



HHC Newsletter

Helping Hands Committee

Volume 2, Issue 4 - Fall 2015



UBCCC



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Get involved!!

Please consider joining us in this worthwhile mission. Volunteerism at any level is needed and greatly appreciated. All and especially new parents are welcome.



Feel free to contact HHC at ubcccHHC@gmail.com or contact one of the chair/vice chairs of your center - their contact information are listed on Page 4.

Visit the [Helping Hands Committee](#) webpage on the UBCCC website.

Thank you for your interest!

Fall welcome and UB Alert!

Welcome back to another UB academic year and what an eventful start to the semester we have had so far.

Just into the second week of the fall semester on September 9th, the entire UB South Campus had a major power outage from 8:30am until 3:00am the next day.

The UBCCC management team was swift to respond to the situation on hand by contacting parents to pick-up their children as well as keeping all UBCCC families aware of what was going on.

The UBCCC website had the [UB Alert Emergency Notification System](#) reflected which assisted in disseminating critical information to parents.

This was also followed up with further information via the center listserv as well as an action plan for the next day of business.

The UBCCC management team took this opportunity as well to fine tune its emergency notification protocol.

Together with the UBCCC management team, HHC is taking this opportunity to urge parents to checkout and/or bookmark the [Center Communication](#) page on the UBCCC website about the center's communication channels.

If you [have UB affiliation](#) (holds a [buffalo.edu](#) email account) and have not signed up for [UB Alert](#), we urge you to please do so. We recommend that you also add your spouse and other emergency contacts who are authorized to pick-up your child onto your UB Alert account. You can add both or either the email or SMS text alerts to be sent to your additional contact person.

For center parents who are

[not UB affiliated](#), please contact your center director so that they can assist in registering you and/or your spouse for the UB Alert Emergency Notification System to receive email and/or SMS texts.

UB Alert is a free service provided by the university. However, subscribing to the UB Alert SMS texts may incur text messaging charges depending on your wireless service provider and plan.

Please note that UBCCC also rely on the information provided by the UB Alert Emergency Notification System to understand any emergencies which arises and to determine the steps to be taken by the center.

Should you have more questions about UB Alert, please contact your respective center directors.

Have a great fall semester ahead!

Fall Open House

UBCCC will hold its fall open house at both center locations. This open house is for current UBCCC families only.

Sign-up sheets for open house are posted in each classroom. HHC will be providing pizza dinner for your child.

The dates for the open house are as follow:

South Campus

Tuesday, September 29th

North Campus

Thursday, October 1st



Holiday Gift Collection

The Holiday Gift Collection is one of HHC's largest Fall/Winter projects.

HHC develops, collects and distributes to parents a "Getting to know our Teachers" survey. HHC also collects monetary donations that are evenly distributed to teachers as a holiday gift.

In addition, HHC helps to coordinate a teacher/staff holiday luncheon. More

details to follow.

Noelle Matthews is the Event Chair for North Campus and Paola Heyward is the Event Chair for South Campus.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact

Noelle Matthews (noellehi@buffalo.edu) or

Paola Heyward (fajardop@canisius.edu).



Teacher Spotlights

Shanice Tard, Toddler 2 (South)

Shanice began her career at the South campus as a volunteer and later as an intern. After completing her student teaching at UBCCC, Shanice became a substitute teacher and then in 2011 was promoted to Toddler 2 classroom teacher.

Shanice's mother Tanya Bennett is a UBCCC legacy - who has been at UBCCC South for over 20 years. "Shanice is fabulous!", we quote from a parent of a child in her Toddler class.

"Shanice is a natural caregiver whose love and interest in the kids is effortless. She really takes an interest in what each child is excited about and takes time to give each child individualized attention".



Gretchen Pratz, Infant 1 (North)

Gretchen has been an infant teacher since July 2010. Parents from her infant class cannot express how friendly of a teacher Gretchen is with her positive attitude and always greets with a smile. "She is personable and makes the kids and parents feel welcome in the space", quoted from a parent. "Gretchen always greets us with a smile and exudes joy to be working with the infants. Our daughter seems to love spending time with her!"

