

Bright Beginnings Newsletter

Winter 2022-2023



Dear Friend of BBI,

The end of 2022 was a joyous time at BBI thanks to our community of supporters, like you, who helped us to provide our children and families with an amazing holiday season. Our children experienced a Gingerbread Wonderland, complete with a visit from Santa and his elves, while enjoying holiday music played by a young harpist. We were able to provide children in all our programs - our center-based day, evening program, and home-based - with plenty of gifts from their wish lists, along with daily necessities that parents need to keep their children healthy and safe. Our children, parents, and staff express their most sincere gratitude for your continued support of our mission; the holidays are always a wonderful reminder of the generosity of our community.



The new year also brings new programming to BBI. This month, we officially launched our partnership with [Ballou STAY](#) to give their students in the Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate program an opportunity to intern at BBI. We are excited at the opportunity for new early childhood educators to learn from our staff and to also build a pipeline of educators from within our community who could potentially work at BBI in the future.

We are also thrilled to begin our work with [Innovare-Social Innovation Partners](#) to bring our Strategic Plan to life. BBI's leadership team will work with their departments to develop specific targets related to each of our strategic goals and create an implementation plan for ensuring that BBI continues to meet its mission and vision.

Lastly, we are beyond proud to announce that this time last year we were just getting our Evening Care Program off the ground. Now, just one year later, we are fully enrolled with 17 children in the program and are offering 8 more available seats. This fully accredited program is open to infants and toddlers from six weeks through 30 months old. BBI will continue expanding our offerings to support families working non-traditional hours.

Thank you for your continued support of BBI's children, parents, and staff. All these exciting updates would not be possible without you!

Sincerely,

Erin Fisher
Chief Executive Officer, Bright Beginnings, Inc.

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.

DENTAL SCREENINGS

On November 17, 18, and 29, [Gordon Dental](#) in Gaithersburg, MD provided dental screenings and cleanings to 100 children at BBI. They will return in May of this year for year-end screenings and more cleanings.

According to the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center at Georgetown University, poor oral health negatively impacts a child's quality of life, including academic studies and success later in life. Head Start programs like BBI increase access to preventative services by providing the screenings, referrals, and case management young children and families need.



BBI HEALTH FAIR

BBI held a health fair on October 17 at Ballou High School. Among partners on hand to share health information were Mary's Center, Community of Hope, 4DMV Kids, East River Family Strengthening Collaborative, and Wolomi. Attendees also had the opportunity to get a Covid-19 or flu vaccine, or both! In all, 26 individuals received vaccines, as well as valuable information about vaccine safety and effectiveness, the importance of health screenings, health for the whole family, men's health, and resources for pregnant mothers.

BBI is offering a series of health-fairs this program year to support health for the whole family.



2022 WINTER WONDERLAND

The children at BBI were treated to a Winter Wonderland to celebrate the holiday season. For the second year in a row, Sarah-mari Ramson played the harp and shared the story of The Nutcracker. The children were enthralled. The Winter Wonderland also featured pictures with Santa, Mrs. Claus, and an elf.



DATA STORYTELLING

As of December 2022, 100% of Head Start families and 99% of Early Head Start Families completed their family partnership agreements. Family Partnership Agreements are a hallmark of Head Start programming and serve to identify the strengths, interests and needed resources of each family. The process begins upon enrollment with a Parent Interest Survey. The agreement is developed with the help of a family advocate who assists the family in setting and achieving goals. The family advocate and family meet regularly on the plan to assess progress.

Head Start
Family Partnership
Agreements Completed

100%

Early Head Start
Family Partnership
Agreements Completed

99%



INFANT AND MATERNAL WELLNESS

Crystal Jackson of [A Queen Momma Doula Services](#) is BBI's new contracted Doula. She has already supported two pregnant moms through their birthing journey and helped welcome two healthy babies into the world. One of the mom's, "Anya" (real name withheld for privacy), had experienced trauma with previous births and welcomed BBI's Doula service. Anya learned on the morning her water broke that her OB abruptly stopped practicing. Thanks to the clear birthing plan Anya and Crystal developed, Crystal was able to serve as Anya's advocate in the face of a new hospital and new birthing team. A healthy baby girl was delivered and Anya's birthing plan was largely achieved with Crystal serving as her advocate.



HOLIDAY WISH LIST

Each year BBI builds a Wish List of toys and educational items that will ensure all our families have a happy holiday with gifts for their children under the tree. We received overwhelming support this year from various partners, including the Junior League of Washington. **THANK YOU** to all of the individuals and businesses that helped make the 2022 holidays special for our families.

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