

Fort George Community Enrichment Center, Inc.

Helping Children
and their families
in Washington
Heights for
30 years



Annual Report

2010

The Fort George Mission

To provide a quality, comprehensive, family focused child development program to eligible children and their families in Washington Heights.

To maintain high standards of developmentally appropriate early childhood education and to empower families to enhance their sense of self esteem and effectiveness by providing opportunities for shared decision making.

Message from the Executive Director



(photo by Emily Rodriguez, Class of '08, *Learning through Photography* project - age 4 at the time photo was taken.)

As we come to the close of yet another year we look with anticipation to next year. Ft. George will celebrate 30 years of service to the children and families of Washington Heights in 2011.

President Lyndon B. Johnson 45 years ago signed legislation to fund a comprehensive child development program for low income children and families called Head Start. It is one of the few remaining programs from President's Johnson's "War on Poverty". On the evening of Wednesday September 22, 2010 the National Head Start Association celebrated "The Dream Lives On: Celebrating 45 years of Head Start" in Washington, D.C. One of the honorees was Mr. Patrick Gaspard a former Head Start student from NYC. Mr. Gaspard is a testament that Head Start works and is not generational. He is currently the Director of Political Affairs in President Obama's administration.

If we want the continued support for Head Start from our legislators there must be a paradigm shift in how we operate. As the Director of the Office of Head Start Yvette Sanchez Fuentes stated at the National Head Start Association's Parent Training Conference in Virginia Beach, "That Head Start should not be generational". Ms. Fuentes is really stating that Head Start should help families move from poverty to become economically self sufficient. As an Agency our success is measured by the new families we serve and not by serving families from one generation to the next. So as we begin our registration for the 2011/2012 school year I welcome all the new families that we will be able to serve as they acquire the American dream of self sufficiency.

It certainly has been a rewarding year. As this year comes to a close, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Ft. George Community; the Board of Directors, the DAPC and Staff for providing a quality program to our children and families.

Carolyn L. Wiggins
Executive Director

Delegate Agency Policy Committee



Assemblyman Guillermo Linares (center right) at the DAPC Installation

DELEGATE AGENCY POLICY COMMITTEE

Officers 2010

Chairperson:	Alexandra Aleman
Co-Chairperson:	Melba Garcia
Secretary:	Katherine Infante
Treasurer:	Caroline Villio

Personnel Chairperson	Freddy Loffredo
By-Laws Committee Chairperson	Nelson Tavaréz
Grievance Committee Chairperson	Guillermo Estevez
City Wide Policy Council Representative	Evelyn Benzante
Community Representatives	Josefina Liz Elizabeth Baboolar Yolanda Coello

Historical Statement from the Board of Directors

The Ft. George Community Enrichment Center, Inc. was founded and incorporated in 1981 for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, and operating programs in education, employment and training, economic development, housing, health and social welfare. These programs are designed to strengthen the growth and development of individuals and families in the Washington Heights Area.

The organization was formed by community residents who were concerned with the provision of comprehensive services to lower-income families with preschool children, and following them through the early years of elementary school.

The ethnic make-up of the Ft. George Community Enrichment Center's population consists of Hispanic, Black, Asian and Caucasian families. The composition of the Ft. George Community Enrichment Center's Board of Directors reflects this multicultural community with the majority of its members residing within this area.

In line with this, the Washington Heights area is an evolving community of growth. The area is transitional in the sense that there is a relatively high in-and-out migration. Many young families in need of various types of social and health services comprise this neighborhood.

Initially the agency started the operation of our Head Start program with 94 children. As of this year (2010), the program has two sites in the Washington Heights area. Ft George Community Enrichment Center, Inc. provides quality comprehensive early childhood services to 308 children ages 3-5, and their families .

The first site is located at 1525 St. Nicholas Avenue, and has a licensed capacity for 110 children. at any one time. This site houses the Administration offices of the agency. The second site is located at 601 West 186th Street and has a licensed capacity of 45 children at any one time.

We continue to support the values that we established for ourselves 29 years ago as they have clearly contributed to our ongoing success. On behalf of the Board, I thank the staff and the parents for making 2010 a great year.

Sincerely,

The Officers

Ruth Rudder *Co-Chair*
Winfred Richman *Co-Chair*
Lesley Halliday *Secretary*
Laura Sterling *Treasurer*

The Members

James Amodeo
Faith Lamb Parker
Lenore Peay
Diana Douglas
Janet Wise
John Phelan, Esq., Pro Bono



Ft. George Community Enrichment Center, Inc.