Another parent shared that Gretchen is "always very happy, smiley and caring for the children. She always makes an effort to share what my child did during the day at pick up time". Shared by another parent, "Gretchen is a friendly and fun teacher. Our son loves when she sings songs and does bubbles. We love coming to daycare everyday and seeing Gretchen".

SCRIP (Gift Card) Program

UBCCC's annual gift card fundraiser is coming soon! SCRIP gift cards are sold at face value and the HHC receives a percentage of each sale. Money raised goes towards parent programming, outings for families when the center is closed for staff development, and teacher/staff appreciation events in the spring semester.

Three orders will be placed: **November 12** (for anyone in need of gift cards before Thanksgiving), **December 3** and **December 10**.

Gift cards usually arrive within one week of ordering and will be held at your center's front office for you to collect.

Order forms and instructions will be distributed in early October to each family. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Chabala at kustreba@buffalo.edu. Thank you for your support!



On-going HHC Programs

• AmazonSmile

⇒ Visit AmazonSmile and select **University at Buffalo Child Care Center Inc.** as the recipient of your support at: tiny.cc/ubccc-smile



⇒ For every eligible AmazonSmile purchase you make, **Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to UBCCC**. There is no limit and no deadline!

• Labels for Education - "Earn Free Stuff" for our center!

⇒ By collecting UPCs and beverage/sauce caps from over 2,500 **participating products**, supplementing our earnings through the Labels for Education program and with their bonus offers, your school earns points that can be redeemed for Arts, Athletics, and Academics merchandise.



Questions or feedback? Email ubcccHHC@gmail.com

HHC Recipe Corner



Kale Chips



Recipe from our UBCCC Kitchen

Ingredients:

- 1 bunch of kale, washed and mostly dry
- Olive oil
- Salt
- Optional additional seasoning

Directions:

1. After washing the kale, tear the leaves off of the stem and into small bite sized pieces.
2. Place them in a bowl and lightly coat with olive oil (you don't want them to be dripping) and salt/seasonings and mix until all leaves are evenly coated.
3. Place on a foil lined baking sheet and bake at 275 degrees Fahrenheit for 25 minutes of until crispy. **If they come out chewy, try baking them longer or using less oil.*

Board of Directors - Call for New Members

BOARD OPPORTUNITY

UBCCC Board of Directors is seeking passionate, diverse and experienced board members to help govern the organization as it grows.

Why would you want to join the UBCCC Board?

UBCCC is a private, non-profit organization, governed by a working volunteer Board of Directors. Serving on the UBCCC board is a meaningful leadership opportunity. By getting involved in the decision-making processes, you can help ensure that UBCCC continues to maintain excellent quality of care and make necessary improvements for the UBCCC staff, children, family and the community that it serves.

UBCCC needs YOU if...

- ⇒ You are passionate about **UBCCC** and its mission in providing exceptional quality of care
- ⇒ You are excited about being part of a hard-working, creative and motivated team
- ⇒ You have the time and energy to spend 6-8 hours a month doing board work; attending board meetings, participating in committee work and being an advocate for **UBCCC**
- ⇒ You are prepared to learn new skills to succeed in this role

We are especially interested in adding the following skills and experience to our team:

- * Outreach, advocacy, event planning
- * Personnel, human resources
- * Finance, accounting
- * Computer/IT Support

Next Steps

UBCCC is seeking to bring on a few new board members to serve three-year terms beginning in Fall 2015. Please visit the [Board of Directors](#) webpage on the UBCCC website for more information or email UBCCCboard@gmail.com to obtain more detailed information about the UBCCC Board of Directors. Interested candidates must complete an [application](#) and will be interviewed by our Leadership Committee.



Dear HHC...

This section welcomes questions from parents, guardians, teachers and staff about all issues related to UBCCC. Questions can be submitted anonymously to the drop box in each center (addressed to HHC Newsletter) or emailed to ubcccHHC@gmail.com. HHC will try our best to address the questions/concerns brought forward.

Q: Do you have to be a current UBCCC family to apply to the after school and vacation club programs?

A: The UBCCC school-age [after school](#) and [vacation club](#) program is opened to all interested parties. You do not have to be UB affiliated to sign your child in these programs.

