

Council of Franklin County

Action for Children

**THE SOURCE**

For Child Care and Early Learning Services  
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POWER OF *nine*

Nine-Month Report to the Community

ACTION FOR CHILDREN  
*the source*  
2008

# POWER OF *nine*

OCTOBER 1, 2007 - JUNE 30, 2008

A Letter from the President and CEO  
pages 3 - 4

Mission, Vision, Goals & Values  
pages 5 - 6

The Source for Parents  
pages 7 - 10

The Source for Providers  
pages 11 - 16

The Source for Employers Circle of Business  
pages 17 - 20

The Source for Children  
pages 21 - 24

The Source for Regional Partners  
pages 25 - 26

Delaware Satellite  
pages 27 - 28

The Source for Community  
pages 29 - 32

Program Funding  
page 33

Special Corporate Contributions  
page 34

Board & Staff  
pages 35 - 36

Appendix The Developmental Assets  
pages 37 - 38



## 9-MONTH NUMBERS\* *at a glance*

- 9,000 community families (TAPP seminars, classes and parenting workshops, Adventures in Literacy/Ready to Read, Franklin County Early Learning Consortium (ELC) Family Wellness, Work/Life Wellness Program, Neighborhood Network Family Services, Information and Resources via phone, fax, e-mail and e-Search, etc.)
- 5,468 child care and early learning professionals (ELI\*\*/ Franklin County Early Learning Consortium, Step Up to Quality, Neighborhood Network, Accreditation, CDA, Home Child Care Business Recruitment, USDA Food Program, First Steps/Infant-Toddler, Somali Limited Certified Providers, In-Service training, After School, Home Provider Institute, How to Start a Center Workshop, Directors' INSTITUTE, Directors' LEADERSHIP, Nurturing Nature in the Wonder Years, ELC Study Group, etc.)

POWER OF *nine*

Benefiting 40,000 community children (infants, toddlers, preschoolers, schoolagers)

\*For Franklin County  
For our central Ohio region stats see pages 25-28.

\*\*Ohio's Early Learning Initiative (ELI)



# A LETTER *From* THE PRESIDENT AND CEO



*Carole Watkins*  
Carole Watkins  
President  
Board of Directors  
July 2006 – June 2008



*Diane Bennett*  
Diane Bennett  
CEO

This year for the very first time our “annual” is a nine-month report. In 2008, Action for Children changed its fiscal reporting year from October 1 through September 30 to July 1 through June 30. This decision was made to better align data with our funders’ reporting periods. However, in order to accommodate the period between the former and current fiscal years, this report will cover the period from October 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 – nine months. You might call this our Action for Children “baby.”

The power of nine is very symbolic for us as it is for the parents who call us looking for child care before or after the birth of their baby: 48 percent of the contacts we receive are for infant care. •It is also important for the family and center providers who receive professional development training from us – not just to provide quality care and education for infants and toddlers but preschoolers and school-age children as well.

In this nine-month period we served nearly 5,500 participants – Somali women in limited certified programs – center teachers and directors going through Step Up to Quality – Family Home Child Care Providers working to obtain a CDA, center and home providers seeking national accreditation.

During this period, in addition to our ongoing programs and services to enhance the quality of child care and early learning programs for all children in central Ohio, we gave “birth” to several new programs and projects: Nurturing Nature in the Wonder Years focused on the importance of outdoor play for children’s healthy growth and development;

the Family Resource Center in Delaware opened its doors; Adventures in Literacy/Ready to Read, a collaborative program with the Columbus Metropolitan Library, successfully reached 1200 parents of children birth through five in low-income settings; and in April, the CCR&R in Union County was reborn as Action for Children in Union County. Additionally, our results in the Franklin County Early Learning Consortium, an ELI partnership with 35 local child care centers and YMCA of Central Ohio, show test scores that indicate that children in the programs are in fact ready for kindergarten.

These are tough economic times for everybody but especially for all of the families\* and professionals we serve. We appreciate your support in recognizing the importance of investing in the children. Respected economists like James Heckman, Nobel Laureate and economics professor at the University of Chicago and Arthur Rolnick, senior vice president and director of research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, call quality early childhood programs a major return on investment. For every dollar spent on young minds before age eight, there is a savings of seven dollars in remedial services and the effects of school dropout, such as teen pregnancy and juvenile crime. In fact, research shows that investment in quality child care and learning experiences results in children who are likely to have better school performance, graduate from high and go on to become productive tax-paying adults.

Please read and share our pride in this power of nine report. You are an integral partner in enhancing the potential for success for all of our community’s children – the power of our future.

*\*49 percent of families earned less than 150 percent of federal poverty level (\$26,400.00 for a family of 3)*



# ACTION FOR CHILDREN

## OUR *vision*

Action for Children will be the community leader in transforming the future of child care into quality early learning experiences for every child in central Ohio.

Achieving this vision is a shared responsibility. Action for Children will work with others by developing leadership and providing access to comprehensive information for community decision-making. Our partners include: families, employers, child-care providers, other human and social service organizations, neighborhoods, educators, funders, policymakers, and faith-based organizations.

## OUR *mission*

We will:

- develop and advocate for early childhood education initiatives;
- foster the growth of early learning environments and assure their availability to all children in central Ohio; and
- help families endow their children with quality early learning experiences.

## OUR STRATEGIC *goals*

- 1) Originate, develop and promote early childhood learning initiatives.
- 2) Secure financing and support from government, community, and business leaders so that all children in central Ohio have access to quality early learning experiences.
- 3) Marshal community resources to improve access to high quality, affordable early learning experiences.
- 4) Strive for collaborative community participation in planning and decision-making and promote the importance of racial diversity and cultural issues in early childhood education.
- 5) Provide parents with the information, tools and knowledge necessary to provide their children with quality early learning experiences.
- 6) Make available to providers the resources, technical assistance and knowledge they need to transform child care into early learning experiences.



## OUR CORE *values*

- 1) **CHILDREN**
  - Children are the most valuable resource in our community.
- 2) **INTER-DEPENDENCE**
  - Successful growth and development of our children depend on every part of the community.
- 3) **QUALITY**
  - Child care and early childhood education are inseparable.
  - Growth, learning and development begin “Right From the Start.”
  - Child-care professionals are at the heart of quality care and must be accorded the highest stature for their contributions.
  - A significant way to assure quality is to help parents make informed choices.
  - Quality care and education provide rich experiences that meet children’s developmental needs.
- 4) **INCLUSIVENESS**
  - All families are important and deserve support and respect.
  - We support and respect the richness that diversity brings to our families and communities.
  - We support care that meets the needs of diverse segments of our community.

## Information and Resources:

### Choosing Child Care and Early Learning Experiences

This free service provides parents with information about child care and early learning options. The agency maintains a comprehensive data bank of licensed child-care centers, private and publicly funded; certified and registered child-care homes; preschools, including those serving ELI children; Head Start; Champion of Children centers; and After-School programs. The service is designed to help parents become good consumers of child care and early learning programs, and exercise their right and responsibility to choose safe, nurturing care for their children.

### TAPP Today: The Art of Positive Parenting

This program helps today's parents: raise children to have strong self-esteem; listen to children's problems; identify and express feelings; set limits on behavior; resolve conflict effectively; engage children's cooperation; encourage responsibility; and manage stress. This program offers both six-week and three-week courses in convenient locations around the community.

Customized parent workshops on timely topics can also be arranged through the TAPP staff.

### Learning Begins Right from the Start®•Literacy and Math Early Learning Kits

Our literacy and math kits are fun, easy tools for parents to use with their children (ages 2 ½-5) to prepare them for kindergarten success. The materials in the kits give parents play-based activities and resources that support the Ohio Department of Education's Early Learning Content Standards.

### Operation Military Child Care

As a participant in the U.S. Department of Defense Operation Military Child Care, Action for Children assists military families in central Ohio in locating child care, apply for subsidy and receive information and resources about choosing quality child care and early learning services.



