



Indiana Association
for the Education of
Young Children, Inc.

Christine L. Fisher Early Childhood Education Fund
2016 Update

2016 Award Winners

Congratulation to the 2016 Christine L. Fisher Early Childhood Education Fund award winners! The Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (Indiana AEYC) is proud to announce the following fourth annual award winners:

- Bauer Family Resources/Bauer Early Care & Education – Copper Gate located in Lafayette
- El Pescadito Child Care located in South Bend
- Martin Luther King Montessori School located in Fort Wayne, and
- Tammy's Day Care located in Anderson.

This year's award winners received from \$1,500.00 to \$3,000.00 in support of children's health and nutrition; a total of \$9,000.00 was awarded! The grant eligibility criteria was expanded to include licensed family child care facilities accredited through the National Association of Family Child Care. **Over fifteen (15) applications** were received from National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC) accredited facilities. Dollars were used to specifically fund and provide healthier environments for children including learning opportunities that integrated existing or new early childhood nutrition programming.

Below are pictures of the award winners receiving their check from Michele and Bob Fisher. Read below their comments on what the award meant to their program and the children in their care!



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Greta McKinney, Executive Director of Martin Luther King Montessori School, had this to say upon hearing that the MLK Montessori School had been selected: “The outdoor environment is a vital component of Montessori Philosophy and being able to continue to enrich our children lives with outdoor classroom experiences is invaluable. The Christine L. Fisher Early Childhood Education grant has provided us the opportunity to purchase much needed hands on material for science, technology, engineering, and math as well as the structure that will be the primary outdoor classroom. Thank you for partnering with us as we develop our future leaders”.



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Speaking on behalf of **Bauer Head Start, Erin McFall-Maxson, Education Supervisor**, said: “As the recipient of the Christine L. Fisher award, I have had the privilege of watching our Head Start children nurture a vegetable from seed to sprout and then transplant their tiny accomplishments into our new outdoor garden. The children observed, documented, and investigated seeds, roots systems, and photosynthesis with interesting and engaging materials made available through this generous gift. This award provided us with the ability to engage our children in an experience that not only promoted nutrition-focused learning but also generated a sense of pride and ownership among our children”.



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PAYING IT FORWARD.....upon hearing the news as one of the four 2016 CLF Fund award winners, **Miriam Aguilar, owner of the El Pescadito Child Care**, with the parents of the children in her care, had this to share: “We feel very blessed that the Christine L. Fisher Fund has entrusted us with the money to benefit our children in so many ways. The garden allows the children to directly experience the stages of growth from planting to harvesting, and they get healthy exercise at the same time! This project also involves parents as they work with the children to sell the produce. *At the parents’ suggestion, we would like to return the favor by donating the produce sale proceeds to the CLF Fund so that other children may also benefit from your generosity”.*



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Tammy Bennett, owner of Tammy's Day Care, credits hard work and commitment upon learning of the CLF award and shared: "In a few words, to describe what it means to be given this award to improve my program is Pure Joy! I have taught and loved children in my daycare for almost 30 years. I never dreamed of being awarded something like this for my program. As I have developed my business through becoming accredited and reaching Path's to QUALITY Level 4, it is affirming to be recognized for my effort. Dreaming about a garden that is a teaching tool full of wonderful hands-on activities for the children is one thing; being awarded a grant to bring it to fruition is quite another! The sense of community, cooperation and excitement this has created for my daycare families is contagious. They are volunteering, donating items and their time to our Garden Project, as we well as beginning their own gardens. The children will remember the fun and lessons we learned about the garden...but most importantly, their love and appreciation of caring for and eating home grown produce will impact them now and well into the future as they become adults. I, my families and the children will be forever grateful to the Christine L. Fisher Fund".