



## Parents As Teachers: Helping Parents Become Their Child's First & Best Teacher

For many people, expecting a child, along with the first crucial few years of being a parent, is a time filled with love, celebration, bonding, and excitement. It can also be a time of great stress for parents, caregivers, or expecting parents who are struggling with life-changing challenges.

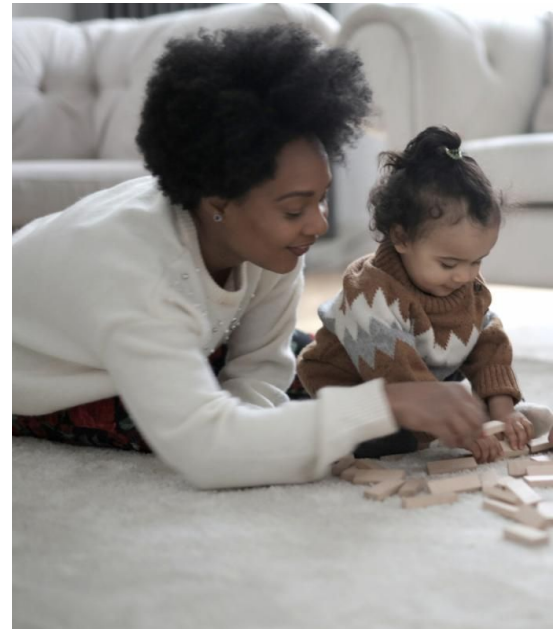
HopePHL's Parents as Teachers (PAT) Home Visiting program is for parents and caregivers of children from birth to three years old, or those expecting a child who are facing housing instability such as temporary living, foreclosure, eviction, landlord challenges, etc.

There are many stories of hope and strength that come from the Parents as Teachers program where parents are given the resources to be their best selves as well as advocate for their children like the ones below (names have been changed for privacy).

*A HopePHL parent educator helped Tiffany receive support with rent and security deposit to move into a new home as well as get her home furnished. Tiffany also followed through on a goal to enroll in a GED program.*

*Stephanie was assisted in finding full-time employment, getting enrolled in programs for childcare benefits, and getting support to pay her past due rent.*

*Vanessa is a parent who received support with moving expenses such as rent and security deposit to move out of a home and into a new one that she believed was making her child sick due to mold.*



The home visiting model of Parents as Teachers is successful as each family is paired with their very own parent educator who can provide them activities to strengthen parent-child interaction, development-centered parenting, and family well-being. Along with these focuses, the educators are able to provide health and developmental screenings, parent group connections and resources for both parents and children.

Parents as Teachers aims to provide support and resources to these families so that they can grow, thrive, and be able to more easily enjoy times with their family. At HopePHL we want to give each parent the tools to be successful as are their child's first and best teacher!

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## Heritage West: Can You Dig It?



Heritage West: the West Philadelphia Community Archaeology Project, a collaboration among HopePHL, Penn Museum, and local community groups, set up at the Community Education Center (CEC) on Lancaster Avenue in West Philadelphia on September 15 as part of (Park)ing Day. The Community Education Center was at one time a Quaker Friends School, and later, a Meetinghouse. Heritage West organizers were excited to invite community members passing by to join their archaeology dig! Three different excavation sites were being worked on at once: a parking spot where three brick rowhomes once stood before the bulldozing of the neighborhood in the 1960s, a space adjacent to the CEC building that was once a stand-alone house, and the final excavation site right in front of the CEC where the school once stood. Different discoveries during the dig gave a glimpse into the past and history of this location such as glass and ceramics.

**Mark your calendars: International Archaeology Day is on October 21, 2023. West Philadelphia neighbors are invited to the CEC excavation site at 3500 Lancaster Avenue to participate in this community archaeology project!**

## Collaborating To Recommend New Shelter Standards City-Wide



HopePHL facilitated a meeting of staff members from shelters and supportive housing programs across the city on September 15 to discuss best practices and services that benefit children ages pre-natal through five years. The goal was to create a document that identifies what all shelters should provide to children and urge all programs to embrace these standards.

Two breakout groups were formed and asked to focus on two different topics. The first group discussed what all housing programs could do to support young children and their healthy development. The second group was asked to list what they currently provide for young children and what they would want to provide if given the resources.

BELL Manager, Omari Baye explains, "One of our primary goals was to get a sense of environmental program changes and the acuity of families being served throughout the emergency housing systems." He continues, "Since COVID, the landscape and experiences of families residing in supportive housing programs have changed, with enrollments in emergency housing reportedly reaching pre-pandemic levels. BELL aspires to always remain nimble so that we might best meet the needs of our provider partners and the families they serve."



## Thank You Wildcats!



Villanova students partnered with HopePHL for St. Thomas of Villanova's Day of Service! The students helped to clear out and organize one of HopePHL's residential buildings designed for artists. This created space for meetings, events, and a place to showcase the work of artists living in the building.

To go along with the newly organized space, the students help was able to free up some time for our HopePHL team, who were then able to focus their energy on updating a previously covered window with artwork from local artist Emmanuel Olufemi Olatunji ("Femi") and pictures of our community members.

Although the rainy weather prevented the students and HopePHL team from getting started on an outdoor painting project, we hope to host more Villanova students in the future to help take this project on!



