Annual REPORT 2025

Our Children's Center

MONTESSORI





MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Our Children's Center (OCC) is to educate children in a dynamic, warm, engaging, responsive, multicultural environment designed both to stimulate and to nurture them; to support and fairly compensate a highly skilled professional staff; to promote and maintain a diverse student and staff population; and to foster a strong sense of community among families.

It is not true that I invented what is called the Montessori Method... I have studied the child; I have taken what the child has given me and expressed it, and that is what is called the Montessori Method.

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LETTERS FROM LEADERSHIP

Head of School

As we move through our 50th year at Our Children's Center, we have much to celebrate. We are a vibrant school community with loving, dedicated teachers, providing beautiful, well-equipped Montessori environments for students to explore, learn from, and grow. This milestone also provides the chance to reflect on our school, to reaffirm our mission, and to recalibrate ourselves to ensure continued development and excellence for decades to come.

At the core of Montessori is community. It drew me in as a young parent, then a volunteer, then a teacher, and now as Head of School. When I consider how many lives have been touched by OCC over the years, I marvel at the far-reaching positive impacts that have rippled out from this school community. We remain committed to providing a loving place to foster lifelong journeys of curiosity, discovery, and growth — not only for the children in our care, but for families and staff as well.

"It is true that we cannot make a genius. We can only give to each child the chance to fulfill their potential possibilities."
— Maria Montessori

Board Presidents

As co-presidents of the Board, we have the unique privilege of seeing Our Children's Center through two lenses — that of a parent of a recent graduate and that of a community member whose children's OCC days are long past but whose connection to the school remains strong. From both perspectives, one truth stands out: the heart of OCC has always been its community.

This year has been one of steady growth and continued reflection as we prepare to celebrate OCC's 50th anniversary. Our classrooms remain joyful and calm, filled with children deeply engaged in their work and guided by teachers who are both highly skilled and deeply dedicated. We have strengthened our professional staff through certification and leadership development, expanded our financial aid, and ensured that diversity and inclusion remain central to our mission.

We are proud of the ways OCC lives its values beyond the classroom. Families, alumni, and supporters have shown remarkable commitment through volunteer efforts, events, and financial contributions that sustain the high quality of education and care that defines this community. Whether through fundraising, shared meals, or everyday conversations at drop-off, the spirit of connection that began fifty years ago is alive and well.

As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude and optimism. The coming year will bring opportunities to celebrate our history and envision the next chapter of OCC — one that continues to nurture children, support educators, and build community. We thank every teacher, parent, child, and friend who makes OCC the remarkable place it is.

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Small student-teacher ratios
- Beautiful and peaceful Montessori classrooms
- Expert Montessori-trained guides in each classroom
- Inclusive Montessori meal program
- Growing kindergarten program
- Strong commitment to funding financial aid
- Enrichment programs in arts and movement
- Involvement with local education support programs

THIS YEAR HAS BEEN ONE OF STEADY GROWTH AND CONTINUED REFLECTION AS WE PREPARE TO CELEBRATE **OCC'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY.**



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Recent
Accomplishments



Staff & Professional Development

Montessori certification of two additional teachers
Establishment of classroom and program coordinator positions

