



earlystART

EMBRACE WONDER



2021
GRATITUDE
REPORT



Here, we believe a better future walks through our door every day.

A MESSAGE FROM DEIDRE ANDERSON

Dear EarlystART Friends,

I'm thrilled to welcome you to our first Gratitude Report with our new name, EarlystART. **Thanks to your caring and generosity, we have the opportunity to create ripples of change - to shape the world as we dream it to be!**

Here, we believe a better future walks through our door every day and that it begins with embracing the wonder that makes learning – and life – more meaningful.



In children, that sense of wonder is the center of all motivation and action. Wonder is what makes life genuinely personal, inspires our creativity, and helps us to solve problems (it is at the core of all scientific inquiry, after all!).

At EarlystART, we nourish each child's innate sense of wonder in innumerable ways:

- in making connections to the natural world and its happenings - from shadows cast by the sun to the dew on the morning grass;
- in tasting, feeling, hearing, seeing, and getting into things that are interesting and safe; and
- in integrating arts of every kind in classroom and community experiences to inspire joyful, active learning.

As you review our highlights and accomplishments of 2021, please know that our mission is only possible with your support. In building bridges, inspiring minds, and impacting futures, we can be the ripples that create waves of potential, promise, and possibility for all children and families. From all of us at EarlystART, we thank you!

Sincerely,

Deidre Anderson
EarlystART CEO

OUR MISSION

Building bridges.
Inspiring minds.
Impacting futures.

OUR VISION

An empowered community
where children and
families flourish.



St. Mark Center
Metro Center
North Center

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

2021 UICS Board of Directors

Mary Jorgenson, President
Heartland Presbytery Representative

Rebecca James, Vice President
Abovo

**Theodis Watson, Treasurer,
President-Elect**
Central Bank of the Midwest

The late Ruby Russell, Secretary
St. Mark Union Church Representative

Tom Eatman
Builders by Design, LLC

Phyllis Hardwick
Community Capital Fund

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
EarlystART Chief Executive
Officer

@earlystartkc

Share a gift!

earlystARTKC.org

2021 • by the numbers



75%

Students qualify for Head Start.



32

Engagement events hosted to promote strong connections among students, families, and teachers.



92%

EarlystART students are kindergarten ready.



40

Students and their families benefited from financial assistance through the Bobbye Jean Fuller Early Educational Fund.



100%

Parents and caregivers are supported by a Family Advocate.



104

A record number of Pre-K students graduated and successfully transitioned to kindergarten.

Jennie & Nicholai: An EarlystART family makes positive strides in stability, strength, and healthy development.

"I can't do this alone," says 28-year-old Jennie, a single mom to little Nicholai who attends EarlystART North Center. "I am truly thankful and blessed to be a part of this," she says of her EarlystART "family".

"I've been on my own since I was 17 years old. In the last two years, I was able to dig deep to get myself where I am today," she says of her journey to overcome childhood trauma, drug addiction, and a series of unhealthy relationships.

"Nicholai has connected with everyone at EarlystART. Seeing his face light up in the mornings and how joyful he is - it makes my heart so happy!" says Jennie.

Kim Logston, EarlystART North Center Assistant Director, is a special source of encouragement and support for Jennie. "If I'm having a bad day, I can open up to her. I can share my struggles and my accomplishments and, either way, I am accepted." In accessing important community resources, Jennie has been able to achieve stability with housing and finances, and also maintain a healthy lifestyle.

In reflecting on how far she's come, Jennie says, "Resilience has become my new favorite word."



Nicholai and Jenny

A welcoming, inclusive environment builds connection, celebrates diversity.



Woven in the very fabric of our EarlystART identity are the threads of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Creating a welcoming environment and a culture of acceptance has been our commitment since the very beginning. In a grassroots initiative inspired by the desire to bring vital resources and opportunities to children and families, United Inner City Services set down roots in 1967 along Kansas City's 12th Street Corridor. We've been dedicating resources and advocating for equality ever since.

"As early education professionals - and as a community - we must continually expand our knowledge, our practices, and our sensitivities to the exquisite diversity of our students and families."

- Deidre Anderson CEO
EarlystART

EarlystART does that in a multitude of ways:

- **We ensure representation**, ensuring that families see themselves reflected in classroom language, materials, and curriculum, and their identities mirrored in staff members and other parents.
- **We offer opportunities for meaningful inclusion.** From celebrating Black History Month and Pride Month, to marching in the Juneteenth Parade, to integrating Brown is Beautiful in our art curriculum, EarlystART offers opportunities for students and families to grow in awareness and connection.



