



# Action for Children *Chronicle*

• YEAR IN REVIEW •



## Breakfast with the Best 2009

Thank you to all the sponsors, participants and attendees - 2009 was another great success.

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

In the central Ohio region, Action for Children provided direct services to 9,863 parents and 11,259 providers, touching the lives of more than 40,000 children.



Franklin, Delaware, Union, Madison, Licking, Fairfield, Pickaway Edition

## Action for Children



THE SOURCE  
For Child Care and Early Learning Services

### INSIDE

#### ■ Connecting with Parents

Action for Children provides necessary services to help parents. PAGE 4

#### ■ Connecting with Providers

Action for Children helps child care providers improve their skills. PAGE 6

#### ■ Connecting with Children

The Early Learning Consortium provides an outlet for AFC to contribute to growing minds. PAGE 8



## Need Remains High

According to the 2008 American Community Survey, 68.6 percent of children age five and under in Ohio have all parents in the workforce. For Franklin County, the percentage is 69.7 percent. Further, according to the Ohio Bureau of Vital Statistics, 30,000 children are born in central Ohio each year, and 30 percent of their parents will return to work before their child's first birthday. That makes child care and early education a vital part of our community's infrastructure.

Central Ohio parents continue to need assistance finding care for their children while they are at work.



### OUR VISION

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

### 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.

## Action for Children Offers Help

- Are you a parent looking for child care for your infant or toddler?
- Do you need help finding a preschool?
- Are you interested in becoming a family home child care provider?
- Are you a center director who wants to achieve Step Up to Quality star ratings or national accreditation?
- Do you need to get an FBI or BCI check?
- Are you a provider who wants to be reimbursed for the nutritious meals and snacks you serve?
- Are you interested in taking a parenting class?
- Do you want parenting kits that will help you help your child get ready for kindergarten?
- Do you want to know about before- and after school programs?

### Action for Children has services for all of these needs and more.

Our child care and early learning services cover a seven-county region that includes Franklin, Delaware, Union (under the Action for Children banner) with Fairfield, Licking, Madison and Pickaway counties as regional partners.

### Our Regional Partners

Fairfield County: Child Carefinder (sponsored by Fairfield County Department of Job and Family Services) - (740) 687-6833

Licking County: Child Care Connections (a program of Pathways of Licking County) - (740) 852-0975

Madison County: Child Care Network (sponsored by the OSU Extension Service) - (740) 852-0975

Pickaway County: Child Care Choices (sponsored by Pickaway County Department of Job and Family Services) - (740) 477-1602



■ **Phone:**  
614-224-0222

■ **Address:**  
78 Jefferson Ave  
Columbus, OH 43215

**Delaware**  
AFC at Andrews House  
39 W. Winter St.  
Delaware, OH 43015

**Union Co.**  
940 London Ave.  
Marysville, OH 43040

■ **Web Site:**  
www.actionforchildren.org

■ **Serving:**  
Franklin, Delaware,  
Union, Fairfield, Licking,  
Madison and Pickaway  
counties

## 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 collective 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 quality early learning experiences.

## Our Core Values:

1. **Children** – Children are the most valuable resource in our community.
2. **Interdependence** – Successful growth and development of our children depend on every part of the community.
3. **Quality** – Child care and early 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 people 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 our families and communities. We support care that meets the needs of diverse segments of our community.



Rhonda Fraas Diane Bennett

### EDITORIAL

# Action for Children - An Editorial

Five hundred forty-five thousand six hundred (545,600) is a year measured in minutes. This Action for Children year has had its 545,600 minutes that are measured in both highs and lows. The highs are the documented successes, and the lows – the programming challenges created by the sharp economic downturn.

Our work is fundamental to assuring that the 545,600 minutes in a child’s year set the framework for their growth and development, helping them to reach their fullest potential. Our *action* is for the children, from the minute of their birth to the minutes until they enter kindergarten (2,728,000), until the time they are ready to take their place in the workforce.

We help parents find child care, provide parent education and help them become partners with the providers. We offer

technical assistance and continuing education to the providers to help them provide healthy, secure, and nurturing learning environments for the children in their care.

