



Working Hand in Hand to Change Lives

For 25 years, **Westside Children's Center** has ensured that tens of thousands of children have had the opportunity to succeed and thrive through early education services, programs that strengthen families, and foster care & adoption.

BECAUSE THE BEST ANTI-POVERTY SOLUTION IS HIGH-QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION!

A full 22% of American children live in poverty. Without high-quality preschool, children from low-income families enter 12-14 months behind on their first day of kindergarten. This is a tragedy because the biggest predictor of high school graduation is whether a child can read by the end of 3rd grade, and 83% of low-income children cannot.

“Children who attend high-quality early education programs are three times more likely to attend college!”



EARLY EDUCATION:

Each day, WCC prepares more than 300 low-income children for success in school and in life with high-quality early education.

We provide:

- Individualized curriculum that helps children develop cognitive, physical, and social-emotional skills
- Long-term support for families and pregnant women
- Early literacy, health, and nutrition
- Opportunities for parents to learn to navigate the system/advocate for their children

BECAUSE FAMILIES IN CRISIS NEED SUPPORT TO GIVE SUPPORT!

Attachment is a child's confidence in the reliability, availability and responsiveness of his or her parent. "A child with secure attachment is more likely to graduate from high school, to stay out of jail, to delay pregnancy, and to have a more positive relationship with his or her children." Whether or not a child has secure attachment in the first few years of life is at least as good a predictor as IQ of high school graduation.



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES:

WCC strengthens over 100 at-risk families each month.

- We provide resources, support, and counseling to address issues of violence, anger, stress, substance abuse, and depression.
- We improve parents' ability to attach to and care for their children.
- We provide individualized services to each family in order to prevent out-of-home placement and reunify children with their families.

BECAUSE EVERY CHILD DESERVES A PERMANENT, LOVING HOME!

Last year in Los Angeles County, there were 126,833 reported cases of child abuse and neglect-- 41% involved children under 5 years old. Due to the lack of foster parents, 15% of babies in foster care will be placed in 3 foster homes within their first year in the system. 50% of children who remain in the foster care system until age 18 are likely to end up homeless and/or imprisoned.



FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION:

- WCC recruits, trains, certifies, and supports foster parents to provide nurturing homes for children who are victims of abuse or neglect.
- When in the best interest of a child, we provide a permanent, adoptive home.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Become a foster or adoptive parent / Make a donation

Attend an event / Volunteer / Donate goods or services from our wishlist / Like us on Facebook

For more information, contact **Tivoli Sisko** at **310-846-4100** ext. **6166** or mail to: **tivolis@westsidechildrens.org**
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