"I contacted Action for Children when I was first starting my day care search. I had no idea where to begin or what to ask potential providers. We would not have been able to make an informed decision without the information given us."

"Your agency was helpful in me finding a caregiver for my child with disabilities."

"The person who helped me was very nice. She took the time to talk to me and give me suggestions. I found the material that Action for children sent to me to be very helpful."

"It's good to know the criteria necessary for someone to become a child care professional. Knowing this information gave me the confidence that I would find someone safe and caring for my infant."

"My 'consultant' was absolutely fabulous and was very helpful and courteous and really nice to talk with. She was able to help calm my fears about finding a new day care for my daughter."

"I have to say that the help I received from Action for Children was incredible. The credentials that the centers and individuals had were explained to me so I knew how to navigate the choices I had."

These are just a sampling of the comments made by parents who used the Information and Resources (I&R) services which are designed to help parents become informed consumers of child care and early learning programs.

- Information and Resources (I&R) services reached 3,545 families in Franklin County and made 18,399 referrals through telephone, e-mail and online searches. Forty-nine percent of the parents who called earned less than 150 percent of the federal guidelines for poverty.
- TAPP (The Art of Positive Parenting) conducted 25 six-week parenting classes, eight three-week TAPP Express and Developmental Assets courses, and 79 workshops in central Ohio. There were a total of 166 parenting workshops and classes and 1,367 participants. These programs help parents build stronger family relationships through positive communication, discipline and conflict resolution.
- Through Operation Military Child Care, Action for Children helped 11 military families locate child care and apply for subsidy and provided them with detailed information about how to choose quality child care and early learning programs for their children.

## Neighborhood Network:

Neighborhood Network is a project that provides education and resources to families in publicly funded child-care centers in low-income neighborhoods. The Network educates parents and providers using the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets. The Assets are organized under internal and external categories that research has shown are crucial for young children's healthy and positive growth. These include an array of experiences that directly promote the social and emotional development of young children, and contribute to school readiness and school success. Neighborhood Network is funded by Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services.

## Franklin County Early Learning Consortium (ELC): (Ohio Early Learning Initiative/ELI program)

The Early Learning Consortium, an ELI partnership of the YMCA of Central Ohio, Action for Children and local child-care centers, offers full-day, full-year preschool to children of income-eligible families. The children receive quality programming with curricula aligned with the state's Early Learning Content Standards. Families receive comprehensive services coordinated by Family Wellness Specialists. The specialists oversee the children's dental, vision, hearing, developmental and social/emotional assessments and address concerns with teachers and parents; or they may assist with issues such as health insurance enrollment for those families who do not have a regular source of health care.

## Parent Central:

Action for Children is one of 28 resource and referral agencies throughout the country invited to pilot NACCRRA's Parent Central. It is a national advocacy and parent outreach site where families can find child care and early learning news and information at the local and state level, as well as parenting information and tips.

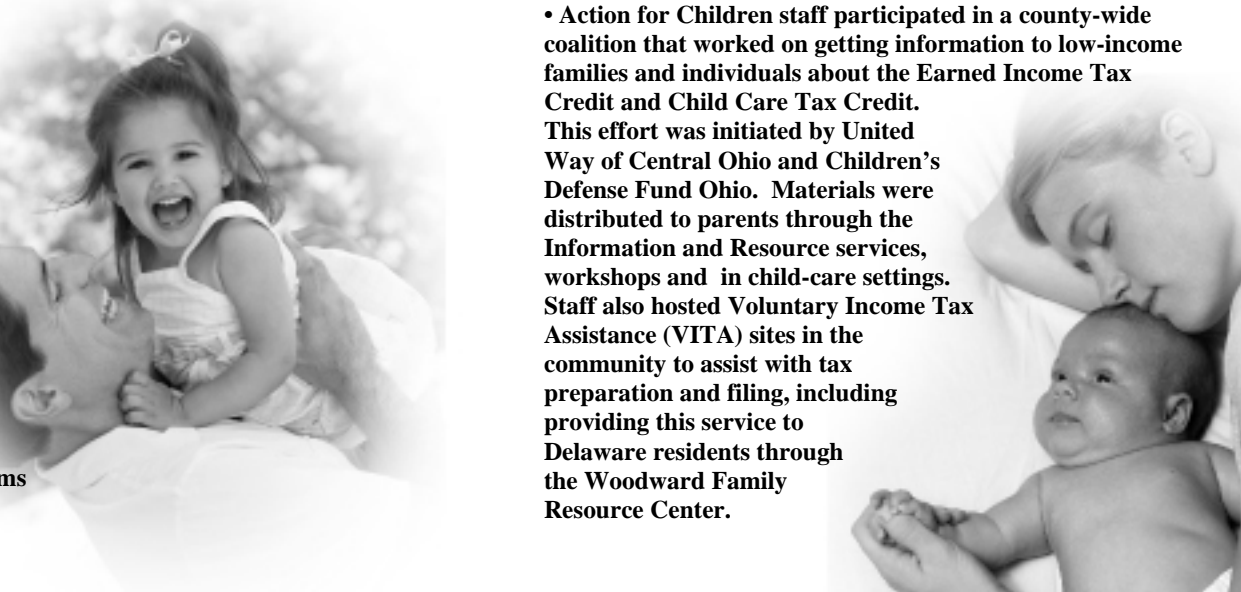
## Parent Information: (available FREE)

- Choosing Child Care and Early Learning Experiences, a guide and checklist
- When My Child Stays Home Alone
- How to Prevent Sexual Abuse
- Kindergarten Readiness Tips
- Tip cards for parenting infants and toddlers: Handling Crying, Fears and Temper Tantrums

- The Franklin County Early Learning Consortium (ELC), a project of Ohio's Early Learning Initiative (ELI), through the Family Wellness Specialists, provided parent workshops to all parents at the centers – not just parents of children in ELI. They were conveniently offered through the vehicle of parent information tables set up at pick-up and drop-off times. A total of 94 parent information tables were offered at the centers reaching 772 parents. Topics included child development and behavior management issues, kindergarten readiness and family finance. With the increased number of Hispanic families, specialists also provided language interpretation and document translation services, which have helped the families better understand the early learning program and supported their assimilation into American culture.

- In collaboration with the Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML), with 12- month funding from United Way of Central Ohio, Action for Children successfully concluded Adventures in Literacy/Ready to Read workshops for parents of children birth to five . By grant's end, in February 2008, 1200 low- income families in 68 sites, including publicly funded and ELI child -care centers, had participated in the 90-minute literacy workshops aimed at encouraging their role in building pre-reading skills. Based on a national literacy program, Every Child Ready to Read @ your Library, (CML) Youth Services Librarians presented the workshops. Participants were provided with an Adventures in Literacy family resource kit and Action for Children prepared parent guidebook based on Ohio's Early Learning Content Standards for English Language Arts. The Strategy Team, Ltd. key research findings (307 surveys randomly selected from 1067 parent evaluations) indicated that "participants acquired new knowledge about the importance of reading with their children as well as ways to make reading more fun; intentions to read more books to their children and visit the library more often; and intentions to use the literacy kit with their children approximately four times a week."

- Action for Children staff participated in a county-wide coalition that worked on getting information to low-income families and individuals about the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Care Tax Credit. This effort was initiated by United Way of Central Ohio and Children's Defense Fund Ohio. Materials were distributed to parents through the Information and Resource services, workshops and in child-care settings. Staff also hosted Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites in the community to assist with tax preparation and filing, including providing this service to Delaware residents through the Woodward Family Resource Center.



# The source for PROVIDERS

# POWER OF *nine* PROVIDER HIGHLIGHTS

## Step Up to Quality

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' Step Up to Quality is a voluntary rating system program designed to promote higher quality through technical assistance, professional development and financial incentives. Centers can earn up to three stars when they meet an extensive list of quality benchmarks and indicators. Some of these include lower teacher/child ratios, improved staff training and staff benefits.

