

HELPING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THRIVE IN A COMMUNITY OF POSSIBILITY

Who We Are

Rise Early Learning Center is an innovative and affordable early childhood education center, part of the Rise on 7 affordable housing unit slated to open in St. Louis Park in the fall of 2023.

What We Offer

Rise Early offers play-based, anti-bias, early childhood education for up to 62 infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children designed to holistically and equitably support racial, cultural, and ethnic diversity.

- Plans are in place to offer tuition assistance for 50% of the available spaces
- Priority will be given to children of families living in Rise on 7



50% of children in families with low incomes are not ready for kindergarten. Even fewer children of color are adequately prepared.

HELP US CHANGE THAT

Westwood's Appeal goal is \$1 million

Your donation will ensure enrollment to bridge the gap in affordable and high-quality early childhood education.

Thank you for helping Rise Early make sure diverse families thrive in a community of possibility with your generous donation today!

Board of Directors

Jenelle Bullen, MA, Early Childcare Education Administrator
Rabbi Barry Cytron PhD, Jewish Chaplain & Professor (retired)
Patrice Howard, SLP Community Education Director
Paula Landis, MA, Director of ECE Curriculum, YWCA
Astein Osei, MA, Superintendent of SLP Schools
Jane Severson, Healthcare Executive
Carolyn Smallwood, CEO Way to Grow
Jeff Stutzman, CPA (retired)
Pastor Jason Van Hunnik, Westwood Lutheran Church
Jim Vos, Principal, Cresa

Contact Us

info@riseearlylearningcenter.org



RISE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Helping families thrive in a community of promise

RiseEarlyLearningCenter.org



DID YOU KNOW?

- Only 54% of 3- and 4-year-olds in the USA participate in any preschool
- High-quality infant care can cost more than \$22,000/year; only a small fraction of eligible infants and toddlers receive subsidized, licensed child care
- Most brain development happens in early childhood; social-emotional development is foundational to cognitive development (Harvard Center for the Developing Child)

What We Do

1

Support the developmental needs of young children to promote long-term social, emotional, and academic success

2

Provide jobs with livable wages and benefits, ergonomic supports, training, and continuing professional development

3

Provide equitable collaborative partnerships to engage parents and families

HIGH-QUALITY AFFORDABLE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN A RESIDENTIAL SETTING

Rise on 7 will be a 120-unit building with family-friendly residences and an early childhood education center (pictured below).



A 501(c)3 non-profit, the Rise Early Learning Center is a result of the vision of the Westwood Lutheran Church, working together with CommonBond Communities to realize an affordable housing community that includes an early childhood education center.

Way To Grow will provide wrap-around services needed for families to thrive financially, socially, and emotionally, and to support their child's learning.

All families who live at Rise on 7 and attend Rise Early will have, on average, incomes at or below 50% of the area median income.

We expect to serve a wide range of diverse families, including those in the Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) community and those holding additional historically excluded intersecting identities.

MAKE AN IMPACT DONATE TODAY

“ IF WE DO A MUCH BETTER JOB IN GETTING A CHILD READY FOR SCHOOL, THAT CHILD IS GOING TO PERFORM MUCH BETTER THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFE. ”

- Arthur Rolnick, former Director of Research, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (retired)

HELP US TRANSFORM LIVES

"Affordable housing and affordable childcare are two really significant things that so many families need. If we can create a model that really works for families, the impact on people's lives would be immeasurable."

Cecile Bedor, Executive Vice President, CommonBond Communities

"I never thought I would have a Master degree and be working toward a doctorate, write a book, run an early childhood teacher development program, or sit on the board of a revolutionary program like Rise Early. I want more people to have access to the kind of support I needed as a single mother working toward these goals."

Paula Landis, Board Member, Rise Early Learning Center

