

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023



Nina Dei Tos Zanon

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Families, Supporters, Volunteers, Friends,

In looking back over the last year, I can say with utmost certainty that our school is very fortunate. This past school year, our enrollment was the highest it has been for the fifth consecutive year. We have started to plan for our centennial celebration in the coming year and are anticipating even greater growth. We have welcomed new faces, initiatives, and generous supporters. We believe that those who have gone before us and those who continue alongside us will set us up success for the next 100 years.

Although our school relies on the support of our community and those who have believed in our mission from the start, none of it would be possible without the individuals on the ground doing the work. Our staff is committed to ensuring that every child feels seen and that their educational needs are met to the highest standard. Our teachers and therapists understand that each child is uniquely made to learn in different ways, and they do everything they can to meet them where they are at.

To provide this level of education, we need the support of the community and individuals who are committed to our growth. Thank you for being a part of our mission. By simply taking the time to read our Annual Report, you are showing that our mission is something you care to know more about, and, as they say, knowledge is power. Our hope is that you become involved in the continued change and evolution that will take place at WVCA, especially in the coming year.

It is always important to remember where you came from. The past develops our present, and as we look back at WVCA from the very beginning, it is by no mistake that we have gotten to where we are today. It took love, patience, generosity, and endurance to begin such a wonderful mission, and we are fortunate to see our founders' labor come to fruition.

As we enter our centennial year, our hopes and expectations for the school have never been higher. We have a committee of individuals who believe in our vision and are committed to bringing further growth to our school. As you read through our 2022-2023 Annual Report, we hope that the stories, visual representations of impact, and statistics of growth remind you of the future found in educating and supporting our children.

Wishing you all the best! Hope to see you throughout the year as we celebrate 100 years of WVCA.

Sincerely,

Nina Dei Tos Zanon
Executive Director

Email: nzanon@wvcakids.org

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ANDREW'S STORY

WVCA met Andrew and his family in 2020. During his first year, Andrew stayed home due to his health conditions, but continued to stay in touch with his teachers and therapists. Teachers wrote emails, Miss Jane shared multiple Occupational Therapy (OT) videos on YouTube, and Miss Beth held regular virtual meetings for Speech Therapy (SP) sessions as well. All of these activities helped Andrew catch up with his peers. Andrew officially started Preschool in the Spring of 2021. One of the things that Andrew's parents love most about WVCA is the communication from his teachers and therapists. As Andrew started in-person classes, his teachers and therapists made sure his parents were kept up to date with daily activity reports, therapeutic reports, and parent-teacher meetings.

Andrew's family loves that WVCA embraces every child with patience and tolerance. In the words of Andrew's father, **"All of Andrew's teachers and therapists have given him great patience toward his uniqueness...Each time Andrew faces challenges, his teachers are on his side, work with him, encourage him, and cheer happily as he overcomes obstacles."**

In hearing directly from Andrew's therapists, they have seen great progress in his occupational, physical, and speech therapies. Miss Jane (OT) shared: "We are all so proud of Andrew's progress and have seen the impact of a team approach to providing the just right challenge and effective strategies for him. In the classroom and during therapy sessions, we have seen how the use of praise, songs, and incentives have motivated him to learn and engage. These strategies have allowed for scaffolding of his skills, so he continues to progress toward his goals." Miss Beth (SP) shared: "Andrew has been working hard towards building his expressive communication through verbal language. At the beginning of the year, Andrew was a quiet student --primarily communicating through pointing and gestures. Fast forward to today, Andrew will hum familiar songs, verbalize names of his family members (Mama, Dada, Amy), request his favorite character - 'Peppa Pig' and say 'hi' to everyone he passes in the school hallway!"

To sum it all up using Andrew's father's words: **"In parents' life-long journey to make our dreams most beautiful, please take my word for it, WVCA is a trustworthy comrade. Because of love, WVCA's impact on her students could easily be felt after many years."**

We are incredibly grateful to play a part in the lives of children, just like Andrew.



