



COMMITMENT TO MISSION

2021-2022 IMPACT REPORT



Flance Early Learning Center provides excellence by educating and nurturing young children, supporting families, and strengthening community.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Who thought that the 2021-2022 school year would continue to bring so many challenges to education? The big “C,” Covid, continued to impact everyone, yet it is another “C” that has made our year so exceptional—that is our **Commitment to Mission**.

It truly is our commitment to our mission that continues to attract attention to Flance. Our commitment to children was demonstrated by their outcomes and our growing enrollment waitlist. Our commitment to families was strong, with many re-implemented family and parent events. And our commitment to community was evidenced by the programs we offered: weekly free fresh food, Covid testing, and distribution to families of \$500 gift cards from St. Louis ARPA monies.

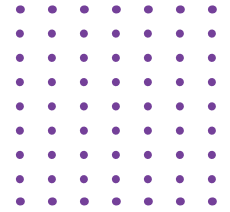
Being honored with the 2021 Green Ribbon School Award highlighted Flance’s commitment to sustainable education and practices. But the awards are not the reason we do what we do. It is our commitment to excellence and educating young children that provide the greatest rewards.

But it is you—our advocates, partners, supporters, funders, friends and donors—who make this all possible. Your commitment to Flance makes a difference in the lives of children, families, staff and community daily. Thank you.

Tami Timmer



Executive Director



“We are grateful for the intentional care Flance provides families.

We believe our son does well there because of the support he has in his class and throughout the building. Thank you for caring for our child!”

– Dani P.

DEMOGRAPHICS



Total Students Served: **156**

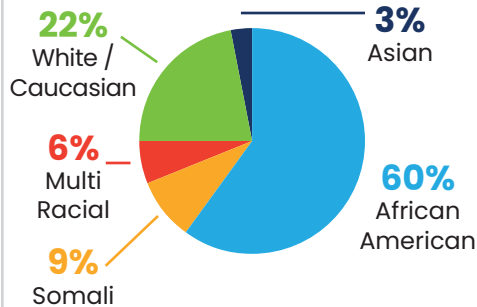
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

GENDER RACE / ETHNICITY HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

45% Male



55% Female



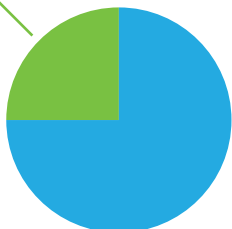
49% Dual Parent



51% Single Parent

INCOME

25% Middle or Upper Income



75% Low Income

ZIP



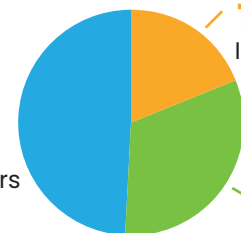
90% From STL City



10% From STL County

AGE

49% Pre-schoolers



32% Toddler



FOCUS ON LITERACY

Beginning in infancy, experiences that promote phonetic awareness, vocabulary and verbalization set children up for success. Flance’s approach is informed by this principle and is focused on language awareness, development and cognition.

To create a language-rich environment, teachers engage babies and toddlers in a myriad of activities—talking, singing, and reading books with rhyme, rhythm, and repetition. For older children, teachers create an awareness of books and print, and offer activities such as playing with sounds in words, exploring the relationship between letters and sounds, vocabulary, story comprehension, and rhyming games. Most importantly, Flance teachers seek to make the school experience a joyful one that reinforces children’s natural creativity, curiosity and love of discovery.

THE IMPACT OF COVID

During the 2021-22 school year, the coronavirus pandemic continued to impact every level of society, and schools were no exception. Flance remained nimble in the face of the Omicron crisis, working with **Integrated Labs** to offer free weekly Covid testing for Flance families and people in the community. Beginning in November, 2021, Head Start mandated that children two years and older wear masks. While we experienced 10, 10-day classroom closures, we are happy to report that student outcomes were unaffected by the disruption.



