



# HHC Newsletter

Helping Hands Committee

Volume 1, Issue 3 - Summer 2015



## Summer greetings...

Summer semester is in full swing and there are plenty of activities to go around in the classrooms. While our younger students are enjoying being outside at the playground and looking forward to school trips, our Pre-K students are holding on to the last few weeks of their time at the center.

Our Pre-K students recently celebrated their accomplish-

ments at their graduation ceremony amongst teachers, families and friends.

What a milestone they have achieved since arriving at UBCCC as infants! Friendships were forged and we are certain they will stay in touch as they prepare to enter into their elementary school years.



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## New UBCCC Website

UBCCC recently announced the launch of their brand new website which went live on June 10, 2015. The new website can be accessed at the existing URL, <http://ubccc.buffalo.edu>, so you don't have to update your URL bookmarks.

The new website will provide parents, prospective families and visitors a more cohesive and streamlined experience as they navigate through the programs offered by UBCCC, both within and around the center.

In conjunction with the new website launch, UBCCC has also introduced a new online application - **Online Waiting List (OWL)** and foregoing the former paper application. This new system will allow parents to update their contact information and changes to their application while they wait for a spot to open up for their child(ren).

There are many new features on the new website. **Parent Central** serves as a one stop site for all UBCCC parents to obtain information about the latest UBCCC guides and parent handbook, access the center calendar, meal menus, frequently used center forms and the different methods of center communication.

Another great feature is the **News & Events** page which will provide updated information about any upcoming and recent events taking place at the center.

The Helping Hands Committee (HHC) is also proud to announce that we now have a page linked to the UBCCC website under the **Community** section. On our **HHC webpage**, you will be able to access the current and archived HHC newsletters and get updated information about our upcoming events.

Within the **Community** section as well, a new and very useful feature has been created. The **Kids & Families Corner** serves as a wonderful resource page to many of us parents who are always looking for suggestions for a family friendly activity or a place to go. There are also links to family activity websites. This is definitely a page to bookmark for family friendly activity ideas!

## We need your input! Enrollment FAQs Survey

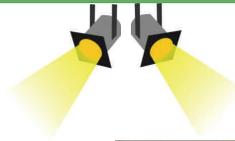
UBCCC is seeking your help to create an enrollment FAQs page for the center's updated website. We hope that you would share the **top 3 things** you would want perspective parents to know regarding enrollment and the wait list process. The most common questions will be compiled and answered on the forthcoming FAQs page on the center website. To access the survey, please visit <http://tiny.cc/ubccc-fam>.



The new website has a new feel and look complementing the colors of the center's new logo, which you voted for back in April.

The new and improved website is the result of a lot of work done by the members of our Marketing, Enrollment and Development committee. Kudos to the team!

## Teacher Spotlights



### Melissa Bennett, Program Coordinator (North & South)

Melissa has been with UBCCC for six years. She started as a substitute teacher at the south campus and then moved to the north campus as a toddler teacher where she became the lead teacher. Most recently, she began her position as the program coordinator for both center locations. She is enjoying her new position and while she is still

getting settled in, she is glad to have the opportunity to work more closely with the amazing staff we have here at UBCCC. When she was in the classroom, she loved to bake with her toddlers. Baking is a great multi-step activity for children to do that touches on many development areas. According to Melissa, baking is truly an activity that lets the children enjoy their hard work. The staff would also get excited when her former Toddler 3 class was baking and hope there would be extras to go around! As a former toddler lead teacher, Melissa enjoys seeing the children becoming happy and learning from the activities that she has planned. She also enjoys the fact that no two days are the same and are always a welcomed surprise. Melissa is looking forward to sharing her passion for early childhood with the rest of the staff at UBCCC and supporting each of them in every way she can.



### Erik Campbell, Toddler 2 (South)

Erik grew up in a small village in upstate NY called Canistota which he generally refers to it as "cow country". In a lot of ways, Erik sees himself still as a big kid. In his spare time, he likes to read comics, watch movies or play video games. He is an avid shopper at Toys 'R Us to this day and loves that his job lets him get excited about new toys, dinosaurs,

playing tea party and anything else a toddler can imagine. Erik's favorite classroom activity is the art projects his classroom puts together. His students have a variety of interests, but art class seems to be the time when most everyone wants to be involved in some capacity. It's always interesting to see what creations his students can make based on a simple model. While the results from their activity are always unpredictable, it remains a fun standard in his classroom. Erik's favorite part of being a toddler teacher is watching his toddlers interact with the teachers and with each other. He especially likes it when his toddlers carry on long conversations with one another and it's clear that they are establishing bonds with their peers and teachers. He also loves the teachers and appreciates all the hard work they do as a team to make certain that a safe and fun learning environment is promoted.

### Theresa Lysek Infant 1 (North)

Theresa has worked at UBCCC since August 2006. She started as a toddler teacher and was later assigned to infants. Theresa has been in the early childhood education field for over 15 years. Her experience in the field starts from the infant classroom up to preschool. Her favorite classroom activity is anything to do with sensory development, such as water and/or sand table play, bubble wraps, baby wash, hands-on art projects, playdough/goop with cornstarch and water.



Theresa's favorite part of being an infant teacher is watching them grow and all the milestones the children go through in 18 months. She acknowledges what an amazing feeling it is to watch the infants reach those important milestones, together with her infant team who have been working hard together in their classroom helping their very young learners to achieve their goals.

Theresa recently became a new first-time mother last November. She gave birth to a son, Luke who comes to UBCCC every day with her and is also one of the center's young learners.



## AmazonSmile

There's a new way to support the Center! In the digital age today, many of us shop online and through AmazonSmile. This is a great way to benefit wonderful not-for-profit organizations such as UBCCC. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know and you can shop using your existing Amazon.com account.