INCOME 2022-2023

8%
EITC

3%
ENDOWMENT/INVESTMENTS

23%
GRANTS

11%
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN
& FUNDRAISING EVENTS

13%
TUITION

42%
REIMBURSEMENT

EXPENSES 2022-2023

3%
EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

1%
INSURANCE

2%
UTILITIES

83%
EMPLOYEE WAGE
& BENEFITS

7%
PROGRAM EXPENSE

4%
BUILDING & GROUNDS

LEARN MORE ABOUT WVCA

OUR CLIENTS

WVCA is a family made up of many diverse individuals.

From our staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, and most importantly, our students and families! We pride ourselves on being inclusive - as we serve children from birth to Kindergarten age with a variety of developmental delays, as well as typically developing children. Types of diagnoses and disabilities served at WVCA include autism spectrum disorders, Down Syndrome, premature birth, sensory integration disorders, developmental delays, gross motor delays, speech/language delays, muscular dystrophy, intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, seizure disorders, and more.

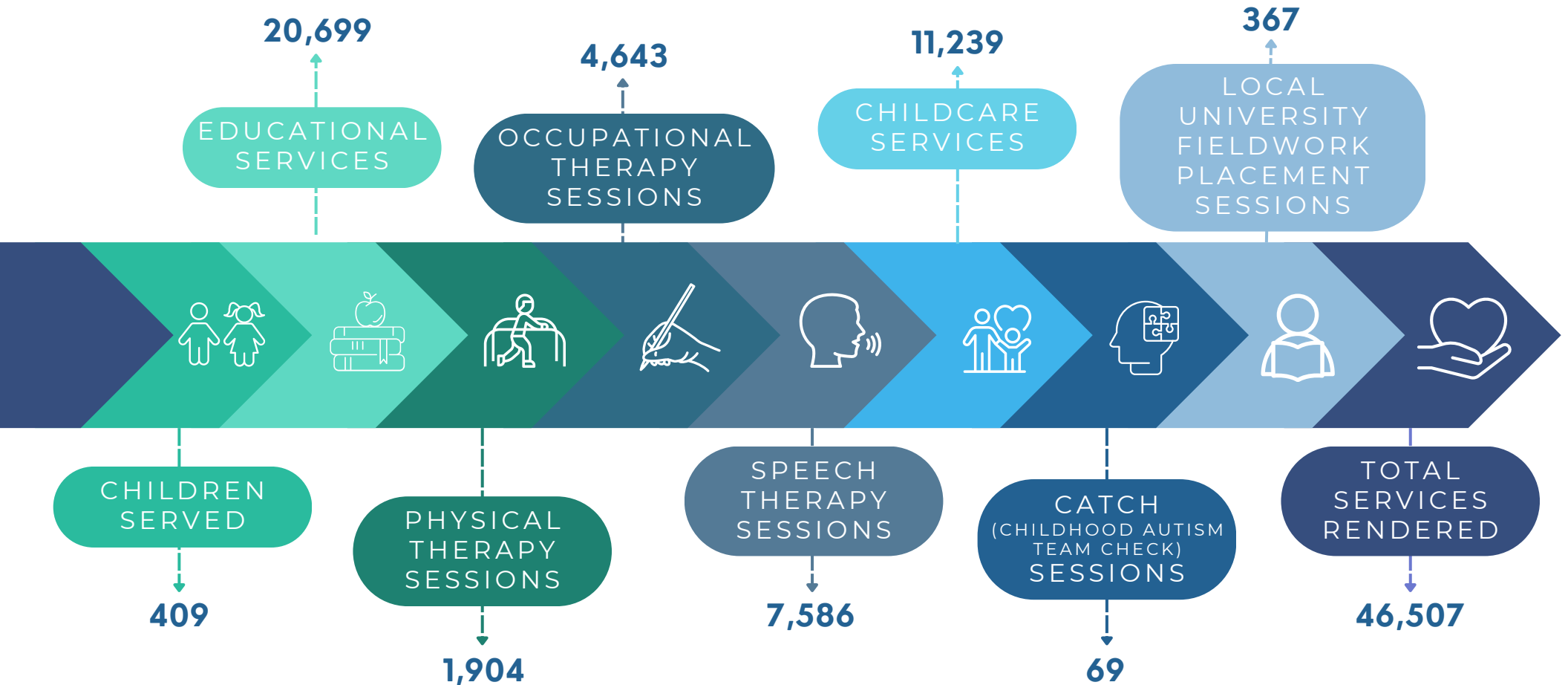


OUR PROGRAMS

WVCA's largest program is our Together We Grow Preschool, licensed by the PA Department of Education State Board of Private Academic Schools and Department of Human Services in a Keystone STAR 4 Center. Additionally, our Kindergarten also serves students with developmental delays and typically developing children. Our programs are designed to give children the opportunity to grow in all areas of development. WVCA also offers physical, occupational, and speech therapies to students in need. Another one of our programs is our partnership with PA Early Intervention to offer home-based therapy and education services for children from birth through three years of age. In addition, we host the CATCH (Childhood Autism Team Check) Clinic which helps to diagnose autism and related conditions as appropriate.



STATISTICS





OUR GOAL

WVCA is a very special school.

