

SUPPORT. ADVOCACY. LEARNING.

A photograph of a brown bulletin board displaying several children's drawings. The drawings are colorful and abstract, featuring various shapes and colors like green, yellow, red, purple, blue, orange, pink, and teal. Small white cards with rainbow borders and text are placed next to some of the drawings. One card reads "I'm happy", another "I'm sad", and others have partially legible text like "I'm... myself with a..." and "I'm... with my...".

About Us

Mission

SAL Community Services strengthens children, families, and individuals to build and enhance thriving communities.

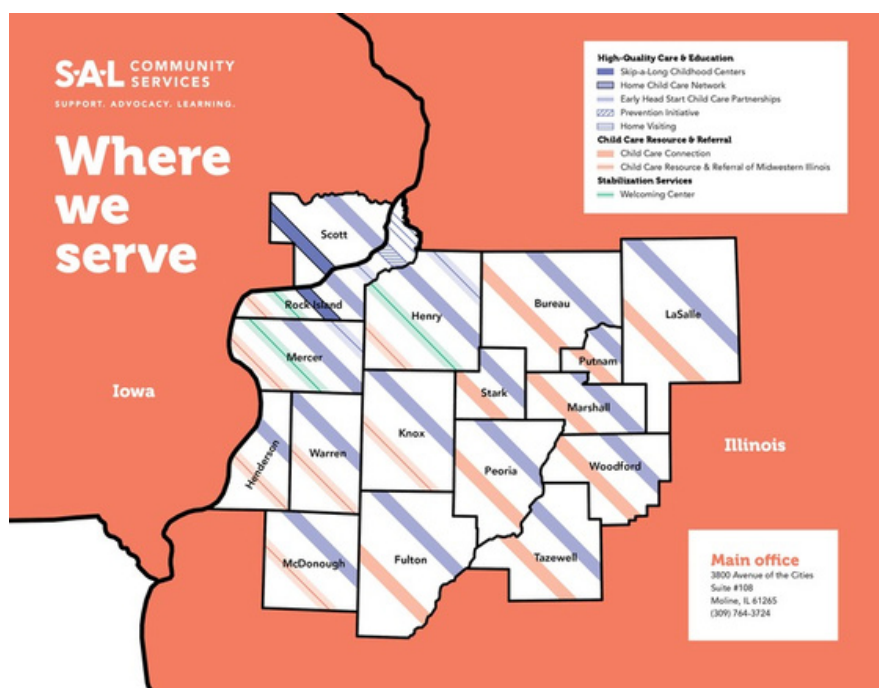
Who We Are

Founded in 1970, we have a history of listening to the needs of our community and responding. We have grown from an organization focused on providing quality child care to low-income working families to one that meets a wide variety of needs from early care and education to crisis assistance and stabilization services.

Today, SAL has a bi-state, 17-county regional footprint from the Quad Cities to the Peoria area. We advocate with and for the people we support, the communities we serve, and the solutions we champion.

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Contact Us



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From the CEO's Desk

Dear Team Members, Partners, and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year at SAL Community Services, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for all we have accomplished together. Our mission to strengthen children, families, and individuals—and, through that, our communities—has never been more vibrant or urgent, and every one of you has played a vital role in making it a reality.

Over the past year, our dedicated staff continued to drive change and deliver high-quality programs across our 17-county footprint, from the Quad Cities to Peoria. Staff achievements have included new career milestones, community honors, and participation in valued mentorship programs.

Our partnerships have reached new heights this year, ranging from research collaborations with the Illinois Latino Policy Forum to creative alliances with Goodwill of the Heartland and active participation in community events like the PNC World Day of Play and Birdies for Charity Backpack Program. These efforts ensure our visibility and impact continue to grow, fostering a spirit of shared purpose in every community we serve.

We launched significant initiatives, including the expansion of our Home Visiting program, the opening of the Home Child Care Network Galesburg office, and the successful apprenticeship pilot program with IDHS. Our Skip-a-Long centers maintained and achieved high quality ratings, and our Early Head Start and Prevention Initiative teams provided compassionate, evidence-based support and educational foundations for hundreds of children and families. The Welcoming Center surpassed its goals by serving over 1,100 clients. Our collective events connected over a thousand families and providers, strengthening social bonds and family satisfaction throughout our service area.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to each donor, advocate, and volunteer who has supported our Capital Campaign for the new Rock Island Campus. Your generosity is the foundation upon which our future is being built, and your investment will allow us to expand our reach and deepen our impact for many years to come.

