

Early
Learning.

LONG-TERM SUCCESS.

2018

ANNUAL
REPORT





OUR VISION:

All children in Greater Houston have the high-quality early learning opportunities they need to achieve their full potential.

OUR MISSION:

We meaningfully improve the quality of early childhood education and care for Greater Houston's children through those who are most influential in their lives.

Message from the President and CEO



Growing up in a small town in Alabama, I attended a school system in which it was common to find the names of relatives from past generations scrawled inside textbook covers. I studied from the same tattered schoolbooks my parents studied from as children. I know firsthand what it is like to be a student in an under-resourced learning environment.

My mother was a schoolteacher, so education was a priority for my siblings and me. I remember at a young age questioning my teachers about classroom lessons. I always believed there was more that I should be learning. That might explain why I loved field trips so much. Visiting the George Washington Carver Museum, the Tuskegee Institute National Historic site and other historic places gave me the opportunity to see how creative, exciting and intriguing learning can be.

Since taking the helm at Collaborative for Children in July 2018, I am acutely aware of how important it is to infuse these same concepts into early childhood education. All Greater Houston-area children, particularly those in under-resourced neighborhoods, deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential. That can only happen when we expose children to rich learning environments, ones that help improve student outcomes through high-quality teaching, curriculum, and – in today's global economy – high-tech learning tools.

127,983 CHILDREN SERVED | 42,804 FAMILIES SERVED

I never intended to pursue a career in education. With a parent educator, I wanted to get as far away from education as I could. However, I loved learning. In college, I studied international business and then hospitality management before the education bug finally bit me and inspired me to earn a doctorate degree in education. From there, I trained teachers, taught students, developed educational programs and even transformed a children's museum into an interactive learning environment.

It seems my life's journey was destined for me to be where I am today – leading an agency with a mission to meaningfully improve the quality of early childhood education for all young children. In 2018, Collaborative for Children served more than 127,000 children and affected more than 42,000 families. Over its 32-year history, the agency has had an impact on an estimated 1.5 million children and families. Our agency continues to work relentlessly to remove barriers and provide the resources children need to succeed in school and in life.

The same strong values will hoist us into the future, even if our methodology appears different and adapted to contemporary challenges. I thank you for supporting our children. Every dollar you invest today prepares them for the workforce of tomorrow and sustains the viability of our local community and economy.

With gratitude,

Melanie Johnson

Melanie Johnson, Ed.D.
President and CEO

A Note from the Board Chair



As a proud board member for the past six years, I am always delighted to expound how Collaborative for Children and its team of early childhood consultants and trainers help to improve the quality of early learning in the Greater Houston area. Every day they are where the children are – in the child care classrooms and in families’ homes – working with the people who are most influential in their lives to improve student outcomes.

In 2018, nearly 23,000 child care directors and teachers received professional development with Collaborative for Children’s assistance, an increase over the previous year. Quality teachers are essential for preparing our young children to enter school ready to learn. They, along with parents, help form a solid foundation for student success in school.

Collaborative for Children also helped additional child care centers become certified as Texas Rising Star centers, increasing the total number of centers in the Greater Houston area in 2018. These centers have met or exceeded minimum standards for a licensed child care center as part of the state’s quality rating improvement system. This achievement has long-term benefits for both our children and our community.

The agency continued its work with child care centers participating in its College Bound from Birth program. Staff provided directors and teachers with one-on-one training, coaching and mentoring, and other on-site quality improvement interventions at centers in five underserved neighborhoods. With 75% of Houston’s residents living in a quality child care desert, this growing program is making headway toward filling the gap.

Additionally, staff worked with parents through College Bound from Birth, providing parenting sessions and family activity nights, and through the agency’s Parents as Teachers program, which provides parents with in-home child development support. Parents are a child’s first teacher, so giving them positive parenting skills and other tools necessary to nurture their child’s early learning is important.