This 2009 report covers our fiscal year which ended June 30, 2009 – that’s the way it was – a period that was in fact, the “best of times.” In the context of when you are receiving this report, at the calendar year’s end - the way it is – feels more like the “worst of times.” That is because in “real time” we are faced with a lot of funding loss that potentially challenges the extent of our work with parents and providers, and the victims will be our children.

Success today is measured in numbers. Our 2009 numbers have been reached. The numbers of parents and providers in central Ohio, who used and participated in our

services, total more than 21,000. Families and providers told us how valuable our services were for them. Parents have indicated that we increased their knowledge of child care and early learning and helped them feel more empowered. Providers have said they acquired valuable new knowledge and skills to use with the children.

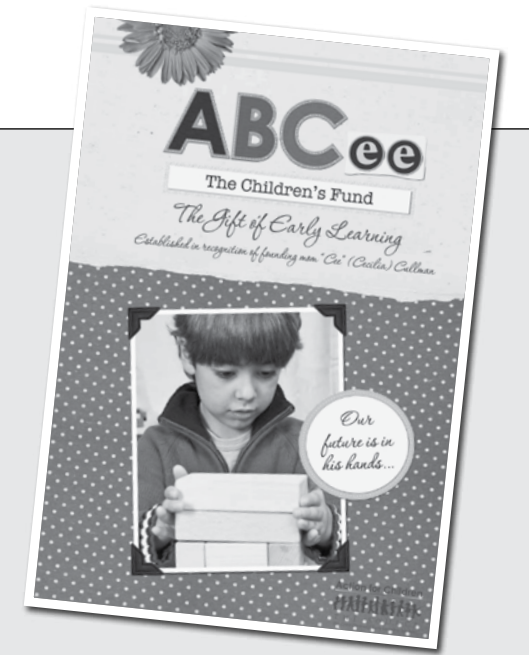
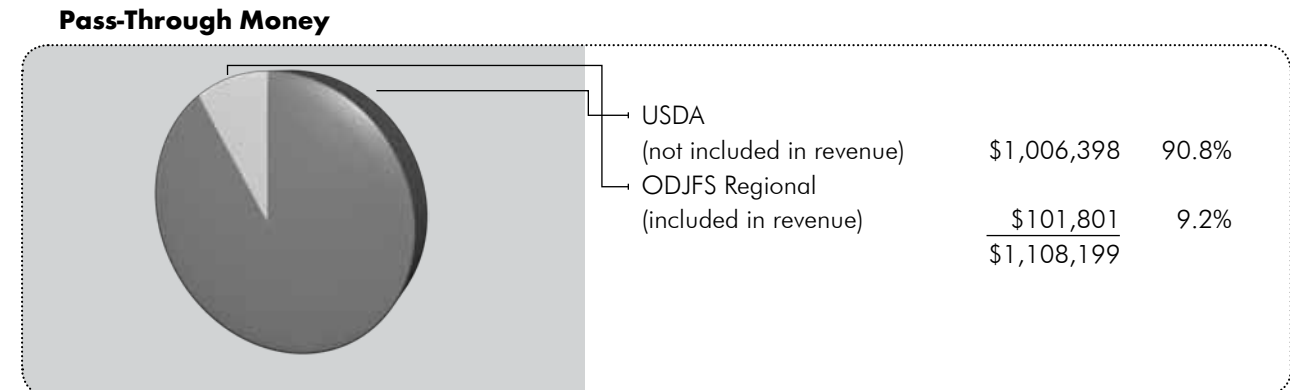
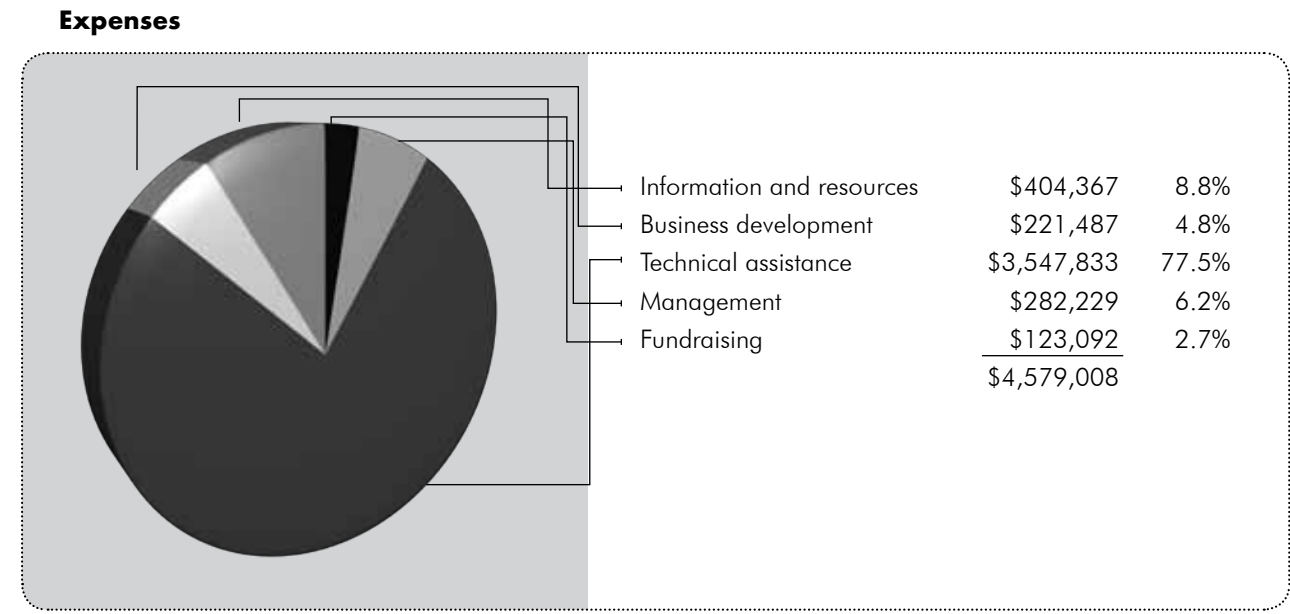
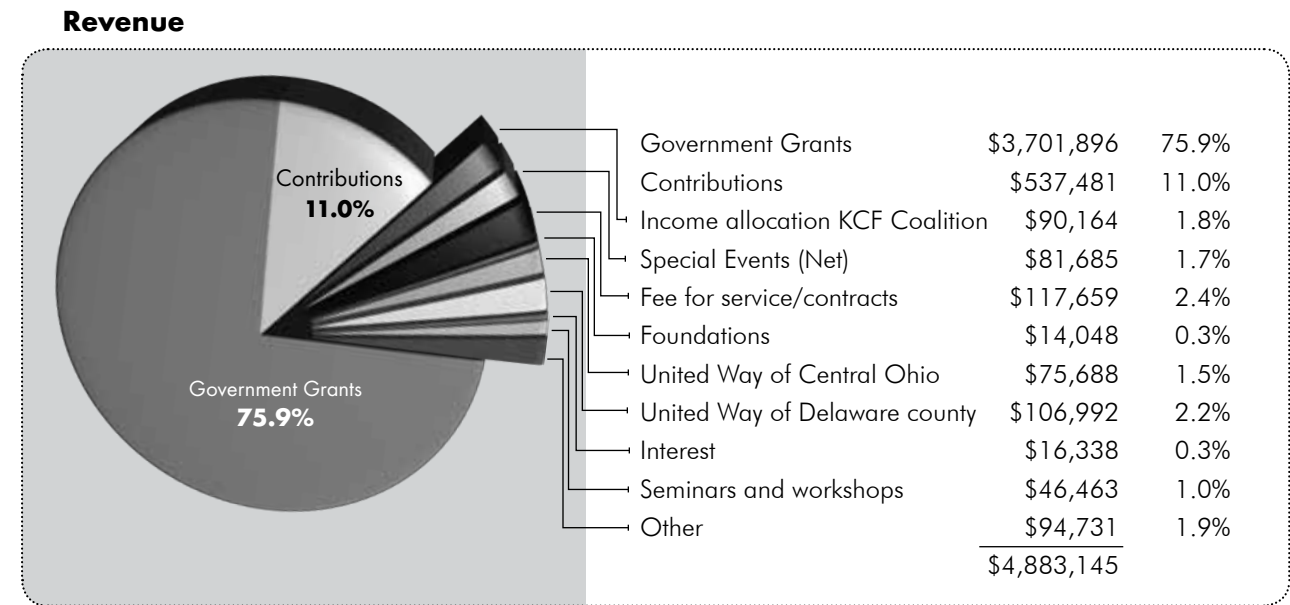
The numbers are important in our year’s work. However, our concern is always to go beyond the numbers to the people we serve. In these trying economic times, we challenge you, too, to help us go beyond the numbers. We ask for your support (vocal and financial) for the families and children of central Ohio; today’s workforce, the parents and providers, and tomorrow’s workforce, the children.