Our legacy is one of listening and responding with compassion and vision, and this past year has been a testament to that unwavering commitment. Thank you, SAL Community Services family, for your hard work, your perseverance, and your belief in a brighter future for all.

With gratitude and hope,
Marcy Mendenhall
CEO/President, SAL Community Services

Workplace & Staff Achievements

At SAL, not only are we committed to serving our communities, we're committed to our employees! That's why we work hard to offer a welcoming, inclusive environment for all.

ADDITIONAL PAID TIME OFF

- Closed offices between Christmas and New Year's for early care and education staff, stabilization programs, and business admin staff.
- Honored additional holidays throughout the year for child care resource and referral program staff

Live Work Rock Island (DARI) partnership allowed staff member to purchase a home in 2025

37.5

hour work week maintained with **PAID** 30-minute lunch break for staff working a scheduled 8-hour shift

Continue to support professional development and education for staff

Offered free company branded t-shirts to every SAL Community Services staff member thanks to funds from Royal Neighbors of America; offered free QC Symphony tickets to staff

Our staff work hard driving change for our local communities. In FY24-25, a number of our staff members achieved new career accomplishments, were honored in the community, or were selected for mentorship programs.

Marcy Mendenhall

President & CEO of SAL

Honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award from St. Ambrose University

Honored by the Quad Cities Regional Business Journal as a 2025 Woman of Influence

Luis Moreno, Ph.D.

Vice President of Development

Elected as a Board Member at Large for the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Quad Cities Chapter

Pat Allison

Director, Skip-a-Long Rock Island

Awarded the 2025 Youth Development Image Award at the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet

Loredia Nunn-Dixon

Director, Welcoming Center

Became partially accredited and received her certificate from Catholic Legal Cooperation, which trains advocates and lawyers on immigration law

Kimberly Stickell

Director, Prevention Initiative

Selected to participate in the Maria Whalen Leadership Fellowship, a 9-month leadership program

Partnerships & Development

Community & Partnerships

SAL Community Services partners with the **Illinois Latino Policy Forum** to facilitate a research project at Skip-a-Long Childhood Centers Rock Island.

SAL's Child Care Connection of Central Illinois participated in **PNC World Day of Play** in Peoria.

Secured agency wide MOUs to help leverage community partnerships to serve all children, families, and individuals supported through SAL programs—including **Goodwill of the Heartland** and **Mercer County WIC, Health Department**

SAL Community Services participated in the **John Deere Classic Birdies for Charity** and their **Backpack Program**, which provided backpacks to our children going back to school.

Partnered with **Quad City Symphony Orchestra** as a CAP Partner. This allowed SAL to provide free symphony tickets to staff members throughout the season.

SAL Community Services continues to strengthen our brand through shared marketing and partnering across SAL programs to grow our coordinated community outreach and increase visibility and community awareness.

Development & Fundraising

SAL Community Services received several state and local community grants to support our programs and community:

- **Better Health Foundation - Capacity Building Grant**
 - Supported the hiring of a Development Associate for fundraising and marketing.
- **IL Department of Human Services - Home Visiting Expansion Grant**
 - Launch an expanded Home Visiting program to serve additional families in our communities.
- **Moline Regional Community Foundation - Giving in Action Grant**
 - Enhancing outdoor learning spaces at SAL Community Services
- **Regional Development Authority (RDA) - RDA Community Grant**
 - Began the Early Childhood Education Apprenticeship Pilot Program in Scott County
- **Brissman Foundation Grant**
 - Milan Youth Enhancement Opportunities with Skip-a-Long Childhood Center for field trips and in-classroom visiting speakers

LITTLE BOGEY'S GOLF CLASSIC

Raised over **\$33,000** to be reinvested into SAL's mission and programs. Funds are used to purchase classroom supplies and equipment.

115 golfers were in attendance for a beautiful day of golf and community.

Program Highlights

Home Visiting
expansion program
launched!