“Flance is the one and only reason I still have my teaching position at Washington University. Early in the pandemic they committed to finding a safe way to consistently stay open. I am forever grateful to these humans! They are my safety net, and the only reason I’m not a statistic—one of hundreds of women forced out of the workforce due to loss of childcare.”

– Sage D.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

Kindergarten Readiness



100%

Prepared for Kindergarten



100%

Met or exceeded social-emotional benchmarks



100%

Met or exceeded language and literacy benchmarks

Pre-K Development



85%

Met or exceeded cognitive benchmarks



91%

Met or exceeded social-emotional benchmarks



91%

Met or exceeded language and literacy benchmarks

Infant and Toddler Development



80%

Met or exceeded cognitive benchmarks



77%

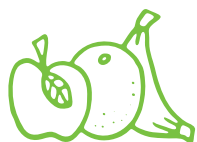
Met or exceeded social-emotional benchmarks



68%

Met or exceeded language and literacy benchmarks

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



FEATURED PARTNER URBAN HARVEST

Flance is fortunate to partner with Urban Harvest, an organization that believes in **food equity** – the principle that all members of our community should have equitable access to fresh, healthy food regardless of economic status or geographic location. Urban Harvest manages and underwrites Flance’s community garden, and their educators provide a true **“farm-to-table” approach**, exploring the cycle of planting, watering, harvesting, cooking and composting. Tending the garden is a developmentally positive experience for children, teaching patience, teamwork, and an understanding of the origins of our food.



“The program focuses on healthy eating. That encourages me to do that at home because she is used to it. She also enjoys the garden and that encourages me to make healthier choices at home.”

– Brooklyn S.

SUSTAINABILITY

Exposure to sustainable practices at a young age builds compassion and care for the environment that influences children and their families. Alternative agriculture techniques like **hydroponics** and **aquaponics**, gardening practice for toddlers, and creative use of non-recyclable materials are included in the curriculum.



NUTRITION & EXERCISE

Monthly nutrition education and exercise are essential aspects of our program. The FIT (Flance Inside Time) Zone provides space for creative play and the development of gross motor skills. The garden provides wholesome ingredients, and Chef LeRoy Davis keeps the children fed. His homemade baby food is especially appreciated by families.

600 nutritious meals per week
30,000 meals annually

ART THERAPY

Flance continued its partnership with Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville’s Art Therapy Program, engaging a masters-level student, Abby Gonzalez, who worked weekly with students needing focused, individual attention. The year culminated in an exhibit of works created by our young students.



HEALTH SERVICES

In the spirit of our namesake, Dr. Jerome Flance, we offer free wraparound health care services. Working with local partners **Affinia Healthcare**, **BJC Healthy Kids Express**, **Delta Gamma for Vision-Impaired Children**, and the **Center for Hearing and Speech**, Flance provides an opportunity for early health intervention and action plans to best support families and children.



369



TOTAL ON-SITE HEALTH APPOINTMENTS



146

Vision



84

Dental



75

Medical



64

Hearing



"Flance does a great job bringing in resources for on-site medical care. As a single parent this helps a lot so I don't have to take off work for my son's appointments."

– Jenna B.



PITCH

Parents If Talking Can Help began as a parent support group in December, 2020. Thanks to funding provided by the **Cigna Foundation**, the PITCH Program was fully realized in 2021, offering families monthly resources including parenting ideas, networking opportunities and early childhood education tips. Over **80% of Flance parents participated**, reading articles, watching videos and attending family and community events.



DROP & SHOP

Drop & Shop is an annual event that allows parents to shop for new and gently used toys, clothes and household goods at no cost. Our goal is to alleviate the financial stress that can accompany the holidays. Approximately **53% of our students benefited** from the donations offered during the 2021 event. Special thanks to **BJC/Children's Hospital**, Flance families, donors, and community members.



"I like how supporting one another is ingrained in our culture. Flance staff has built relationships with our families so they aren't hesitant to ask for help beyond their child's education. During difficult times, our families feel comfortable asking for assistance as well as lending a hand to other families who might need a little extra help."

