



... is Five!

A Carver Center Partner

Annual Report Card
2019

We turned **five** in 2019

Here's How We've Grown.

Like all new parents, we've been marking each step.

As we celebrate our fifth birthday, we are proud of how much we've grown.

Think of this as our report card #5.



**REPORT
CARD**

What Stands Out?

Tracking Our "Graduates"

In fall 2018, 11 of our children "graduated" into Head Start. When evaluated on more than 80 measurements (like solves problems, uses print concepts, speaks clearly) and compared to national expectations, our graduates averaged

**50%
higher ratings**

than the average three-year-old who had not attended 5 Steps to Five.

Now, we don't just think we're making a difference, we can show we are.

What Our Parents Tell Us

From the start, we've seen consistently high ratings from personal interviews. These parents also say they are now reading to their babies at home five times a week more often than before they entered 5 Steps to Five.

We also get a steady flow of appreciation from our parents.

The common feeling is:

"We love this program"

"Can't we keep coming even though my son is beginning Head Start?"

What Attendance Tells Us

In 2019 our 300th family enrolled since our start in 2014. Family #336 enrolled in December. What's notable is that almost all came to us through word of mouth. Not only do our parents keep coming, they also recommend that their friends and relatives follow them. Between 70 and 85 individuals attend our Saturday sessions.

Two families have now attended over 100 times.

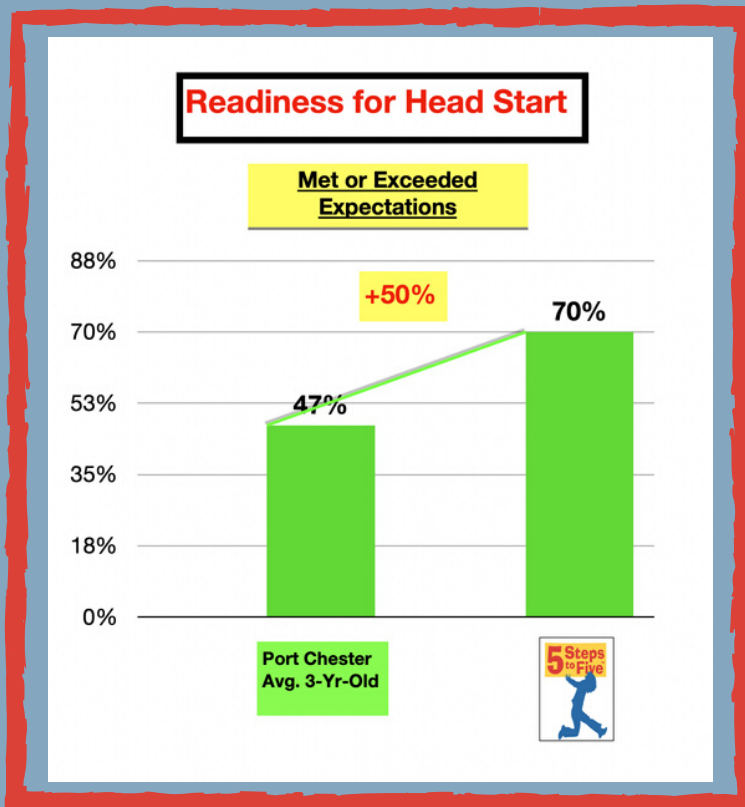
What Our Teachers Tell Us

We wouldn't have succeeded without our committed teachers and family workers. They believe in our mission. They bring experience and enthusiasm to the classroom. They bond with their families and with each other. As teacher Milena Cerreta said,

"This has been an amazing experience ... It is rewarding to see how parents relate to their children in a unique setting."

They, also, keep on learning, especially from our volunteer professionals.

Evidence-based Outcomes



As a result of our being able to look at Head Start data for children who had attended 5 Steps to Five in Port Chester, we are able for the first time to show outcomes in real time.

Each fall, as three-year-olds enter Head Start, trained facilitators evaluate them on a battery of objectives, such as managing feelings, following directions, speaking clearly, solving problems, counting, etc.

Comparing the ratings to all other Port Chester three-year-olds, our children were rated 50% higher - that is 50% better prepared to do well in school.

