

CORNERSTONE EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

THE DREAM



Cornerstone Early Education Center's mission in life is to build a foundation of Christ within Early Education. But the bigger picture is so much larger than the basic classrooms that the center currently runs and invests into. Cornerstone dreams of providing a program that is able to offer:

- Priority to foster kids
- Priority to those involved in the homeless childcare program
- A temporary group home for foster kids new into care
- Parenting classes
- Emotional Development trainings for teachers and foster families
- Visitation services
- A Safe Haven place for baby drop-off
- Daily care to all ages under 13
- Special needs care
- Have multiple school-age programs offered in each district we serve.
- By 2034 have an EEC program offered in La Conner, Burlington, Smokey Point, Sedro-Woolley, Bellingham, Marysville and have the intentions to continue to move South into Everett, Kirkland, Bothell and possible other areas. Wherever God leads.

Now how do we do that? Honestly, with lots of prayer; but the more sophisticated answer is as follows:

PRIORITY TO FOSTER AND HOMELESS CHILDREN

First we start by showing Children's Administration how critical it is for these kids to have the consistency and structure that Cornerstone provides. A child's home and bed can constantly change when homeless or in foster care. Simply having the same daily routine at school can be an essential bridge to a child's success. When we have programs such as DSHS and Community Action supporting our mission, we will be full with kids in need of the love that we have to provide thus creating a train reaction of our center being full. While still being able to provide for all of those needs on top of providing care for the lower, middle and upper class that don't have DSHS or Community Action supporting them, it would be in our best interest to have a Multi-Purpose classroom that can be used for those days when the numbers of children simply just don't work with licensing and safe standards.

GROUP HOME

Children new into care sometimes (sadly, most of the time) end up bouncing from bed, to bed, to bed every night simply because there are not enough foster homes to provide long term care. I would love to be able to provide a home for kids up to one month that are new into care in order to help them feel re-assured that they are wanted, that there is nothing wrong with them, it is simply just their circumstances that lead them to this point in time. I want to take that time to provide them with encouragement and resources that will hopefully be engraved into them to help them get through this

scary time. From that time with the children, we are able to get a better idea of what makes that child tick and can help assist the placement desk in finding a better suited home. I plan to make it a priority as well to allow the children to engage in extra-curricular activities such as church, awana, dancing, gymnastics, martial-arts, seasonal sports, etc. Activities that help assist the child in simply being a child, yet finding something to help encourage them that there is hope despite their circumstances.

PARENTING CLASSES

From training, to support groups, I dream of Cornerstone being a place that families can come to for knowledge, encouragement and support. All parents involved with CPS ends up having to enroll in parenting classes; I feel that unless that parent feels that others have faith in them, those classes will do no good. I want to create support groups and parenting classes that create relationships and allow the parent to feel invested in rather than lectured at. One of my favorite parenting curriculums is titled “Spiritual Parenting” by Michelle Anthony. I plan to offer this group every quarter for all families in hopes that families from all walks of life will be able to come together and create a system of encouragement.

TRAINING CLASSES

Teachers in licensed facilities are required to receive 10+ hours a year of training as well as licensed foster parents are required to receive 36 hours of training every 3 years. I want to be a resource for those working with our children to receive practical training that relates to today’s children. When parents and teachers are on the same page with raising their children, it allows the child to become comfortable with his or her surroundings because they are receiving the same morals and thought process in each atmosphere that highly invests into them daily; school and home. Better yet, I want to be sure that the morals and practices that families and teachers use are being driven by a biblical and God centered prospective.

VISITATION SERVICES

Foster kids are typically stuck having 2-4 hour visits in a small 10x10 room, McDonalds, Libraries or parks; and in the state of Washington, the parks can only happen during the months of June, July and August; if you are lucky. How is a parent supposed to create a positive relationship with their child when restricted to such small and few options? At the Early Education Centers, I want to provide a space for visitation services that allow access to games, books, basic kitchen essentials, crafts, a space for homework and then give them the availability to use the playground as certain times. The added benefit of this is that the rooms would be available during hours of the day that DSHS is not open. Thus allowing kids to not have to miss school, and can still have a good visit with their parents. Not only can Cornerstone offer to supervise the visits, but the space can then be rented out to DSHS for visits not supervised by our employees.