Financial Investment

Increased funding allocated to financial aid and scholarships



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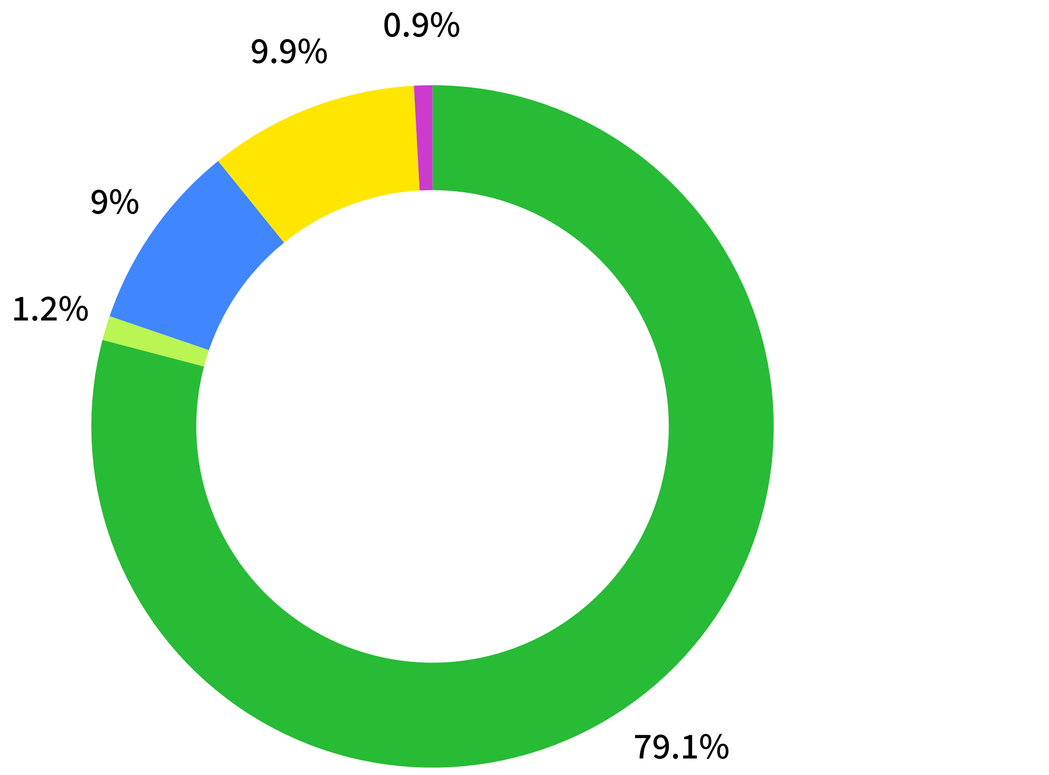
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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Our Children's Center strives to be a financially sound and transparent nonprofit organization. Our fiscal responsibility extends to staff, families, and donors as we work to maintain a balanced budget. OCC supports our community through a combination of tuition, state and federal funding, and local programs and donors.
The majority of OCC's funding goes directly into classrooms in the form of salaries and benefits. Students benefit greatly from having fairly compensated, well-educated, and dedicated Montessori guides.