We have received the evaluations from the end of the Head Start year (spring 2019). **All but 4% of our "graduates" met or exceeded national expectations. And over one-third of them exceeded what was expected of them.**

While comparable numbers for Port Chester Head Start have not been released yet, the performance of our children is significant. Our teachers, our staff and everyone associated with 5 Steps to Five can point to these outcomes with a great deal of satisfaction.

Readiness for Head Start
% Meeting or Exceeding National Expectations

	Fall 2018	Spring 2019	
Below Expectations	30%	4%	
Met Expectations	67%	60%	
Above Expectations	3%	36%	+33 pts
Met/Exceeded Combined	70%	96%	

It's the people that drive our program

Our Staff:

There is a spontaneous energy in each classroom that comes from teachers and families interacting. Our staff gets A+ across the board.

Executive Director **Lisa Field**, Associate Director **Helen Rice**, and the teachers and family workers remained enthusiastic and committed to the mission of 5 Steps to Five.

Fabiola Tambini-Malette was hired as the new Program Manager. Fabiola most recently worked as Outreach Coordinator for NAMI and previously conducted training courses for employees of the Women's Ministry in Peru. In addition, we hired one new head teacher and two new assistant teachers who bring with them a passion for teaching.

I LOVE TO BE HERE.
THIS IS MY BLESSING.

- MARIA G.



Our Staff Appreciation Lunch and Staff Training took place in October. It was well-attended and well-received.

Our Families:

A **Community Resource List** was created and distributed to all of the families in the program and given to new families. This list includes local resources including where to go or whom to call for needs such as: food banks, WIC, special education, immigrant rights, tenant rights, domestic abuse, mental health services and more.

Weekly, families received information on a variety of **topics and themes** focused on the 5 Steps; Nurture, Talk, Read, Play and Explore. Examples include; Let's TALK About It: 5 Ways to Build Babies' Language and Communication Skills from Birth, 5 Steps for Brain Building, and Reading Tips for Toddlers and Baby - Consejos para Bebe.

Families received books on a monthly basis. **Books** given include classics like the Llama Llama series, A Very Hungry Caterpillar and Buenas Noches Luna.

In addition, we began regularly incorporating **Vroom tips** to our curriculum. Vroom is a global program of the Bezos Family Foundation. Vroom provides "science-based tips and tools to help parents and caregivers give children a great start in life today—and an even better future."

Program mother and volunteer, **Astrid Acosta**, helped in classrooms and represented 5 Steps to Five in the community to recruit new families. Her response when asked if she would speak about our program at the St Peter's Church Baby Shower:

OMG!!!! YEEES! OF COURSE! I WANT TO BE THERE AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY ME FOR THAT BECAUSE FOR ME IT'S THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO SAY THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ME AS A MOM AND NOW AS A TEACHER. THANK YOU AGAIN AND SEE YOU THERE.

- ASTRID ACOSTA



What Attendance Tells Us

The program continues to reach into the Port Chester community, demonstrating its appeal and effectiveness. With 43 new families enrolling in 2019, up a bit from 2018, the total number of families to enroll has topped 300.

Counting the last family to join in December, we now stand at 336 families since our first classes with seven families in April-June 2014.