Rhonda Fraas, President, Board of Directors  
Diane Bennett, CEO

## 2009 BUDGET REVIEW

More than 90 percent of Action for Children’s funding goes directly to programs and services, which during this year reached nearly 10,000 parents and 11,000 providers and benefitted more than 40,000 children in central Ohio.

The June 30, 2009 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, ext.138.



## How You Can Contribute

- Make a tax-deductible charitable contribution
- Contribute to the ABCee Early Learning Fund
- Donate through planned giving
- Become a member of the Seven Generations Circle of Women or the Circle of Business
- Volunteer at Action for Children

## Call Action for Children to learn more!

614-224-0222

# Connecting with Parents



This year 7,312 parents received help with their child care search (48.8 percent of those who contacted Action for Children earn under 150 percent of poverty, or \$33,000 income for a family of 4). For the 10,187 children who benefitted, Infant care was the most requested (32 percent) followed by after school (20 percent).

Parents, who work or attend school or job training programs, turn to Action for Children for help in managing the challenges of modern parenting and in finding available, affordable and quality child care.

## Information and Referral:

The agency manages and maintains an up-to-date database of 1,680 early care and education programs in the region, with capacity, as of June 30, 2009, for 83,457 children. The settings can range from a family home child care provider to full or part time care at a center, Head Start, etc.

Referrals are made by phone, email and self-directed eSearch on Action for Children's website. I&R specialists provide parents with information and resources (links to resources that include obtaining financial assistance, developmental assessments, and general information on child development), as well as, the skills and knowledge they need to make an informed choice.

## Parent Education Services:

In addition to Information and Referral services for child care and early learning programs, Action for Children offers parent education workshops and seminars, early learning kits for kindergarten readiness, Parent Information Tables and family support services in high-risk areas.

## The Art of Positive Parenting (TAPP)

Action for Children's TAPP programs, featuring six-week and three-week classes, are designed to help 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; encourage children's cooperation; encourage responsibility; and manage stress. The program also offers specialized workshops on timely topics.

This year the six-week and three-week TAPP classes and specialized workshops reached 889 parents. 197 of these parents were identified as high risk, including parents referred by the Franklin County Municipal Court and those attending our newly created program, Parents Who Parent Separately.

Relations were developed with several agencies to offer our parent education program, e.g., The Transformation Place, a new non-profit agency providing court ordered supervised visitations of parents and children, and Columbus Urban League's Father 2 Father program.

## Parent Information Tables

These resource tables are staffed by Family Wellness Specialists at child-care centers that are in high-risk neighborhoods. The information provided is about a strength-based way of dealing with children called the 40 Developmental Assets. 1,480 parents took advantage of the resources.

## Learning Begins Right from the Start® Kits

Literacy, Math and the newly created Science kits are fun, easy tools for parents to use with their children (ages infant to five) to prepare them for kindergarten success. The guidebook and the materials in the kits give parents play-based activities and resources that nurture their child's learning and support the Ohio Department of Education's Early Learning Content Standards.