Annual renewal of
SAL's **CCR&R** state
contracts

**Home Child Care
Network** Galesburg
Office Officially
Opened

**Skip-a-Long
Davenport** achieved
Iowa Quality for Kids
(IQ4k) Rating Level 4
(of 5)

**Skip-a-Long Moline
and Rock Island**
achieved ExceleRate
Illinois Gold Circle of
Quality Rating

**Home Child Care
Network** awarded 3-
year grant for a Non-
Traditional Care Hours
pilot program

Skip-a-Long Milan Campus 1 maintained
ExceleRate Illinois Gold Circle of Quality and
Campus 2 maintained ExceleRate Illinois Bronze
Circle of Quality

Skip-a-Long Centers
voted #2 in Child Care
by Locals Love Us

SAL Community Services recognized as an LGBTQIA+ friendly business by WQAD

Apprenticeship Program

SAL Community Services is part of the Smart Start Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program that is being piloted by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Division of Early Childhood (DEC).

Early Childhood Registered Apprentices

Illinois

18*

Iowa

6

*6 graduated with their Associates Degree

1 graduated with their Bachelor's Degree

- Built partnerships with IowaWorks, Mississippi Valley Workforce Board, and American Job Center to support youth apprentices and on-the-job training
- Built pre-apprenticeship program with United Township High School's Area Career Center - 2 pre-apprentices graduated from high school in May 2025
- Began process of building pre-apprenticeship program with another Illinois high school and an Iowa high school/career center

Early Care & Education Programs

Skip-a-Long Childhood Center Davenport



Achieved Level 4 (of 5) on Iowa Quality for Kids Rating Scale

GRANTS

Received a grant from Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children for Week of the Young Child to purchase materials and supplies to celebrate with families

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Implemented a registered apprenticeship program and currently have six Assistant Teachers working to become certified Child Development Associate (CDA)
- Partnered with Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral for Consultant Mentors through apprenticeship program
- 13 Staff Members participating in child care WAGE\$ salary supplement program offered by the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

Added mulch to all three playgrounds for safety enhancement and compliance

Skip-a-Long Childhood Center Milan

Campus 1 maintained the Gold Standard ExceleRate Illinois Circle of Quality



Campus 2 maintained the Bronze Standard ExceleRate Illinois Circle of Quality



STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Several staff members obtained CDAs, finished AA and BA Degrees
- Several staff members in continuing education or enrolled for the fall

GRANTS

Received the Brissman Foundation Grant for \$10,000 to send school-age children on several field trips and host several visitors throughout the school year and summer

Received Quality Improvement Grant from Community Child Care Resource & Referral to help update items in the School-Age Classroom.

CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

- All Prevention Initiative (PI) Classrooms received new furniture and items
- PI Playground Updated
- PI Classroom Painted
- Both campuses had floors waxed
- Campus 2 received new equipment in the large motor space and the small playground

Early Care & Education Programs

Skip-a-Long Childhood Center Moline

**Awarded Gold
Circle of Quality
by ExceleRate**



CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

- Parking lot: new enter/exit signs, repaired corners, added rock & signs
- PFA classrooms replaced old tables and shelving units
- Completed PI playground renovation
- Expanded art and teacher supplies storage
- Purchased resource books for teachers

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- EHS Child Development Specialists moved into Moline Campus to increase support services
- Added computer to conference room to allow for additional space to onboard new hires and allow professional development opportunities

GRANTS

Received Quality Improvement Grant which was used to replace old shelving units and add additional storage to the School-Age classroom.

Skip-a-Long Childhood Center Rock Island

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

- Awarded funds from Marion Lardner Trust for back to school supplies
- Received backpack donation from the John Deere Classic
- Received winter gear donation from Modern Woodmen
- Received Knights of Columbus "Coats for Kids" donation
- 3M Company adopted families for the holidays

**Awarded Gold
Circle of Quality
by ExceleRate**



STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Staff members obtained Early Childhood Education Associate Degrees from Blackhawk College

NEW FACILITY: New Rock Island facility approved and construction scheduled.

**Skip-a-Long Childhood Centers served 883
children across all centers in FY25**

Early Care & Education Programs

Home Child Care Network

The Home Child Care Network works with both families and in-home child care providers. HCCN assists families in looking for child care in an in-home setting and connecting them to licensed providers. For providers, HCCN works with home-based child care providers to get licensed, join our network, refer families, and offer free resources and supplies.

