

Our Mission

To be the key resource of comprehensive child care services that support and enhance the quality of the early care and education system.

Wisconsin Rapids Office

1107 West Grand Avenue
Wisconsin Rapids | WI 54495

office hours:

8:30am - 4:30pm

715-423-4114

fax: 715-423-2444

Merrill Office

407 West Main Street
Merrill | WI 54452

office hours:

9:00am - 5:00pm

715-539-9779

fax: 715-539-9771

1.800.628.8534

www.childcaring.org

info@childcaring.org



The Resource Connection

Childcaring Receives \$50,000 Grant from B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation

Good Start Grants Makes Child Care More Affordable for Eligible Families in Marathon County

Childcaring, Inc is excited to announce B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation has awarded \$50,000 for Good Start Grants! Good Start Grants provides financial assistance for eligible families in Marathon County to ensure they have access to quality, affordable child care.

Good Start Grants also receives \$300,000 from United Way of Marathon County each year; the program is currently in its second year of the United Way 3 year grant cycle. "The funding received from United Way in 2015 will help more than 38 families and 53 children have access to quality child care. However, we currently have 15 families on our wait list" says Rachele Cherek, Program Coordinator for Good Start Grants. "This funding from the B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation will help reduce that wait list and allow for additional families and children to have the same opportunity to attend quality child care. This grant will help make child care more affordable for eligible families."

For more than 15 years, United Way of Marathon County has helped families pay for quality child care in the Wausau area. In 2010 a collaboration of early childhood partners began to strategize the possibility of this program reaching more Marathon County families. After months of developing policies, procedures, and funding formulas, the collaborative group renamed the sliding fee program, Good Start Grants.

"United Way is committed to ensure Marathon County is a safe and caring community where everyone achieves success in school, is financially secure and has good health. Experiences that do or do not happen in a child's early years influence whether or not they will be prepared for school and the likelihood they will graduate. These early life experiences impact the person they will become throughout their life: what they know, how they interact with others, and what they cultivate for the future of our community." says Deanna Schuette, Associate Director, Community Impact at United Way of Marathon County. "United Way investments in supports like Good Start Grants ensure both the financial stability of local families along with access to the highest quality of care for their children. Quality child care is a critical component in early childhood development. This investment places local families and children on a track for success."

Currently, Good Start Grants pays 70% of a child's tuition at his or her child care program. The child care program must participate in YoungStar, Wisconsin's quality rating and improvement system, and be rated at a 3, 4, or 5 Star level. Marathon County families may be eligible if they do not qualify for Wisconsin's child care assistance program, Wisconsin Shares, and are still below 300% of the federal poverty level.

(continued on page 2)

YOUNGSTAR CORNER

New YoungStar Website!

The YoungStar website has a new look and is now easier to navigate. The website is divided into four main sections: YoungStar Program, For Parents, For Providers, Find Child Care. Within each section, you'll find new and updated information, brand new videos about YoungStar and Brain Development, easier to find contracts, policies, helpful resources and more. If you bookmarked sections of the old website, be sure to update your bookmarks – especially Resources for Providers (formerly Tips and Tools).

Check it out:
<http://youngstar.wi.gov>



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According to data gathered by Childcaring, Inc. from regulated child care programs across Marathon County, families can expect to pay about \$182 per week or \$9,464 per year for full time care of their infant. For the family who has an infant and a three-year old, this cost becomes nearly \$337 per week or \$17,524 per year in the Wausau area. So the cost of child care becomes more expensive than many families' housing or transportation costs and much more than the cost of food in any given month. To make quality child care more affordable for families, the fees parents pay must be supplemented by outside investments.

"The main focus of the B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation's mission is to strengthen our community by "providing opportunities". By making this investment in the Good Start Grants program, we believe we are doing just that," said Brian Gumness, Executive Director of the B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation. "We are helping to provide opportunities to families that need the most help with affording the cost of quality child care. Childcaring, Inc. and their Good Start Grants program play a vital role in the early childhood development of the youth in our community. The Board of Trustees of the B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation are proud to be a partner in this effort."

