

ANNUAL REPORT
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019

From the Executive Director and the Board Chair:

The Bloomingdale Family Program continued during the 2018-19 Fiscal Year to provide high quality services to our families and our community. As we move toward our 60th year of offering programs for young children and families in Manhattan Valley and Harlem, we are demonstrating our ability to adapt to changing conditions in our community, and we are actively looking ahead to future initiatives.

This past year we successfully completed another year long partnership with the Bloomingdale School of Music. Our two and three year old children participated in weekly sessions with their teachers and parents which culminated in a beautiful parade from Bloomingdale Family Program to Bloomingdale School of Music. Our children continued to receive the benefit of our Preventive Services component which allowed us to graduate 36 four year olds this year, most of whom will enter regular kindergarten classrooms without the need for additional services. Our partnerships with our many community institutions continued to prosper and allowed us to serve our families to the best of our abilities.

The challenges of the previous years continued to impact us this past year. The continued expansion of UPK programs in our local public and charter schools affected our ability to fully enroll our classrooms for four-year-olds, and the competition with the DOE for qualified early childhood teachers, in the face of their significantly higher salaries, were ongoing challenges. At the beginning of this calendar year one of our classrooms was closed because we did not have a certified person for the site. We continue to search for such a qualified teacher so we can reopen that classroom.

Other major highlights of this past year included the transfer of our ACS contracts to the DOE on July 1, 2019 that will last until June 30, 2020. We also submitted two proposals to secure funding from Head Start for this coming year and to secure funding from the DOE for the 2021 fiscal year. We were not awarded a direct grant from Head Start and are awaiting a response to our application from the DOE for the following fiscal year. Our transferred EarlyLearn contract from ACS is currently managed by the DOE until June 30, 2020. The quest for salary parity has finally reached a turning point as the City, Unions and Sponsoring Board Council are now in discussions regarding increasing salaries of staff in community based organizations. The proposed three year roll out will raise CBO staff salaries closer to DOE salaries but will not successfully reach parity. We are hopeful the conversation will continue.

Every year brings us new challenges and changes, but most of all hope. We remain hopeful that this wonderful program will continue to provide comprehensive services to a community that is in desperate need of our presence and whose lives have forever been changed for having been a part of the Bloomingdale Family Program.

José F. Velilla, Executive Director
Sandra Roche, Board Chair

Review of Bloomingdale Programs in FY 2018

During the program year that ended June 30, 2019, Bloomingdale continued to maintain the high quality of its signature programs. Highlights include:

- We have the capacity to serve 135 children with a full-day year-round program.
- Every child was assessed developmentally at intake and then again at three later points in the school year, and all made good progress toward academic and developmental goals. Instruments used in these assessments include The Early Screening Inventory Revised Pre-School (ESI-R), The Ages and Stages Questionnaire Social Emotional (ASQ-SE and ASQ-3), The HighScope Child Observation Record (COR), and the CLASS.
- To address the special needs that affect the learning and development of many of our children, we provided on-site preventive services – bilingual speech therapy, occupational therapy, and play therapy –for 68 children during the school year. These services are largely paid for by ongoing grants from the Robin Hood Foundation and other private funders.
- Demonstrating the benefits of these preventive services, of the 26 children who received services and who transitioned into kindergarten, 26 will attend a general education class (3 of them will be in a general education class with one general education teacher and one special education teacher. This is known as an ICT class). 5 of these children will continue to receive services in their new school. 0 children were placed in Special Ed classrooms.
- We offer support to our special needs children after their transition into elementary school. Our privately-funded Homework Help program served 20 children last year in kindergarten through Third Grade. All of the Homework Help children made accelerated academic progress during the school year and were successfully promoted to the next grade.
- Every child in our program received a healthy Breakfast, Lunch and Snack at school every day, prepared in our own kitchens. Every child received essential medical and dental screening and care.
- Parents shared program governance through their participation in Policy Committees which met regularly during the year. Representatives of the program's Governing Board and the DAPC participate in each other's meetings, and serve together on the Self-Assessment, Strategic Planning, and other key Committees.
- Parent engagement in the center and in the community was enhanced through Mothers' Groups, cultural events, and other activities geared to the interests of parents. Parents of 4's participate in the Parent Leadership Project which meets weekly to better understand and navigate the transition to kindergarten.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Program Revenues	FY 2019 (Projected)	FY 2018
<u>Public Funds</u>	\$3,108,378	\$3,052,692
<u>Private Fundraising Revenue</u>		
Individual Gifts Donations	\$94,925	\$72,361
Foundations	\$420,657	\$498,611
Earned Income	\$46,279	\$39,908
In-Kind	\$578,128	\$515,886
Total Program Revenues	\$4,248,367	\$4,179,458
Program Expenditures		
Program	\$3,732,481	\$3,408,986
Management and General	\$515,886	\$552,482
Fundraising	-	-
Total Program Expenditures	\$4,248,367	\$3,931,468

Audit and Other Reports

The Bloomingdale Family Program is audited annually. The Audit and the program's 990 report for FY 18 are available upon request.

The annual report of the Mayor's Office of Contracts for period ending 9/30/2018 awarded Bloomingdale the rating of 60 for Program Quality and 60 for Financial Management and 80 for timeliness with an overall rating of Good.