Total Number of Children and Families Served and Average Monthly Enrollment		
	Total No. of Children	Avg. Monthly Enrollment
Head Start	308	100%
UPK	120	100%
Percentage of Children enrolled receiving Medical and Dental Exams		
	Medical	Dental
Head Start	100%	100%
UPK	100%	100%

The Head Start and Universal Pre-Kindergarten Programs Provides:

Education

- Emergent literacy, numeracy, and language skills
- Positive attitudes toward learning
- Developmentally appropriate educational environments
- Link families to educational agencies to obtain needed services

Health & Nutrition

- Assures that our children receive needed medical, dental and mental health services
- Meals and snacks to our children that meets their daily nutritional needs
- Link families to health care services to obtain needed services

Parent Involvement

- Provides parents the opportunity to improve their parenting skills
- Parents are involved actively in the decision about program operations

Disabilities/Mental Health

- Provide individualized services for children with disabilities
- Strengthen children's social behavior and emotional well-being and self concept

Human Resources

- Employ qualified staff
- Provide staff development and training
- Comply with Head Start regulations.

General Highlights 2010

Accomplishments:

- Fort George received a congratulatory letter from ACS stating that we had no findings on the 2009 Federal Review
- Received discretionary funding from Councilman Robert Jackson for a Pre-ESL Program
- Parent recognition was on July 8, 2010 our guest speaker was Ms. Rebecca

Alicea, District 6 Parent Advocate.

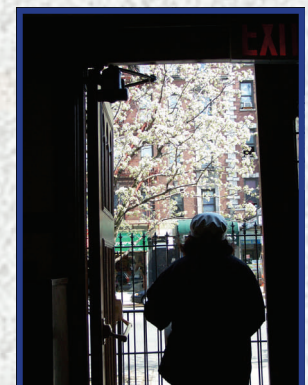
- 176 children transitioned from Pre-K to Kindergarten.

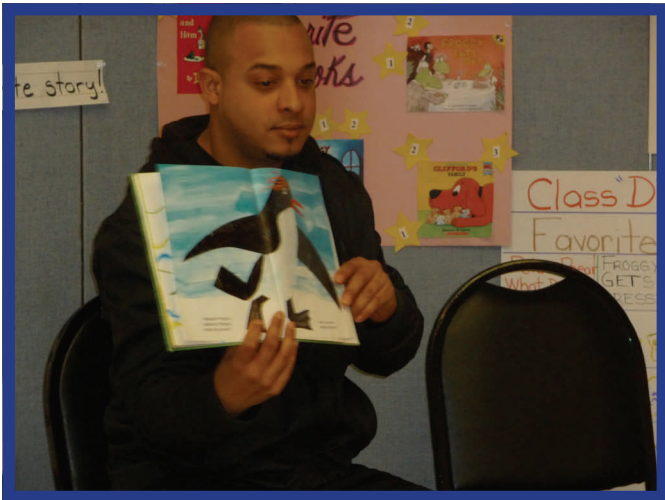
The moving on ceremony was on July 23, 2010. The speaker was Mr. Gary King, an early childhood educator, Queens College.

- We were 100% enrolled
- At least 10% of our children were diagnosed with a

disability.

- We continue our partnership with New York Presbyterian Hospital Childhood Asthma Network (WIN for Asthma. As a result of this partnership we have one community health worker.
- The Head Start Audit for PY 45 was unqualified.
- Our partnership with the Mott Hall School Community Service Program continues. We provide our two sites for their middle school students to complete their community service project.







Fort George Community Enrichment Center, Inc. (FGCEC)

