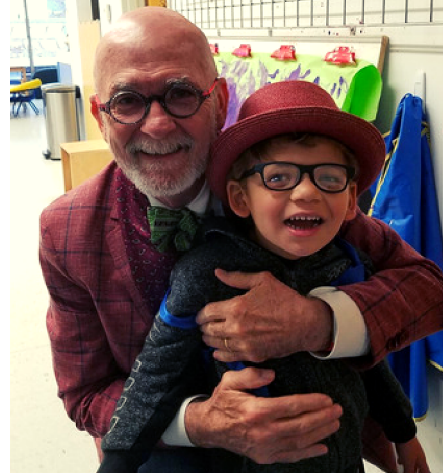




# UCCC & LUME 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## 50 YEARS OF NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS



### A Birthday Bash for UCCC's 50th!

In September, UCCC celebrated 50 years of nurturing relationships based on trust, love, compassion, empathy and joy. More than 200 friends joined on Zoom to celebrate with cake, ice cream, teacher stories, Rene Knott, DJ Reggie, dancers, 3D photos, and inspiration from Steve. Birthday presents totaled more than \$190,000! Best of all, we were together as a community despite physical and social distancing. The party and post-party buzz energized and filled us with hope for UCCC's next 50 years.



### Kindergarten Meets the Need

The pandemic changed expectations for families with Kindergarten-bound children - most would only have "virtual" options. UCCC teachers and staff, with support from our funders, added a Kindergarten classroom, complete with a certified teacher. Eleven children were able to stay and learn in a UCCC-provided, hands-on environment for the 2020-2021 school year.



# NEARLY 45%

## OF FAMILIES WERE AWARDED TUITION ASSISTANCE IN 2020





## Teacher Challenges and Triumphs: Annie's 2020

I grew increasingly anxious each time I watched or listened to the news. The fear and stress became so overwhelming. I found myself convinced that I had contracted the virus--my chest would tighten, my throat became scratchy, I struggled to catch my breath while simply doing the dishes, and I lost a lot of sleep. Something had to give.

My saving grace was being asked to join the "Pandemic Squad"--a handful of UCCC teachers that would return to school and provide childcare for parents/families of essential workers. I leapt at this offer and immediately dove into preparations for returning to work. My brain, my heart and my soul needed this.

As UCCC prepared to reopen, the admin team remained steadfast in their honesty and transparency surrounding all things Covid. Knowing that I had a team of honest, hardworking, loving people behind me, gave me peace of mind. During a time when the world was hit with chaos, pain, loneliness, dread, and fear, I felt secure.

I remember worrying about masks. I kept thinking, "How will the children know that it's me?" "What if the babies are scared of me because they can't see my face?" I set up virtual meetings with families and their children prior to reuniting with them in person. These virtual visits gave the babies a chance to see my face with and without a mask on. We played several games of Peek-a-Boo and sang songs together. I also sent photos of myself wearing a mask and not wearing a mask in the days leading up to their return to UCCC.



University City Children's Center Students

# 120

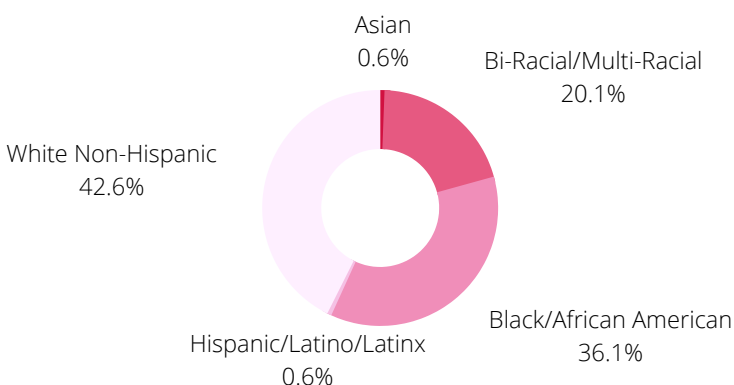
full and part time students

# 35

zip codes throughout the St. Louis region

### All Hands On Deck

In a most-challenging year, UCCC volunteers shone, following thousands of volunteers who have contributed more than 14,000 hours over the past 5 years. We're so thankful for the support from groups and individuals - some took work home with them to do it "remotely."





# L U M E

## Deeper Reach, Stronger Stride

Each year LUME helps over 1,500 early childhood educators advance their ability to emotionally partner with children. Many of those educators are from the seven child care centers that have immersed their teachers, administrators and support workers in multi-year engagements to entrench LUME's Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Model. This broad and deep reach sets a strong foundation for advancing our strategic plan (see below). And, the caregivers LUME educates touch thousands of children's hearts and souls, lifting life trajectories through relationships that lay a firm foundation for learning and life.

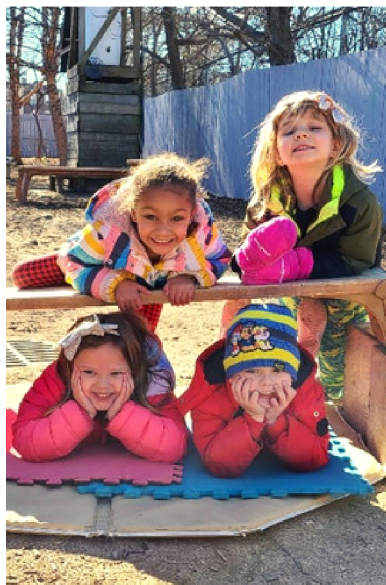
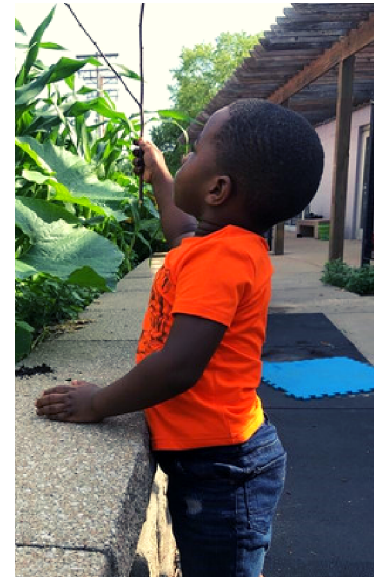
## LUME Professional Development Outcomes

