



UNITED INNER CITY SERVICES

What we learn with  
*joy*  
we never forget.

GRATITUDE  
REPORT  
2020





# We are the true believers.

A MESSAGE FROM DEIDRE ANDERSON

Dear UICS Friends,

After a year like none other, United Inner City Services (UICS) is filled with even greater optimism and strength. One of the reasons: you. You are at the heart of our mission and supported us when the entire world was restless and uncertain.

Despite the adversity, we continued to find joy in the everyday. Joy in making mud pies. Joy in learning to hop on one foot. Joy in uniting as a community to get through tough times.

UICS recognizes that strength comes from the shared belief that we're all in this together. Together, we increased advocacy for early childhood education being more than a pathway to kindergarten. It is a bridge to opportunity for life success and core to workforce development and community infrastructure.

2020 proved that our mission goes deep - that it can strengthen our resiliency, unite us in our diversity, inspire joy in the moment, and hope for the future. Our collective effort is shaping the world as we dream it to be: diverse, equitable and inclusive.

Despite the challenges we've overcome - and those that continue to present - our resolve is stronger than ever. We believe that even though the odds against education equity are high, we as a community can rise even higher.

We believe others who listen to our message with their minds, hearts, and souls will become true believers, too.

Thank you for believing in UICS. We're grateful for all you do to inspire joy in our students at UICS and for children everywhere.

Sincerely,

Deidre Anderson  
EarlystART CEO

Let's  
connect!



# UICS

St. Mark Center  
Metro Center  
North Center

2008 E. 12th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64127  
Phone: 816.994.5400

f t i @uicskc

## 2020 UICS Board of Directors

**Mary Jorgenson, President**  
Heartland Presbytery  
Representative

**Amy Coopman, Vice President**  
Bridge Mediation, LLC

**Ruby Russell, Secretary**  
St. Mark Union Church  
Representative

**Theodis Watson, Treasurer**  
Central Bank of the Midwest

**Tom Eatman**  
Builders by Design, LLC

**Rebecca James**  
Abovo

**Phyllis Williams**  
Community Advocate

**Todd Navrat**  
JE Dunn Construction

**Matt Oates**  
Burns & McDonnell

**Ruth Sticklen Pullins**  
Truman Medical  
Centers

**Terra Purifoye**  
Sunshyne Aesthetics

**Cydney Ricker**  
Kansas City Chiefs

**Deidre Anderson, Ex-Officio**  
UICS Chief Executive Officer

UICSKC.org





## WE BELIEVE

in the ability of  
creative expression to  
fuel and express  
passion.

DEEPAK CHOPRA

The healthiest  
response to  
life is  
*joy.*

## DIVERSITY IN EARLY EDUCATION RACE & EQUITY COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

In the pursuit of racial equity, our shared conversations are important steps in the journey to greater understanding around individual bias and racism, as well as how racism is part of our systems and institutions.

At UICS, our monthly Race & Equity Community Conversations have allowed the community to explore and discuss the role race plays in the education landscape. Sponsored by the **Kauffman Foundation**, the virtual conversation series launched in December 2020 and continues to offer opportunities for enlightening discussions.

Over the last year, our participants have discussed books and podcasts, and delved into local data and topics related to equity, policy, and early childhood.

One example of UICS' commitment to an equitable landscape in early childhood education is the translation of our website to six languages.

Our hope is that these conversations and resources will inspire rich and meaningful insights for our participants and the greater community.

### OUR MISSION

Building bridges.  
Inspiring minds.  
Impacting futures.

### OUR VISION

UICS envisions an  
empowered community  
where children and  
families flourish.