- **We encourage crucial dialogues.** By bringing together people of all backgrounds, such as in our Race & Equity Conversations series, we advocate for an equitable and more peaceful world.
- **We promote a welcoming and affirming environment**, encouraging our staff and community to share appreciation for one another's presence and enthusiasm in supporting each individual's unique needs.

EarlystART is committed to paving a new path of acceptance and equality for all children and families.



71% of EarlystART faculty and staff identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC), reflecting diversity of the communities we serve.

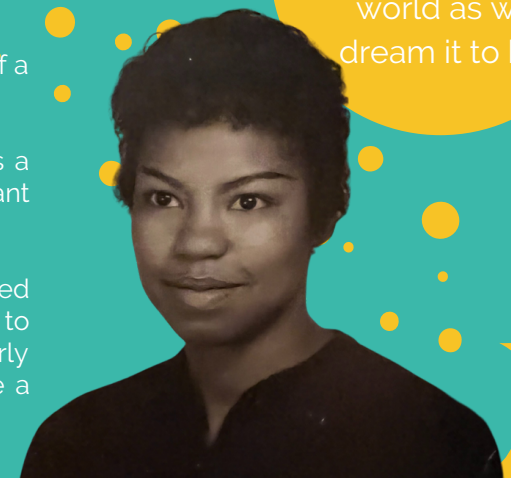
**HERE,
WE BELIEVE**
in shaping the
world as we
dream it to be.

TRIBUTE | Ruby Russell September 24, 1940 ~ November 16, 2021

With the passing of Ruby Russell in 2021, EarlystART honors the memory of a fierce and loyal advocate, leader, and friend.

As a charter member of St. Mark Union Church in Kansas City, Ruby was a pillar of faith and of her community. She led and inaugurated many significant milestones in equality and justice for people of color.

Ruby had a special heart for children and families, and served on the United Inner City Services (UICS) Board of Directors. Her involvement was integral to the construction and continued success of the St. Mark Family and Early Childhood Development Center (now EarlystART). We are honored to be a part of her legacy and forever grateful for her service.



Embracing Wonder Since 1967



1967

Rev. Samuel E. Mann leads the creation of **United Inner City Services (UICS)** to strengthen the health and vitality of Kansas City's 12th Street corridor. UICS serves as a community anchor, connecting families with vital resources for food, rent and utilities assistance, and other social services.



1972

A childcare program begins with the support of St. Mark Union Church. In response to a growing demand for high quality childcare from neighboring families.

2012

Today's CEO **Deidre Anderson** is named **Executive Director** and leads organizational growth, tripling operating budget to ensure UICS can serve the community in meaningful and transformative ways.



2004

St. Mark Center opens with a distinctive, creative curriculum and a commitment to a highly trained faculty.



2013

Intensive training, coaching, research, and professional enrichment initiative is launched to support and develop UICS early educators.

2014

Artists-in-Residence program is integrated across a range of disciplines, engaging local artists for special projects and performances for students, families, and the community.



2019 & 2020

UICS expands its community reach with the openings of: Metro Center and North Center.



2016

UICS celebrates 50 years and launches **Bobbye Jean Fuller Early Education Fund** to support students whose families face barriers to quality education.



2021

Our team embarks on a journey of re-imagining a UICS that reflects our evolution. Guided by our mission, and with input from internal and community stakeholders, work begins on identifying a new name and a refreshed brand.

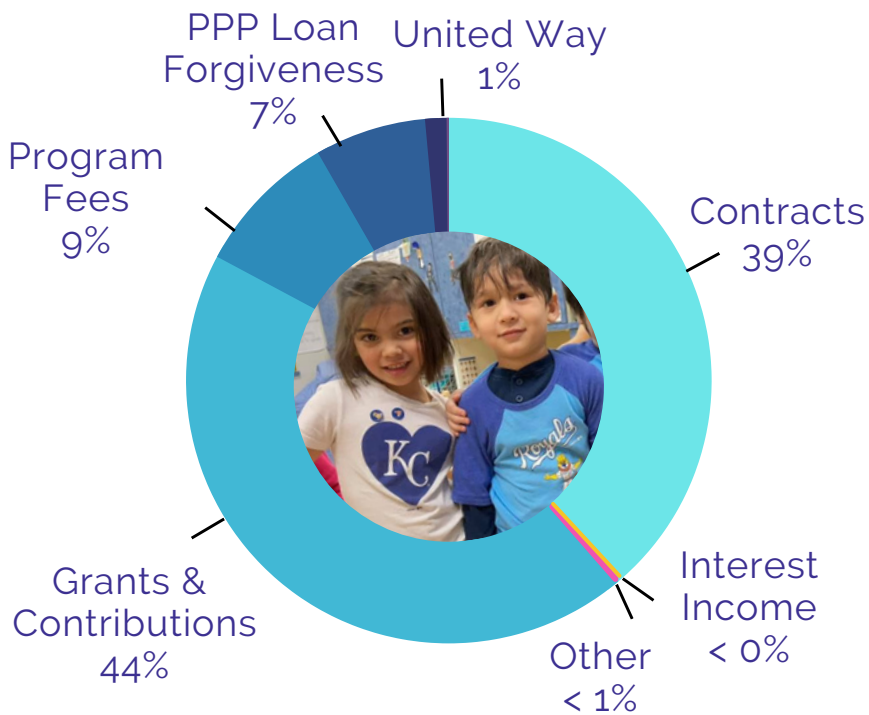
In 2021, **EarllystART** was born! It's a vibrant new identity that we embrace in gratitude for those who planted our roots and a community that continues to support our vital work.

