



the Ounce

Annual Report 2016

Our Year

President & Chairman of the Board's Letter

For more than 30 years, the Ounce has been at the forefront of early learning—and this year was no exception. While our fortitude was tested by a challenging state environment in Illinois, we continued to fight **to ensure that from the moment children are born—and even before—they are surrounded by quality experiences and relationships.** That's why we work with children and families where they are: in homes, schools and communities.

Our goal is big and our approach is broad reaching. We are laser focused on changing lives for the nearly 5.5 million young children and their families living in poverty. We hold ourselves accountable to outcomes and measurable impact.

We cannot and are not doing this important work alone. We are very fortunate, and grateful, to have the support of advocates, experts and researchers; local, state and federal governments; community-based programs and national organizations; and business leaders, parents, donors and all champions for young children.

People are at the heart of everything we do and every decision we make. We partner directly with parents and early learning professionals to ensure all young children have the skills and support to achieve their dreams.



In this annual report, we invite you to meet the Ounce family: experts in their fields and united in our commitment to our mission. See the work we are doing to envelop children in quality and get to know our staff, our partners and the families we serve. Hear directly from them how early learning helps to inspire minds and change lives.

Thank you for your support,

Diana Mendley Rauner

Anne Lea Tuohy

the **Ounce**



Our Impact

How do we ensure that every child is surrounded by quality relationships and experiences?

We know that learning doesn't begin when children step foot into a classroom—it begins at birth and in homes with their families. That is why we continue to invest in home visiting services as a critical pillar of high-quality early education. Our work focuses on researching and sharing best practices, providing professional development, and advocating for greater investments at all levels of government. To reach more home visitors nationwide, this year we expanded our Achieve OnDemand™ online home visiting professional development program. We offered new courses and new ways of accessing the curriculum. We also continued to serve children and families directly through our Healthy Parents & Babies doula and home visiting program and supported 31 other home visiting programs throughout Illinois. In November 2016, the Ounce continued the great tradition started by the Pew Charitable Trusts by hosting the Sixth National Summit on Quality in Home Visiting Programs, which convened researchers, practitioners, leaders and policymakers to advance the field of home visiting.

Along with home visiting, we continued to advance the quality of center-based care for children and families. **Our research has shown that strong early learning programs begin with strong leaders.** By equipping leaders with practical tools and skills to support more intensive classroom instruction, we see broader impact within schools. This year we published our instructional

leadership perspective in our Essential Supports for Improving Early Education series. Our Lead Learn Excel™ program brings this theory to life. We completed our launch year and reached more than 300 early childhood professionals this year in Illinois alone. Nationally, we also launched the Lead Learn Excel online library to deliver practical, hands-on tools to leaders throughout the country.

Strong early learning programs become anchors in a community. Our Educare Chicago school in Chicago's Grand Boulevard neighborhood serves as a focal point for education, gathering and community. The Educare Chicago Alumni Network parent group continues to forge partnerships with the community after families leave Educare. The 18 Head Start programs we support in the Chicago area and the 21 Educare schools across the country play a similar role in their communities. We joined with the Buffett Early Childhood Fund and Educare schools to strengthen the collective quality of early learning services and supports in their communities. Through a train-the-trainer approach, together we are bringing best practices developed over a decade at Educare schools to early childhood community partners. We believe a rising tide lifts all boats.

We need robust early learning systems to sustain and grow gains made at the individual and local levels. We continued to advocate about the importance of investing in early learning, and we saw dividends in 2016. Thanks to the work of the First Five Years Fund, we saw increased investments in early learning at the federal level and a groundswell of continued public support, with 90% of voters agreeing on one thing: Congress and the next president should work together to make quality early childhood education more accessible and affordable to low- and middle-

income families. In Illinois, we worked tirelessly to be a voice for the most vulnerable, scoring major victories with a record increase in preschool funding and a new law strengthening the state's commitment to infants and toddlers. Our policy experts also partnered with advocates across the country to expand quality early learning at the state level.

What will it take to ensure every child is surrounded by quality relationships and experiences?

A team of talented, experienced individuals working as one. A team like the Ounce.

We are social workers, policy wonks, early learning visionaries, early education Ph.D.s, marketers, database administrators, douglas, networking experts, grant writers, skilled researchers, expert teachers, parent coaches, budget pros, data analysts, program innovators. We blend science with research with practical application. We take our knowledge and make it accessible to the field, to policymakers and influencers, and to the public. We work directly with children, families and programs, and we tell their stories to generate more resources and awareness of the importance of this work.