– Sharon Smith, Infant Classroom Executive



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

An important aspect of Flance's mission is to strengthen community by providing services and sharing resources with our neighbors and the greater St. Louis region. Community events and activities in 2021-22 included the following:



ABC DAYS

Arts and Building Community Day was created to engage the community in art, garden and building projects. **Over 250 children and adults** participated in events on November 6, 2021 and April 30, 2022. The following organizations were represented: St. Louis College Kids, SLU Volunteers, Washington University Engineers Without Borders, Mental Health of Eastern Missouri, Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department, the MO Voter Protection Program and Fathers and Families Support Center.

FRESH FOOD FRIDAYS



Throughout the year Flance served as a hub for a weekly food giveaway with partner **The Bailey Foundation**. Along with Flance families, we distributed nearly a ton of fresh food each week to neighborhood families, churches and senior residents at the Cahill House.

LET'S GROW TOGETHER

The Luminary, "an expansive platform for art, thought, and action" with support from **STL Made**, commissioned artist **Eugenia Alexander** to create a painting that reflects the diversity of Flance and the surrounding community. *Let's Grow Together* was installed on the west wall of the Flance building on a chilly and gray January day, bringing vivid color



and warmth to the neighborhood. "I wanted to create something that spoke to growing community," says Alexander. "In a garden, you have different seeds, plants and flowers. The variety makes the garden interesting." The metaphor is an apt one, for Flance is certainly a diverse and colorful place.



"[The experience at Flance] has been amazing from the beginning and still is, from the food boxes, diverse curriculum, friendly and caring staff to healthcare providers coming on site for necessary checkups and routines. I love it!"

— Lovetta J.



VOLUNTEERS AND AMERICORPS VISTA

Despite the barriers to volunteering caused by the pandemic, **volunteers provided 3,789 hours of service** in our classrooms, during events, and around the building. AmeriCorps VISTAs Erin McFarland (Sustainability Specialist) and Sean Baldwin (Programs and Outcomes Specialist) proved that volunteerism is what truly builds capacity. By building community with families and neighbors and enhancing our educational programs, AmeriCorps VISTAs continue to be integral to the infrastructure of the organization.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



Flance staff provided an afterschool basketball program for neighborhood children.



KIDS WIN MISSOURI



Dr. Pam Thomas

On September 21, 2021, Flance hosted an event with Kids Win Missouri to introduce Dr. Pam Thomas, the director of the **State Office of Childhood**. This new office is welcome news for early learning advocates, who will now see all programs related to child-care, early intervention, early learning and home visits coordinated in one

centralized department. In introducing the office, Governor Parson said, *“Missouri families deserve the best early childhood system our state can provide. This is a critical area of workforce development. We must see that the work force of tomorrow starts off on the right foot, and that means better support for Missouri children and their families.”*



CHILD’S PLAY

Aligning A New Vision For Educating Missouri’s Youngest Children

On April 26, 2022, Flance Board members Karen Shaughnessy and Alison Ferring hosted a luncheon at the Saint Louis Woman’s Club with Linda Rallo, Vice President of **Aligned**, an education advocacy group. Over 40 early childhood education enthusiasts listened to Ms. Rallo describe the efforts being made at the state level by a consortium of early education advocates to recognize the essential value of high-quality early education and find new sources of support for providers and educators.

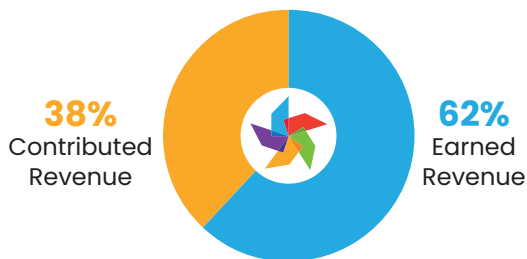


Left to right: Karen Shaughnessy, Tami Timmer, Linda Rallo, Valerie Miller and Alison Ferring



