

## A Message from the Board President

Jennifer Anderson President of the Board of Trustees

In 2009, just as both my own children entered the school system I was introduced to an organization by a group of friends who urged me to get involved. At that time, I was volunteering my time to help plan the Center's annual gala, its largest fundraiser and event of the year. The Gala, while great fun to attend and plan, opened the door to an organization that I didn't know very much about when I first got involved.

I would soon learn about an organization that was started by a group of caring people who saw a need for quality day care services in the Red Bank area. The tuition assistance that is provided allows the Center to open their doors to families with diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

But more than that, I learned that Monmouth Day Care Center offers a nurturing, caring environment that allows young children to learn, develop and grow.

When I step into any of the classrooms, it is very easy to see why families trust their most precious assets to teachers who not only maintain a high level of training, but a tremendous amount of love for their work.

I urge you to open the door a little more to see for yourself what a special place MDCC is. Get more involved. Use your time and resources to promote the needs of the children who need it most. They are our future.

## Executive Director's Dialogue

Heidi Zaentz, Executive Director



Having worked in the field of early childhood education for almost 40 years I always get a little upset when people say that all we do is baby sit at Monmouth Day Care Center. Our wonderful staff of dedicated professionals is far from babysitters. The staff makes it possible for parents and guardians of young children to go to work or school knowing that their child is in a warm, loving, safe and learning environment. At Monmouth Day Care Center we are preparing the children for the future. You may wonder how Monmouth Day Care Center is preparing a young child for the future. The staff is giving the children the skills they will need to read, write and do math activities. They are teaching the children to be social beings, how to deal with frustration, how to share and how to express their emotions. The staff partners with parents in their child's growth and development.



When Monmouth Day Care Center was founded 47 years ago I am positive our founders' vision was for the children to grow and learn. Now there is evidence of how important the first few years of life are to a child's intellectual development as well as their social and emotional development. Without MDCC our children would not have the advantage of a developmentally appropriate early childhood program, because as of today 90% of the children at the Center come from families who could not afford childcare without us. I hope you consider stopping by the Center so you can see firsthand the smiling faces of our children.

## Fundraising for MDCC

The first half of 2016 proved to be an active one for the fundraising committees. Each committee of volunteers worked and planned many hours to make their respective events fun and profitable: Casino Night, Wine Tasting, and the Bridge Party. Here is a summary of each of the events detailing why they were great.

Casino Night was held on Friday, April 15, and the promise of an evening of table games was enticing enough. Entertainment was provided by Aces High who offered a variety of gaming options: blackjack, poker, money wheel, craps, and roulette. Shouts of joy from happy winners permeated the daycare center throughout the night as the pit boss roamed the floor, upping the stakes and driving home higher earnings for gamblers. Partygoers could find respite in the Center's Blue Room where endless trays of food, both hot and cold, were offered having been donated by some of the best local restaurants and delis. Despite a full belly from such offerings, dessert was a tempting feast as well, with rich, decadent options from local shops. The night of fun ended with the dozens of gift baskets being raffled off.

The second annual Wine Tasting took place on Friday, June 3, at the Shrewsbury Sailing and Yacht Club. This venue allowed for spectacular views from the outside deck of the setting sun over the Shrewsbury River. The band jammed out to songs throughout the night that were both contemporary and patriotic.

The main event was held inside the club, however, where "sommeliers" poured and explained any one of dozens of amazing wine samples. Attendees chose from reds, whites, roses, or sparkling, and they returned for more as often as they liked. If a particular wine held their fancy, they could make a purchase from the sommeliers themselves. Fun games beckoned all -- a ring toss and a ping pong game -- where more wine could be won. During this time, delicious passed hors d'oeuvres were sampled thanks to The Kitchen Witch, who also provided heartier fare later in the night. While guests slowly browsed and bid on the silent auction items, the night also included a much more energetic live auction. The auctioneer's humor and lively demeanor drove bidders to reach their heights for ritzy prizes such as week long vacations to Belize, Florida, Mexico, or chartered fishing trips into local waters. The fun escalated when six stuffed bears were auctioned off, each one representing one of the rooms in the Daycare Center and their many needs. This was undeniably the success of the night, as bear after bear was auctioned for no less than \$350! No matter the reason for attending this fun event, everyone went home a winner!