We bring a wealth of diverse knowledge and experience to the work we do.

*And when you
invest in us
you invest in the dreams
of children
of families
of communities
and of our nation.*



Impact by the Numbers

Nurtured strong parent-child bonds across our Educare network, reaching **3,400** children and families daily

Educated 3,100+ program, community and opinion leaders through Ounce and Educare initiatives

Partnered with advocates in **19 states** and Washington, DC

Advocated for more than **5 million** children nationally

Served 27,000 children and families nationwide through center- and home-based early learning professionals developed by the Ounce

Reached parents and empowered **4,000** children and families through Head Start and our network of home visiting and doula programs throughout Illinois



Meet the Ounce

In Homes

The importance of the birth-to-three years cannot be overstated. Nor can the importance of empowering parents. Doulas and home visitors partner with families when they are most vulnerable: throughout pregnancy and the first three years of a child's life. They forge open, trusting relationships with the parents that allow them to deliver coaching, mentoring and knowledge. They are too often the unknown and unsung heroes of successful, comprehensive early learning systems.

***Meet Kelly**, director of our home visiting professional development programs and the National Summit on Quality in Home Visiting Programs.*



***Meet Hilary**, doula at Christopher House, an Ounce-funded home visiting program.*



Please visit www.theOunce.org/annualreport2016 to watch their stories and see how they're changing lives.

In Schools

Parents make the ultimate leap of faith when they leave their child at an early learning school or program. They trust the school to nurture, protect and educate their child. High-quality programs partner with parents to set children on the path to success before they enter the formal K-12 educational system. And high-quality programs are driven by strong leaders and talented, dedicated teachers.



Meet Marsha, a leading force behind the launch and expansion of the Lead Learn Excel leadership development program.



Meet Malika, master teacher guiding instruction and collaboration among teachers at Educare Chicago.



Meet Debra, architect of our strategy to connect center-based research to practice.

In Communities

Early learning schools and programs play a pivotal role in communities. They are a welcoming haven where parents meet, network, learn and connect to other services in the community. Parent meetings, resource groups and everyday interactions with peers and teachers provide support for parents at the beginning of their child's academic career. The tools and skills they learn empower them with a strong voice as they navigate their child's path through the education system. The schools are a collective voice for those who need it most.

Meet Caprice, parent and Educare Chicago Alumni Network community leader.



Meet Andrew, strengthening the Educare network of schools.



Meet Deborah & Ericka, working together to build community in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood.



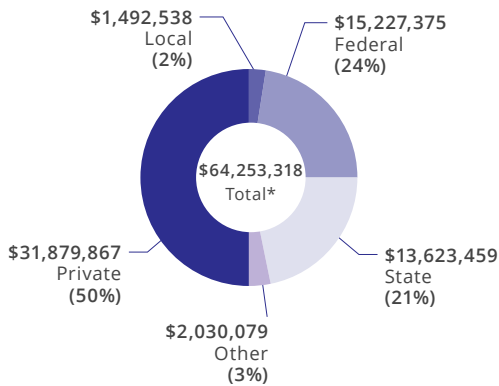
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Financials

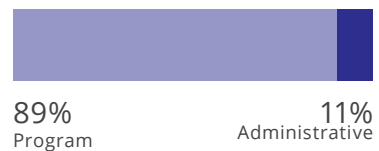
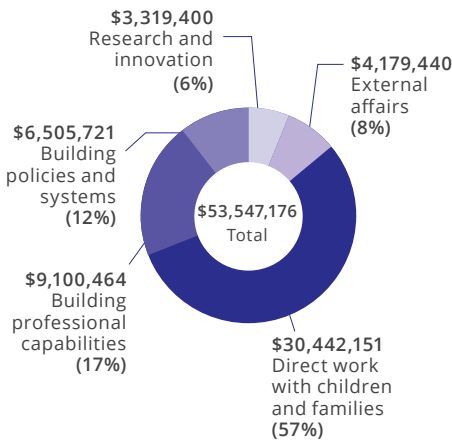
Preliminary and unaudited: year ended June 30, 2016