"We are extremely lucky that the Marathon County community recognizes and values the importance of quality child care opportunities for our children" says Micki Krueger, Assistant Director of Childcaring. "We truly believe that quality child care provides a strong foundation for future success – it is a smart, economic investment!" Research shows that the achievement gap appears long before children reach kindergarten. At-risk children who don't receive a high-quality early childhood education may be more likely to: drop out of school, become a teen parent, be placed in special education, never attend college, or be arrested for a violent crime. Quality early childhood programs offer a great return to society.

If you or someone you know is interested in investing in Good Start Grants and making quality child care more affordable for families, please contact Childcaring.

Childcaring, Inc. is your local child care resource and referral agency; a United Way partner program. For more information on Good Start Grants please visit our website (<http://www.childcaring.org/family-payment.html>) or contact our office at 800.628.8534.

Childcaring Staff

- Kelly Borchardt** ~ Executive Director
- Micki Krueger** ~ Assistant Director
- Linda Francis** ~ Office & Financial Manager
- Kristine Kettleton** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist
- Peggy McMahon** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist/Prelicensing Specialist
- Mary Olson** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist
- Susie Sandow** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist
- Lori Shafranski** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist
- Carrie Steinke** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist
- Kao L. Xiong** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist/Bi-Lingual
- Gayle Schiszik** ~ Training Coordinator/Certifier
- Rachele Cherek** ~ Program Coordinator
- Tracy Verjinsky** ~ Program Coordinator
- Jessica Nass** ~ Resource & Referral Specialist
- Shelley Weiler** ~ Referral & Communication Specialist
- Sarah Agena** ~ Child Physical Activity & Nutrition Consultant/Flexible Nutrition Solutions, LLC (Independent Contractor)

Provider Support / Advocate Groups

Adams, Clark, Marathon & Marquette County:

Contact Childcaring if interested in developing an advocate group at 800.628.8534

Portage County:

Portage County Child Care Association
 Joan Garski at 715.341.5873
 Portage County Leaders
 RoxAnne Forrest at 715.342.2999

Langlade County: Contact

Donna Murra at 715.350.4159

Lincoln County: Contact Dolly Tanck at 715.536.7581

Marathon County: Storyteller Network Support Group for Asian Providers
 Maichao Lor at 715.432.1958

Taylor County: Meet the 3rd Monday of month
 For more information, call Kelly Emmerich at 715.748.6192

Waushara County:

Contact Krista Sobieski at 920.566.0545

Wood County:

Marshfield Area Child Care Association
 Krisann Mauritz at 715.387.2218

Wisconsin Rapids Child Care Advocates Council
 Beth Knuth at 715.423.5312

Training Opportunities

Visit our online training calendar for the most up-to-date training opportunities.

Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention

Training in identification, prevention and the grave effects of SBS.

- **Monday, April 6 (6:00pm-7:30pm)**
Portage County Library-Pinery Room, Stevens Point
\$10 / Register by Thurs., April 2

Getting the Most Out of Your Accreditation Journey

Ever wonder if achieving National Accreditation for your family child care business was the right move for you? Join us to find out!

- **Saturday, April 11, 2015 (9:00am - 3:30pm)**
Northcentral Technical College, Wausau
CBI 107 (Center for Business and Industry building)
-just past the Main Entrance on Campus Drive
Only \$40 for 6 training hours
to register: go to WFCCA website at: wisconsinfamilychildcare.org

Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards

A unique opportunity to understand and implement the WMELS into your early childhood setting.

- **Mondays, April 13, 20, 27 & May 4, 11 (6:00pm-9:00pm)**
Key to Life, Weston
\$40 / Register by Mon., April 6

Heartsaver CPR w/ AED

- **Monday, April 20 (6:00pm-9:00pm)**
Barrington Head Start, Wausau
\$47 fee (includes workbook & CPR card)
Register by Mon., April 13
Group Centers that have 8 staff needing training, contact Childcaring, Inc. the instructor may be able to come to your center. (Mileage rates may apply)

Caring Hands Brings You ...

