Educating and caring for children in a safe and nurturing environment is tremendously important to the University of Michigan, enhancing the ability of our faculty, students and staff to contribute to the university community while pursuing their academic and professional goals.

Since the founding of the first University of Michigan Children’s Center in 1983, the Children’s Centers have supported the university’s teaching, research and service missions by providing exemplary early childhood education, participating in academic research projects and delivering courses on child development to undergraduates.

Thank you for supporting this proud tradition of excellence. Your support helps us improve our facilities, support teacher professional development, fund special projects and make enrollment in our Centers possible for low-income students, faculty and staff.
A DECADE OF
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

2005
Former president Mary Sue Coleman launches a Child Care Initiative to expand and improve campus child care. Children’s Center for Working Families, Children’s Center and Pound House Children’s Center join University Human Resources.

2006
Children’s Center for Working Families and Pound House Children’s Center merge to form Towsley Children’s House.

2007
Regents approve replacement of Towsley with a new facility providing space for 140 infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

2010
Towsley Children’s House opens providing twice the capacity of the original two centers. Northwood Child Development Center joins University Human Resources.

2011
U-M Children’s Center and Northwood Child Development Center combine to form North Campus Children’s Center, expanding capacity to serve 140 infants, toddlers and preschoolers. The Health System Children’s Center, formerly a private, non-profit organization, is acquired and joins with the Children’s Centers.

2012-15
Shared administrative services are developed to centralize hiring, wait list, enrollment, research administration, tuition grants and financial operations. All three Children’s Centers work toward national accreditation and Michigan QRIS ratings. Early childhood curricula and philosophy are developed in the newly merged programs (Towsley and North Campus).

2015
The University of Michigan Early Childhood Education and Care Program is renamed the University of Michigan Children’s Centers. The combined program is staffed by 126 teachers and administrators, and provides early childhood education for 334 preschoolers, 83 toddlers, and 44 infants, as well as summer camps for up to 100 children (grades K-3).
TUITION SUPPORT
Child Care Tuition Grants provided by the Office of the Provost make it possible for qualifying students, staff and faculty members to enroll their children in the Children’s Centers. “My family is thankful for those who supported this program,” writes J.P., a research fellow in Biomedical Engineering, “The child care tuition grant made it affordable for my daughter to attend North Campus Children’s Center.”

“One of the main reasons why I decided to attend the University of Michigan,” says A.O, a graduate student at the Ford School of Public Policy, “is because of the resources available for student parents—like the Child Care Tuition Grant and Child Care Subsidy.”

The Women’s Faculty Club contributed scholarships to the Children’s Centers in 2013 and 2014, helping even more families with the cost of tuition.

FUNDING CREATIVITY
An auction of children’s artwork at the Towsley Children’s House raised funds for the purchase of durable outdoor building blocks that spur innovation and discovery.

The Health System Children’s Center Annual Art Auction raised funds for the purchase of a water table for summer fun. In addition to the children’s art work, each classroom put together themed baskets for auction and Argentinian artist, Daniella Miceli donated original artwork.

North Campus Children’s Center families attending an exhibit of their children’s work raised $1,300 to purchase a potter’s wheel and tools and fund visiting artists.

A fund created in honor of Polly Cuthbert, a beloved former Children’s Center teacher, provided iPads for every classroom at the Towsley Children’s House. iPads helped the teachers document the children’s development, share information with parents, and incorporate music and storytelling in their teaching. iPads are now used in all three Children’s Centers.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Thank you to our generous donors who helped us to raise over $1,000 in contributions on Giving Blue Day. These funds will support the cost of three teachers attending the Michigan Association for the Education of Children Annual Conference in Grand Rapids.

AND MORE
A veterinary bill was generously paid for by Andrea, Kevin, Ell and Michael McViegh so that the pet bunny at North Campus Children’s Center could be adopted and cared for.

A touring buggy donated to the North Campus Children’s Center by the Farell family enables outdoor exploration for infants and toddlers.

These are just a small sample of the many ways that your generosity helps the Children’s Centers provide outstanding early childhood education to foster confidence, competence, creativity and lifelong learning.
Centers of excellence: Health System Children’s Center, North Campus Children’s Center, Towsley Children’s House all serving infants, toddlers and preschoolers

School-age summer camps for children in grades K-3

Teachers, assistant teachers and administrative staff make a difference every day by delivering excellence through formative early childhood education experiences

Schools and Colleges represented by the families of children enrolled in our programs

Hours of hands-on classroom experience provided annually to train the teachers of tomorrow

Research projects from schools of Kinesiology, Education, Medicine, Nursing and Psychology

Faculty, students and staff supported in the pursuit of their academic, research and professional careers during the 2015-16 year

Children advantaged annually by child-focused education experiences that build the foundation for lifelong learning

Tuition grants awarded annually, supporting low income faculty, staff and students with the cost of care
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you for your continuing support of our commitment to provide formative early childhood education experiences that foster lifelong learning and a positive sense of self, others and the world.

For more information, visit us at hr.umich.edu/childrens-centers or call (734) 763-3947.