- Officially opened a new office location in Galesburg, IL
- Awarded grant for a 3-Year pilot program for Non-Traditional Care hours

County	Enrolled Children
Rock Island	151
Knox	110
Warren	3
Mercer	3
Fulton	6
Peoria	76
Tazewell	23
Total	372

372 children enrolled across seven counties

HCCN Providers

Enrolled
62

Potential
32*

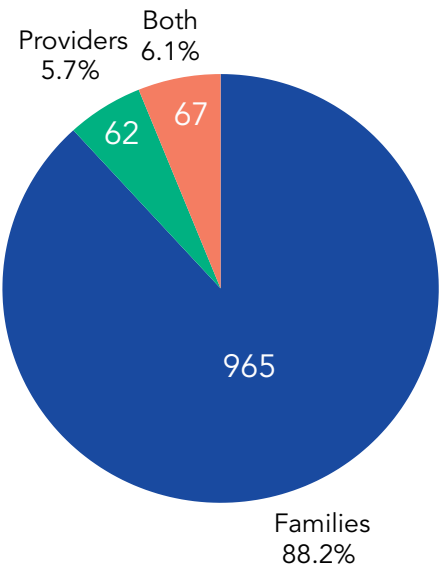
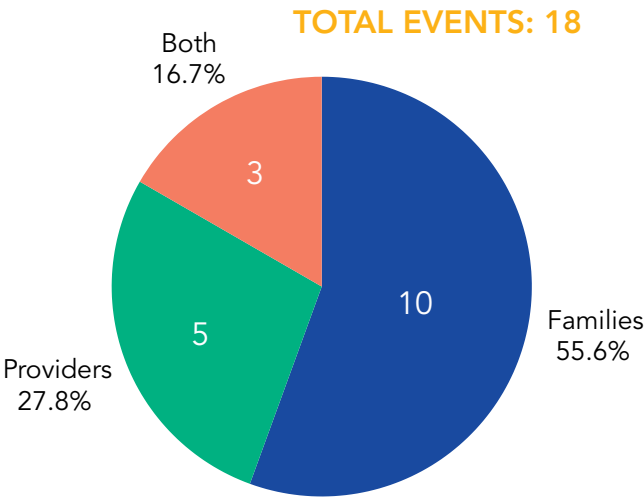
Home providers are based in the counties of Rock Island, Knox, Warren, Mercer, Fulton, Peoria, and Tazewell

*7 Licensed, 25 Non-Licensed

Events

Hosted 18 events for families & providers with EHS, PI, and independently with a total attendance of 1,094

TOTAL ATTENDEES: 1,094



Early Care & Education Programs

Prevention Initiative

Prevention Initiative (PI) works with parents and families with children aged birth to three to provide comprehensive and evidence-based child development and family support services to help build strong educational foundations that will prepare children for later school success.

Served 123 children across centers and family settings

PI Grant Approved for PY26

For Families and Children

- Hosted monthly parent education opportunities and partnered with EHS quarterly on topics such as potty training, dental health, screen time, arts and mental health, healthy meals and snacks, and more with at least 29 families attending
- Family Advocates supported families with learning to set and accomplish goals to improve family’s quality of life
- Family Advocates found resources such as clothing, furniture, and household items for at least 8 families
- Created well-rounded home visit plan with families
- Started offering online ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE to families

For Providers

- Offered training to teachers and family child care providers (on topics such as Conscious Discipline and Illinois Early Learning Guidelines in their lesson plans)
- Curriculum and Assessment Specialist supported two family child care providers during their CDA process. Both received their CDA
- Curriculum and Assessment Specialist supported numerous hours of 1:1 training with teachers and family child care providers to create high quality services

Enrolled Location	# Children
Child Care Centers	93
Family Setting	30
Total	123

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

PI Director, Kimberly Stickell, accepted into the Maria Whalen Leadership Fellowship, a 9-month leadership program

PI’s Curriculum and Assessment Specialist traveled in June 2025 to North Carolina to learn more about (ITERS), the Infant Toddler Environmental Rating Scale.

Mental Health Specialist attended Little Minds Big Feelings: Building Social-Emotional Success in All Children (April 2025)

PARENTING WORKSHOPS

Hosted three 5-week parenting workshops with EHS.



24:7 Dads and Moms Group



Positive Solutions for Families



The Basics with Ready by 5

FAMILY EVENTS

Hosted five family events with EHS, HCCN, and independently

47 Event Attendees (PI)

Early Care & Education Programs

Early Head Start Child Care Partnership

Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (EHS) provides individualized services to low-income infants and toddlers up to age 4, as well as pregnant parents and their families, living in Henry, Mercer, and Rock Island counties. It's a comprehensive program that empowers families to meet the emotional, cognitive, and social needs of children so they can grow into self-sufficient and thriving adults.