Early Literacy: Sharing Stories with Infants and Toddlers

Presented by:

Kim Ropson, Children's Services Librarian, Marshfield Public Library
Kerry Preece, Head of Youth Services, McMillan Memorial Library
Focusing on birth to three, this training includes the Every Child Ready To Read curriculum and easy ways to "teach" early learning skills to these ages through a combination of talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing.

- **Wednesday, April 15 (6:30-8:30pm) • MSTC Auditorium, Wisconsin Rapids**
OR
- **Tuesday, May 19 (6:30-8:30pm) • Streitl Conference Center, Marshfield**
Training is free of charge, to register please contact Childcaring by phone at 715-423-4114 or 800-628-8534 or by email at: info@childcaring.org

Stewards of Children, Darkness to Light with Mandated Reporter Training

Stewards of Children is a sexual abuse prevention training program that educates adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. This training meets the licensing requirement for bi-annual child abuse and neglect.

- **Wednesday, April 22 (6:00pm-9:00pm)**
Langlade Hospital-Large Conf. Room, Antigo
\$15 / Register by Wed., April 15
- **Monday, Oct. 26 (6:00pm-9:00pm)**
Trinity Lutheran Church, Stevens Point
\$15/ Register by Mon., Oct. 19

Family Child Care

This class is designed specifically for the needs of family child care providers.

- **Tuesday, May 12 (6:00pm-9:00pm)**
Marshfield Clinic-East Wing, Marshfield
\$15 / Register by Tues., May 5
- **Tuesday, May 12 (6:00pm-9:00pm)**
United Way of Marathon County, Wausau
\$15 / Register by Tues., May 5

Presented in Hmong ~ Family Child Care & Caring for Infants and Toddlers

- **Saturday, September 5**
Northcentral Technical College-Room CBI 110, Wausau
Register by Fri., Aug. 28
Family Child Care (8:30am-11:30am)
This class is designed specifically for the needs of family child care providers.
Caring for Infants and Toddlers (12:30pm-3:30pm)
A training that focuses on the unique needs of infants and toddlers.
Registration Fees: Full Conference (lunch included) \$30
Family Child Care (excluding lunch) \$15
Caring for Infants and Toddlers (including lunch) \$15

Developmentally Appropriate Practice

Best practice knowledge of how children develop and learn in the early years. DAP is about what you do with that knowledge and how you do it.

- **Wednesday, June 10 (5:00pm-8:00pm)* note early time option**
United Way of Marathon County, Wausau
\$15 / Register by Wed., June 3

Child Portfolios

A workshop that will include information about the importance of portfolios and how to create one for your program.

- **Wednesday, June 10 (6:00pm-9:00pm)**
Streitel Conference Center, Marshfield
\$15 / Register by Wed., June 3

Caring for Infants and Toddlers

A training that focuses on the unique needs of infants and toddlers.

- **Tuesday, July 21 (6:00pm-9:00pm)**
YWCA Child Development Center, Wausau
\$15 / Register by Tues., July 14
- **Saturday, Oct. 17 (8:30am-11:30am)**
Rome Town Hall, Nekoosa
\$15 / Register by Fri., Oct. 9

Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care

Because mothers need ongoing support from child care providers to provide milk for their babies, child care programs are becoming breastfeeding friendly.