Revenue

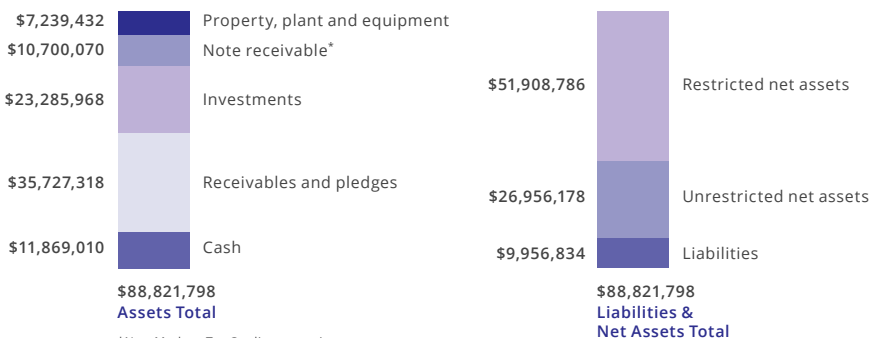


**Per GAAP requirements, revenue includes restricted and multi-year pledges recognized in FY2016 and for which corresponding expenses will be incurred in subsequent years*

Expenses



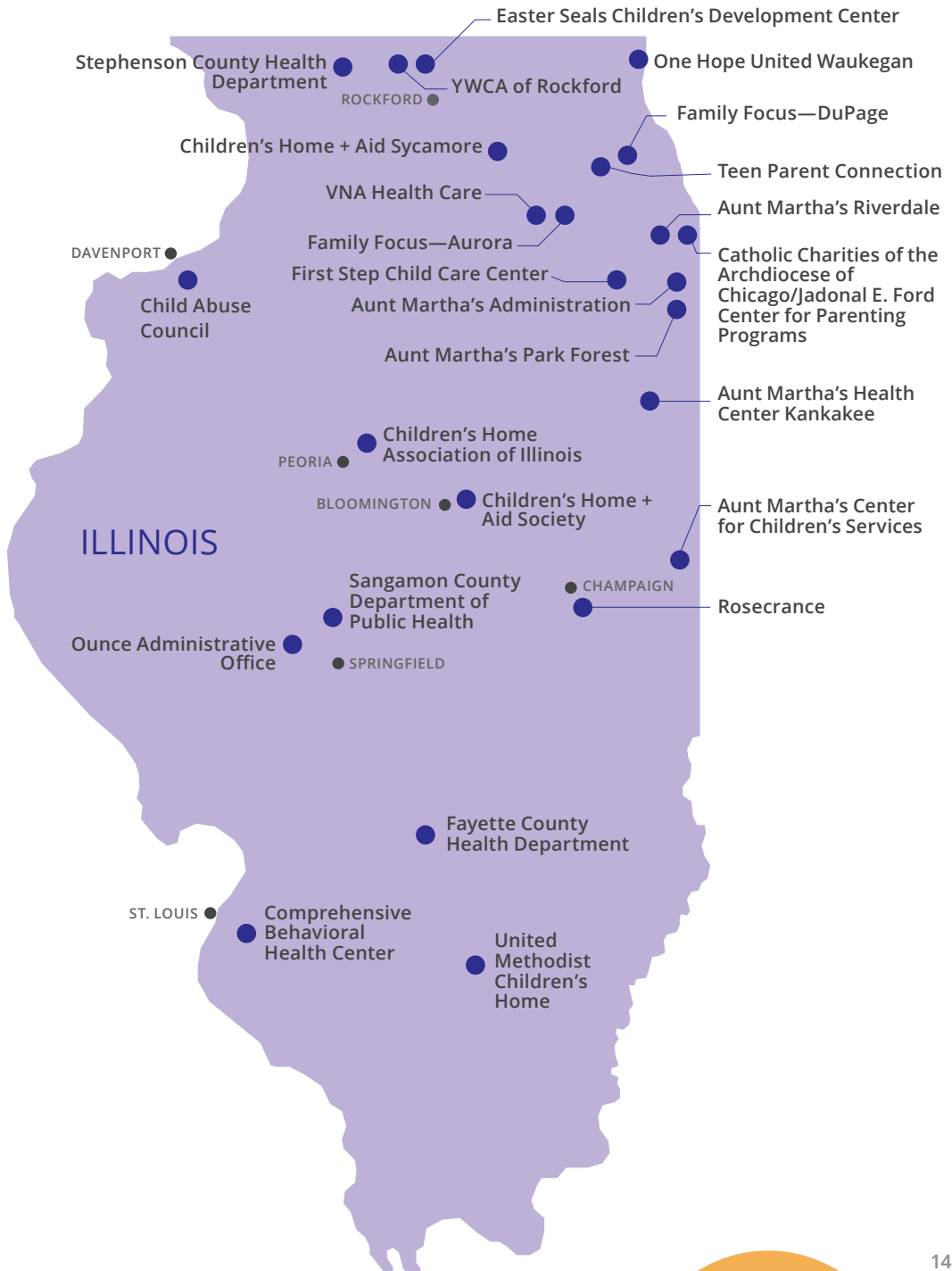
Financial Position



*New Markets Tax Credit transaction for Educare Washington, DC

Partners & Sites

Greater Illinois



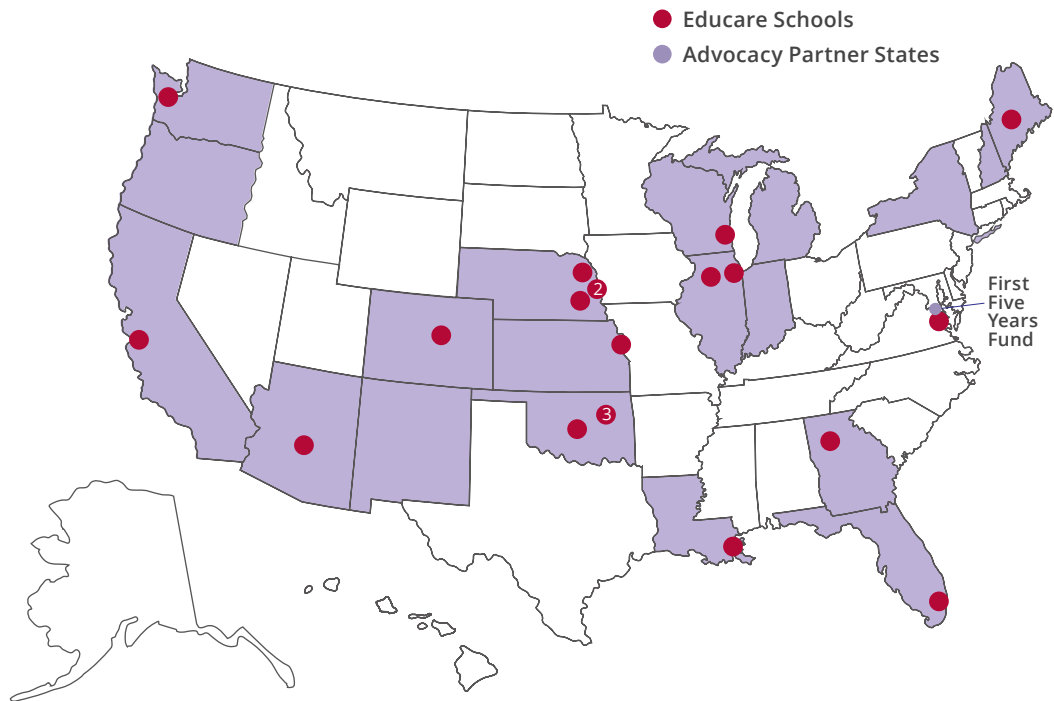
Partners & Sites

Chicago



Partners & Sites

National



PARTNERS

Arizona	Michigan
California	Nebraska
Colorado	New Hampshire
Florida	New Mexico
Georgia	New York
Illinois	Oklahoma
Indiana	Oregon
Kansas	Washington
Louisiana	Washington, DC
Maine	Wisconsin



SCHOOLS

Arizona (Phoenix)	Oklahoma City
Atlanta	Omaha at Indian Hill
California at Silicon Valley	Omaha at Kellom
Central Maine (Waterville)	Seattle
Chicago	Tulsa at Hawthorne
Denver	Tulsa at Kendall-Whittier
Kansas City, KS	Tulsa at MacArthur
Lincoln, NE	Washington, DC
Miami-Dade	West DuPage, IL
Milwaukee	Winnebago, NE
New Orleans	



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∞ Deceased

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Educare Learning
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Debra Pacchiano
*Vice President,
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Eli Rosario
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Finance*

First Five Years Fund

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Executive Director

Sarah Rittling
National Director

Our Mission

*The Ounce of Prevention Fund
gives children in poverty
the best chance
for success in school and in life
by advocating for and providing
the highest-quality care
and education
from birth to age five.*

the Ounce



the Ounce

INSPIRE MINDS. CHANGE LIVES.™

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