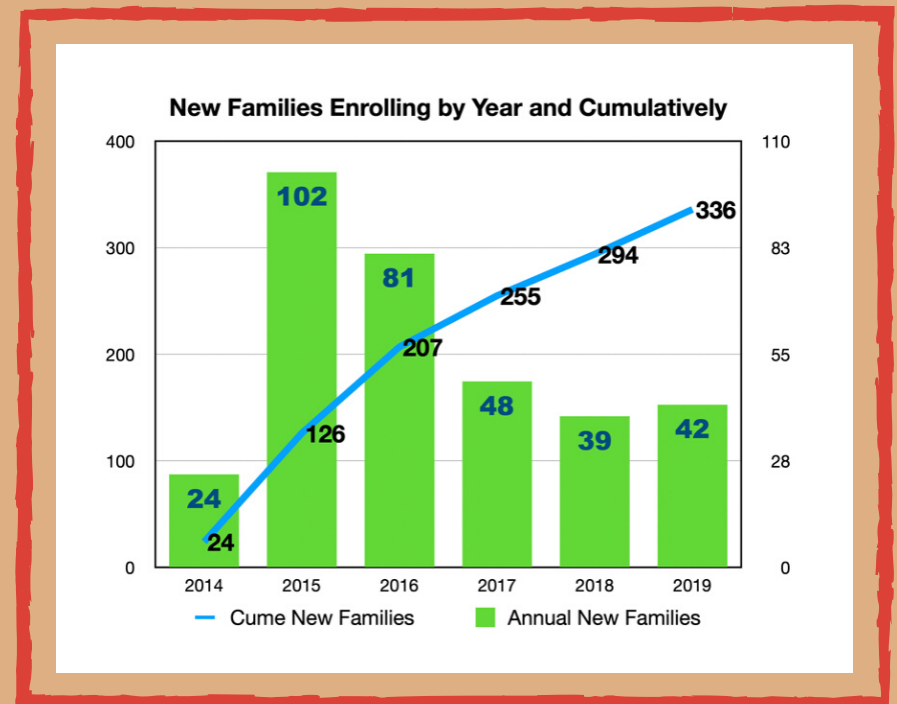
Total attendance, as measured by number of individual sessions attended by families, was slightly below 2018 (1,386 versus 1,412), but ahead of that year by 5% in average attendance per session. Fewer sessions occurred in 2019 due to weather conditions or building closings for maintenance or repairs.

	2018	2019	
Total Attendance	1,412	1,386	
# of Sessions	45	42	
Avg. # Attending/session	31.4	33.0	(+5%)

In addition to the 1,386 family visits in 2019, another 328 sessions were attended by the children's older siblings. Counting everyone at the sessions (babies and toddlers, parents, grandparents, and siblings), over 3,000 individuals attended — an average of 73 persons per Saturday.



IN 2019 OUR FIRST FEW FAMILIES REACHED THE 100 VISIT MILESTONE. TWO OF OUR CENTENARIAN FAMILIES ARE HIGHLIGHTED ABOVE.





Portraits of our kids by Sonali Laschever

Volunteers

5 Steps to Five was fortunate starting early on to have support from local professionals, students and volunteers who come to the classrooms to share their time and their knowledge. Their help in 2019 was again deserving of an Honor Roll mention.

Founder, **Mary Alice Warner**, visited our youngest classrooms to teach baby massage to the parents.

Ann Magalhaes, parenting professional and board vice president, visited the classrooms to teach Positive Parenting, Emotional Intelligence, and Self Care. Ann participated in teacher training.

Susie Zachman, MS, RDN, trained the staff on the importance of modeling healthy eating and encouraging food variety with a focus on snacking, the importance of modeling behavior and food variety.

Ilaria St Florian-Kruijtzter, MS, RD took over in the role of nutritionist and has been well received by the families and staff.

Molly Ness, Ph.D. and board member visited the classrooms to train parents and staff on print referencing techniques.

Marcia Levy has an MA in child development and is a certified early childhood teacher and administrator. Marcia attended Faculty meetings to support parent-teacher interaction, providing guidance about the issues teachers find challenging.

Professional photographer, **Sonali Laschever**, came to the classrooms and took the black and white portraits of the children featured in this report.

Rye resident, **Matt Pagen**, dressed as Santa and passed out gifts for the families for the third year in a row and his daughter baked cookies for the families.



Student volunteers: Rye High School seniors **Maria Laveron** and **Emma Dempster** satisfied their senior internships working for 5 Steps to Five. Emma and Maria helped with various office work and added a Spanish section to our website. 5 Steps to Five was fortunate to have a steady stream of student volunteers from both **Rye and Port Chester Middle and High Schools.**

Community Partners

From the beginning five years ago, the involvement of community organizations has been a goal. This past year was no exception.



Junior League of Westchester by the Sound hosted a literacy event that included games and crafts in our sibling room followed by a lunch with the families.

Alex Payan set up a gardening plot through **Port Chester Community Gardens** and described gardening opportunities for the families.



Jirandy Martinez, Executive Director of the **Community Resource Center of Mamaroneck**, visited each classroom and shared information on resources available through their organization.

Marcela Kissner, a program Family Worker, visited each classroom discussing the importance of participating in The United States Census 2020.

Francine Vernon from the **Westchester Library System** returned to the classrooms to discuss resources at neighboring Port Chester library.

