

UNI-PRES



Kindercottage

Home of the Busy Bees!

December 2011
Volume 5, Issue 4

564 Veronica Avenue, East St. Louis, IL 62205, www.unipreskindercottage.org

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Board of Directors

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Carla Monroe-Posey, Chair

Flo Jeffreys, Vice-Chair

Judy Brickey, Secretary

Tim Boyce, Treasurer

Jane Buck

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Glenn Mullins

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Mission Statement:

Uni-Pres Kindercottage is a quality early childhood program in East St. Louis serving low-income families with at-risk infants and preschool children six months to five years old.

A Word from our Director, Brenda Crisp:

Greetings everyone,

This has been an eventful year for Uni-Pres Kindercottage. Many changes have occurred with our staff, families and especially, our income. The State made drastic cuts to the field of childcare; payments have been delayed and because of this, lay-off of staff occurred.

There were many delightful events happening, as well. The most recent was the first annual dinner that Uni-Pres Kindercottage has ever held. It was a fun and blissful event. I have never felt so loved by so many of you, as I did on this night. It was a night to celebrate YOU because you are responsible for the continuous life of Uni-Pres Kindercottage. I thank each of you for helping to make this possible.

This year, we held two fishing tournaments for children which were filled with very happy children hoping to catch the largest fish. Three boys and one girl were winners. Their fish measured 21 inches in length. During these events, you saw children excited at catching fish, children afraid to touch bait or the fish when caught, you saw parents trying to assist with untangling the fishing lines and another child coming to help, and you saw children HAPPY. That makes my world!

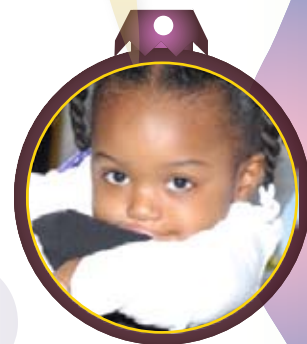
Another first happened for Uni-Pres Kindercottage this year. We participated in a voting contest sponsored by Monsanto. We competed against some big agencies and many that have competed in this type of contest before. Though, we didn't win, the experience was great. I thank all who went online and voted for our mission. This will come again in early December and one of our Board members has a plan to get more votes this time. Look for an announcement in November.

Words are all I have for each of you and those words are: THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR UNI-PRES KINDERCOTTAGE.
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

God bless each of you, Brenda Crisp

Christmas Gifts for Kindercottage Children

Would you like to adopt a child at Kindercottage for Christmas? Please give us a call, tell us if you want boy (s) or girl (s). We will send a picture and a brief description and a gift suggestion. We ask that all gifts arrive at the center by December 20, 2011. Children will take gifts home December 23, 2011. You can give us a reminder call at (618) 874-6505 or email us unipres@sbcglobal.net and tell us your wish. Thank you. The children so look forward to receiving your gifts.



A Word from the Board President: By Carla Monroe-Posey

Fall is a busy time at Uni-Pres Kindercottage. Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll see many of our Fall activities. I want to highlight our gratitude to the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ for their continued support of our mission in the form of a budgeted gift of \$20,000 for 2012. The gift was part of the 2012 budget passed at the Conference's recent Annual Meeting. In addition, an offering for Kindercottage was taken at the September 9th Annual Meeting opening worship service, resulting in a gift of more than \$4,000 for Kindercottage. To the churches, members and friends of Illinois South Conference our sincere thanks for your faithfulness in supporting the mission of educating and serving the precious youngsters of East St. Louis and their families.

As we continue to cope with the challenges of the budget difficulties of the State of Illinois, we know that the sustained commitment to Kindercottage of all our friends, churches and business supporters will uphold our mission and services in East St. Louis. If you are interested in learning more about our mission and future, please feel free to contact me at 314-400-9626.



First Appreciation Dinner held for Uni-Pres Kindercottage Supporters: By Judy Brickey

Our first donor Thank-You Dinner was held on October 28, 2011 at The Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville. The pictures, in this newsletter, are better than any words to describe what a wonderful event it was! So many friends of Kindercottage attended and heard about the difference their gifts are making in the lives of the young children and families of East St. Louis. We thank all of you who attended! We are looking forward to doing it again next year!



Dance and Drumming group performance.