⇒ Visit AmazonSmile and select **University at Buffalo Child Care Center Inc.** as the recipient of your support at: [tiny.cc/ubccc-smile](http://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!
- ⇒ Bookmark it and remember to always start at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to make your purchases count. Thank you for your continued support!

Questions or feedback?

Email [ubccchhc@gmail.com](mailto:ubccchhc@gmail.com) or [ubcccboard@gmail.com](mailto:ubcccboard@gmail.com)

## Annual Friends & Family Fun Walk 2015

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual UBCCC Friends & Family 5K Fun Walk, held on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> was a success. The weather was perfect for walking through the scenic Amherst Bike Path off St. Rita's Lane.

This year, about 160 individuals participated in the 5K Fun Walk. This year's proceeds will go towards **Literacy** for every age group. The money raised will be used to buy board books, picture books, big books, audio books, bookshelves and more. The net profit from this year's fun walk comes to a total of \$1,955.

Lunch and after-party activities were held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Alumni C Lot and Baird Point. The event included games, music on stage, face painting,



tie-dye of the Fun Walk t-shirts, caricature drawing booth, photo booth featuring Anna from "Frozen", water balloon toss, magic show with Buffalo Magician Nick and raffle basket drawings.

We have many people to thank for this year's success: our monetary donors (Benlin Distribution, UB Campus Dining & Shops and Decks by Design), our raffle basket donors (Painting with a Twist, Albright Knox, Carousel Factory Museum, Explore and More, Just Fun,



Tonawanda Bowling Center, Fusion Dance Studio, Buffalo Harbor Cruises, Aquarium of Niagara, Sorrento Cheese, Adventure Speedway and Buffalo Science Museum), classrooms who made raffle baskets (Infant 1 NC, Toddler 2 NC, Toddler 3 NC, Pre-K NC, Infant 2 SC and Toddler 2 SC), staff, family and friend volunteers, families who donated, Town

of Amherst for the stage, UB Athletics and everyone who joined us on the walk day.

On the day of the walk, UBCCC Board members were handing out buttons with our



new center logo to our fun walk participants, teachers and staff. If you would like to get your hands on a button, please stop by the receptionist desk at your center and request for one.

You can view more photos of the fun walk from UBCCC's [photo gallery](#).



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](mailto:ubccchhc@gmail.com). HHC will try our best to address the questions/concerns brought forward.

*Q: My child is vegetarian (no meat, chicken and fish). How do I know if his diet will be maintained? How does daycare ensure that it is maintained?*

**A:** UBCCC provides a [meal menu](#) guide which serves as a planning tool for parents and teachers to manage what their child can and cannot have at meal times. The center menu provides a vegetarian alternative at each meal. Talking to the teachers about your child's

needs will help teachers supervise your child's meals. Parents are highly encouraged to plan with their child's teacher to work out a meal plan that is tailored to their child's needs. Parents can also discuss with their child's teacher the possibility of bringing home made meals for their child. The center requests that any outside food adheres to [CACFP](#) guidelines for healthy meals and the center's policy of being nut-free.

*Q: My child will be in the process of potty training. How will that be maintained?*

**A:** Like every other aspect of child care, you and your child's teacher will work as partners in the process of potty training. Our teachers are very experienced in potty training and can offer you a lot of support to continue in your child's potty learning process. Our centers have toddler-sized toilets and sinks, which makes the process much less intimidating.



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

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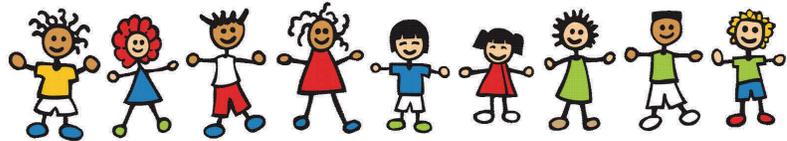
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The Helping Hands Committee mission is to establish a network of parents, grandparents, UBCCC staff & teachers, students, faculty, staff and friends interested in supporting the mission and activities of the UBCCC through volunteer and financial support.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

- \* **NEW** Helping Hands Committee webpage - <http://www.buffalo.edu/ubccc/community/helpinghands.html>
- \* The UBCCC **Board of Directors** is looking for new members as well as anyone who would like to participate in the **sub-committees** for the next academic year. Application to apply for a seat as a board member will be distributed in the Fall semester. For more information, please contact Leadership sub-committee Chair, **Yuke Tjandra** at [ytjandra@buffalo.edu](mailto:ytjandra@buffalo.edu).
- \* Several spots are **still available** for the 9-week long **summer program for school-age children** which is scheduled for **June 29, 2015** to **August 28, 2015** at both our center locations. Don't miss out!
- \* New breakfast/snack and lunch menus will start on **Monday, June 29, 2015**. Please refer to the email from the center or the **meal menus** page on the **UBCCC website**.

**Summer 2015 Calendar**

**Weather Related Changes  
in Scheduled Operations**

Tuesday, May 26	Summer semester begins
Monday, June 29	<b>School-age summer camp</b> begins New <b>meal menus</b> starts
Friday, Jul. 3	Holiday, <b>Center closed</b>
Friday, Aug. 7	Staff Development Day, <b>Center closed</b>
Friday, Aug. 28	End of summer semester *last day of Pre-K students (heading to Kindergarten) and summer camp
Monday, Aug. 31	Fall semester begins
Monday, Sep. 7	Labor Day, <b>Center closed</b>

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
- <http://emergency.buffalo.edu>
- Local TV Stations and Radio Channels (WGRZ 2, WIVB 4, WKBW 7 and WBEN 930 AM)

