Hanna Perkins Center for Child Development

a good start lasts a lifetime

2018 Annual Report
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Dear Friends:

Welcome to the Hanna Perkins Center for Child Development’s 2018 Annual Report (fiscal year ended June 30, 2018). This report recognizes our generous donors for their continued support of the work being done with children, families and early childhood professionals in the community.

It has been a productive year, and we have much to share.

We continue to expand our services in Northeast Ohio through collaborations and partnerships. Our Community Engagement Department has expanded its programming, and is providing services in four public schools: Bedford, Cleveland Heights-University Heights, Mayfield Heights and Shaker Heights.

The *My Mad Feelings* bullying prevention program is expanding, and was presented to educators at the 2019 annual conference of the Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children (OAEYC).

The Hadden Clinic is reporting a 53 percent increase in the number of patient visits compared to the same period last year.

Hanna Perkins School received designation as an Ohio Healthy Program — recognition for going above and beyond licensing requirements for providing healthy habits, menus and policies. We are dedicated to the health and wellness of the children attending our school.

The Hanna Perkins Grandmothers, a group of wise early-childhood development experts who have long associations here, completed their book, *Timeless Advice for Parents of Young Children*. It provides advice and guidance for understanding children's behavior and responding effectively.

Thank you for recognizing the importance of the work we do every day. It is your generous support that allows us to impact the lives of the children and families that we serve.

With deepest gratitude,

John Potts
Board President

Karen Baer
CEO
Early childhood is a short period that sets a lifelong foundation for learning, working, forming healthy relationships and enjoying life. Founded in 1951, non-profit Hanna Perkins works with parents, educators and mental health professionals to support healthy social-emotional development during this important time.

OUR VISION
A world where every child is listened to, understood and helped.

OUR MISSION
Early childhood experiences shape a person’s entire life. To foster the emotional well-being of children and their families and to help them master life’s challenges, Hanna Perkins Center for Child Development promotes positive early learning experiences through educational and therapeutic services for children and parents; training and support for professionals; and community-wide collaborations.

OUR SERVICES
HANNA PERKINS SCHOOL offering state-chartered kindergarten, preschool, parent/toddler program and EPIC Early Learning for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

HADDEN CLINIC providing mental health assessment, counseling and therapy from birth to 18; and treatment for new moms struggling with postpartum depression.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
• Parent education and support through programs, workshops and consultation.
• Training and consulting with schools and early learning centers.
• Continuing education for early learning educators, social workers, mental health professionals and others who work with children on a daily basis.
• Community Outreach through My Mad Feelings bullying prevention curriculum and other programs.

CHILD PSYCHOANALYTIC TRAINING in partnership with the Cleveland Psychoanalytic Center.
People who know Hanna Perkins are familiar with our gentle and effective approach to working with children and families. Part of our culture since 1951, it’s often referred to as The HP Way. It means:

We see each child as a complete person with inner thoughts that need to be recognized and respected.

We understand behavior as communication, providing a means to begin understanding a child’s inner thoughts and needs.

We give voice to feelings and thoughts, providing a basis for emotional mastery that is a foundation for success in school and life.

We take whatever time is needed for a child to achieve this foundation of emotional intelligence.

We provide help to support fruitful development and a lifetime of emotional wellbeing.

We involve family, supporting parents in the hard work they do, and recognizing that members of a family are all interdependent.

For some families, The HP Way provides a helpful resource. For others it’s a lifeline. At Hanna Perkins, it is the heartbeat of everything we do.
THE GREAT GIFT OF BEING ALLOWED TO HAVE FEELINGS

By Austin Ratner

When I entered the Hanna Perkins preschool in the 1970s, I was more than a little afraid. I’m sure I clung to my mother as you might to a tree in a tsunami. My father had just died, and throughout my childhood a separation or an unfamiliar place would often stir up a tragic feeling.

