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**BROOKLYN  
KINDERGARTEN  
SOCIETY**

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**2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## POISED FOR GROWTH

In 2015, BKS piloted the Family Child Care Partnership (FCCP). In this new and innovative program, BKS is seeking to provide more vulnerable Brooklyn children, from birth to age five, with access to high quality early childhood experiences that prepare them for success in school and life. Through FCCP, family child care providers are supported by BKS staff at their locations through coaching, modeling, and professional development. This is helping to improve child care provider-child interactions and enhance the foundation for young children's learning and development outside of BKS classrooms. The FCCP pilot program is unique in its role in becoming a community partner with child care providers and sharing best practices beyond our centers. With 12 partners and an additional 144 children, BKS is serving more children than ever before.



In 2015, we also started to plan for the opening of our sixth center in North Crown Heights. The Weeksville Gardens Children's Center/Community Center will be open in September 2016 and will have three UPK classrooms, a STEM classroom, and a community center for enrichment programs and events open to residents of the neighborhood.

## THANK YOU

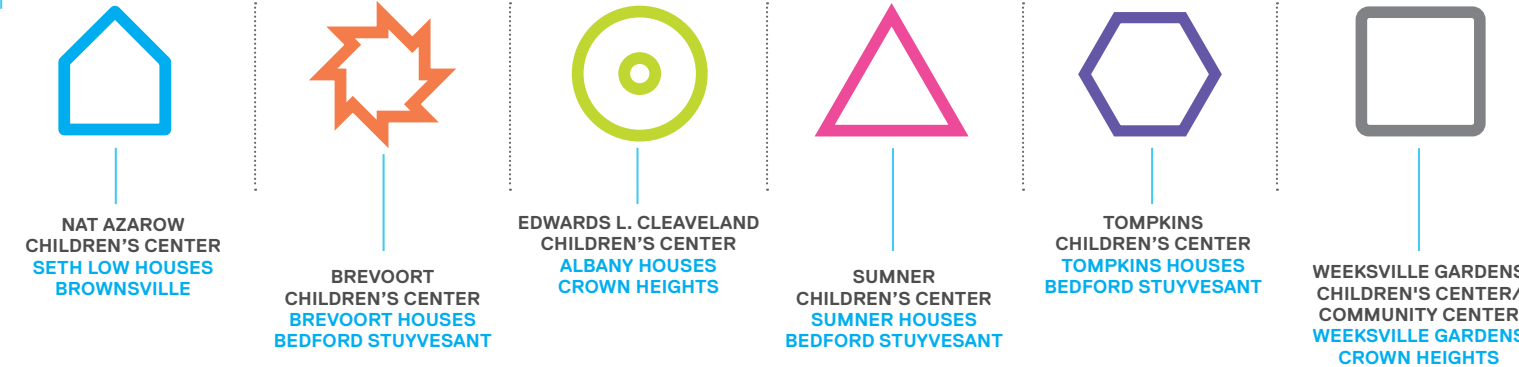
While BKS receives government grants, private funding allows BKS to hire the best teachers and supervisors available, then train and coach them constantly to individualize the classroom experience for every child in our care. We have a full contingent of family services workers who counsel parents to seek higher personal goals as well as become their children's primary advocates. BKS also provides far more enrichment activities (e.g., music, art, literacy, dance, chess, horseback riding, and soccer) than any other program in New York. These three areas set BKS apart from all other programs. Thank you to the following individuals, foundations, and corporations in fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015) for helping to provide all of these services.

“My experience with the BKS team has been exceptional. The staff there are professional, welcoming and show a great deal of respect for the students and their families. I’ve seen a great deal of growth in my son... he loves his teachers as well as his classmates. I know he will do great in Kindergarten and beyond.”

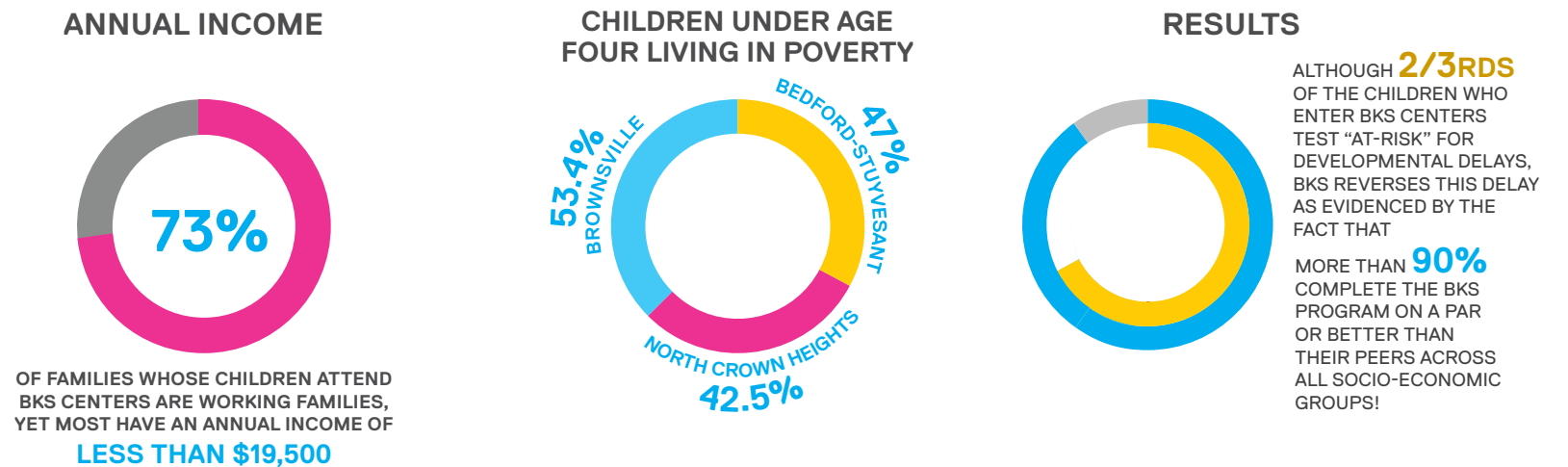
– MAKEBA PRICE, TOMPKINS CHILDREN'S CENTER