We truly believe in every child's unique potential and strive to minimize and/or eliminate the effects of developmental delays through therapeutic services and quality education. By serving ALL children, WVCA creates an inclusive environment for children to discover and develop into curious learners and compassionate citizens. Our goal is to help children develop into the fullest of their ability in preparation for Kindergarten, grade school, and beyond. We have a solid reputation for high-quality programs and look forward to serving our community for many years to come. WVCA's 100th Anniversary is just round the corner in 2024, so stay tuned for special announcements as we prepare for this monumental occasion.

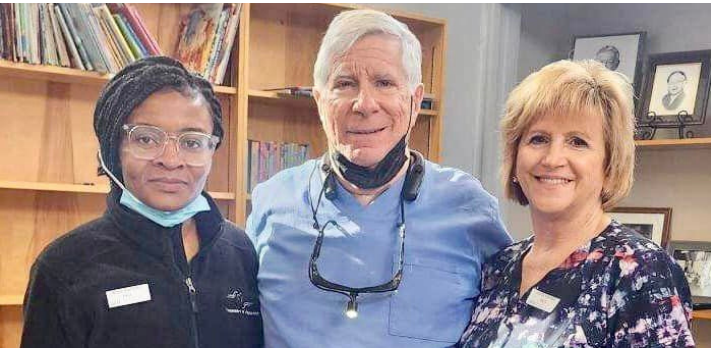
OUR FACILITY

WVCA is located at 1133 Wyoming Avenue, Forty Fort, PA 18704.

Our facility consists of our 10 classrooms, Occupational, Physical, and Speech therapy suites, handicap accessible playgrounds, and an outdoor STEAM learning classroom. We also have one of the area's few multisensory rooms. WVCA has been in this current location for over 15 years - before this facility, our agency was located at the Kirby Health Center in Wilkes-Barre for more than 80 years. While our school is in Forty Fort, we serve children from all over the Wyoming Valley, as well as surrounding areas. WVCA's school year traditionally starts the week before Labor Day and ends in early June. WVCA also run an extended school year program in the Summer and offers year-round childcare.



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS!



TESTIMONIALS



Our daughter, Scarlett, started at WVCA in February, 2022 when she turned 3 years old. She was diagnosed with a speech delay a few months before this, so it was really important to our family that we enrolled her in a preschool that would fully support her needs. WVCA has exceeded all expectations! She is able to receive speech therapy during her school day and has gained so much confidence. We have seen such a turnaround in just a year and a half!

When our son turned 2, we knew we wanted to get him enrolled in the Infant/Toddler program. We wanted him to be able to interact with children his age. He is loving it!

One of my favorite things about WVCA is that they are so communicative. We are never left guessing what our children are doing during their school day. We feel safe and confident while they are at school. I highly recommend WVCA to anyone looking for a preschool for their children. We couldn't be any happier with our choice to send them here!

