

**BROOKLYN
KINDERGARTEN
SOCIETY**

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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Dear Friends of BKS,

For more than 125 years, Brooklyn Kindergarten Society has worked to ensure children from low-income families receive a high-quality education in a nurturing environment that cultivates the skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

Our early childhood learning centers—located in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Crown Heights, and Brownsville public housing—annually serve 400 children and their families. We recognize that families, the key to children's success, often benefit from resources and support beyond the classroom. To that end, BKS provides counseling, referral services, and workshops for children and their families.

Thank you for making this critical work possible.

When you invest in early childhood education, you have a great, long-lasting impact on the lives of children.

In economic terms, early education affects an individual's longterm earnings and society's poverty, health, remedial education, and criminal justice system expenditures. Investing in early education returns \$17 for every \$1 invested.

Children absorb knowledge at a remarkable rate in the first few years of life. By age five, most children have built more than 90% of their brain connections—connections that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. Childhood poverty can cause lasting changes in the brain unless quality intervention efforts begin early.

Although BKS receives government funding, that funding falls short of meeting the needs for high-quality early childhood education. Private support from our generous donors provides BKS children and families with excellent teachers, research-based curricula, family service programs, and unique enrichment activities—a quality of care and education that low-income children rarely receive.

Thank you to the individuals, foundations, and corporations who are working with BKS to stop the cycle of poverty where it does the most damage—in early childhood. In fiscal year 2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016), you made generous gifts of funding, books, toys, goods and services, and your time.

On behalf of the Brooklyn Kindergarten Society board, staff, children, and families, thank you.

Together, we can build a brighter future for vulnerable Brooklyn children and their families.

Sincerely,

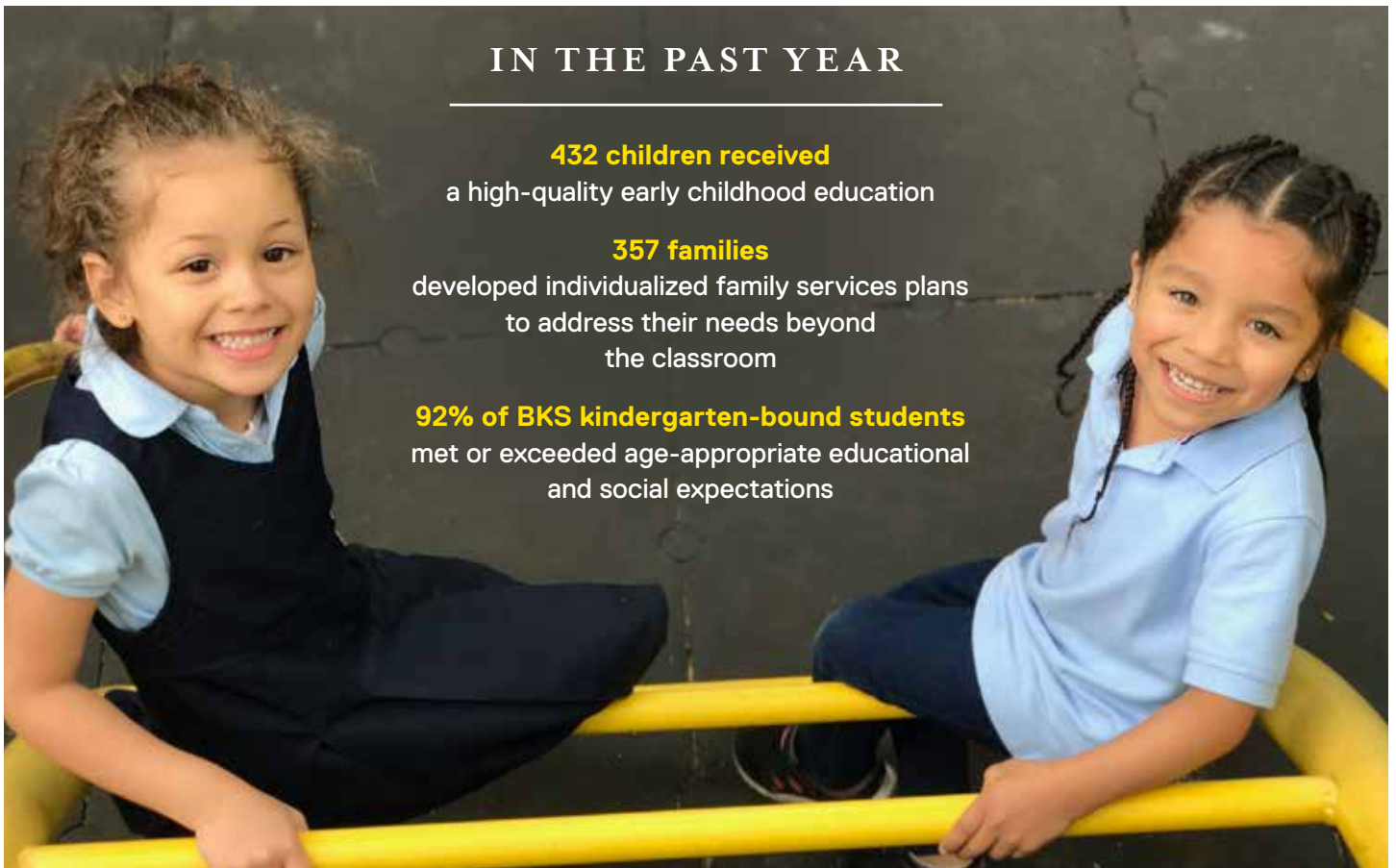
James Matison, Executive Director
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IN THE PAST YEAR