Income Summary

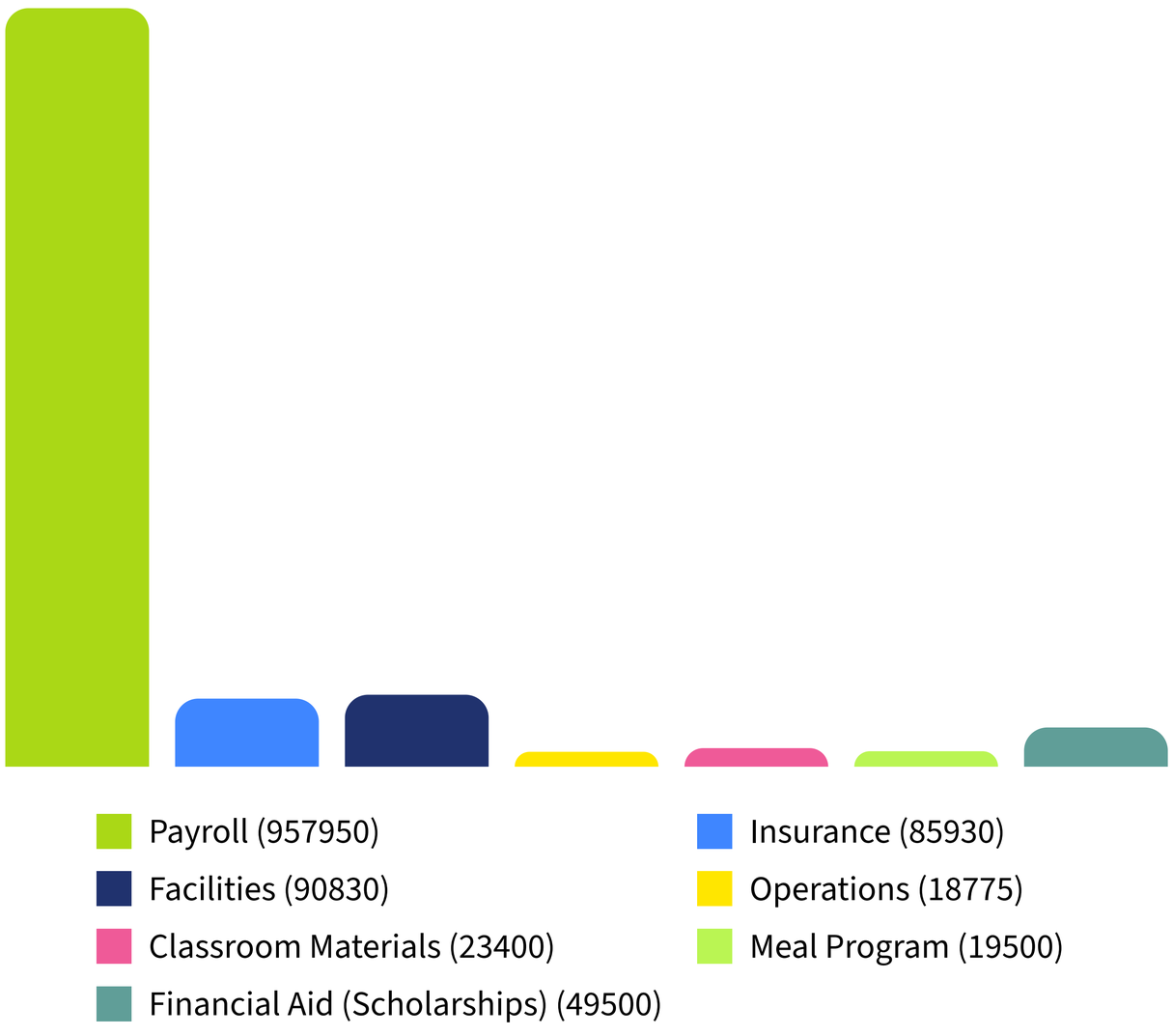
Registrations: $14,600
Core Tuition: $1,000,315
Extended Care: $113,212
Subsidies / Financial Aid: $125,780
Interest Income: $11,000



Total Income: $1,264,907

Expense Summary

Payroll: $957,950
Insurance: $85,930
Facilities: $90,830
Operations: $18,775
Classroom Materials: $23,400
Meal Program: $19,500
Financial Aid (Scholarships): $49,500



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Pie Chart Category

Summary

The pie charts illustrate how OCC's income is generated and how funds are allocated:

Tuition & Program Income: Core tuition, extended care, and registration fees that support daily operations.

