



University at Buffalo
The State University of New York



HHC Newsletter

Helping Hands Committee

Volume 1, Issue 2 - Winter/Spring 2015



Winter/Spring greetings...

A happy new year to everyone! We hope that you and your family had a wonderful holiday.

HHC would like to not only welcome you back to a new year and new semester but to take this opportunity to thank

UBCCC families for making the December 19th, 2014 Holiday Gift Collection and Luncheon (sponsored by the Board of Directors) for the teachers, staff and administrators of both the North and South Campuses a success!

We could not have done it without all your generous contribution and support.

We hope to see you at our February 4th Spring organizational meeting and at our March 19th family activity day!



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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 - our contact details are listed on Page 4.



Thank you
for your interest!

3rd Annual Family & Friends Fun Walk

The Family & Friends (5K) Fun Walk has become an annual event at UBCCC and has been a success for the past two years.

Last year's event collected a total of \$3,049.09 for the center. After the walk, there were an abundance of activities such as games,

to keep the walk the first weekend in June every year. Keeping the walk the same weekend every year, it is with hope that families remember and plan on attending each year!

The start up money needed for the walk comes from the tee shirt sale, then the left



raffles, music, visit from the local fire engine, operation safe child finger printing, finger painting, parade floats, face painting, car seat check, magician and dance.

This year, the organizers have chosen to hold the walk on **Saturday, June 6th**.

Moving the walk to this date will help clear up some confusion experienced last year with Memorial Day weekend. Moving forward, this will also allow the center

over goes into the total profit of the walk. Order forms for the tee shirts will be distributed. There will be tables set up in the front lobby. The final day for tee shirt orders will be **Friday, February 6th**.

This wonderful event is made possible under the coordination of two center teachers who have been instrumental in making this event a success since the first fun walk.

Toddler teachers, Melissa Bennett and Ashley Orcutt - what an amazing pair and team they make!



Thank you both for putting together such a successful event the past two years and we are certain this year's event will be as wonderful as well.

We look forward to seeing everyone at this year's fun walk. Mark you calendars!!

Dates to Remember:

**January 26th -
February 6th:**
Tee Shirt Sale



April 6th (Monday):
Fun Walk Registration begins

May 11th (Monday):
Last day of Fun Walk
Registration to guarantee a
walk tee shirt

June 6th (Saturday):
**3rd Annual Family &
Friends Fun Walk**

UBCCC Board of Directors Annual Meeting Report

The Annual Board of Directors meeting which was postponed from last semester was held on Thursday, January 15th. There was a good turnout with about 42 attendees inclusive of the current board members, parents, teachers and staff. A light dinner was provided for both the attendees of the board of directors annual meeting as well as the children. Entertainment for the children was provided by Music with Mar courtesy of the Helping Hands Committee.

The meeting started off with welcome and introductions of the board members by fellow board member Elizabeth Lidano who also served as the Chair of the Leadership Development Committee. The UBCCC Board of Directors is comprised of 16 members where all but one was present. Christopher Connor, President of the Board of Directors followed with his update about commissioning a climate survey of the center among parents as well as center employees.

Amy Myszka from UB's Workforce Relations and Advancement Office who oversaw the climate survey presented her findings and compared it with previous survey results from the year 2010 and 2013. Per her findings, the August 2014 climate survey garnered the highest response rate with 54 responses compared to 36 responses in the December 2010 and 30 responses in the March 2013 survey.

Areas of focus from the survey shared similar themes in all three survey years concerning communication, trust, performance issues, advancement opportunities and compensation. New to the August 2014 climate survey are senior leadership and tools/workspace concerns.

In the employee climate survey, some positive trends are pride in their work within the center, satisfaction with the working environment, professional development, the flexibility in work/life and recognition in terms of the teachers feeling valued by the families and colleagues they serve.

In terms of feedback from the parent climate survey, there is a high level of satisfaction in terms of the centers being well maintained, the curriculum as well as the teaching teams.

The next steps proposed by the board is to conduct focus groups with parents and discuss ideas of improvements about

the center communication in terms of policies and information from teachers.

Christopher Connor further shared areas of strength of the center such as it provide quality teachers and programming per assessment and overall parental feedback. He also shared that UBCCC children who 'graduated' from the center are kindergarten ready. In addition, the affiliation of the center to UB provides a wide array of opportunities and programming in a university learning environment and lastly, the affordability of sending children to the center.

He also identified areas of improvement and future implementations which needs to take place. Areas which needs improvements are infrastructural support, enrollment management, inclusion communication, personnel, safety & compliance, fiscal management and to strengthen connection to the UB Community.

Some of the new implementation taking place are the creation of the UBCCC Strategic Development Subcommittee, opportunities for non-board members to volunteer in board committees and establishing avenues for feedback and input.

Beth Rogan presented the center's 2014-2015 projected revenue of \$2.66M as well as the projected expenses of \$2.65M.

Kathi James, Interim UBCCC Senior Director provided a center update. Some of the areas she shared were about the field trips and learning experiences, ongoing campus & community collaborations, the school age program, development of a high performing team of teachers and provided updates on this year's family & friends fun walk.

After all the updates, board elections took place and there were three board members running for re-election and five new candidates all vying for a total of eight board of directors member seats. If you would like to obtain a copy of the slides presented at the board meeting, you can contact the board at ubcccboard@gmail.com.

Questions or feedback for the board?

E-mail them to ubcccboard@gmail.com



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 within each center (addressed to HHC Newsletter) or emailed to one of the HHC Chair/Vice Chair. HHC will try our best to address the questions/concerns brought forward.

