



**CHILDREN'S
ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH
NETWORK**

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2016**

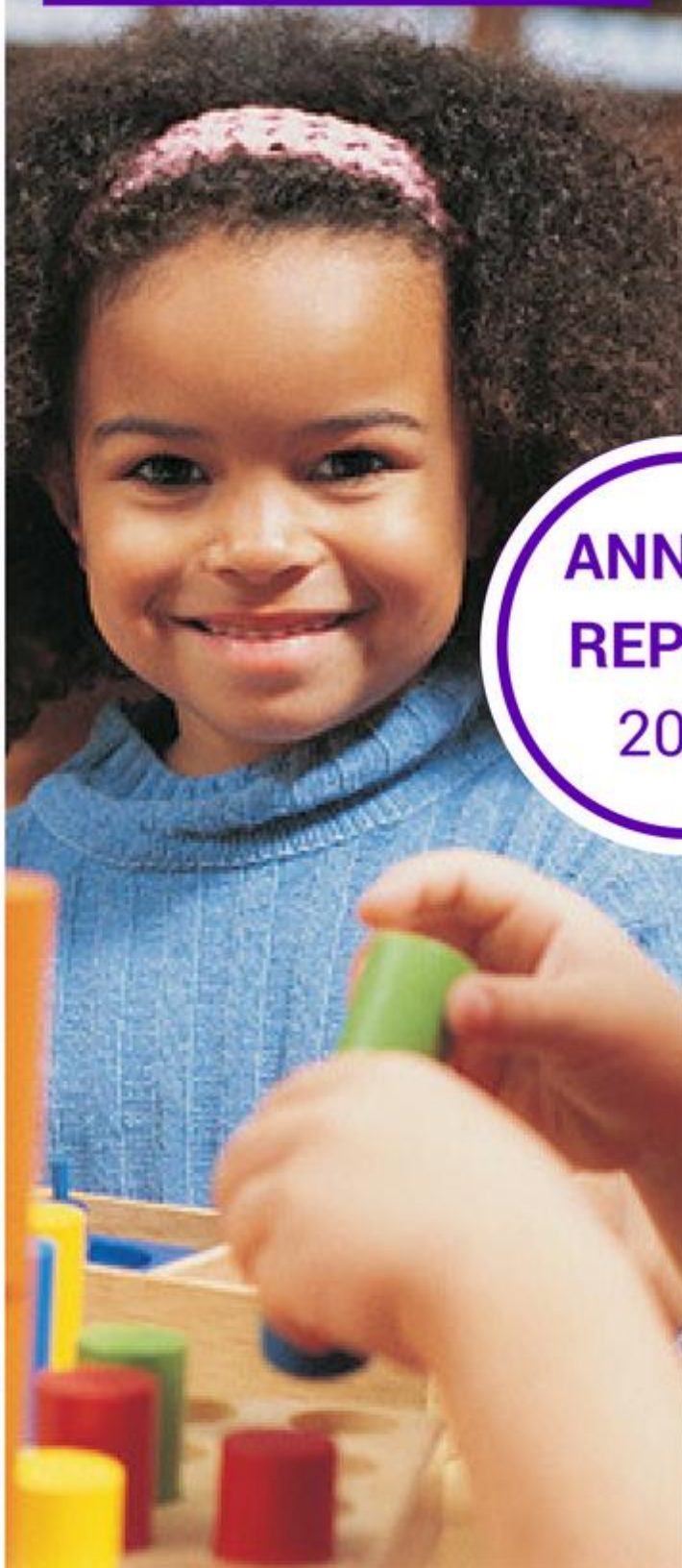


TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM NSEDU OBOT WITHERSPOON, CEHN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	3
GOALS OF THE CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NETWORK	4
COMMUNICATING SCIENCE	5
CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH CONFERENCE	7
DC CHILD CARE AIR ASSESSMENT PILOT STUDY	9
ECO-HEALTHY CHILD CARE®	10
EHCC LEADERSHIP	16
PROTECTING CHILDREN THROUGH POLICY	17
COMBATting CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENSURING CLEAN AIR	17
FOSTERING HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES - YEAR 5	19
SUPPORTING FEDERAL FUNDING AND PROGRAMS	20
ADVOCATING FOR SAFER PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS	21
CHILDREN AND LEAD EXPOSURE	21
PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST - A NATIONAL BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION	23
CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DAY	24
CANCER FREE ECONOMY	25
10TH ANNUAL CHILD HEALTH ADVOCATE AWARDS RECEPTION.....	27
CIRCLE OF CHAMPIONS	28
FINANCIAL STATEMENT	34

MESSAGE FROM NSEDU OBOT WITHERSPOON CEHN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We at CEHN are grateful for another productive, healthy, and strong year! Not only did CEHN program areas continue to grow in fiscal year 2016, but our external partnerships and collaborations have really continued to thrive and gain momentum. The need to have the child health voice a part of various key and influential efforts could not be more important and the amount of activity that you will read about in this report reflects just that.

