

## **Woodstock Economic Development Commission Application for Community Project Grant**

**Name of Project:** Expansion of the Infant/Toddler Program at WCCC

**Start date:** Winter 2018/19

**Description:**

The Woodstock Christian Child Care (WCCC) has been serving families in the greater Woodstock community for over 24 years. WCCC is a fully licensed, 4-star childcare/preschool accepting ages 6 weeks through age 12. Currently WCCC is the only licensed child care in Woodstock that can care for infants. With the state providing funds for children ages 3 and 4 to attend public preschools, the need for childcare in the community has shifted toward infants and toddlers up to age 3. To help meet this need, WCCC is looking to expand its space to accommodate more infants up to age 2.

**Total project budget:** \$9075

**Grant request:** \$5000

**Applicant Information:**

**Name of Project Coordinator:** Keri Bristow and Anke Stickney

**Organization background:** WCCC opened in 1994 in the First Congregational Church of Woodstock. Its primary goal is to provide quality childcare and preschool for the children of our community. Overhead costs such as rent, utilities and insurance are subsidized by the Church. Generally tuition meets expenses. This is the first major expansion undertaken by WCCC since its opening in 1994. WCCC has an open door enrollment and accepts all children and families that enroll, including those who are state-subsidized, placed there through the public school EEE, and occasional drop-ins from tourists, family guests and summer visitors who need childcare.

**Business address:** 36 Elm Street, Woodstock, VT 05091

**Telephone number:** (802) 457-2278

**Contact's email address:** [kerilynbristow@gmail.com](mailto:kerilynbristow@gmail.com) and [dankestick@gmail.com](mailto:dankestick@gmail.com)

**Organization's Website URL:** [www.fccw.net](http://www.fccw.net)

**Organization's EIN:** 03-0196659

**Question 1: How does the proposed project improve the quality of life for all Woodstock residents and visitors?**

Since January of 2018 over 20 families have called seeking infant care for a newborn or expected infant. WCCC's infant care is currently at capacity. Furthermore, there is an extended waitlist to get into the program now. Expanding the infant/toddler program at WCCC will encourage more young families to reside and work in Woodstock. Attracting young families is critically important to community life and vitality. Due to the possibility of "drop-in" childcare, visitors to our community can also utilize the services that the child care provides. In expanding the program, there will potentially be employment opportunities as well.

**Question 2: How does the proposed project enhance the beauty of Woodstock?**

The program operates within a beautiful historic church frequented by many visitors and members who keep the building well maintained and open to all. Furthermore, the WCCC children and staff walk through town to utilize the Norman Williams Library and Billings Farm & Museum, bringing a smile to the faces of all who see them.

**Question 3: In what way will the proposed project contribute to Woodstock's economic vitality?**

An expanded infant/toddler program will provide greater quality child care opportunities for parents who work here or visit our area. Child care is a vital service and the state of Vermont recognizes there is a critical shortage particularly in infant and toddler care.

**Question 4: Does the event have broad-based private-sector, public, community, or local support?**

WCCC has been open continuously for over 24 years with most of the support through tuition and state subsidies for children who qualify. The Church supports the program through free rent, utilities and insurance.

**Question 5: Will the proposed project attract new residents to Woodstock?**

Every family moving into a community looks for quality schools and child care. Attached are three letters of support from families addressing this question.

**Question 6: Does the organization have other funding sources?**

WCCC will seek other grants to support its expansion. The Church supports the program through free rent, utilities and insurance. Once established, the goal is for tuition to meet expenses.

