

Malaika's mission is to work collaboratively with families to establish a strong academic, social and emotional base in the lives of the children we serve. Research has shown that life outcomes are largely determined by the time a child reaches first grade. The foundation developed in those early years becomes a critical factor for future development and social integration. Our goal is to give all children a strong foundation, regardless of their socio-economic status or family structure.



IN THE NEWS

Governor Announces Childcare Improvement System at Malaika

Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle selected Malaika Early Learning Center to announce **YoungStar**, a major initiative aimed at improving the quality of childcare in the state.

The announcement took place on January 22nd. Also in attendance were Department of Children and Families Secretary Reggie Bicha, and Common Council President Willie Hines. Over 75 guests from early education programs and other community organizations attended the event.

Ms. Tacarra Ivy, Malaika's Childcare Program Coordinator, greets Governor Jim Doyle.



Children from Malaika and the nearby Harambee School were among the attendees.

OUR BOARD

Welcome New Board Members

Kimberly R. Walker



Amanda Hoyer, Senior Project Manager at FIS, and Kimberly R. Walker, Senior Human Resources Manager (LOB-Building Efficiency) at Johnson Controls, were elected to serve three-year terms on our board of directors. Amanda is serving as chair of this year's annual fundraising event. Kimberly has extensive management and leadership experience in human resources and has worked in the private and public sectors and in state government. She will serve on the Personnel Committee.

OUR STAFF



Celebrate Children Foundation Scholarship

The *Celebrate Children Foundation* of the Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund awarded a \$5,000 scholarship to Pamela Harrell to earn certification in Infant and Children's Mental Health from UW-Madison. Pamela Harrell is one of our teacher assistants and upon completion of her certification she will implement a guidance program for our K-3, K-4 and K-5 children.

Did you know? Malaika is a Swahili word meaning "little angel."

CLASSES



Bonjour! Bonjour!

Learning a second language is important for brain development...and French is spoken at Malaika, thanks to an exciting partnership with Alliance Française. During this school year, our K-3, K-4 and K-5 children have been learning basic French with their teacher, Oumar Sagna, using African drumming. Our children's knowledge and word use has increased significantly throughout the year and they've enjoyed learning a second language to the beating of drums.



Learning to Love Nature

Malaika's partnership with the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center enables our K-4 and K-5 children to spend alternate Tuesday mornings at the Center learning about nature and exploring the vast grounds. This important



program increases our students' understanding and appreciation of nature, natural habitats and the environment. It's been a great experience for our K-4 and K-5 children and teachers. **The Nature Center is currently seeking funding to continue this program for our students during the next school year.**



Life is beautiful in the new K-3 classroom.

Growth in Enrollment

Increasingly, parents around the city are seeking quality learning environments for their children...and they're discovering Malaika. **A new K-3 classroom** was opened in February to meet the increase in demand.

Great Adventures Summer Program

We're planning a wide variety of educational and recreational activities for all school-age children attending our summer program. **We need funding** to help support our arts education program, provided by **Artists Working in Education (AWE)**, and for field trips. A major focus of the program will be the improvement of reading and comprehension skills. The children will visit MLK Library and participate in its Summer Reading Program.



EVENTS

Mother-Grandmother-Daughter Luncheon

The First Annual Mother-Grandmother-Daughter Luncheon was held on Saturday, May 15th. The luncheon recognized mothers and grandmothers for the important role they play in their daughters' lives. The theme was **Be Bold, Be Daring, Be Present!!!**. The event was well-attended and everyone had a great time.



Malaika Donors

July 1, 2009 - May 12, 2010

\$15,000-\$174,999

Elizabeth A. Brinn Foundation

\$10,000-\$14,999

Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation
Anonymous Donor

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous Donor
Dennis & Kellie Mueller

\$2,500-\$4,999

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Social Development Commission
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Tim & Marilyn Tyre
Kevin VanKirk

Thank You!

UPCOMING EVENTS

K-5 Completion/Graduation

You're cordially invited to attend the K-5 Completion/Graduation ceremony on **June 3rd** at 10:00 am. The children will present a skit, and awards for achievement, conduct, and attendance will be presented during the ceremony. It will be a beautiful event!

Father-Grandfather-Son Luncheon

This luncheon, to be held on Saturday, **June 12th** at Malaika, will recognize fathers and grandfathers for the important role they play in their children's lives.

Save the Date: Malaika Fundraising Event

Please save **November 4th** for our Third Annual Fundraising Event. This year's event will be held at **Coast** in downtown Milwaukee, and will feature a silent auction along with performances by Malaika's kindergarten children. Watch your mail for a save-the-date card in early August. We hope to see you there!



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Malaika was carefully designed to provide a nurturing, educational environment to help reverse the cycle of poverty in Milwaukee's inner city. We invite you to visit us to see firsthand how your support makes a difference.

To support Malaika, please send your tax-deductible charitable contribution to Malaika Early Learning Center. Thank You!