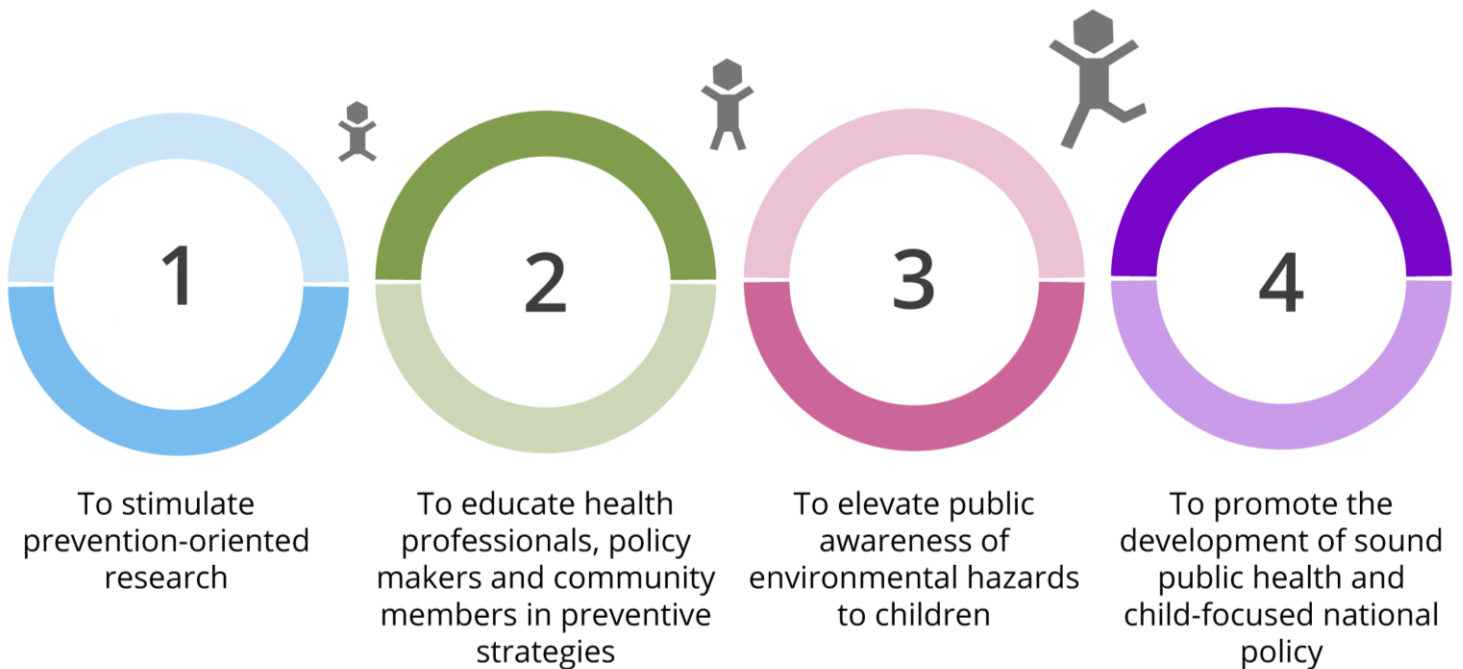
Last year CEHN released the Blueprint for Protecting Children's Environmental Health: An Urgent Call to Action, a key framework and tool for those working to promote child health protection. I am happy to report that CEHN's work to promote various recommendations called out in the Blueprint are found throughout this report. In addition, the Blueprint has allowed CEHN to engage further and broaden our base with additional collaborative partners such as Healthy Babies Bright Futures and Project TENDR (Targeting Environmental NeuroDevelopmental Risks), to name a few. The Blueprint is also the focus of a new and exciting movement to place children and their families at the center of all that we do. We have heard back from community and national partners on the ways that they are incorporating the aspects of the Blueprint that resonate with them the most into their daily mission and work. In addition, CEHN is launching the inaugural Children's Environmental Health Day on October 16th! We have coordinated a planning committee of federal and non-federal partners who have engaged and worked with CEHN to plan an exciting day of activities, both in DC and on social media.

This year CEHN held our 10th Annual Child Health Advocate Awards Reception at the GW Milken Institute School of Public Health, in Washington, DC. It was a festive and exciting evening that included a very moving and emotional talk by Carol Stroebe. We also welcomed two new Board members; Dr. Maida Galvez, Associate Professor, Preventive Medicine & Pediatrics at the Icahn School of Medicine and Mount Sinai and Dr. Adam Spanier, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Pediatric Division Head at the University of Maryland.

After three years of work with CEHN, Christine Louis-Jacques moved out of the area and we happily welcomed Shanita Brown as CEHN's new Program Assistant. Rachel Locke also moved onto graduate school at Columbia University over the summer but still remains a Special Projects Consultant for CEHN.

We will never forget this past year because it was the year that we lost one of our closest and dearest friends to CEHN. Former staff member and Health Policy Specialist, Carol Stroebe passed away in January. This loss has cut very deep for our entire organization as well as our broader community. On behalf of CEHN, I would like to thank all of you who continue to support us through this process of grief and renewal. It has not been easy but knowing that collectively we all are working to lift up Carol's legacy each and every day brings us great peace.

GOALS OF THE CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NETWORK





COMMUNICATING SCIENCE

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

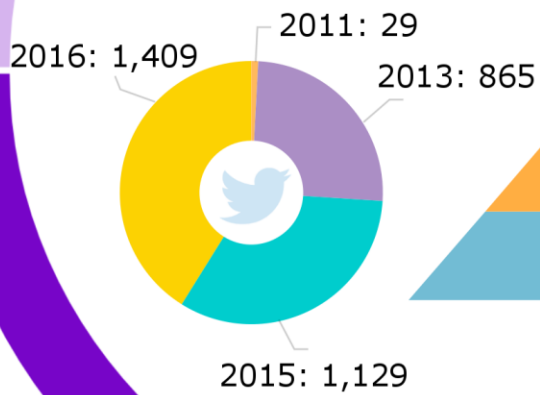
To adopt effective and child-protective policies, we, as a society, must maintain a solid understanding of current scientific research. To aid in this endeavor, CEHN highlights recent research articles every month through the Article of the Month series. This series is specifically designed to help journalists, policy-makers, child care providers, parents, and the general public better understand complex scientific findings within the field of pediatric environmental health. CEHN's Articles of the Month cover a broad range of current, high-priority children's environmental health topics, and are hand-picked by CEHN's Science Committee for their relevance and scientific rigor. Study findings are translated for a lay audience, and their potential implications and importance are summarized.

Each Article of the Month is posted at the beginning of the month on CEHN's web site, www.cehn.org/our-work/articles-of-the-month/ and promoted through CEHN listservs, e-mail mailing lists, and social media outlets.

