Flickinger Learning center

Annual Report



Prepared for February 2018 Board Meeting

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Goals:

Our goal is to dramatically increase the engagement of children in the Muscatine Community School District.   
By taking action now, we expect an immediate and LONG-LASTING impact in these children’s lives and futures.

* Maintain our current growth of approximately 10% faster in reading
* Increase family involvement and available educational opportunities
* Increase community awareness and involvement
* Increase attendance and engagement for students in the school environment
* Decrease behavioral referrals
* Increase adult education opportunities

**Mission Statement**

It is the purpose of Flickinger Learning Center to provide educational opportunities for learners of all ages, races, beliefs, and abilities to build stronger individuals and a healthier community

## Current ongoing programs:

* We currently have academic After-School Programs at four sites including our main site located at 413 Mulberry Ave, Sunset Park, McKinley School, and Madison School. We have a program cap of one hundred students across the four sites.
* We currently partner with Eastern Iowa Community Colleges to offer English Language Learners and Basic computer classes for adults during the day.
* We partner with United Way of Muscatine and a private donor to provide healthy snacks for the children every day of programming
* We partner with Families Inc, Musser Public Library, UnityPoint New Horizons drug and alcohol prevention services, Financial Literacy coalition, Hy-Vee Mainstreet, Ric Smith’s Children’s Choir, and Judy B to provide special programming at our after-school program. These special programs help to enrich our children by providing specialty classes and services to better serve the whole child.
* Nancy Dew and Hy-Vee Mainstreet partner with us to provide a Hy-Vee one step grant. The grant allows us to have an ongoing garden that helps to teach the children about planting, growing, and harvesting their own foods. It also helps to teach and encourage healthy eating.

“I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.” ~ Albert Einstein

## Parent Survey Results January 2017

Parent Surveys were initiated in 2015. We typically repeat them twice every program year. The first set of results are from January 2017. At that time, we had 6 total sites. In addition to our main site, we had programs at Franklin, Grant, Jefferson, Madison, and McKinley schools. The second set are from November 2017. We had 4 programs at that time. The November 2017 results have some demographic data attached as well.   
  
**Total number of responses for all programs - 95   
  
Do you feel that the after school program is a safe place for your child to be?  
95 yes (100%)  
  
has your child become a better reader since starting the after school program   
83 yes (87%) 1 no (1%) 9 maybe (10%) not applicable (1%) No response 1 (1%)  
  
Does your child complete his/her homework during the after school program?  
67 yes (71%) 6 no (6%) 22 maybe (23%)   
  
is your child doing better behaviorally at school since starting the after school program?**

**60 yes (63%) 3 no (3%) 12 maybe (13%) 20 not applicable (21%)   
  
Do you believe the after school program is effective in helping your child with their academic needs?   
93 yes (98%) 2 maybe (2%)**

**Parent Survey results January 2017 Continued…**

Questions, concerns, or ways we can improve the program? Please let us know

* “Maybe all should be yes, but I don’t know for sure” -Parent had marked questions 2,3, and 4 as maybe.
* “It’s a great program. She enjoys attending Thank you”
* “Program is great my child has improved so much since she began staying in the program. Thank you so much for the help and support my child receives. God bless you all.”
* “I feel (there) needs to be more reading +vocabulary”
* “My child has done 100% better! Love the program!”
* “What Exercises or activities are done to help reading? What can I do at home to help? Is there a list of words or exercises we can work on?”
* “I think it would be helpful to parents if the program could send home their agenda for the day/or week notifying us what they do work on, and discuss w/teachers on their progress to make sure they are getting help in the areas needed & then notify parents with the progress”
* “Thanks, you guys for the great job!”
* “She has improved so much!” “I wish they could attend 2-3 times a week. She gets very tired at the end of the day, and it seems like we have no family time during the week.”
* “no concerns. Great program!”
* “No concern or question for now”
* You are doing great and he loves going. ☺”

## Parent Survey Results November 2017

**All Programs  
Total Responses 59 (91%)**1) Do you feel that the afterschool program is a safe place for your child to be?   
**100% yes**

