



CHILD DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

Coming Together - Making an Impact

2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT



CDI'S MISSION IS TO
HELP ALL CHILDREN
REACH THEIR FULL
POTENTIAL BY
SUPPORTING THE
RELATIONSHIPS AND
ENVIRONMENTS
THAT SHAPE EARLY
DEVELOPMENT.

*Coming Together -
Making an Impact*

We have witnessed severe hardship
as well as amazing fortitude as
community and families have come
together to ensure that children's
health, education, and emotional
needs are being addressed.

LETTER FROM THE CO-CEOS: JOAN MALTESE, PH.D & TESSA GRAHAM, MS, MFT, BCBA

CDI is back! We are in full bloom and focused on serving and nurturing the vulnerable children and families in our community! As CDI's Co-CEOs, we are joining forces in reinvigorating the CDI mission to help all children to reach their full developmental potential. After over two and a half years of dealing with the unprecedented COVID-19 global pandemic, housing shortages, food insecurity and other increasing economic consequences, CDI is well prepared for a season of growth and recovery.

After so many missed opportunities to be part of the larger social world, children are showing beautiful signs of blooming as they play outdoors and make new friends. Our newly installed listening benches remind us to create space for compassion and caring for each other. CDI also hosted multiple enriching community events such as Baby Opera, Fun Fence Painting Day, and Gardening from seed to harvest.

In the coming year, we look forward to working with our community of thoughtful and caring people to help young children and their families thrive, grow and bloom. Even with clouds in the sky, we know the sun continues to shine and all children deserve every opportunity to reach their full potential. Together we can make that happen.



Joan Maltese, PhD

Founder/Co-CEO
Child Development Institute



Tessa Graham, MS, MFT, BCBA

President/Co-CEO
Child Development Institute

**CDI MAIN OFFICE &
CDI EARLY LEARNING CENTER (RESEDA)**
18050 VANOWEN STREET
RESEDA, CA 91335
(818) 888-4559
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**CDI EARLY LEARNING CENTER
(CANOGA PARK)**
7260 OWENSMOUTH AVENUE
CANOGA PARK, CA 91303
(818) 712-0453

CDI TARZANA CAMPUS
TARZANA GARDEN PLAZA
18411 CLARK STREET SUITE 100
TARZANA, CA 91356



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR: SUSAN DU BRIN

Child Development Institute is an inspirational leader providing services to children and families in the San Fernando Valley, with staff and volunteers providing individualized and “whole child” approaches to families in need.

My fellow board members and I are honored to be part of the ever-expanding organization. With its continual growth and development in new programs and re-vamping and expanding current programs such as the early intervention services, family strengthening through early learning centers, building and bettering community partnerships, providing professional training, and so much more.

CDI provides families with resources and tools to better create a loving and nurturing environment for their children while developing and encouraging the child’s creativity, self-esteem and inner wellbeing.

Our vision remains to recognize each individual as a capable person deserving support, respect, and acceptance as we work together to create a welcoming family atmosphere. “Every Child Makes a Difference.” Each child comes to us with a unique personality and potential for growth.



CDI Leadership Team (L-R):

Dana Kalek, EdD
Director of Operations

Laura Counts, MA, MFT
Director of Clinical Programs

Joan Maltese, PhD
Founder/Co-CEO

Tessa Graham, MS, MFT, BCBA
President/Co-CEO

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Therapists use an integrated “whole child” approach guided by research in child development, brain science, attachment and learning theory. Treatment is individualized for each child and family. Families are the most important providers of loving, caring relationships and the best creators of safe, nurturing environments that support healthy development. Parents are active participants and collaborators in their child’s treatment.

CDI EARLY LEARNING CENTERS



CDI ELC Reseda

Located in Reseda and Canoga Park, CDI's Early Learning Centers offer a museum-quality, developmentally-appropriate play and learning space for children and their families.



Healthy Development for Young Children and Their Families

Our Early Learning Centers promote healthy development for all young children and provide connection to community resources and opportunities to strengthen families. This integrated, play-based learning model promotes healthy development in a safe, engaging environment. Young children and their families have access to free play and activity-learning spaces designed to promote self-discovery and invite hands-on learning experiences with nature, problem-solving, and sensory exploration. Early child development professionals and volunteers provide enriching programs and are available to answer questions about child development, provide free screenings and make connections with other community providers.

