

Meet Our Cover Directors from **Associated Day Care Services** Boston, Massachusetts

“There are few child care organizations with a hundred or more years of practice from which to learn. It is a privilege to direct this one. To be doing it as early childhood programs struggle their way toward universality, with the staff we have, is a rich fortune.”

—Doug Baird, CEO, ADCS

Associated Day Care Services is the oldest, largest nonprofit child care provider in New England. Founded in 1952 by the United Way to coordinate and improve the delivery of child care in the Boston, Massachusetts area, ADCS provides a variety of community resources that focus on supporting children and families.

It is an educational institution for young children, a child welfare agency committed to supporting family life, and a professional training ground for early educators to acquire hands-on experience and to continue their professional development.

Because ADCS is an agency with a rich history and multiple partnerships in its communities and in the funding world, it is able to provide extensive family support services, initiate innovative projects and provide leadership in shaping public policy in an effort to continually enhance the quality of child care.

Center-Based Programs

ADCS's eight child care centers serve more than 475 children for

an average of ten hours each weekday. The majority of these programs became a part of the agency after many years of independent operation and, therefore, each center has its own unique history and identity.

- **Castle Square Child Development Center, Boston**, is ADCS's newest and largest member program. Established in 1969, it originally served as a training center for early education teachers. Castle Square is a service site for City Year Service Corps.* Every year a team of 11 Corps members work as classroom assistants and general center support staff.

Doreen Dubique, director, has been very active in the child care community for 15 years.

- **Central School, Cambridge**, started as a parent cooperative more than 25 years ago.

Cynthia K. Davis, director, joined the agency only two months ago. She has worked for over ten years helping parents in inner city communities.

- **Children's Day Care Center of Cambridge** was relocated to a new facility in 1993 as part of a collaboration with the City of Cambridge, The Cambridge Hospital, and Cambridge community leaders. It is accredited by NAEYC.

Katherine Rowell, director, is spearheading initiatives to better train teachers to work with infants and toddlers and their families.

- **Gilday Center, Roxbury**, is a specialized program that serves infants and toddlers victimized by abuse and neglect. Gilday is NAEYC accredited, and it is affiliated with local colleges and universities as a site for studying children at risk.

Janice Higgins, director, is also the program's social director. “At Gilday, we don't enroll children, we enroll the whole family.”

- **Jamaica Plain Day Care Center** is one of the six oldest child care programs in the United States. It was established in 1878 as the Ward XVI Day Nursery.

Shirley Kershaw, director, has been in early childhood and with ADCS for 25 years.

- **Roxbury District Court Child Care Center, Roxbury**, provides free, drop-in care for families with court business. It was the first court child care center in New England and the first of its kind to be accredited by NAEYC.

Nia-Naima Alimayu, director, is the co-founder and president of the Innercity Childcare Directors Network in Boston. In her five years of running this program, the center has served over 7,000 children.

- **Ruggles Street/Mission Hill Day Care Center, Roxbury**, was founded in 1922 by Dr. Abigail Adams Eliot as the first educational preschool in the United States. It was also the first child care center in a public housing development to be accredited by NAEYC.

Shirley Word-Kimbrough, director, has been an educator for most of her adult life, teaching in both public and private schools, as well as working in human service agencies.

- **Sunnyside Day Nursery, Roxbury**, opened in 1872 as the first child care program in Boston. The program relocated in 1991 to become the child care component of Project Family Independence, a housing project for low-income, single parents with children under six.

Migdalia Carrasquillo, director, is concentrating her efforts on creating networking services for children and families so Sunnyside and other community agencies can comprehensively help families through referrals.

Family Child Care Programs

ADCS's family child care services contract with family child care providers to care for 200 children in more than 40 day care homes and provide on-going early education-training for providers.

- **Associated Family Child Care Services, Chelsea**

Tracy Lang, director, is chairperson of the Chelsea Early Childhood Project, a collaboration representing all early childhood programs in Chelsea.

- **Associated Family Child Care Services, Jamaica Plain and Roslindale**

Felicita Perez, director, worked as an elementary teacher in Cuba before leaving there in 1966. She became involved with ADCS as a parent representative on the board of Jamaica Plain Day Care Center. Associated Day Care Services offers professional training, program development consulting, and quality management services for Boston's child care community. Professional development programs and collaborations include: the Mentor Teacher Training Project, the Directors Collaborative, the Families in Crisis Project, and the Program Development and Improvement Project. Over 550 individuals have partici-

pated in ADCS professional training programs since they began in 1987.

ADCS and the City of Boston were chosen to participate as a test site in the Early Education Quality Improvement Project, a national project funded by AT&T through the Families and Work Institute, that will apply quality principles used in the corporate world to the improvement of community child care and early education.

"Those of us who have dedicated ourselves to children are learning to use our voices and strengths in unison to help children grow to be resilient and, more importantly, to fill them with hope for tomorrow."
—Nia-Naima Alimayu, program director

*City Year is a public/private partnership uniting young people from all backgrounds for a year of full-time community service and leadership development. ADCS is working with City Year to develop a child care training series for City Year corps members.