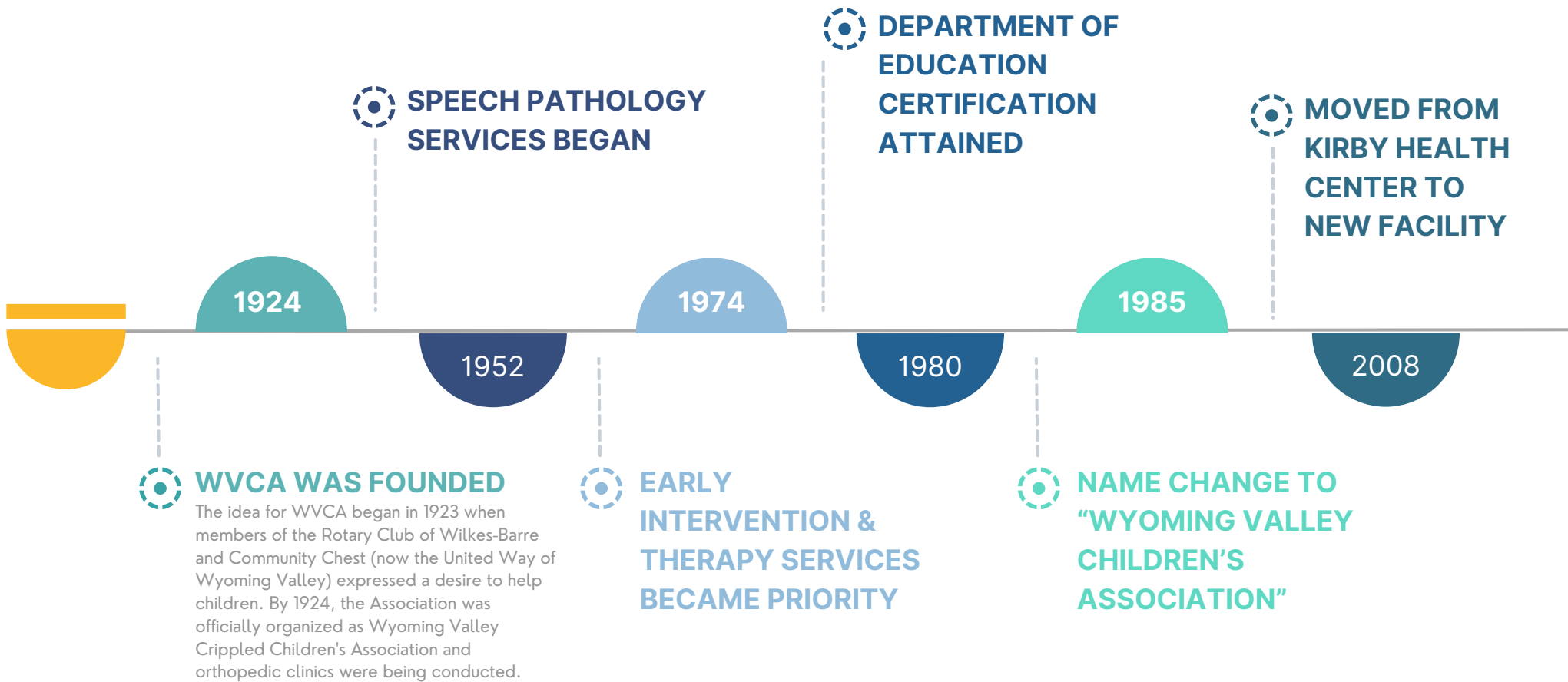
-Jordan K.

Our family is so very thankful for the commitment and dedication of the entire staff at WVCA! We finally found a school that matches our beliefs that children with disabilities are worthy and capable of great things! Through the loving and encouraging environment at WVCA, Cecilia has formed an amazing foundation to learning and has absolutely blossomed!

-Denise H.



WVCA - Through the Years



**LAUNCH OF
KINDERGARTEN
PROGRAM**

2013



CELEBRATING OUR CENTENNIAL

100 years of impacting the lives of children and embracing all abilities. The level of impact is immeasurable. Surrounded by a great community of philanthropists and generous supporters, WVCA has been able to evolve with every passing decade. The future is bright and the opportunities for further expansion are endless.

PRESENT

2019

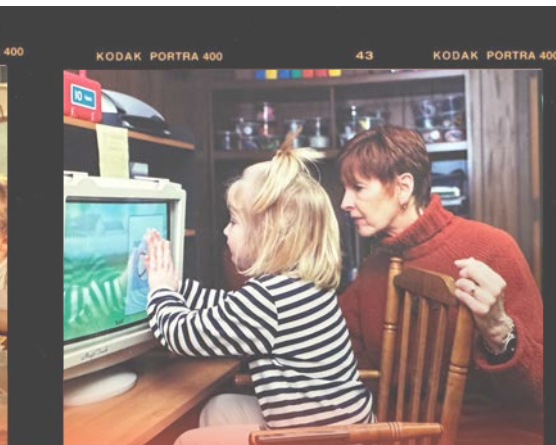
CONT.

