



30th Annual Mayors' "Shining Star" Gala

to Benefit Better Beginnings Child Development Center
"Anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero" – Mr. Rogers



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Mercedes Colón Vargas

August 18, 2022

Dear Friends,

We are preparing to celebrate our 30th Annual Mayors' "Shining Star" Gala, IN-PERSON! The event celebrates families and children and honors community members. Better Beginnings Child Development Center (BBCDC) will follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC or our Health Department to ensure the safety and well-being of our attendees.

BBCDC is a state-licensed, early learning, community based childcare center, licensed for 99 children ages 2 ½ through 13 years of age. The agency's mission is to provide high quality affordable early learning and childcare services to children of low-income qualified working families, while also providing parents the opportunity to be self-supporting, contributing and involved members of their community.

We are very excited to have the opportunity to publicly recognize our "Shining Stars" recipients and "Shining Star" Gala to benefit BBCDC.

This year's recipients include memorials for our dear department friends as well:

- Lifetime Achievement Award recipient – **Peter and Katherine Weiss;**
- Organization Award recipient – **East Windsor Green Team;**
- Organization Award recipient – **Hightstown Women's Club;**
- Business Award recipient – **Perkins Restaurant & Bakery;**
- Celebration of Life - **Dick Cunningham;**
- Celebration of Life - **Dennis McClary.**

We will also recognize our staff, aka essential workers, a role regarded as vital for the community during the pandemic.

The event will be held on **Saturday, October 22, 2022** at the **Forsgate Country Club, located in Monroe, NJ**. The reception begins at 5:00 PM and dinner follows at 6:00 PM. The success of the **Mayors' "Shining Star" Gala**, is critical to the financial stability of BBCDC. Beyond that, it is a fun-filled evening that historically has been enjoyed by those in attendance. Enclosed is a response card that details the various ways in which you can support this fundraising event.

BBCDC's longevity can be credited to the support it has received throughout the years from the community at large, grants, fundraisers, and the Township of East Windsor. BBCDC was founded by the Hightstown/East Windsor Human Relations Council in 1967.

We hope you will "**save the date**" and join us **Saturday, October 22, 2022**. The magnanimity manifested at this event is an authentication of the character within our community.

If additional information is needed, please call Mercedes Colón-Vargas or Luz Nereida Horta at (609) 448-6226. Thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,

Janice S. Mironov
East Windsor Township Mayor

Lawrence D. Quattrone
Hightstown Borough Mayor



Our program is proud to have earned NAEYC Accreditation – the mark of quality for early childhood education programs.

Better Beginnings' affordable child care for income-eligible families, and its prevention program, are subsidized or provided funding by the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Family Development, the Child Adult Food Program, the Township of East Windsor, the East Windsor Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of Substance Abuse, the Borough of Hightstown, the First Presbyterian Church of Hightstown, the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury, The Princeton Area Community Foundation, the County of Mercer, PNC Bank-Grow-up Great, United Way of Greater Mercer County Contributions, and Fundraising.