## Start Smart

Start Smart is an initiative, sponsored by Franklin County and the United Way of Central Ohio, to improve the quality of early care and education. Action for Children is a key partner in offering technical support to centers for national accreditation (National Association for the Education of Young Children) and other professional development opportunities designed especially for center directors and home providers.

## Franklin County Early Learning Consortium (ELC)

This is a partnership of more than 30 Franklin County child-care centers, Action for Children and the YMCA of Central Ohio, implementing Ohio's Early Learning Initiative (ELI) in Franklin County. This program provides comprehensive services and professional development in support of high-quality early learning systems which benefit local children and families.

## First Steps

The First Steps Infant/Toddler initiative is a partnership with Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association. Action for Children's First Steps Infant/Toddler Specialists provide coaching, mentoring and training to caregivers in centers and homes throughout central Ohio.

## After School Programming

Workshops and technical assistance are given to schools, centers, home providers and other organizations offering after-school programs to school-age children. The After School Program is a partnership with Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association.

"The others in the group are so important. We can see that we all have the same issues and concerns, cares and woes, no matter what kind of center you are from. We support each other in ways that a boss or co-worker can't. We are in a safe place."

"My experiences in the study group have been very helpful. Knowing that I am not alone, and that other teachers have the same problems in the classroom like behavior problems, space, and parent involvement, just to name a few. It has been helpful to share with other teachers and they share back. I have taken what they have shared and used it in my classroom."

"For me, study group has been a means of refreshing myself. It has given me a chance to step outside of myself and my little world and get to see what I do from someone else's perspective. I know that as teachers we all experience many of the same things but it is good to hear it and pick up some new tips along the way."

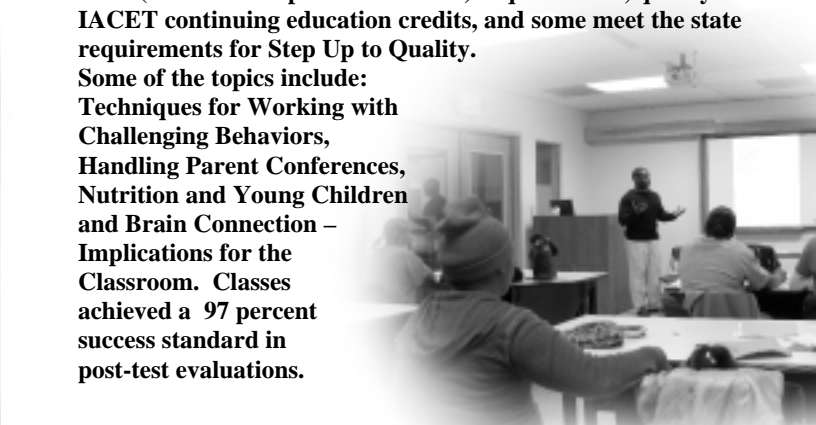
"When I leave study group each month, I feel refreshed and energized. It is a good reminder of why I do what I do and the impact we have as early childhood educators. When I get back to work I feel eager and ready to go."

These are participant comments from the ELI Study Group of lead teachers (ELC/Early Learning Initiative Centers), one of the more than 359 professional development opportunities available at Action for Children.

- Ongoing professional development is key to providing quality care and education experiences for children. And, in these past nine months, 5,468 early childhood and school-age professionals deepened their learning through Action for Children's free- or low-cost classes, workshops, seminars, institutes, coaching and technical assistance programs.

- During this period a variety of two- and three-hour elective workshops were offered. Funded by the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services, they meet Franklin County in-service requirements for publicly funded child-care centers and family home child-care providers. They also meet CDA (Child Development Associate) requirements, qualify for IACET continuing education credits, and some meet the state requirements for Step Up to Quality.

Some of the topics include: Techniques for Working with Challenging Behaviors, Handling Parent Conferences, Nutrition and Young Children and Brain Connection – Implications for the Classroom. Classes achieved a 97 percent success standard in post-test evaluations.



#### Professional Development

A wide variety of workshops, seminars and training materials are presented throughout the year to child-care staff and family home providers. Action for Children gives assistance and support to homes and centers going through national accreditation. IACET CEU (Continuing Education Unit) credit is available for all of the Action for Children professional development programs. These credits are based on standards internationally recognized for approved training programs. CDA (Child Development Associate) credential is available through a partnership with Columbus State Community College; professional development courses to meet the state requirements for ELI and Step Up to Quality are available through a partnership with Ohio State University/Q-Net.

#### Web Check

Action for Children uses an online fingerprinting system to help child-care providers receive criminal background checks in a timely manner.

#### USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program

As a sponsor, Action for Children assists family home providers in receiving reimbursement for the healthy meals and snacks provided to children in 11 counties.

Minute Menu, the claims processing and reporting software, is in place for online claiming. The provider can assume complete control of the process, enrolling and removing children as needed, accurately recording menus and attendance, menu planning, tracking reimbursement totals, detecting any errors, and getting a report for income tax purposes. Direct deposit is also available.

#### Nutrition Program and Health and Safety Information (sponsored by Healthy Child Care Ohio, Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association )

The Child Care Nutrition Consultant is a registered dietitian available to provide free nutrition information to child-care centers and family child-care homes in Franklin, Delaware and Union counties. The service has been expanded to include Action for Children's county regional partners in Fairfield, Licking, Madison, and Pickaway.

The Child Care Health Consultants are registered nurses from Children's Hospital who provide free health and safety information to child-care centers and family child-care homes in central Ohio.

#### Ohio Professional Development Registry

Devised by a committee of the Ohio Professional Development Network, the Ohio Professional Development Registry is an online tool for early childhood and afterschool professionals to document and measure career accomplishments.

- The ELI Study Group, which began in August, is held monthly for lead teachers in the Franklin County Early Learning Consortium. The Ohio Department of Education approved using a study group format to meet 15 hours of approved ELI Professional Development credit for lead teachers who have completed a minimum two-year associate degree in early childhood. Facilitated by an Action for Children staff member, the study group format allows for in-depth learning and reflective thinking on a group-selected topic .

- Nurturing Nature in the Wonder Years, funded by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, teaches early childhood educators and parents how to use outdoor space or their own backyard to bring wonder and excitement to children's learning science, math, social studies, and language arts. From December 2007 through June 2008, the program conducted four 2.5 hour sessions attended by 25 early childhood educators (9 center directors, 14 early childhood teachers and two family child-care home providers). It also included a component with parents, six 1.5 hour Parent Nature Circles. Dr. Ruth Wilson, professor and author of the award-winning book, *Fostering a Sense of Wonder During the Early Childhood Years*, developed the curriculum. Collaborators in the program are Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District; Ohio Center for Mathematics, Science and Reading; Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association; and Early Childhood Quality Network at The Ohio State University.

- Action for Children conducted 139 orientation classes for its Family Child Care Home Provider Limited Certification Program and served 400 participants. Of these 400, 113 applicants completed the program and are certified to provide subsidized care to the children of one family. Many participants are members of the Somali community, caring for the children of relatives or friends who are enrolled in English classes, other educational or training programs or working. A Somali staff person works with these individuals and has forged a relationship of trust and commitment with the Somali community. The Limited Certification services are funded through a contract with the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services.

- There are 278 family home child-care providers who are participating in the USDA Child and Adult Food Program through Action for Children. During this period, 647,044 meals and snacks have been served. An Action for Children staff member serves as chair of the Ohio Child Care Food Sponsors Network.

- Action for Children staff provided 1,388 hours of technical support to 42 centers seeking NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) accreditation. Eleven of the centers have submitted their application and are awaiting a response. Seven, of the twelve centers seeking re-accreditation, have received it. There are currently 85 NAEYC accredited centers in Franklin County, 40 percent of the 267 NAEYC-accredited centers in Ohio.



# The source for PROVIDERS

## POWER OF *nine* PROVIDER HIGHLIGHTS

### How to Start a Child Care Center Business

Action for Children offers assistance in helping individuals learn about the process and steps involved in starting a child care center in central Ohio. This includes workshops and seminars, needs assessment information, and introduction to appropriate community resources.