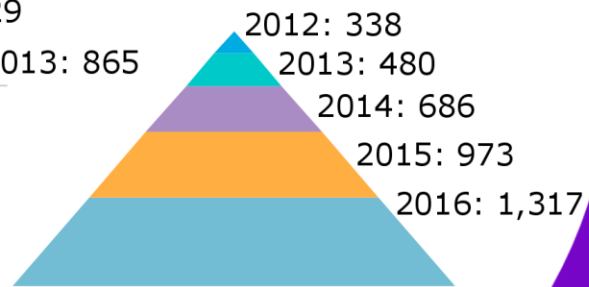


OUR GROWING COMMUNITY

Twitter Followers



Facebook Followers





CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) organizes a research conference every 2-3 years, bringing children's environmental health researchers together to: highlight emerging research in the field of children's environmental health; foster scientific collaboration and communication within and across disciplines; identify research gaps and develop ideas on how future studies may be designed to fill those gaps; and to discuss the potential public health and policy implications of key research presented. CEHN research conferences also provide an excellent platform for new investigators to share their research findings. Efforts to encourage junior investigator participation include reduced student and post-doctoral registration rates, encouragement of student abstract submission, and awards for top junior investigator posters.

The overarching goal of the CEHN's national Research Conferences are to promote communication and collaboration among advocates, public health officials, and researchers across disciplines who investigate matters relevant to children's environmental health. This will lead to increased understanding of children's vulnerabilities to environmental hazards as well as to the translation of research findings into effective prevention strategies to protect children's health and development.

CEHN's 2015 research conference, titled "Children: Food and Environment", highlighted recent research across a broad array of environmental influences, from food-related micro-level factors (such as nutrient-mediated microbiome effects) to food-related macro-level influences (such as contaminants from modern food production practices), and also highlighted a number of children's health and development outcomes including obesity, neuro-development, asthma, and cancer. Over 110 participants convened for the event in Austin, Texas on February 2-4, 2015, and

their feedback on the program and overall conference success was very positive. The event spawned a journal opinion piece and two radio interviews: <http://geogrowers.net/wp/little-things-big-impacts/>; <https://beta.prx.org/stories/150028>; <https://beta.prx.org/stories/149481>.

CEHN has begun planning the 2017 conference, titled, “2017 Children’s Environmental Health Research Conference: New Challenges”, which is scheduled for April 5-7, 2017 in Washington, DC. The theme of this conference will be general in order to encourage broader participation. Research scientists, epidemiologists, public health and health care professionals, and students in all related disciplines are welcome to participate.

The Conference Advisory Committee and Co-Chairs are working to ensure an interesting and varied program delivered via a lively mix of keynote presentations, panels, and concurrent sessions, and a poster reception will be held on the evening of April 6. Dr. Richard J. Jackson of UCLA’s Fielding School of Public Health will provide a stimulating opening keynote address that lays an inspirational foundation for participants to contextualize the scientific presentations throughout the remainder of the conference.

In addition to invited speakers, the scientific program will be filled by presentations identified from submitted abstracts. This will be the first CEHN conference that also solicits full session proposals, and the Co-Chairs will encourage session proposals that address epigenetics, biological mechanisms, and climate change.



DC CHILD CARE AIR ASSESSMENT PILOT STUDY

In 2013-2014, CEHN collaborated with the University Of Maryland School Of Public Health (UMD SPH) at College Park and the University Of Maryland School Of Nursing (UMD SON) at Baltimore to conduct environmental assessments in 14 licensed child care centers located in the District of Columbia. The primary objectives of this study were 1) to quantify and characterize air pollutants (volatile organic compounds) across different child care facilities, and 2) to understand how air pollutants vary across different socioeconomic and neighborhood levels. Factors such as traffic density and presence of industries were also considered.

Each site visit consisted of a walkthrough of the facility, completion of an environmental health questionnaire, and collection of air samples in one area where children spent most of their time. Monitors collected air samples over a 10-hour period between 9:00AM and 9:00PM. Each center's VOC profile (represented by Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, and o-xylene) and assessment report were shared with the center directors, and the study findings were published in April 2016 in the peer-reviewed journal Environmental Research. The article can be accessed at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26748224>.

CEHN, along with the research team, is drafting a joint NIH RO1 proposal to develop an expanded and more rigorous study of environmental exposures in child care facilities in the DC metropolitan area. To ensure community needs and concerns inform the planning and possible implementation of the project, CEHN convened a Community Advisory Board (CAB) of 10 individuals to provide feedback to the research team during the drafting of the proposal. The CAB consists of DC area child care professionals, parents, and community health leaders and family support services professionals. CAB members represent the diverse DC child care community,

including low income, African American, and Hispanic communities. The first meeting with CAB members and the research team was held in March 2016, followed by an additional conference call. The CAB's input continues to help inform the development of the research aims and strategy of the NIH proposal.



