



Report to the Helene Marks Early Start Foundation
Win Children's Services
2015 – 2016



Win receives generous funding from many corporations, foundations and individual donors in support of our robust Children's Services. Our program provides critical, trauma-informed services to nearly 7,000 New York City homeless children each year. Funding ensures that children living at Win are provided with the same child care, recreation activities and summer camp opportunities that are afforded to their peers, while also receiving vital community services.

For children, homelessness disrupts every aspect of life by damaging physical and emotional health, interrupting education, and hindering development. Most children in Win's transitional family residences and supportive housing units have experienced trauma such as extreme poverty, exposure to substance abuse or domestic violence, frequent relocation and school changes, food insecurity and separation from their families. For these reasons and more, Win Children's Services staff approach child care within the context of trauma-informed care — focusing on the specific needs of children in their response to trauma and helping children and families alleviate the elements of trauma in their lives.

Win provides onsite child care, after-school programs, recreational activities and summer programs within a safe and nurturing environment for all Win children to offset the damaging effects of homelessness. Win engages children throughout the year in a dynamic environment that encourages peer-to-peer learning through the guidance of Win teachers, and after school and recreation staff. Within our on-site community classrooms, children are provided with a stable, positive environment and feel safe to express emotions in order to promote emotional healing and enhance learning potential.

Through Win's after-school recreation program, children receive assistance with their homework and computer labs are made available for tutoring, researching and assisting in developing projects. Following this, children may participate in a variety of recreational activities, with facilitation assisted by volunteer partners under the supervision of Win Recreation staff.

Camp Win, an eight-week summer camp that is available during the three major school breaks and holidays, runs when school is out of session. Just as their peers are experiencing healthy play and learning opportunities when school is not in session, Win children benefit from fun, educational activities, which serve to minimize the damaging effect of learning loss that occurs during summer months. An enriched, full-day experience, Camp Win served more than 1,000 children last fiscal year.

Along with other generous funders, The Helene Marks Early Start Foundation's gift of \$750 has helped Win sustain and grow these important services for Win children. Thank you.