### Starting a Family Home Child Care Business

Home Provider Registration: Individualized guidance is offered for individuals interested in starting a child care and early learning business in their home, and appropriate workshops are provided. These individuals are private entrepreneurs.

Action for Children contracts with Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services to provide pre-certification services for home providers applying for limited certification - caring for the children of one family, i.e., other family members or friend. For the Somali applicant, the limited certification process is facilitated by a Somali staff person.

### Home Child-Care Network

The agency maintains countywide information on child-care homes that provide documentation of completed background checks, health, fire and safety checks, a physical, and references.

### Centers that Care

An innovative program which provides a centralized system for finding, identifying and linking qualified individuals to child-care industry employers. This social enterprise of Action for Children is a recruiting and screening service for center directors, lead and assistant teachers.



- Staff provided 275 technical assistance hours to 21 family child-care home providers pursuing NAFCC (National Association of Family Child Care) accreditation. Five of those providers were awarded their accreditation. Since the project began, six years ago, Action for Children has assisted 25 providers in becoming NAFCC accredited. This represents 42 percent of all accredited family child-care home providers in Ohio.

- Action for Children's Nutrition Consultant provided just under 300 hours of technical assistance to early care and education programs in central Ohio and conducted 15 trainings, which were attended by 300 participants. Providers receive assistance on topics such as introducing new foods, menu planning for children with special dietary needs, expanding choices for choosy eaters, involving children in meal preparation, and general food safety.

- Funded by the United Way of Central Ohio's Start Smart Initiative, Action for Children held a Directors Institute attended by 25 center directors and one Directors Leadership Institute, which reached its goal of 30 and had a waiting list of eight directors.

- The Action for Children staff gave technical assistance to 30 Emerging Star centers and 12 centers received star rating. There are currently 106 Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) star-rated centers in central Ohio. In addition, staff delivered 810 hours of Step Up-approved trainings throughout the region.

- ELC Family Wellness Specialists completed 939 center visits, and provided 48 technical assistance sessions for center staff around such topics as mental health/ emotional concerns and encouraging parent engagement and involvement in their child's education.

- Action for Children's Infant/Toddler Specialists conducted 38 professional development sessions - focusing on developmental domains and physical health - for 760 participants; delivered 322 hours of technical assistance; and administered 71 Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale assessments.

- Neighborhood Network, which serves sites in Linden and the Near East communities, expanded its teacher curriculum to eight hours and also integrated its coursework with Ohio's Early Learning Content Standards and Ohio's Infant and Toddler Guidelines.

- After School programming is so critical for the safety, well-being and education of the children. The After School Specialist assisted 157 providers, offered 12 training, 37 consultations and 43 site visits. One important tool used to improve quality is the SACERS, an environmental rating scale for school age.

- In October, Action for Children participated in the national Lights On! After School events were held in Franklin, Delaware and Union counties to raise awareness about the critical need and value to the children of quality After School programs.

- Centers that Care is providing staffing and procurement services for 43 centers in central Ohio and is also providing services for 10 centers in Des Moines, Iowa through a new contract with Des Moines United Way.

# *The source for* **EMPLOYERS**

## **EMPLOYER PROGRAMS**

By the end of the decade, it is projected that 85 percent of the workforce will be working parents. Workplace productivity, recruitment, retention and employee commitment are influenced by how employees manage their work and their personal lives. There is no question that work and family issues are a bottom-line concern. Research has shown that Generations X and Y are more likely to place work/life balance at the top of their list in job expectations.

Action for Children's Employer Programs are designed to meet the needs of today's workforce. The Circle of Business, Enhanced Information and Resources and Work/Life Wellness Seminars provide benefits to help companies enhance their employees' work/life effectiveness by recognizing their family responsibilities and concerns in relation to their job responsibilities and performance.

The Circle Of Business (an enterprise of Action for Children) The Circle of Business (COB) provides a forum for local business leaders and HR professionals to share and explore work/life solutions with a bottom-line approach. Through exploring next trends and cutting-edge thinking, promoting local research, providing support and motivation, and sharing information and best practices, COB promotes the importance of work/life integration for today's workforce in support of the workforce of tomorrow – children and youth.

### **Membership includes:**

- Three Business Roundtables to hear speakers discuss current work/life topics and share best practices
- An annual Executive Forum featuring a renowned work/life expert
- Monthly e-mail work/life publications
- Three complimentary onsite work/life wellness seminars
- Networking with local business professionals

## **CIRCLE OF BUSINESS MEMBERS**

American Cancer Society	Jones Day
American Electric Power	Keefe, Bruyette & Woods
Baker & Hostetler LLP	Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter
Bob Evans Farms, Inc.	The McGraw-Hill Companies
Bricker & Eckler, LLP	Medco Health
Business First of Columbus, Inc.	The Mergis Group (formerly Spherion)
Cameron Mitchell Restaurants	Mount Carmel Corp. Health & Wellness
Cardinal Health	Nationwide
Center of Vocational Alternatives	Ohio Dominican University
Central Ohio Transit Authority	OhioHealth
City of Columbus	The Ohio State University
City of Dublin	Pinnacle Data Systems, Inc.
Coldwell Banker King Thompson	PMG Communications
Columbus Chamber	Progressive Medical, Inc.
Columbus Metropolitan Library	Resource Interactive
Columbus State Community College	Safelite Glass Corp.
Commerce National Bank (First Merchant)	Senior Independence
Continental Office	Sequent, Inc.
Crane Group	Show What You Know Publishing
Diversity Matters	Slane Financial Group
Franchise Business Advisors	Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC
Grange Insurance Companies	Thompson Consulting
GREENCREST	Time Warner Cable
Haslett Heating & Cooling	Triad, Inc.
HealthSCOPEBenefits	Weight Loss Partners
Healthy Outlook Worldwide, Inc.	Wendy's International, Inc.
The Healthy Workplace, Ltd.	Willis - HRH
Huntington	WorkLife Performance Consulting
Isaac, Brandt, Ledman & Teator LLP	

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## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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Patricia Gibson	Margaret Wildi
Darlene Haas	
Gina Jacob	

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*Investing in Today's Workforce  
in Support of Tomorrow's*

# The source for EMPLOYERS

## Enhanced Information and Resource Service

Parents work with a personal Information and Resource Specialist to find child care and early learning options for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and After School programs for older children. As an enhanced service, the Specialist will pre-screen vacancies and consult with the family throughout the search process so that parents can make an informed choice.

## Work/Life Wellness Program

The Work/Life Wellness Program offers seminars covering work-related issues, personal development, elder care, positive parenting, family finances, and health and wellness. These seminars are 45 minutes to an hour in length and are typically held during the lunch period at the employer's site. Facilitated by experts in the field, they combine practical tips and techniques with current research and educational theory.

# POWER OF *nine* EMPLOYER HIGHLIGHTS

**“You absolutely have to confront 'negators' and get to the values beneath the issue that causes them to become negative.”**

**A follow-up point from the April 15, Circle of Business Roundtable, Emotional Intelligence Works: Developing People Smart Strategies, presented by Dr. Michael Kravitz and Susan Schubert and attended by 175 people.**

- The Circle of Business currently has 57 members covering more than 120,000 employees.
- Circle of Business applied for and received funding from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to become one of 30 communities in the nation partnering to promote worklife flexibility and provide local education forums on workplace effectiveness.
- The annual Fall Executive Forum in October was attended by more than 200 participants. The keynote speaker was Richard Hadden, co-author of *Contented Cows Give Better Milk: The Plain Truth about Employee Relations and Your Bottom Line*. AEP sponsored the event for the third year.
- The Work/Life Wellness Program reached out to more than 120,000 employees. Seminars were offered primarily as “Brown Bag” lunches. The most popular seminars this past year were Stress Management, Handling Changes in the Workplace, Understanding and Building Children’s Self-Esteem, Pack a Punch with a Healthy Lunch and Balancing Work and Care of an Elderly Relative.
- Through a partnership with WorldatWork®, COB offered WorldatWork® certification courses. This partnership gave major national recognition to the work of Action for Children on behalf of work/life effectiveness.
- Action for Children’s Employer Program had a boost in utilization with the introduction of new marketing strategies to raise awareness with human resource personnel – providing visibility tables for employees and parent workshops on choosing child care and early learning programs.
- Circle of Business held three Roundtables with guest speakers presenting topics on generations in the workplace, consumer-driven health care, and conducting meetings for a diverse audience, and emotional intelligence in the workplace.