Financial Statements

Fiscal Year 2010

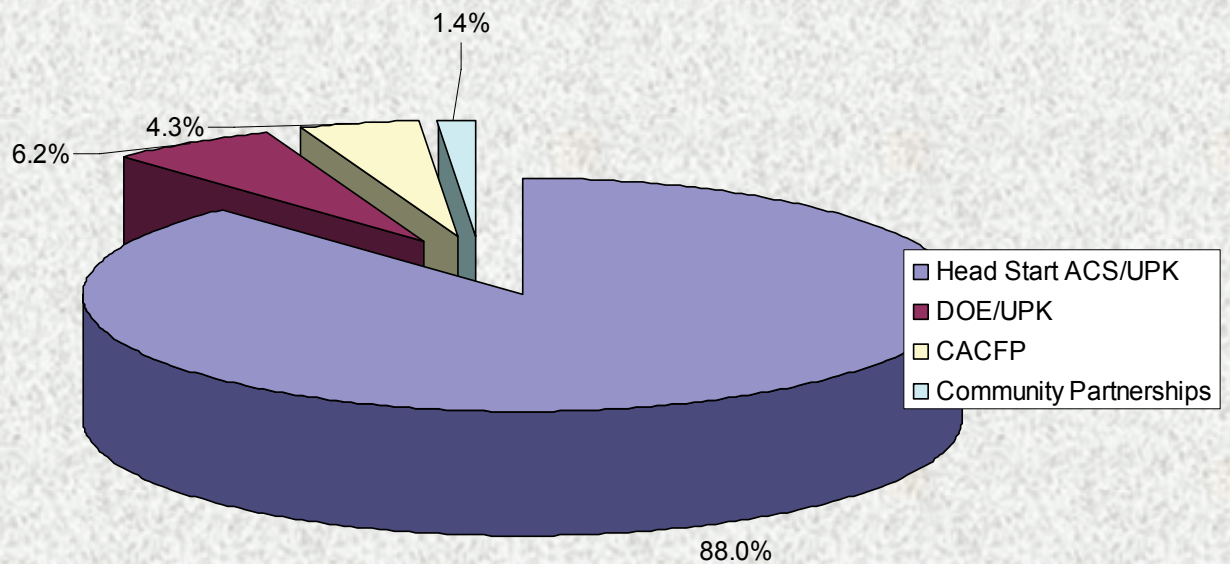
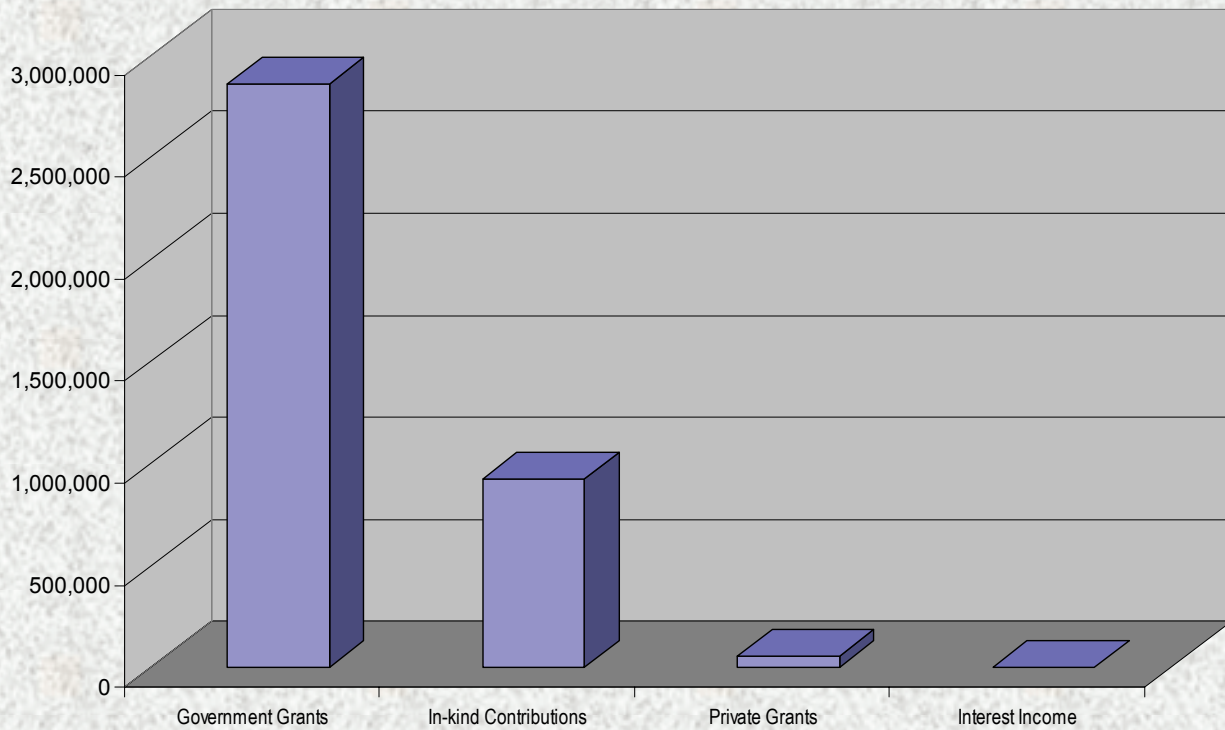
Statements of Revenue, Expenses, and Fund Balance

Support and Revenue	Fiscal Year 2010
Government Grants	2,862,184
Private Grants	59,233
In-kind contributions	927,491
Interest income	272
Total Support and Revenue	3,849,180

Expenses	Fiscal Year 2010
Early childhood education programs:	
Title V Head Start Program and ACS/Universal Pre-Kindergarten (ACS/UPK)	3,384,577
DOE Universal Pre-Kindergarten (DOE/UPK)	239,285
Food Program: Child and Adult Care food Program (CACFP)	165,813
Community Partnerships	51,652
Total Expenses	3,845,237
Changes in Net Assets	3,943
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	84,459
Net Assets, End of Year	88,402

Note: The Financial Statement presented for the Fiscal Year 2010 is unaudited. Final adjustments will be made during the course of the audit conducted by Watson Rice, LLP.

Funding Sources for FGCEC



Functional Breakdown of FGCEC Operations



Carolyn L. Wiggins
Executive Director

Anita Grossbard
Deputy Director

Leslie Watson
Director of Education

Doreen D'Amico
Educational Director

Elizabeth Balaguer
Esmeralda Guzman
Maria E. Toribio
Family Service Coordinators