



# HHC Newsletter

Helping Hands Committee

Volume 2, Issue 5 - Winter/Spring 2016



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](mailto:ubcccHHC@gmail.com) or contact one of the chair/vice chairs of your center - their contact information are listed on Page 4.

Visit our webpage at <http://bit.do/ubcccHHC>.

Thank you for your interest!

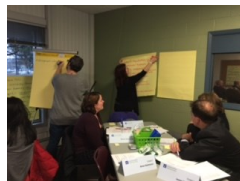
## Strategic Planning Session

On February 24th, the Board of Directors together with the center's management team, chairs from HHC, teachers and parents met in Annex B (UBCCC South) to begin the process of strategic planning for the center.

This group was facilitated through a process of identifying the centers strengths,

potentials, and concerns, inline with the center's mission and vision.

The board committees will then be charged to further develop each prioritized concern into a measurable goal and a action plan to meet that goal. This plan will be published upon completion.



## HHC Sponsored Spring Family Event

HHC is sponsoring our annual family outing on **Thursday, March 17, 2016** when UBCCC is closed for staff development day.

Come and enjoy the day off with your children at the **Buffalo Science Museum** (1020 Humboldt Parkway, Buffalo, NY 14211).

**Time:** 10:00am to 1:00pm

**Cost:** All UBCCC children will be paid for by HHC funds.

Adults are \$6.00 (for non-museum members who sign up with HHC and prepay their tickets. If paying by check, please make it out to "UBCCC Helping Hands" and place in payment drop box at each center.)

We will have the lunch room reserved from 11:30am to 12 noon. Please pack your own lunch!

Signup sheets are available in the lobby of each center.

**Deadline to signup and payment due no later than Tuesday, March 15.**

We look forward to seeing you on March 17th!



## HHC PreLoved Items & For Sale

HHC is happy to announce that we have started (in January 2016) **HHC PreLoved Items & For Sale (Facebook)** page for UBCCC families and staff. This initiative came about after much feedback we have received from fellow parents. Instead of throwing away good stuff, share them with someone else. Buying preloved items supports the environment, your community and saves you the hassle of shipping items or hitting the stores. Please help us grow by inviting other UBCCC parents and center staff who are looking to buy and/or sell gently used, second hand baby/infant/toddler/preschooler products. Check out and join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HHCPreLoved>.

## Inclusion at UBCCC

At our **South Campus** location, UBCCC teams with **Bornhava**, an Early Childhood Center for children with developmental disabilities.

This inclusion program takes place in one of our Preschool classrooms (3-5 year olds) with eight Bornhava children and eight UBCCC children. This partnership strengthens our play-based, individualized curriculum and allows the children to experience even more diversity and appreciation for the differences within their peers. Read on below testimonials from parents whose child(ren) have gone through and are currently in our inclusion classroom.

**Heather Ochs-Balcom:** Our experience in Pre-school 1 was a very positive one. We observed a caring side of our daughter, as she learned to recognize and appreciate the needs of other students. She became more confident member of the classroom who was willing to give support to other students when needed. While we didn't anticipate these benefits and help with her social and emotional development in this way, we now treasure the time she spent in there with the very caring and talented Bornhava teachers.

**Jennifer Temple:** I am writing this testimonial to sing the praises of the inclusion classroom at UBCCC South Campus. My son, who is now 7 years old, was in preschool at UB when we first began including Bornhava students into our classroom. My son, Nathan, who is 3, has recently transitioned to the inclusion classroom, which I am extremely enthusiastic about. The benefits of the inclusion program at UBCCC for my family were extensive.

1) The Bornhava teachers have excellent training in education, pedagogy, and working with both typical and atypical functioning children. As such, they are well equipped to provide support to the UBCCC teachers as



needed. A personal example of this was when my son was struggling with some behavioral issues and the UBCCC teachers were concerned. I was able to consult with one of the Bornhava teachers who helped both us and the UBCCC teachers develop strategies to manage his behavior successfully.



