Dear Friends:

Each year, while developing our annual report, I sit back in awe at the power of your generosity and how it impacts hundreds of childcare providers, children and families in our community. As 2019 comes to a close, I reflect back on all of the goals we have accomplished, limitations we have surpassed, lessons we have learned and obstacles we have overcome. I am so proud of our achievements.

Yet I realize they were only possible because of the support of individuals, foundations and corporations who are equally committed to shaping futures and enriching lives.

As we prepare for the ongoing challenges that lie ahead, our agency continues to remain proactive, becoming more efficient and reducing expenses through prudent financial management to sustain future growth. Collaboration remains an integral part of our organization. Our work with families through case management and parents as teachers home visiting continues strong.

Much of our work now focuses on the professional development and training of childcare providers. The agency provided 430 training sessions in three communities over the past year. In addition, 100 childcare providers participated in our Child Development Associate training. This national credential is the next step in professional development in ensuring quality childcare. In FY 20 we anticipate training 150 individuals for this credential.

And I am very pleased to announce that our agency, with our partner United Way for Southeastern Michigan, just received the CDA Gold Standard. This national Gold Standard was awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition for the high-quality early childhood education training we provide.

Together, with our dedicated staff and caring volunteers, we will continue to adapt, evolve and remain a vital source of education, service and support for those we serve.

With deepest gratitude, we thank you for your belief in our mission. As you read this newsletter, please remember how important you are to our organization’s successes – and resolve to continue your involvement in 2020.

We hope you will choose Leaps and Bounds Family Services for your generous giving.

All the best for a lovely holiday season and new year,

Denise Dorzé
Executive Director
ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

Young Stars Shining Bright
This past year, Leaps & Bounds staff and associates have continued to give the next generation of leaders and achievers a speed boost on their path to success through our parent and family services program! We distributed 1,269 new books to participating families and helped deliver winter clothes to families in need throughout Wayne and Macomb counties. 61 interactive play and learn groups were held over the course of 2019 for 407 adults and their children, providing them all with a fun and educational experience that helped those children develop in all the best ways. 108 families in Wayne and Macomb were the recipient of 1,170 total home visits, delivering professional information and pediatric support to help our community flourish in the years to come.

A Helping Hand For Community Caregivers
Through our neighborhood-based Early Learning Communities, we continue to provide home and center-based childcare providers with free training in early child development, health and safety as well as support services, access to free learning materials and to family/community events. Training sites in Detroit, Sterling Heights and Warren help childcare providers have the training and resources necessary to ensure that children enter kindergarten with a running start. 437 training sessions were provided and through them, 224 childcare providers received quality improvement support in tandem with region initiatives. A total of 35,000 hours of training, assistance and tech support were provided this year!

Keeping A Steady Course
Leaps and Bounds ends this year within its operating budget, with a robust cash reserve bolstered by generous contributions from the community and like-minded organizations. We informed parents and childcare providers about services through 37,837 emails, 1,300 letters, 5,085 phone calls, and visits to 444 childcare centers. And we continue our collaboration with amazing agencies like Great Start, United Way and the tri-county Quality Improvement Advisory Committee. The future is bright!

SAVE THE DATE!
April 23rd, 2020, 6-9PM
Ukrainian Cultural Center, 26601, Ryan, Warren MI
Join us at the 23rd Annual Community Partners Award Dinner! Enjoy delicious food, a silent auction and celebration of those who’ve made an impact on our communities!

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE CDA!

What is the CDA? The CDA is a national credential available to childcare providers who pursue additional professional development. Requirements include 120 training hours, a minimum of 6 months experience working in a childcare program, the creation of a portfolio, an online test, and observation by a certified PD Specialist. Leaps and Bounds is proud to provide a rigorous training program to prepare intrepid professionals-to-be for this cutting-edge credential.

Our efforts on this front have yielded acknowledgment by Women United in the form of a grant contribution to the program and participation in the Women United’s Women of Influence Summit. 100 individuals benefited from our specialized training, and in 2020 we’ll bump that number up to 150! We’ve even received the CDA Gold Standard for our efforts.

Partnering with United Way for Southeastern Michigan, Leaps and Bounds proudly received the prestigious CDA Gold Standard following a quality review of our training and student services by the Council for Professional Recognition (the Council). The CDA Gold Standard is part of the Council’s early childhood education effort to help CDA students find the high-quality training and student services they need in preparation for the CDA exam and a career as an early childhood educator.

The Council’s CDA Gold Standard award adds value and integrity to the early childhood profession; verifying connections between the Council’s proven teacher competencies and the quality of training resources available to CDA students.