The final event of the three month binge was the Bridge Party which was held on Wednesday, July 15, with a lovely lunch at the Navesink Country Club.

These wonderful events are all held annually, so look for dates forthcoming in 2017!

Thank you to the many local businesses and restaurants who donated to our Casino Night.

Café 28  
Chef Laura Sardi  
Chipotle  
Cluck U  
Cupcake Magician  
Danny's Steakhouse  
DISH  
The Dublin House  
Earth Pizza  
Edible Arrangements  
Elsie's Sub Shop  
Foodtown Red Bank

Gaetano's  
Gianni's Pizzeria  
Jersey Mike's  
Juanito's  
Kepwell Spring Water  
Lil Cutie Pops  
Molly Pitcher Inn  
Monmouth Meats  
Mumford's Culinary Center  
Nothing Bundt Cakes  
Panera Bread  
Pazzo

Readie's Café  
Red Bank Chocolate Shop  
Runa Peruvian  
Saladworks  
Teak  
Tommy's Coal Fired Pizza  
Trader Joe's  
Windward Deli



If you are under 6 years old Monmouth Day Care Center is the place to be in the summer. The days are filled with fun, laughter and learning. In July the children learned about water safety from the Coast Guard's Boatman Bob and also enjoyed listening to Milkman John sing some very lively songs. As the children dressed up like Pirates and Princesses, Sira Williams, The Red Bank Library Children's Librarian read the children some great books. Other highlights of the month included the Bubble Mania Show and tie dying t-shirts. During August the children wore pajamas to camp and listened to Ms. Sira read to them again. The children were mesmerized by the Mad Scientist Show and were very impressed by the K-9 officer's visit. The older children enjoyed trips to The Papermoon Puppet Theater, Insectropolis and Barnes and Noble. Other highlights included, Music With Ms. Nina, Decorating Cupcakes with Ms. Dina and water play. At the end of the summer every child brought home a cookbook filled with the recipes all of the classes made this summer. What a fun-filled summer!

## Special Occasions at MDCC

In line with its all-encompassing early education mission, Monmouth Day Care Center was presented with two unique educational opportunities by way of outside entities. Each occasion enabled the kids to learn valuable lessons while also allowing for significant exposure for the Center, highlighting the admirable work that it undertakes on a daily basis.

In March, MDCC was visited by Diana Limbacher, U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, and Rose Tricario, N.J. Department of Agriculture Division of Food and Nutrition Director. Both were on hand in commemoration of Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Week, which was recognized from March 13-19. MDCC has been a partner with CACFP since 1987. This arrangement helps MDCC offset its food costs.

In addition to providing much of the actual nourishment that is vital to a growing child's formative years, a core objective of the CACFP is to educate children (and adults, for that matter!) on choosing and enjoying healthy foods. During their visit to the Center, Ms. Limbacher and Ms. Tricario met with many of the kids and helped serve the youngest children a lunch of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, fruit cocktail and milk.

In a slightly different vein, back in February, the Rainbow Room students received an invitation from the Monmouth Conservation Foundation (MCF) to participate in an educational contest called Kids for Conservation/Project Pollinator. The objective of this environmental outreach effort is to raise awareness about the importance of



*Representatives from the NJ Dept. of Agriculture Division of Food & Nutrition visit during mealtime.*

protecting pollinator species such as butterflies, birds, bats and bees.

With the intent of teaching pre-school age children about pollinators, MCF partnered with Monmouth University to develop an interactive curriculum to stimulate the students' interest in the subject matter. By participating in the contest, the students of the Rainbow Room learned about various forms of pollination over the course of several weeks.

Simultaneously, under the guidance of Ms. Donna and Ms. Tiffany, the children diligently and collaboratively worked on their presentation to be submitted for the contest.