**Eco-Healthy
Child Care®**

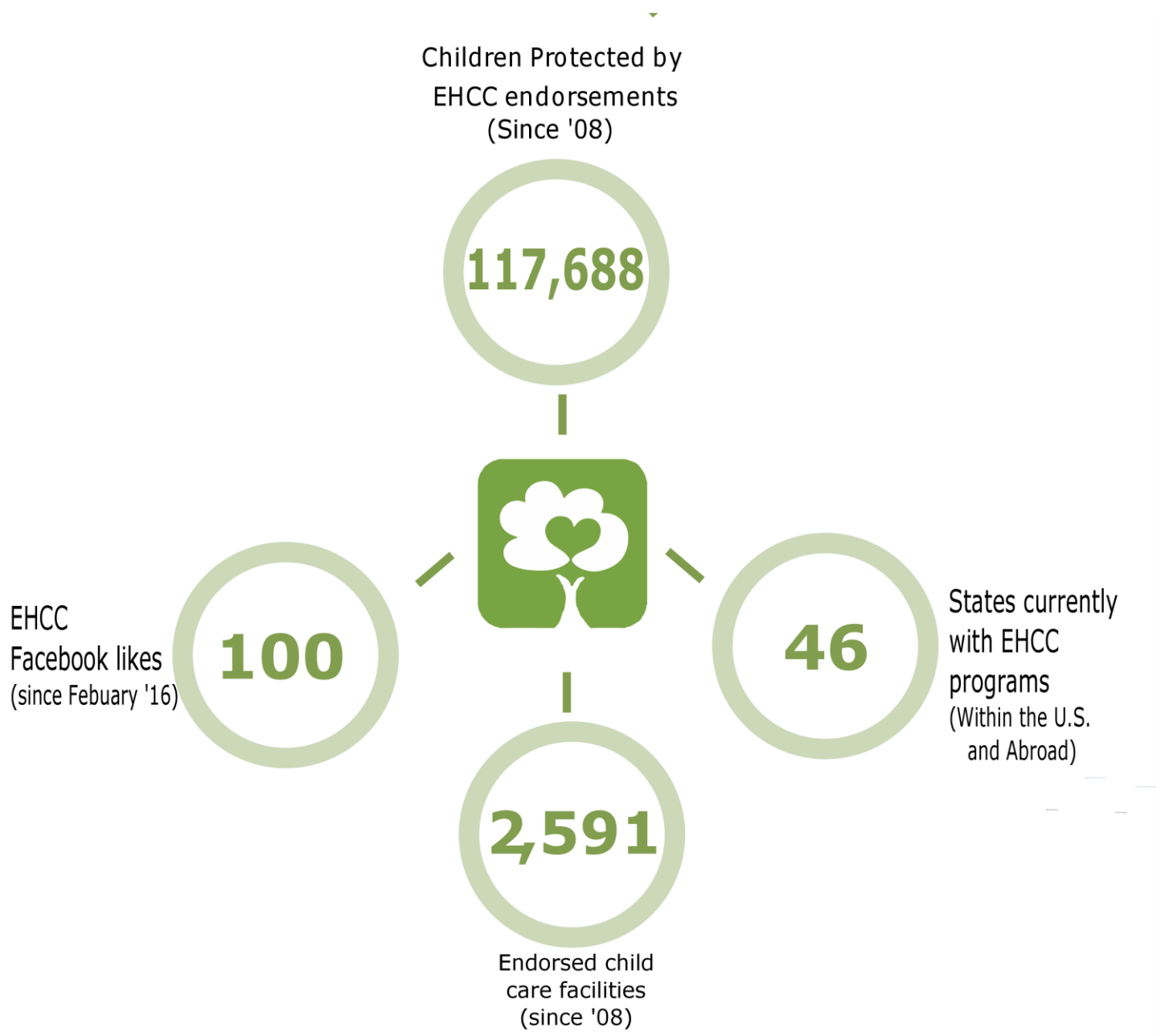
ECO-HEALTHY CHILD CARE®

Eco-Healthy Child Care® (EHCC) is a national program that partners with child care professionals to eliminate or reduce environmental health hazards found in child care facilities, thus improving the environmental health of children. EHCC supports child care providers as they make simple choices that benefit the health and well-being of all children in their care. The program offers training, technical assistance, resources, marketing, and an endorsement. By reducing exposure to toxicants, the program creates healthier environments in and around child care facilities. EHCC remains the sole, self-directed, national environmental health endorsement program for child care providers.

EHCC has received several awards for our innovative and effective approaches. Awards include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Children's Environmental Health Excellence Award in 2006, the Childcare and School IPM Recognition Award from the IPM Institute of North America, Inc. in 2010, and the Environmental Health Innovation Award from the National Environmental Health Association in 2013.

The program goal is to prevent and reduce adverse health effects from exposure to: pesticides; lead; mercury; arsenic in treated wood and water; radon; mold and mildew; poor indoor air quality; and harmful chemicals in household or consumer products including plastics, furniture and carpets, cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting products, and art supplies in child care facilities across the nation.

EHCC ENDORSEMENT



EHCC TtT

The EHCC Train the Trainer (TtT) curriculum remains scientifically based, peer reviewed, and comprehensively covers environmental health hazards within child care settings. Between July 2015 and June 2016, CEHN staff offered five-hour EHCC TtT sessions to child care trainers, child care health/nurse consultants, licensing staff, and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) staff in Florida (for the Association of Early Learning Leaders (AELL) site assessment staff), South Carolina (two trainings were delivered due to high interest), and Illinois. Since 2008, the EHCC TtT has been offered in 30 states: AK, AL, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MA, ME, MS, NC, NE, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, TX, VT, and WA. EHCC staff have trained 1,030 upper-level child care professionals using the EHCC TtT curriculum. We look forward to working with child care professionals in Maryland, Arizona, and New Mexico between July 2016 and June 2017.



EHCC MILESTONES AND COLLABORATION

QRIS

Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS), are a state by state framework for building high quality early care and education systems. They offer an opportunity to institutionalize greater awareness of, and improved practices regarding, environmental health in the early care and early learning setting. A well-designed QRIS provides quality assurances by creating new and aligning with existing high quality standards. QRISs also assess and monitor how well participating early care programs meet those designated standards. Within the next few years, every state is anticipated to have a QRIS. In most states it is not mandatory for licensed child care facilities to participate in state quality improvement programs; however, it is beneficial, as some QRISs provide incentives to child care providers who embrace the recommended practices.

Since 2012, the entire EHCC program has been incorporated into Pennsylvania's Keystone Stars QRIS. PA agencies drafted policies and reference pages (referencing the relevant PA Department of Public Welfare Child Care Regulations and related standards from ([Caring for Our Children: National Health & Safety](#)

[Performance Standards \(3rd Edition\)](#)) that address all 30 items on the Eco-Healthy Child Care® checklist. Keystone Stars offered [mini grants](#) through the Heinz Endowments to financially support practices and products that improved the environmental health of child care facilities in Pennsylvania. Providers applied to receive up to \$5,000 in funding through a competitive grant process. PA child care providers are encouraged by the state to participate in EHCC.

In August 2015, Maryland incorporated the Eco-Healthy Child Care® (EHCC) program into their state QRIS, Maryland EXCELS by offering an Eco-Friendly Achievement Program “Eco-Friendly” badge for licensed child care facilities through their Maryland Excels Eco-Friendly Achievement Program (Excels). Within their new Eco-Friendly Achievement Excels program, a child care facility that attains one of four eco-friendly endorsements or certificates is awarded a QRIS achievement badge for promoting nature and/or protecting children’s environmental health. The four program options include: Children’s Environmental Health Network’s EHCC Program, the National Arbor Foundation’s "Nature Explore" Program, the National Wildlife Federation’s "Eco-School Program", and the Maryland Green Schools Program.