CDI Provides Connection to Community Resources and Opportunities to Strengthen Families



The LA Opera provided a day of music for babies and toddlers at CDI's Early Learning Center in Reseda, engaging them in the rich experience of opera.



Children participate in group activities at CDI's ELC Reseda.



CDI ELC volunteers distribute food to families in the community.

CDI Hosts Painting Day at Early Learning Center in Reseda

CDI families got creative and came out to help paint a fun mural and fencing at CDI's Reseda Early Learning Center.



5-YEAR-OLD ALEXIA: MEETING HER MILESTONES

“I came to CDI back in October 2021 with my four-year-old daughter Alexia and my one-and-a-half-year-old son Diego,” said Ivon.

CDI’s community volunteer, Betsie, a former preschool teacher for over 30 years, recognized that Alexia wasn’t speaking like other children her age. “My daughter was not initiating speech and was unable to have a back-and-forth conversation,” said Ivon. “She would not say her name. If asked, she said, “I don’t know.” “I was so overwhelmed I began crying and venting my frustrations of getting pushed around and not knowing what next steps to take to help my daughter,” said Ivon.

The CDI team set up a developmental screening with Alexia. Alexia scored 30/60 in speech and “typical” in all other areas. She scored at risk on ASQ-SE2 95/85. CDI referred her to LAUSD Early Education for a full assessment. Alexia was

evaluated by the district and received an IEP. Alexia was eligible for speech through the district as well as an afterschool program for building social skills and speech.

“Alexia now attends speech therapy two times a week for 1-1/2 hours,” said Ivon. “This all started because of CDI. They led me to the right path. They are amazing and go beyond what they do. I still take my kids once in a while to the ELC. Now my daughter talks to everyone there. I am very grateful and appreciate everyone at CDI.”



FREE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS

CDI provides free developmental screenings and follow-up for infants and children up to age 6 years.

Developmental Screenings provide a quick overview of a child’s strengths and needs. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all children receive annual developmental screeners. Early screening helps to identify children who may need further evaluations and early intervention services. They can also help parents, caregivers, and teachers know how to best support a child’s school readiness.

80%
of all free screenings
are linked to community
resources and supports



EARLY LEARNING CENTER VOLUNTEERS

CDI would like to acknowledge the unwavering commitment of three of our valued ELC Community Volunteers, Mr. Ron, PaPa Marty, and Betsie. We are proud to recognize their years of service and foremost, the love and compassion they bring to the families we are honored to serve. Mr. Ron has been volunteering for five years, and Betsie, just hit her one-year anniversary. Papa Marty has been volunteering for four years and was the recipient of the Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation's Halo Award.

CDI continues to provide, free high-quality programs to our community because of volunteers like our dynamic trio. They lead by example and are beloved by our staff and families. Please join us as we extend a heartfelt thank you to each one of them for continuing to support our mission at CDI of helping each child truly reach their full potential.

8,355

hours were contributed by
ELC volunteers in 2021-22



PaPa Marty



Betsie



Mr. Ron

CDI WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO OPERATE ITS EARLY LEARNING CENTERS WITHOUT THE DEDICATION OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS. LAST YEAR, OVER **300 VOLUNTEERS** GAVE THEIR TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERYDAY FOR THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.





Laura Counts, MA, LMFT
Director of Clinical Programs

CDI's clinical team has paid close attention to the changing needs of young children and their families throughout this past year of transition. We have welcomed many children into services whose development was highly impacted by the isolation and challenges of the pandemic. Our in-person social skills and parent support groups have provided crucial and unique opportunities for both critical therapeutic interventions and opportunities to create friendships and social connections.

We continue to expand our programs to meet the needs of the most vulnerable infants who

"We loved CDI and all the therapists we worked with along the way. We felt like they listened to us and helped us immensely when we felt utterly clueless. I recommend all my friends who are in search of therapy to CDI. Thank you!"

- CDI Parent

have spent time in the NICU, children who missed out on receiving early intervention and children and families impacted by the pandemic in our local communities. Our CDI ELC team has continued to offer a variety of in-person programming and developmental screening while also warmly prioritizing the needs of our families such as food, clothing and diaper distributions. I am overwhelmed by the dedication of our staff who go above and beyond to ensure our clients and families feel listened to, supported and connected.

