

**PROGRAM APPLICATION**  
**2010-2011 Grant Process**

**SECTION 2**

(If you are seeking funding for more than one program, complete a separate program application for each)

Program Name: **The Growing Place Preschool Program**

Address (Program Location) Families of children attending our Preschool Program for three and four year olds at the Kresgeville Center and Brodheadsville Center.

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Primary Contact for Program Lisa Eick

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**Name the targeted community concern addressed through this program (i.e. youth delinquency)**  
Helping Children Succeed

**Provide a brief written summary of the program seeking funding in 2010-11**

The Growing Place provides a high quality preschool program for children ages three and four years of age. The program is held two part days for three year olds and three part days a week for four year olds. Each class has a maximum of seventeen children with an Early Childhood degreed teacher and at least one experienced assistant. The United Way program assists families with tuition assistance. Families who apply for assistance are required to complete information on their financial status which includes income and expenses and a letter explaining their financial hardship. Families are asked to provide copies of bills and paystubs to verify the information provided. Many of the families who apply for United Way assistance are on one income and have reported that their children would be unable to attend a pre Kindergarten program without this program.

**What is the target population(s)? Give supporting demographic need information and source.**

The target population for this program would be families that have financial hardship and would not be able to have their children attend a high quality early care and education program, without United Way assistance. The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning Reach and County Risk Assessment Report of 2008-09 states” Children who are encouraged and supported throughout quality early childhood education demonstrate significant progress in acquiring early learning skills and may save schools money for special education and remediation costs. These children are more likely to

graduate from high school and attend college or quality job training programs, and be valuable members of the workforce. The benefits of quality early education to children and families translate into a more competitive workforce, greater tax base while reducing public expenses in special 75 participate in the Keystone Stars quality initiative. Programs are rated from a Star education costs and public expenses in special education costs public assistance expenses, crime control and lost taxes.” According to this same report there are 142 regulated child care providers in Monroe County of which one to Star four according to quality standards. There are 8 Star four programs in Monroe County of which The Growing Place has 3. The Growing Place is also accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The program is targeted to assist families who live in Ross, Eldred, Polk and Chestnuthill townships in the Pleasant Valley School District. Although these are the townships surrounding The Growing Place we would welcome any family from Monroe County who would like to attend.

**Describe how the program improves the lives of the targeted population.**

The investment in the family and the child has a significant return for years to come. The State of Pennsylvania regards The Growing Place as a high quality early care and education program. Only 1/3 of preschoolers across the state are able to participate in such programs. The cost of a four’s Preschool Program at The Growing Place would be \$1,305.00 per year. The contribution from United Way to a family in need would be around \$700.00 per year. The family would provide the remaining \$560.00 yearly. Again the Reach and Risk report indicates that “children affected by risk factors such as income, family status or poor school system which can affect their performance in school benefit most from high quality early education. When they have access to quality early education before the age of five, children at risk of school failure can often make up for setbacks in their development, enabling them to enter kindergarten on par with their peers.” There is no other program in Monroe County that provides financial assistance for a traditional preschool program. The families served by The Growing Place would not qualify for services by Head Start or Developmental Educational Services. This United Way program, that assists families with preschool, has helped many young children have a brighter future.

Complete Program Outcome Worksheet (**attach using UWMC template**)

Complete Program Financial Form (**attach using UWMC template**)