Vermont is interested in following Maryland’s lead, and [Informed Green Solutions](#), a VT headquartered organization that provides education and technical assistance on transitioning to a more sustainable footprint through purchasing decisions, has partnered with key stakeholders in VT, as well as CEHN to draft a proposed plan for incorporating environmental health indicators into their QRIS. The plan has been shared with their statewide committee, and they hope to strengthen their state QRIS with environmental health best practice recommendations in the near future.

ONLINE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

CEHN staff have partnered with Allen Interactions (www.alleninteractions.com) to create EHCC’s online Train-the-Trainer (TtT) curriculum. EHCC’s 5- hour in-person TtT course has been distilled into approximately 2 hours of online learning. The engaging and interactive e-learning course is broken up into individual 13 modules. Child care professionals will have the option of registering and paying to take the full online curriculum (all 13 modules) or just individual modules (focusing on specific content). The online modules and the corresponding interactions have been designed to ensure the curriculum content can quickly and easily be digested. A certificate will be provided to those who complete the entire curriculum, and professional development units/ CEUs will be available on a state by state basis. We expect the course to be launched and made available to the public by fall of 2016.

NORTH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY ACTION (NAPECA)

With the goal to address environmental health concerns locally and to directly support Hispanic/ Latin American communities across North America, CEHN's EHCC program was awarded funding from the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) under the North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA) program. Within the purview of this 18-month grant, the entire EHCC TtT curriculum is being translated into Spanish. Additionally, EHCC's 5-hour TtT session will be



delivered in English and Spanish for child care professionals (trainers, health/nurse consultants, and licensing staff) in U.S.-Mexico Border States: New Mexico and Arizona. CEHN is working in collaboration with Dr. Lesliam Quirós-Alcalá from the University of Maryland's School of Public Health to assist in the Spanish translation and delivery of our EHCC training curriculum.



EHCC OUTREACH THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

Arizona is excited to offer the EHCC training to their child care professionals on November 9th, 2016. First Things First, a section of Arizona's Department of Education, will host the training in Phoenix, AZ. The mission of First Things First is to "create a family-centered, comprehensive, collaborative and high-quality early childhood system that supports the development, health and early education of all Arizona's children birth through age five". CEHN is thrilled to expand the reach of EHCC's training and resources to Hispanic/Latin American child care professionals in the Southwestern quadrant of the United States.

In February 2016, EHCC launched a program specific Facebook page to increase the engagement and support of: EHCC endorsed providers, child care professionals interested in improving the environmental health of their facilities, parents, and the general public. EHCC's Facebook page affords CEHN the ability to encourage eco-healthy best practices, promote upcoming events (both EHCC events and events from our partners), and publicize trainings (TtT sessions, conference presentations and webinars). Finally, EHCC's new Spotlight Series will feature EHCC endorsed facilities who are going above and beyond child care licensing regulations and national accreditation standards to protect the environmental health of the children within their care. Child care facilities that are spotlighted will be featured on CEHN's website, through our social media outlets, and email communications.

EHCC CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

CEHN staff presented at 11 national, regional, and state conferences between 7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016:

- ▶ National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) 79th Annual Educational Conference, Orlando, Florida – July 2015
- ▶ Virginia Head Start Association's Health and Family Institute, Charlottesville, Virginia- October 2015
- ▶ American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois- November 2015
- ▶ Child Care Safe Siting Initiative Meeting, Washington, D.C.- November, 2015 (Collaborative presentation: CEHN, ATSDR, and APHA)
- ▶ NAEYC Annual Conference, Orlando, Florida – November, 2015
- ▶ EPA Protecting CEH along the U.S.-Mexico Border, San Diego, California – January 2016 (poster only)
- ▶ VA Head Start Association Annual Conference, Virginia – April 2016
- ▶ Association for Early Learning Leaders, Newark, New Jersey - April 2016
- ▶ National Head Start Association Annual Conference, Nashville, Tennessee – May 2016
- ▶ Lead and Healthy Housing Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico – May 2016
- ▶ NEHA and AEC Conference, San Antonio, Texas – June 2016



EHCC LEADERSHIP

CEHN staff members chair the EHCC National Advisory Committee (NAC) and the EHCC Science Task Force. Since 2008, the EHCC NAC has ensured the growth, development, and rapid adoption of the EHCC program. Leaders of both state and national child care agencies and national children's environmental health organizations comprise this committee, including: Child Care Aware of America, The National Association for the Education of Young Children, The National Association for Regulatory Administration, The National Head Start Association, and the U.S. EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection, among others. Committee members review materials to ensure appropriate content, advise how to conduct effective outreach, and

make sure that the program is culturally sensitive. EHCC's Science Task Force, a committee of eight nationally renowned pediatricians, toxicologists, and other children's environmental health experts, advise the EHCC curriculum with regard to the latest scientific research.

PROTECTING CHILDREN THROUGH POLICY

To ensure that children have safe and healthy environments in which they can grow, learn, and play (including clean water to drink, quality air to breathe, and nutritious, affordable food to eat), health-protective policies must be implemented at federal, state, and local levels. Unfortunately, children's vulnerabilities and developmental trajectories are rarely considered when decision-makers write laws, regulations, standards, and other policies that impact children. Policy-makers also routinely fail to consider children's unique behaviors and environments, which subsequently exposes children to higher levels of environmental chemicals compared to adults. This year, CEHN continued its work to educate decision-makers about the unique vulnerabilities of children and to advocate for child-health-protective policies and programs. CEHN strives to create safe and healthy environments in which all children can thrive.



COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENSURING CLEAN AIR

Efforts to combat climate change and ensure clean air for all generations, especially children, continue across the country and remain a priority for CEHN. This year, CEHN engaged in numerous endeavors to help combat climate change, to support cleaner air, and to ensure the protection of children's health.

Through the healthy air coalition (led by the American Lung Association), CEHN joined other health and public health organizations and signed on to several letters, and comments, in support of clean air regulations and climate mitigation. For example, CEHN signed onto: comments to EPA on the regional haze rule and its impacts on human health; a letter in support of a new standard to cut emissions of

oxides of nitrogen (NOx) from heavy-duty vehicles by 90%; the Health Professionals Declaration of Climate Change; and a letter in opposition to the Congressional Review Act resolutions of disapproval that would block the Clean Power Plan and the carbon limits for new power plants.