# The source for CHILDREN

# POWER OF *nine* CHILDREN HIGHLIGHTS

**Franklin County Early Learning Consortium (ELC):  
Centerpiece for Children's Success**  
Created in 2004, the ELC is a partnership of Action for Children, the YMCA of Central Ohio and child-care centers dedicated to providing the highest quality early learning environments that integrate research-based curricula and include comprehensive support services for families.

In accordance with ELI requirements, the Consortium centers provide opportunity for full-day, full-year child care and early learning for eligible children (3-5), links to comprehensive services for children and families, and quality play-based experiences aligned with the Ohio Department of Education's Early Learning Content Standards. Eligibility for families applying for the ELI program is determined by Franklin County Department of Job and Family Service (FCDJF).

**Quality Early Learning Experiences: Learning Through Play**  
Based on the research, the ODE Early Learning Content Standards are meant to serve as the foundation for creating meaningful early learning experiences within all preschools, child-care settings and at home. The ELC centers provide these meaningful experiences in play-based quality settings designed to prepare a child for kindergarten and lifelong success. Pre-academic skills in math, reading, social studies and science are introduced in ways that encourage a child's wonder and sense of discovery and, most of all, a love of learning. Equally important are the activities to develop physically, i.e., small and large motor skills, and social and emotional skills, i.e. getting along with others.

## Franklin County Early Learning Consortium Centers

Bobbsie Twins  
Central Community House Child  
Care  
Cols. Early Learning - East  
Cols. Early Learning - North  
Cols. Early Learning - West  
Columbus Montessori  
Columbus State  
Creative Child Care - East  
Creative Child Care - North  
Creative Child Care - Wash. Sq.  
Creative Child Care - West Broad  
Creative Child Care - Westland  
Edwards Creative Learning  
Genessee Avenue Learning Center  
Gladden Community House  
Heavenly Kids Center for Learning  
Higher Peaks Learning Academy  
Jelly Bean Junction - Bethel  
Jelly Bean Junction - Snouffer  
Kids Care Academy  
Nationwide Children's Hospital

OSU - Ackerman Road  
OSU - Buckeye Village  
Our Play Station and Learning  
Center  
Royal Child Daycare & Preschool  
South Side Learning & Development  
Center  
South Side Learning @ Lincoln Park  
South Side Settlement House  
St. Stephen's Child Care Center  
Starting Point  
Stepping Stones Learning Center  
Vineyard Early Childhood Center  
YMCA Early Learning Center  
YMCA Hilltop Educare Center  
YMCA St. Anne's Educare Center



Franklin County  
Early Learning  
Consortium

- There are currently 35 Consortium centers participating in the ELI program and 882 children enrolled. The total number of children served from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 was 1,774 children. The impact of the program with its quality requirements for curriculum and staff reaches well beyond the children served under the ELI funding to all of the children in the Consortium centers.

- All 35 centers in the Franklin County Early Learning Consortium were trained on the new web-based Action for Children Child Care Management System, and all are currently using it. Among its uses are to track each child's attendance calculated per minute and track child screenings.

- Children in the ELI program are assessed using GET IT GOT IT GO (GGG) to determine progress in three critical early language and literacy skills: Picture Naming, Rhyming and Alliteration. This information is used to support effective strategies to help children be well-prepared for school. The progress of the children who have remained in the program since July 1, 2006, and are currently enrolled, has been tracked. GET IT GOT IT GO literacy assessment scores have been charted through Spring 2008 (including Fall 2006 and Spring and Fall 2007). Children show continued gains in all areas and are considered "on target" for entry to kindergarten.

- Before age five, a literacy rich environment is critical to a child's success in developing language, both oral and written, and the foundations of reading. Over the past three years, the Early Literacy and Language Classroom Observation Tool (ELLCO) has been used to track progress in the development of a high quality environment for children. There has been a gradual increase in classroom scores in all four areas: literacy environment, literacy activities, classroom environment, and language, literacy and curriculum.



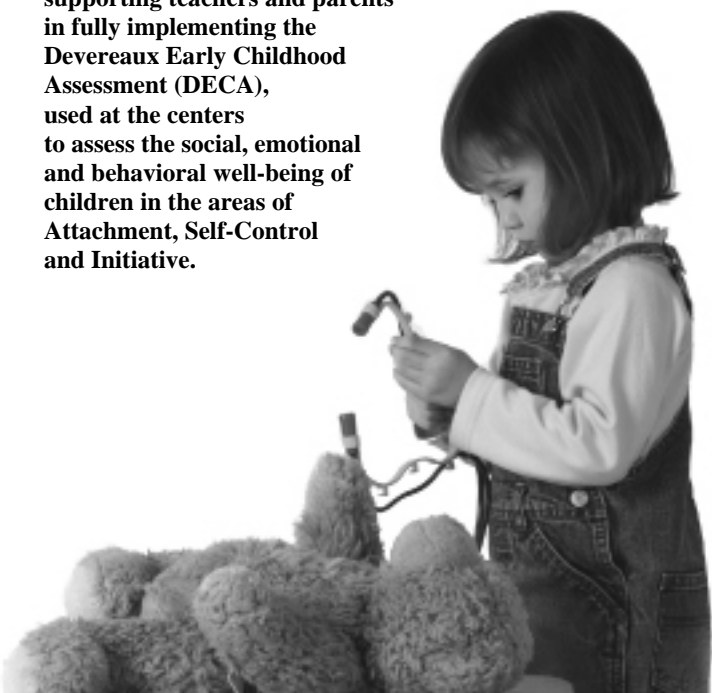
# The source for CHILDREN

## Health Screenings

The Consortium provides annual screenings for children enrolled in ELLI. The screenings include vision, dental, hearing, developmental/speech, and lead/hemoglobin. The total number of screenings each year includes children receiving annual screenings and re-screens that are provided if a child has "caution areas." Children in need of follow-up care are provided assistance and referral information from an Action for Children Family Wellness Specialist assigned to each center.

## Mental Health & Family Wellness

The Mental Health Consultant and the Family Wellness Specialist play a significant role in developing plans and supporting teachers and parents in fully implementing the Devereaux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA), used at the centers to assess the social, emotional and behavioral well-being of children in the areas of Attachment, Self-Control and Initiative.



### ELC Health Services Advisory Committee Members

Kelly John – Small Smiles Dental Clinic (dental)  
 Samatha Stewart – Early Childhood Resource Network (ECRN) a program of YMCA of Central Ohio (developmental/hearing)  
 Katrina Ruege – St. Vincent Family Centers  
 Connie Nafziger – Healthy Child Care Ohio (HCCO) (vision)  
 Ellen Steward - Healthy Child Care Ohio (HCCO) – (vision)  
 Dr. Sarat Thikkurissy – Children’s Dental Clinic  
 Dr. Scott Holiday – Children’s Hospital  
 Nadiya Timperman – HCCO (Nutrition)  
 Lyna Smith – Cols. Speech & Hearing

Cindy Garand – Early Childhood Resource Network (ECRN) a program of YMCA of Central Ohio (developmental/hearing)  
 Laura Sweet – Cols. Public Health – Childhood Lead Prevention Program (Lead/hemoglobin)  
 James Haley – Cols. Public Health – Childhood Lead Prevention Program (Lead/hemoglobin)  
 Zettawee Mix – FCDJFS  
 Amanda Calanche – Nisonger Dental Program  
 Laurie Duggan – Help Me Grow – Central Site  
*They provide information, resources and screenings for the children enrolled in ELLI.*

# POWER OF *nine* CHILDREN HIGHLIGHTS

- The Family Wellness Specialists, working with YMCA’s Early Childhood Resource Network (ECRN), facilitated 3,553 screenings and 878 referrals were made for follow up. These numbers include children who moved out of the program during the period and all screens and re-screens that are provided if a child has caution areas. The quarterly health screenings at each center are for vision, dental, hearing, speech and social/emotional behavior. There are also annual lead and hemoglobin screenings given. Parents are informed of any need for follow up and provided referrals to appropriate community resources and any strategies to use at home.

