

2013  
BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS

Kathleen Reticker  
*Executive Director*

Patricia Sullivan Talty  
*Chair*

Theresa Park  
*Vice Chair*

Sharon Privitera  
*Treasurer*

Patricia Goldstein  
*Clerk*

Rose Castillo

Melissa Devore

Claudia Espinola

Cheryl Hylton

Dora Lemus

Valessa Marques

Allyssa McCabe

Matthew McLaughlin

Darmerly Montoya

Blanca Valencia

Jerry Wedge

## Meet the Goldsteins *(Continued)*

It was through their Concord connections that Pat found herself eager to join the Acre Family Child Care Board of Directors five years ago.

The Goldsteins became friendly with Kathy Reticker when Thoughtforms Corp., the innovative building company at which Andrew was a partner, was contracted to build a new building for the Concord Children's Center, where Kathy was executive director.

When Kathy came to Lowell to take the helm of AFCC she thought of Pat, who has had a long career in the high-tech field and works for Courier Corporation in Chelmsford.

Once Pat heard AFCC's mission – empowering women with low incomes, many of whom are immigrants, to start their own home-based childcare businesses, providing safe, affordable childcare for other women in their neighborhoods, she knew she wanted to be part of it.

“Acre's model does two very important things for families – creates economic independence for women and high quality family childcare,” says Pat. “It is a force for the good in society and for Lowell.”

That an idea that started as the dream of a college graduate student 25 years ago has survived and thrived for so long is testament that it is a smart model, one Pat thinks can be replicated in cities across the country.

“Acre's model does two very important things for families – creates economic independence for women and high quality family childcare...”

“The future is growth through partnerships with other Lowell organizations and businesses like the Lowell Community Health Center, Enterprise Bank and UMass Lowell,” she adds. “Those types of partnerships provide great opportunities and visibility.”

Acre Family Child Care  
55 Middle Street  
Suite 500, Fifth Floor  
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852



2013 Annual Report

# We can make a difference!



Kathy Reticker,  
Executive Director

Dear Friends and Families,

Imagine travelling half way around the world to arrive in a country that bears little resemblance to the one you left but has a program with an almost identical mission to the one you work on every day. That was my experience in participating in the Deshpande Foundation's Development Dialogue 2014 in Hubli, India.

Participating in the Dialogue gave me the opportunity to visit the Agastya Foundation which is the world's largest hands-on science program reaching over 5 million children and 150,000 teachers. While there is no comparison to the scale the Indian program reaches, our partnership with the Discovery Museums in Acton brings hands-on science education to the 50 providers and 400 children we serve. While the Agastya Foundation creates “Labs in a Box” to distribute to teachers in rural villages, the AFCC/Discovery Museums partnership distributes curriculum kits aimed at bringing science to family child care homes in multiple languages.

Similar to the Agaysta Foundation, we have worked closely with the Discovery Museums to provide professional development opportunities for our educators and field trips for our children and their families. This past year we hosted a Pre-School Science Fair which was perhaps the first of its kind.

So as different in scale and setting as our two programs are, I think the similarities are striking. The challenge as we go forward is to keep innovating and discovering better ways to educate the children in our care. While we will never reach the scale of the Agastya Foundation, the impact on the lives of the families and children we serve can be enormous. Whenever I feel daunted by the challenges of that effort, I need only to think of the challenge of reaching 5 million children and remind myself that we can make a difference!

I hope you enjoy the photos from our 25th Anniversary Celebration and that you will join us as we begin the next 25 years!

Sincerely,

Kathy Reticker



“Labs in a Box”  
Agastya Foundation



“Curriculum Kits” AFCC and the Discovery Museums

“The challenge as we go forward is to keep innovating and discovering better ways to educate the children in our care.”

**Letter from our Board Chair**

February, 2014

Dear Friends,

It's my pleasure once again to introduce the Annual Report of Acre Family Child Care (AFCC). As you will see in this report, 2013, our twenty-fifth anniversary year, was a very busy one. Over the summer our administrative offices were moved to 55 Middle Street, Lowell. The space is beautiful, filled with light from the amazing windows, and the heat and air conditioning work every day! The building even has an elevator, making it easier for those with mobility issues or pushing a stroller, to access the office. There is also space for training and events, like the Annual meeting, for which we used to rent space, resulting in savings in our budget.



**Acre Board Chair,  
Patricia Sullivan Talty**

Two of the other highlights of the year were the Pre-School STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art and Math) Fair held at UMass Lowell and the 25th Anniversary Celebration. The STEAM Fair showcased science projects that each of the educators worked on with the children, and the projects are being gathered into a curriculum manual that can be shared with all of the educators. All of the participants did a wonderful job with their displays and are looking forward to the next STEAM Fair. The 25th Anniversary Gala took place at the UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center in October and was attended by staff, Board members, educators both present and past and our community partners. The evening of dining, dancing, raffles and viewing a Red Sox playoff game on a big screen was a celebration of twenty-five years of service by our educators to the community and of the numerous small businesses supported by AFCC over the years. We are grateful to the sponsors who provided funding for our activities throughout the year.

We thank you for your interest in Acre Family Child Care and for taking the time to read this Annual Report. We look forward to more great things for Acre Family Child Care in 2014 and in the next twenty-five years.

Sincerely,

Patricia Sullivan Talty  
Board Chair

# Celebrating 25 Years!



## Meet the Goldsteins: Committed to Acre Family Child Care

*Andrew and Pat Goldstein. Photo/Jennifer Myers*



Andrew Goldstein was a kid from the Bronx who landed at the University of Wisconsin as a compromise.

His parents couldn't afford to send him to California.

One day in the library . . .

"I saw Pat walk by and I was dumb-struck . . . or star-struck," he recalls, fumbling for the perfect word.

"Smitten," states Pat, plucking the perfect word from the air.

Forty-four years and two children later, when they aren't out dancing, enjoying a meal at Oleana in Boston, or catching up on Breaking Bad, the Goldsteins can be found chasing their handsome blonde grandson, Aiden, 3, around their Concord home.

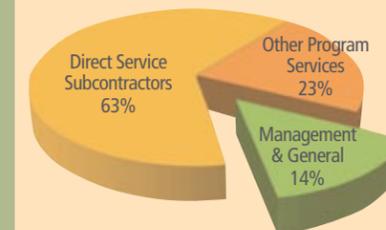
Job opportunities and circumstance brought the couple to Massachusetts, settling in the quintessential New England town, Concord, in 1980. *(Continued on back)*

### Acre Family Child Care / Financial Summary

(unaudited, in thousands)

	FISCAL YEAR	
	2013	2012
<b>Revenue &amp; Support</b>		
Program Service Revenue	\$3,641	\$3,637
Other Revenues	21	24
Grants & Contributions:		
Grants – Government	108	54
Grants – Foundations	58	72
Individuals & Businesses	62	27
Grants & Contributions	228	153
Gross Support & Revenue	3,890	3,814
<b>Expenses</b>		
Direct Service Subcontractors	2,446	2,399
Other Program Services	910	921
Management & General	560	525
Total Expenses	3,916	3,845
Operating (Loss) Income	\$(26)	\$(31)

### Total Expenses 2013



During the past two years, 86% of all expenditures were used to support our child care service programs, while general management & fundraising expenditures required only 14 cents of each dollar spent.