SAFE HAVEN

It is as simple as that. I want to be a place that people know is safe to drop their baby off at if they feel necessary. No questions asked. After dropping off their baby we would then supply them with a “What’s Next?” packet that would help encourage them that despite the failure they may feel, they just made a

huge step in the right direction of saying “I need help”. They can do as they please with the information but we can feel good knowing that we did what we could to help support them.

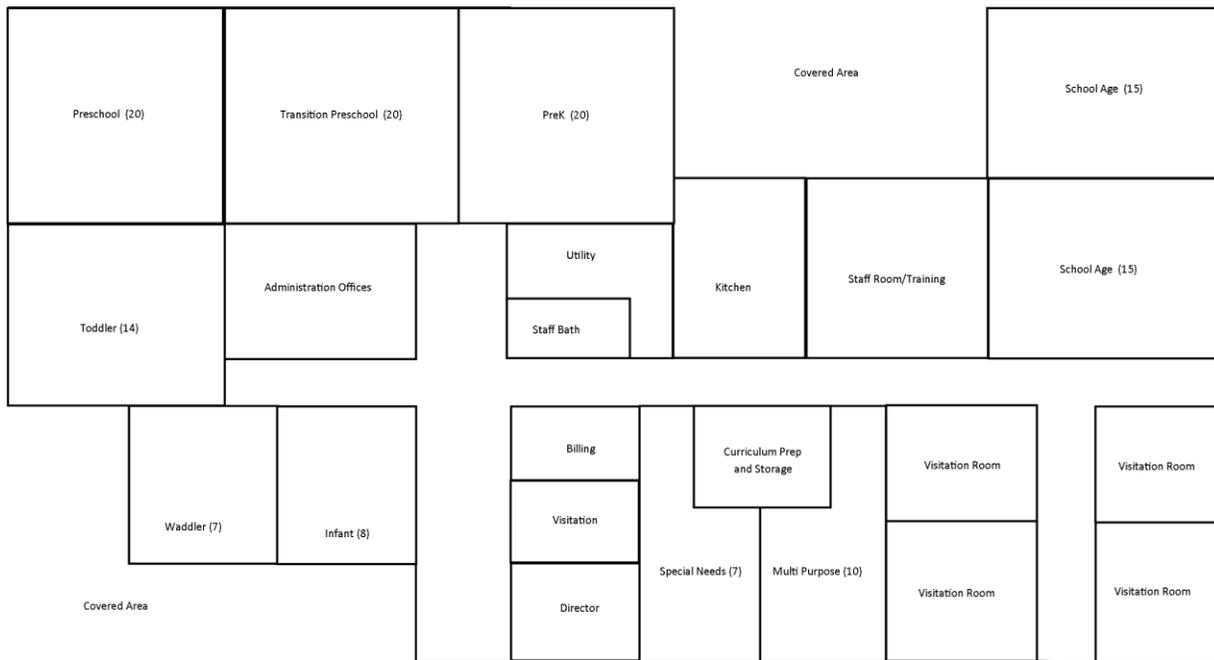
SERVE DAILY CARE

Currently Cornerstone offers care to about 75 kids between the ages of 4 weeks and eight years. We are capable of doing this with simply having 4000 square feet of classroom space; but most days this feels like barely enough and we constantly have to turn families away simply because we do not have space. In the next center that we plan to be the “HUB” for all future centers, we dream of having:

