

PRESS RELEASE



New York's Oldest Preschool - Little Missionary's Day Nursery - Announces Plans for Expansion

Campaign launched to double school's capacity and fully restore historic landmark building in nursery school that dates to 1901

NEW YORK, NY, March 13, 2014 – Little Missionary's Day Nursery, the oldest continually operating non-sectarian school in New York City, today [launched a campaign](#) to raise awareness and resources for its expansion. The plans to increase capacity come at a time when many nurseries in the area have closed and there is great demand for affordable preschool.

To kick off the campaign, the school introduced a promotional video and complementary [Indiegogo campaign](#), narrated by renowned actress and Little Missionary's nursery school parent and East Village resident Rachel Weisz.

The school's expansion plans include doubling its current capacity to 100 students as well as restoring the historic landmark building at 93 St. Mark's Place in New York's East Village to its original full use. The growth would preserve an important piece of New York history and the bustling and enriching preschool experience that dates back more than one hundred years.

"We're proud to keep a true piece of New York history alive and invest in the mission of providing a nurturing and emotionally aware education introduced by the schools founder, Sara Curry, back in 1896," said school Director Eileen Johnson. "More than a century later, Little Missionary's Day Nursery continues to provide a quality cognitive and emotional education to our littlest New Yorkers. With the school's expansion, we'll be able to double our ability to deliver one of the most affordable and enriching preschool options for the next century."

"The Little Missionary Day Nursery is such a unique place for children. They are all respected and understood," said film and theatre actress and parent Rachel Weisz, "Their emotional and social development is of the utmost importance. My son, who's now eight, spent two years there and is doing very well in part because of the foundations that the school laid for him."

"I like playing with my friends and my teachers," said Little Missionary student Saffron, age two.

Native New Yorker and orphan Sara dubbed "the little missionary," set up a nursery in her apartment on Avenue C where she fed and nurtured children in 1896. In 1901, a generous

patron donated the building at 93 St. Marks Place, the current location of Little Missionary Day Nursery. The school has safe-guarded thousands of children of working families over the past hundred years. Since 2001, Little Missionary's has been on a path of consistent growth, and plans to restore its institution to full capacity. On October 5, 2013, St. Marks Place between Avenue A and First Avenue was co-named Sara Curry Way in honor of the school's founder.

Currently, Little Missionary's Day Nursery provides an education for 50 preschoolers aged two to four with a focus on developing a child's emotional intelligence. The approach the school takes is the ART: Accept, Reflect, Teach. Classroom philosophy is focused on nurturing and emotionally aware programs that includes art, music and dance enrichment.

Additional information about the campaign and how people can help can be found at:

lmdn.org/helpusgrow.

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About Little Missionary's Day Nursery

Little Missionary's Day Nursery is the oldest continually operating non-sectarian school in New York City. The school serves 50 working families and children ages two through four with daily, after school and summer programs. Most importantly, Little Missionary's provides emotional education so that children can learn to manage their feelings and become responsible and generous community members. The school's nurturing and emotionally aware program includes art, music and dance enrichment, and we distribute tens of thousands of dollars a year in tuition assistance. lmdn.org

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