

Awards Presented to Outstanding Early Childhood Professionals

At the Early Childhood Professionals Dinner held in April, Champions for Children was honored to present two special awards.

The Legacy Award honors an Early Education Advocate who supports the ongoing work of developing safe and nurturing environments for our youngest East Texans.

This year, the Legacy Award was given to Leigh Evans. She is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University with an art education degree. In 1995, she became Director of the Early Education Center at Green Acres Baptist Church (GABC) where she remained for 21 years. After her retirement, she began teaching CPR/First Aid and training preschool teachers on best practices in the child care classroom at Champions for Children. Today, Leigh is back at work at GABC as the full-time preschool minister.



The “Early Educator of the Year” award honors East Texas Early Educators who demonstrate a commitment to providing the highest quality of services to the children in their care.

Champions presented Megan Romine with the award at the Early Childhood Professionals Dinner. Megan has been in early childhood education for the past four years. She completed her AAS in child development and will soon complete her ABBS in early childhood education.



Megan believes that the structure our young children receive in their first few years goes on to support them in later years as they discover the world around them.

Congratulations to Leigh and Megan. The East Texas community is proud to have you as “Champions” for children.



2023 ANNUAL REPORT
Champions for Children
4883 Hightech Dr.
Tyler, TX 75703
903.592.1454



EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHAMPION

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN IS HELPING TO BUILD
STRONGER FAMILIES & STRONGER COMMUNITIES

OUR MISSION:
Champions for Children empowers children to achieve their full potential by providing education, mentoring, tools and support to caregivers, teachers, and families.

YOU CAN HELP!





At Champions, we believe that every child deserves a champion - an adult they can rely on when times get hard. Often that adult is a parent or other family member. Parents are supposed to have all the answers, but what happens when they don't know what to do?

When East Texas families face difficult decisions about how to address their child's emotional, developmental, or behavioral challenges, they can call Champions for resources and support. Families have access to a Family Care Coordinator, Child Development Specialists, Licensed Professional Counselors, or an Autism Educator who can help them identify and respond to their child's needs.

Parents are not the only adults who are impacting our children. We all remember that one teacher who made a lasting impact in our lives by going above and beyond. With a mission to provide resources to any adult who is caring for children, Champions also supports child care teachers to improve the quality of care that East Texas children receive.

Thank you for supporting Champions for Children for more than 27 years as we provide education, mentoring, tools, and support to caregivers, teacher, and families so that ALL CHILDREN have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Andria Horton
Champions for Children Executive Director

Child Care as an Economic Driver

The City of Athens recently partnered with Champions for Children to recruit and train 10 new child care teachers and provide state-mandated training to existing teachers in the child care centers in the city.

This move comes on the heels of a January meeting to address the shortage of available child care in Athens. The meeting included Athens city and EDC officials, local business leaders, childcare professionals, Workforce Solutions of East Texas, and Champions for Children representatives.

"The City of Athens is showing its commitment to both families and businesses and demonstrating that children really do matter in Athens," said Andria Horton, Champions' executive director.

Anyone interested in training to work in Athens in the child care industry should call Champions at 903-592-1454 for more information.



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2024 CONFERENCES

We are planning for tomorrow by expanding training for early educators with the courses they require, and with new, topical trainings and conferences that reflect childcare trends and issues that are important to parents and caregivers.

- 03/06/24**
Brighter Future Symposium
- 05/04/24**
School-Age Conference
- 08/10/24**
Teacher/Director Tune-Up
- 10/12/24**
Conference of Champions

486
educators
attended 2023
conferences.

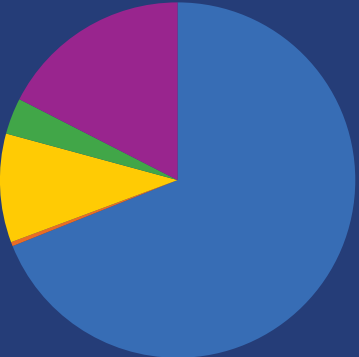
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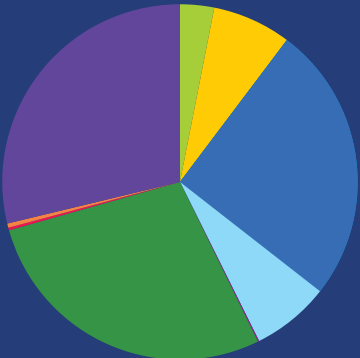
2023

2023 Expenses
\$1,122,832



- Payroll/Contractor Services - \$774,105
- Facilities/Rent/Utilities/Ins. - \$111,189
- Programs/Special Events/Fundraising - \$196,277
- Staff Development - \$4,229
- Supplies - \$37,029

2023 Revenue
\$983,787



- Individual Contributions - \$30,490
- Fees for Services - \$282,949
- Corporate Donations - \$70,604
- Foundations - \$273,922
- State/Federal Grants - \$248,612
- Interest/Dividends - \$2,364
- United Way - \$69,892
- Special Events - \$3,808
- Civic Groups - \$1,142



In 2019, Texas began implementing the Help Me Grow (HMG) System Model. The model helps states and communities leverage existing resources.

With the model, communities can: Identify vulnerable children; link families to community-based services; and empower families to support their child's optimal development. DSHS Maternal and Child Health Unit leads HMG Texas.

Help Me Grow East Texas Lead Organization: Champions for Children
Counties served: Anderson, Cherokee, Gregg, Henderson, Rusk, Smith

training & mentoring

Well-trained, competent, and confident childcare teachers lay the foundation for the academic and social success of the children in their care.



PROFESSIONAL TRAINING CLASSES
2,548 unduplicated students from **168** childcare centers received training in 2023.



TECPA
Tyler Early Childhood Professionals Association brings members together each month to advocate for high-quality early education. TECPA membership includes **38** child care centers and **46** individuals.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE
By working with Workforce Solutions and East Texas Council of Governments, Champions helped **47** early educators earn their CDA credential.



BUSINESS SUPPORT SPECIALISTS
Champions' Business Support Specialists provided business consultations to **86** child care centers throughout East Texas.

specialized services

Champions' specialized services for caregivers, parents and teachers provide the tools to help children of all ages succeed in school and in life.



COUNSELING
Champions' Licensed Professional Counselors provided services to children ages 6-18. In 2023, they had **1,025** counseling appointments.



PERINATAL & PARENTING COUNSELING
Champions' counselors had **201** counseling sessions with pregnant and parenting adults.



CPR/FIRST AID
348 educators and other caregivers received CPR/First training.



SUCCESS PLANS & OBSERVATIONS
Families and teachers of **57** children received developmental and behavioral supports through Champions' Observations and Success Plans.



AUTISM EDUCATION
Champions' autism program served **81** children and their families.



OTHER SERVICES
Sensory Closet - **15** visitors
Social Skills Classes - **30** participants
Brain Gym® - **98** clients
Lending Library - **88** visitors
Resource Room - **81** visitors

Champions Supports Children, Families & Caregivers

- Counseling
- Social Skills
- Autism Education
- Brain Gym®
- Free Observations
- Free resources
- Bright by Text

Champions Supports the Child Care Industry

- Business Support Specialists on staff
- Weekly training opportunities
- Affordable training
- Quarterly conferences
- Free observations
- Free resources
- Free mentoring