Demonstrating CEHN's leadership and commitment to climate change, this spring, our Executive Director Nse Obot Witherspoon joined ecoAmerica's climate and health program leadership circle. She says, "ecoAmerica is working to build a critical mass of institutional leadership, public support, political will and collective action for climate solutions in the United States, engaging leaders to lead by example and to engage their stakeholders to do the same."

CEHN also sponsored the Mom's Clear Air Force annual climate action play on the grounds of the Capital in July 2015.



FOSTERING HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES – YEAR 5

CEHN has a 5-year (2011 – 2016) cooperative agreement, Health in All Policies (HiAP), with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). During this fifth and final year, CEHN's Eco-Healthy Child Care® (EHCC) program has focused on providing technical assistance and capacity building to advance best practices in environmental health in child care settings (the same focus as in year 3 and 4), the “Healthier Environments in Child Care Technical Assistance Initiative”. CEHN has been collaborating with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and the Environmental Law Institute (ELI).

NAEYC, a national accreditation body for child care providers, has over 80,000 members and over 7,000 early childhood programs accredited nationwide. During Year 4 of this cooperative agreement, CEHN supported NAEYC's Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation team in reviewing, updating, and expanding their standards and criteria (published in 2005) related to children's environmental health (EH). Using the EHCC checklist as a framework for content, all 14 existing NAEYC criteria related to EH were updated and four new criteria were developed. In continuation of these efforts, CEHN has assisted NAEYC in the final stages of incorporation - officially approving and adopting these EH indicators into their accreditation standards. CEHN supported NAEYC in: identifying reviewers for the newly drafted EH indicators and standards; responding to reviewer feedback; and educating and supporting NAEYC members and assessors in understanding the new standards. CEHN and NAEYC have been accepted to present a joint session at NAEYC's 2016 Annual Conference in Los Angeles in November 2016.

The Environmental Law Institute is an internationally recognized, non-partisan research and education center working to strengthen environmental protection by improving law and governance worldwide. CEHN and ELI have partnered to build upon the report released in January 2015, [*Reducing Environmental Exposures in Child Care Facilities: A Review of State Policy*](#), which presents an overview of existing EH laws and regulations that pertain to child care facilities within the United States. CEHN and ELI conducted interviews with state licensing representatives in Arizona, Colorado and Maryland to better understand the additional resources needed by states to further environmental health in state policy standards.

The “Healthier Environments in Child Care Technical Assistance Initiative” activities are supported by Cooperative Agreement number EH11-1110 through the CDC.



SUPPORTING FEDERAL FUNDING AND PROGRAMS

Federal agencies, offices, and programs that focus on children’s health provide critical support and leadership on children’s health across the country. Each year, many of these programs are in jeopardy of losing necessary funding and support and this year was no different. This year, CEHN submitted testimony for the record to the House Labor/HHS and U.S. EPA Appropriations subcommittees in support of key offices and programs that focus on children. CEHN cosigned coalition letters circulated by the Friends of NIEHS, the CDC Coalition and Trust for America’s Health to relevant House and Senate Appropriations Committees in support of funding for programs especially important to children, such as lead and healthy housing.

This past year, CEHN closely followed the emergence of the Zika virus and threats to children’s health. As part of the Zika coalition, led by the March of Dimes, CEHN signed onto several letters with other leading public health and health groups asking Congress to act quickly and to provide the highest possible level of funding to fight the Zika virus. Although the request failed this year, March of Dimes and partners will continue to advocate for necessary support and funding - CEHN will lend support as appropriate. In the continental US, Zika cases have been tracked in Puerto Rico and other US territories where they are expected to increase over the summer. Early this summer, Zika cases have started to arise in the southeast. Funding is critical to assist local public health agencies to control the mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) a tropical mosquito that carries not only Zika, but yellow fever, dengue and chikungunya in areas of particular concern including Hawaii and the southeast.



ADVOCATING FOR SAFER PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS

After 40 years of struggle and much debate and effort, on June 9, the U.S. Senate passed the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (TSCA reform) and was subsequently signed by President Obama. While considered a victory by many who have been fighting for passage of stronger chemical regulation– and an overall improvement to protect public and environmental health and safety – the bill is not without flaws – namely the limited authority given to states to regulate. The next big challenge will be in implementation. CEHN supported the passing of TSCA reform, is following the implementation closely, and will provide input in support of children’s health and protection as opportunities arise this coming year.



CHILDREN AND LEAD EXPOSURE

The unfortunate and avoidable leaching of excessive levels of lead into the drinking water of thousands of residents in Flint, Michigan that began in April 2014 focused a spotlight on the ongoing problem of childhood lead exposure in the United States, especially among the disadvantaged and communities of color.

In response to this crisis, CEHN convened a conference call on Feb 23, 2016 for those experts who were providing response on the ground to report on what efforts were underway, and what the needs were. There were 25 participants on the call, including experts from the University Of Michigan School Of Public Health, the NIEHS Core Center in Michigan, the Blue Green Alliance, the United Steelworkers Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Public Health Association, and the National Environmental Health Association, among others. From that call, CEHN created a living “response” table that lists all the work being done at the state and/or federal levels, by which organization or agency, and any needs or additional comments. This knowledge helps us to connect groups to other organizations or to key resources.

CEHN also provided information on childhood lead poisoning in general, including its health effects and costs, along with specific information about the Flint crisis to Congressional House Staffers for the April 13th, 2016 Hearing on Flint.

As of the spring of 2016, CEHN also serves on the Steering Committee of the Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative, a project that includes public health organizations, environmental groups, and representation from private and public water suppliers and utilities. The goal of the collaborative is to create a roadmap and other tools to help communities accelerate lead service line replacements, to be available in late 2017.

