Iulia Caterniuc, a refugee from Moldova, sought resources to help her start an at-home child care business. However, like many refugees, she spoke little English. Two years ago, Iulia met Evghenia, a Network Coordinator for Neighborhood House’s Childhood Care Improvement Project (CCIP), who helped Iulia enroll in school to improve her English and connected her with opportunities to develop the knowledge and tools she needed to launch her at-home business.

Today, Iulia and her daughter run Iulia’s Family Child Care. They work primarily with children who speak both Russian and English, providing a collaborative, culturally specific environment in which groups of children can learn.

Iulia received business and technical support from CCIP in the form of ESL classes, information on staying in compliance with changing state regulations, and a small grant that allowed her to stay open during the pandemic.

Over the past year, Iulia has kept busy facilitating fun and creative theater projects like “Kolobok” (“The Little Roll”) – a production in which the children play a variety of fruit and vegetable characters.

With the support of Neighborhood House and CCIP, Iulia looks forward to providing child care services for families and children in the Portland community for years to come.

The new Oregon Child Care Alliance (OCCA) aims to support child care providers like Iulia by offering centralized business tools and connections to other providers throughout the state. Read more about the OCCA on page 4!
As we reflect on 2021, we are extremely proud to have served twice as many people this year as the year before — that’s more than 12,000 people of all ages.

The pandemic has shined a light on the critical need for our work. As you would expect, a major focus has been on keeping people fed, housed, and meeting other immediate needs. At the same time, we know that the work of ending generational poverty begins with creating new cycles of education and wealth building. Beyond our pandemic response, we have continued to actively pursue expansions of our services — like our Head Start programs — designed to impact the lives of children today and for years to come.

With high-quality early learning being our most powerful tool in preventing generational poverty, preschool is just one part of the solution. How else can we move the needle on early learning equity? Two words: child care.

In Oregon, the dearth of affordable child care was a crisis even before the pandemic began. That’s why Neighborhood House is honored to serve as the backbone organization for the exciting new Oregon Child Care Alliance (OCCA). Key philanthropic partners such as the Oregon Community Foundation and Social Venture Partners Portland developed the vision for the OCCA, in collaboration with statewide members of the child care community.

In partnership with child care resource and referral agencies in three counties, the OCCA will focus on strengthening child care providers serving low-income and rural families and communities of color, with the goal of engaging 500-600 providers by the end of the three-year pilot project. That means thousands of children and families will have access to care through providers who have the capacity to offer affordable, high-quality early childhood education.

In celebration of this new initiative, we dedicate this issue to the OCCA. We are convinced that highly trained child care providers offer our greatest hope for creating the robust early learning and child care infrastructure our state desperately needs. Please take a few minutes to learn more about this promising, evidenced-based program.

We can feel proud of what we accomplished together in 2021. Whether the challenges are large or small, immediate or long-term, Neighborhood House is prepared to meet our neighbors’ needs, no matter what.

But we need your ongoing help.

By January 31, we aim to raise $500,000 through our annual Partnership Campaign. I hope we can count on your support this year. You can read more about the campaign and how to give on page 3.

With gratitude,

Chris Chiacchierini
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Help us meet our most ambitious Partnership Campaign goal yet — half a million dollars!

We are so grateful to our community for its unwavering generosity. Over the last year, the people Neighborhood House serves have faced incredible challenges. Neighborhood House was there to support them with food, housing, education, community, and more — but the crisis isn’t over yet.

The next year will be critical in rebuilding the lives of those impacted most by the pandemic. Help us raise $500,000 by January 31 to ensure we can meet the needs of our community no matter what. Can your neighbors count on you?

Neighborhood House’s Leadership Circle, made up of donors of $1,000+, is the foundation of our important work. This year, we hope to add 30 new Leadership Circle members to the group. Right now, we have an easy and meaningful way to get involved at this giving level.

Thanks to a generous matching gift from Capital M Lending, your impact will be doubled if:

• You commit to your first donation of $1,000+ (This can be divided into monthly payments!);
• or you increase your giving by $1,000+

Visit www.nhpdx.org or use QR Code to support the Partnership Campaign now—all donations help!

It’s a great year to give!

Thanks to the CARES Act:

• For cash contributions made in 2021, you can elect to deduct up to 100 percent of your adjusted gross income (formerly 60 percent prior to the CARES Act).
• The CARES Act allowed for an additional, “above-the-line” deduction for charitable gifts made in cash of up to $300. This provision is extended into 2021 for taxpayers filing single/separately.
• New in 2021 is an additional “above-the-line” deduction for those married filing jointly. Joint filers (who aren’t itemizing) will be allowed to take an above-the-line deduction of up to $600 in cash contributions to charity this year.

This information is not intended for tax advice. Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. For more information, please consult your tax advisor.
**Oregon Child Care Alliance**

**Why is this project needed?**

The Oregon child care industry has struggled for many years. Oregon parents of children ages 0-5 pay, on average, just over 20% of their income for care (vs. 12% in Idaho). Despite the high price tag, child care providers operate with such narrow profit margins that many go out of business. Two decades ago, there were 45,000 licensed small in-home providers around the state; now, there are just 1,500.

