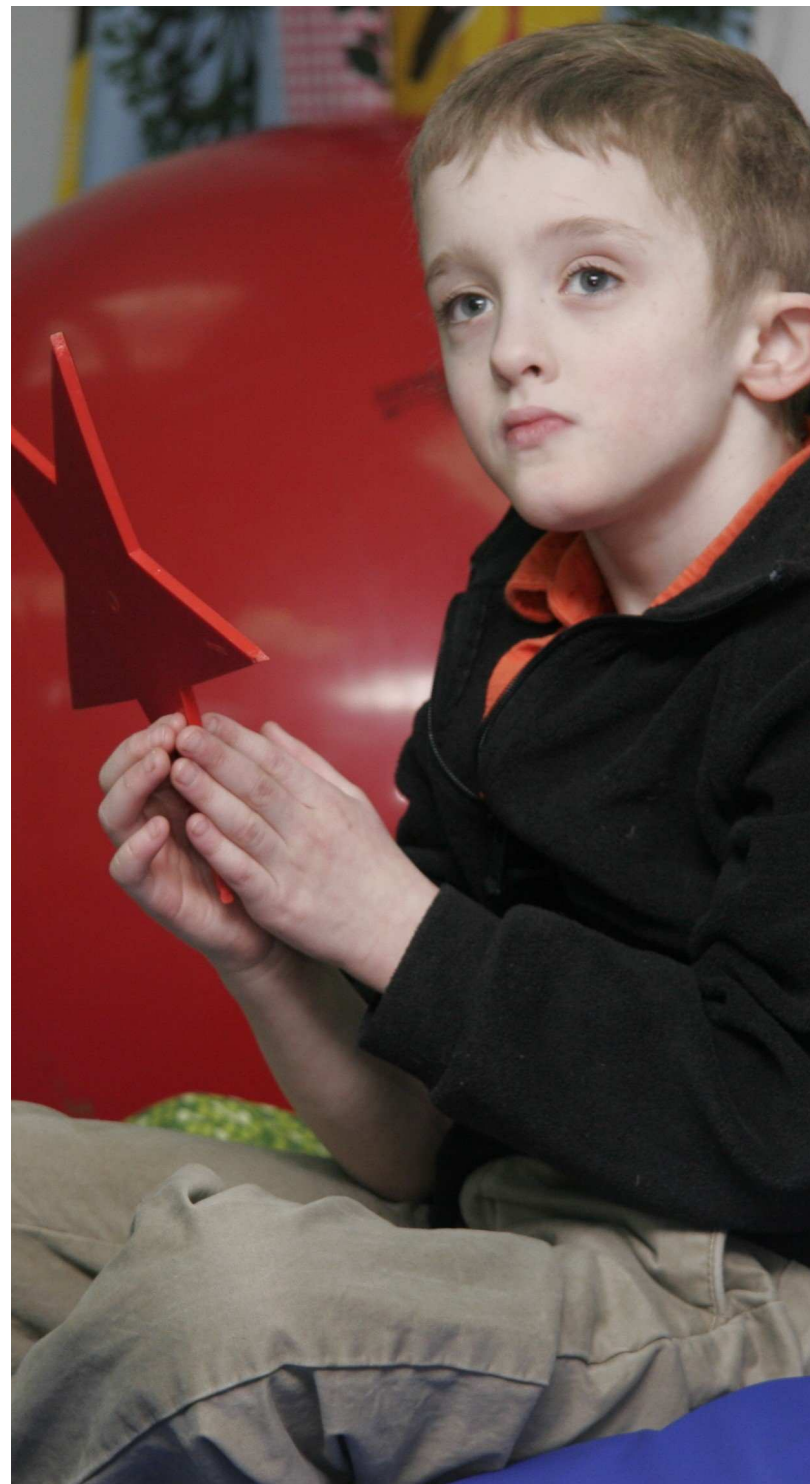


extreme kids & crew
annual report 2012

CAUSING A SCENE
FOR BROOKLYN'S
CHILDREN WITH
DISABILITIES,
THEIR FAMILIES,
& FRIENDS

The 2010 Census reports that 1 in 20 school age children living at home has a disability.

Over 80,000 children in Brooklyn have disabilities.





A Child's Disability Affects the Whole Family

The Arc's 2011 survey of families caring for children and adults with developmental disabilities found that 88% of caregivers report physical fatigue, 81% report emotional stress, and 46% felt that they had more responsibilities than they could handle.

A 2009 study in the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* found the levels of stress hormones in mothers of teenagers with autism comparable to the stress levels of combat soldiers.

The idea behind Extreme Kids & Crew is to help families raising children with disabilities help themselves.