26,979

clinical service
hours provided for
347 clients in 2021-22



CDI offers a range of Early Intervention Services for children ages 0-8 and their families:

- Child & Family Therapy
- Developmental Assessments & Intervention
- Speech Therapy
- Occupational Therapy and Sensory Integration
- Physical Therapy
- Feeding Therapy
- Lactation Support
- Social Skills Groups
- Parent Support Groups
- Perinatal Support

PRESCHOOL READINESS GROUPS

The COVID-19 pandemic undoubtedly disrupted children's physical, social-emotional, cognitive, and educational development. Families were left without the necessary community resources that previously provided support and enrichment. Many families within the CDI community voiced concern over their children's development trajectories, particularly their child's readiness to enter the next phase in their educational journey after a year of decreased social interaction, community activities, and in-person learning opportunities. CDI's Preschool Readiness Group grew out of this need and aimed to support children and families in educational readiness, developmental milestone acquisition, and positive early learning experiences. This six-week, hour-long group was designed for children aged 2-3 years old. In these groups, children could play with same-age peers in a playroom setting. The preschool readiness skills they practiced included separation from a caregiver, transitions across structured and unstructured activities, play with same-age peers, expanding play skills, and improving fine and gross motor skills. Additionally, they engaged in various developmentally appropriate activities to practice problem-solving, manipulation of objects to support fine motor development, and sensory play. Each group was rooted in the evidence

regarding best practices for educational readiness programs, which encouraged small group sizes, individualized instruction, parent involvement, low-cost attendance, and a curriculum aimed at specific school readiness skills.

This group was a huge success for CDI families and the community. Children were provided access to socialization opportunities, and parents expressed a difference in their child's willingness and excitement to engage with peers over the six weeks. Additionally, parents were provided hands-on learning during developmentally appropriate activities to generalize skills to the home environment. Parents expressed feeling more confident in addressing their child's developmental needs and preparing them for the transition to preschool.



96%

of families report that CDI made a positive difference in their child's development.

"WE HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY HAPPY WITH OUR THERAPIST AND THE VALUE THAT CDI BRINGS FAMILIES THROUGH ITS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES. OUR SESSIONS HAVE HELPED US UNDERSTAND OUR CHILD'S NEEDS, STRENGTHS, UNIQUE TRAITS, AS WELL AS TRUE REASONS BEHIND CERTAIN BEHAVIORS. OVERALL, WE FEEL THAT WE NOW ENJOY CLOSE, QUALITY RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR CHILD, BUILT ON RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING, WHICH IS INVALUABLE." – CDI PARENT

CDI's multi-disciplinary training team provides trainings and consultations to organizations and professionals who work with young children.

- Wide range of topics
- Customized and interactive
- Clinical Internship Programs

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

50
Direct Trainings
delivered.

CDI's professional training program has continued to expand and grow with increased multi-year, large scale contracts. There has been an increased request for trainings for teachers this year and the team has been updating curriculums to reflect the impact of COVID related stress on teachers and students. This topic has never been more profoundly relevant as we trained over 1000 professionals and parents over the past year in over 50 professional trainings.

The CDI training team has partnered with Child Care Resource Center (CCRC) for a 3 year training series in Trauma-Informed Care for the entire staff of the Head Start Birth to Five division. Trauma signs and symptoms in young children can take many forms and are often misinterpreted. Understanding the signs and symptoms of early trauma requires knowledge of the neurological, biological, psychological and social effects

of trauma. Obtaining deeper levels of knowledge, understanding and specialized interventions to use with these children can help mitigate future challenging behaviors and help children feel safe and successful. This comprehensive series provides the essential components of the long term investment needed to integrate the trauma informed care principles of compassion, reflection and resilience into an organizations culture.



CCRC Leadership Team's first In-Person Training with CDI since before the pandemic.

CDI'S CUSTOMIZED TRAININGS ARE IDEAL FOR ALL PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN, SUCH AS:

- Early Child Care Providers
- Educators
- Mental Health Professionals
- Child Welfare Professionals
- Pediatric Health Professionals
- Community Development Organizations

1,000
parents and professionals
trained.