**Question 7: Does the project have adequate funding for now and future years?**

Operating within the stable and protective environment of a church provides WCCC with the viability and sustainability to continue into the foreseeable future. The Church considers WCCC as its single greatest outreach into the community. The intent is for tuition to meet direct expenses as follows:

Proposed weekly tuition	-	\$1013
Proposed weekly payroll/taxes	-	\$904
Proposed weekly supplies	-	\$20
Proposed weekly net	-	\$89

**Supporting information and budget attached**

Submitted by Keri Bristow

Signature: Keri Bristow

Date: September 28, 2018

## Items needed for new infant space

1) Diaper facility -	\$629
2) Diaper pail	\$ 34
3) High chairs & harness (4x)	\$640
4) Low furniture	\$1,557
Book shelf	\$169.00
Storage shelf/w mirror	\$296
Storage ctr. 2x	\$505
Handle baskets2x	\$208
2x	\$152
2x	\$125
Set of 6	\$102
5) Rocking Chair	\$499
6) Portable Sink	\$1,765
7) Portable inside play yard fencing	\$475
8) Floor rug	\$450
9) Shades/curtains 4x	\$148
10) Sensory table	\$111
11) Wall mirror	\$104
12) STEM and fine motor manipulatives	\$500
13) Gross motor equipment	\$800
14) Sound machine	\$45
15) Bottle warmer	\$55
16) Housekeeping play area	\$263
17) Room painting	\$1,000
 Total Project	 \$9,075

9.27.18

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Woodstock Christian Child Care. My family and I moved to Woodstock, Vermont during the summer of 2017. I accepted a teaching position at the Woodstock Elementary School and we relocated from Iowa.

Our son, Eli, attended daycare in Des Moines at age 5 months, and in planning the move we researched our childcare options in Woodstock. To our surprise, Woodstock Christian Childcare is the only center in Woodstock that cares for children under 18 months. We were put on a waitlist and were quite worried as there is no other affordable and quality option. Fortunately, several months later, a spot opened up for our 1 year old. Without WCCC, we may have not decided to relocate to Woodstock, as my husband and I both work full-time.

We are expecting another baby this November and ran into the same situation. WCCC's infant room was full, and once again we were put on a lengthy waitlist. I have friends who are either pregnant, have new babies or are planning on having a family soon and are in the same predicament. I think WCCC will attract more young professional families to the area, especially if there is another infant room added.

My husband and I have been extremely pleased with our experience at Woodstock Christian Childcare. Our son is thriving socially, emotionally and academically. We are not affiliated with a church and feel as though WCCC is the perfect fit for our family. We have the utmost respect for his teachers and appreciate their knowledge, expertise and love for the kids.

Kristen Hubbell

September 26, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Woodstock Christian Childcare's (WCC) application for a grant. Three of my children have attended WCC over the past eight years. WCC provides a loving, nurturing community that is ideal for childhood development. These types of environments are severely lacking in our community. WCC recognizes this need and is doing a valuable civic duty by taking steps to improve the situation.

When I drop my daughter Ursula off at WCC in the morning here is what I know: I know she will be safe, loved, and taught how to be a caring responsible well-adjusted human being. I know this because the teachers pay attention to the fundamentals of childhood development. Ursula knows how to play with other kids and handle disappointments when the play does not turn out well. She has learned this through the very intentional pedagogy and programming at WCC. The staff at WCC think deeply about how they align their philosophical beliefs and best practices in early childhood education to who the child is they are educating. I know when I drop Ursula off in the morning that she is understood and loved by her teachers.

When Anke asked me to write a letter in support of WCC so that it could create an additional infant room I said an emphatic "Yes." Our community does need infant childcare to support new families who wish to both work and live in our town and have children. It is critical that our community builds its capacity in this area because for many new families childcare is the number one factor that determines where they will live. We were lucky when we secured Ursula's spot in the infant room at WCC. I attribute this luck to the fact that I called and reserved a spot for her when I was three months pregnant with her. Hiring a nanny is not a preferred option for our family for both financial and educational reasons; we needed a day care setting for our children. WCC met our needs.

I fully support WCC's desire to expand its programming because I know that its programming is at the highest caliber and meets a unmet need in our community.

Sincerely,

Kate Kardashian  
107 Woodbury Rd.  
Woodstock, VT

9.27.18

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