ELLIS

engage • educate • empower

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

ELLIS

For over a century, Ellis has worked to strengthen Boston's inner-city working families with high quality education and care for children, youth and vulnerable adults.

Ellis was founded in 1885 as one of Boston's first settlement houses. Located in poor urban areas, settlement houses were led and staffed by volunteers and patrons who had the time and financial resources to help improve the living conditions of working families living in poverty. Education was one of the most important services they provided.

Throughout our history, we have maintained the commitment and philosophy of the settlement house movement to build a stronger community by addressing the unmet needs of our city's working families, especially with regard to education.

The goal of all our programs is to engage, educate and empower.

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Program Overview

Ellis delivers high-quality programs in three core areas. Largest is the Early Education Center, which is licensed to enroll 117 children a day between the ages of 2 months and 5 years. The Center is a diverse socio-economic environment where over 50% of the children enrolled are from low-income working families, mainly from the South End, Dorchester and Roxbury. There are 3 infant rooms (21 children), 4 toddler classrooms (36 children) and 3 preschool classrooms (60 children). The Center's programming works to address the persistent achievement gap for children from low income families by helping all children develop the social, emotional and academic skills they need to be successful in school.

The School-Age Program gives students in grades K-7 a safe, nurturing and academically enriching out-of-school time option (after school and summer). Operating at sites in the South End and Roxbury, the program includes homework help, tutoring, literacy building, a club model based on Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks encouraging students to explore new interests, and ongoing communication with students' families and classroom teachers to address emerging needs. Ninety-five percent of the 130+ students enrolled each year attend with the help of public vouchers and scholarship support from Ellis.

All children enrolled in our educational programs have access to a licensed social worker whose focus is their healthy social and emotional development. She provides on-site services to children and their families, support and guidance to teaching staff, and coordinates admissions with the Department of Children and Families for children with documented cases of abuse or neglect. Twenty-five of the slots at the Early Education Center are reserved for children with open cases at DCF.

"The teachers at Ellis are great at what they do in the classroom, but they bring something more. They understand that being a parent is not an easy job, and that they're here to help. I can't think of too many places that do that."

Patricia, mother of Kinsaed, 8 and Tyqueo, 10

The Adult Day Health Program is a weekday program that prevents the isolation and institutionalization of elderly and disabled adults by keeping them connected to a caring and compassionate community. ADHP serves up to 35 adults a day at a site in the South End located across the street from our Berkeley Street campus. The program provides transportation to and from home, breakfast, lunch and snacks each day, nursing care, medical monitoring, advocacy, case management, movement and exercise classes to maintain strength and balance, and a range of on-site activities, puzzles, games and field trips to keep clients active and engaged.

Dear Friends,

2014 ended on a very positive note at Ellis. On December 31st, I received a call from Tom Weber, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, informing me that Ellis had been awarded an $800,000 grant to help fund the $3.5 million renovation of our historic building at 66 Berkeley Street. This grant is a strategic investment in the future of our community.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2016, and will increase access to high quality early education and care for 32 children. We'll also be preserving a historic building for future generations, upgrading and enhancing the program facility for our school-age program, and creating a modern exercise space where "Ellis kids" will learn to build lifelong physical fitness habits.

As we've been preparing for this exciting next chapter in our history, we've remained busy with the day-to-day work of serving inner-city working families with high quality education and care. Our Early Education Center was re-accredited this year for 5 years, and we've just begun the new licensing process for our Adult Day Health Program.

The generosity and commitment of our supporters make our achievements possible, and give us the confidence to reach for ambitious new goals. Our story is your story: it's what happens when individuals and institutions see an opportunity to make a difference, and choose to act.

Thank you for your support of Ellis and the inner-city working families we have served since 1885, and join us as we celebrate our 130th anniversary in 2015.

Sincerely,

Leo J. Delaney
Chief Executive Officer

Transformations

The development of a new mission statement, new logo and new website marked a round of significant transformations this year at Ellis. Those changes, implemented with assistance from the Highland Street Foundation's Community Impact Consultants program, set the stage for an exciting year ahead. In 2015, we're celebrating our 130th anniversary, and launching the final phase of our Campaign for the Future. Phase I was completed in 2012, when we opened our new Early Education Center at 58 Berkeley Street. Phase II will focus on the renovation of our historic property next door, at 66 Berkeley Street. When complete, it will add much-needed capacity in early education and care for inner-city working families.

In many respects, then, 2014 was spent preparing and planning for…2015. While that critical groundwork was being laid for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, the fundamental work Ellis has been doing for over a century continued every day. The statistics and numbers throughout this report tell part of the story. What they don't capture are the transformations we see at Ellis. Here are some of those stories.

Sean Q., 4 years old, placed in foster care due to abuse and neglect
"When Sean's case worker told us she could get him into an Early Education classroom at Ellis, we hesitated. He's our first foster child, and he was so withdrawn when he came to us that we thought another new environment would be too much for him. Six months later, he's running ahead of me to ring the front doorbell at Ellis every morning. 'I love Ellis,' he told me the other day when we were walking home. 'That's great!' I said, 'Why do you love Ellis?' Without missing a beat he said, 'Because they love me.' That really says it all."