# 2020 Highlights & Impact

## 1 & 2

Our students and families had much-needed access to behavioral and mental health resources in 2020, thanks to **Children's Services Fund of Jackson County, Health Forward Foundation, and Prime Health Foundation.**

## 3

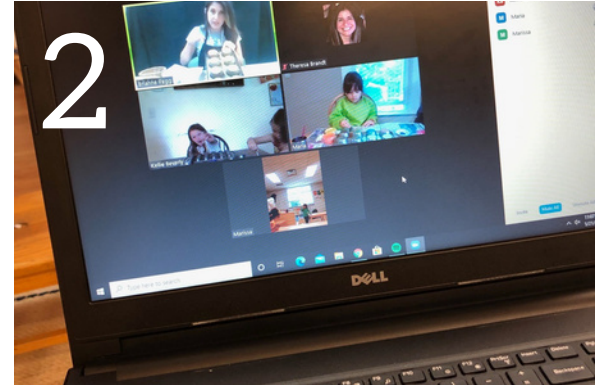
At UICS, our differences are embraced in representation and responsive practices. We recognize and celebrate diversity, equity, and inclusion by weaving anti-bias and multi-cultural conversations and traditions in our curriculum and everyday experiences.

## 4

The arts are a distinctive hallmark of a UICS education. Robustly infused in our curriculum, we promote creative expression to nurture the social, emotional, and developmental needs of young minds.

## 5

**The Kansas City Chiefs and GEHA** made the holiday season brighter for one of our UICS families in a new living situation by covering costs of core utilities and furnishings.



## UICS 2020 : A CATALYST IN THE COMMUNITY SPARKING CHANGE

### WE BELIEVE

that forged  
connections can be  
bridges to a  
better path.

# 75%

### Students qualify for Head Start

For these students, UICS is a safe, uplifting resource for family support that strengthens resiliency and quality of life.

# 92%

### UICS students are kindergarten-ready

An effective education model drives academic readiness as well as supportive services that contribute to each child's success.

# 100%

### Parents supported by a Family Advocate

Families receive helpful information and resources from a dedicated Family Advocate as well as their child's teachers.

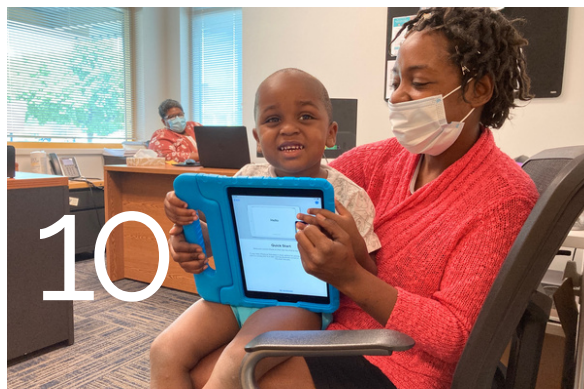
# 311

### Students at three campuses

With the opening of the new UICS-North Center, our reach can extend to 311 students and across metro Kansas City.



# Sharing some love: Our Community



6

Our friends at **PNC Bank** provided wonderful Lakeshore Learning take-home kits to our students.

7

UICS benefited from generous in-kind donations of \$111,585 in 2020 including:

- 70 5-day food boxes valued at \$16,695
- \$5,000+ in diapers provided by **Happy Bottoms**
- Nearly \$60,000 in food and essential supplies from **Jewish Family Services**.

8

The power of corporate and community partnerships fuels UICS' innovation, quality, and capacity to meet the unique needs of students and families.

9

To celebrate fall, our friends at **Suburban Lawn & Garden, Inc.**, transformed the playgrounds at all three UICS centers into pumpkin patches

10

Our incredible partners at **SchoolSmartKC** and the **Hall Family Foundation** worked to bridge the digital divide during the pandemic by providing iPads and internet access to students and families.

## NEW TO THE FAMILY: UICS-NORTH CENTER

United Inner City Services (UICS) added a third early education center in August 2020 in a space formerly occupied by Easterseals Midwest (ESMW) in Pleasant Valley, MO.

The good news: families in Clay and Platte counties now have another option to access high-quality early education. For families formerly served by ESMW, it ensures continuity in their child's care.

UICS-North Center is the only facility in the Northland serving children birth to age three with all levels of developmental and physical abilities. Medically fragile children have access to an all-inclusive setting where their needs are met as they immerse in the UICS experience.



A wise teacher  
makes learning

*a joy.*

- PROVERB



# Joy,

collected over time,  
fuels our resilience.

- BRENE BROWN

## WE BELIEVE

We believe that people who are strengthened in resiliency will be unstoppable.

