



The **Women's Caring Program (WCP)** is a Michigan non-profit foundation incorporated in 1995 that funds and administers its signature program, **ChildCare Commitment (CCC)**. The WCP mission is to serve as a leader in supporting children and families on the road to independence through early childhood development.

About WCP

The Women's Caring Program grew from a circle of friends who began meeting in 1979 to build and strengthen friendships. As the years passed, this expanding circle of women became especially concerned about the childcare needs of working mothers and their ability to pay for quality care for their children. The group began raising funds to support quality care for children from low-income families. These efforts led WCP's establishment as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 1995 and the creation of the ChildCare Commitment program. Over the years, WCP has planted the seeds for growth and change that have made a difference in children's lives.

ChildCare Commitment

ChildCare Commitment provides tuition assistance for quality care and early education for children under five from working families who are not eligible for childcare payments from another funding source. Awards are distributed in Michigan on a statewide basis with priority focused in regions with population density and high poverty levels.

Critical Impact

When at-risk children start kindergarten behind their middle class peers, studies show they rarely catch up. Research shows quality early care and education enhances a child's school performance and work-life success. The single most important factor in improving a child's ability to be successful and productive is quality education. Studies indicate every dollar invested in quality early childhood education and care for disadvantaged children yields a significant return as a result of reduced social problems and increased economic productivity.

Economists at Wilder Research, an internationally known social research organization, have also documented the impact on Michigan through a 2009 study. Wilder found the state saves \$1.15 billion per year because of past investments in pre-kindergarten by lowering costs in special education, criminal justice and welfare costs.

Governance

WCP's Board of Directors comprises members who are deeply committed to the mission: Serve as leaders for supporting children and families on the road to independence through early childhood development. Terms are staggered and best practices in board development and governance are actively implemented.

Finances

In addition to oversight by the Board of Directors, WCP's finances are managed by Brodsky & Associates, Inc. and independently audited by Wolinski & Company. Audit reports are available on our website or upon request.

Our Future

As the number of families in need of assistance continues to grow, the WCP Board of Directors is now focused on the immediate and substantial growth of ChildCare Commitment. Beginning in 2010, WCP launched an expanded funding campaign to provide quality early care and education to more disadvantaged children.

Your Support is Needed

Investing in the expansion of WCP's ability to help Michigan's disadvantaged children enter kindergarten at the same level as their middle-class peers is critical. When we experience the profound joy of helping a child achieve success and well being, we become part of changing a young life for the better. A gift in your name, or on behalf of someone you love, celebrates the promise of more successful children and families for generations to come.