2) Our UBCCC students benefit from some of the services that are offered to the Bornhava children. One example of this from when my son was in preschool was that the Bornhava children were having speech and hearing evaluations done at the center which they opened up to all preschool students. My son had a speech impediment that our Pediatrician was not concerned about, but we were. The evaluation results revealed some speech and hearing issues. We used the results to have him evaluated by an ENT and by the school district. Because of this testing, we were able to get free speech services through the school district that took place right at UBCCC and were able to get him started early, so that by the time he went to Kindergarten, his speech issue was resolved.

3) The benefits of having children exposed to other children with different abilities and

backgrounds is enormous. It allows children to develop empathy, acceptance, and tolerance of people who are different and to respect everyone's contributions to society. I believe that the benefits of the typical functioning children being exposed to the atypical functioning children are as great as the benefits of the atypical functioning children being in the inclusion classroom.

I am looking forward to watching my son, Nathan, grown and learn along side these wonderful children and teachers in the coming years.

**Esther Eagan:** Diversity is one of the best attributes of UBCCC, and the Bornhava classroom provided yet another diverse experience for my daughter Eloise. She named one of her stuffed animals after one of her Bornhava friends. In her world, a stuffed animal namesake is the ultimate compliment. Clearly this friend meant the world to her, but I didn't know this little boy because he wasn't one of the boisterous, talkative kids I've known since they were infants. He was very sweet, and very quiet. I watched Eloise and her friend hug and play and interact without yelling. My mile-a-minute little girl learned how to share moments with her friend in a way that worked for him. I am grateful for the Bornhava classroom and the opportunities it provided my daughter to engage in unexpected styles of play.

For more information about Bornhava@UB, please visit, <http://bit.do/bornhava>.



## 4th Annual Friends & Family Fun Walk Saturday, May 21st

- ⇒ Registration will be open at 9:15 and the walk begins at 10:00.
- ⇒ Following the walk there will be a party from 11am until 2pm. There will be live music, a magic show and balloon animals, face painting, tie dye, basket raffle, 50/50 tickets and lunch.
- ⇒ Registration forms will go out on Monday April 4th.
- ⇒ For more information, please visit the Fun Walk webpage at, <http://bit.do/FunWalk2016>.



## Mixed-Aged Classrooms

Across New York State, conversation is increasing regarding best practice for social-emotional growth and development in young children, ages 0-5 years. Two models of care that have risen to the surface of this conversation are *Continuity of Care* which is focused on children 0-3 years, and *Mixed-Age Classrooms*, a model for children 3-5 years of age.

UBCCC's mission is to provide exceptional care for young children that provides developmentally appropriate environments that foster and encourage children's social-emotional, physical and cognitive growth. As the center continues to examine its programs more closely, they are learning that research supports the model for *Mixed-Age Classrooms* in the preschool.

### What constitutes a mixed-age classroom?

⇒ Essentially, a mixed-age classroom is one where the age range of the children in the room is larger than a

year. At UBCCC, the model that is most interesting is a 3-5 year old classroom which has a range of 2 years or more.

### What are the benefits?

- ⇒ One of the most attractive benefits to the center under this model is that children remain with the same teacher and group of peers throughout their preschool experience. This creates a home-like environment that is developmentally appropriate and very natural for young children.
- ⇒ The extended time with one teacher enables the children, parents and teachers to form strong and stable relationships throughout their time in preschool.

UBCCC strongly believes that children learn through play and hands-on experiences. As American psychologist

Jerome Bruner reminds us, knowledge is constructed in a social context. It is important that we consider the social and emotional growth of young children in order to enable their cognitive development.

For the first twelve years of UBCCC North's operation, the center had 3-5 year old classrooms in the preschool. The center is considering a return to this model because of the belief that their role in early childhood development is to focus on social-emotional development. This will lay the foundation for future success in school and life.



