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In May, NCFL and National Head Start Association (NHSA) unveiled Head Start programs that have been selected to implement NCFL Family Learning, an original two-generation and community-centered education model in five U.S. communities.

The following organizations received a $160,000 grant from NCFL, made possible by funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation:

- East Side House, Inc., Bronx, New York
- Educational Alliance, Inc., New York, New York
- Genesee Intermediate School District, Flint, Michigan
- Guilford Child Development, Greensboro, North Carolina
- Adelante Mujeres, Forest Grove, Oregon

The sites were selected through a national competition and rigorous proposal review process.

This two-generation project puts families at the forefront of learning together in an innovative and empowering way. With this initiative, the program will reach even more families and build on Head Start’s already strong legacy of parent engagement. Family Service Learning has already been successful in cities such as Detroit and Houston.

Each Head Start site will incorporate NCFL’s traditional family literacy approaches, Parent and Child Together (PACT) Time and Parent Time, along with two cutting-edge components: Family Service Learning and Family Mentoring. NCFL will provide program directors and facilitators with professional training and technical support to produce family engagement outcomes provided in the Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) Framework.

NCFL’s whole-family approach to achieving educational outcomes, currently being implemented in 10 partner U.S. communities, has already been proven to improve child and family outcomes for low income, ethnically-diverse families.
Say & Play with Words is NCFL’s newest collaborative effort to teach vocabulary in a real-world, active context through family service learning and community outreach in Detroit neighborhoods.

Research shows that a lag in vocabulary development puts children at an academic disadvantage before they even start kindergarten. Say & Play with Words is designed to increase the vocabulary and literacy levels of young children, establish the importance of and improve parent skills in supporting their children’s vocabulary development, and create word- and print-rich environments in Brightmoor and Southwest Detroit.

The program focuses on supporting parent-caregiver interaction because we know talking to children is the most effective way to help build vocabulary. Successful family literacy and learning harnesses and boosts the strength of parent-child bonds resulting in greater opportunity for success for both.

Say & Play with Words is a $1.5 million, two-year, multi-language initiative supported by the PNC, Skillman, and Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Foundations to reach 150 parents and 413 young children through direct intervention (Family Service Learning) and close to 2,250 parents (with 6,500 children) through additional outreach.
NCFL leverages the power of the family, the opportunity to learn in context, and the motivation to build a stronger community through service learning to produce powerful two-generation outcomes.

Toyota Family Learning, a six-year nationwide initiative led by NCFL, was created to address educational needs and provide opportunities for low-income and ethnically-diverse families to roll up their sleeves and build stronger communities. NCFL knows that when children and families solve community issues together, they are simultaneously learning and applying 21st century college and career readiness skills.
NCFL has been busy building a stronger America one family at a time through Toyota Family Learning. NCFL has now awarded ten $175,000 three-year grants to three schools districts, two library systems, and five community-based organizations across the U.S. These organizations were chosen based on their two-generation approach to providing educational services to low-income families.

In 2014-15, 296 predominately low-income families (including 860 children) participated in Toyota Family Learning programs, producing the following results (based on the independent evaluation conducted by Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy at Penn State University).

**Family Goal Attainment**

- **90%** increase in family engagement in education
- **17,487 hours** learning together, 1,573 of which was spent doing community service
- **20%** increase in family literacy activities in the home and community
- **13%** of families used technology use for educational purposes every day
- **Parents increased their self-efficacy, leadership skills, and social capital**
- **Families practiced 29 out of 42 important employability skills**
- **Parents increased their self-efficacy, leadership skills, and social capital**
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**Parent Goal Attainment**

- **96%** became a better parent for their child
- **75%** improved English skills
- **47%** upgraded skills to keep current job
- **46%** earned more money
- **34%** got a job
- **25%** obtained the knowledge necessary to pass the U.S. citizenship test
- **21%** earned a GED certificate or high school equivalency
Jamahl Turner, a 28-year-old father, National Guard sergeant, and recent graduate of Toyota Family Learning at Milwaukee Environmental Sciences School (MES), was selected to serve on State Schools Superintendent Tony Evers’ Parent Advisory Council.