2) Has your child become a better reader since starting the afterschool program?   
**92% yes 2% no 5% Write in 2% NA**  
  
3) Does your child complete his/her homework during the afterschool program?   
**68% yes 3% no 12% Write In 17% NA**

4) is your child doing better at school since starting the afterschool program?   
**90% yes 10% write in**

5)Do you qualify free or reduced lunch through the Muscatine Community School District?   
**78% Yes 19% no 3% Write in**

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**Ethnicity Breakdown November 2017**

**All Programs:**   
White 37%  
Black or African American 33%  
Hispanic/Latino, of any race 29%  
Asian1%

**Main Site:**White 28%  
Black or African American 56%  
Hispanic/Latino of any race 16%  
  
**Madison:**  
White 31%  
Black or African American 23%  
Hispanic/Latino of any race 38%  
Asian 1%

**McKinley**  
White 44%  
Black or African American 12%  
Hispanic/Latino of any race 44%

**Sunset:**  
White 56%  
Black or African American 22%  
Hispanic/Latino of any race 22%

**City of Muscatine Ethnicity Data from 2015:**

White 85.0%  
Black or African American 3.9%  
Hispanic/Latino of any race 17.8%  
Asian 1.1%

“As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest.”

~Nelson Mandela

## A community Working Together

Flickinger is a unique program in that it is completely free to children in need. If we were to charge, we would be beyond the reach of those that need us the most.   
  
 To keep our services free, we rely on the kindness of our community. With their support, we can fulfill our great mission! We have been very fortunate in the past year to have receive grants and donations from **The United Way, The Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine, The Howe Foundation, Monsanto, HNI Hon Comp, Kent Corp, Zachry, Hy-Vee Mainstreet**, as well as many area businesses, and conscientious private citizens.   
 There are many more that cannot afford a financial contribution, but instead donate their still usable office and school supplies, craft supplies, musical instruments, toys in good condition, children’s books, STEM supplies, and other assorted useful things. For instance, this year **The Stanley Foundation** donated bookcases, lateral and rolling file cabinets, and office chairs that were still in very nice condition.   
 We are even fortunate enough to have professionals donate their time and energy to make our building more efficient! In the past few months Monsanto sent a team of volunteers to get rid of old equipment, clean, move furniture and get our basement ready for the remodel. **J&K Contracting** donated around $300 worth of man hours installing new electrical outlets in our basement. **Wolfe Contracting** donated a battery backup for our sump pump landscaping, and more importantly they agreed to put new handicap ramps in our back entrance! This provided a cost savings of over $3000!  
**Puroclean** and **Absolutely Dry** also contributed to our remodeling project with expertise, countless answered questions, and competitive contracts.   
 Sometimes what people donate can scarcely be measured in dollars and cents. We have a very dedicated group of volunteers that come to the centers daily to help with reading, homework, math, tying a shoe, listening to a story, playing a game, working on art projects, or even just helping with supplies. You can’t put a price tag on having these wonderful role models spending their free time with us.

## A year of changes

2017 has been nothing if not a year of growth and dynamic changes. During the 2016-2017 session we had a contract with the Muscatine Community School District (MCSD.) In the previous year, we were able to open 4 sites at the beginning of the session. Main site had an enrollment cap of 40, Spring Valley Bible Camp had 20, Franklin school had 20 and Jefferson also had 20. All those sites were paid for with funds from Flickinger Learning Center. In the second half of the program year, after hearing from many school staff that more help was needed, we were also able to open programs at McKinley and Grant schools. Each of those programs also capped at 20 students each.

Those programs were so successful that the school district decided to partner with us for the 2016-2017 session. They also decided that they would like to increase the program enrollment caps from 20 to 40 at each of the school sites. To accommodate such a massive change, we closed our site at Spring Valley Bible Camp as Stephanie Durocher, the coordinator at the site, came to be our Assistant Executive Director. With her background as a school psychologist and interventionist for a public-school system she was the perfect fit.   
 Due to budget cuts within the schools that contract was not renewed for the 2017-2018 session.