All of these efforts help remove barriers to high-quality early learning and give children a chance to have bright futures. Your generous support, year after year, makes it possible for Collaborative for Children to carry out its mission. I hope you will tell others about the great work this agency is doing for our most precious resource – our young children. Maybe they, too, will become a supporter.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Sayavedra". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura Sayavedra
Board Chair
Enbridge

Table of Contents

3	Message from President and CEO
4	A Note from the Board Chair
6	Agency Impact
7	Our Programs: By the Numbers
9	Financials
11	Donor Appreciation
13	Leadership
15	Invest in Early Childhood Education

Collaborative for Children provides direct services through our model of continuous improvement to affect positive change in early childhood education. Our model is a holistic approach that leverages technology, excellence in all sectors, and other tools that equip parents and teachers to help young children achieve stronger student outcomes that lead to long-term success.

The Problem:

Too many Greater Houston-area children enter kindergarten unprepared to learn. At the same time, there is an insufficient supply of affordable, high-quality early childhood education and care in the Greater Houston area, which is detrimental to the success of both today and tomorrow's workforce.

The Solution:

Greater community and business investment in early childhood education to help remove barriers and increase access, and to improve the quality of early learning throughout the Greater Houston area.

IMPACT

Every day is an opportunity for Collaborative for Children to give a child a chance for a bright future. That is why we work with diligence to achieve our mission through shoulder-to-shoulder collaboration. Our consultants and trainers:

- Coach and mentor teachers in their classrooms.
- Provide parents with child development support and education in their homes.
- Invite parents and teachers to our classrooms for education and training.
- Work with directors/owners in their child centers to help them build sustainable businesses, strengthening the child-care system.



127,983 children served.



and counting...

Quality Improvement

Our programs help develop high-quality child care centers with highly skilled early childhood educators to improve student outcomes.

Highlights →



274

child care centers and registered in-home centers certified in the Texas Rising Star quality rating improvement system after completing a rigorous application and assessment with help from our team. Each center continues to receive ongoing mentoring.

22,676

child care directors and teachers received professional development training.

17,890

training hours completed by teachers whose child care centers participated in all programs.

10,781

hours spent coaching and mentoring child care directors and teachers in all programs.

Family Engagement

Parents/caregivers are their children's first teachers. We help them understand the importance of quality early learning; recognize what quality learning is; and find quality care and education for their children. Additionally, we empower families to nurture their young children's learning by helping them to create quality learning environments at home right from the start.

Highlights →



29,651

searches made through FindChildCareNow.org, our online database of child care providers.

10,521

parents/caregivers and educators received information about our services or other topics related to positive childhood development.

1,169

parents/caregivers participated in education opportunities to improve parenting skills.

213

parents received in-home child development support through our Parents as Teachers program.

2018

ANNUAL REPORT

Response, Recovery and Resilience

After Hurricane Harvey in 2017, Collaborative for Children developed a Response, Recovery and Resilience program to help damaged child care centers in underserved areas recover from the storm.

In 2018, we initiated phase two of the program linking immediate recovery assistance with long-term quality improvement initiatives to ensure Greater Houston’s child care system comes back stronger than before the storm.

Highlights →

536 child care providers received financial assistance.

639 trainings completed

534 damage assessments completed

2,417 Child care providers assessed.

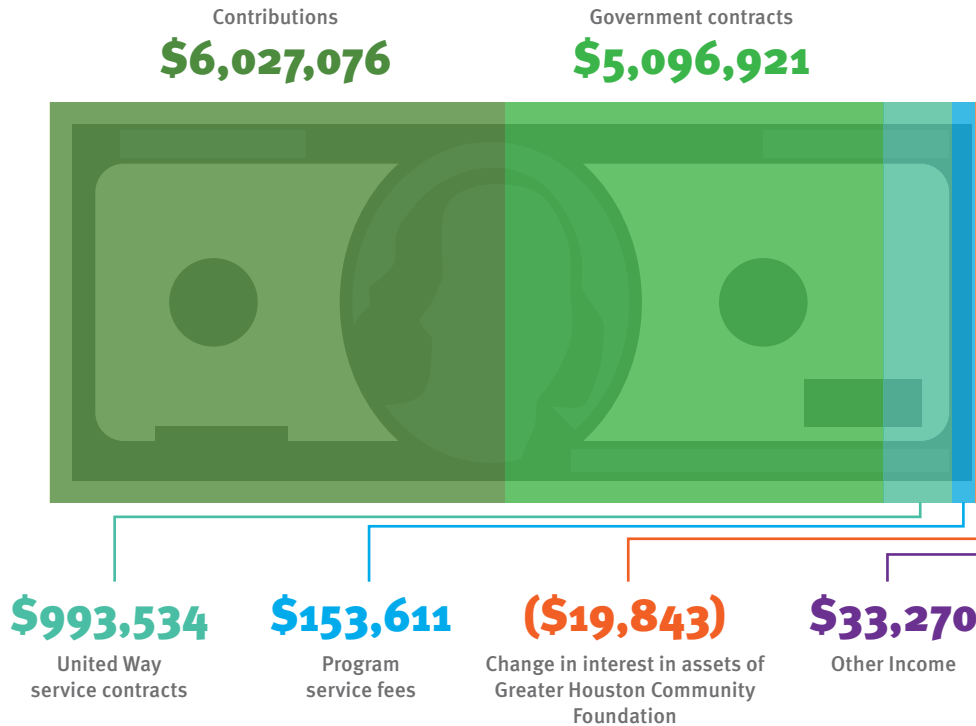
\$3.5 Million
in financial assistance allocated.



