OUR MISSION

Strengthening children and families by improving the quality of their lives through a comprehensive approach to development, education, health and well-being.

Through the support of the community and donors like YOU, Children First has been fulfilling the mission of strengthening families and preparing children for Kindergarten since 1961.

As Sarasota County’s designated Head Start provider, Children First serves over 600 of the county’s most at-risk children, ages birth to five, and their families. With programs designed to minimize the effects of poverty, Children First offers an array of early childhood and parenting programs.

Children First is proud to boast recognition as a Head Start Program of Excellence. This honor is due to the tremendous support of our donors and community partners.
We welcome you to our 2011 Annual Report. Thank you for truly putting Children First!
Your support allows Children First to provide full-day early childhood programs to over 600 low-income children, ages birth to five, in Sarasota County.

As the Head Start & Early Head Start provider we offer curriculums that stimulate children’s cognitive, physical and emotional development.

**Early Head Start**
Early Head Start promotes healthy prenatal outcomes, strengthens family functioning and nurtures the development of infants and toddlers from birth to three years of age. Our programs enhance children’s physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development.

**Head Start**
Head Start focuses on the comprehensive needs of children three to five years of age resulting in Kindergarten Readiness. Children First provides for each child’s educational, health, social and developmental needs in a stimulating and nurturing environment. As a Program of Excellence, Children First ranks in the top 1% of Head Start programs in the country.

“We strongly support Children First’s focus on early education opportunities through the Head Start programs. We can think of no better way to ensure the success of a child in school and positively affect the entire life path of that child than by nurturing them at this earliest, most fragile and most amazing of ages.”

—Wayne & Mindy Rollins
Your support provides each child with a delicious and healthy breakfast, lunch and snack everyday.

Children First provides over fifty percent of a child’s weekly nutritional needs. You ensure that growing minds and bodies are healthy and that families are provided with the tools necessary to make nutritious, well-balanced meals in their homes.

Your involvement allows every child to receive developmental and health assessments from trained professionals. It is important to identify any developmental challenges at an early age, allowing the opportunity to provide families with appropriate resources to serve a child’s specific needs. YOU give families what they deserve!

“One of the many precious missions of Children First is making sure children are served nutritious food. As a mom and a nurse, I know how important good nutrition is to proper mental and physical development. This is just one of the many reasons I support Children First.”

— KRISTINE WHITE
Family Support

Beyond the classroom, your support allows Children First to provide each family with the resources needed to achieve self-sufficiency.

These resources allow us to provide every family with a Family Advocate who helps the parents create an action plan with educational and occupational goals. The Advocate serves as a foundation of support for families in need of referrals for food, clothing, employment, education, or health care. YOU are giving parents the gift of learning to support their family and be their child’s greatest advocate.

Additionally, your generosity has also enabled Children First to establish the Families First Institute which offers classes including:
- Nurturing Dads
- Career Readiness for Moms
- Second Time Around: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Money Smart
- Five Essential Keys to Better Behavior
- Positive Solutions for Families

“We support Children First because the ‘head start’ it provides children is just the beginning. Children First also provides parents, grandparents and other caregivers with the parenting education and support they need to help raise confident, successful kids. That makes all the difference.”

— BROCK & JULIE LEACH
Your support ensures that we have the most qualified and nurturing professionals to educate our community’s most vulnerable children.

Children First boast staff who not only exceed the mandated requirements in terms of staff qualifications, but are the most kind and compassionate caregivers.

YOU open a world of opportunities for our staff by continuously providing trainings and the attainment of degrees. Your commitment to Children First produces staff members of the highest caliber.

“We feel that ongoing education for all of the Children First employees is essential. Education serves as the foundation for understanding both the type and delivery method for services that are needed to best serve children and families. Children First is an exemplary model of supportive staff education and training within a positive work environment.”

— LACY & JACKIE RAY
Legacy Gifts

Through a Legacy Gift you will make a lasting impact on the lives of hundreds of children and families. Your gift can reflect your lifelong values and beliefs while supporting Children First.

A Planned Gift can also benefit your family by:
- Realizing larger tax savings through gifts of stock.
- Making a gift that costs nothing during your lifetime.
- Generating income for life in return for your gift.

“Our legacy gift honors our beloved son, Eric, and contributes substantially to the well-being of the precious children that Children First serves. Giving a legacy is like having a garden where you tend and water the seeds and watch them bloom. Our legacy will help the young ‘seedlings’ of our future to be educated thereby making not only a difference in their lives but in the growth and prosperity of our future.”

— TED & ETHNA WISHNIE
CO-FOUNDEDS OF THE ERIC WISHNIE FUND
THANK YOU for helping us GROW!
CHILDREN FIRST
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Donor list includes those who donated $50 or more.

* Deceased
Head Start Program

Children First program sites are at full enrollment, serving families who meet the eligibility requirements for Head Start. The eligibility guidelines require families to meet federal poverty guidelines, which are based on income level and family size. Each family is then prioritized for enrollment based on the individual needs.