Milton School featured 5 Steps to Five as its community service partner for their week of service. Students in the 4th Grade classrooms learned about our program and decorated bibs for our new moms and for Port Chester community events.



Rye Nature Center brought its NatureStation to the program. The families enjoyed visiting the station and meeting the animals.

Suzy Allman of pet rescue organization, **CharlieDog and Friends, LLC** donated a stuffed animal to every child in the program.

Isabel Harther donated beautiful hand-made hats, mittens and blankets knitted by blind and elderly volunteers with **Visions**. Items were given to our families during the holidays.

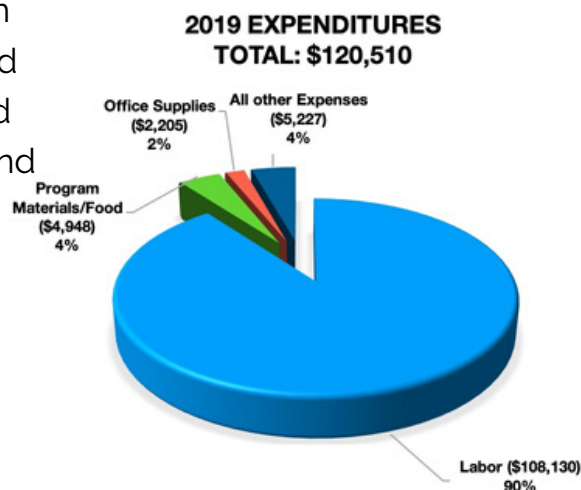


Financial Results

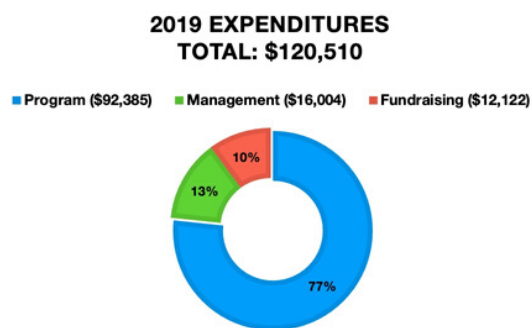
We have been fortunate to have had the early support and then strong annual support to be in a strong financial position each year, while building reserves equal to two-years' operation. We have demonstrated a sustainable formula for funding an effective and needed service to the community.

Expenditures

Spending in 2019 totaled \$120,510, up 4.6% from 2018. The cost of labor continues to be the predominant expense item (90% of total). Materials, books, and food used in the classroom sessions accounted for 4%, as did insurance, legal, and other expenses. Office supplies and software costs made up the remaining 2%.

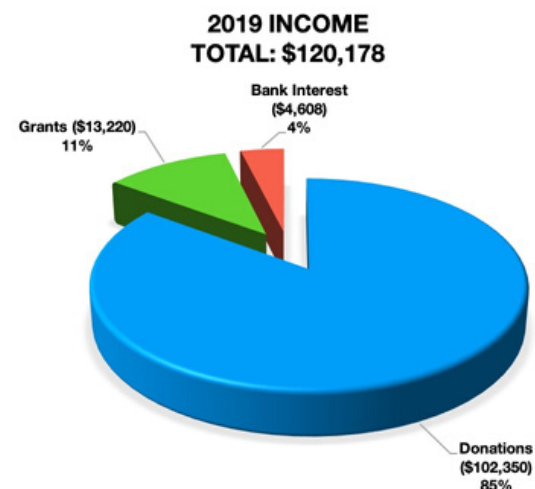


In terms of where the expenses occurred, we estimate that 77% of funds were spent on program. The balance went to Management (13% for insurance, financial, and other overhead items) and Fundraising 10% most of which was in the planning of our 2020 gala.



Income

In calendar 2019, revenues (\$120,178) were virtually equal to expenditures (\$120,510). This contrasted to 2018, when income outstripped expenditures by \$26,835 as a result of the late-in-the-year scheduling of a major luncheon that generated considerable donations.



As in past years, 90% of the income came from donations. Grants accounted for another 11%, and bank interest generated 4% of revenues. Since the fifth-anniversary gala was moved into early 2020, there was no fundraising income during 2019.