- 10 classrooms consisting of:
 - 1) 8 capacity infant room ages 4 weeks-1 year
 - 1) 7 capacity waddler classroom ages 1 year-18 months
 - 1) 14 capacity toddler classroom ages 18 months-2.5 years
 - 1) 20 capacity preschool room ages 2.5-4 years (designed mostly for potty-training)
 - 1) 20 capacity transition preschool 3-4 year (designed for the preschoolers who are more mature but not ready yet for PreK)
 - 1) 20 capacity Prekindergarten classroom for those 1 year before starting kindergarten.
 - 1) 7 capacity special needs classroom for ages 2.5-5 years
 - 1) 15 capacity school-age classroom ages K-2nd grade
 - 1) 15 capacity school age classroom ages 3rd-6th grade
 - 1) 10 capacity Multi-purpose classroom for use when a classroom is over-capacity or a child simply needs a new environment away from others.
- 4 visitation spaces
- 1 training space to hold approximately 20 people
- Administrative offices to hold the:
 - Owner
 - Visitation director
 - Billing director
 - On-Site Director
 - An open space for the teachers, group home director, trainings director and school-age director to work side-by side in.
- Separate playground for the following age groups:
 - Infant
 - Waddler and Toddler
 - Preschool, Preschool Transition and PreK
 - School Age k-6th

Please see the following floorplan of a basic idea of what we feel would best suit the needs and culture of Cornerstone. Keep in mind that Miss. Mandy is *CERTAINLY* no architect!

New Location Basic Floor Plan



SPECIAL NEEDS CARE

It still surprises me that in this day and age; there are very limited services to children under the age of five with special needs. I want to be a center that breaks that scary epidemic and accepts in kids with diabetes, autism, down syndrome, etc., and allows them to interact with kids who they dream to be just like. We would hire specialist with a small 2-1 or 3-1 ratio depending on the needs of the children and advocate for parents to find occupational therapists, eating specialists, applied behavior analysis therapist, etc. Children with special needs are some of the greatest challenges parents can endure. Simply having a safe place that they can trust to help advocate for their child the way they do, could mean the world to a parent who just wants to remember what it is like to go grocery shopping in peace.

SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMS

The basic 9-3 school schedule is simply just not enough support to give our kids; and with public schools playing such a priority on tests score and statistics, it is very easy for them to forget the most essential part of learning: the relationship. We want to be a bridge between home and school and give the kids a chance to unwind after such a long day, yet still provide them with an opportunity to work on homework in a relaxed environment where they don't feel they have to prove anything. We want to support parents in the tasks that come along with having a school-aged child and help make that transition easier. We can best do this by having 2-3 programs per district and each program only serving 2-3 schools. It allows that school-age teacher to be fully involved with less and have full-knowledge of what is happening. As an added bonus it then cuts back on the costs as well because we would be able to use the school district transportation system instead of paying a staff member to pick up children in a passenger van hat we would have to pay, gas and insurance for.

MULTI-CAMPUS

Being secluded to Mount Vernon is only going to make a small difference within Skagit County, and nothing in other counties. In order to see the hard work that our center puts into advocating for families and creating a healthy environment built on the foundation of Christ and designed for success, we have to go farther than what our boundary lines of Mount Vernon can provide. 1 Peter 2:6 says "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious Cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." We need to allow all that we can the opportunity to stand firm on the Cornerstone, to trust in Jesus Christ and know that they can always do better than what they have, because God's plan, is so much greater than any plan we could imagine.

INVESTMENT



In what ways can you invest? I am sure there are many ways to go about this, but these are the ways we feel will most benefit Cornerstone, and get the balls rolling sooner, rather than later.

PURCHASE AND BECOME LANDLORD

You would have the opportunity to purchase property strictly in your name and Cornerstone would sign a rental lease with you.

INVEST

Simply provide Cornerstone with the funds to go forth with business. Terms would be discussed on how benefits would occur.

There are many other options of investment out there; these options are just a starting point to get discussions rolling. As a new business owner myself, I am always looking for wisdom in what other people's experiences and knowledges have brought them to find. I would be honored to have your family involved in any way with Cornerstone and I am sure your experiences, talents, and heart will truly help Cornerstone Early Education Center meet its full mission; Equip families with the foundation of Christ.