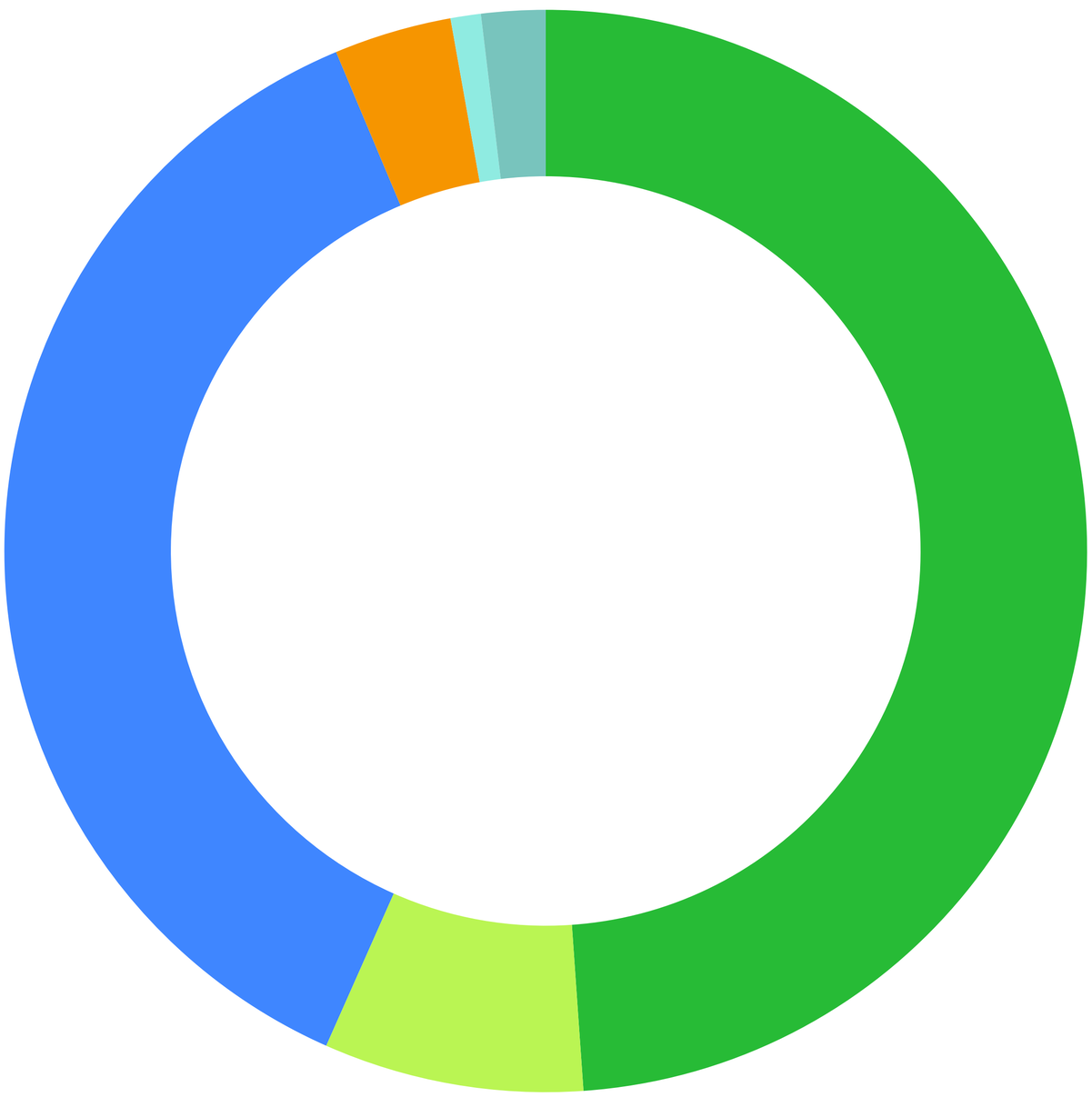
Public & Private Support: State and federal subsidies, grants, and local community contributions.

Staffing & Payroll: Salaries and benefits for teachers and staff, representing the largest investment.

Facilities & Operations: Building maintenance, insurance, and essential operational costs**.**

Classroom & Student Support: Classroom materials, meal programs, and enrichment resources.

Financial Aid: Scholarships that ensure access to OCC for families with demonstrated need.



Tuition & Program Income (1264907)

Public & Private Support (200709)