Max A., 6 years old, attending Madison Park School-Age Program
"This summer they had a contest at Ellis to see who could read the most books. I thought it was a dumb idea. But then my sister did it, and my mom said, do you really want your sister to beat you in this contest? Well it turns out she couldn't beat me because we were not in the same group. But then I thought, if my sister and I both win our groups, that would be a nice surprise for my mom. And you know what? We did it. And they were good books too! So I guess now we are like, a reading family."

Liza P., 89 years old, Adult Day Health Program
Determined not to leave the South Boston apartment she and her husband shared for over 60 years, Liza grew more and more isolated as her neighborhood changed. She began losing track of time, forgetting if she'd eaten or taken her medications. Most days, the only voice she heard was the TV. Then a weekly home health aide told her about our Adult Day Health Program. After a year of coming three days a week, here's what Liza said to the program nurse: "I thought it was too late to make new friends or learn new things. I was wrong. Ellis made life worth living again."

When individual hearts and minds are opened, no matter at what age, lives change for the better and the fabric of our community grows stronger. That's the sort of transformation Ellis has been creating since 1885.

**Please note that the photographs on this page are not directly linked to the stories*

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Although space constraints prevent us from listing gifts under $50, please know we are grateful for every dollar donated.

2014 BY THE NUMBERS

Ellis programs enrolled a total of **333** children, youth and adults

85% of 4 and 5 year olds met or exceeded benchmarks in 6 key areas

We provided over **$75,000** in scholarship assistance to families in need

School-Age Program students read **242** books in August

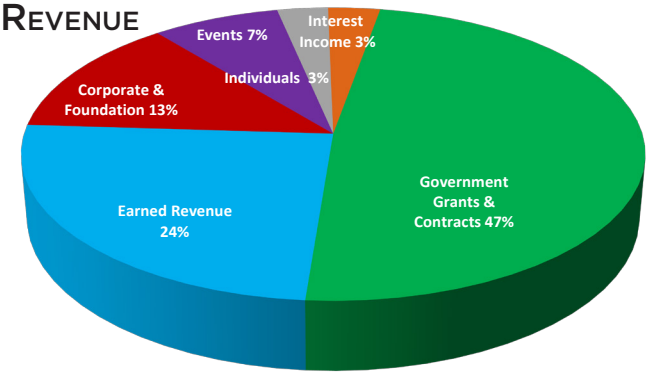
30 toddlers and preschoolers had their first-ever dental checkup at Ellis

Volunteers provided **4,956** hours of service to our programs

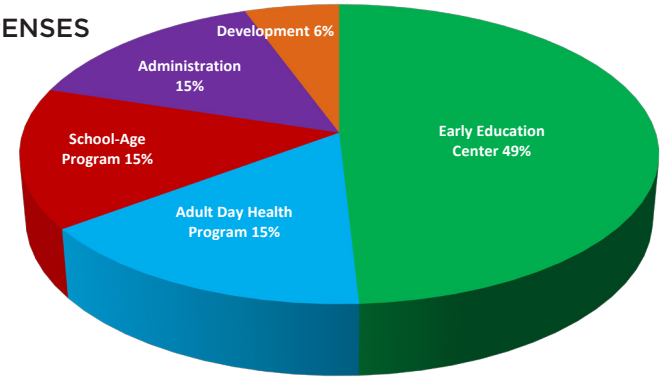
94% of disabled and elderly adults at ADHP avoided hospital stays

We helped **430** low-income parents maintain employment to achieve financial goals

REVENUE



EXPENSES



BALANCE SHEET JUNE 30, 2014

ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	$	323,944
Accounts and Pledges Receivable		264,594
Prepaid Expenses		12,162
Property and Equipment - net		7,727,031
TOTAL ASSETS	$	8,327,731
LIABILITIES		
Notes payable	$	3,353,614
Line of credit		15,000
Accounts Payable		91,756
Accrued expenses		64,738
Deferred revenue and rent		13,813
Deposits		20,336
TOTAL LIABILITIES		3,559,257
NET ASSETS AND MEMBERS' CAPITAL		
Unrestricted		4,407,919
Noncontrolling interest		724,542
Temporarily restricted		79,951
TOTAL NET ASSETS		5,212,412
Members' capital		(443,938)
Total Net Assets and members capital		4,768,474
TOTAL LIABILITIES, NET ASSETS AND MEMBERS' CAPITAL	$	8,327,731

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

REVENUE		
Gov't Grants & Contracts	$	1,636,461
Earned Revenue		972,045
Corporate & Foundation		443,556
Special Events		255,219
Individuals		101,551
Interest Income		104,110
TOTAL	$	3,512,941
EXPENSES		
Early Education Center	$	1,757,551
Adult Day Health Program		558,062
School-Age Program		542,446
Administration		521,868
Development		196,828
TOTAL	$	3,576,755 *

**includes $238,354 in depreciation, a non-cash item*

FOLLOW ELLIS

Thank you for your support!

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