



MEETING THE MOMENT

The Campaign for Interfaith Neighbors

EVERY CHILD NEEDS AND DESERVES A CARING, NURTURING START TO LIFE, WITH EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT THAT FORM A LIFELONG FOUNDATION. QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION BENEFIT OUR CHILDREN, THEIR FAMILIES – FOR GENERATIONS – AND ENTIRE COMMUNITIES.

Interfaith Neighbors is committed to expanding affordable, accessible early childhood education programs that further the mission of academic justice and equity, and set the stage for long-term achievement.

The MEETING THE MOMENT Campaign will make it possible for Interfaith Neighbors to add two new Early Childhood Learning Centers to the West Side neighborhood. One, a stand-alone, new construction facility will serve the community's youngest learners, serving children from the ages of three months to three years. The second facility, to be housed within the Marmora Community & Education Center, will serve children aged from three to five years. Both centers will provide a caring environment that connects children and their families with additional services and programs. Tuition for this care, education and enrichment will be based on a family's ability to pay.

We have seen the positive impact of early childhood education over decades of our work now, and reputable studies confirm high-quality early education programs for children from low-income families help keep students from falling behind and have other positive outcomes including:*

- >> Improved attendance
- >> Fewer discipline referrals
- >> Reduced likelihood of placement in special education
- >> Higher test scores in math and reading

(*Source: Journal of Research in Childhood Education)

Access to childcare is also crucial to the economy and families' ability to support themselves, by allowing parents to enter and stay in the workforce or pursue their own education and career training.

EDUCATION ACCESS & COVID-19

Putting more quality early childhood education within reach – geographically and financially – will address inequities that have been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic as low-income families faced disproportionate hardships with childcare.

3 out of 4 NJ parents



SAID THEIR PRE-PANDEMIC JOB WAS IMPACTED

- >> 34% had their hours reduced
- >> 19% had their wages reduced
- >> 14% lost their job

(Source: Farleigh Dickinson Poll)

Together, we will help close the education gap and achieve equity, mindful of a Harvard study that concludes: **Investing in early childhood is a solution that creates upward mobility through opportunity.**