AEP provided the funding and guidance for the development and distribution of 1,200 Science kits, Adventures in Science for Families. In April, a press conference was held at AEP's headquarters to publicly introduce the kits. Children from Westside Child Care Center attended to enjoy real hands-on experience with the kit and meet AEP's safety mascot, Louie the Lightning Bug. Our CEO, Diane Bennett and AEP's COO, Carl English, jointly unveiled the new Adventures in Science kits.



Following the press conference, the Science kits were distributed to all of the families at the Franklin County Early Learning Consortium centers.

TAPP teachers distributed literacy and math kits in the Franklinton area and provided a demo/workshop. To date 3,000 kits have been distributed to families in Franklin and Union counties.

## Getting Ready for Kindergarten

(funded by United Way of Central Ohio) Action for Children collaborated with the Columbus Metropolitan Library, in a year- two grant, to deliver the Ready to Read program and accompanying parent kits to low-income families with children under the age of six. When the program ended in April 2009, 1,200 parents or grandparents had been reached in settings that included Amethyst, YWCA's Family Center, and the residents of Community Properties of Ohio (subsidized inner-city housing).

The Strategy Team, Ltd. key research findings (based on 252 randomly selected surveys from 548 completed parent evaluations) indicated that "participants acquired new knowledge about the importance of reading with their children as well as ways to make the reading more fun and expressed their intentions to use the literacy kit with their children several times a week."

## Neighborhood Network

(funded by Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services)

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 served centers and parents in Linden and the Near East communities. This year there were 30 training sessions held for center and home providers with a total of 302 attendees and 15 parent groups with 153 parent attendees. There were also 121 observations that occurred in centers and homes, which help to encourage carry-over of the Asset building. The results of the pre/post test showed significant growth for all three objectives: teacher asset building, parent asset building and teacher perception of child behavior.

Neighborhood Network Parents respond: "I will pay more attention to my children and work to have a regular routine at home. I will let my children know how much I care about them and their education. I will read more to my kids. I have started interacting with my child's school more. I will encourage good manners and respect. I got ideas on what I should be doing to help my grandchildren improve and appreciate what wonderful people we are and can be."

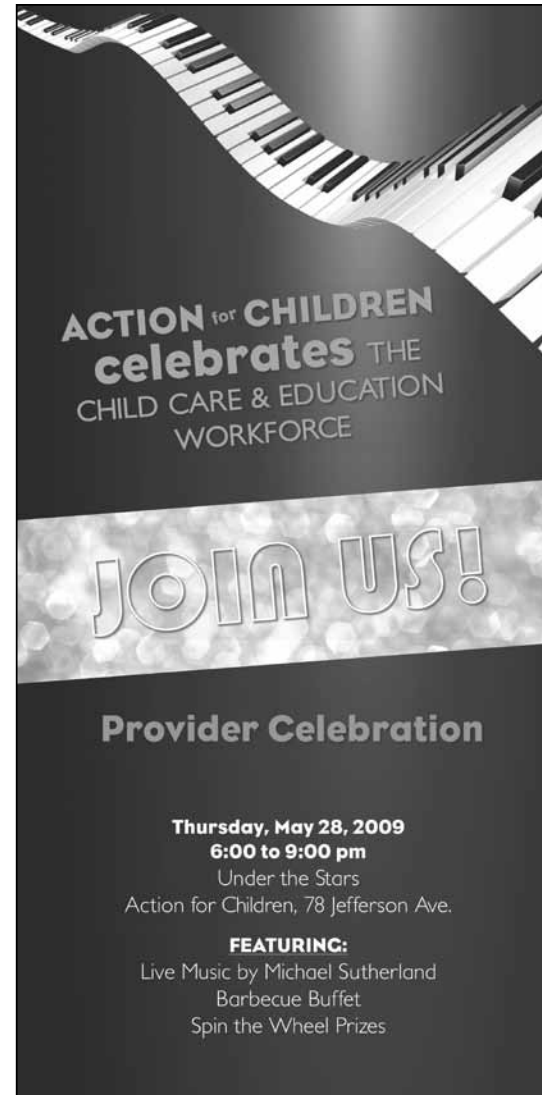
## Woodward Family Resource Center

(located on the grounds of Woodward Elementary School in Delaware)

The Center, established with a grant from United Way of Delaware County, in collaboration with the Delaware City Schools, was opened in July 2007. The program provides neighborhood families with the support and services needed to allow children to take full advantage of the educational opportunities provided by the school including early childhood and after school programming. The Center also provides access to, and encourages the use of, a comprehensive menu of family support programs, services and activities for a largely Hispanic population.

