NorthStar Learning Centers has launched a $2.5 million capital campaign to fund the design and construction of our new Early Childhood Education Center.

With an ambitious two-year timeframe for this capital campaign, NorthStar asks you to be a leader in support of this essential New Bedford improvement project to provide mission-driven early childhood education at the highest level of quality.

We invite you to be a part of this exciting chapter in NorthStar’s 45-year history. Help us build this Early Childhood Education Center by making an investment with a:

- Campaign contribution of any amount
- Naming opportunity for commitment of $10,000 or more
- Pledges that can be made over five years

To discuss a campaign contribution or naming opportunity contact:

Maria A. Rosario, Executive Director
(508) 991-5907 (Direct)
(508) 517-9349 (Mobile)
mrosario@northstarlc.org

NorthStar is honored to recognize its major donors to this important project.

NorthStar is a Star with your gift.

Reaching for the Stars

“Our city’s long-term economic and social health depends on our ability to educate, guide, and support children to be future workers, citizens, and parents. Research confirms that there is no better place to start than at the pre-kindergarten level.” – Estella Rebeiro, Board President

“ In choosing to become an early childhood educator, I have learned that this rewarding career is also a vocation - one that a unique person is called to become a part of. I have seen first-hand how important the first five years are in a child’s life to set the stage for them to succeed in school and in the future. When you nurture and provide children with many hands-on experiences to grow physically, cognitively, and socially, there are no words to express the feelings as you watch them grow and blossom.”

– Marlene Barros, Director of Early Education and Afterschool Programs
Our Commitment to Children’s Education, Healthy Development, and Well-being

NorthStar provides learning programs in which children gain skills, knowledge, and confidence that enable them to succeed in school and life. NorthStar embraces the belief that no child is expendable and with sustained, culturally competent supports, all children can succeed.

Over the past decade, NorthStar has made a life-changing impact on nearly 5,000 children and families. Currently, NorthStar serves 97 children ages one month to kindergarten.

• 56% of children are of minority heritage
• More than 75% of children live in single-parent, mostly mother-led households
• Family income is less than 50% of the State median ($37,465 / family of 4)
• Families qualify for Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care subsidies
• 30% of families are living in subsidized housing and 16% of families are living in a homeless shelter or New Bedford home-based affordable housing
• 55% of children have received Department of Children and Families support
• Many are English Language Learners, whose first language is Spanish, Cape Verdean Crioulo, and Haitian Creole

NorthStar’s early childhood curriculum engages children in literacy-rich activities that promote creative thinking; complex problem-solving; communication and empathetic collaboration; curious investigation; and responsible decision-making. The uniqueness of each child is acknowledged and celebrated.

Quality Matters

Education cannot wait until kindergarten. Research shows that high-quality early education programs for low-income children can lead to greater school success, including reduced need for special education services, lower grade repetition, and higher rates of graduating from high school and continuing onto college. Research indicates that early education has a positive and long-lasting impact including reduced need for special education services, lower grade repetition, and higher rates of graduating from high school and continuing onto college. Research shows that early education has a positive and long-lasting impact including reduced need for special education services, lower grade repetition, and higher rates of graduating from high school and continuing onto college. Research shows that early education has a positive and long-lasting impact including reduced need for special education services, lower grade repetition, and higher rates of graduating from high school and continuing onto college. Research shows that early education has a positive and long-lasting impact including reduced need for special education services, lower grade repetition, and higher rates of graduating from high school and continuing onto college. Research shows that early education has a positive and long-lasting impact including reduced need for special education services, lower grade repetition, and higher rates of graduating from high school and continuing onto college. Research shows that early education has a positive and long-lasting impact including reduced need for special education services, lower grade repetition, and higher rates of graduating from high school and continuing onto college. Research shows that early education has a positive and long-lasting impact including reduced need for special education services, lower grade repetition, and higher rates of graduating from high school and continuing onto college.

New Bedford’s long-term economic and social health depends on NorthStar.

• Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children
• Program assessed by the Department of Early Education and Care Quality Rating and Improvement System
• Best-practice curriculum aligned with Massachusetts Early Education Curriculum and Assessment Standards for children’s learning, development, and well-being
• Recognized by Root Cause/Social Impact Research as a Recommended High Performing School Readiness Organization
• Adopted the research-based Devereux Early Childhood Assessment program to help traumatized children cope and succeed
• Works with early intervention services to enable children with disabilities or developmental delays to be active, independent, and successful
• Long-term partner with the Department of Children and Families to increase the strength and resiliency of children and families in crisis

A New Early Childhood Education Center for NorthStar

NorthStar will construct a 14,000 square-foot, Early Childhood Education Center to house its primary childcare program. This modern building is in the heart of New Bedford’s underserved and low-income South End neighborhood. NorthStar collaborated with a team of specialists to design age-appropriate environments which promote children’s discovery and learning. Integrated design solutions will encourage parent involvement. The new Center will include:

• 10 age-appropriate classrooms for infants, toddlers and preschool age children
• Gross motor room
• Parent resource rooms and teacher conference areas
• Age-appropriate outdoor play spaces, including a preschool garden
• Dedicated drop-off area and off-street parking

By consolidating NorthStar’s early childhood education programs and administration offices from a leased space into this owned facility, NorthStar will increase operational efficiencies, and provide its mission-driven early childhood education at the highest level of quality. The Early Childhood Education Center will increase NorthStar’s capacity to:

• Prepare young children to succeed in school and life
• Promote family health and stability
• Support neighborhood rejuvenation and diversity
• Contribute to the long-term prosperity and safety of New Bedford

As a parent, it’s hard to trust just anyone with your children. The teachers at NorthStar have made it an easy transition for my children and me. The center feels like a second home. My children have gained so much knowledge and continue to learn more than just their ABCs and 1, 2, 3s. They have learned how to get along with others. Also, the staff is available to support me whenever I need it.

What a great experience.
— Nancy Reverdes, Parent
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“A great experience.”

– Nancy Reverdes, Parent

Preschool expulsion has become more prevalent than in K-12. Linking action with words that no child is expendable, our early learning programs offer a “safe landing” for young children expelled from other programs—mostly for challenging behavior. We do not expel children because of behavior problems, which can often be linked to exposure to traumatic events and stress. Backed by research, our experience is that with sustained, culturally competent supports, all children can learn, heal, and thrive.”

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NorthStar remains grounded in its original vision to help children and families overcome poverty, discrimination, educational disadvantage, violence, and other adversity through learning essential competencies and hopefulness with which they can transform their lives and communities.

NorthStar provides year-round early childhood education, afterschool, youth development, and mental health programs to promote school success and healthy development. NorthStar improves family functioning and accountability to support positive outcomes. NorthStar removes barriers to educational and economic success to increase our community’s investment in children, and to open pathways for all children and families to achieve better lives.

50 Years of Educating Children and Their Families

Established in 1974, NorthStar Learning Centers, a nonprofit minority business enterprise, grew out of community action inspired by the civil rights movement. NorthStar remains grounded in its original vision to help children and families overcome poverty, discrimination, educational disadvantage, violence, and other adversity through learning essential competencies and hopefulness with which they can transform their lives and communities.

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