Note: financial numbers were done prior to completion of 2019 audit.

A warm thank you for five years of generous donations

We have had remarkable financial support from family foundations, grants, local organizations, and individuals from the very start. We have combined the giving over our five years and thank all of you who have invested in our cause.

Founders Circle \$50,000+

Eugene and Emily Grant Family Foundation
Emily Grant
Kent and Mary Alice Warner Family Foundation
Scott F. Warner Family Foundation
Dunn Family Foundation

Step 5 \$25,000 - \$49,999

Nickless Family Foundation
The Philip and Lynn Straus Foundation

Step 4 \$10,000 - \$24,999

Christ's Church of Rye
RPC Women's Association of Rye
Steere Family Foundation
Two West Foundation
Betsy White

Step 3 \$5,000-\$9,999

Evelyn and Nick Bielson
Whitney and Allen Clark
Fanny and Swarta Kristrom Foundation
Olivia and Oskar Lewnowski
Pell Family Fund

Step 2 \$1,000-\$4,999

Sally Malin Adler
Ann Haynes and Jack Barry
Patricia Bass
Bostock Family Foundation
John Bowen Family Foundation
Suzanne Clary
Glickenhau Foundation
Debbie and Svend Hansen
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Jan and Alan Kelsey
Little Garden Club of Rye
Katherine Moore
Jean and Henry Pollak Division
Paul and Joyce Rheingold Family Foundation
Helen and Mark Rice
Lynn and Rob Schwartz
Andrew and Paula H. Selden
Mary Alice and Kent Warner
Susan Warner and Ram Sriram
Westchester Jr. League on Sound

Continued thanks

Step 1 \$500-\$999

(Anonymous) from Rye Presbyterian Church
Margaret Arguit
Robert L and Elizabeth C. Alexander Family Fund
Linda and John Buttrill
Anthony Clark
Community Foundation for National Cap Region
Sue and Douglas DeStaebler
Lisa and Rob Field
Rachel Fleming
Kathrin Brown and Bill Gedale
Barbara and Paul Hicks
Kristin and Ken Jautz
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Friends \$250 - \$499

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Katie and Matt Pagen
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Nancy D. Pundyk
Catlin F. Hart & Brendan P. Ryan
Diane and Ash Shaaban
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Friends \$100 - \$249

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Katie and Scott Falzone
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Emily Fontana
Barbara K. Francis

Continued thanks

Friends \$100 - \$249

Elizabeth and Rick Gallos
Robert Gaulin
Anne and Randall Greene
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Hometown Love
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Sarah and Dennis McGill
Victoria G. Meier
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Friends \$100 - \$249

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Stephen Mongillo
Erik Montaleza
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Up to \$99

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Fiona Strachan
Catherine and Donald Svoboda
Howard and Lorraine Veisz
Victoria and Thomas Whatley
Howard Wolf
Tracy Wydra
Rosemarie and George Zahringer



2019
in
photos



"If I knew what I know now, I'd have raised my older son differently."

"We did not have books in our home."

"This program teaches both parents and children; very important."

"PLEASE DON'T STOP THIS PROGRAM!"

What our parents say

"SHE ASKS WHEN IS SATURDAY, TO COME TO SCHOOL."

"You have given me light in how to teach my baby."

"My son is very excited every Saturday."

Board of Directors 2019

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Kent Warner **Co-President**

Ann Magalhaes **Vice President**

Betsy White **Treasurer**

Robin Jovanovich **Secretary**

Carolee Brakewood

Rachel Fleming

Kristin Jautz

Molly Ness

Arthur Stampleman

Leanne Tormey

Kent Warner

Mary Alice Warner

Susie Zachman

In memoriam ...

We lost one of our earliest supporters and original board members, **Peter Larr**, in December. Peter was an enthusiastic, ever willing participant in our early development. We miss his enthusiasm, congeniality, and cooperation.

VISIT US AT
www.5stepstofive.org

To donate, visit our website or mail a check
to



... is Five!

"5 Steps to Five Inc."
PO Box 923, Rye, NY 10580

Interested in volunteering?
please email Lisa Field, Executive Director
lpfield@5stepstofive

Our Mission is to empower parents of infants and toddlers by coaching them how to prepare their children for success in Kindergarten and their lives beyond.