The first thing I remember about Hanna Perkins is that I had no need to hide such feelings there. Like the big world into which I was taking my first small steps, the feelings themselves were very big, sometimes unpredictable, and “hard to manage,” as I recall some preschool teachers putting it. They understood feelings and honored them by acknowledging them, and by granting a child a little bit of sovereignty in the face of this big, overpowering world and the big, overpowering feelings it inspires. At first, while I got comfortable at Hanna Perkins, my mother stayed nearby and the teachers gave me a bit of control. They said I could get her if I needed to. What a rare gift—to compromise with the needs of a child instead of trying to legislate those needs out of him on behalf of a nervous morality.

Freedom must have limits, of course. You had to wear snow pants if you wanted to play outside on the playground. It was Cleveland, after all. One day I showed up without my snow pants. They offered me some extra snow pants to wear. I refused. I was not going to wear some unknown snow pants with their foreign smells and textures. But the world could not be stopped from spinning on its axis so that I might have my own snow pants in time to go outside. The teachers tried and tried to convince me to wear their alien snow pants, but I chose to sit and cry until outside time was over. If nothing else, I had a right to my tears.

Later I praised Hanna Perkins to my mother because “You’re allowed to cry there.” The lesson was to acknowledge feeling instead of stuffing it down into the dark places where emotions fester, only to erupt in unhealthy ways. Acknowledging feelings and understanding their protean manifestations, I’ve come to think, helps liberate a person from the unreasonable dominion of emotion. Hanna Perkins helped liberate me from the darkness.

But it did more than that. Hanna Perkins was my first experience of the world outside my family. It was an ordered world, an empathic world, a rational, kind, just, and well-lit world that made me optimistic toward human institutions. I felt like a success at Hanna Perkins, and carried on in my schooling with the expectation of success. I remember Hanna Perkins teachers like Iris Harlan and Barbara Streeter with trust.
and affection. Inhuman forces like time and cancer could murder my father, but the human community could be a fairer, brighter place.

I went on to excel at school and eventually graduated from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. But I also knew my own heart, and when it came time to make the difficult decision to leave medicine and become a full-time writer, I dared to try. I moved to New York, struggled, published, got married, and started my own family in an unfamiliar city. I have two boys of whom I could not be prouder, even when they refuse to wear snow pants. I feel I owe so much to Hanna Perkins and I wish the many other schools where I have attended and sent my own boys could be more like it. It was a light in the darkness when I most needed it.

Austin Ratner is author of the novels *In the Land of the Living* and *The Jump Artist*, winner of the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature; and the non-fiction book *The Psychoanalyst’s Aversion to Proof.* He lives in Brooklyn, NY.

ALUMNI NETWORK

Hanna Perkins has launched an alumni network to support our current relationships with parents as their children move on to other schools, and to rekindle old relationships with those who benefited from their time with Hanna Perkins.

In its early stages, the network is served by a page on the Hanna Perkins website and a self-managed group on Facebook (facebook.com/groups/hannaperkins/).

Joining the network is free through an online sign-up form (hannaperkins.org/alumni). It’s open to parents; adult former students; analytic candidates and trainees; past staff, board members and associates; and alumni of Malvern Elementary School.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Activity by the Community Engagement Division grew throughout fiscal 2018 and has continued, with the training staff providing a record 47 programs through the first half of fiscal 2019. They reached 1,825 students, 472 teachers and 88 parents.

Programs include student enrichment; parent education; consultation with schools and childcare centers; and continuing education for early childhood educators (Ohio Approved Hours) and social workers (CEUs through CSWMFT).

In response to rising enrollment of infants and toddlers in Northeast Ohio childcare facilities, the Community Engagement Division developed a new series of Ohio Approved courses focusing on toddler issues.