432 children received
a high-quality early childhood education

357 families
developed individualized family services plans
to address their needs beyond
the classroom

92% of BKS kindergarten-bound students
met or exceeded age-appropriate educational
and social expectations



We've Launched

The **Family Child Care Partnership (FCCP)** pilot program to support licensed family child care providers at their locations through coaching, modeling, and professional development. FCCP staff gave the providers specific tasks for speaking with and reading to the children in their care and also gave them vocabulary words to add to their ongoing teacher-child and parent-child interactions.

In 2016, FCCP grew to include **twelve partners and 144 children**. This pilot project allowed BKS to reach more Brooklyn children, from birth to age five, and provide them with access to high-quality early childhood experiences to prepare them for success in school and life.



Community Partnerships

We collaborated with the **Brooklyn Fatherhood Partnership** to capitalize on the success of our annual “Bring Dad to School” event in September. The program empowers dads and other male caregivers by providing them access to resources, training, and support networks.

BKS also partnered with **Cool Culture** to give families a personalized Cool Culture Family Pass, which provides free admission at 90 New York City museums, gardens, zoos, and special attractions like the Intrepid, the Bronx Zoo, the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens and the new Whitney Museum.

Supporting Teachers

Each month, staff participated in full-day **staff development days**. Workshops for teachers featured such topics as: professional development, managing challenging behavior, teaching assessment tools, classroom management, meeting the needs of children with special needs, lesson planning, and working with families.

These monthly development days empower and educate teachers and improve upon the quality of teacher interactions with children and families.



Enriching Children

BKS children experienced such enriching activities as chess, gardening, the visual and performing arts, horseback riding, soccer, yoga, and field trips. Some highlights include:

- ◆ Dance and music with the artist-educators at **Cumbe: Center for African and Diaspora Dance**
- ◆ Creative expression through collage, wood construction, paint, and clay with the artist-educators at **Studio in a School**
- ◆ Singing, movement, instrumental play, body percussion, speech, poetry, and drama through the **Brooklyn Conservatory of Music**

Strengthening Families

GED and ESL classes launched at BKS on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at BKS centers. We added these programs to meet a critical need—40% of BKS children come from families where English is not the primary language spoken at home. The Department of Education provides a teacher and all materials for the classes, while BKS provides child care staffing and food to make it easier for families to participate in the programs. These classes help put families on pathways to self-sufficiency—and engage parents in their children's education.





Moving Ahead

Throughout the summer, BKS geared up for the Fall 2016 opening of our **new center at Weeksville Gardens in Crown Heights**. Our community liaison laid the groundwork for the community center programming at Weeksville Gardens.

Brevoort Children's Center joined the list of our current NAEYC accredited centers (Sumner and Tompkins). The National Association for the Education of Young Children is the gold standard for excellence in early childhood education. In the State of New York, only 1% of eligible centers are NAEYC accredited, and nationwide only 8% of eligible centers have earned this distinction.

Thank You 2016 TCS New York City Marathon Runners!

STEVEN COX
EDA HENRIES
JESSE NISSELSON
GIUSEPPE SANTARELLI
HANNAH SMITH

Thank you, marathon runners and supporters!

Together, you raised \$17,000 so that Brooklyn kids can hit the ground running with an excellent early childhood education.



THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE
96th YULETIDE BALL
A SUCCESS

Our heartfelt thanks to Yuletide co-chairs **PAULA DUNBAR** and **TARA SPARKS**, the Yuletide committee members, the pre-Ball dinner hosts, the Yuletide sponsors, and the many generous donors supporting high-quality early education for Brooklyn's most vulnerable children!