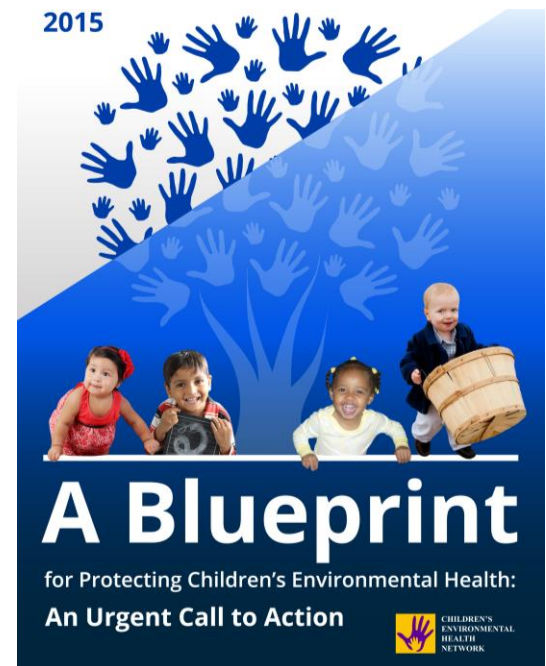
Lead is a known neurotoxicant, and it is unacceptable that children in the US are still being exposed to it in their homes and schools. Investment in aging and crumbling infrastructure and hazardous public housing is essential, and CEHN continues to advocate for this.

PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST - A NATIONAL BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

This past year, CEHN with existing funding and staff support, worked hard to implement A Blueprint for Protecting Children's Environmental Health: An Urgent Call to Action (the "Blueprint") and to create actual action. CEHN presented the Blueprint to federal and nonfederal partners, and to children's health advocates such as EPA, CDC, NIEHS, and APHA and members of the national environmental health council, and funders, at various meetings and conferences. In particular, this past fall, CEHN held an intimate "funders" meeting at the PEW Charitable Trusts offices in DC. From that meeting, recommendations were made on moving forward including to define "targets" or measures, to focus first on priority recommendations, and to identify several key overarching products or resources that would be most beneficial to the field (e.g., a HUB or resource platform, a "Promise to Our Children" as an overarching umbrella or foundational piece, and possibly a Children's Bill of Rights).

In addition to sharing the content of the Blueprint and its recommendations, CEHN has been working diligently to obtain the necessary funding to effectively coordinate and lead the Blueprint activities, and has submitted proposals to several organizations.

CEHN plans to use the Blueprint as the foundation and frame for the upcoming (first ever) Children's Environmental Health Day.



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DAY



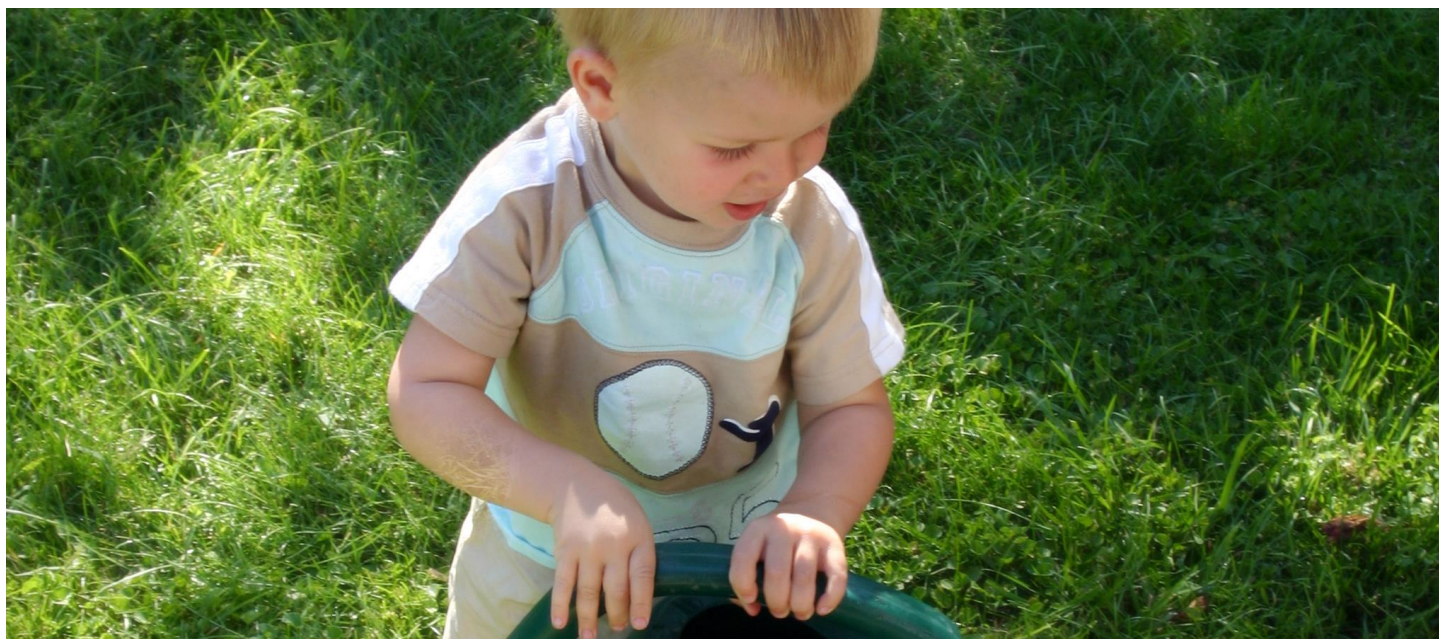
Despite the many successes and advancements in the field of children's environmental health over the past few decades, today's children face an epidemic of illness and chronic diseases linked to environmental exposures and our changing climate. As stated in the Blueprint for Protecting Children's Environmental Health and Urgent Call to Action, there is an urgent need to put children and families back into the forefront of our nation's actions regarding health and environment.

All working in the field of children's environmental health must rally and work together to meet this need; to raise awareness and understanding about the critical issues facing our most precious resources; and to mobilize action. As a means to create a children's environmental health movement and a strong network of advocates, CEHN is spearheading the establishment of an annual Children's Environmental Health Day (CEH Day), to be celebrated every second Thursday of October during Children's Health Month.

The inaugural children's environmental health day is set for October 13, 2016. A webpage has been created, www.cehn.org/join-us/cehday, which allows for visitors to endorse the Day and to access a variety of social media and other tools to help promote the Day and children's environmental health issues, broadly.