**Children Served**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Early Head Start</th>
<th>Head Start</th>
<th>Early Childhood Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>345</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percent of Eligible Children Served**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Early Head Start</th>
<th>Head Start</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Average Monthly Enrollment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Early Head Start</th>
<th>Head Start</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outcomes

Ongoing assessments take place throughout the year to ensure children reach developmental milestones appropriate for their age and stage of development.

**Language Development Infants/Toddlers**

- Beginning of Year: 69% meet or exceed expectations
- End of Year: 97% meet or exceed expectations

**Social/Emotional Infants/Toddlers**

- Beginning of Year: 87% meet or exceed expectations
- End of Year: 100% meet or exceed expectations

**Literacy Preschool/Pre-kindergarten**

- Beginning of Year: 76% meet or exceed expectations
- End of Year: 95% meet or exceed expectations

**Mathematics Pre-kindergarten**

- Beginning of Year: 50% meet or exceed expectations
- End of Year: 90% meet or exceed expectations

We serve over 600 children through out Sarasota County.

Children First ranks in the top 1% of all Head Start programs nationwide.

There have been over 1,600 graduates in the nurturing dads initiative.

For every dollar raised there is a $4 match.

100% of the children we serve have disabilities.

13% of children receive developmental, hearing, vision, medical, and dental screenings within 45 days of enrollment.

Children First provides over 50% of our children’s weekly nutritional needs.
Statement of Activities and Changes to Net Assets  
Year Ended December 31, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT</th>
<th>UNRESTRICTED</th>
<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal grant revenue</td>
<td>$4,071,269</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,071,269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Recovery Reinvestment Act</td>
<td>1,237,085</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,237,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract revenue</td>
<td>1,381,020</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,381,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions &amp; other</td>
<td>665,292</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>677,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way allocations</td>
<td>123,890</td>
<td>120,041</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>243,931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program fees</td>
<td>123,423</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>123,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind contributions</td>
<td>533,929</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>533,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events - net of direct expenses of $61,869 and $94,233</td>
<td>146,811</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>146,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; investment income</td>
<td>23,050</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>23,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expriation of time/use restrictions</td>
<td>$214,918</td>
<td>($213,649)</td>
<td>(1,269)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenues, gains &amp; other support</td>
<td>8,520,687</td>
<td>(81,608)</td>
<td>(1,095)</td>
<td>8,437,984</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXPENSES

**Program services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>UNRESTRICTED</th>
<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>2,496,236</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,496,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Head Start</td>
<td>1,836,536</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,836,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
<td>1,214,010</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,214,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families First Initiative</td>
<td>58,917</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>58,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Grants</td>
<td>671,866</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>671,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARRA</td>
<td>1,254,319</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,254,319</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Supporting Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>UNRESTRICTED</th>
<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; general</td>
<td>771,442</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>771,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>305,538</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>305,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>8,608,864</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,608,864</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Change in net assets                                           | (88,177)     | (81,608)               | (1,095)                | (170,880) |

Net assets at beginning of year                                | 4,507,104    | 218,209                | 7,129                  | 4,732,442 |

Net assets at end of year                                      | $4,418,927   | 136,601                | 6,034                  | 4,561,562 |

Change in net assets of ($170,880) includes non-cash expense depreciation in the amount of $237,419.
Data from 2011 Independent Financial Audit.

Financials

- Revenue Sources: Federal Awards $5,259,428, Local Grants $1,623,394, Contributions & Special Events $598,113, Other $117,634
- Expenses By Function: Program $7,531,884, Administration $771,442, Fund Raising $305,538, United Way $243,931

![Revenue Sources](chart1.png)

![Expenses By Function](chart2.png)
Thank you for supporting Children First and making a difference in the lives of hundreds of children and families!
Children First has multiple locations throughout Sarasota County, giving us the advantage of being easily accessible to children and families in need.

**Children First Main Campus**
1723 N. Orange Ave  
Sarasota, FL 34234

**Brentwood Elementary**
2500 Vinson Avenue  
Sarasota, FL 34232

**Dalbeck EHS Center**
2036 Oak Street  
Sarasota, FL 34237

**Emma E. Booker Elementary**
2350 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way  
Sarasota, FL 34234

**Helen Payne Annex**
1742 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way  
Sarasota, FL 34234

**Helen Payne Center**
1729 33rd Street  
Sarasota, FL 34234

**North Port Campus**
6926 Children Way  
North Port, FL 34287

**R.O.S.S. Center**
1912 North Orange Avenue  
Sarasota, FL 34234

**Venice Main Campus**
800 Gulf Coast Blvd  
Venice, FL 34285

**CHILD CARE COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

**School Board of Sarasota County**
Cyesis – Sarasota  
Cyesis – North Port

**Catholic Charities**
St. Martha’s Early Learning Center  
Our Mother’s House

Document supported by the Department of Health & Human Services.

**CONTACT US:**  [WWW.CHILDRENFIRST.NET](http://WWW.CHILDRENFIRST.NET)  941.953.3877