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Yuletide Committee members and friends host pre-ball dinners that run the gamut from elaborate black-tie affairs to small gatherings with order-in pizza. However you choose to host, thank you for making the evening a success.

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Thank you for graciously hosting a dinner before the Yuletide Ball!

Interested in hosting, contact Tania Kleckner at (718) 623-9803 or tkleckner@bksny.org



125TH ANNIVERSARY GALA MAY 2016, LIBERTY WAREHOUSE

In 2016, Brooklyn Kindergarten Society celebrated our 125th anniversary! When Brooklyn Kindergarten Society was founded 125 years ago, some of the most vulnerable populations in Brooklyn were the European immigrants served by BKS. While the makeup of some of the most vulnerable populations has changed, the importance of BKS's work endures.

The May 19th gala honored longtime BKS supporters and volunteers Kathy & Henry Elsesser and Michele & Ken Newman. Laura Trevelyan, BKS board member, gala co-chair, and anchor for BBC World News America, served as mistress of ceremony for this celebratory event.

“I feel like they’re learning a lot, and not just ABCs and 123s... They’re learning empathy and tolerance and compassion and being a good neighbor and being friendly and recycling and loving your planet... Brooklyn Kindergarten Society serves communities that sometimes get overlooked. My children are being exposed to so much more than what the community offers.”

- MARJORIE NASSIROU, a BKS mom and New York City Transit Authority bus operator

THANK YOU TO OUR GALA CO-CHAIRS

Christine & Donald Benson, Laura Trevelyan & James Goldston, Amerika & Bradd Williamson, and Rebecca & Alexander Yaggy, the 125th Anniversary Gala Committee, and the many generous donors who made special gifts in honor of our 125th anniversary.

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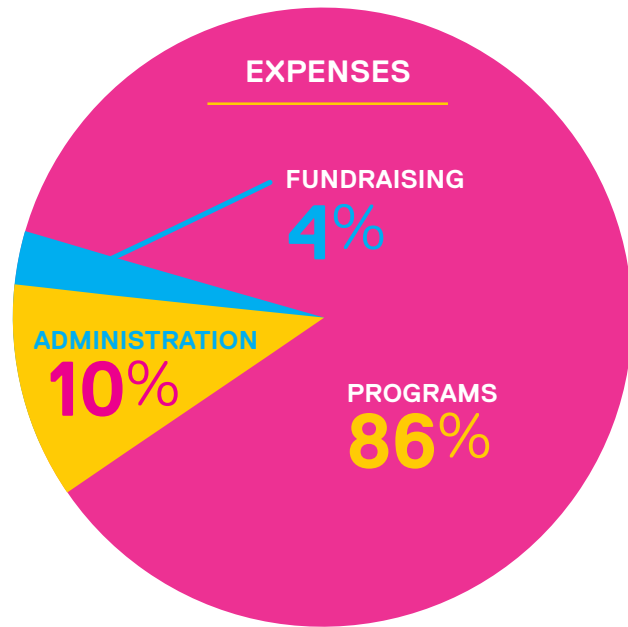
Year Ended June 30, 2016

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Government: \$5,420,466
Foundations: \$866,948
Events: \$745,314
In-Kind: \$72,333
Individuals: \$61,691
Interest & Dividends: \$53,303
Private Tuition: \$25,074
Total Revenues: \$7,245,129

EXPENSES

Programs: \$6,376,860
Administration: \$716,997
Fundraising: \$282,488
Total Expenses: \$7,376,345



LOOKING AHEAD

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, BKS is poised for growth in the months and years to come to provide a continuum of service for our community. Plans include:

Establishing ongoing relationships with children and families beyond attendance in early childhood programs and into elementary school for greater impact

Extending services to younger children through center-based learning, home visits, and family support

Extending services to older children (through second grade) with afterschool and summer programming, and family support



BKS CENTER LOCATIONS

- NAT AZAROW CHILDREN'S CENTER — Brownsville
- BREVOORT CHILDREN'S CENTER — Bedford-Stuyvesant
- EDWARDS L. CLEVELAND CHILDREN'S CENTER — Crown Heights
- SUMNER CHILDREN'S CENTER — Bedford-Stuyvesant
- TOMPKINS CHILDREN'S CENTER — Bedford-Stuyvesant
- WEEKSVILLE GARDENS COMMUNITY CENTER — Crown Heights



2/3

of the children entering BKS test "at risk" for developmental delays...



... but
90%

complete the BKS program on par with or better than their peers across all socio-economic groups!

