

IFMA COMMUNITY PARTNER CASE STUDY

From Donna Smythe, Executive Director, Child Development Association:

When I arrived at 89 Grove Way in Roswell in November 2005, I had just become the Executive Director of the Child Development Association and landlord of its 33,000 square foot facility. The 30-year-old building (shown at right) was in deplorable condition. Fortunately, I had already attended my first meeting with the IFMA Community Service Committee, so I knew that I did not have to tackle these challenges alone. I knew that an entire cadre of experienced, knowledgeable, facility professionals was committed to the successful renovation of our building.



In fact, the IFMA Community Services Committee had already conducted a comprehensive analysis of the building's needs and prepared a detailed assessment that would guide the needed improvements over the next several years. Under IFMA's guidance this process had begun – a new state-of-the-art roof had been installed earlier in the year, and the HVAC system was under contract for renovation.

Since 2005, thanks to many hours of IFMA professional expertise and many generous in-kind contributions, we have executed the following renovations:

- Replacement of the entire roof.
- Total overhaul of our HVAC system, improving the comfort of children and staff and reducing energy consumption.
- Replacement of lighting fixtures, brightening every classroom and office and increasing energy efficiency.
- Painting of our main floor lobby and hallway, transforming the first impression to visitors.
- Refurbishing our childcare administrative offices, enhancing appearance and creating more functional workspaces.
- Replacing carpet in our toddler classroom.
- Replacing ceiling tile throughout the building, enhancing appearance and energy efficiency.
- Remodeling our conference room, which serves not only CDA but also the broader community.
- Replacing all toilets to dual-flush and sensor flush-valve models.
- Recovering from an accidental flood that swamped our entire lower level and took three classrooms out of service.
- Developing accurate CADD drawings of the entire facility.
- Replacing the generator.
- Replacing the water heater.

IFMA has also assisted us with:

- Numerous painting and landscaping volunteer days to keep us functional and attractive.
- Ongoing training and mentoring of our facilities manager.
- Assistance in selection of the architect and contractor for our exterior renovation.

Today, 89 Grove Way has an entirely new exterior shell with insulated walls, energy-efficient windows and doors, and even architectural features to give the building the exciting new look shown in the photo below. We could never have embarked on this exterior revitalization without the IFMA Community Services Committee and the numerous contributions by IFMA Members. Our special thanks go to Clara Smith, CMS Enterprises, and Steve Soteres, Choate Construction, who serve as CDA Trustees and members of our Building Committee. They are our IFMA 'lifeline' whenever we face a facility challenge.

The projects we have tackled together are demanding, complicated undertakings. Our partnership with IFMA has significantly enhanced project outcomes. IFMA's ability to see that we receive value pricing and generous in-kind donations of real goods and services have enabled us to dramatically stretch our facility resources, thereby maximizing our funds for our programs.

IFMA has played a substantial role in supporting the mission of the Child Development Association to provide affordable childcare and early learning education programs to young children of low-income families, enabling them to make a great start toward a bright future with a nationally accredited preschool program focused on early literacy and school readiness.

