

Fort George Community Enrichment Center, Inc.

Helping Children
and their families
in Washington
Heights for
over 30 years



Annual Report

2011

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.)

The year of change has been a year of paradigm shifts. All agencies that have a Head Start and or Child Care contract with the New York City Agency for Children Services must submit a Request for Proposal (RFP) to provide service under New York City Early Learn. This is a competitive bidding process open to any organization with an existing contract or those without a contract. The process is open to for-profit organizations or non-profit organizations. This RFP will eliminate the current Head Start option of half day programs. All program models must provide at least eight (8) hours of services to children. We currently serve 308 children. With our existing facilities under the new contract, if awarded, we will only be able to provide services to a maximum of 135 children at our St. Nicholas site and 45 children at our 186th Street site. We will lose 128 slots and our total capacity will be a total of 180 children. We all know that Washington Heights is already an underserved community. We need to let our voices be heard at the City Council and the Agency for Children Services Commissioner levels.

As situations change we at Ft. George are looking at other options to increase the number and quality of Early Educational services we provide in the Washington Heights Community. We are also in the process of getting ready for our Tri-annual Federal Review of our Head Start program.

Carolyn L. Wiggins
Executive Director

DELEGATE AGENCY POLICY COMMITTEE

Officers 2011

Chairperson	Elaine De Leon
Co-Chairperson	Rose Quezada
Secretary	Margarita Cabrera
Treasurer	Fran Rosario

Personnel Chairperson	Miguelina Perez
By-Laws Committee Chairperson	Elaine Ventura
Grievance Committee Chairperson	Guillermo Estevez

City Wide Policy Council Representative	Elaine Deleon
Community Representatives	Alexandra Aleman Nurys Bueno Catherine Infante

*“No man is good enough to govern another man
without that other’s consent.”*

- Abraham Lincoln

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 (2011), 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 30 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 2011 a great year.

Sincerely,

The Officers

Ruth Rudder *Chair*
Winifred Richman *Treasurer*
Lesley Halliday *Secretary*

The Members

James Amodeo
Jeanie Owens
Faith Lamb Parker
Elizabeth Baboolal
Lenore Peay
Diana Douglas
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 2011

Accomplishments:

- Our four year old children had a beautiful moving on to Kindergarten ceremony. Our speaker was a Ft. George Head Start alumnus from the class of 1982, the first graduating class, Mr. Alfredo Barbier. He has distinguished himself in the field of Business Management. He completed his primary and secondary education in the New York Public School System attending PS 189 and IS 143 and a graduate of Norman Thomas High School. Mr. Barbier earned a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from Pace University and a Master of Business Administration Degree from Iona College with a concentration in information technology. His message to our students and parents was very inspirational and very meaningful as a former student who grew up in Washington



Heights. Mr. Barbier received the first "Making the Difference" award from his alma mater Ft. George Head Start.



- We participated in the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's "Eat Well Play Hard Program. It is an innovative Nutritional and Physical activity education program.
- We continue to work with the Mailman School of Public Health Columbia University's Northern Manhattan Asthma Basics for children (ABC).
- The Mott Hall School continue to provide interns that work with our children in the classroom.
- We developed a partnership with WNET-13 "Sid the Science Kid" We completed a summer science camp with our students using "Sid the Science Kid" as our science curriculum. This was a research project funded by WNET-13 and research conducted by the Goodman Research Group.
- We had successful parent recognition for our parents' participation in the program's activities. The guest speaker was the parent coordinator from PS 189 Ms. Silvia Suero. Ms. Suero's message was very fitting for the occasion.
- Ten fathers were recognized for their special participation in our Fatherhood Initiative Program.
- We developed a partnership with Scholastic Publishers. I am a newly appointed member of the Head Start Advisory Board for Scholastic. Ft. George will pilot a library of books for one UPK classroom that will focus on the ECERS protocol. A representative from Scholastic will work directly with the teachers.







Fort George Community Enrichment Center, Inc. (FGCEC)

