

Children's Winter Garden with White Wing School – Annual Report 2021-2022

Members: Chris Clanin (School Director), Rev. Allison Palm (UUCN), Amanda Banner (Co-Chair, UUCN), Katie Osborn (Co-Chair, Parent), Ellen McCahon (Treasurer, UUCN), Allison Annand (Secretary, UUCN), Melissa Locke (PAWWS Lead, parent), Ashley Norman (parent).

Overview:

- Enrollment remains strong
- NAEYC certification renewed
- School awarded a \$55,000 grant with specific provisions for teacher retention
- Updated the parental leave policy to align with UUCN
- One family requested and received a scholarship for \$3,600 (covers 87% of tuition)

We've had strong enrollment numbers all year, around 76 students, with almost all spots filled for the 2022-2023 school year ahead.

School renewed their state licensing and NAEYC certification. NAEYC-accredited programs commit to ensuring that their environment, policies, and practices are continually aligned with NAEYC's early learning standards and recommended practices. Less than 6% of early childhood centers are NAEYC accredited. NAEYC certification is good until 2027. This had originally been scheduled for 2020 renewal. NAEYC certification requires extra effort by teachers and staff to create portfolios of work that align to standards and to have an unannounced school visit by an appraiser.

Chris pursued and earned a grant of \$55,000 in 2022 that can be spent until December 2022. Part of the grant is that at least \$18,000 must go towards staff compensation. We gave staff and teachers Christmas and end-of-year bonuses. It also paid for updates to classrooms including new window blinds that operate much better than the old ones and are safer for children.

On Veteran's Day the children thanked Mark, our sexton, for being a veteran. The children made a poster to thank him for his service. While parents have not been able to visit classrooms this year, the teachers were adaptive and creative in doing Open Houses virtually and creating video tours for families. This spring we will be doing an in person graduation for the first time in three years.

One teacher will be going on maternity leave in Fall 2022. We've created a new parental leave policy that aligns with UUCN and allows this teacher to take 12 weeks off with an income.

The UUCN congregation donated \$3,000 to the CWG-WWS scholarship fund as part of our March 2021 outreach. One family is currently receiving a scholarship for \$3,600, covering 87% of tuition. The school has also set aside some grant money for the scholarship fund.