Participants by Location	
Location	Number
Skip-a-Long Centers (Milan, Moline, & Rock Island)	153
Aledo Children's School	4
Bull Frogs & Butterflies	9
Small Hands, Big Hearts	11
Little Blessings Home Daycare	8
Home Based Option	70
Total Served	255

- Provided housing crisis support to 14 families
- Provided health & disability services and mental health services to children and families
- Hosted staff wellness events and reflective learning groups to promote staff mental health and well-being, including Teacher Appreciation Week
- 29 teachers hold a CDA, Associate's Degree, or Bachelor's Degree, 2 teachers working towards CDA
- Planned 23 socialization events for home-based families to come together and interact

**Served 255 participants
across 8 locations**

FAMILY EVENTS

Hosted five events with PI, HCCN, and independently.



Day at
the Zoo



Fall Family
Day



Party at
the Library



Family Fun
Festival



Touch-
a-Truck

PARENTING WORKSHOPS

Hosted three 5-week parenting workshops with PI.



24:7 Dads and
Moms Group



Positive Solutions
for Families



The Basics with
Ready by 5

Family Satisfaction

100% of families surveyed
would recommend
participating in EHS

Parent/Guardian Volunteers

48 parents/guardians
donated 132 hours of
volunteer time to EHS

Dual-Language Learners

Supported 38 children
learning their family's
native language at home

Early Care & Education Programs

Home Visiting

New Program Launched in FY24-25!

Awarded IDHS Grant for another three program years

Part-EHS, Part-IDHS, Home Visiting is a new program launched in FY25 as an expansion of the existing EHS home-based services. Home Visiting supports pregnant people and parents with young children aged birth to 5 who live in Rock Island County through planned, regular visits with a trained professional based on a family's needs and schedules. This program is free to families who qualify.

Program Updates:

- Received a grant for books to give families in order to build their home library collection
- Hired additional Family Educators to expand service capacity

Served 38 families and 53 children
(from January 1st - June 30)

Family Educators

4

Service Capacity

60

Each family educator can serve
15 families each at a time

10

New Families not previously enrolled in an
existing SAL Community Services program

CULTURALLY ALIGNED FAMILY SUPPORT

A Spanish-speaking Family Educator is supporting four Spanish-speaking families, fostering stronger communication and cultural connection.

SOCIALIZATIONS

Home Visiting hosted monthly group connections and socializations where families come together and engage in parent/child activities

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

4 out of 5 staff members attended a 5-day Conscious Discipline training event. Home Visiting plans to bring the home-based curriculum to parents during visits and are looking forward to bringing a 7-week workshop for parents to attend, free of charge.

Crisis Assistance & Stabilization

Welcoming Center

The Welcoming Center is a one-stop human service center designed to provide accessible services to local immigrants, refugees, and those whose first language is not English. Services are offered in 8 languages including English, French, Spanish, Swahili, Burmese, Haka Chin, Kimbembe, and Lingala.

Throughout the year, the dedicated Welcoming Center Staff worked tirelessly to meet the needs of immigrants, refugees, and limited-English individuals in our community. Staff served over 1,100 clients, more than 250 clients higher than our initial goal of 850.

FY24-25 Clients

Goal

850

Served

1,104

+ 254 over goal

Client Breakdown

New

600

Returning

504

Avg: 21.2 clients/week

PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

Welcoming Center partnered with Quad Cities Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees (QCAIR) to provide monthly training sessions to clients.

Hosted monthly workshops focused on emotional well-being, resources in the community, and skills. Topics included: keeping a job and housing, becoming a child care provider, resources in the community, and more.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Director and Coordinator completed several weeks of intensive training with the Resurrection Project in Chicago on Immigration Law.

Director Loredia Nunn-Dixon became partially accredited and received certificate from Catholic Legal Cooperation, which trains advocates and lawyers on immigration law.

Welcoming Center staff distributed essential items, including clothing, food, diapers, and hygiene products, to meet clients' basic needs across the year.

SUPER SATURDAY

Hosted our annual Super Saturday event in June where families came together for food, fun, and fellowship. Attendees enjoyed free food, games, and activities for children.

Over 100 in attendance.

Child Care Resource & Referral

Child Care Connection of Central Illinois

Child Care Connection of Central Illinois (CCCCI) is one of two Child Care Resource & Referral programs under SAL Community Services. These programs are part of a statewide network of agencies funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). CCCCCI serves the counties of Bureau, Fulton, LaSalle, Marshall, Peoria, Putnam, Stark, Tazewell, and Woodford.

