

Organizational history

The roots of our organization began in 2008 when there was considerable pressure on the public school board, because of declining enrollment, to close our elementary school and move all the children into the high school building. The elementary school had a large library, two computer labs, as well as classrooms, cafeteria/gymnasium, and large preparation kitchen. In addition to an amazingly spacious playground, it also had an outdoor classroom with native trees and fruit trees, raised garden beds, and a pond for water studies, ice skating and fishing, and an area for cross country skiing and running.

A group of citizens felt a better choice than closing the elementary school would be to bring more children into the building by offering child care in the building. Volunteers met with the school board many times over six months, and surveyed the school district to determine if there was need and interest. Interest was obvious with responses from 30 families with 57 children ages 12 and under. After the survey, it was learned that more families who did not respond to the survey were taking their children out of the district for child care, because either they preferred not to use home day care, or they had been turned away because of no openings. It was discovered that some children were receiving child care services as far as 30 miles away, and those children, once eligible for four-year kindergarten, were not attending school because child care was not available within the district. We determined there was a need especially for flexible care, and home daycare providers only accepted full time children. But pressure to close the school building continued, and the school board was not convinced that the school should provide child care.

Our group of concerned parents and grandparents continued to meet regularly, and in March, 2009, acquired 501(c)(3) status. The group continued to look at using the school building, but rent was set too high and space too small to be successful. Then a couple in the community purchased a building and remodeled it for use by the child care. The corporation furnished the building appropriately and fenced the playground using donations. Central Clark County Community Child Care Center (7C's Daycare) was licensed in the newly remodeled building and began serving children on Nov. 17, 2009. With a volunteer director/administrator/lead teacher and three hired assistants 7C's Daycare provided care (mostly part time) to 12 children in the remaining 6 weeks of 2009. Numbers served have slowly increased to an average of 29 per day (still many part time), with 52 currently attending regularly. In 2014, 70 different children received child care. The license is presently for 40 children, but rooms have the capacity for 58. Currently 11 women are employed, full or part time, and two high school students are employed to clean. The volunteer administrator/director continues part time.

7 C's Daycare targets children in central Clark County who have not found acceptable child care in the existing home daycare facilities. We serve children from ages 6 weeks to 12 years of age. We provide high quality group child care for children of central Clark County while creating employment opportunities in Greenwood. We encourage resident families to use local child care and the school system in Greenwood rather than take their children out of the district for child care and school. We also hope to attract other families whose parents pass through Greenwood on the way to work or who work in Greenwood. We would like to encourage young families to move into the community. Our intention is to be licensed to a capacity such that we will never turn anyone requesting child care away, but instead we will employ more staff as needed.