**25** new virtual training sessions conducted

**2531** overall total training attendees

**168** organizations received virtual training

**77%** of respondents reported making changes based on knowledge gained



## Harvard Graduation

Begun in 2019, the first phase of LUME's participation in the *Frontiers of Innovation* project conducted by Harvard University's Center for the Developing Child concluded with a guided review of LUME participant data and applying findings to LUME's teaching and curricula. Over the 18-month project, Harvard provided invaluable guidance for advancing LUME's data collection, analysis, and reporting. In turn, this process helped focus LUME's work with educators. Harvard let us know we're strong candidates for a second phase should they offer it.

## Virtual Offerings / Real Hope

2020 changed everything! LUME shifted to remote learning and reflective coaching with our existing partners. Wary that physical and social distancing could lead to emotional isolation, LUME held over 20 free webinars focused on relationships. Educator webinars featured topics such as "Coping with COVID-19 in Environments Rooted in I-Thou Relationships." Parent webinars included "When Can We Go to the Playground?" to help parents emotionally partner with children in coping with health-driven restrictions. The 25 webinars reached 1,254 people and educators from 168 organizations.

# MORE MILESTONES



## Better Together

UCCC & LUME have refocused on a long-term commitment to progress in diversity, equity, and inclusion. Recent steps have included all-staff education and discussions led by Tabari Coleman of the Anti-Defamation League, funded through a Deaconess grant awarded for this purpose. Peaches Lott and Teri Alexander have agreed to lead our continuing cross-community efforts embracing staff, board, and families as well as future use of the grant. We are doing this work with the intention of becoming Better Together, a principal that is shaping our focus on unity, equitable practices, and culture shift.

## UCCC/LUME's Strategic Plan

Wellspring Consulting guided LUME and UCCC in creating a strategic plan with three major five-year objectives: 1) Entrench LUME's emotionally-responsive practices at 15 child care organizations (key to this objective, UCCC will serve as the first "demonstration school.") 2) Gather and analyze data on the efficacy of emotionally responsive practices and associated learning outcomes for children. 3) Build and sustain relationships with those who can influence Missouri Early Childhood Education policy. In early 2021 LUME received a three-year grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health to fund the second objective.

## Belief that Bolsters

2020 was a rewarding and challenging 50th year for UCCC. It demanded our best - our creativity, effort, support, and love for children and each other. The UCCC community responded, including making 2020 our most-successful year for fundraising ever. Giving represents belief, and belief drives us forward and fuels our hope. Thank you for believing!

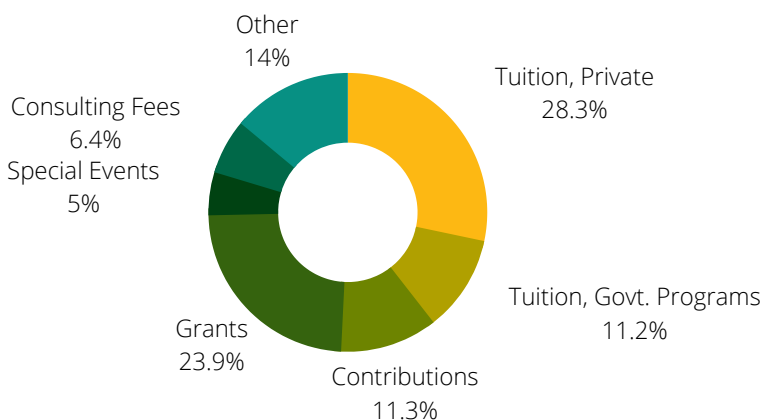
## Well Done Frank!



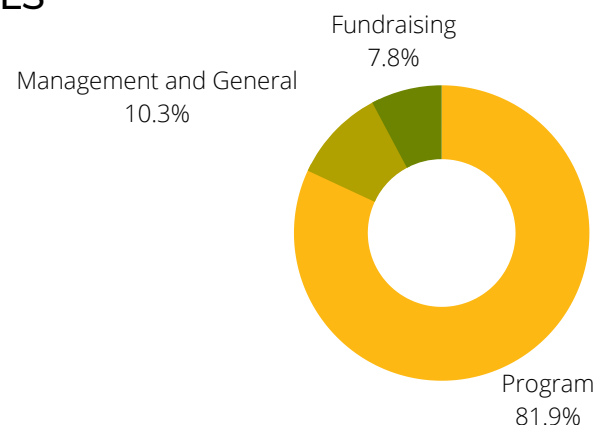
In March, Frank Marchiony, our Director of Finance, accepted a new position as grandfather. Frank concluded over 9 years of outstanding service to UCCC by successfully navigating pandemic-induced financial uncertainties. Frank leaves UCCC on its best-ever financial footing, and with children, teachers and colleagues who miss him dearly.



## 2020 FINANCIALS



UNRESTRICTED REVENUE: \$3,904,962



EXPENDITURES: \$3,707,120