Since its founding in 1891, the Brooklyn Kindergarten Society (BKS) has strived to stop the cycle of poverty where it does the most damage — in early childhood. BKS' mission has been consistent: ensure that children receive an educationally-rich program for essential preschool learning in an environment that cultivates the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. BKS recognizes that families — the key to children's success — often benefit from resources and support beyond the classroom. To that end, our social services staff provides counseling, referral services, and workshops for children and their families.

## 6 CENTERS



## KEY FACTS



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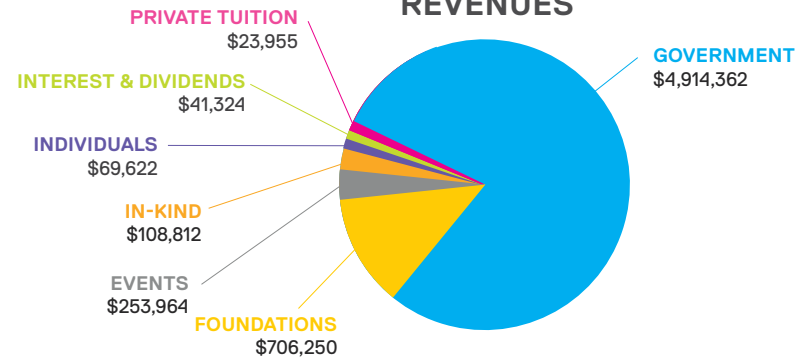
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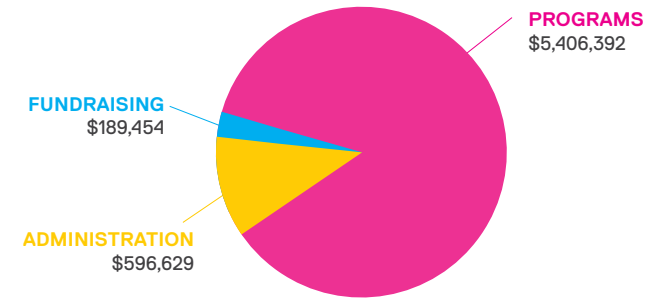
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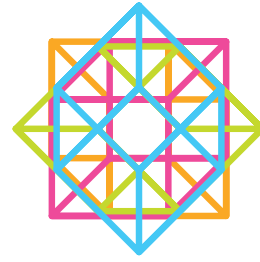
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The strength of BKS programs depends on your generosity. Please consider making a donation today.  
Check out our new website at [www.bksny.org](http://www.bksny.org).







BROOKLYN  
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125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA  
MAY 2016, LIBERTY WAREHOUSE

Thank you to all of our supporters for making our 125th Anniversary Celebration such a success! Our honorees for the evening were Kathy and Henry Elsesser and Michele and Ken Newman. We couldn't have asked for more generous and thoughtful individuals, who truly believe in the many positive benefits of early childhood education and have been so supportive over the years. We are also especially grateful for our co-chairs Christine and Donald Benson; Laura Trevelyan and James Goldston; Amerika and Bradd Williamson; and Rebecca and Alexander Yaggy; and all of our gala committee members.

**LATHAM**  
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**Clockwise from upper left:** Gala Co-Chairs, Christine Benson, Rebecca Yaggy, Amerika Williamson, and Laura Trevelyan. **Upper center:** Board Member Gen Christy, Honorary Board Member Janet Offensend, and Barbara Moore. **Upper right:** First Lady Chirlane McCray, Marion Matison, and Executive Director Jim Matison. **Right:** Gala Co-Chair and Emcee, Laura Trevelyan. **Lower right:** Honoree, Henry Elsesser. **Lower center:** Board Member, Davida David. **Lower Left:** Hope Prosky, sitting, Elaine Hellew, Honoree Kathy Elsesser, and Sarah Koch. **Left:** Honorees Michele and Ken Newman and Laura Trevelyan.

Photo credit: Susye Greenwood





BROOKLYN KINDERGARTEN SOCIETY  
WAS PROUD TO HOST THE

# 95<sup>th</sup> YULETIDE BALL

DECEMBER 2015, THE HEIGHTS CASINO

The Yuletide Ball's success is always dependent on the generosity of many - hosts who graciously organize pre-Ball dinners, committee members who help organize, and co-chairs who coordinate it all. Heartfelt thanks to our hosts, committee, and co-chairs Amelia Wilson and Tara Sparks. And many thanks to all our donors who continue to support our work educating Brooklyn's vulnerable children. We couldn't do it without you!



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Dancing the night away



Amelia Wilson, Co-Chair Yuletide Ball Committee, and Amerika Williamson



Peter Woglom and Dabney Lee Woglom, Tara Sparks, Co-Chair Yuletide Ball Committee, and Matthew Sparks



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Fiona Forward, Henry Elsesser, BKS Executive Director Jim Matison, Amerika Williamson, and BKS Board Member Rebecca Yaggy



Beatrice Smith, Hannah Smith, and Will Smith



Pre-Ball dinner party

Photo credit: Susye Greenwood