- Vision screenings were provided by registered nurses through Healthy Child Care Ohio and the Family Wellness Specialists were trained by Prevent Blindness Ohio to provide backup screenings for children who would not be screened within a 60-day time frame. Out of the 837 children receiving vision screenings, 94 children were referred for follow up.

- Dental screenings were provided by registered dental hygienists through a partnership with Small Smiles Dental Clinic. Of the 696 children screened, 236 children were referred for follow-up care.

- Hearing screenings were provided by trained professionals through the Early Childhood Resource Network (ECRN) contacts. Of the 730 children screened from October through June, 177 children were referred for follow-up care.

- Developmental Screenings were provided by trained professionals through ECRN contacts. These screenings included speech/language, fine motor, gross motor, and personal/social development. Of the 721 children screened, 134 were referred for follow up.

- Lead and Hemoglobin screenings were provided by a registered nurse and staff from the Columbus Public Health Childhood Lead Prevention Program. During this period, 286 children received screenings. Of those children, one child was referred for follow up care due to high lead levels and 73 were referred for follow up care due to low or high hemoglobin levels.

- Kindergarten readiness encompasses more than just being academically ready. Children must also be socially, emotionally and behaviorally ready as well. Family Wellness Specialists created a mental health protocol to assist parents of children with mental health/behavioral concerns, and through a partnership with St. Vincent Family Centers, make these services more accessible to families.



#### Regional Network

Action for Children is the central Ohio hub for a regional resource and referral network funded through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Action for Children directly provides services in Franklin and Delaware Counties. In the other five counties of Service Delivery Area 9 (SDA 9), services are provided through partnerships with local service agencies.

#### Seminars and Workshops

A full complement of professional seminars and workshops are offered in the partner counties. Twice annually, Action for Children publishes a Regional Training Booklet that promotes the conveniently located array of professional development offerings.

#### Food Club (USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program)

Action for Children offers free membership in the Food Club to Family Home Child Care Providers who are certified with a county Department of Job and Family Services. (In Delaware and Franklin County registered providers also are eligible.)

Also known as the Child and Adult Care Food Program, it is a federally funded service that partially reimburses providers for feeding children in their care. The Food Club also provides training related to serving nutritious and appealing meals and snacks. If interested in joining, call the toll-free number.

1-877-AFC-FOOD (1-877-232-3663)

• **CHILD CAREFINDER**, sponsored by Fairfield County Department of Job and Family Services  
740-687-6833

Child CareFinder conducted 25 professional development trainings, attended by 463 center and home providers. They also provided 130 technical assistance sessions for centers and 203 for home providers. Fourteen new child care and education programs were added in the county, creating new capacity for 485 children.

There are currently 96 programs in Fairfield County, with a total capacity for 3,592 children.

• **CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS (CCC)**  
a program of Pathways of Licking County  
740-345-6166

Child Care Connections conducted 63 professional development training, attended by 1,121 center and home providers. They also provided 24 technical assistance sessions for centers and 74 for home providers. Additionally, 24 participants completed the CDA credentialing program during 2007-08. Child Care Connections added 29 new child care and education programs in Licking County, adding new capacity for 556 children.

There are currently 183 programs in Licking County, with a total capacity for 6,673 children.

• **CHILD CARE NETWORK (CCN)** of Madison County, sponsored by the OSU Extension Service  
740-852-0975

Operating only 15 hours a week, Child Care Network served 51 parents with information and resource services, benefiting 72 children. Additional consultations included individuals seeking information on starting a center, technical support for providers, and providing information about child care and early learning. Child Care Network added one new preschool in Madison County, creating capacity for 42 children.

Currently there are 43 programs in Madison County, with a total capacity of for 1,363 children.

• **CHILD CARE CHOICES**, sponsored by Pickaway County Department of Job and Family Services  
740-477-1602

Child Care Choices conducted 18 professional development trainings, attended by 207 center-based staff and family child-care home providers, and conducted 124 technical assistance sessions for centers and 141 technical assistance sessions for home providers. During the nine months, Child Care Choices added two new family child-care home providers in Pickaway County, creating new capacity for 12 children.

There are currently 33 early care and education programs in Pickaway County, with a total capacity for 1,556 children.

• **ACTION FOR CHILDREN** of Union County  
937-644-1010

For internal reasons, ChildCare Network, Action for Children's CCR&R partner in Union County, requested to discontinue its contract. The request was accepted, and AFC at Andrews House/ Delaware took over temporary responsibility.

Action for Children opened its new satellite office in April 2008, Action for Children of Union County. Housed in the Union County Services Building, the office is staffed by a coordinator who is a resident of the community. Services include child care information and resources to help families make informed choices for their infant, toddler, preschool age, or school age children; professional development classes for those working in the early care and education field; resources and assistance to individuals wanting to start their own family child care home business; access to the USDA Child and Adult Care Food program for family child care home providers; technical assistance to centers that want to participate in Step Up to Quality; and working with area companies such as Honda of America to distribute Early Learning Kits to Union County families.

During the past nine months, Action for Children worked with 72 referral clients in Union County, impacting 105 children. While no workshops were conducted locally, Union County conducted 9 technical assistance sessions for center-based staff and 14 technical assistance sessions for family child care home providers during May and June. In addition, twenty-one new early care and education programs were added to the Union County database, creating new capacity for 887 children.

There are currently 85 early care and education programs in Union County, with a total capacity for 3,135 children.

# *The source for* REGIONAL PARTNERS

## ACTION FOR CHILDREN DELAWARE

In 1995, Action for Children opened its doors in a second location, at Andrews House in Delaware. The Delaware location has grown from one part-time person to three part-time staff, and, in 2000, became a United Way of Delaware County member agency.

The Delaware office offers a complete array of services, including information and resources, professional development workshops and seminars, provider recruitment, and the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program.

### Information and Resources

Networked with the main office, Delaware has access to all of the agency's child-care and early learning resources and after school programs.

**The Art of Positive Parenting Classes (TAPP)** Through a grant from Ohio Children's Trust Fund/Delaware County Family and Children First Council and United Way of Delaware County, classes and workshops are offered in Delaware County. This grant has increased TAPP's capacity to educate parents and other adults who influence the lives of children.

### Early Childhood Mental Health Workshops

The Early Childhood Mental Health Workshops for center- and home-based child care and early learning staff are offered through a grant from Delaware-Morrow Mental Health and Recovery Services Board and collaboration with Central Ohio Mental Health. The program involves clinical consultation for the early childhood programs, including coaching and mentoring, as well as training in such areas as assessment, referral processes, classroom management, the impact of maternal depression, substance abuse, domestic violence, abuse and neglect, and other stressors on young children's well-being.

### The Woodward Family Resource Center

Woodward Family Resource Center was established with a grant from United Way of Delaware County, in collaboration with the Delaware City Schools. This new venture is expected to become a model for working with a school system for parent education and early childhood and after school programming.