If you know of a family member, colleague, friend or a neighbor who is seeking an after school or vacation club program for their school-age child, please recommend UBCCC to them.

For more information, please contact UBCCC's Program Coordinator, Melissa Bennett at mdsummer@buffalo.edu.

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Q: What is that nice looking screen gadget with the UBCCC logo by the receptionist when we enter the center?

A: UBCCC has purchased several Procure touch screen units for both centers. This unit is part of the expanded Procure system which the center had previously adopted and already administers the

UBCCC [Online Waiting List \(OWL\)](#), keeping track of your child's enrollment record, billing records and more.

The UBCCC management team is currently working in testing and customizing the touch screen units to provide a better check in/out tracking system for both children and employee at the center as well as other new features.

Stay tuned for more information from the management team.



**UB Child Care Center (UBCCC)
Helping Hands Committee (HHC)**

HHC North Campus

Chair - Noelle Matthews

noellehi@buffalo.edu

Vice Chair - Yuke Tjandra

ytjandra@buffalo.edu

HHC South Campus

Chair - Paola Heyward

fajardop@canisius.edu

Vice Chair - Nicole McDermott

nem5@buffalo.edu

SCRIP Coordinator

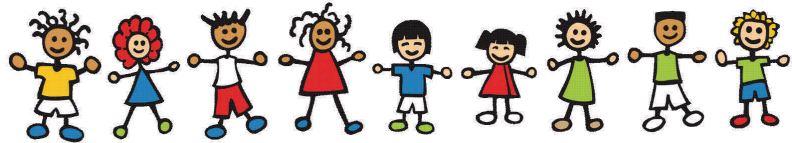
Emily Chabala kustreba@buffalo.edu

HHC Newsletter Coordinator

Sherene Milizia spcheah@buffalo.edu

The Helping Hands Committee mission is to establish a network of parents, grandparents, UBCCC staff & teachers, students, faculty, staff and friends interested in supporting the mission and activities of the UBCCC through volunteer and financial support.

The aim is to create a strong sense of community at UBCCC, grow parent involvement, to serve parents and to help provide valuable resources for UBCCC and its students.



Announcements and Events

- * **Fall Open House:** **South Campus (Tuesday, September 29th)** and **North Campus (Thursday, October 1st)**. Don't forget to sign-up!
- * **Saturday, October 17th, 11:00am - 2:00pm**, 555 Ellicott Street, Downtown - UB's Arthur O. Eve Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) will host it's second annual Strengthening Families event. This year's theme will be "Keeping Our Children Safe" as October is National Fire Prevention Month. Members of the Buffalo Fire Department will discuss fire safety at home - including how to create a safety plan - and kids will have the chance to meet fire-fighters and see a working fire truck up close. The fun continues with face painting, games and prizes for kids and raffles for parents. Staff members from the Child Care Resources Network, the Buffalo Science Museum and Explore & More Children's Museum will also be available to teach and entertain the crowd. To register for this event or learn more about the EOC, visit eoc.buffalo.edu.

Fall 2015 Calendar

Monday, Aug. 31	Fall semester begins
Monday, Sep. 7	Labor Day Holiday, Center closed
TBA, Oct/Nov	Annual Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 26	Thanksgiving recess, Center closed
Friday, Nov. 27	Thanksgiving recess, Center closed
Thursday, Dec. 24	Holiday, Center closed
Friday, Dec. 25	Holiday, Center closed
Thursday, Dec. 31	Holiday, Center closed
Friday, Jan. 1	Holiday, Center closed
Monday, Jan. 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day , Center closed
Friday, Jan. 22	Fall semester ends

Weather Related Changes in Scheduled Operations

If UB is closed, UBCCC will be closed as well. However, UBCCC can make the decision to close on its own without having the University close.

- **716-645-NEWS (6397)**, UB's recorded 24-hour information line
- **716-645-2345**, UB's campus road conditions line
- **716-645-2000**, University Operator
- UB Alert - <http://emergency.buffalo.edu>
- Local TV Stations and Radio Channels (**WGRZ 2**, **WIVB 4**, **WKBW 7** and **WBEN 930 AM**)