Working under a grant through Starting Point – Northeast Ohio’s non-profit child care, early education and out-of-school time resource and referral agency – Hanna Perkins began providing training to operators of Family Child Care Homes (FCCH). These are small, independent early-learning programs that operate from family homes and receive little outside support or attention. While licensed, many are located in low-income neighborhoods and lack funding to obtain on-site training. Hanna Perkins trainings have been well received, earning evaluation ratings of 4.8–5, with the providers often sharing success stories after implementing ideas learned during training.

Community Partners

- BEDFORD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
- BEREA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
- CLEVELAND HEIGHTS-UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
- CHABAD JEWISH CENTER OF SOLON
- EARLY CHILDHOOD ENRICHMENT CENTER
- FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES
- GLENVIEW CENTER FOR CHILDCARE & LEARNING
- HEBREW ACADEMY OF CLEVELAND
- INVEST IN CHILDREN
- JEWISH EDUCATION CENTER OF CLEVELAND
- MAGGIE’S PLACE
- MAYFIELD CITY SCHOOLS
- THE MUSIC SETTLEMENT
- PARK PRESCHOOL
- SHAKER HEIGHTS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
- STARTING POINT
- YABI NURSERY AND CHILDCARE
- YWCA OF GREATER CLEVELAND

HANNA PERKINS SCHOOL

Hanna Perkins School completed the requirements for Ohio Healthy School certification, a program managed by the Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association in conjunction with the state Department of Health and Department of Education.

Ohio Healthy programs participate in special trainings that focus on making healthy habits part of playtime, school and mealtimes. The certification promotes active, fun and safe learning; tasty, healthy, kid-friendly meals, snacks and drinks; helping children learn about healthy behaviors and choices; and development of activities and resources for families.
In fiscal 2018, our innovative bullying prevention program for young children was offered at Urban Community School, and renewed for a third year in preschool classes of the Shaker Heights City School District. Hanna Perkins provided teacher training in the program at the 2019 annual conference of the Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children (OAEYC).

Data collected over three years indicate children who have completed My Mad Feelings (MMF) engage in fewer conflicts with peers, have fewer aggressive interactions and outbursts, and spend more time building relationships and engaging in conflict resolution. Early Learning Assessments showed student growth in all four assessment realms of emotional development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EARLY LEARNING ASSESSMENT AREA</th>
<th>% OF STUDENTS SHOWING IMPROVEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awareness and expression of emotion</td>
<td>60.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship with adults</td>
<td>48.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation with peers</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>35.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teachers reported that the program provided them with new tools to help students identify and manage feelings, and confidence to solve specific issues arising in the classroom.

Among parents, 100 percent stated their child was able to share and recall details of each week’s story; 75 percent reported their child could identify emotions expressed by others, use words or gestures to describe feelings, and attend to the emotional needs of others.

MMF has long-term potential to diminish bullying, help behavior problems inside and outside the classroom, lower rates of discipline up to and including expulsion, and reduce the use of special needs services. It serves as the beginning of a conversation about anger that addresses the root cause of bullying, and other aggressive and violent acts that have become a problem without a solution in our community – including school shootings.
The Hadden Clinic had its third consecutive year of significant growth, and implemented new operational procedures to increase cash flows, improve service for current families, and prepare for additional growth.

Dedicated to providing excellent clinical services to children from birth to age 18, the mental-health clinic is a unique community resource. Its specialty is work with very young children (ages 6 and under) and their families – particularly those with severe disturbances and behavior issues who have been unable to find treatment elsewhere in the community.

Patient visits grew 53 percent, driven by increased referrals from pediatricians, early childhood professionals and health insurance companies for such issues as separation anxiety, response to early medical procedures, and threatened expulsions from childcare centers and preschool.

Nearly 40 percent of the children and families served are from Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, Euclid and South Euclid.

By leveraging the full capacity of our Electronic Medical Records system, service-to-billing time has been cut to an average of just four days, while receivables older than 120 days have been reduced to 20 percent.