Staff is honored at dinner.



Former student shares memories.



Children singing at Donors' Dinner.



Brenda enjoys the evening's entertainment.

“Happenings at Kindercottage”

Dental Visits

As a part of Dental Health week, a local dentist visits Kindercottage and talks to the children about dental health and examines the children’s teeth.



Fire Safety

October is Fire Safety Month. We were privileged to have Fire Chief Jason Blackmon visit Kindercottage and talk to the children about actions to take if they discover a fire.



Patriot’s Day Fishing Tournament By Brenda Crisp

The Eighth Annual Patriot Day Fishing Tournament was held on Sunday, Sept. 11, at Horseshoe Lake State Park’s C.A.R.P. pond, hosted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Metro East Patriots Day Committee.

Caitlyn Scheibal, 12, of Edwardsville, was awarded a trophy for catching the largest fish, a 22-inch-long channel catfish. In the boys division, Esau Toombs, 13, of East St. Louis, won a trophy for landing a 21-inch channel catfish. Dylan Hammond, 10, of Collinsville, tied Toombs’ record fish and won a fishing pole.



For additional photos, visit the website at: kidsdadsfishtales.webs.com.



Ronald McDonald House Charities Awards Grant to Kindercottage

The Ronald McDonald House Charities organization has awarded Uni-Pres Kindercottage \$8,000 in order for us to make over the infant room which meets the Illinois Quality Rating System Standards. The photo shows infant room teacher, Paulette Spencer, holding Aundrea and accepting a check for \$4000 from the local McDonald’s owner. Also pictured are JaShown Harris, holding Keleigh, UPK Director Brenda Crisp and two members of the Grant Committee. Another \$4000 will be sent to UPK in about six weeks. THANK YOU, McDONALDS!

Growing Uni-Pres Kindercottage: By Carla Monroe-Posey, Development Committee

In early September the Development Committee nominated Kindercottage to participate in the inaugural Grow St. Louis Contest sponsored by Monsanto. We competed for \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000 prizes to be awarded to the top three vote-getters in the contest that ran from September 26th through October 16th. Voting was electronic with a limit of 100 votes per day from each individual email address. With time, we learned how to maximize our voting, thanks to the efforts of our webmaster, Bill Whicher, who sorted out the electronic complexities for us.

All told, more than 33,000 votes were submitted for our project to buy kitchen equipment and other furnishings for Kindercottage. While this total did not land us near the top, we were very proud of the efforts of so many of our friends and supporters. In this challenging economic environment, it is incredibly important to seek every source of possible additional funding so that Kindercottage can continue to fulfill its critical mission to serve the preschoolers and families of East St. Louis. THANKS to all who voted in support of Kindercottage.

“Have you remembered Uni-Pres Kindercottage in your will or estate plan?”



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**564 Veronica Avenue
East St Louis, Il 62205**

PHONE:
618.874.6505

FAX:
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E-MAIL:
unipres@sbcglobal.org

WISH LIST

BABY SUPPLIES:

Box Top Labels and Campbell Soup Product seals for points

Baby Diapers & Pull Ups Sizes 2-6 Boys & Girls

Baby Wipes, Lotions, Bath, Shampoo, Bibs (plastic backing), Sippy Cups and Plastic Bottles

Baby Foods, Fruits, Vegetables, Snacks Strained through Stage 4 Juice of all flavors, but lots of apple

Healthy Snacks Foods- Suggestions: Granola Bars, Yogurt, Tortilla Chips or Whole Grain Chips, Any high fiber or whole wheat crackers or other snacks containing these ingredients, fresh fruits, raisins (please check labels- no peanuts in foods, please)

Paper Products: Kleenex, Bathroom tissue, Paper Towels

Cleaning Supplies: Bleach, disinfectant, toilet bowl cleaner, window cleaner, oven cleaner



Clorox wipes, tissue, Steamer Mop, vacuum cleaner, carpet shampooer

Office Supplies: Copy Paper, (81/2 x11), Ink Cartridges, HP 96, 97. Lexmark 100 XL. 3-ring binders (large size)

Manila File Folders legal cut, 81/2 x 11 Clasp Envelopes,

Sponsorship of one child \$ 6,000.00 per year

Include Uni-Pres Kindercottage in your church's annual budget