

VOICE for Children

2024 VOICE for Children

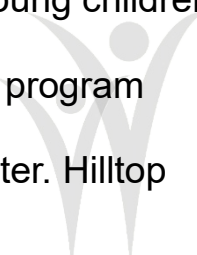
Distinguished Career Award Recipient

Marcia Walters

Retired Executive Director, Hilltop Community Children's Center

Marcia Walters has dedicated her career to serving the South Pittsburgh communities in early care and education for more than 25 years. Earning both an Associates of Arts and Associates of Science degree with a certification in Women's Studies from the Community College of Allegheny County, Marcia continued her education at the University of Pittsburgh where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Education, obtaining certifications in Elementary and Early Childhood Education.

As an advocate for young children and their families, Ms. Walters recognized the importance of an educational foundation for young children that is rooted in supporting the family. Walters created such a program through the development of Hilltop Community Children's center. Hilltop



Community Children's Center is a non-profit child care program committed to serving children and families. Currently the program serves a maximum of sixty-five children from six weeks through the preschool years. An additional number of school age children are served before and after school and during summer breaks.

Committed to supporting and advocating for children and families, Marcia was responsible for obtaining substantial funding to support the program's mission and vision. She obtained support from organizations such as the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services' Office of Children, Youth and Families for the intervention and prevention of abuse and neglect in a child care setting.

Led by Marcia's dedication to the mission and vision of Hilltop and financial support, the program was able to offer onsite services such as a family support specialist and a parenting support group, who offered parent education for the prevention of violence based on the principles of non-violent child rearing, support and education to end generational poverty and additional supports for at risk children in the community. Marcia's sole



purpose for the development of the Hilltop program has been to provide quality early care and education while supporting the family needs, believing that by providing a consistent, nurturing and developmentally appropriate environment for young children can feel safe to explore and learn through play.