2021–2022 FINANCIALS

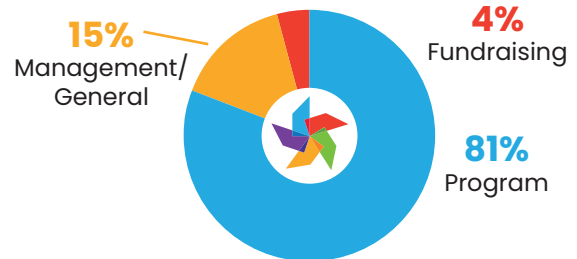
REVENUES AND SUPPORT



Revenues and Support

Public Tuition	\$ 1,071,519
Private Tuition	\$ 378,532
Earned Revenue	\$ 1,450,051
Cares Act	\$ 493,266
Individuals	\$ 201,332
Foundations/Corporations	\$ 187,222
Contributed Revenue	\$ 881,820
Total Revenues	\$ 2,331,871

EXPENSES



Expenses

Program	\$ 1,512,259
Management/General	\$ 287,402
Fundraising	\$ 76,583
Total Expenses	\$ 1,876,244
Net Revenue	\$ 455,627*
Net Assets, Beginning of year	\$ 280,097
Net Assets, End of year	\$ 735,724**

*Preliminary, pre-audited results

** \$493,266 of this total represents extraordinary income distributed through the federal CARES Act and ARPA appropriations.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING FLANCE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

2021-22 Institutional Funders (\$5,000 and above)

American Direct Marketing Resources
Block STL (formerly Square)
Boeing Employees Community Fund
Cigna Foundation
Dana Brown Charitable Trust,
U.S. Bank, Trustee
Ferring Family Foundation
Hauck Charitable Foundation
MO Department of Economic
Development
MO Environmental Education
Association
Pershing Charitable Trust
PNC Foundation
Herman T. and Phenie R. Pott
Foundation
The Saigh Foundation
St. Louis Mental Health Board
St. Louis Philanthropic Organization
Staenberg Family Foundation
Trio Foundation of St. Louis
Youth In Need

2021-22 Program Partners

Affinia Healthcare
The Bailey Foundation
Books for STL Kids
Center for Hearing and Speech
Child Care Aware
BJC/Children's Hospital,
Healthy Kids Express
Delta Gamma Center for Children
with Visual Impairments
The Gateway Alliance
Integrated Labs
Metro Theater Company
Mission St. Louis
Parents as Teachers
Ready Readers
Resilience Builders
SIU-E Art Therapy Department
St. Louis Learning Disabilities
Association
St. Louis Mayor and Treasurer Offices
Saint Louis Public Library
Saint Louis University
United for Children
Urban Harvest
Youth in Need

2021-22 Board of Directors

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Adam Walker



**For a complete list of individual donors and institutional funders,
visit www.flancecenter.org/donors2022**



GREEN RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD AND MAYORAL VISIT

In September, 2021, Flance was honored to accept the national 2021 Green Ribbon School award from the Department of Education in Washington D.C., where staff met with Congresswoman Cori Bush and Senator Roy Blunt to discuss the importance of early learning and green education. The political visits continued in October when St. Louis Mayor Tishaura Jones and Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas toured Flance.

ALISON AND JOHN FERRING

On June 8, 2022, Washington University recognized Alison and John Ferring with the Harris Community Service Award. Like Jane and Whitney Harris, the Ferrings have profoundly impacted a diverse array of organizations throughout our region, and this includes Flance Early Learning Center. Alison has been a guiding light since she joined the Board of Directors in 2014. We are deeply grateful to Alison and John, who generously bequeathed the monetary award of \$50,000 accompanying this honor to Flance.



Left to right, bottom row: John Ferring, Alison Ferring, Tami Timmer, Kiara Fite. Second row: Valerie Miller, Sandra Moore, Susan Glassman. Top row: Evan Fowler, Lewis Chase, Naeem Slaise, Gregory Glore.



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