A 2020 study by The Oregon Child Care Research Partnership at Oregon State University found that every Oregon county is now a child care desert for families with children ages 0-3. A child care desert is defined as an area in which there are more than three children for every licensed slot. For families with 3-5-year-olds, 25 of 36 counties are child care deserts. Shortages are especially acute in rural counties. Across the board, low-income families and families of color face the worst impacts of the issue.

**How did the project start?**

Partners in the Oregon philanthropic community, including the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) and Social Venture Partners Portland, developed the vision for the Oregon Child Care Alliance (OCCA). Both organizations have invested in improving school-readiness outcomes for marginalized children, as well as addressing the state’s child care crisis.

Through a year-long Co-Design Process, partners collected extensive data on barriers to business sustainability. They engaged child care community partners throughout the process, determining that the identified needs for increased business and technical support would be best met through a shared services alliance (SSA). The proposed SSA utilizes the “Iron Triangle” of Early Childhood Education Finance: a cycle of full enrollment, revenue covering per-child cost, and full fee collection.

**How is Neighborhood House involved?**

Neighborhood House was selected to be the OCCA’s backbone agency earlier this year through a competitive process. Drawing on our Child Care Improvement Project’s extensive experience in supporting child care providers, Neighborhood House will provide collaborative leadership to the OCCA, supporting business services across the state and working closely with culturally specific and regional partners to support participating child care providers with coaching and other relevant, centralized services.

Together, we hope to totally transform the child care system in Oregon.

**How will the Oregon Child Care Alliance benefit Oregon communities?**

The OCCA’s ultimate goal is to empower businesses with tools for change and embrace helpful technology. In turn, providers can focus on building a strong teaching staff and enhanced educational programming. With more sustainable business models, providers can hire more staff, serve more children, and increase profits.

Families with children will directly benefit from this commitment to increasing child care availability. Furthermore, culturally specific child care providers who utilize the program can better serve marginalized children and families across the state. Most importantly, this project will improve outcomes for children by providing more available spots and higher-quality care.
Heidi Martin has been interested in child care and early childhood development for many years. After working in the nonprofit sector, Heidi realized that one of the best ways to support children and their families is through accessible, quality child care.

Now, Heidi works as a Business Network Educator with an organization called NeighborImpact. NeighborImpact is a Neighborhood House partner organization through the Oregon Child Care Alliance (OCCA) and, like Neighborhood House’s Child Care Improvement Project, serves at-home child care businesses (read more about the OCCA on page 4).

Heidi works closely with a cohort of eight child care providers. Most members have served Central Oregon with at-home child care for many years but joined the OCCA for additional resources that will allow them to grow their businesses. One such resource is WonderSchool, a national child care business solution that provides the technology and community connections essential to building thriving child care businesses. Providers won’t need extensive access to technology to use WonderSchool — they can do everything from their smartphones.

Heidi has first-hand knowledge of the factors that contribute to Oregon’s extreme child care shortage. Oregon’s high minimum wage, while important for working households, can make it difficult for small businesses to survive.

“It’s a vicious cycle,” Heidi said. “Providers want to expand their businesses, but they can’t afford to pay staff a competitive wage. Then, providers can’t stay open because they’re not making enough, and parents can’t find quality child care.”

That’s why Heidi is so excited about the OCCA. She is eager to create a safe space where providers can access the resources and community that they need to build profitable, culturally specific child care businesses. This will benefit both the providers and the diverse communities they serve by improving the quality of child care in Central Oregon.

In addition to Heidi’s work in Central Oregon, other OCCA staff members support similar efforts across the state, including Southern Oregon and Multnomah County. These highly trained, experienced staff will create an effective network of providers across Oregon and change the landscape of affordable child care for families everywhere.
It’s a great year to give!

Thanks to the CARES Act:

• For cash contributions made in 2021, you can elect to deduct up to 100 percent of your adjusted gross income (formerly 60 percent prior to the CARES Act).

• The CARES Act allowed for an additional, “above-the-line” deduction for charitable gifts made in cash of up to $300. This provision is extended into 2021 for taxpayers filing single/separately.

• New in 2021 is an additional “above-the-line” deduction for those married filing jointly. Joint filers (who aren’t itemizing) will be allowed to take an above-the-line deduction of up to $600 in cash contributions to charity this year.

This information is not intended for tax advice. Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

For more information, please consult your tax advisor.

THURSDAY, MAY 19

SAVE THE DATE!

Neighborhood House is pleased to announce the 3rd Annual Welcome Home Luncheon on Thursday, May 19, 2022. This hybrid event aims to raise $185,000 for Neighborhood House’s essential programs.

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!

7780 SW Capitol Hwy.
Portland, OR 97219

© 2021/2022 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED – Neighborhood House is a 501(c)(3) charitable tax exempt organization