For this current 2017-2018 session we were able to fund three programs. The first was at our Main site. We again set an enrollment cap of 40 students. We also opened sites at Madison and McKinley Schools that have a cap of 20 students each. In the month prior to starting we were contacted by a City of Muscatine employee asking us if we could be contracted out to cover programming at Sunset Park’s after-school program? We agreed to do so. We provided the coordinator, and the city supplied the support staff member as she already worked at the program. That program also caps at 20.

The Joys of an Old Building  
  
 2017 brought about other changes as well. The mostly volunteer IT staff was no longer able to keep up with our growing demands. They resigned with our gratitude.   
  
We hired Big Imprint to create an engaging website.  
We hired Reliable Network Solutions to handle our network needs.   
  
When the IT staff moved out of the basement we unfortunately discovered that there was water damage. Thus, began the current construction saga.

We got three bids each for mitigation, rebuilding, and waterproofing. It was determined that the water issues were started by the slope of our parking lot and made worse by inefficient drainage systems. There was damage to the retaining wall side walk, and a large section of the parking lot as well as damage to the inside of the building. In the past when there wasn’t any money in the budget these issues had been handled with stop gap measures such as mud jacking, waterproof paint, replacing drywall, and filling the cracks in the lot with asphalt and cement.   
  
This year there was money in the budget to take care of these things in a more permanent manner.   
  
We hired Puroclean to do the mitigation. That cost came to **$1,601.45**  
Wolfe construction handled the rebuild inside of the building and creating a new sump pump pit with a more powerful pump with a battery backup, as well as tearing out and replacing a large section of the parking lot as well as part of the sidewalk, the retaining wall, and the downstairs entrance way. They also installed new efficient drainage systems underneath of the new construction and they hooked it up with Hon’s drains.   
Total cost of that project has come to **$37,540**  
\*Brian Wolfe also agreed to pour a new handicap ramp at our back entrance for free!

Absolutely Dry sold us two commercial dehumidifiers for **$3,540**

Over the past few years the upstairs toilet became more and more prone to clogging. The recent construction in the alternate bathroom downstairs created more traffic in the upstairs bathroom. This has necessitated several calls to Rivo for help getting things unstuck. It was finally discovered that the main line in the dungeon side of the basement was clogged.   
There was also a very old toilet on the dungeon side that was still hooked up to the line. Every so often, if the water got too low in the bowl, sewer gas would leak out and permeate the whole building with a horrible stench. The plumbers went ahead and took the toilet out and plugged the hole to prevent future issues.   
Soon after this Puroclean was doing the mitigation in the basement. They found that the mold damage infiltrated the drywall behind the sink and toilet in the usable side of the basement. We had to call Rivo again to have them come in right away to pull the toilet and sink and plug the holes until construction could be completed. When the toilet was pulled, a large piece of material broke loose from the floor. It had been used to keep the toilet up as the pipes and cistern underneath were of an older style, and the two did not fit together correctly. Fred from Rivo ended up pouring a new concrete base for the toilet to sit on. We also had to have him create a place to drain the dehumidifier into on the dungeon side as it was found that we don’t have any drains over on that side at all anymore. The total cost of plumbing this year was **$1734.15**

We also needed a new basement furnace this year. That was sold to us by Dan Moody for **$1250**

Our large storage closet in the upstairs used to be very dimly lit. Justin from J&K Contractors came and installed new lighting for **$150**  
We called him again when we needed to move the sump pump outlet and put in a new outlet for one of the dehumidifiers. He only charged us for the parts! What had been quoted by other electricians as being $400 he did for **$120**! He agreed to offer the same deal for us in the future to support the work that we are doing with the children here.

**Total Cost of Building Repairs 2017**

PuroClean: $1,601.45

Wolfe Construction: $37,540.00

Absolutely Dry: $3,540.00

Dan Moody Heating & Cooling: $1250.00

Rivo Plumbing: $1734.15

J&K Contractors (Electric): $270.00

Total: $45,935.60

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”   
 ― [Margaret Mead](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/61107.Margaret_Mead)