

Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame Archive Project

Archive Project

Inception to Induction

Variety Child Learning Center (VCLC)

Year of Founding: 1966

Issues Addressed: Promote the development, education and inclusion into the community of children with or at risk of disabilities

Induction Category & Year: Children and Youth Services, 2007

Founder: Judith S. Bloch

Personal Quote from Founder: "Our professional team promotes the development of children, especially those with developmental disabilities, including autism, through early identification, education and partnerships with families, hand-in-hand with research, training and collaboration with professionals."

History: Judith S. Bloch founded Variety Child Learning Center in 1966 as Pre-Schooler's Workshop (PSW). In 1966, the school was located in Garden City with just one classroom with a total of six students. It then relocated in 1977 to a public school building at 47 Humphrey Drive Syosset, New York. A few years later in 1981, Pre-Schooler's Workshop (PSW) purchased the building where the school and all current onsite programs are held. Two years after that PSW, changed its name to Variety Pre-Schooler's Workshop (VPSW) in recognition of an endowment from Variety-The Children's Charity.

In 1993, VPSW established the Special Education Itinerant Teacher (SEIT) program on Long Island to provide services for children with disabilities. In 2000, VPSW changed its name again to Variety Child Learning Center (VCLC) to reflect the new programs and services. In 2004, they introduced two new programs: Special Class in an Integrated Setting (SCIS) in Westbury School District and the Social Skills Training Program in the Jericho School District.

Agency Mission: VCLC provides special education services and related therapies to young children with disabilities, while reducing the stress level on their families and increasing their capabilities. They also promote programs, research, policies and collaborations that improve child development and family life.

Population Served: The agency caters to special needs children and their families in New York City, Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Scope of Activities: The agency has many services, including the Special Education Itinerant Teacher (SEIT) Program where teachers go into homes, nursery schools, preschools or childcare centers to give special education services to children. They also offer a Special Class in an Integrated Setting (SCIS) and Social Skills Training Program in partnership with the Westbury and Jericho School districts. A class includes nine regular education children and six classified children who have special needs. Other services include the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Program for autistic children and a training program for early childhood professionals, therapists and special education teachers.

Volunteer Involvement: Variety Child Learning Center is staffed with over 420 members including: special education teachers, assistant teachers, therapists (physical, occupational, speech, play), psychologists, social workers, school nurses, and approximately 80 volunteers (including graduate and undergraduate interns).

Funding Sources: VCLC is a nonprofit agency. They depend on fundraisers, local and state federal funds, school districts, donations and foundation support to provide for the children.

Contact Information:

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**Submitted by:
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