Financial Statements

Fiscal Year 2011

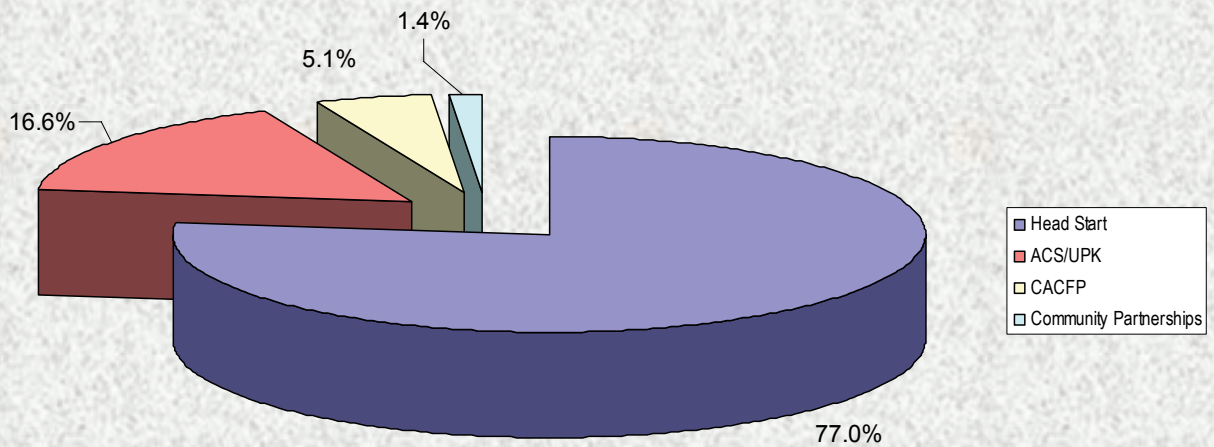
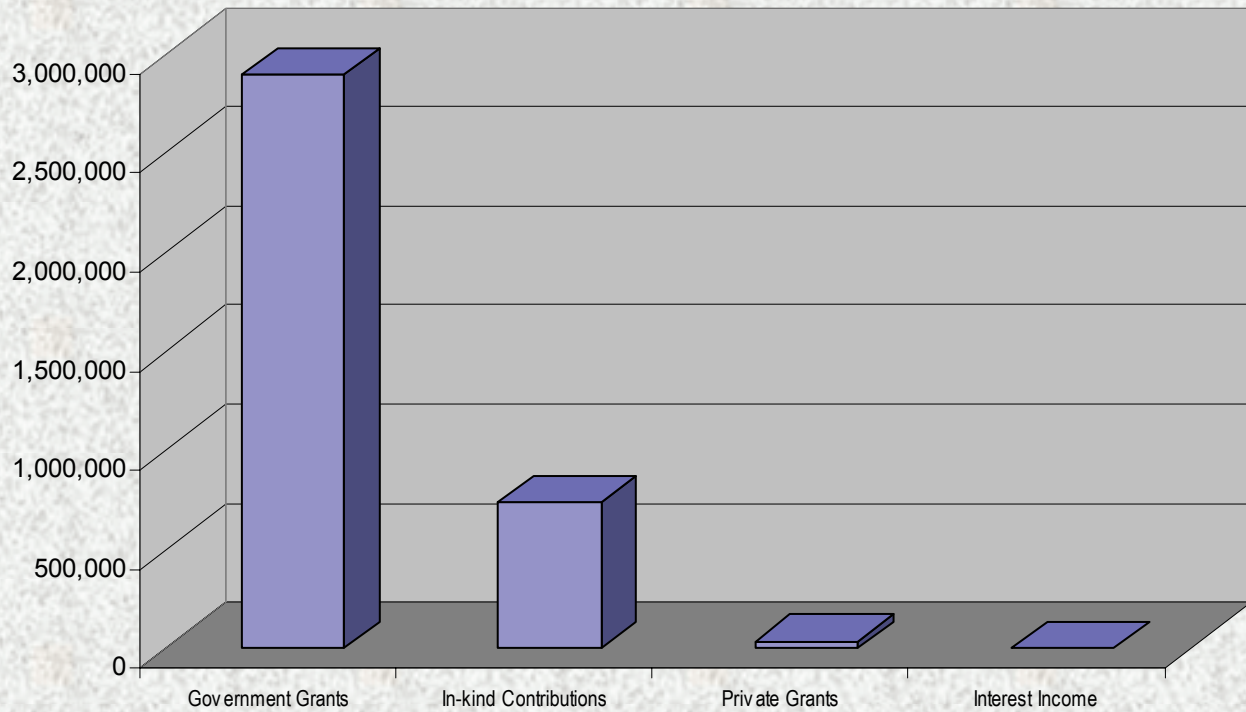
Statements of Revenue, Expenses, and Fund Balance

Revenues	Fiscal Year 2011
Government Grants	2,898,622
Private Grants	38,235
In-kind contributions	737,715
Interest income	240
Total Revenues	3,674,812

Expenses	Fiscal Year 2011
Early childhood education programs:	
Title V Head Start Program (Head Start)	2,836,356
ACS/Universal Pre-Kindergarten (ACS/UPK)	610,650
Food program: Child and Adult Care food program (CACFP)	186,256
Family literacy program: Dept of Youth & Community Dev. (DYCD)	3,106
Community Partnerships	51,652
Total Expenses	3,688,020
Changes in Net Assets	(13,208)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	88,402
Net Assets, End of Year	75,194

Note: The Financial Statement presented for the Fiscal Year 2011 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