



2946 Bailey Ave, Buffalo, NY 14215

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mypreciousangels.net

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"Child Care Crisis"

Hello,

My name is Felicia Williamson. I am the owner of My Precious Angels Childcare with two locations in the city of Buffalo, NY, serving the community for over 19 years. I am also a steering committee member of the WNY Child Care Action Team.

Imagine graduating from college with an Early Childhood Educator degree working in a field to make a difference in the lives of children and families. Now imagine, that same person living in poverty. Most daycare owners and staff are on Medicaid and receive food stamps to buy food for their household.

Imagine owning a Childcare business for 30+ years only to retire and get \$1,000 - \$1,500 a month in Social Security. Most daycare owners cannot afford to pay themselves and cannot afford to invest in a retirement savings plan. We give our businesses are all, but we cannot retire with a livable earning or a pension.

Our small childcare businesses cannot sustain without help. With inflation and the increase in minimum wage annually, we can no longer afford to pay or staff what they deserve. We have had to close classrooms and some have had to close their businesses. We are living in a time where everyone sees how essential Childcare is to the workforce, however, no one is helping us survive. While we are taking care of other families, what about our families? What about the quality of life that we live.

Now Imagine, permanent fluid funding to provide free childcare to all like elementary schools, high schools, and colleges. Imagine our classrooms remaining full allowing us to pay our staff what they deserve. Imagine our businesses growing allowing owners to invest back into the communities they serve and prepare a future for their families. Imagine families not being stressed with the financial burden of childcare. Imagine daycares receiving the cost of what it actually cost us to operate our facilities.



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As my colleague, Rosalyn Cheatom mentioned, "Employees are not coming back to the childcare industry unless these things change."

1. We need set subsidy reimbursement rates based on actual operating cost.
2. Daycare provides should be paid based on enrollment and not attendance.
3. Increase funding for grant opportunities.

Now imagine a change!

Universal Childcare will help more families get back into the workforce and allow their children to be placed in a setting that prepares them for school. This will further develop the workforce and help grow our economy.

Now that you have imagined all of this. We need your help to survive!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Felicia Williamson".

Felicia Williamson
Executive Director