**Through the arts,
movement & play,
parents and
children reduce
stress levels and
break through
feelings of
isolation.**

**Families
connect.**





Our Story:

Eliza Factor started Extreme Kids & Crew because she felt that a beautiful, light and expansive space designed to honor children facing disability could deeply benefit both the children and their families.

Eliza's son Felix has autism and cerebral palsy. Her daughters do not. She knew first hand the toll that one child's disability can take on the entire family. The stress and logistical difficulties that could arise simply from walking down the street together, going to a playground, a deli, a birthday party could be paralyzing. She yearned for a place where her family would not be stared at, where her daughters could meet other children whose siblings had disabilities, where she and her husband could meet other parents with experiences similar to theirs, and most importantly, where Felix could have fun.

While she was grateful for the excellent therapeutic programs that she had found for Felix, she knew that he also needed a place and time set apart from goals and prescriptions, a place where he could be himself, a place where she could play with him and his sisters, or explore the arts with them with no aim in mind except for enjoyment.

Clearly she was not the only parent to feel this way. **In its first two years, over 350 families from all five boroughs of New York City have participated in Extreme Kids & Crew's arts and movement programming.**



Eliza and Board Member Jamila Waddell relax with their children at Space No. 1.

Our Programs: Space No. 1



On November 13, 2011, Extreme Kids & Crew opened **Space No. 1**, Brooklyn's first drop-in sensory playspace in the Coop School at 40 Brevoort Place in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Space No. 1 is a lab and playscape where children and their parents can experiment with and explore equipment usually reserved for therapists' offices.

Over 300 children have visited in barely over a year of operations, and **over 3000 visits** have been recorded. Families have come from all five boroughs of New York City and every neighborhood in Brooklyn. Their children have a wide range of disabilities including autism spectrum disorders, sensory processing disorders, epilepsy, blindness, deafness, cerebral palsy, and attention deficit disorder.

What we have learned:

As important as its specialized equipment is, the most precious thing about Space No. 1 is its atmosphere. At times the room bubbles with excitement, at times it is relaxed. What holds these moods together is the underlying sense of acceptance that special needs families have learned to cultivate.

In the words of one mother, "**The energy of acceptance in your space is like oxygen we didn't even know that we needed.**"





Music & Play

Music & Play allows families to reap the benefits of live music in a low key and understanding atmosphere. Children wheel, run, whoop. Parents hear top notch Brooklyn musicians do their thing. Musicians experience the joy of playing for this unique audience. Said one parent after seeing her son light up during a jazz performance: **"This was the most exquisite event my child has ever attended."**

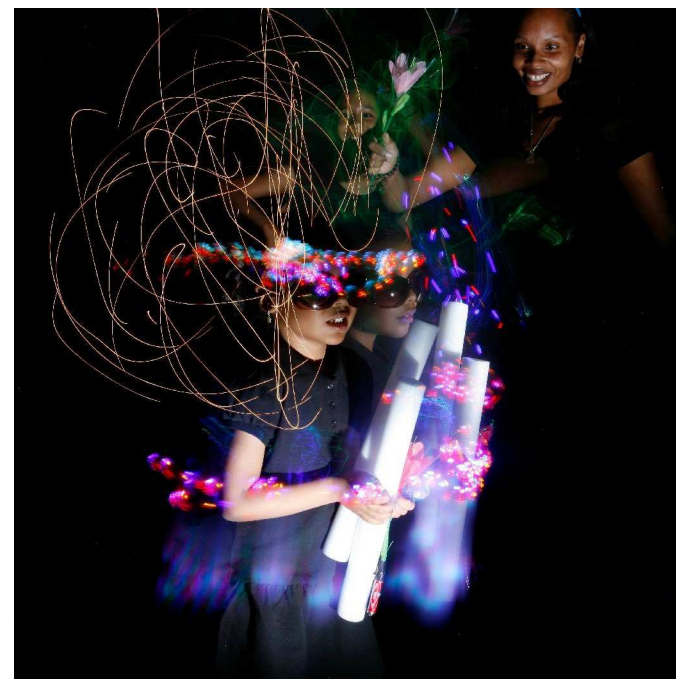
Performers in the Music & Play series come from a wide range of genres and make music intended to engage adults as well as children. Participating musicians include: Avishai and Anat Cohen, Karla Schickele, Yolanda Zama, Astrograss, M. Shanghai String Band, Bonga, Serena Jost, Jesse Neuman, Felice Rosser, Jeff Newell & the New-Trad Quartet, Jamila Waddell, Emmet Moeller, Punk Rock Jr., DoubleWind and the Good Ms. Padgett.

Music & Play concerts are free and occur on a monthly basis.

Family Art

Once a month, guest artists inspire us with inventive, open-ended art projects in which every member of the family can participate.

