



A HIGH QUALITY, AFFORDABLE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT IS SUPPORTED THROUGH COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS.

CCI PROJECT UPDATE

The Child Care Initiative is making great strides! Our CCI team has been working with a local commercial real estate agent and a facilities consultant, IFF, to find an appropriate space to create the proof of concept, or the NCMC Early Learning Center. This has been a challenge to say the least! To move forward with adding childcare capacity in the community and continuing progress with our research, NCMC will remodel a small building on campus to begin programming in Fall, 2024. The goal is to increase capacity in an additional campus property or property close to campus in Fall, 2025. We have also added two new faces to our Child Care Initiative team. First, Kristin Jardin joins us as the CCAMPIS Advisor and Activities Coordinator. And second, Anne Thorton is our Program Director for the future childcare program. We are excited to have them join our team!

We continue partnering with local employers to help determine the childcare needs of their workforce by conducting Childcare Landscape Assessments. This involves identifying employer goals, surveying the workforce, analyzing the data, and making recommendations. So far we have conducted a childcare landscape assessment for McLaren Hospital, a campus-wide survey here at NCMC, and are currently working with The Manthei Group and Circuit Controls Corporation.

Our CCAMPIS program has made significant progress this quarter in supporting student-parents. We've conducted thorough data collection, engaged with the community, and established partnerships to identify and assist student-parents effectively. Through surveys and focus groups, we've identified 86 student-parents, with 72 qualifying for CCAMPIS support. We've also secured agreements with five local childcare facilities and funded childcare for three students, positively impacting five children. Hosting family events on campus has further demonstrated our commitment, with 12 to 20 attendees per event. Engaging with local organizations like DHHS has been fruitful, assisting five student parents with childcare applications. One student's return to school solely due to CCAMPIS support highlights our impact. Despite juggling CCAMPIS responsibilities with her Academic Advisor role, Kristin Jardine has successfully provided holistic support to our student-parents. Kristin's attendance at the upcoming national CCAMPIS symposium at Ohio State University will also enhance our program's effectiveness.

WE ARE HIRING!

Please help us spread the word as we are hiring a Lead Teacher Trainer for our new NCMC Early Learning Center. This position will be posted in the next few weeks and can be accessed on the NCMC Human Resources webpage.

DONATE ❤️

**TO THE CHILD
CARE INITIATIVE!**



MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN CONFERENCE

The CCI Team attended the annual Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children (MiAEYC) conference in Grand Rapids last month. Our team shared two presentations providing an overview and update of our work here in Emmet County. We were also joined by two students, Kaitlyn Hammerle and Shian Erickson. Both Kaitlyn and Shian hosted the NCMC Exhibit Booth and attended conference sessions.



Leadership *Little Traverse*

On April 23rd the Leadership Little Traverse Class of 2024 hosted a fundraiser at Beards Brewery to help raise awareness and funds for their community service project, the Child Care Initiative. This was a very successful fundraiser and we are thankful for the community support!

Our Leadership Team:

- Jennifer Wixson, ECE Program Director & CCI Faculty Advisor
- Laura Tuthill, Project Coordinator
- Jen Harris, Project Coordinator
- Anne Thornton, NCMC Early Learning Center Director
- Kristin Jardin, CCAMPIS Advisor & Activities Coordinator

Our Advisory Team:

- Nikki Devitt, Petoskey Chamber of Commerce
- Susan Chowan, NW Great Start to Quality and NW United Way
- Savannah Cool, Great Start Collaborative
- Jill Haan, GSRP and Char-Em ISD
- Duffy Johnson, LTBB of Odawa Indians
- Anne Morningstar, Bear Creek Organic Farm and parent representative
- Candice Case-French, MI Child Care Bureau
- Scott LaDeur, NCMC and parent representative
- Carolyne Stolzenfels, former child care owner
- Lynn Eckerle, NCMC Human Resources Director
- Reg Smith, Stafford's Hospitality Chairman
- Kristina Bajtko, Tri-Share & United Way of NWMI