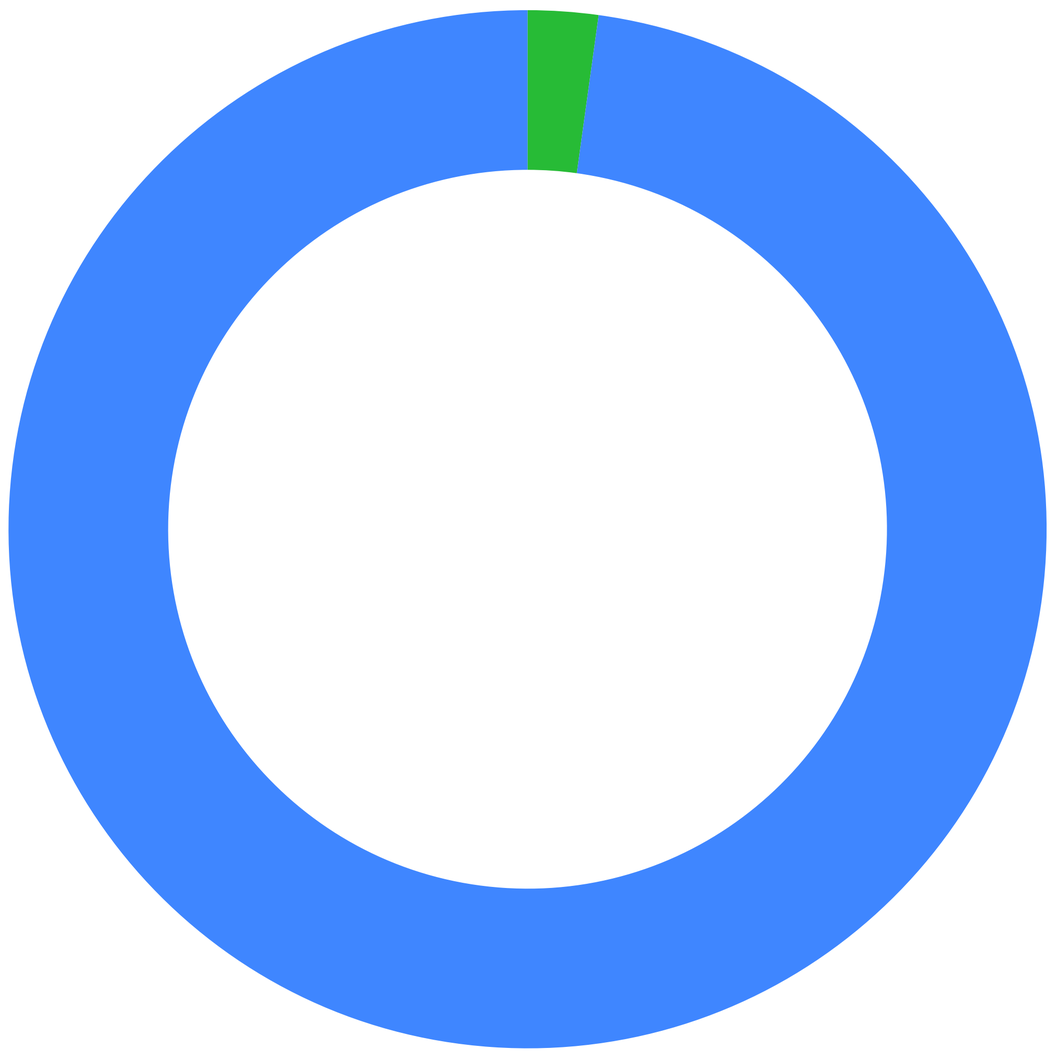
Staffing & Payroll (957950)

Facilities & Operations (90830)

Classroom & Student Support (23400)

Financial Aid (49500)