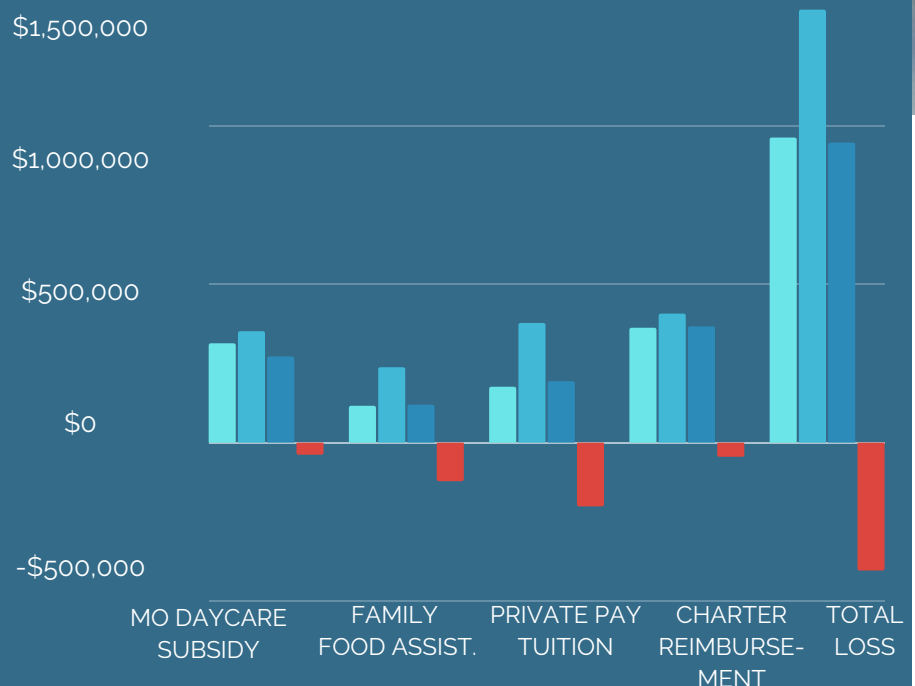
ADONTE AND ZYA  
UICS-METRO CENTER

## COVID-19: TRIUMPH AND HOPE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

The public health crisis of COVID-19 and facility closures in 2020 prompted losses in all revenue sources that sustain UICS.

During these difficult times when reimbursements and program fees were down dramatically, UICS remained committed to compensating faculty and staff at 100% of pay during closures. Additionally, UICS ensured that families had access to assistance with food, diapers, and other essentials.