TODAY WE ARE

earllystART
EMBRACE WONDER

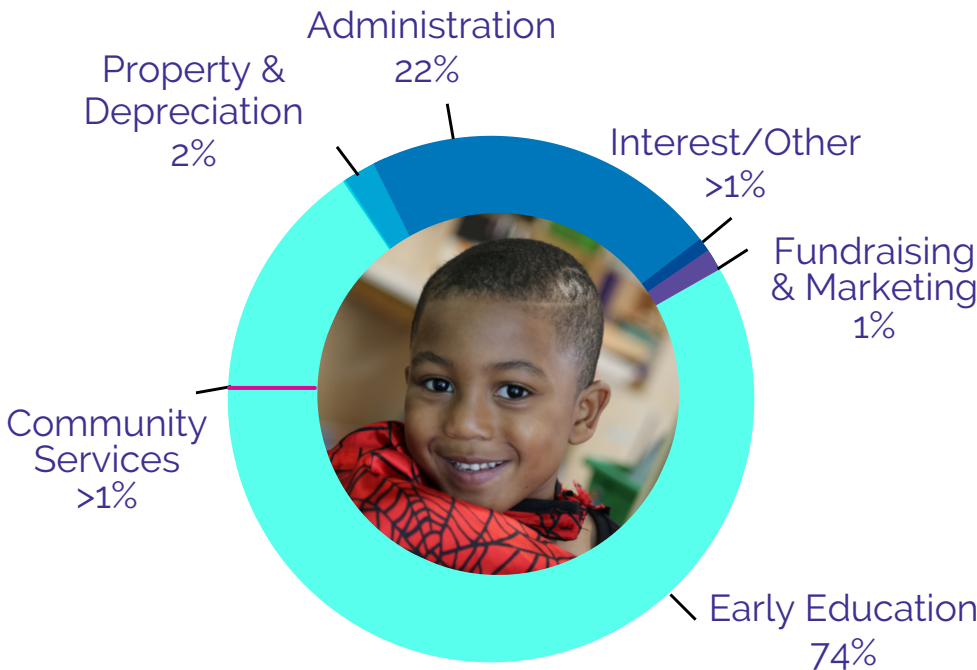


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2021



REVENUE & CONTRIBUTIONS

Contracts	\$2,889,670
Grants/Contributions	\$3,271,826
Program Fees	\$661,204
United Way	\$97,785
Interest Income	\$709
Other	\$9,524
PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$509,600
Total	\$7,440,318



PROGRAM EXPENSE/ COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Early Education	\$4,828,682
Administration	\$1,439,642
Community Services	\$9,483
Fundraising/Marketing	\$88,725
Interest/Other	\$53,845
Property & Depreciation	\$129,984
Total	\$6,550,361

Looking to 2022: EarlystART ended 2021 in a positive financial position which was primarily driven by lower enrollment and staffing shortages. 2022 will be a year of investing in expanded recruitment efforts for early educators in order to serve as many students and families as possible.

**HERE,
WE BELIEVE**
that art creates
equality. Art is for
everyone!

We carry within us,
the wonders
we seek around us.

- E.B. WHITE.



2022 LITTLE Learners LUNCHEON

SAVE



THE

JOIN US September 23, 2022



DATE



GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium | 11:30 AM
Event Chairs, Mary & Mark Jorgenson

Please be our guest for a magical morning!

Stroll the Little Learners art gallery, enjoy lunch, and experience the awesome wonder of an EarlystART education.

Chaired by Mary and Mark Jorgenson, EarlystART's annual Little Learners Luncheon benefits and supports the belief all children deserve a great education right from the start and will make the world better because of it!



**Be a Table Host. Be a Sponsor.
Be a Champion for early learning!**



[Sponsor](#) | [Learn More](#)