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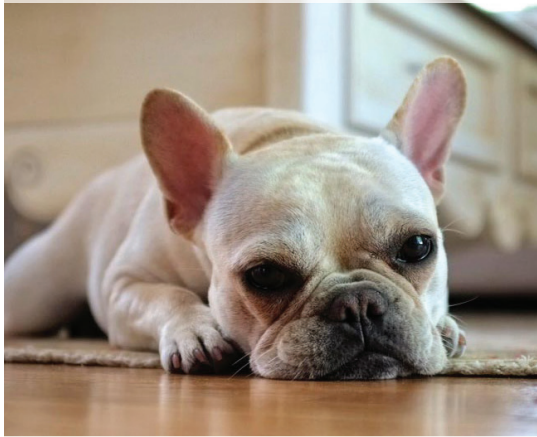
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SATURDAY DECEMBER 10, 2016

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*We join in celebrating 125 years of BKS and
its commitment to children in our community.*

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Photos: Jean Ervasti



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BROOKLYN KINDERGARTEN SOCIETY

SINCE 1891, Brooklyn Kindergarten Society (BKS) has dedicated itself to providing high-quality early childhood education to low-income children. The lives of tens of thousands of children in neighborhoods throughout Brooklyn have been changed for the better because of the vision of the initial founders and the tireless support and dedication of countless volunteers and staff.

The BKS program has a profound and tangible effect on the at-risk children it serves. While two-thirds of children entering BKS centers exhibit signs of developmental and language delays, more than 90% complete the BKS program on par with or better than their peers across all socioeconomic groups.

Our program is strategically designed to provide academic and social enrichment that is rooted in best practices and are the hallmarks of high-quality preschools nationally. Professional teachers, developmentally appropriate curricula, and strong parental involvement are all essential components in making a true difference. In fact, longitudinal studies show that early childhood programs that combine superior education and strong family support make a positive difference in the lives of participants 20 and 30 years later.

While BKS receives government funding, these dollars are insufficient to provide the high-quality educational program that produces long lasting effects. BKS must raise almost \$2 million every year to provide the enriched quality program and strong family support that our children and families need. Proceeds from the Yuletide Ball allow BKS to ensure that the children in the poorest neighborhoods of New York City – Bedford Stuyvesant, Brownsville, and North Crown Heights – are ready to succeed in school and beyond.

We hope that we can count on your continuing support to ensure that ever more children are given the head start they need to succeed in life. Thank you for giving.

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Scenes from
the 2015 Yuletide Ball



THE 96TH YULETIDE BALL

The holiday season is steeped in longstanding traditions; singing carols, sitting around a crackling fireplace, and crafting gingerbread houses. In Brooklyn, we have spent more than 95 years creating our own exciting holiday tradition: the glamorous annual Yuletide Ball.

As children, we dreamed of this holiday season for its gifts, time off from school, and sugarplums. Now, as adults who work at the Brooklyn Kindergarten Society, we anticipate the holiday season in the same way, but in particular the one day a year when nearly 1,000 generous individual donors join us in working toward ending the cycle of poverty in Brooklyn --- a holiday tradition that is near and dear, indeed. BKS teachers, bookkeepers, cooks, administrators, and social workers work 52 weeks a year to provide high-quality care and service to hundreds of children and their parents in the most needy neighborhoods in Brooklyn, but The Yuletide Ball is the one day a year when the rest of the city stands with us, supporting our vision for a better Brooklyn.

Since the first-ever Yuletide Ball, in 1920, our event has been a symbol of the spirit of Christmas, combining good cheer and doing good making it one of the year's most highly-anticipated social events.

Over the course of these 96 years, the Ball has evolved as our beloved borough has. Brooklyn seems to be changing more and more every day, and each year we are thrilled to see the Ball attendees grow and change with it. Our pre-ball dinners vary in every way imaginable: some are black-tie affairs in glorious century-old townhouses, others are casual affairs where people prefer to order in pizza. Some are in DUMBO lofts, others are in Manhattan high-rises. But all culminate on the dance floor of the Heights Casino, where we boogie the night away and celebrate the joy of giving with merriment and a sense of philanthropy and community.

We would like to thank all of our pre-ball dinner hosts, as well as their families, for allowing us to defray the cost of the ball with their hospitality and generosity. We also wish especially to thank to our co-chairs, Tara Sparks and Paula Dunbar, whose passion and hard work contributed so much to this event's success. Thank you as well to TD Bank and Brennan Real Estate for their generous underwriting support.

Enjoy the night, and thank you for making this holiday tradition so important to the children and families we serve.



*To the
Brooklyn Kindergarten Society*

Michele Mirman, Esq.

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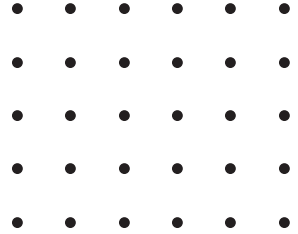


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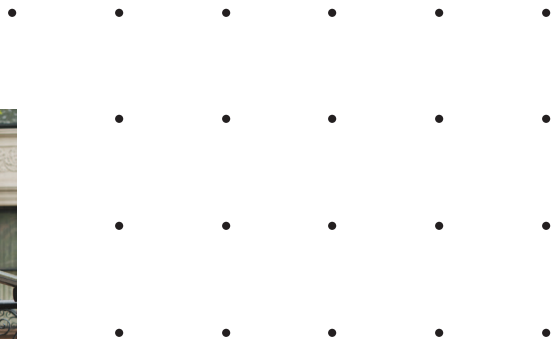




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Jennie and Jake Blair

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Heather and Peter Campbell

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Thank You

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{As of December 1, 2016}

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On behalf of the

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board and Yuletide Committee

for making the Yuletide Ball run

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Congrats to another
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SPECIAL THANKS:

Tara Sparks and Paula Dunbar, 2016 Yuletide Co-Chairs

Jeanne Silkworth & Her Décor Team

*And to the following businesses who supported BKS
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**Thanks for making
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