



United Way of
Southwest Virginia

READY NETWORK SWVA WONDERSCHOOL PROJECT IMPACT REPORT 2022



THE ISSUES

1. ACCESS TO CHILDCARE

Access to childcare is a challenge in Southwest Virginia, particularly along the Interstate 81 corridor, where the concentration of larger employers is located. Many childcare providers in this rural area lack the computer and technology training and hardware necessary for outreach, advertising, and efficient administration. These limitations make it difficult for parents to identify quality childcare, and hamper the providers' attempts to take advantage of grant opportunities that require technology to complete applications.



2. RISING FOOD COSTS

Rising food costs have been a concern for many childcare providers throughout the pandemic. Although programs such as the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) can provide assistance, many of the providers in Southwest Virginia have not participated, for reasons including the limited administrative capacity described above.

THE GOALS

1. TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE THE EARLY CHILDCARE NETWORK

Increase access for parents and support the capacity of childcare providers by giving the providers the tools they need to efficiently and effectively manage the administration of their center.

2. TO CONNECT PROVIDERS WITH ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Identify and remove barriers to participation in assistance programs, and provide guidance, incentives, support funds and materials necessary for participation.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

1. UWSWVA will implement a staffed childcare network to pilot the use of the state-of-the-art software (desktop and mobile), Wonderschool. We will utilize existing relationships built through PDG B-5 to support providers to increase business acumen through Wonderschool while simultaneously expanding access to families. Additionally, we will provide hardware, training, and professional development to boost computer and technology skills that will support the implementation of Wonderschool and the business operations of the providers, allowing providers to take advantage of grant opportunities that require technology to complete applications.

2. Funds of \$25,000 have been requested from the Nemours Grant and will be used to support the coordination of the expanded use of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), including a CACFP expert, provider incentives, and support funds and/or materials for enrolling and implementing CACFP for FDHs and centers. A consultant has been contracted to collect information about the barriers to CACFP participation and to connect providers with sponsors for future participation in the CACFP.

THE IMPACT

NEMOURS GRANT
150
CHILDREN RECEIVING FREE NUTRITIOUS MEALS
Meals were provided through CACFP efforts.

NEMOURS GRANT
15
PROVIDERS CONNECTED TO CACFP SPONSORS
Introduction to Sponsors paves the way for future CACFP participation.

IPDG (WONDERSCHOOL):
40
PROVIDERS SERVED
All sites have websites and are collecting data from families, including demographics, attendance, payment collection, and satisfaction surveys.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING
CREATED USING STATE-OF-THE-ART DESIGN STUDIO
Technology Skills for Early Childhood Educators and Professionals asynchronous courses (2)

TECHNOLOGY BOOST
40
CHILDCARE PROVIDERS SERVED
Each provider received a laptop, a tablet for each classroom, a printer, office supplies, and one on one technical assistance and training to increase technical and administrative capacities.

NEMOURS GRANT
5
PROVIDERS SERVED
Provided materials and/or stipends for new applications; kitchen equipment and supplies were purchased.

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We used the \$500 stipend that we received here at APPLE Academy from United Way SWVA for participating in WonderSchool to purchase a new desperately needed refrigerator for our program. We have been in need of a new refrigerator for a long period of time and with your funding, we were thrilled to be able to make it happen! It was delivered yesterday and is in use today. Once again, thank you so much!!

Michelle Blankenship
Director - APPLE Academy

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IPDG/WONDERSCHOOL PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS

PROVIDER	COUNTY
Discovery Daycare	Russell
Miss Amy's	Washington
Four Hands Childcare	Tazewell
Wee Care Daycare	Montgomery
Tammy's Daycare	Tazewell
Almost Home Child Care	Washington
Hugs and Kisses	Russell
Children's Academic	Montgomery
Curious Tots	Washington
Valerie Taylor (FDH)	Washington
Live Laugh Learn CDC and Live Laugh Learn 2	Tazewell
Bright Beginnings Day Care, Inc.	Russell
Kid's & Co. - Giles Health & Family	Giles
Hubble Home Day Care	Wythe
Dana's Family Day Home	Galax

