



SISTERS *of* CHARITY FOUNDATION  
OF CANTON

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## **Early Childhood Resource Center: The Future is Bright**

Because of the Early Childhood Resource Center's work—with educators and families alike—thousands of children are starting school ready to succeed.

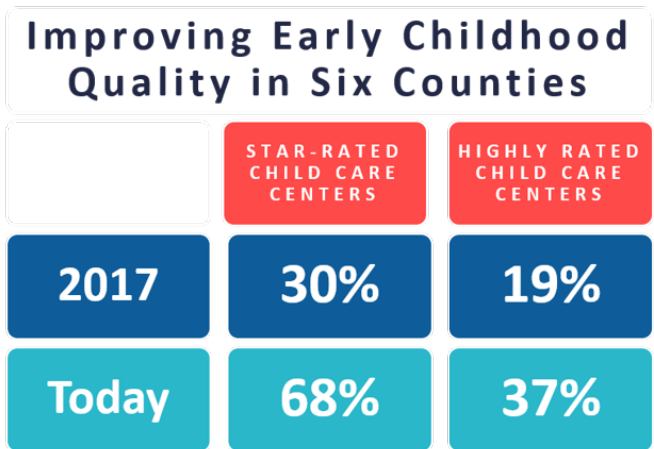


The Center has quietly been serving Stark County over the past two decades. Scott Hasselman, the Center's Executive Director, and Angela Moses, its Director of Early Care and Education Services, came to the Foundation's recent Board meeting to discuss the Center's rapid growth and future direction.

Much of that growth stems from the Center's 2017 designation as the state's Child Care Resource and Referral Agency serving Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, and Trumbull counties. In addition to the Resource and Referral work, the Center's community outreach work and SPARK kindergarten readiness program have also rapidly grown.

As staff size has increased accordingly, the Center has, quite simply, outgrown its building.

Thanks to the generosity of local foundations, the ECRC has purchased a building adjacent to its current facility on Cleveland Avenue in Canton. The building and site will be remodeled to create Stark County's first early childhood campus, positioning the ECRC to meet community needs over its next two decades.



Step Up To Quality is the State's five-star rating system that categorizes child care center quality. Centers earn one star by demonstrating a specified level of quality (beyond basic licensing standards). As quality increases further, centers earn even more stars. As the regional resource and referral agency since 2017, the ECRC's job is to help those centers increase their quality.

By 2020, all centers receiving state funding will be required to have at least one star. By 2025, they'll be required to be highly rated, with three or more stars.

**The ECRC has already made significant progress on those goals.**

### Did You Know?

- The Sisters of Charity Foundation created the ECRC in 2000 to help educators improve the quality of Stark County's early childhood programs.
- The ECRC branched out in 2010 to directly serve families as well.
- In 2013, the Sisters of Charity Foundation transitioned its SPARK kindergarten readiness program to the ECRC.
- In 2014, local funders invested more than \$1 million to triple the number of SPARK children served in Stark County.
- In 2017, the ECRC went from serving just Stark County to serving a six-county region.
- Staff size has increased greatly, from 11 staff members in 2014 to 52 today.



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