

Christine L. Fisher Early Childhood Education Fund 2020 Update

2020 Award Winners

Congratulations to the 2020 Christine L. Fisher Early Childhood Education Fund award winners! The Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (INAEYC) is proud to announce the following 2020 grant recipients:

- Adventures Child Care & Learning Center, Inc. – located in Greenwood, IN
- Wayne Township Preschool – located in Indianapolis, IN
- Woodland Child Development Center, Inc. – located in Hammond, IN
- Learn By Heart- located in Grammer, IN, and
- New Hope Family Shelter – located in Bloomington, IN

Similar to 2019, funds were available to support children’s Physical Fitness, Literacy, Creative Expression/Art, or Health and Nutrition. Eighteen applications were received from both the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC) accredited facilities. The award winners **received from \$2,500.00 to \$5,000.00** in support of the focus area selected; **a total of \$20,000.00 was awarded!**

Below are this year’s recipients’ comments on what the award means to their program and to the children in their care!

Adventures Child Care & Learning Center, Inc. – comment of appreciation from the Executive Director, Erin Sindors

“For several years, we have dreamed of doing more with our large outdoor space. We longed to make that space an extension of the classroom instead of just a playground with riding toys and balls. We had been able to make small changes, but nothing to the extent we wanted it to be. The Christine L. Fisher Early Childhood Education Fund has enabled us to make large strides into transforming our outdoor space and see our dreams come alive. Even more it has allowed us to involve children and their families to be a part of those transformations. Without this grant, we would not be able to see the transformation in our outdoor spaces or within the families that we serve and their involvement”.

Wayne Township Preschool – Heather Pierce, Principal had this to share upon learning of the award:

“We are humbled and overjoyed to receive the Christine L. Fisher Early Childhood Education grant! It is such an honor to receive this legacy grant to fund literacy opportunities for our students at school and at home! This funding will provide writing materials in all of our classrooms and additional multicultural books for our class libraries! In addition, students and families will be able to choose from a selection of books to take home and enjoy reading together! We are so thankful for this grant and the resources it will provide for our students' learning”!

Woodland Child Development Center, Inc. - Executive Director, Nina S. Davis-Burton, had this to say when learning of the award:

“When I applied for this grant I knew it was a competitive process but we are very passionate about our garden and desired to expand our space desperately. When I found out we won I was overjoyed and relieved. Our children at the center enjoy working with our teachers and volunteers and seeing the fruit of their labor makes the process so rewarding for them. It is also rewarding for our staff as we actually cook what we grow and share together as a team! This grant not only expands our garden but it will continue to foster a sense of community and togetherness which is extremely important during this difficult time. It is amazing what simple things in life can do to better our lives. Thank you to the Christine L. Fisher Early Childhood Education Fund for your gift of love”!

Learn By Heart – owners Phebe West and Lesley Moss had this to share when learning they were to receive the Christine L. Fisher Early Childhood Education Fund award:

“When we learned we were awarded the grant we were not only surprised, but humbled that our rural home childcare was considered and chosen. To hear that we were provided with an opportunity for growth during a downturn brought tears of joy to our eyes! We always do our best to emphasize our quality of care, and in a home setting it is a hard balance between quality of care versus quantity of children. To be chosen means our small group of children will get to experience a literacy center that one may normally find at a larger childcare center. We are so excited to implement our new materials that will help enhance the literary growth of the children in our care. We can’t thank you enough for supporting our children, their families, and our community”!

New Hope Family Shelter – comment from Executive Director, Emily Pike, upon learning of the award:

“As a program that primarily serves children impacted by homelessness, additional funding for high quality materials makes a world of difference. We are especially excited to enhance our Plot to Tot curriculum which allows kids to plant, grow, harvest, prepare, and eat their own food. Too often, low-income families have to make do with whatever is available, but we know that ALL kids deserve the best care and education we can offer. We are so grateful to the Christine L. Fisher Early Childhood Education Fund for stepping up for kids who need it most”.