Summary of Operations

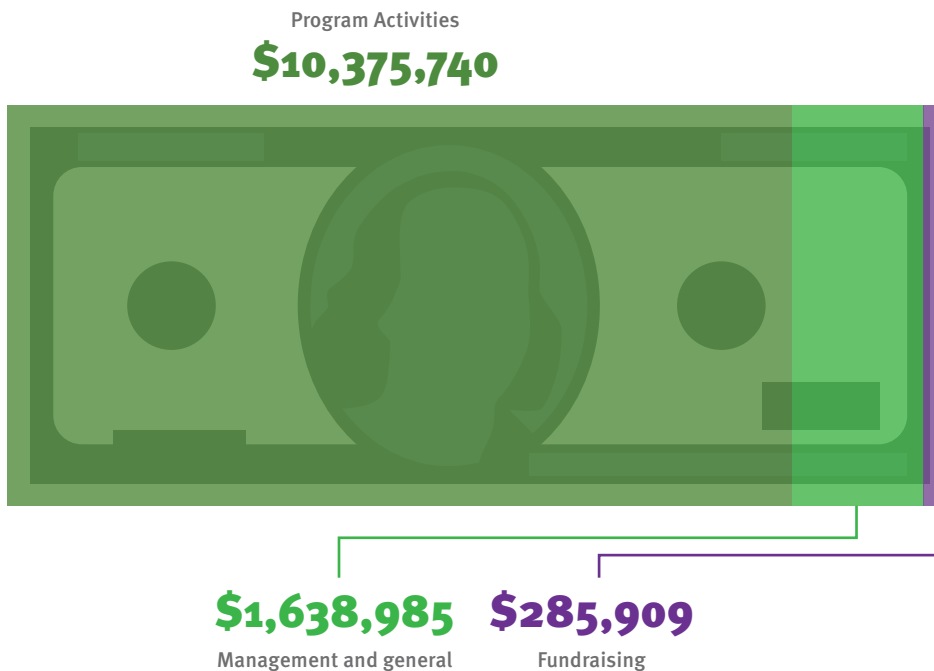
Total Revenue

\$12,284,569



Total Expenses

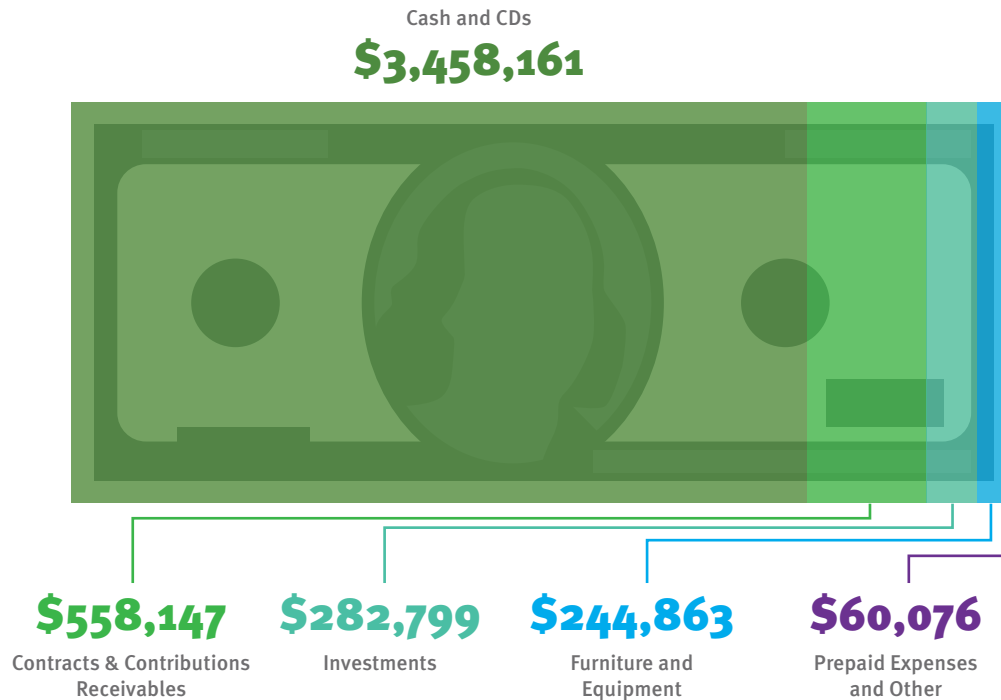
\$12,300,634



Summary of Financial Position

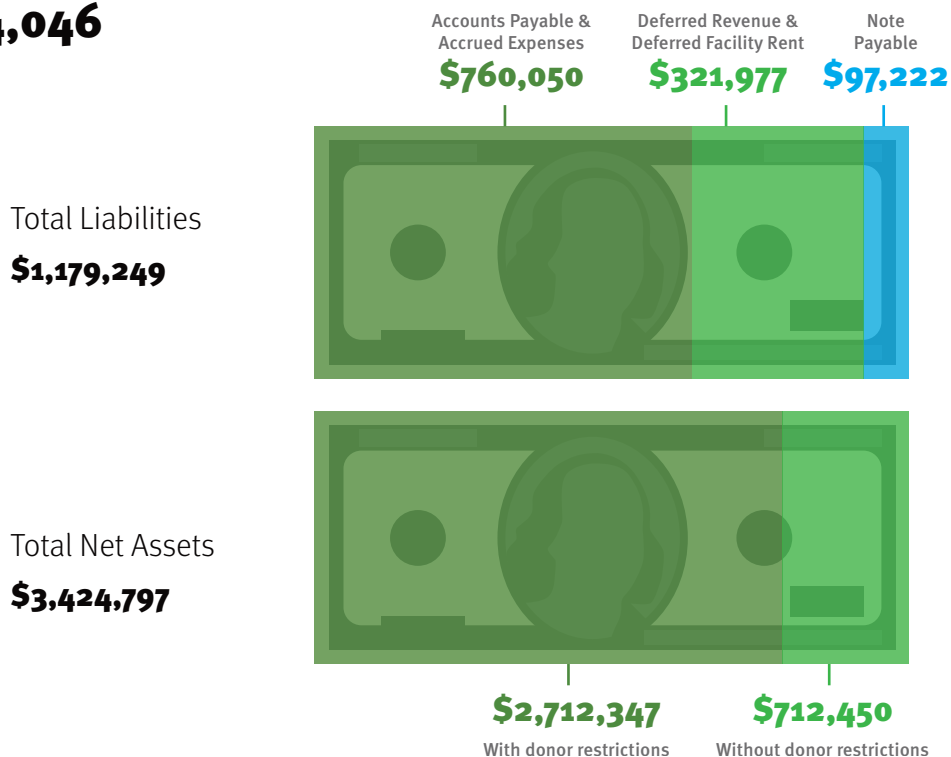
Total Assets

\$4,604,046



Total Liabilities And Net Assets

\$4,604,046



Our work is possible because of the generous financial support of donors who believe in the agency's mission.

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WHY INVEST in early childhood education?

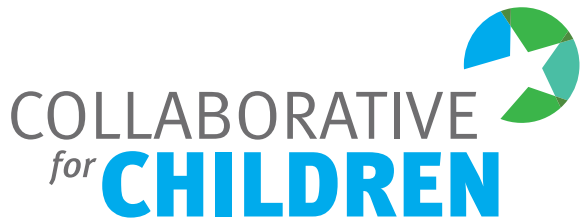
Early childhood education is the only institution with the most potential to produce improved educational outcomes for children.



INVEST in early Childhood Education

2018

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