

Bright Beginnings Newsletter Fall 2022



Dear Friend of BBI,

I am both honored and excited to greet you as BBI's new chief executive officer. Leadership transitions are challenging under the best of circumstances. Program Year 2021/22 was certainly unique as BBI managed the transition, the constantly shifting pandemic and its impacts, all while still serving our children and families. However, BBI also made some great strides. We opened our Evening Care Program which is the only Early Head Start evening program in our region, we successfully managed the NAEYC re-accreditation process, consolidated our Head Start grants, and applied for and were awarded a grant to build a teacher apprenticeship program.



Our new school year began in August, and we are organizing our work around the theme **#WeAreBetterTogether**. A full week of professional development kicked off the year for education and program staff, and cross-departmental team-building for all staff. In support of **#WeAreBetterTogether**, we built our Fiscal Year 2023 budget through a collaborative and transparent process. By supporting staff in continuous growth and cross-departmental collaboration, we will capitalize on our learnings from last year for an even more productive program year 2022/23.

With the completion of a new 5-year strategic plan last year, I'm excited to share that BBI's mission and vision have changed. Our new vision is that all children and families in the District receive the support and resources necessary to thrive and reach their full potential. In support of that vision, BBI will implement a two-generation approach to:

- Ensure every child experiencing housing instability is healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged;
- Develop school ready and kindergarten prepared children;
- Support families in breaking the cycle of inter generational poverty; and
- Partner intentionally to eradicate disparities and remove obstacles to economic mobility.

As we implement the new plan, BBI will continue to deliver the same high-quality programs and services for which it is known. We will also organize our work and develop partnerships and coalitions in a way that centers advocacy in our work. Bringing about social and systemic change, and centering the voices of our families in that change, is the road map to realizing our vision. I look forward to having you along on the journey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Erin Fisher'.

Erin Fisher

2-GEN IN ACTION

Our programming supports both children and their families. This creates a long-lasting impact and helps the family unit as a whole move from crisis to self-sufficiency.

CHILD VISION SCREENINGS

On September 13, Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington came to Bright Beginnings to conduct vision screening for 35 children. An additional 35 children will be screened when they return in October.

All children enrolled at BBI receive free mental health, physical health, and wellness screenings within 45 days of enrollment. Studies have proven that early treatment for developmental delays foster kindergarten-readiness and overall success in children's lives.



DADS IN PROGRESS

After a vacancy in our Fatherhood Specialist role for much of the last school year, we are proud to kick off the Fatherhood Program this current school year. Led by Fatherhood Specialist Anthony Carraway (pictured center in photo), Dads in Progress (D.I.P.) held its inaugural meeting on September 21. Special guests were Clarence Boykin from Career Coach DC and Chris Wright from DawGTalk, LLC, a community-based organization that addresses social justice and empowerment issues through the lens of sports.



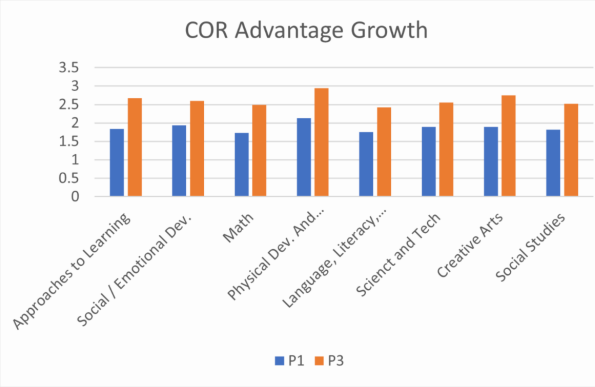
2022 TRANSITION CEREMONY

BBI's 2021/2022 program year culminated in a graduation and transition ceremony for six students in its Pre-K 4 class on July 22. The students performed songs of goodbyes, gratitude, and hope for their future. During this time of transition, BBI helps parents with the My School DC Lottery process and partners with them to find a good school for their child. We also provide uniforms, backpacks, and supplies for each child as they enter kindergarten. Preparing our children to start kindergarten ready to learn is a key piece of our mission.

DATA STORYTELLING

Bright Beginnings students made great strides in COR Advantage content areas over the last program year. Students are assessed in eight content areas, three times each program year: Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development and Health, Language, Literacy and

Communication, Mathematics, Creative Arts, Science and Technology, and Social Studies. The chart shows the growth of our center-based student population from Period 1 through Period 3.



INFANT AND MATERNAL WELLNESS

BBI launched its Infant and Maternal Wellness program last year to combat the alarmingly high infant mortality rate in Wards 7 and 8. As a result of our work, Ebony Tuzon, manager of the infant and maternal wellness program, is a regular guest on [#MaternalMondays](#) - a series dedicated to discussing all things maternal and infant health hosted on the [Mom Health DC Facebook page](#). BBI was also invited to the Mayor's National Maternal & Infant Health Summit held on September 15. BBI received over 50 inquires from expectant moms, which will help fully enroll the program.



PARENT EMPOWERMENT CELEBRATION

Each summer Bright Beginnings hosts a Parent Empowerment Celebration to celebrate all the accomplishments of the past year. Held on July 16 (after a rain reschedule from July 9), the event featured food, games, and fun for the whole family, including Uno, giant Jenga, a bounce house, Limbo, face painting, snow cones, popcorn, Double Dutch, food trucks, and more! New this year was a foam machine, which was a favorite!



Save the Date!
Giving Tuesday will be on November 29th this year. It was



Doing some Shopping?
Shop at smile.amazon.com, select Bright Beginnings as your favorite charity, and 0.5% of your eligible purchases will be



BBI broke ground on a 3rd playground at its Center! The design process included

created in 2012 as a simple idea:
a day to encourage generosity
and goodwill. This is an important
campaign for BBI, supporting our
programming and operations.

donated to BBI!

feedback and voting from our
PreK-3 and PreK-4 classes. The
playground is built to foster gross
and fine motor skills in that age
group.

[Donate Now!](#)

