partners, and supporters for making the Center a place of exceptional education, care, and of course, smiles!

As we reflect with pride on our rich tradition and history, know that our dedicated team of educators, caregivers, and administrators are committed to a secure and prosperous future: a future that includes you by our side as we continue Making Our Mark!

In gratitude,

Here's to a hope-filled future!

Many who visit St. Mark for the first time share the same impression: *Wow! This place is a hidden gem!* Stroll through the art-filled hallways, or peer into a classroom abuzz with creative energy, and there's no question this is a school unique unto itself.

As we look to the next 50 years, our hope-filled future includes:

- Data-driven decision-making and instructional design
- High-quality instruction by a credentialed faculty
- Diversification of funding sources
- Strengthening our organizational capacity
- Family engagement that recognizes parents as partners

Take a tour! We invite you to visit the Center, immerse in our arts-infused environment, and experience the special distinctions of a St. Mark education. To schedule your visit, please call 816.994.5400.



Uploading Excellence. St. Mark is working to eliminate the digital divide, giving kids access to information and communication technologies before they enter kindergarten.

OUR VISION

At St. Mark Child and Family Development Center, we envision an empowered community where children and families flourish.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide opportunity and support to children and families, inspiring community and personal empowerment to enhance the quality of their lives.

CONNECT

United Inner City Services
Home of St. Mark Child and Family Development Center
2008 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64127

Phone: 816.994.5400

UICSKC.org



facebook.com/UICSKC

Your Support Makes a Difference!
Donate online at uicskc.org/invest

Your in-kind donations of art supplies, new or gently used children's clothing, are much needed and always appreciated. Please call 816.994.5400.

Annual Report 2016



Highlights

- St. Mark achieved the distinction of staffing all preschool classrooms with lead teachers possessing Bachelor's or Master's degrees.
- UICS recently began the process of developing the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan with input from community stakeholders, board members, parents, and staff.
- UICS was awarded a generous grant from the Healthcare Foundation of Greater Kansas City to provide Trauma Sensitive Schools training for parents and staff.
- To increase and enhance opportunities for family engagement, UICS began hosting educational workshops on topics such as money management, in addition to family fun nights.
- In partnership with the HappyBottoms organization, UICS expanded its reach in the community, and now provides diapers to more than 200 families each month.
- Through the generosity of VML, UICS is benefiting from comprehensive branding and marketing plans.

St. Mark by the Numbers

7

Minimum number of parent engagement services each family strives to achieve each year. This includes weekly Stay-and-Play, home visits, parent trainings, parent teacher conferences, and Kindergarten Ready, Set Go activities.

Average years of early childhood teaching experience for St. Mark faculty

9

94

Percentage of Pre-K students achieving Missouri kindergarten-readiness development benchmarks.

The number of St. Mark children served in 2016.

150

100

Percentage of St. Mark preschool lead teachers holding Bachelor's or Master's degrees

Hours of volunteer service at St. Mark in 2016.

6,317

35,000

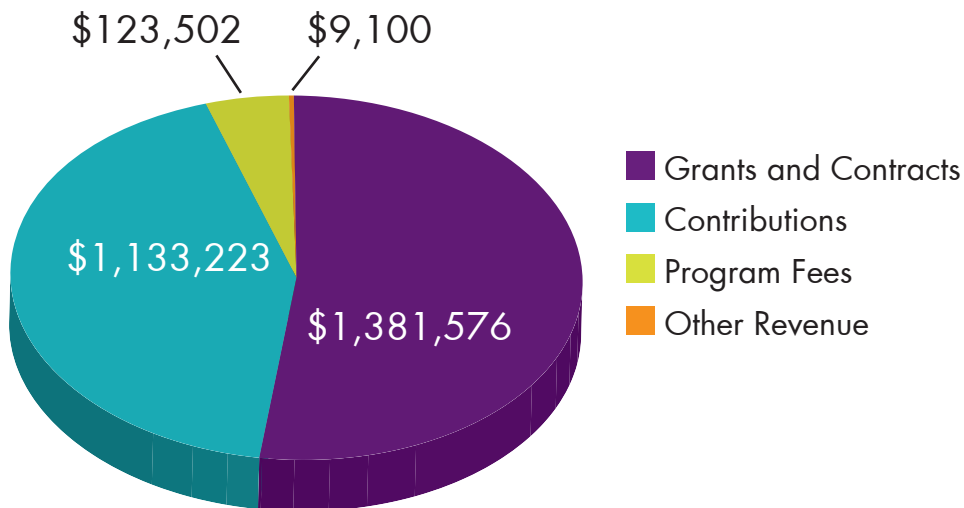
Number of nutritious meals served on-site each year by in-house chef.