**What do you think of mixed-aged preschool classrooms?**

**We want to hear your thoughts!!**

**Go to  
<http://bit.do/mixedaged>  
to submit your input!**

## Partnership with St. Mary's School for the Deaf



UBCCC is happy to partner with *St. Mary's School for the Deaf*. Each week the toddler and preschool children in the *Educational & Auditory Resources for Sound-EARS*

program travel to UBCCC North. The goal is for the children to play with, socialize with and learn from their hearing peers. This is a perfect and wonderful opportunity to use the listening and speaking skills they learn at St. Mary's in a fun, natural, language-rich environment. The EARS children are also able to practice their self-advocacy skills. They can practice asking a friend to speak



Toddler playtime.

up a bit or the teacher if they can move their seat. Children are curious by nature, so when the EARS kiddos are asked about their devices or why they didn't answer a friend right away, they can use the appropriate responses they've been taught.

Both UBCCC and the EARS preschoolers look forward to this unique and rewarding learning experience.



Painting activity in preschool.



### Monday, March 28th

Friendly's at 4350 Maple Road, Amherst (716-835-2862)

- ⇒ All day event from 7:00am to 11:00pm.
- ⇒ 20% of the total net sale (dine-in and carry-out) goes to UBCCC to update playground equipment.
- ⇒ FUNraising event flyer and vouchers will be distributed one week before the event. Stay tuned!



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

**HHC North Campus**

Chair - Noelle Matthews

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Vice Chair - Yuke Tjandra

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**HHC South Campus**

Chair - Paola Heyward

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Vice Chair - Nicole McDermott

[nem5@buffalo.edu](mailto:nem5@buffalo.edu)

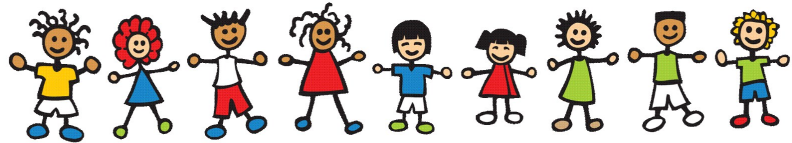
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The Helping Hands Committee mission is to establish a network of parents, grandparents, UBCCC staff & teachers, students, faculty, staff and friends interested in supporting the mission and activities of the UBCCC through volunteer and financial support.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

- \* The Board of Directors recently welcomed four new board members; Anthony DiCerbo, Brian Hartmann, Brian Heyward and Diana Rothfuss. Elizabeth Bittar and Jeffrey Balcom retained their board executive positions as President and Treasurer respectively while welcoming Jason Goodman as Vice President and Sherene Milizia as Secretary for the upcoming year. For more information, please visit the Board of Director's webpage at <http://bit.do/UBCCCBOD>.
- \* **Friendly's FUNraising - Monday, March 28**, 11:00am to 11:00pm at Friendly's on Maple Rd.
- \* **SAVE THE DATE!! Saturday, May 21, 4th Annual Friends & Family (5K) Fun Walk 2016**. More information available on the Fun Walk webpage, <http://bit.do/FunWalk2016>.
- \* Summer Vacation (School-Age) registration is open! Spots are filling up quick! For more information, visit <http://bit.do/ubcccSummer>.

## Winter/Spring 2016 Calendar



Monday, Jan. 25	Spring semester begins
Mar. 14 - 18	UB Spring Break (Center remains open)
Thursday, Mar. 17	Staff Development Day, <b>Center closed</b>
Thursday, Mar. 17	HHC Sponsored Spring Family Event ⇒ Buffalo Science Museum
Monday, Mar. 28	FUNraising at Friendly's (on Maple Rd.)
Apr. 10 - 16	NAEYC Week of the Young Child
Saturday, May 21	4th Annual Friends & Family 5K Fun Walk
Friday, May 27	Spring semester ends
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day, <b>Center closed</b>
Tuesday, May 31	Summer semester begins

## 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**)