A representative for Tony Evers had listened to Jamahl’s impassioned speech at the MES Toyota Family Learning graduation in June 2015 and recommended the MES team nominate him to sit on the state school superintendent’s Parent Advisory Council. While the youngest member of the council, Jamahl will bring a passion for parents’ involvement with their children. The program inspired him to be more engaged in the education of his two sons.

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The first 60 participants in Metropolitan State University of Denver’s (MSU Denver) Toyota Family Learning program celebrated their joint in-classroom, home, and community accomplishments during a ceremony on December 8 at St. Cajetan Catholic church on the MSU campus.

MSU Denver launched Toyota Family Learning with a grant awarded by NCFL and Toyota for innovation in engaging families in learning together. The three-year, $175,000 grant is a part of the initiative’s pioneering movement to bridge the gap between the classroom, lifelong learning, and college and career readiness. The intergenerational program is geared toward vulnerable and low-income families. It focuses on parents and children learning alongside each other and from other families as well as by serving their communities through instruction, Family Service Learning projects, mentoring, and technology use.

All of the Denver graduates are Hispanic and are English learners. Their Family Service Learning projects focused on exercise and nutrition. They volunteered at a local urban gardening facility, The GrowHaus, to learn about growing food locally, as well as nutrition, cooking, and other skills that drive healthy communities. Additionally, they volunteered at three local races, executing tasks such as race setup, registration, handing out water, cheering on runners, cleanup and medals disbursement.

Graduation requirements of Toyota Family Learning include:

- **Regular attendance in Parent Time and Parent and Child Together (PACT) Time**: Participants engaged in guided learning with a focus on leadership. During PACT Time, families learned together while engaging in activities including mentoring and service learning, using technology together, reading together, and taking family trips.

- **Family Service Learning activities**: Reflecting Toyota Family Learning’s guiding philosophy, which is rooted in community, families participated in at least three service projects.

- **Family-to-family Mentoring**: Building community networks is integral to maintaining learning success post-graduation, and the mentoring element teaches families how to share learnings with one another during the program and beyond.

The results of their participation in Toyota Family Learning are improved English skills, more confidence in supporting their children’s education, as well as being an involved parent. With a better grasp on English, they are able to help with homework, better communicate with their children’s teachers, and be better advocates for their children.
The fiNdings Art Center established the fiNdings Women’s Project as a non-profit organization to provide women of diverse ethnic heritage the opportunity to design and produce art pieces. The fiNdings Women's Project was established as a next step after the women had come to school with their children to learn English and earn their high school diplomas at the Meyler Adult and Family Learning Center in Torrance, California. The project provides training in English language communication, job preparation, and community leadership.

One result of their involvement in the Women’s Project has been that the participants are empowered to take on leadership roles in their children's schools and neighborhood communities. The fiNdings moms have become leaders, mentors, and entrepreneurs. They share techniques and ideas, provide emotional support and a sense of community, and hold each other to high standards—all while building key workplace skills.

NCFL President Sharon Darling, a longtime supporter of these women's endeavors and their family literacy program, approached the group and asked if they would be interested in celebrating our 25-year partnership by creating 1,000 handmade totes for Summit attendees and to help raise money for the fiNdings Art Center.

While the partnership with NCFL began with the opening of the Meyler Adult and Family Learning Center, the women were thrilled to say yes to the project and thank you to NCFL and Toyota by making the bags. Generous donors provided surplus fabric and supplies to the women as a conscientious effort dedicated to upcycling and preserving valuable resource materials.