The Bloomingdale Early Childhood Program **Program Description**

Bloomingdale currently operates three early childhood centers in the Manhattan Valley community of New York City. All provide year-round, full-day programs for children aged two to five. Our Columbus Avenue and West 109 Street centers are operated as Early Head Start and Head Start programs serving families below the poverty line at no charge; our West 107th Street center served both Head Start and Child Care families. All three of our centers maintain the performance standards of the Head Start program, all three centers offer the highly effective HighScope curriculum, and all three provide our privately-funded on-site Preventive Services to children with special needs.

Our goal at Bloomingdale is to prepare young children for success as learners so that they transition to elementary school without the need for special education placement. To enable their success, we offer preventive services, including occupational therapy, speech (bilingual) therapy, and play therapy. Services are delivered on-site by our Disability Services staff. Children are assessed when they enter the program, and parents are consulted and engaged at every stage of the process. This preventive services program has been in place for more than 15 years. Approximately 50% of our children are identified as special needs children and receive these services. Every year, the overwhelming majority of the children who receive these services go on to academic success.

The support our children receive in our program continues into elementary school. Knowing that even well-prepared children may begin to lose ground once they confront elementary school challenges, we offer “Homework Help” to children who had received our preventive services as preschoolers. From Kindergarten to Third Grade, they return to Bloomingdale for this program three times a week throughout the school year. Working in small groups with skilled, bilingual teachers, the students review classroom lessons and complete homework assignments. Homework Help also engages the parents; while the children work on their assignments, parents participate in ESL classes and gain skills in supporting their children’s learning and progress at home. Annual research by an outside agency validates the program’s effectiveness; more than 95% of the children in Homework Help finish the school year at or above grade level in math and reading.

Yoga instruction, offered weekly to our four-year-olds, is a valuable part of our program, benefiting children’s attention and self-regulation.

The weekly music program now offered to our two and three year olds and their caregivers has been a highly-successful addition to our program and has completed it’s second year.

All of these special programs and services are privately funded, and enhance and extend our Head Start program.

Parent Engagement at the Bloomingdale Family Program

Bloomingdale honors the role of parents as their children's first teachers and provides opportunities and activities that support and empower parents. This befits a program that was originally founded in 1960 by neighborhood mothers who were seeking a place where they and their children could learn and grow together.

Our relationship with parents begins with home visits that take place before the first day of school, with a second visit later in the program year. Parents are welcome in the classroom, and take part in center activities and in program governance. They participate in regular meetings of the Education Committee led by the program's education director. Monthly class parent meetings give insight into what their children are learning in the classroom, and suggest ways for parents to reinforce that learning at home. We offer workshops on health and parenting issues, as well as affinity groups for mothers and for fathers. Bloomingdale's mental health consultant is available to meet with individual parents on a monthly basis or as needed.

An annual event greatly enjoyed by the entire school community is "Cultural Day." This is an all-school celebration in which parents share the history and folktales, art, music, and food of their own cultural backgrounds. Alumni families are encouraged to stay connected as well; they return for an annual Alumni Day during which our staff photographer takes portrait photographs of each family to show how much they have grown since the previous year.

Parents of children who will transition to kindergarten take part in a year-long Parent Leadership Program (PLP), which meets every week throughout the school year. The PLP provides a forum where parents gain information about the available school programs in the community, take part in school visits, and get assistance in selecting and applying for the schools that best meet their children's needs.

Parents have an important role in program governance. Each year, parents are elected to serve on Policy Committees for their classroom, for their site, and for the overall program. Monthly PC meetings give parents a voice in program governance; parents gain valuable leadership experience and exercise their role in program and fiscal oversight, in the selection of new teachers, and in planning for the future. A representative of the DAPC attends the meetings of the Governing Board, and a representative of the Governing Board regularly attends DAPC meetings.

Kindergarten Readiness Program

Bloomingtondale's mission is to prepare children for success in school. To accomplish this goal we have extended the resources available to us through Head Start, UPK, and other funded programs by actively seeking private funds to increase the support services for our children. The result of this public/private partnership is our record of success in preparing children for the schools they attend after they leave us. As noted above, the overwhelming majority of the children in our program, including those identified with special needs, are welcomed into mainstream kindergarten classrooms and continue as successful students.

We have been focusing this year on critical school readiness goals:

Math: Understanding measurement; concepts such as longer/shorter and heavier/lighter.

Language and Literacy: Expressing ideas and information both in English and Spanish, and through drawing, writing, and dictating.

Physical Development and Health: Developing gross motor skills and fine motor skills in a variety of settings.

Approaches to Learning: Supporting children's curiosity, creativity, and flexibility, and their willingness to try new experiences.

Social/Emotional Development: Giving children opportunities to respond to needs, feelings, and events.

An important part of kindergarten readiness is the participation of our parents in the Parent Leadership Program, which prepares them for active engagement as advocates for their children and as future Parent Association members in the schools their children will attend.

Our School Readiness team includes Bloomingtondale's management team, a member of our advisory board, parents, teachers, the parent coordinator at our local public school, Science Educators from the Museum of Natural History, a literacy coordinator from Getting Ready for School Project, and infant/toddler Doctoral Candidate, and our program's mental health consultant. Together we are ensuring that our school readiness goals for the year are met.