Adventures
Joys
Challenges
Sustainability

of creating a high-quality child development center
This is the path that we went down

Affordable, Reliable, High-Quality Child Development Services
Why High-Quality?

85% of the brain is developed by age 5
The majority of that by age 3!

These are the critical years for cognitive, motor, linguistic, and social and emotional development.

Developing the brains executive function and establishing values.
The Valley Child Development Center
402-746-5110  Red Cloud, NE
Add ribbon cutting photo
Adventures
Joys
Challenges
Sustainability

of creating a high-quality child development center
Adventures

• 2012 Community Action Planning - NCF
• 2014 Planning Committee formed - RCCFF
• Visited at other Child Care/Child Development Centers
• Building design process with RDg Architects
• Consultations/trainings from NCF
• Given over 65 presentations locally and statewide
• Developed Steering Comm. And Board of Directors
• “Ask” visits and fundraising
• Search for Director
• GroundBreaking – March 2017
• Opened – January 2018
• Grand Opening – April 2018
• Determining what High-Quality meant to us – DREAM BIG!
What High-Quality means to us

✓ Educated Staff: Certified Teachers; Asst Teachers w/ Assoc.
✓ Life-long learners
✓ Supported with professional development
✓ Pay is commensurate with school district and with benefits
✓ Affordable and reliable for families
✓ Scholarships to ensure access to all families
✓ Lower adult-to-child ratios
✓ A stimulating, safe, secure facility
What High-Quality means to us

✔ Nutritious meals & snacks prepared on-site by our CDM
✔ Developmentally appropriate activities/Play-based learning
✔ Curriculum and Authentic Assessment tool
✔ Parent/Teacher Conferences
✔ Parent education and information
✔ Outdoor Classrooms
✔ To strive to be “the best of the best”
High-Quality Early Childhood Services

Enables children to have high-quality care and education in a safe, stimulating and cheerful environment.
High-Quality Early Childhood Services

Allows parents to go to work knowing that their children are in a safe, caring, stimulating environment, knowing that they have consistent care.

* Family engagement and support
High-Quality Early Childhood Services

Employers will have their work force show up to work with confidence, without distractions or worries regarding their child’s care.
Adventures

* Joys

Challenges

Sustainability

of creating a high-quality child development center
Joys

• When our message is heard and understood
• Community support
• Funders on-board
• Hiring our Executive Director – June 2017
• Hiring great staff
• Opening our doors to provide H-Q Services
• Increased in enrollment from 31 to 75
Volunteers! Donors!
Collaboration with the Assisted Living
Summer camps 2018

Joys
Summer camps 2018

Joys
Edible School Yard
Success Stories - Making a difference

Joys
Joys
Joys
Joys
High-Quality Early Childhood Services will “raise up the entire community” and attract more young families to move to the area.

*13% Return on investment
Adventures
Joys
* Challenges
Sustainability
of creating a high-quality child development center
Challenges

- Increasing our FTE
- Bridging our gap between tuition revenue and operational expenses incurred with providing high-quality services that are affordable
- Continue our quest to inform/educate that all children deserve high-quality child development services
- It is a cultural change – a systems change
- Education doesn’t pay for itself
Warts and All ....
Change is HARD!

“This is too good for Red Cloud”

“If those moms would just keep their butts at home...”

“Well, I didn’t have it & I’m OK”
{The Valley Child Development Center}

Adventures

Joys

Challenges

*Sustainability*

of creating a high-quality child development center
Sustainability

Our main concern is to provide sustainable, high-quality services to young children making it affordable for Red Cloud and the surrounding communities.
The Power of Relationships

- Buffett Early Childhood Institute
- Buffett Early Childhood Fund
- First Five Nebraska
- Dividends Nebraska
- Department of Economic Development
- RDg Architects
- University of Nebraska at Kearney
- Nebraska Children’s and Families
- Early Head Start
- Central Community College
- Nebraska Community Foundation
Local Relationships

- City of Red Cloud
- Locals & alumni
- Local Businesses
- Community Organizations
- Red Cloud Community Schools and Board of Education
- Cherry Corner Estates Assisted Living
- Red Cloud Community Foundation Fund
Sustainability

We hope to one day build an endowment to assist with our sustainability.

Consistency of staff by offering a good living wage with benefits and support.
So here we are after 8 months of operation...
{The Valley Child Development Center}

A Game Changer