The bags were made for and distributed at NCFL’s Families Learning Summit. But today, they continue to be used by participants across the United States.
NCFL CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF FACE PARTNERSHIPS

The Family and Child Education (FACE) program was created in 1990 by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (now the Bureau of Indian Education) within the Office of Indian Education Programs to develop an integrated model for an American Indian early childhood/parental involvement program. The program was designed to serve:

- children (from birth to age 5) and their parents by providing early childhood and adult education—including academic and parenting services—at home and in center-based settings; and,
- children in grades K-3, providing opportunities for active learning.

This year the NCFL celebrated a 25-year partnership with the Bureau of Indian Education to provide the FACE program alongside Parents as Teachers (PAT). The experience working with these organizations has been one that continues to empower current and future generations of American Indian families through education and learning together. NCFL’s center-based family literacy services for FACE has benefited 17,000 families in American Indian schools.

The NCFL two-generational, four-component family literacy model was fine-tuned to integrate culturally appropriate programming for the American Indian community. These changes were the start of a long and valued relationship with the Bureau of Indian Education.

Parents have earned their GEDs, become employed, and learned how to support their children’s language and literacy development and school success. Children have received a host of educational services, scored higher than their peers on K-3 standardized reading and math tests, are less likely to require special education services, learned about their culture and community, and thrive in school.

NCFL is honored to have been a part of the lives of thousands of FACE families and thankful for the support and efforts of our partners. The past 25 years have provided such a strong foundation for the future of families learning together, and influenced much of NCFL’s work along the way.
Wonderopolis®, the site that keeps millions wondering and learning every day, continued to garner millions of hits over the past year. To start the school year, Wonderopolis® hosted a #WonderChat that brought together Wonder Lead Ambassadors to share their best tips for engaging students and getting them back into the routine of learning and asking the big, curious questions. Wonder Ambassadors hosted #WonderChats each month with topics such as digital reading, creating a culture of wonder, focusing on math, and using wonder to further wordless picture books.

Highlights

Wonderopolis enjoyed its biggest year ever in FY 2016

- Welcomed more than 10 million unique visitors (and nearly 13 million visits), an increase of more than 80% from FY 2015
- 70% new visitors, showing the platform is still in a growth phase and attracting new Wonderers
- Visitors from all 50 states and Washington D.C., plus more than 128 countries
- Mobile use continues to rise, as 50% of all visits were from a tablet or smartphone
- The most popular Wonders of the Day:
  - #125: How do you get rid of the hiccups?
  - #1382: Why are fire trucks red?
  - #80: Why do people kiss under mistletoe?

CAMP WONDEROPOLIS

Camp Wonderopolis® offers 2-Gen summer-learning opportunity for libraries.

NCFL believes libraries are natural partners for two-generation learning—trusted and powerful community hubs where all parents and children, including vulnerable families, can learn together and build literacy skills in diverse and inspiring ways. Camp Wonderopolis® provided opportunity for two-generation learning this summer.

Thanks to the support of Better World Books, NCFL offered libraries across the U.S. the opportunity to apply for funding to implement Camp Wonderopolis programming this summer. From an initial pool of applicants, libraries with strong two-generation programs—and great ideas for families—were invited to propose Camp Wonderopolis-inspired hands-on activities and booklists for the Camp Wonderopolis website and accompanying materials. Six libraries were selected to receive a $1,500 grant and Campsite Kits.

The New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (NYC DYCD) selected Camp Wonderopolis as one of its Cultivating Curiosity Summer in the City 2015 programs again this summer. Beginning in July, more than 1,000 kids, ages five to 14—tested their inner Makers using Camp Wonderopolis online content and Campsite Kits to learn and earn Wonder Cards® by exploring camp.wonderopolis.org. NCFL worked with nine DYCD summer program providers at 13 sites to engage parents in learning with their kids, too.
WONDER GROUND

In March, expanding the Wonderopolis resource, NCFL launched Wonder Ground™. This new educator community broadened the inquiry-based approach to education and is led by innovative ambassadors. The online network supports educators who use Wonderopolis® in engaging students of all ages. The Wonder Ground serves as a comprehensive how-to guide for integrating Wonderopolis into the classroom and beyond. The new website features ready-to-use lesson plans and classroom resources, relationships to educational standards, and blogs from leading educators on using Wonders of the Day® to introduce units, build background knowledge, support student driven projects, and more. More than 4,000 educators are already utilizing the Wonder Ground.