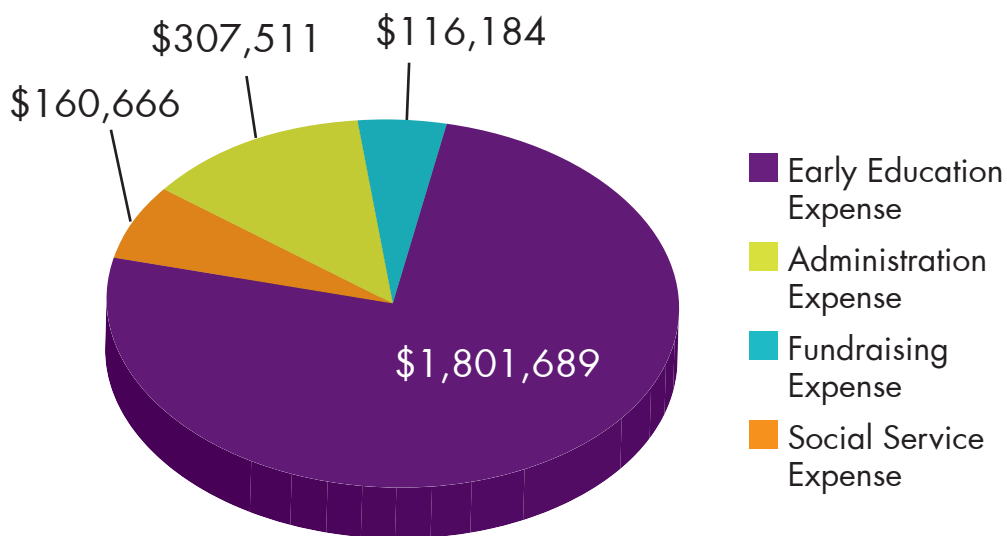
Financial Review

January 1 to December 31, 2016

Contributions and Revenue



Program Services and Expenses



Board of Directors

Amy Coopman, *Vice President*
 Lee Ellen Curry, *Secretary*
 Tom Eatman
 Tyler Epp, *Treasurer*
 Micole Franklin
 Mary Jorgenson
 Troy Nash, *President*
 Todd Navrat
 Staci Pratt
 Ruth Stricklen Pullins
 Ruby Russell
 Theodis Watson
 Ajamu Webster
 Anthony Williams



Rockin' the runway! A clothing study in which students studied, designed, and crafted their own fashions culminated in a high style runway show at St. Mark. The student models sported their creations before cheering parents, teachers, and classmates. Pictured with students is St. Mark Art Director Brianne Pegg.

3 Questions with Chef Wolfe

All-new Culinary Education Program is the spice of life at St. Mark

Food fuels our brains and provides energy to complete the day. At St. Mark, food does all that and more! Meet Wolfe Brack, resident chef and master of yumminess, who serves up more than 120 meals each day.

What is the idea behind the Culinary Education Program?

We believe healthy eating is key to a quality education because it provides children with the nourishment to focus, engage, and learn. I'm excited to introduce the all-new culinary program to our families and children.

What will you be teaching the students and families?

The culinary class will teach healthy eating and cooking habits, while also expanding food literacy.



We are also partnering with local food producers to conduct cooking courses at the center for children and families to experience safe, alternative foods from a variety of diverse, cultural recipes.

What are the house favorites in the St. Mark kitchen?

Our students love the spaghetti and meatballs, and for teachers, my turkey chili is the favorite. Our Executive Director, Deidre, is a fan of my Pumpkin Curry Chicken and Lentil Sloppy Joes.



Delish! Chef Wolfe's culinary creations get rave reviews from his students and teaching staff. The resident chef stirs the senses of his students through the taste, touch, smell, and appearance of foods, as well as their cultural value.



St. Mark Goes Blue for Kids!

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and the staff at St. Mark shared their "Children First" spirit by wearing blue. Nationally, more than 4 million reports of child abuse are reported each year, with one-fourth of these children being under the age of three. St. Mark is proud to support prevention efforts and raise awareness in our community.



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Community Spotlight

Development of exceptional teachers is top investment for George K. Baum Family Foundation

Highly skilled teachers are one of the single most significant influences on student success. No one believes that more than George K. Baum Family Foundation. For many years, the foundation has been a champion of St. Mark Child and Family Development Center, specifically in the area of developing an exceptional faculty.

With the Baum Foundation's generous support, St. Mark teachers have the opportunity to actively engage in one-on-one coaching, personalized assistance with development plans, and significant time allotted for training, knowledge sharing, collaboration, student assessments, and parent discussions.

This meaningful investment has been the impetus for strong, positive morale, increased professionalism, and 100% of staff meeting or exceeding credential standards.

"The Baum family's commitment and belief in a quality early childhood education have been key to elevating St. Mark as a center of innovation, best practice, and continuous quality improvement," states Executive Director Deidre Anderson. "We are ever grateful for their support and generosity."



An "A" in professional development. Teachers Monchelle Mitchell, (top photo) and Joey Saunders (bottom photo) are among the faculty at St. Mark who enjoy dedicated time in their day for professional development and planning.