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## Study: Focus on Young Children in Shelters Improves Lives

*HopePHL's Omari Baye and Sarah Vrabic Co-Authored Published Article*

Building Early Links For Learning (BELL) team members, Sarah Vrabic and Omari Baye, co-authored a new peer-reviewed study by the Cambridge University's journal of Development and Psychopathology. The findings demonstrate that when shelters focus on early development, families do better: young children are more likely to access high quality early childhood programs and some are less likely to go into foster care. BELL has produced high rates of early childhood program enrollment, specifically in high-quality programs at **42.3%**.

The study is uniquely comprehensive because it uses integrated data for all children born in Philadelphia over multiple years without relying exclusively on parent-report methods. Other co-authors of this article are J.J. Cutuli and Janette E. Herbers.

If you would like a copy of the full report please reach out to [hello@hopephl.org](mailto:hello@hopephl.org)



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## Outdoor Playful Learning At Families Forward!

The Everyday Learning Play Spaces team recently installed indoor and outdoor playful learning installations at Families Forward! The posts were intentionally designed to promote gross motor play while families walk around them.



These signposts were inspired by requests from staff and families for more outdoor play that encourages use of their imagination and use of the entire Families Forward campus as a space for play and learning. They inspire “scavenger hunt” activities where families can search for each installation and engage with the various prompts, creating an iterative experience.



Accompanying the posts is a floor to ceiling mural that the team is extremely proud of! The mural depicts a dream-like landscape occurring “in the clouds”, above the Families Forward campus.



Children and caregivers can spot activities like reading, double-dutch, gardening, a cookout, painting, and much more. The mural also contains prompts for animal identification and creative storytelling.

We hope the joyful characters playing together in the mural will inspire families to play together and try new activities at Families Forward and in the surrounding West Philadelphia neighborhood. The mural’s imaginative concept and specific activities depicted all came from the families’ unique dreams and ideas.

Our team would like to thank artist Lindsey Balbierz for bringing their ideas to life and fabricator Jon Lubow for the installation.

Stay tuned as we schedule a grand reveal of all of our work at Families Forward, including the brand new child friendly space room!

# Register to Join Our Next Children Work Group Early Childhood Conference!



*The Conference is on Friday, October 20,  
9:30 AM to 11 AM. Register Here!*

Dr. Janette Herbers will share final results of a national survey taken by shelter staff who work with children experiencing homelessness.

She writes: “Family homeless shelters are critical contexts in which many young children develop; however, little is known about the developmental appropriateness of these settings, including their resources and the capacity of their staff to effectively meet the needs of the children and families they serve. The current study involves both quantitative and qualitative components to assess aspects of developmental appropriateness of US shelter spaces for children ages birth to 5 years, with an emphasis on staff knowledge, parenting programs, and play spaces.”

In addition, we will discuss new data on the prevalence of childhood homelessness in Philadelphia and surrounding communities.

## Time to Update Your Address Book! An Important Change Regarding Our Email Communication

We will no longer be using the email domain pec-cares.org for our company email addresses. We are excited to be fully transitioned to the new domain hopephl.org moving forward!

Please double check and update the current contact information for us on file so you don't miss any of our continued communication.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding regarding this update!

October

9  
Monday  
--  
31  
Tuesday

Contact Kevin Brown for  
More Information

### NAC Halloween/Fall House Decorating Contest 2023

Neighborhood Advisory Committee 6th Annual Halloween/Fall Decorating Contest - Residents should send pictures of either their Halloween or Fall themed decorations via email or by tagging HopePHL social media!

The contest runs from October 9th - October 31st

October

14  
Saturday

### New Freedom District Fall Festival

Celebrating and Honoring our Past with a Vision for the Future  
Free dinner, entertainment, smooth jazz, open mic, invited guest speakers,  
museum & walking tours, food pantry, giveaways, community resource tables,  
games for children, moon bounce, face painting & vendors

Click For More  
Information

Saturday October 14  
New Africa Freedom Square  
4234 Lancaster Ave, Philadelphia

For more information contact:  
Abdul Rahim Muhammad at 267-957-5971 or email [ICPIC@RCN.COM](mailto:ICPIC@RCN.COM)

October

14  
Saturday

Click For More  
Information

## Criminal Record Expungement & Pardon Project

The Neighborhood Advisory Subcommittee, in conjunction with the Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity, are hosting a FREE Expungement and Pardon Clinic

Saturday October 14  
Philly Cuts  
4409 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia

October

20  
Friday

Contact Joe Willard for  
More Information

## Children's Work Group for Early Childhood Conference

Dr. Janette Herbers will share final results of a national survey taken by shelter staff who work with children experiencing homelessness.

In addition, we will discuss new data on the prevalence of childhood homelessness in Philadelphia and surrounding communities.

Friday, October 20  
Online Zoom Link  
[Register Here](#)

October

21  
Saturday

More Info About Heritage  
West: The West  
Philadelphia Community  
Archaeology Project

## International Archaeology Day

West Philadelphia neighbors are invited to the CEC excavation site at 3500 Lancaster Avenue to participate in this community archaeology project!

Saturday, October 21  
Community Education Center  
3500 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia

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Thank you so much for being a part of our community!



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Feedback



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