Dear HCC...

Q: What activities can families do outdoors during this cold weather months?

A: Even in cold weather months, play is extremely important. You can head outdoors whenever possible to enjoy walking, running, jumping, sledding, making snow angels and more! Most important- don't forget to bundle up -snowsuits,



boots and other winter gear .

Q: How can I become more involved with the center activities?

A: You can volunteer to be in one or more of the UBCCC Board of Directors subcommittee without being a board member. For more information, please contact ubcccboard@gmail.com. Don't forget about HHC! You can also volunteer in of ongoing or upcoming projects/

activities. Please contact the HHC Chair/Vice Chairs for more information or attend our HHC meeting which takes place once every semester.

The Spring 2015 HHC organizational meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 4 at 4:00pm** at UBCCC North Campus.



Teacher/Staff Spotlight



Eric together with his nephew

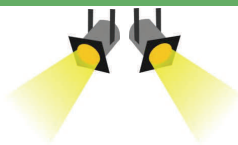
Eric Leonberger, Administrative Assistant (South)

Eric started at UBCCC as a teacher in the Toddler 3 at North Campus. Eric earned his Bachelor's degree from Syracuse University in TV, Radio & Film production.

Even though he taught dance to children of various ages (from 3-18) at the Donna Scott School of Dance, his early childhood

experience was limited. He learned a lot from lead teacher Melissa Bennett (North) and the teaching team in the Toddler cluster and later obtained his Child Development Associate (CDA) certification in Infant/Toddler care.

Eric moved to his current role as Administrative Assistant at South Campus in late 2012, in order to grow with the center and combine his retail experience with his early childhood experience.



Eric always enjoys adding music and movement to his classroom. Whether it be in tap dancing, isolations of different body parts or stretching/yoga, movement is beneficial.

Not only for the obvious health benefits, movement allows the incorporation of math (counting in 8's in dance), animals (yoga poses) and fun into classroom activities. Even though he is no longer a teacher in the classroom, he makes himself available to classroom teachers if they would like dance or yoga taught.



Dance time in Preschool



Yoga time!

Eric's favorite part of being a part of the UBCCC has to be the children! He loves that our center is so child-focused and centered on the children's needs. He really does feel a part of everyone's extended families, and love to see each child grow through each developmental milestone, overcome challenges and graduate, ready for what lies ahead.



HHC Recipe Corner

Orange Cranberry Quinoa Salad



Recipe from Kids With Food Allergies
<http://www.kidswithfoodallergies.org>

Ingredients:

- 1 cup quinoa, dry
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1 cup orange segments
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 2 tbsp olive oil

- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp coriander
- 1/2 tsp paprika
- Salt and cracked black pepper to taste
- 1/3 cup fresh cilantro, chopped

Directions:

1. Rinse the quinoa well.
2. In a sauce pan, combine the quinoa, water and orange juice and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for about 10-15 minutes or until liquid has been absorbed. Fluff with fork.
3. Fold in the dried cranberries, transfer to a bowl and refrigerate until chilled.

Ongoing HHC Projects/Subcommittees

- **Labels for Education** - Please contact Courtney Williamson clwilla@buffalo.edu for more information or questions.
- HHC "food" Subcommittee - If you are interested in helping, please email Courtney Williamson clwilla@buffalo.edu.
- March 19 (UBCCC Staff Development Day) - HHC sponsored Family Activity Day. More details to come!
- SCRIP / Gift card program - Please contact Jean Costanzo f56@buffalo.edu
- Teacher Appreciation Week in conjunction with NAEYC's Week of the Young Child (April 12-18, 2015). More details to follow.





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

HHC North Campus

Chair - Jessica Coram

byerly@buffalo.edu

Vice Chair - Sherene Milizia

spcheah@buffalo.edu

HHC South Campus

Chair - Sara Goodman

saragood@buffalo.edu

Vice Chair - Courtney Williamson

clwillia@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

- * To view/access HHC's Fall 2014 Newsletter - <http://www.ubccc.buffalo.edu/documents/HHCNewsletter-Fall2014.pdf>
- * January 26th to February 6th - Family & Friends Fun Walk Tee Shirt Sale
- * Helping Hands Committee (HHC) Spring 2015 Organizational Meeting - **Wednesday, February 4th, 2015 at 4:00pm, UBCCC North Campus** - Open to all interested parties!
- * HHC is looking for a volunteer to be the new coordinator of the SCRIP Gift Card Program beginning Fall 2015. Please contact one of the HHC Chair/Vice Chair if you are interested.
- * March 19th (UBCCC Staff Development Day) HHC sponsored Family Activity Day - more details to come!
- * April 6th- Family & Friends Fun Walk Registration begins
- * June 6th - 3rd Annual Family & Friends (5K) Fun Walk

Spring 2015 Calendar

Thursday, Jan. 1	New Year Holiday, Center closed
Monday, Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Center closed
Friday, Jan. 23	End of fall semester
Monday, Jan. 26	Spring semester begins
Week of Mar. 16 - 20	UB Spring Break
Thursday, Mar. 19	Staff Development Day, Center closed
April 12 - 18	Teacher Appreciation Week
	NAEYC's Week of the Young Child
Friday, May 22	End of spring semester
Monday, May 25	Memorial Day, Center closed
Tuesday, May 26	Summer semester begins
Saturday, June 6	3rd Annual Family & Friends (5K) Fun Walk

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