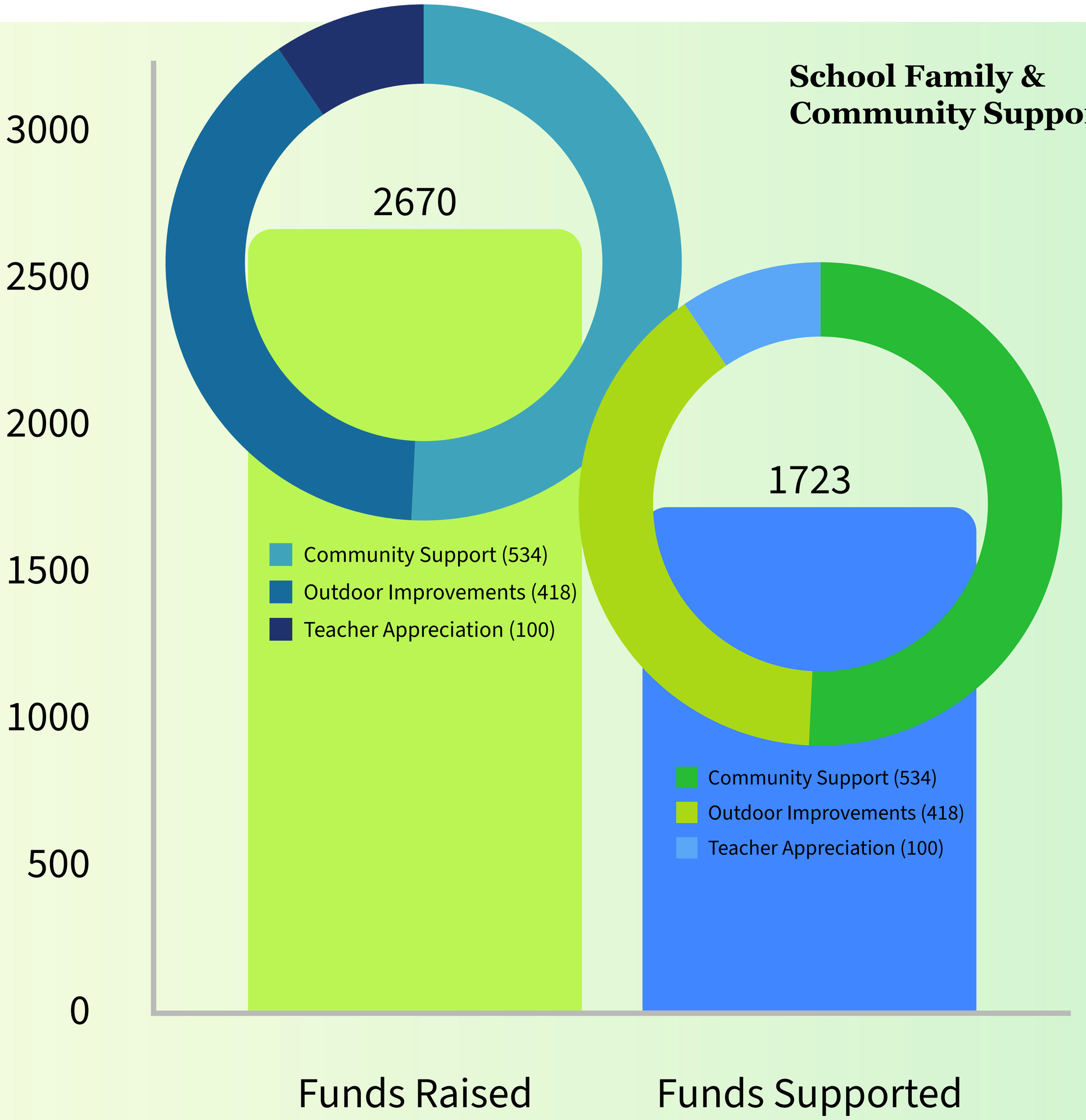
Financial aid funding is raised through the combined efforts of the Board of Directors, school administration, and the OCC community, including fundraising events, grants, and donor contributions.



School Family & Community Support (4393)

Tuition Discounts & Financial Aid Support (196316)