BACK TO SCHOOL HEALTH AND SAFETY FAIR

CDI hosted the Annual Back to School Health and Safety Fair at CDI's Early Learning Center in Canoga Park. This event was shared by over 25 community vendors. The Fair's core goal is to assist families who might not have the resources to prepare their children for a healthy and successful school year. With the generous support of elected officials and local organizations, over 150 children received free health screenings, including vision, audiology, dental and developmental screenings as well as backpacks filled with school supplies.

Overheard at the back to school fair a little boy who just received his backpack yelled with joy, "I can't wait to go to school!"



Dana Kalek, EdD
Director of Operations

"This past year has been extraordinary as we looked towards recovery and reconnection with the families in our community. We met the most critical and immediate needs of those we serve, providing resources such as housing, food, school supplies, free or low-cost education, and access to medical and mental health services. With the unwavering support of our community partners, CDI provided a web of social supports to strengthen the most vulnerable members of our community. Our theme is "coming together and making a difference" and it was proven true as we live out our mission of helping each family reach their full potential."



"I CAN'T WAIT TO
GO TO SCHOOL!"



CDI hosts
Back-to-School
Health and
Safety Fair.

“CDI’s well established culture of fiscal responsibility and financial transparency provided the solid underpinnings for its remarkable work managing multiple challenges of COVID, while responding to the growing needs of vulnerable children and their families.”

Robert Kahn, CDI Board Treasurer

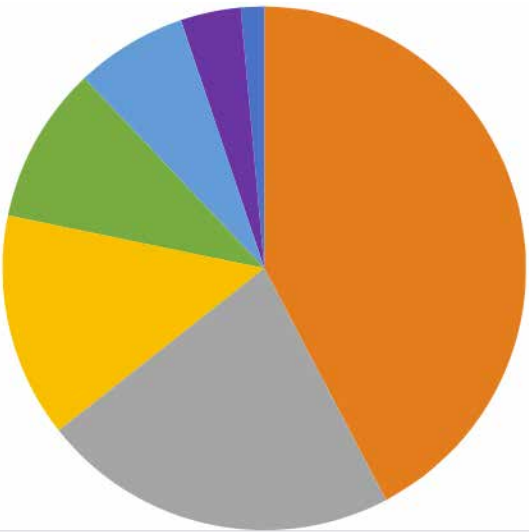
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

“We are so thankful for CDI and the incredible amount of support and care everyone puts into every detail of this program from the facilities, to the employees, the children and their families. In one year, our lives have made significant progress with the support provided from the team at CDI.” - CDI Parent

	2021-22	2020-21
Net Assets	\$4,817,367	\$4,581,802
Revenue and Other Supports		
Programs and Services	\$2,440,173	\$2,760,473
Grants	\$1,834,902	\$1,672,236
Fundraising	\$62,801	\$46,725
Total Revenues	\$4,373,866	\$4,538,536
Expenses		
Program and Services	\$3,423,043	\$3,354,558
Management and Administration	\$510,339	\$458,841
Fundraising	\$204,919	\$210,325
Total Expenses	\$4,138,301	\$4,023,724
Total increase in net assets	\$235,565	\$514,812
Net assets, beginning of year	\$4,581,802	\$4,066,990
Net assets, end of year	\$4,817,367	\$4,581,802

2021-22 Funding Sources

Grants	1,834,902
IDP -Regional Center	957,452
Private Pay/Insurance	601,154
LAUSD	420,356
AS - Regional Center	299,600
Training Program	161,333
Fundraising	62,801



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California Department of Education
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SILVER

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CHAMPION

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Mehrdad Kevin Ariani, MD
Lauren & Ron Bahar, MD

Our donors are vital to the success of CDI. This support allows us to be able to provide critical services for children and their families making a positive impact in their lives.

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Gelb Enterprises



CDI Board of Directors from left to right: Roberto Barragan, Addy Gonzalez Renteria, Tessa Graham, Christine Molaro, Robert Kahn, Susan Du Brin, Howard Reinstein, Arlene Alpert, Arlet Hur. Not pictured are Mark Levinson and Susan Ng.

If you see an omission or error in the annual report regarding your name please contact us. We are eager to correct our records and will make the correction in future printings.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE