

## Bright Beginnings Newsletter Winter 2021-2022



Dear Friend of BBI,

I hope you and your loved ones had a safe and rejuvenating holiday season. We are so excited to have our students back in the classroom for in-person learning and can't wait to see what 2022 has in store!

As we get back into the swing of things here at BBI, I wanted to inform you that we have begun the search for a new Executive Director. After nearly five years of service, Dr. Marla Dean has left Bright Beginnings. The Board has expressed its thanks to Dr. Dean for her service to and efforts on behalf of the organization. You can read the full statement on our website [here](#).



We hope you will join us in looking forward to an exciting new chapter in our mission of promoting the long-term development and success of children and families experiencing housing instability.

Sincerely,



Erin Fisher  
Interim Executive Director, Bright Beginnings, Inc.

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### 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.*

### HOLIDAY GIVEAWAY

BBI was determined to make the holidays a special time for all of our children and families. About 150 families received items from their holiday wish list such as educational toys, books, and games for their children along with necessities like diapers and clothes.

Thank you to everyone who donated and to our

hard-working staff for making this effort possible!



## SANTA VISITS BBI

Mr. Suber, a member of our facilities maintenance team, works hard every day to keep our building running smoothly. For our holiday celebration, though, he played a different role: Santa Claus! BBI children from each classroom were able to talk with Santa about their wish lists and get their photo taken to share with their parents.



## A FESTIVE HARP DEMONSTRATION

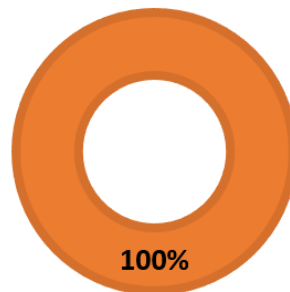
Music can have a tremendous positive effect on a child's brain development and is an important part of our curriculum throughout the year. However, it's not every day that a guest harpist comes to play at BBI.

Sarah-mari Ramson visited during our holiday celebration for a harp performance and sing-along featuring carols and a storybook reading. Children were allowed to ask questions about the harp and request their favorite songs, such as Jingle Bells!

## COMPREHENSIVE SCREENINGS FOR ALL

Every child at BBI is unique and has the resources they need to succeed academically. We set a goal for each child to be screened for developmental delays. All of the children identified with delays will be assigned to BBI's skilled therapeutic experts who work with parents and home visitors to increase the child's chance of school success. We succeeded and were able to screen each child for delays within 45 days of enrolling in our program. Plans are in place to support all of the identified children individually.

## CHILDREN SCREENED FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS WITHIN 45 DAYS OF ENROLLMENT



## Ensuring A Safe Reopening After the Holidays

During this pandemic, caring for your community means taking the right steps to make sure everyone is as safe as possible. Before returning to in-person learning, BBI provided two rapid antibody tests for each staff member and required all staff and students to be tested before returning

after the holidays.



Due to high demand, we're gearing up to get our Evening Care Program back up and running. Starting late winter this year, childcare will be available at BBI from 4-11 p.m. for eligible working parents.



Doing some Shopping?  
Shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), select Bright Beginnings as your favorite charity, and 0.5% of your eligible purchases will be donated to BBI!



This winter, BBI continued our campaign to encourage every individual to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Our website features a [Vaccine Info Hub](#) for our DMV community. It includes easy-to-access information all in one place.

[Donate Now!](#)