## COVID-19 FINANCIAL IMPACT at UICS

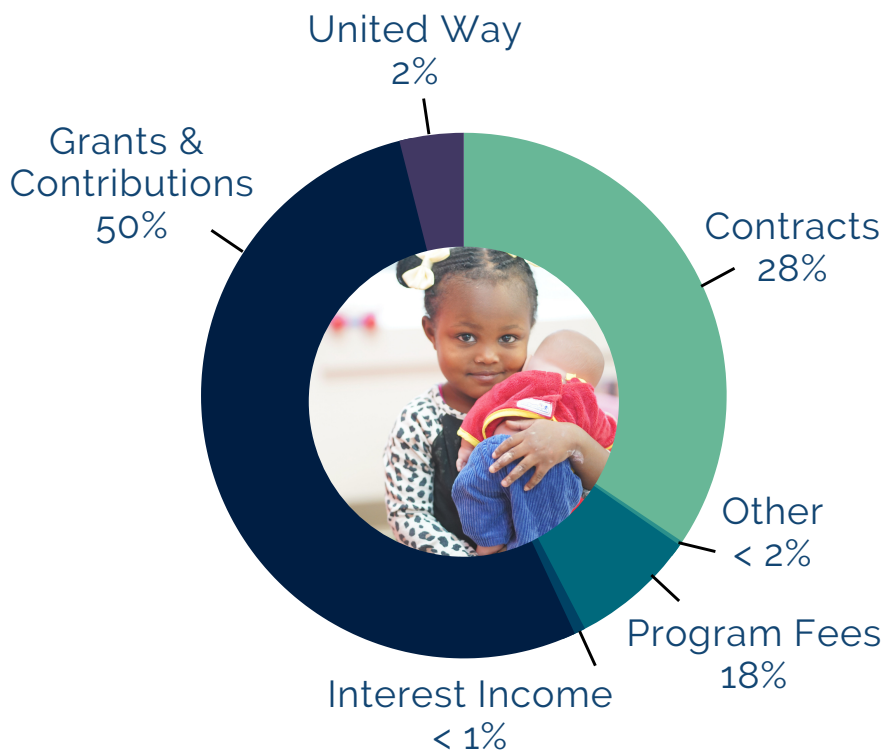




# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2020

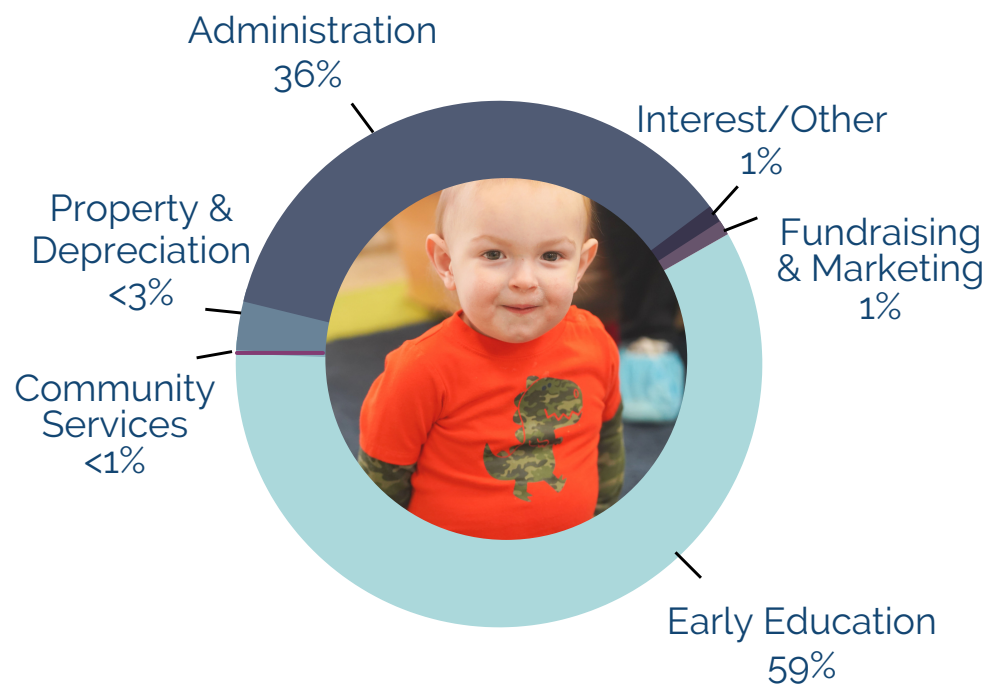
## REVENUE & CONTRIBUTIONS

Contracts	\$1,290,679
Grants/Contributions	\$2,317,753
Program Fees	\$846,988
United Way	\$128,678
Interest Income	\$2,736
Other	\$8,525
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,595,359</b>



## PROGRAM EXPENSE/ COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Early Education	\$3,109,806
Administration	\$1,900,125
Community Services	\$11,163
Fundraising/Marketing	\$49,055
Interest/Other	\$56,668
Property & Depreciation	\$157,074
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,283,891</b>



Our greatest *joy* is when we seek to do good in others.

- DESMOND TUTU





2008 E. 12th Street | Kansas City, MO 64127



## Paying it forward: generous donors and volunteers share time, talent, treasure



**Community kindness.** Volunteers from **VMLY&R** (below left) joined UICS for a day of outdoor service during the company's annual Foundation Day.

**Church of the Resurrection** supplied and prepared individual art kits (below right) for UICS at-home learners during the pandemic so they could access the arts during the shelter-in-place period.

**DonorsChoose and UICS Wins!** UICS teachers and students benefited from DonorsChoose, a crowdfunding platform, to receive support directly for classroom projects.

Because teachers know the individual learning needs of their students best, this platform allows them to customize requests for classroom supplies and offers donors opportunities to fulfill these needs.

Pictured above are just a sampling of items provided in 2020 by individuals and matching partners. Together they contributed \$19,397 to support 24 classrooms across all three UICS centers - a 65% increase from 2019! Our UICS teachers are grateful for this generosity!