Children and parents alike have enjoyed themselves exploring the possibilities of light writing, squeezing edible art dough, rubbing wool into felt, creating dolls, collages, masks, giant horse sculptures, tiny ceramic beads and collaborative wheelchair murals.



Our Partnerships:

Extreme Kids & Crew works with other cultural organizations to expand their programming for children with disabilities as well as ours.

For two years now, we have partnered with the **New York Transit Museum** to put on an annual Special Day for Special Kids at Brooklyn's favorite underground museum. We run music therapy groups in conjunction with the **Brooklyn Conservatory of Music** and movement workshops with the **Mark Morris Dance School**. We run a drama program for teens and young adults with **The Miracle Project in New York**.

We also partner with organizations like **Resources for Children with Special Needs** to provide free parent education nights.



Music Therapy with the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music.



Above, art project at the New York Transit Museum. Right, Mark Morris Movement Workshop. Below, actors and show-makers from The Miracle Project in New York.





Why not use disability to create community?

The courage, hard work, patience, exhaustion, insight, and joy involved in raising a child with a disability can bridge gaps between families of different classes, races and religions in a particularly powerful way.

Extreme Kids & Crew encourages the growth of a heterogeneous disability community in two ways. First, we create opportunities for families to come together in an easy and relaxed manner. Even when the occasions for gathering together are not pleasant (our education nights usually cover the confusing and often arbitrary bureaucratic responsibilities parents face), we counter the subject matter with a cheery setting and time for parents to meet one another over wine and cheese.

Second, we urge families to join Extreme Kids as members. While all special needs families can take part in our programs, membership allows parents a voice in decision-making, development of new programs, fundraising and outreach. Instead of being a passive recipient of institutional aid, parents work with one another and volunteer their talents,

helping to create a uniquely responsive and dynamic organization.

Any family can become a member. Any disability, no matter how mild or major, is welcomed. The membership fee is determined according to income. Families who cannot afford to pay can work an extra volunteer shift.

We offer various memberships for families, supporters, and organizations. **In our first year of offering memberships, over 175 individuals, organizations, and families have joined.**

Of our base family memberships, about **half have taken advantage of our sliding scale, and 13% have household incomes of less than \$20,000 a year.**



The Future:

In the summer of 2013, Extreme Kids & Crew will expand to meet the growing demand for our programs. We will leave our Brevoort Place address and create two new art and play spaces, one in the Crispus Attucks Playground Building in Clinton Hill and one in PS 15 in Red Hook. The new locations will almost triple our interior space, allowing us to set up a dedicated room for art and music. We will also have access to outdoor play areas.

We are grateful to the Parks Department and the Department of Education for helping us grow. We plan to continuously strengthen our relationship with the City and so pave the way for our greatest project: a landmark arts building that would be a showcase for inclusive architecture and that would serve as a beacon and haven for families raising children with disabilities everywhere.

One of our ideas is to gather our various constituencies and raise a barn. The traditional barn raising is a momentous event that brings communities together to help their neighbors. With its inventive spirit and love of community, Brooklyn is just the place for a new spin on barn raising. **The Extreme Barn** will be a big, beautiful space dedicated to art and exploration, climbing and creating, connecting, honoring, and inspiring families with children with disabilities.



Rendering of the proposed Extreme Brooklyn Barn courtesy of Leone Design Studio.

Imagine
a place
created to
celebrate
the ideas,
insights,
love,
and energy
of families
raising children
with disabilities.



Extreme Kids & Crew is a 501(c)(3) organization, incorporated in 2010. We have been causing a scene for hundreds of children with disabilities, their families, and friends since 2011.

Staff

Eliza Factor, Director
Kate Milford, Communications Coordinator
Emily Church, Scheduling Coordinator

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Eliza Factor, President
Laurie Yankowitz, Vice President
Dina Rosenbloom, Treasurer
Jamila Waddell, Secretary

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Kimberly Blacklow
Jeffrey Miller
Julia Rothwax
Barbara & Dave Murray
Mike Albano
Bob Raymond
Les Samuels
Stephen Shalen

Grants

The Joseph LeRoy and
Ann C. Warner Fund
The Brooklyn Community Foundation
The Butler Family Foundation
Anonymous
The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation

Partners & Supporting Organizations

The Seleni House Foundation, Inc.
The Brooklyn Conservatory of Music
The Miracle Project of New York
Musicworks
Resources for Children with Special Needs
The New York Transit Museum
The Brooklyn Center for the Independence
of the Disabled
The Mark Morris Dance School
PS 15
The Parks Department

Corporate Sponsors:

FX
The Greene Grape

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Jen Sellar
Lynn Hoffard
Kari Murphy
Melissa Morgenlander
Gisela Sanders Alcantara
Melinda Burke

