

Child Nursery Centers

Legacy and Vision Women's Giving Circle

Legacy and Vision Women's Giving Circle was established in 2000 to mark the new millennium with this unique way of supporting the children and families of the Child Nursery Centers. Women's giving circles are growing in this country because, increasingly, women recognize the value and efficacy of a collective response to society's challenges. Women who become involved with Legacy and Vision do so for three main reasons: 1) to be connected to an established organization that has been making a difference in lives of children for over 100 years; 2) to advance our mission of providing a quality and meaningful first start for children from limited income and working families; 3) to have fun and celebrate a common bond of philanthropy. Three social events are held each year along with an educational program regarding philanthropy. Legacy and Vision members contribute a minimum of \$1,000 annually.

Legacy and Vision was inspired by Alice Bemis Taylor our most important benefactor. Mrs. Taylor's generosity was marked by her numerous philanthropic contributions to our community. Mrs. Taylor was one of the fourteen founding mothers of the Child Nursery Centers in 1897 (known then as the Day Nursery Association). She was our Board President from 1915-1922. She donated the funds and supervised the construction of our Historic Day Nursery, which was dedicated in 1923, so that the work of our organization would continue in a permanent home. The building was "completely equipped for the comfort, sheltering and care of children of working mothers. The building was designed and executed with painstaking care to create a refuge of beauty, wonder, and imagination in the lives of children who had little or none" (Alice Bemis Taylor, Julia Wills, 2005).

Mrs. Taylor's vision and legacy remain in place today at our five centers. Our comprehensive, high-quality Early Care and Education Program Model is a 'whole child' approach to early learning. It has five integrated and equally important components: a literature rich, literacy focused curriculum, The Storybook Journey; a comprehensive health and balanced nutrition program; parent involvement activities; professional development for classroom staff; and outcome measurements to evaluate progress and accountability. Our sliding fee scale and partnerships help insure that our services are affordable for all.

*While our mission is clearly about improving the quality of life for children, our services are designed to support parents and families. Two-thirds of our children are being raised by single parents (mostly women) who are working or going to school. The challenges these families face are awesome and more often than not they don't know where to turn for support and guidance. Knowing that parents are their children's first and best teachers, we want to **educate, engage, and empower** them to be strong advocates for their children. For more information, please call Adele Faber, VP of Development at (719) 632-1754 Ext. 23).*