Working together, the Rainbow Room kids, by deftly coloring and cutting paper plates to serve as specific flowers, constructed a vibrant flower patch display, along with industrious bees "buzzing" and butterflies hovering about. After submitting the project to the MCF panel of judges, the Rainbow Room team came away with 3<sup>rd</sup> prize (and a \$500 award) in a field of 15 submissions! Moreover, their handiwork was prominently displayed at the Family Pollination Day at Huber Woods Park on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. To view their work, visit Monmouth Day Care Center's Facebook page and scroll down to the June 5<sup>th</sup> entry (and remember to "like" MDCC on Facebook!).

Typical of the Center's ever resourceful approach, these two unique opportunities proved a basis for imparting learning beyond the already comprehensive approach. Thanks to all of the nurturing adults and inquisitive kids alike who contributed their efforts to make these occasions successful!

## Board Member Profiles

We are pleased to recognize last year's Parent Representative, David Schmetterer, who has been elected to a 3-year term on the Board of Trustees. He was featured in last year's Cameo and we are very happy to have him remain on the board.

Lata Mahbubani has also been elected to the Board of Trustees for a 3-year term. She was born in Jakarta, Indonesia and grew up in Hong Kong. Lata earned a degree in design from Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Lata was working with the Hong Kong Government Office when she was fortunate to receive a job transfer to their New York City offices. She retired about 10 years ago and is now helping

her husband's real estate management business.

Lata loves to travel and has been to Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Europe and Asia. She also loves gardening and has joined the Garden Club of Fair Haven. She now sits on their board. Lata also volunteers twice a week in the Emergency Room of Riverview Medical Center.

Lata and her husband, Robert Thomas, currently live in Red Bank. "My neighbor, June Seligman (past-president) asked if I would like to join MDCC and I jumped on it! I was on the committee for the Wine-Tasting fund-raising event with her and really enjoyed it." We look forward to working with Lata.

Visit our website:  
[www.monmouthdaycarecenter1969.org](http://www.monmouthdaycarecenter1969.org)

**Contributors & Committee members:**

- Jennifer Anderson, President  
MDCC Board of Trustees
- Debbie Iapicco, Trustee
- Brendan McLoughlin, 2nd VP  
Finance
- Jean Simes, 1st VP Operations
- Sira Williams, Honorary Trustee
- Heidi Zaentz, Executive Director

Monmouth Day Care Center offers full and part time enrollment for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

Monmouth Day Care Center  
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Current Resident or

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## Touch-A-Truck



Get ready for Monmouth Day Care's  
**7th Annual Touch-a-Truck "Fun-raiser!"**

Kids of all ages love trucks! Come and get a closer look at the vehicles you see in your neighborhoods every day. Ambulances, fire engines, military vehicles, dump trucks and other construction equipment will be displayed in the Red Bank Middle School parking lot where kids will be encouraged to explore them in a safe environment. The vehicles' owners and operators will also be on hand to describe how they work and what kind of jobs they do.



"Every kid stops and watches when a police car or fire engine races by. This event gives them a chance to get to know these vehicles and the men and women who work with them, while contributing to a good cause," said Heidi Zaentz, MDCC's Executive Director.



The event's sponsors include DeFazio's Lawn Service, Karson Food Service, Shrewsbury Pediatric Dental, Heritage House/Southeby's International Realty, Schwartz Truck Center, The Acceptance Curriculum and Two River Community Bank.



### 7th ANNUAL TOUCH-A-TRUCK

**GAMES • CRAFTS • 50/50 • FOOD • MUSIC**

**...and your favorite Trucks!**

**DATE: Saturday, Sept. 24**

**TIME: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Rain or Shine**

**PLACE: Red Bank Middle School**

**101 Harding Road, Red Bank**

In advance \$15/Family of Four • includes 5 free activity tickets

At the door \$20/Family of Four

Bring a non-perishable food item for 1 free activity ticket

**Advanced Tickets Online:**

**[www.monmouthdaycarecenter1969.org](http://www.monmouthdaycarecenter1969.org)**

**Or call 732-741-4313**

\*All children MUST be accompanied by an adult