CCCCI supports families needing quality, affordable child care. CCCCCI also assists licensed and license-exempt child care centers and homes in Illinois, ensuring they meet quality standards in the state.

FAMILY SERVICES

388

Families received referrals for child care

681

Children served through referral services

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

30

community events attended where...

39

Community partners engaged

18,949

Community residents engaged

PROVIDER SERVICES

Provider Support Team assisted child care providers through various grant applications and renewal support—totaling over **\$5.5 million** in funding and resources.

113

provider trainings offered (in-person, hybrid, virtual) with **980** participants

1,544

provider consultations by Quality Team

99

providers assisted in accessing higher education resources

1,544

provider consultations by Quality Team

66

environment monitoring visits

17

action plan meetings to enhance health and safety of child care programs

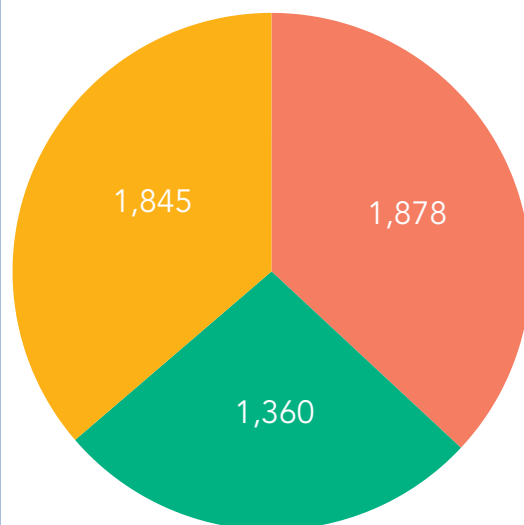
CCAP BREAKDOWN

Total: 5,063

● New Applications - 36.9%

● Record Updates - 26.8%

● Redeterminations - 36.3%



Child Care Resource & Referral

Child Care Resource & Referral of Midwestern Illinois

Child Care Resource and Referral of Midwestern Illinois (CCRRMI) is one of two Child Care Resource & Referral programs under SAL Community Services. These programs are part of a statewide network of agencies funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). CCRRMI serves the counties of Henderson, Henry, Knox, McDonough, Mercer, Rock Island, and Warren.

CCRRMI supports families needing quality, affordable child care. CCRRMI also assists licensed and license-exempt child care centers and homes in Illinois, ensuring they meet quality standards in the state.

FAMILY SERVICES

212

Families received
referrals for child care

2,720

CCAP families served

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

110

community collaborations attended

PROVIDER SERVICES

\$11,266

invested in Individual
Professional
Development

158

hours of training
offered & completed
by **371** attendees

904

Technical Assistance
Activities Completed

\$106,025

invested in ExceleRate
Quality Improvement

20

License Exempt program visits

Photos from the Year

Birdies for Charity Backpack Drive - July 2024



Skip-a-Long Rock Island Field Trip - October 2024



Skip-a-Long Davenport Class Visit - February 2025



EHS/PI/HCCN Touch a Truck - May 2025



Skip-a-Long Davenport Field Trip - July 2024



Skip-a-Long Milan Class - November 2024



Skip-a-Long Milan Class - March 2025



Skip-a-Long Rock Island Field Trip - June 2025



Skip-a-Long Milan Gardening - August 2024



Skip-a-Long Moline Milk & Cookies Family Night - December 2024



Skip-a-Long Moline Class - April 2025



Welcoming Center Super Saturday - June 2025



Skip-a-Long Davenport - September 2024



Skip-a-Long Moline - January 2025



Skip-a-Long Milan - May 2025



EHS/PI/HV Family Fun Festival - June 2025



Photos from the Year

29th Annual Little Bogy's Golf Classic at Oakwood Country Club - May 12, 2025



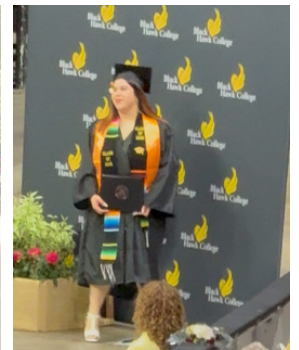
Home Child Care Network Galesburg Office Grand Opening - April 2025



QCBJ Women of Influence Awards (left) & NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet (right) - June 2025



Apprenticeship Graduates - May 2025 : Patrina (AA), Angela (AA), Morgan (AA), Courtney (AA), Heather (BA), Rebecca (AA), and Elizabeth (AA)





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