A special breakfast event is also planned for that morning, which will feature key leaders as speakers and panelists, highlighting recent successes, new initiatives, and addressing future directions for the field.

Future plans include a dedicated website for the children's environmental health movement, with pages specifically for CEH Day and for the Blueprint.



CANCER FREE ECONOMY

CEHN has been selected to play a leadership role in the Cancer Free Economy Network (CFEN). CFEN, founded in 2014, is a group of diverse organizations and funding partners that are seeking to address the problem of toxics exposures through a cancer and disease framework. The CFEN overall goal (the “North Star” goal) is: Within a generation we will lift the burden of cancers and other diseases by driving a dramatic and equitable transition from toxics to effective clean and safe alternatives. A key tool we are using in this network is a “systems map,” which all participants in 2014 built together to describe the current dynamics among institutions, sectors, organizations and interests that influence the existence and impacts of toxic chemicals in the economy.

CFEN includes working groups organized around one area of the systems map (“clusters”) or one area of capacity (“hubs”) that are gathering to develop strategic plans aimed at shifting the system dynamics towards the future we all desire, as captured in the network’s North Star goal (see above). The purpose of this network, which all CFEN leaders are committed to, is to increase impacts by adding value and capacity to existing efforts, and to support collaborative innovations, avoiding duplication of – and competition with – other existing organizations and networks. Together, the clusters and hubs aim to:

- ▶ promote prevention of cancer and other diseases caused by chemical exposures;
- ▶ shift the supply and demand chains to safer chemicals and safer jobs;
- ▶ create diverse, “non-traditional” partners, holding equity as a highest-order principle of all we do; and
- ▶ develop interconnected communications, popular education, organizing, policy and fundraising strategies.

The Clusters that will do this work, focusing on different sections of the map, are Health; Supply; Demand. The cross-cutting capacity Hubs are Communications; Organizing/Popular Education/Movement building; Policy; Fundraising).

CEHN is one of the co-leaders for the Health Cluster. The Health Cluster Objective (within the North Star Goal) is to: Contribute to a national effort to eliminate exposure to toxics to prevent cancer and other chronic diseases and promote healthy and healing environments, particularly for overburdened and vulnerable populations, by expanding the focus of all health-related organizations to include an understanding of the role of chemicals in contributing to the disease process, and a commitment to promoting primary prevention.



ATSDR CHILD CARE SAFE SITING INITIATIVE

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) current priorities include reducing children's exposures to harmful chemicals, particularly in child care settings. Previous or ongoing activities at or near a child care site may result in contamination by chemicals such as mercury or benzene. CEHN's staff attended a formal 'Safe Siting' stakeholders meeting in November 2015 in Washington, DC, and will work with ATSDR to better promote these guidelines for adoption by state and local governments. ATSDR is developing guidelines for the safe siting of child care facilities, with a plan to release the resource in October, 2016.

10TH ANNUAL CHILD HEALTH ADVOCATE AWARDS RECEPTION

CEHN's 10th Annual Child Health Advocate Award reception took place on November 12th, 2015. We enjoyed a lovely evening catching up with longtime supporters and friends of the Network, as well as making new friends, while honoring three individuals who have made impressive contributions to the field of children's environmental health:

Science Award: Dr. Walter Rogan, NIEHS Epidemiology Branch (retired)

Policy Award: Ms. Carol Stroebe, CEHN's former Director of Training & Policy

Nsedu Obot Witherspoon Youth Leadership Award:
Nsedu Obot Witherspoon Youth Leadership Award:
Ms. Annie Willis, Leader with Global Kids, Inc.



(Left to right): Walter Rogan, NOW Award student and Carol Stroebe

Our recognition of Carol Stroebe was particularly emotional, as Carol had recently stepped down from her position as CEHN's Director of Training & Policy due to illness. She had been working with the Network for over 20 years, and was a strong and skillful advocate for children's health and a dear friend. Sadly, Carol passed away in January 2016. Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, CEHN Executive Director, provided a beautiful in memoriam piece for publication in Environmental Health Perspectives (<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/EHP284/>). Carol's decades of advocacy and her effectiveness as a change-agent will not be forgotten. In her honor, CEHN has re-named the Child Health advocate Policy Award the "Carol Stroebe Health Policy Award".

CEHN also established the Carol Stroebe Policy and Health Education Internship Program, a competitive internship program for students majoring in public health, environmental studies, public or nonprofit administration, public policy, communication/journalism or health sciences who seek to gain experience in children's environmental health advocacy and education through working in the nonprofit sector.

CEHN's generous award event sponsors included: Brenda and Muhammad Afzal, Jerome Paulson, Howard Frumkin, Richard Jackson, Daryl Ditz, TechImpact, Blank Creation, Visionary Consulting Partners, ecoPrint, and The Honest Company. Thank you to all! Pictures from the event can be found here: <http://bit.ly/CEHN2015AwardsPics>

We hope to see even more of you at our 11th Annual Child Health Advocate Award Reception on October 13, 2016!

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CEHN thanks the thousands of people who support our programs each year through employee giving and EarthShare@Work. With your help we are continuing to protect the developing child from environmental health hazards and promote a healthier environment for all. Thank you for taking care of what matters to you by giving at work and through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Learn more about EarthShare at www.earthshare.org

This report is dedicated to the life's work, passion, and dedication of Carol Stroebe

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME

Grants

Government/Federal - \$84,650

Foundations - \$421,933

Contributions - \$3,593

Awards Reception - \$5,708

Program Fees - \$22,548

Carry Over from FY 2015 - \$88,000

Total Income = \$626,432

EXPENSES

Personnel/Labor Personnel - \$393,014

Fringe Benefits - \$28,952

Payroll Taxes - \$26,963

Professional/Consultant Fees - \$79,811

Program Expenses - \$4,466

Travel - \$37,251

Insurance - \$6,067

Rent - \$48,741

Utilities - \$535

Telephone - \$5,029

Equipment Rental - \$6,350

Postage/Delivery - \$2,485

Printing & Reproduction - \$5,516

Computer/Web Services - \$9,126

Office Supplies - \$2,036

Total Expenses \$656,342

Net Income \$29,910