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preschool · PROMISE News

December 2020

As we look back on this year, we are in awe of the resilience and determination of Preschool Promise families and their children to push through this pandemic. They have been through so much, and we're not on the other side yet. Many have lost jobs, even their homes. Too many have struggled to keep food on the table and had to keep working even as they've risked their own health. We are so privileged to support them and help them do their very best to ensure their children keep learning at Preschool or at home!

In this season of reflection, we are grateful to early childhood professionals who've persevered under unprecedented circumstances and who truly are essential workers and tireless advocates for children. We also are infinitely grateful to all those who helped us continue our work but in new ways. We've pivoted and innovated, but we will not waver!

Stay safe and happy holidays to you.

Gratefully,



Robyn Lightcap
Executive Director

Funders help child care providers survive COVID-19

Preschool Promise has been awarded generous funding from PNC *Grow Up Great*, The Frank M. Tait Foundation and The COVID-19 Response Fund of Greater Dayton to help child care programs that must temporarily close due to a COVID-19 exposure. Even when a classroom or program is closed, administrators still have fixed expenses and must continue to pay their staff.

This funding has already supported 100 children at seven centers across Montgomery County. Funds are still available. As the number of COVID-19 cases continue to rise, we are thankful for these organizations' help. More information about program eligibility and guidelines are on our [website](#).



Children's Hospital Teaching Kitchen is our December Partner in Play



Dayton Children's Hospital Community Teaching Kitchen will lead a fun, virtual learning activity for Preschool Promise children and families **Tuesday, December 8 at 10:00 a.m.** Our Preschool Promise PLUS December Play Box includes Play-Doh, a cookie cutter and a child's rolling pin for pretend cooking. To follow up, Emily Callen from the Community Kitchen will teach children how to make their own salt dough. Families can follow along via video using the same recipe we sent them in their November Play Box.

Join us for this fun activity on our [Facebook page](#) or on our [website](#).

Dayton Children's Hospital Community Teaching Kitchen is for children of all ages. Classes help develop knowledge and skills on healthy nutrition and cooking practices. Interactive cooking lessons help children build hands-on skills.

Preschool Promise Parent Ambassadors rock

Preschool Promise Parent Ambassadors are parents, grandparents and caregivers who meet with us monthly to guide our work. They commit to a one-year term that begins in January and ends in December. We're so grateful to all of this year's Parent Ambassadors who served on this committee. Though the pandemic changed how we gathered, their ideas and suggestions have been powerful.

We're now recruiting for new Parent Ambassadors for 2021. Individuals must have a

recent Preschool Promise graduate to be a Parent Ambassador. Ambassadors help us enroll new families and assist at activities and events, in addition to meeting monthly. Ambassadors receive stipends for their participation and can receive up to \$550 during their term.



Recently, our two Outreach Specialists participated with Miami Valley Meals to distribute Thanksgiving meals to families in need. Parent Ambassadors have the opportunity to help us promote Preschool Promise at these types of events.

Click [here](#) to learn how to get involved, and apply.

Preschool Promise tablets are a hit



Preschool Promise's new initiative to help Preschoolers learn at home during COVID-19 is called **Preschool Promise PLUS**. Among other benefits, children receive a free tablet sent to their homes and a free year-long subscription to the popular ABC Mouse, an online digital education program.

We've had some frustrating delays in getting the tablets to families, but the good news is that 1,000 tablets have now been shipped to families. Thank you to everyone who has patiently waited to receive this important learning tool!

We're continuing to enroll families, and we're sending out tablets every day. Even 4-year-olds who are attending a Preschool that is not a Preschool Promise partner program can sign up for Preschool Promise PLUS. If you know of a Montgomery County family who has a 4-year-old child, forward this newsletter to them! Families can [learn more and enroll here](#).

K12 Art Gallery features Preschool Promise children's work

We recently partnered with **Dayton's K12 Gallery & TEJAS** and invited Preschool Promise families to help create a community art installation. Every month, children receive a free Play Box with learning materials, and in October, we included markers and wooden blocks to decorate.

More than 150 families sent their decorated blocks to the K12 Gallery, which then

health care professionals. The sign is outside the gallery at 341 S. Jefferson St. downtown and will be on display until January 2021. Drive by and check it out!

Dayton's K12 Gallery & TEJAS offers art classes, afterschool programs, summer art camps and more. Thank you for showcasing our children's work and gratefulness!



Thank you for your generous support of Preschool Promise!



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