

## Community Circle of Friends ChildCare Center Open House

The *Community Circle of Friends ChildCare Center* is a center for all children!

Please drop in... the Annual Open House and Scholastic Book Fair is on **Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 10 AM – 4 PM.**

Conveniently located at **4 Yankee Place**, in the heart of Ellenville, the *Community Circle of Friends ChildCare Center* is pleased to be serving our community's children and their families for more than seven years. As the area's only non-profit child care center, its quality programs are now recognized and supported by several national corporate grants and the center is proud to have once again been chosen to receive the Stewart's Holiday Match Grant in the sum of \$1,000 to assist with the purchase of classroom materials and supplies.

The hopes and dreams of the *Community Circle of Friends ChildCare Center* are contained in its mission statement: "To help meet the needs of parents by providing quality child care to all children in a nurturing inclusive environment". In keeping with its mission and its promise to the community, *The Center* is fully licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and assists eligible families through the steps of applying for child care reimbursement.

*The Center* is open from **6:30 AM to 6:00 PM daily**, all year long. Its Toddler Program (18 months to 3 years), Pre-school Program (3 to 5 years) and Before and After School Program (5 to 11 years), is housed in a specially-designed, beautiful, climate-controlled building equipped with a security system that only parents and staff can access. In addition to its well-equipped classrooms, gym, and safe, cushioned, outdoor playground, the program's clean and modern kitchen provides the children with a nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack daily. Most importantly, the program is staffed by nurturing, certified early-childhood teachers who are fully-trained in first aid, CPR, and medication administration. Additionally, a nurse is available on site most days to attend to any medical situation that might arise.

*The Center's* vast array of supports, facilities, and services is unique among child care centers and is due in part to its creative partnering with the *Ellenville Children's Annex*, a New York State Education Department licensed special education program that serves preschool and young school-aged children. By sharing space and pooling resources, (*photo, top right*) both programs are able to provide all of its children with state-of-the-art educational curriculum, teaching strategies, and certified educators, speech, occupational, physical therapists, as well as a school social worker who provides parent education group meetings monthly. The staffs of both programs work with all of the children in ways that are fun, individualized, and help each child reach his or her full potential during the crucial early years.

Over the years, *The Center* has become known and respected as a model program for its full scope of inclusive services and the success of the hundreds of children who have graduated from its programs and then go on to kindergarten well prepared in all areas of early childhood curriculum: speech/language, social skills, educational, physical and self-care development. There is no greater acknowledgement of what *The Center* can provide than the compliments given by parents themselves:

"Every aspect of your program seems to us as parents to



be well planned and organized, and that our son looks forward to participating in the day's activities provides perhaps the best testimonial to the effectiveness of your program. He is genuinely excited about attending your program every day." – Lisa S. Turner & Donald Odom Jr.

"It means a great deal to me to know that I can send my son somewhere safe and know that he's having fun and learning at the same time." – Jessica Cherry

"*The Center* has made it very convenient for before- and after-school child care. We always know that our children are well taken care of when they are at *The Center*. The staff is excellent and our children feel very comfortable with them. This program has taught us to interact with our children in an educational way that helps them to continue to learn with everything they do." – Jaclyn Soto and Antonio Naveo

"In this day and age that forces both parents to work outside the home, I cannot be more pleased to have my son attend the *Community Circle of Friends Childcare Center*. It is, simply, a home away from home atmosphere. And, I know I do not have to worry about my child because he loves attending every day." – Paige Curlis

Tina Mandiville, *The Center's* Director, has worked with the program for five years and is familiar with all aspects of its successful operation. When Tina took over the directorship in September, it was a smooth and happy transition for the children, families and staff who all have known and worked with Tina over the years. Tina is a proud native of Ellenville, having lived here most of her life. "What I am proudest of," explains Tina, "is being able to hear the excited, happy voices of the children throughout the day and know they are thriving because of the excellent care and learning experiences they receive from the dedicated, well-trained teachers. We strive to make this the kind of child-centered, developmentally-appropriate environment I would want my own children and grandchildren to experience every day!"

Tina and her staff will be hosting *The Center's* annual Open House on **Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.** The community is invited to visit *The Center*, meet the wonderful staff, watch a video about a day at *The Center* experienced through the eyes of a child, and find out about the curriculum, activities, and review *The Center's* annual Scholastic Book Fair that will continue throughout the week. Find out about the process of application, enrollment, and (if you might be eligible for tuition) subsidy. Light refreshments will be served. So, come on in, stay awhile and make the dream of quality childcare come alive for you and your child, too!

Opportunities for enrollment are currently available, and space can be reserved for the coming summer and school year. Call Tina at **647-6464** or visit *The Center's* website at: <http://www.ellenvillenyc.org/webs/0006/index.html>. 