This new educator community offers real-world examples for inspiration and guidance as it serves as a forum to advance the conversation around inquiry-based learning.

HEALTHY FAMILY HABITS

NCFL is committed to providing intergenerational strategies for promoting community health and wellness. In October, to help celebrate Health Literacy Month, we pulled our favorite Healthy Family Habits resources, recipes, and family activities to create a 31-day calendar to help motivate families to establish and hone healthy habits. The initiative, funded by the Humana Foundation, offers free step-by-step guides and downloadable resources (available in both English and Spanish) to help families jump into to a healthier lifestyle.
NCFL believes the family is the best teacher a child will ever have. That’s why, in partnership with Toyota, we created Family Trails, an online community that celebrates and inspires family adventures and anytime, anywhere learning. Here, you’ll find writings and photographs from a diverse community of families sharing how (and where!) they learn together. Launched in March 2015, the Family Trails community quickly gained its footing and has taken off. The infographic below demonstrates many of the adventures families have taken.
DIGITAL PROPERTIES

familieslearning.org
face.familieslearning.org
toyotafamilylearning.org

wonderopolis.org
camp.wonderopolis.org
wg.wonderopolis.org

nationalliteracydirectory.org
familytrails.com
familieslearning.org/health

STAY CONNECTED

familieslearning.org
twitter.com/ncfl
facebook.com/familieslearning
familieslearning.org/subscribe
familieslearning.org/blog

LINE ON
FAMILES LEARNING

HOTSPOT for families learning
NCFL’s Board of Directors is a diverse group including researchers and business executives who help us champion the cause of family literacy. They understand that literacy is the foundation for national economic well-being and local community progress.

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W.K. Kellogg Foundation
William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust

$5,000 - $9,999
Gannett Foundation
Kentucky Educational Television

$25,000-$99,999
Indiana Department of Education
Lee B. Thomas
The Gheens Foundation, Inc.

$10,000-$24,999
Benevity
Dr. Seuss Fund at The San Diego Foundation
Old National Bank Foundation
Republic Bank/Republic Bank Foundation
The After School Corporation (NYC DYCD)

$500-$4,999
American Heart Association
Association of American Publishers, Inc
Boris Kofman
Brian Littleton
Brown-Forman Corporation
Charles and Mary Anne Cronan
Combined Federal Campaign
Community Foundation of Louisville, Inc.
George and Sharon Darling
Half Price Books
Jean Frazier
Jovita Carranza
Meredith Parente
Pearson Education
Richard Barr
Suzanne Warner
Thomas Marsh
$100 to $499
Betty Ansin Smallwood
Bradley Snider and Shea Coughlin
Charles Stewart
Daniel Friedman
David Seidenberg
Heidi Orcino
Jennifer Miglus
Jon and Rachael Reigelman
Joshua and Susanne Cramer
JustGive.org
Kroger
Louise Wall
Lynda Alexander
Margo Waddell
Ray’s Trash Service, Inc.
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Raquel Cuperman
Ronald Phillips
Sara Armstrong
Simon & Schuster, Inc.
Thomas Johnson
William Myers

Up to $99
Aaron Davis
Adam Cochran
### Financial Information

**July 1, 2015 — June 30, 2016**

#### Income

- Corporations, foundations, and individuals: **$3,910,829**
- Federal and state grants: **$66,025**
- Contract services/registration fee income: **$2,136,655**
- Endowment income: **$(211)**
- Other income: **$105,511**

**Total**: **$6,218,809**

#### Expenditures

- Program services: **$4,981,558**
- Development and fundraising: **$356,310**
- Management and administration: **$899,038**

**Total**: **$6,236,906**

#### Change in net assets

**$(18,097)**

#### Net assets end of year

**$15,514,382**