- **Thursday, September 10 (6:00pm-9:00pm)**
UW-Extension Taylor County, Medford
\$15 / Register by Thurs., Sept. 3

Mark Your Calendar for These Trainings:

ERS: It's the Process Not The Product-Art for the Preschool Classroom
Monday, Oct. 5 (6:00pm-9:00pm),
United Way of Marathon County, Wausau

Supporting Conversations about Race & Culture in Early Childhood Settings
Monday, Nov. 2 (6:00pm-9:00pm),
Childcaring, Inc., Wisc. Rapids

*** Childcaring provides trainings that align with YoungStar quality areas***

Childcaring Welcomes Susie Sandow as Quality Improvement Specialist

Hello, my name is Susie Sandow. I am a new Quality Improvement Specialist in the Wisconsin Rapids office. I have worked in the Early Childhood field for 30 years. Prior to this job, I worked for 2 years as a 4K and 5K teacher for the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools and before that I taught 4K and 5K for the School District of Menomonee Falls. I am also an adjunct ECE instructor for MSTC. I earned my undergraduate degree from UWSP and my master's degree from Viterbo University. I am excited to continue my work in the field of Early Childhood and to touch the lives of young children through their caregivers. My husband Louie and I have two grown children which made our relocation to Central Wisconsin easier. During my free time, I enjoy boating, biking, snowshoeing, reading, or shopping!



Last year SFTA and member Child Care Resource and Referral agencies, including Childcaring, trained over 1,600 parents, early childhood professionals, and community members in child abuse and neglect prevention. This year we invite adults across Wisconsin to help us top that number at 1,800, and to do their part to prevent child abuse and neglect by participating in our Small Change Makes a BIG Difference Teach-a-Thon.

"The goal of the Teach-a-Thon is to build awareness through trainings and information sharing and prepare adults to take action regarding child abuse and neglect prevention," said Kelly Borchardt, Childcaring Executive Director. "We know that early experiences set the stage for a child's life. By training more adults in strategies to prevent and put a stop to child abuse and neglect, we are setting more children up for success."

See the Training Opportunity page of this newsletter for upcoming Teach-a-Thon trainings. For more information visit: <http://supportingfamilies.together.org/small-change-makes-a-big-difference/>

Upcoming Children's Festivals:

April 11

- **Marshfield's Children's Festival**
Marshfield High School
9:30am-1:30pm
- **Merrill Children's Festival**
Merrill Area Recreation Complex
10:00am-2:00pm
- **Wausara County Blue Ribbon Kids Day**
Parkside School
8:30am-12:30pm
- **Wausau Children's Festival**
Marathon Park
9:00am-3:00pm
- **Adams County Kids Day**
Adams-Friendship High School
10:00am-2:00pm

April 25

- **Wisconsin Rapids Children's Festival**
Lincoln High School
10:00am-3:00pm

May 9

- **Marquette County Family Adventure Day**
Montello High School
10:00am-2:00pm

Childcare Physical Activity and Nutrition Program Gives Kids a Healthy Foundation

Good nutrition and plenty of physical activity are essential to a young child's growth and development. These behaviors begin early in life and are fostered by the environment in which children live and play. Because many children spend much of their day in childcare settings, you are essential to the development of healthy behaviors. Childcaring and Security Health Plan would like to offer you a FREE opportunity to work together with a Health Consultant to find ways to integrate more physical activity and healthier foods into their lives.

The Childcare Physical Activity and Nutrition Program is designed and proven to be user friendly, time and resource efficient, and easily integrated into your busy day. During a 4-6 month period of time you will work with your Health Consultant to fill out a self-assessment survey, set up goals according to your survey results, attend a training and educational opportunity to help meet your physical and activity nutrition goals, receive ongoing support and finally complete a post self-assessment.

For every step of the program your facility completes, you will receive incentives that will help you be successful in achieving your goals. Incentives may include placemats, plastic water bottles, and healthy cookbooks.

For more information or to participate in the program contact: Sarah Akena, MS, RD, Health Consultant / Phone: (715) 423-4114 or (800) 628-8534 / Email: sarah@childcaring.org



**Look for the
Childcaring Booth**



Friday, May 8, 2015

*Childcaring thanks you for all you do
in shaping the future of children.*

Start with your GOAL, then find your activities.

Start with your GOAL, then find your activity and adapt if necessary!
WMELS goal(s) is (are): A.EL.1 Expresses a wide range of emotions and/
or A.EL.2 Understands and responds to other's emotions.