### Action For Children at Andrews House

39 West Winter Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015

Phone: 740/369-0649 or 740/548-0649

Fax 740/369-5252

Web: [www.actionforchildren.org](http://www.actionforchildren.org)

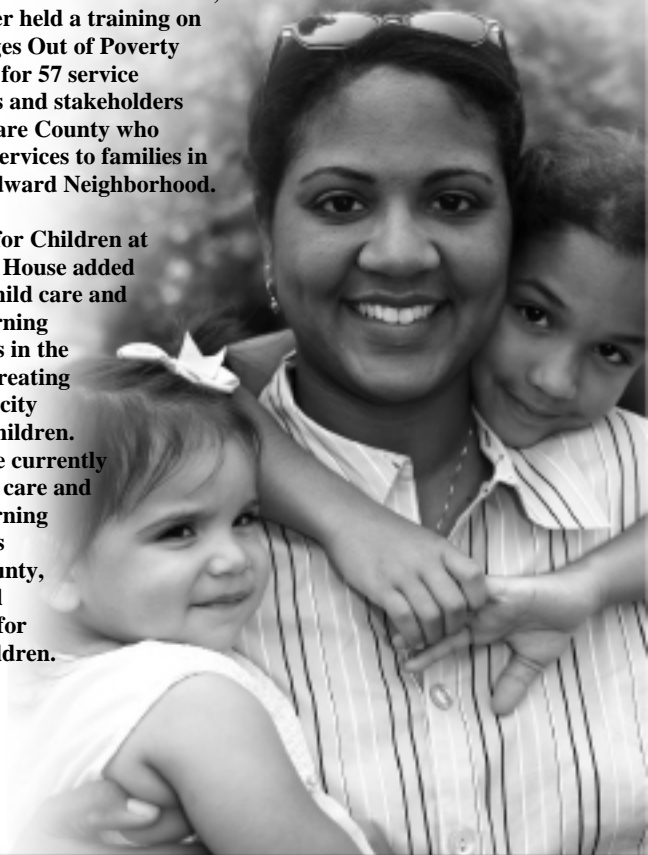
### Funders:

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

United Way of Delaware County

# POWER OF *nine* DELAWARE HIGHLIGHTS

- Action for Children at Andrews House serves Delaware County, the fastest growing county in the state and the 11th fastest growing county in the nation. It celebrated its 13th anniversary in April 2008.
- The agency has grown from a first full-year count of 134 resource and referral calls in 1995 to almost 800 referrals during these nine months
- Delaware facilitated 25 workshops attended by 399 early childhood professionals during the past nine months. These included specialized offerings in the Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) series.
- The agency also conducted 54 technical assistance for center-based staff and 98 technical assistance sessions for family child-care home providers. These sessions covered such topics as special education, academic enrichment, quality improvement, expansion, business management, and advocacy.
- Woodward Family Resource Center began in July 2007 focused on planning, needs assessment, asset mapping, and relationship building. Although no contacts or participants were projected during the first year of the grant, the Center served 22 families who "dropped in" for assistance.
- The Center partnered with the local Community Action Organization to provide the VITA (tax assistance) program and partnered with Ohio Wesleyan University to have a Hispanic outreach intern serve families through the Center. They also partnered with the Ohio Hispanic Coalition to add impact to their services. In November, the Center held a training on the Bridges Out of Poverty program for 57 service providers and stakeholders in Delaware County who provide services to families in the Woodward Neighborhood.
- Action for Children at Andrews House added 20 new child care and early learning programs in the county, creating new capacity for 539 children. There are currently 156 child care and early learning programs in the county, with total capacity for 8,416 children.



# *The source for* COMMUNITY

# POWER OF *nine* COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

## Advocacy

Action for Children provides resources to the public and private sectors to advocate for early education and child care finance reform, quality early learning environments, universal registration for family home providers, worthy wages, etc. It serves as a catalyst for a comprehensive and coordinated early learning system that is aligned with local, state and national efforts.

Action for Children's participation in statewide advocacy includes:

School Readiness Solutions Group produced an action plan for the State Board of Education for an early learning system for all children from birth to five (August 2006). Action for Children leadership served on the 50-member panel and now continues to facilitate and implement the recommendations at a state and local level.

Ohio Early Care and Education Campaign/Groundwork is a statewide four-year effort to assure that every family has the tools they need to help their young children develop social, emotional and academic readiness for school.

The Ohio Afterschool Network (OAN) advocates with a unified voice for sustained investments in safe, healthy, and nurturing after-school experiences for school-age children and youth. The OAN is a system-building effort comprised of representatives from Action for Children, OCCRRA, ODJFS, ODE, and Children's Hunger Alliance.

Ohio Professional Development Network Supported by Build-Ohio (with OCCRRA, ODJFS, ODE), the Network is a collaboration of early childhood and afterschool professionals, partner agencies, and organizations at the state and local levels. Its members work together to support the creation of a comprehensive professional development system in Ohio and to advance the professional status of individuals working in early care and education, afterschool programs, child development, and related specialized services for young children and their families.



- In 2006, the Ohio Afterschool Network published the Afterschool Gap Analysis, which documents a gap of more than 240,000 between needed and available afterschool spaces in Ohio. In the seven-county region of central Ohio served by AfC, the analysis reported a gap of 30,469 spaces. Diane Bennett serves as president of the Ohio AfterSchool Network (OAN) and continues to provide voice to the critical need in Ohio for quality after school programming.

- There have been continued efforts to pass the Family Child Care Home Bill before the end of 2008. In fall 2007, SB 232 and HB 342 were introduced in the Ohio Senate by Senator Stivers and House, by Representative Peterson. Under the proposed law, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Service licensing process for all family child care home businesses caring for between three and six unrelated children, whether for public or private pay, would be similar to the certification process currently conducted at the local county level. This proposed legislation has been heralded as a major step in providing oversight for home child care and thereby help to improve the safety and quality of care for young children.

- During FY 2008 – 09 state budget process in 2007, several thousand Groundwork volunteers from across the state advocated successfully to make early care and education a priority for Ohio's lawmakers. Action for Children took the lead in Franklin County by hosting community awareness meetings locally for stakeholders and center and home providers, as well as participating in legislative visits. Groundwork Campaign information is available through a link on the agency's website and Parent Central emails.

- Action for Children has provided leadership for the development of a strategic design for the creation of an early learning system. The result of this broad collaborative effort, The Strategic Framework: Building an Early Learning System for Ohio's Children, suggests changes in policy and practice aimed at moving Ohio toward a more available, affordable and equitable system of early learning. Because it identifies all of the core elements of a powerful early learning system, it provides a strong foundation for groups and initiatives working on school readiness in Ohio. Founded on three guiding principles, Relationships Matter, Quality Matters and Resources Matter, the third and final Strategic Framework report was published in 2007 as work transitioned to the State Board of Education via the School Readiness Solutions Group.

- During the year, a community collaborative led by United Way of Central Ohio, received funding from the Columbus Foundation to prepare a plan to identify and engage families with preschool age children in the Columbus City Schools district. Action for Children is a collaborator in this project, called "Ready, Set, Learn," and Diane Bennett, CEO, serves on the steering committee.



# The source for COMMUNITY

# POWER OF *nine* COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

## Current Research Publications

The agency also provides access to comprehensive information for community decision-making.

- **Ready, Set, Go: Early Care and Education in Columbus and Franklin County**, a 111-page document available on Website in PowerPoint (December 2005)
- **Countdown to Kindergarten: The Promise of Quality Care and Early Learning in Franklin County (Special Report 2005)**
- **Are We at a Turning Point? : Changing the Way We Care for Children (Special Report 2006)**
- **Where They Stay, When We're Away: The Movement to Improve Child Care Environments for Our Children (Special Report 2007)**

## The Website and Public Awareness

The Action for Children website offers high quality, hands-on, interactive resources with a menu that includes choosing child care, your child's learning and development, positive parenting, and provider information on professional development and career opportunities. There is also an opportunity to sign up for Parent Central. There is timely information for businesses, legislators and community planners. The site also provides links to community health, education and social service resources.

To raise awareness about the importance of the birth to five years in school readiness and lifelong success, "Learning Begins Right From the Start®" is the community education component.



- Marketing remained, busy during the nine month period, promoting the agency and quality early care and education through television, radio, print media, and outdoor campaigns; as well as the agency quarterly newsletter, professional development course books, and visibility events.

