Dream big, little ones!

One-by-one, 47 tassels are turned as UICS/St. Mark Center students prepare for Pre-K and a lifetime of learning.

Dear Friends,

Watching our 4- and 5-year-old students in cap and gown cross the graduation stage - well, it might just be one of the most gratifying sights ever! This special ceremony hosted May 23rd at the historic Gem Theater is a significant milestone in a lifetime of learning. It’s a sign of success that our students’ developmental growth aligns with innumerable studies demonstrating that children with access to quality early learning are more prepared for kindergarten.

As you review our 2018 Annual Report in this issue, you will see proof of our hope-filled mission in action, as our newest graduates enter kindergarten with expanded vocabulary; better language, math, and social skills; more positive relationships with classmates; and higher scores on school-readiness assessments.

As they go forward in school and in life, they are less likely to need special education services or be held back a grade, and are more likely to graduate and go on to college.

Our faculty and staff are forever grateful for the gift of these children and the promise and potential their education inspires in their lives, their families, and our community.

Your support ensures the benefits of their UICS/St. Mark Center education remain long after their tassels are turned!

With gratitude,

Deidre Anderson, Chief Executive Officer
UICS/St. Mark Center

Early Education = Community Benefit

If children start school ready to learn, they are more likely to read at grade level by 3rd grade. Remedial costs go down, potential lifelong gaps could be eliminated, and our entire school system would be more effective in positioning students for academic and life success.

OUR MISSION
Building bridges. Inspiring minds. Impacting futures.

OUR VISION
We envision a community where children thrive and families flourish.

VISIT
Learn how we empower our students and families by providing high quality educational experiences. To schedule a visit, please contact Chief Engagement Officer Gene Willis at 816-994-5445, gene.willis@uicskc.org.

GIVE
Your time, talent and treasure make a difference! Visit uicskc.org/invest or contact Individual Giving Coordinator Cynthia Hoffman at 816-994-5432, cynthia.hoffman@uicskc.org.

United Inner City Services
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UICS, CEO, Ex-Officio
A kind and generous community brings our mission to life!

91%

On the mark: language and literacy
Students met language and literacy benchmarks, with 91% demonstrating readiness in such areas as auditory comprehension, vocabulary, and narrative language.

93%

Among friends: social interactions and relationships
93% of students met the social/emotional benchmark for healthy relationships and social interactions with their peers. Additionally, 92% of students mastered the benchmark for conflict negotiation - all important indicators of school-readiness.

96%

Fit for school!
UICS/St. Mark Center students reached important milestones in perception, motor, and physical development to prepare for kindergarten.

52%

Perform better than kindergarten peers
UICS/St. Mark Center students were well-prepared for kindergarten in 2018, with assessments revealing that 52% performed better than the average child.

5

Perform better than kindergarten peers
UICS/St. Mark Center students were well-prepared for kindergarten in 2018, with assessments revealing that 52% performed better than the average child.

100%

Helping families rise to everyday challenges
All families who self-identified as “in crisis” or “at-risk” on a Family Needs Assessment received support from our family engagement team, transitioning their status to “stable” by the end of 2018.

The gift of love.

A generous donor enhanced the holiday seasons of our 92 families at our “Snow Much Fun” winter event, providing each with a much appreciated $200 gift card.


Our resident chef prepared 51,884 nutritious meals for students in 2018, exposing children to a variety of healthy foods from different cultures.
We believe in the ability of **creative expression** to **fuel** and **ignite passion**.

**60**

**Arts, cultural, and community-based events**
Students, families, faculty, and staff had opportunities to experience more than 60 arts and culture events in 2018, including an on-site Fall Festival, a student gallery exhibit at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts courtesy of PNC Bank, and a performance by the Alvin Ailey Trio.

**100%**

**Kindergarten-ready parents and caregivers**
100% of parents whose children entered kindergarten in the fall of 2018 completed a readiness checklist, participated in a kindergarten transition home visit, and completed a transition plan.

**10**

**Hours immersed in the arts**
Designed with individual developmental needs in mind, UICS/St. Mark Center students spent an average of 10 hours each week immersed in artistic programming to inspire creative expression, regulate emotions, and develop fine-motor and problem-solving skills.

**100%**

**Trauma-informed care environment**
Trauma-informed care was implemented throughout UICS/St. Mark Center, with all faculty participating in training to help address the needs of students and families who have experienced trauma.

**87%**

**Educator retention**
Retention of UICS/St. Mark Center faculty was 87% in 2018, enhancing student learning with classroom consistency and dedication.

**56**

**Hours of professional development**
Quality early learning begins with exceptionally educated and trained staff. Each UICS/St. Mark Center faculty member completed a minimum of 56 hours of continuing education or professional development training in 2018.

**700+**

**Volunteer hours**
Our awesome volunteers contributed more than 700 hours of service to UICS/St. Mark Center to assist in the classroom, around the facilities, and at family programs and events.

In our commitment to social and emotional student development, UICS/St. Mark Center welcomed a new Student Support Coordinator, thanks to funding from the Health Forward Foundation.

The Junior League of Kansas City, MO provided a literacy grant in 2018 for inclusive books and literacy kits that reflect gender equity and cultural diversity representative of our student body and faculty.

We believe in the nurturing strength and support of community.
2018 Financial Overview
January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS & REVENUE

- Contracts 44%
- Grants & Contributions 43%
- Program Fees 6.7%
- United Way 6%
- Other 3%

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PROGRAM SERVICES & EXPENSES

- Fundraising 3%
- Early Education 65%
- Administration 29%
- Community Services 1%
- Interest/Other 2%

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Around UICS/St. Mark Center

CHIEF ROLE MODEL
Kansas City Chiefs Wide Receiver Sammy Watkins spent time at St. Mark Center in June. Watkins and CEO Deidre Anderson discussed their shared vision that every child deserves access to high quality Pre-K education programs.

LIFE'S LITTLE LESSONS
UICS/St. Mark Center partnered with KCPT to deliver Daniel Tiger "Life's Little Lessons" curriculum in the classrooms to promote social and emotional development.

I WILL REMEMBER
Each St. Mark Center graduate received an "I Will Remember Book" to help ease kindergarten anxieties. "My daughter loves recognizing pictures of familiar faces and the memories made here," said parent Cristina Ortiz, whose daughter Yiudiel graduated in May.

LIFELONG LEARNERS
In June, members of our education team attended a Conscious Discipline Institute to learn strategies for building positive relationships, redirecting negative behaviors, and using conflict as a way to teach and connect.

FRESHMEN ROCK!
UICS/St. Mark Center was the recipient of Rockhurst High School's freshman generous fundraising efforts, with members of the Student Government Association (SGA) presenting their contributions to support Pre-K education!
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