Paper Plate Feelings

Tutusandteaparties.blogspot.com



Playdough Mat Booklet

indulgy.com



Feelings Parking Lot

<http://therapeuticinterventionsk-12.blogspot.com/2013/04/feelings-parking-lot.html>

Submitted by: Beth Pepper, CESA 9

Measles – What Early Childhood Programs Should Know

Tips for Programs

Review your policies, procedures and practices for:

- Vaccine requirements for children and staff;
- Children who develop measles, requirements to stay home, and their eventual return to the program;
- Daily health checks;
- Illness and return to work for volunteers and staff;
- Infection prevention and control (hand washing, sneezing technique, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, provision for isolation of ill children or staff while awaiting transport out of the child care setting);
- Appropriate staff coverage in the event of staff absences; and
- Family support during prolonged closure of programs.



Early childhood programs should consult their local health department and/or child care licensing agency to understand the guidance in their state and community and ensure that program policies are consistent with that guidance.

Communicate with Staff and Parents

- Communicate clearly to your staff, parents, and partners using up-to-date information, guidance, and resources, such as those from your local health department and Center for Disease Control (CDC).
- Explain that your program uses these trusted resources to develop and guide decision-making about your agency's health and safety policies.

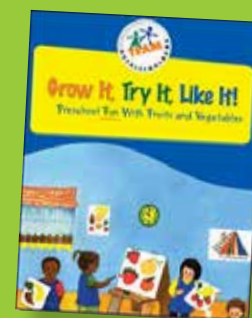
Know Your Children, Families and Staff

- Encourage vaccination of children, parents, and staff as recommended by CDC.
- Verify that each child is up-to-date on all required immunizations.
- Check vaccination records regularly to ensure that children stay up-to-date.
- Make sure you have a list of children who have not received recommended vaccines, particularly a measles vaccination – you will need this in the event of a case of measles in your facility.

For more measles information and recommendations for child care programs visit: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/licensed/pdf/measles_msg_acf.pdf

Healthy Choices Grow It, Try It, Like It!

Preschool Fun with Fruits and Vegetable is a FREE garden-themed nutrition education kit for child care center staff that introduces children to fruits and vegetables with hands-on activities, planting activities, and nutrition education activities that introduce MyPyramid for Preschoolers. Find this tool kit at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/team-nutrition> under the resource order form.



Wisconsin Rapids Office

1107 West Grand Avenue | Wisconsin Rapids | WI 54495

Merrill Office

407 West Main Street | Merrill | WI 54452



Xav tau kev pab pes/txhais daim ntauw xovxwm
no thov hu tuaj rau
Kao Lai Xiong 715-539-9779
Hnub Mondays - 9:30 txog 3:30pm.

May 1, 2015



Vision

For all Central Wisconsin children to benefit from the best child care possible.

2015 Childcaring Board of Directors

Ginny Rusch, President
Brad Gast, Vice President
Nick Faber, Treasurer
Allison Machtan, Secretary
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naeyc[®] WEEK of the YOUNG CHILD[™] April 12-18, 2015



For the past 20 years, Childcaring and the North Central Association for the Education of Young Children (NCAEYC) have coordinated a reception for regulated child care providers during the Week of the Young Child.

If your organization is interested in donating a door prize for the event, please contact Rachele at Childcaring, 715-539-9779.

As a contributor, your organization will be recognized at the event.

Remember, your donation is tax deductible! This is a great opportunity to recognize the many early childhood professionals that care for our children, our grandchildren, and our future generations.

Thank you for your generosity!

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Holiday Inn & Suites -

Crystal Ballroom I

1000 Imperial Ave ~ Rothschild, WI

Cost: \$15.00—payable to NCAEYC

Visit www.naeyc.org and become a member!

Sponsored by: NCAEYC & Childcaring, Inc.

For more information contact:

Childcaring, Inc. at 715-539-9779

5:45 PM - Check-In

6:00 PM - Cash Bar

6:15 PM - Dinner

7:00 PM - Entertainment by

The Backlot Comedy House

Scripted Sketch Comedy & Improv

8:00 PM - Wrap up and door prizes