To address a chronic shortage of therapists who work with young children, the Hadden Clinic has created an apprentice therapist program, funded through a generous grant from the Abington Foundation. The program will increase the Clinic’s capacity while providing post-graduate training focused on patient care rather than meeting caseload quotas. Upon completion of the program, it is anticipated the apprentice will continue with the Clinic in a full-time contract position.

In addition to her role as clinical director, Dr. Kimberly Bell, Ph.D., has increased the Hadden Clinic’s community presence through outside affiliations. She is the John A. Hadden, Jr., MD Professorship in Psychoanalytic Child Development at the School of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University; holds a secondary appointment as a clinical faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry at University Hospitals; is an adjunct professor in the Department of Education at John Carroll University; and serves on the Ohio Crisis Response Team.
Published in 2018, *Timeless Advice for Parents of Young Children* is a compilation of the thoughtful and wise parenting columns written by the Hanna Perkins Grandmothers. It’s available through Amazon, at select local book stores, and at our own front desk. It also helps to raise visibility and understanding of the work Hanna Perkins does.

The Grandmothers are Maria Kaiser, Ginny Steininger, Georgianna Roberts, Kathy Smith Baker, and, as a consultant, Hanna Perkins Education Director Barbara Streeter. They have generously donated their share of sales to support Hanna Perkins Center. In April 2018, they were honored with the Hadden Award for their lifelong contributions to children, families and Hanna Perkins.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**VIRGINIA STEININGER**

Ginny Steininger was a longtime friend of Hanna Perkins and a tireless advocate for young children. She died in August 2018 at 89. Her career in early childhood education included 16 years as education director at Hanna Perkins. After retiring, she maintained an affiliation here for the rest of her life. She and four other colleagues were recognized with the Hadden Award in April 2018 for their years of service to Hanna Perkins. Their book, *Timeless Advice for Parents of Young Children*, was published two weeks before her death.

**BARBARA BECKER**

Barbara Becker joined Hanna Perkins as Director of Development in February 2019 and died in an auto accident on March 30. She was 52. A skilled fundraiser, Becker made the most of her short time at Hanna Perkins. She took charge of all aspects of fundraising and development, and had quickly mobilized staff and volunteer resources to meet ambitious goals. She had genuine enthusiasm for Hanna Perkins’ work, and had shared with her family that she felt at home here from her first day on the job.
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE

Endowment $ 198,677
Development 381,181
School 198,172
Clinic 93,488
Community Engagement 138,234
Events 128,157
Investments 66,993

TOTAL REVENUE $ 1,291,503

EXPENSES

School $ 772,814
Clinic 310,737
Community Engagement 198,877
Fundraising 153,238
Management & General 183,627

TOTAL EXPENSES $ 1,619,293

Hanna Perkins Center for Child Development is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization
WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING GENEROUS DONORS WHO MAKE THE WORK WE DO POSSIBLE EVERY DAY.

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All efforts have been made to assure the accuracy of this list; we apologize for any errors or omissions.
BIANNUAL BENEFIT GETS NEW LOOK AND FEEL

The 2019 Hadden Award, for service to Hanna Perkins and devotion to healthy emotional development in children, will be presented to Judith W. Holmes and Kim Sherwin at a new-look benefit this fall.

Holmes, who is the immediate past president of the Hanna Perkins board of directors, is being recognized for her many years of volunteerism. Sherwin is being honored for her philanthropic support.

The award will be presented at the 2019 Hanna Perkins Harvest Homecoming, which will be held on Saturday, Oct. 5. The event will take place under a tent on the Hanna Perkins lawn, providing a casual, festive atmosphere.

In addition to presentation of the Hadden Award, the program will feature presentations from an alumni parent and adult alumni student, a live auction, a scholarship auction and raffles. Emcee for the evening is Bob Hale.

The benefit is an important source of operating funding for Hanna Perkins, and allows us to fulfill the longtime promise to help anyone in need, regardless of their ability to pay.