Visiting Artists, Musicians & Teachers

Norma Grant
The Good Ms. Padgett
Punk Rock, Jr.
Bilal
Jesse Neuman
Priscilla Gilman
Avishai & Anat Cohen
Karla Schickele
The M Shanghai String Band
Yolanda Zama
Bonga
Hayes Greenfield
Rose Pearlman
Dany Rose
Sean Greene
Serena Jost
Astrograss
Judith Atrubin
Ms. Lynn
Jonny Lam
Felice Rosser
Jeff Newell & The New-Trad Quartet
Jessie Nelson
Emmet Moeller
DoubleWind
Emily Brooks
Micaela Walker

Financial Snapshot:

2011

Revenue

Grants:	\$20,000
Individual Donors:	\$20,907
Special Events:	\$1,200
Program Income:	\$9,040

Expenses

Wages and Honorariums:	\$15,250
Facilities and Equipment:	\$24,995
Office Supplies:	\$940
Insurance and other	
Professional Fees:	\$6,295
Fundraising	\$1,000

Total Revenue: \$51,147

Total Expenditure: \$48,480

Families served: 200

2012

Revenue

Grants:	\$14,500
Individual Donors:	\$44,818
Special Events:	\$8,360
Program Income:	\$14,650

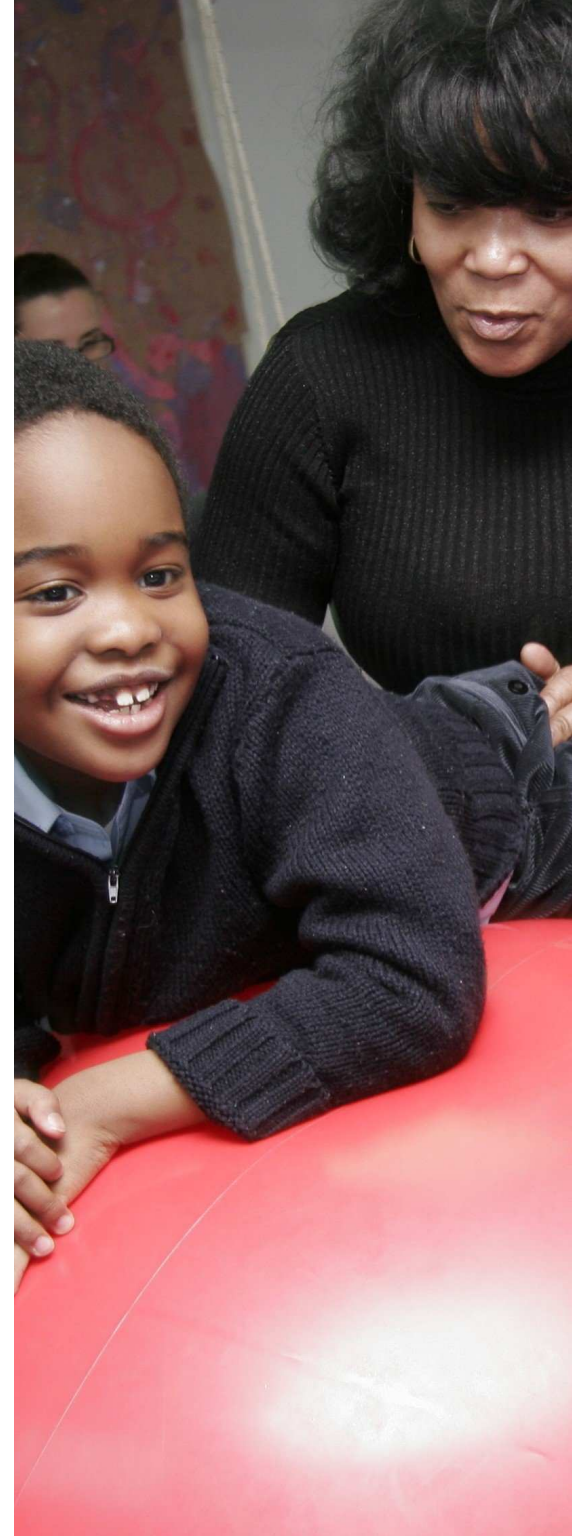
Expenses

Wages and Honorariums:	\$51,289
Facilities and Equipment:	\$21,473
Office Supplies:	\$3,595
Insurance, Taxes and other	
Professional Fees:	\$4,615
Fundraising:	\$1,518

Total Revenue: \$82,328

Total Expenditure: \$82,490

Families Served: 350+





Help Us. Become an Advisor. Join the Board.

For more information, contact Eliza Factor at 347-528-4246
or elizafactor@extremekidsandcrew.org

www.extremekidsandcrew.org



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