Fundraising
and Donor Highlights



School Family & Community Support

Funds Raised:
Apple Sales: $355
Bike Rodeo: $341
Restaurant Nights: $1,974

Additional efforts: RaiseRight, clothing drive, For Small Hands

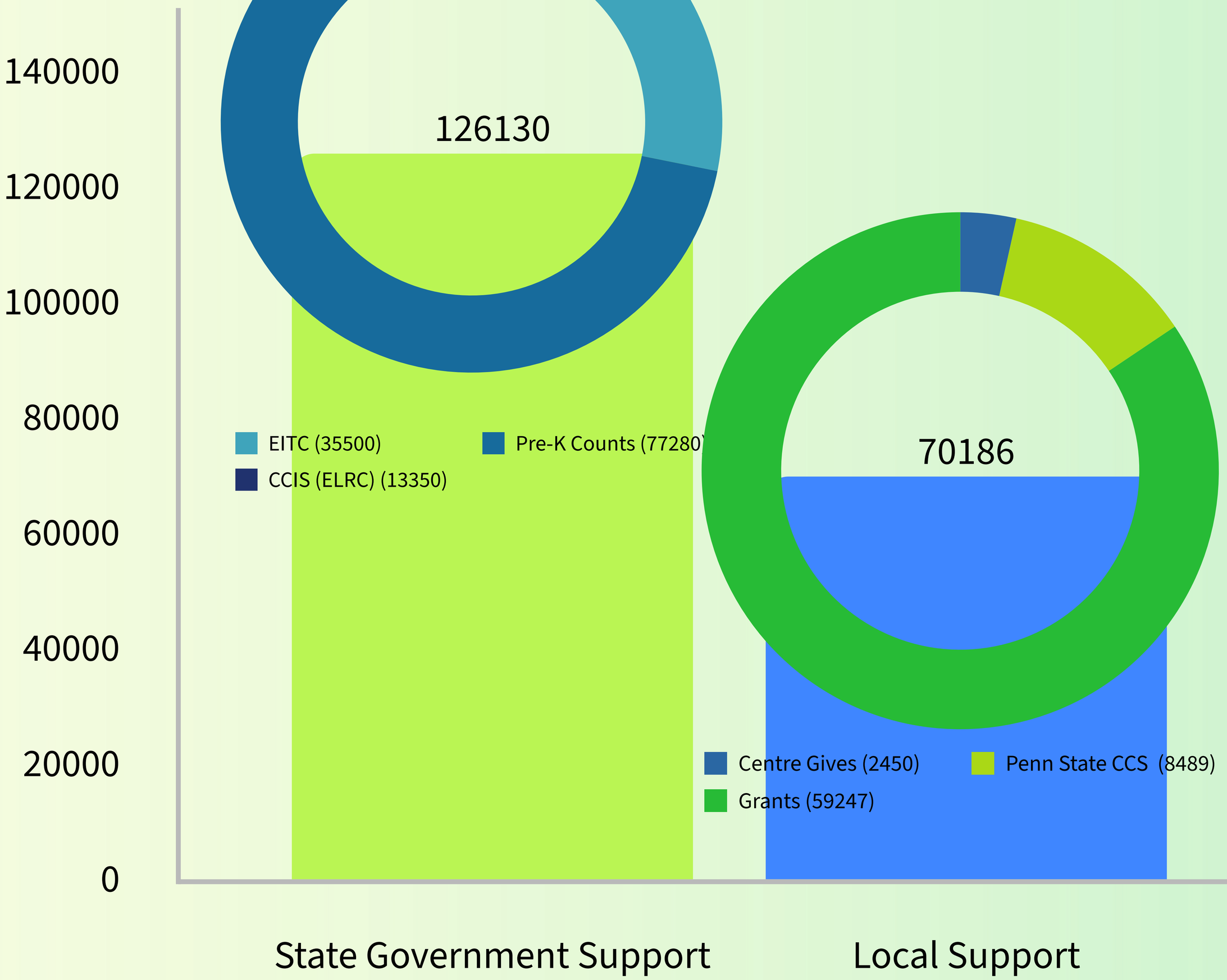
Funds Supported:
Community Support: $534
Outdoor Improvements: $418
Teacher Appreciation: $771

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Fundraising
and Donor Highlights

Tuition Discounts & Financial Aid Support



State Government Support:
EITC: $35,500
Pre K Counts: $77,280

- **Local Support:**
  - Centre Gives: $2,450
  - Penn State CCS (PSU student families): $8,489
  - Child Care Aware for America (Military families): $0
  -
- **Grants:** $59,247 (including $53,219 Expansion Grant)

Future Outlook & Goals

08

Expansion of *The Nest* program

Pursuit of Montessori accreditation

Celebration of OCC's 50th Anniversary, including a Spring Gala in 2026 and alumni events throughout the year