- Television advertising ran in July, with two 30-second spots produced, each with a slightly different focus. The first focused on the child care provider by promoting AfC's professional development and business expertise. The second focused on parents with young children by promoting Action for Children's long and successful presence as the source of information and referral services for parents seeking quality child care and early learning. These spots were run on WSYX, Fox, and Time Warner.

- Two 60-second radio spots were produced; one featuring Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman with a focus on the importance of quality care for the economic future of our city. The second ad featured Council Member Charleta Tavares with a focus on the health, safety, well-being, and education of our children while in child care and the betterment of the community now and in the future. These radio spots ran throughout the reporting period during the morning and evening drive times.

- In print, the agency focused on the Early Learning Initiative (ELI) and the Home Provider Accreditation Program. These ads ran consecutively. The ELI target audience was based on lower income neighborhoods where child-care centers needed to make capacity and were placed as classified retail display ads. The audience for Home Provider Accreditation was lower income neighborhoods as well and two ads were run simultaneously; one in retail display focusing on parents and one in retail classified space focusing on providers. A general AfC agency ad was strategically placed in Columbus Parent; running from February thru October. The agency's quarterly newsletter, The Source, was packed full of agency activities and information.

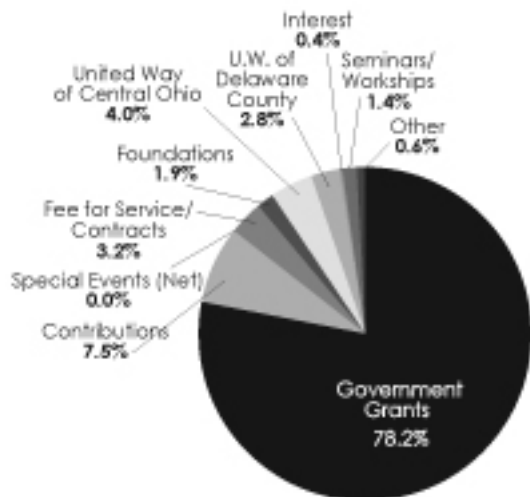
- There were a large number of visibility events early in the year, tapering off a bit towards the end of the nine-month reporting period. AfC had a consistent presence at the Sunny 95 Breakfast Break events held at various corporate offices throughout Columbus. These events allowed AfC to showcase the agency's programs and services and yielded contacts with those participating who wanted to learn more.

- The agency's outdoor campaign, Play Roles to Payrolls, began a theme in step with the current economic environment, yet still keeping the focus on our children and their education and well-being. The campaign focused on early learning being equal to lifelong success.

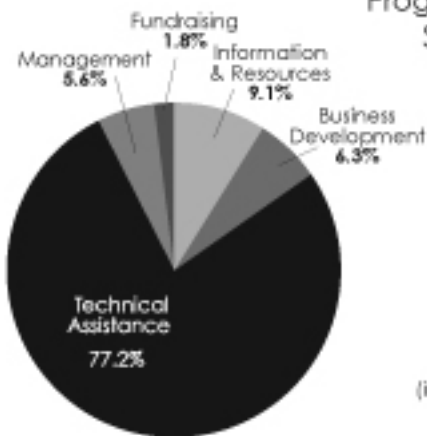
# PROGRAM *Funding*

More than 90 percent of Action for Children's funding goes directly to programs and services, which in this nine-month period reached 5,468 professionals, 9,000 families and 40,000 children.

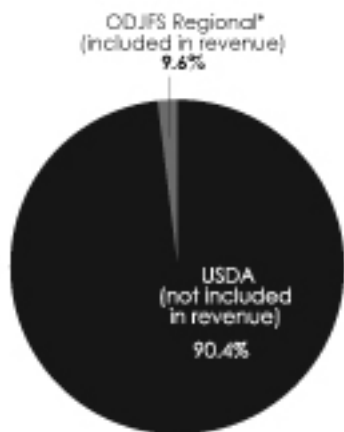
The June 30, 2008 financial statements were audited by Saltz, Shamis & Goldfarb, Certified Public Accountants, who expressed an unqualified opinion on them. The audited financial statements are available on request by calling Action for Children, 614-224-0222.



Program Revenue  
\$4,015,109



Program Expenses  
\$3,539,452



Pass-Through Monies  
\$842,050

\*ODJFS Regional "passed through" to Madison, Fairfield, Licking, Pickaway and Union Counties

NOTE: Operations for Action for Children's Delaware office are included in program revenue and expense

# SPECIAL CORPORATE *contributions*

## Learning Begins Right from the Start®: Parent Education Program

Adventures in Science  
Action for Children received funding from AEP for development and distribution of Adventures in Science, a resource kit for families, which is aligned with the Science area of the Early Learning Content Standards. Like the Adventures in Literacy ('06) and Adventures in Math Kits ('07), the Science Kit takes pedagogical information and puts it in lay context, with a design that is practical, useful and supportive. While the Content Standards describe what is to be learned, the kits suggest to parents how to nurture their child's learning – drawing from a model of play, discovery, curiosity, and parent-child involvement to create a rich early learning environment.



©2008 Action for Children

In addition to providing funding to create 1,200 kits, AEP also partnered with Action for Children by providing expertise to the writing of the guidebook for parents and suggestions for accompanying kit resources. Development of the Science Kit will be complete by year's end and released for distribution at a joint press conference in early 2009.

## Adventures in Math

In 2006, with funding from JP Morgan Chase, Cardinal Health, Grange Insurance, Wendy's, Nationwide, and Abbott; Action for Children developed Adventures in Math, a resource kit for families, which is aligned with the Mathematics area of the Early Learning Content Standards. Since 2007, over 1,700 have been distributed.



©2007 Action for Children

In 2008, the agency received funding from Ingram White Castle Foundation to evaluate the impact of the Adventures in Math kit on one crucial population who may have the most to gain from the intervention – low-income parents with children two to five years of age. The research design employed in the study was rigorous; an experimental comparison of pre-test and post-test results between a treatment group who received the kits and a control group who did not. Strategy Team, Ltd designed the study.

The research will be conducted during the summer months and a full report is scheduled to be released in October 2008.

Thank you to all of our donors during this nine-month period. A complete list will be printed in a future publication.

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**Jean Rice**

12.31.08



# 40 ASSETS ALL YOUNG CHILDREN NEED TO SUCCEED:

Search Institute has identified the following building blocks for healthy development –known as Developmental Assets –to help children grow up healthy, caring and responsible.

## Support

1. Family support
2. Positive family communication
3. Other adult relationships
4. Caring neighborhood
5. Caring climate in child-care and educational settings
6. Parent involvement in child care and education

## Empowerment

7. Community cherishes and values children
8. Children seen as resources
9. Service to others
10. Safety

## Boundaries and Expectations

11. Family boundaries
12. Boundaries in child-care and educational settings
13. Neighborhood boundaries
14. Adult role models
15. Positive peer interaction and influence
16. Positive expectations

## Constructive Use of Time

17. Play and creative activities
18. Out-of-home activities
19. Religious community
20. Positive supervised time at home

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WE ALL HAVE  
*A powerful* ROLE  
TO PLAY!

## Commitment to Learning

21. Achievement motivation
22. Engagement in learning experiences
23. Stimulating activity and homework
24. Enjoyment of learning and meaningful connections to school
25. Early literacy and reading for pleasure

## Positive Values

26. Caring
27. Equality and social justice
28. Integrity
29. Honesty
30. Responsibility
31. Healthy lifestyle

## Social Competencies

32. Planning and decision making
33. Interpersonal skills
34. Cultural competence
35. Resistance skills
36. Peaceful conflict resolution

## Positive Identity

37. Personal power
38. Self-esteem
39. Sense of purpose
40. Positive view of personal future

Working in programs like Neighborhood Network (See page 9), Action for Children uses the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets® as the foundation for showing parents and providers what all children – from birth to teen – need to develop positively and become caring, competent, contributing adults.

*For more in-depth information about the 40 Developmental Assets®, call Action for Children, 614/224-0222.*



Action for Children



THE SOURCE  
For Child Care and Early Learning Services