2019

2024

**LAUNCHED
INFANT/TODDLER
PROGRAM**

**MAJOR FACILITY
RENOVATION THROUGH
GRANT SUPPORT**



CHAMPION CIRCLE

DR. HARRY A. SMITH CLUB
\$10,000+

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While Wyoming Valley Children's Association makes every possible attempt to recognize our donors with utmost accuracy, we apologize for any errors or omissions that might have inadvertently occurred in this acknowledgment of our valued donors. If for some reason your name was omitted, listed as anonymous, in an incorrect giving category, or if you would like it listed differently in the future, please contact Nina Zanon at (570)714-1246 or nzanon@wvcakids.org.

SAVE THE DATES

- **Blue & Gold Centennial Gala - March 23, 2024**
- **Annual Meeting - June, 2024**
- **Do it for the Kids Walk-A-Thon - Fall, 2024**

If you are interested in being a Centennial Sponsor or would like to sponsor one of our events, please email info@wvcakids.org or call 570.714.1246

Blue & Gold Gala

WVCA held another highly successful gala with great support from our community. The Blue and Gold Gala was held at The Woodlands, and our Online Silent Auction was extremely popular, raising the most money in our auction's history. Overall, the event raised over \$60,000 for WVCA programs! Thank you to our Gala committee and Presenting Sponsors Pride Mobility and The Bergman Foundation for your overwhelming support. A few event highlights are below:

- 130 guests joined us for the gala and over 150 bidders registered for the online auction.
- Over 440 bids were placed during the online auction.
- WVCA showcased close to 100 items in our online auction this year.





Annual Meeting

Wyoming Valley Children's Association (WVCA) hosts an Annual Meeting luncheon each year to reflect on organizational accomplishments, inform the general community about our services and present the Golden Apple Award to a worthy WVCA supporter. The award is presented to individuals, community groups, or corporations within our community who have demonstrated outstanding dedication to our organization's mission. This year's 100th Annual Meeting will be held in June, 2024.



“Do it for the Kids” Walk-a-Thon

After two years of either canceled or modified Walk events, WVCA was proud to host our 30th Anniversary Walk-A-Thon in its traditional format. The event featured a picnic lunch (with all food donated by local organizations), children's activities, vendor tables, food trucks and so much more. The 30th Anniversary event raised nearly \$30,000 for WVCA programs! A warm thank you to our Co-Chairs Ruth Corcoran and Mickey Kane and Presenting Sponsor Sundance Vacations for your generosity. A few event highlights are below:

- Close to 200 guests joined us for the Walk-A-Thon this year.
- Multiple community groups, such as Wyoming Seminary, Wilkes University Nursing Program, and more, volunteered their time during the event.



WAYS TO GIVE



Round Up Program

Round-Up your spare change into a donation & easily support our students.



One Time Donation

Make a one-time donation to Wyoming Valley Children's Association (WVCA).



Monthly Donation

Multiply your impact by making a monthly donation to support our school.



Wish List Donation

Support our teachers & therapists by purchasing the items they need on our Amazon Wish List.

Check out our website for more information and other ways you can give!

<https://www.wvcakids.org/donate>

OUR VISION

Wyoming Valley Children's Association will establish the foundation on which children will be accepted and celebrated for their uniqueness, and will be supported by families and the community to achieve an optimal quality of life.



OUR MISSION

Wyoming Valley Children's Association provides the highest quality early childhood education to ensure the greatest developmental potential of ALL children in partnership with their families, including therapeutic and support services as needed.





A CENTURY OF SUCCESS - A FUTURE OF HOPE



Thank you to our friends at PDQ Print Center for helping produce this year's Annual Report. We appreciate your continued support of WVCA!

CONTACT US

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Forty Fort, PA 18704

Phone: 570-714-1246

Email: info@wvcakids.org

Website: www.wvcakids.org

Social Media: [f @WVCAkids](https://www.facebook.com/WVCAkids) [@wvca_kids](https://www.instagram.com/wvca_kids)

Nina DeTos Zanon
Executive Director

Silver Canfield
Supervisor of Educational Services