This year 50 percent of the program participants were Hispanic families. In collaboration with other agencies, there was an outreach to the community that resulted in 3,843 visits to the center. This included English as a Second Language (ESOL classes), tax assistance or a family fun event. Some of the sponsored programs included Breast Cancer Education Program, Community Unity Festival, Healthy Habits, Mammogram Screening, Parent/Caregiver Support Group, Soy Latina and Pinwheels and Pancakes Family Fun Day.

# Connecting with Providers



**ACTION for CHILDREN**  
celebrates THE  
CHILD CARE & EDUCATION  
WORKFORCE

**JOIN US!**

**Provider Celebration**

Thursday, May 28, 2009  
6:00 to 9:00 pm  
Under the Stars  
Action for Children, 78 Jefferson Ave.

**FEATURING:**  
Live Music by Michael Sutherland  
Barbecue Buffet  
Spin the Wheel Prizes



Today many infants and young children are in the care of someone other than their parent for at least part of the day. These providers work in a variety of settings that may include their own home (Family Home Child Care Provider) or a child care center.

Those who teach young children are key to high-quality programs and child outcomes, yet in any given child care program or preschool across the nation we find extremes in the skills and knowledge that providers bring to their work with young children. Some have earned college or graduate degrees, while others have a high school diploma or equivalent; some have studied early childhood education or child development, while others have not; some have a great deal of experience working with young children, while others have not.

Moving this highly diverse field toward new, higher standards and accountability is neither simple, nor without cost. Professional development must be accessible and affordable, and must meet the individual where they are on the ladder of continuing education.

## Professional Development

Action for Children's professional development program is helping to raise the bar for expectations of those working in child care and early education. Throughout the seven-county region, the agency provides a wide variety of workshops, seminars and classes throughout the year to child-care staff and family home providers. IACET CEU (Continuing Education Unit), an internationally recognized credit, is available for all of the Action for Children professional development programs. Courses, which meet the state requirements for ELI (Early Learning Initiative), Step up to Quality classes and the national Child Development Associate credential, are also offered.

Our professional development program also includes hours of technical assistance, mentoring and coaching to help the child care and early learning workforce meet quality standards, e.g., Step Up to Quality and national accreditation. In Franklin County and the region, Action for Children provided 697 professional development classes, increasing the knowledge and continuing education of 9,141 participants.

## Professional Development Electives

*(funded by Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services)*

Thirty (two- and three- hour) classes were offered which included: Working with Children with Challenging Behaviors, Handling Parent Conferences, Encouraging Outdoor Play, Nutrition and Young Children and Brain Connection and the Implication for the Classroom. All of the sessions were well received and achieved a 97 percent standard in knowledge gained in post-test evaluations.

## Step Up to Quality (SUTQ)

*(funded by Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association)*

SUTQ is Ohio's voluntary quality star-rating system for child care centers and Type A family child care homes. The goals of SUTQ are to improve the quality of care and education for all children, particularly low-income children, and to provide parents with a simple tool to assist them in selecting early childhood programs.

Action for Children provides recruitment and engagement efforts, technical assistance, environmental assessments (Early Childhood Rating Scale – ECERS) and training to the child care community to meet SUTQ quality rating indicators and to achieve star status. Of the 518 licensed child care centers in the seven-county region, 117 (23%) are star rated to date.

## Center Accreditation

*(funded by United Way of Central Ohio Start Smart)*

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) administers the most widely recognized, professionally sponsored, voluntary accreditation system for early childhood centers.

Action for Children's Center Accreditation program includes technical assistance, professional development, resources, and enhancement funds to assist programs in achieving national accreditation.

14 additional centers have been recruited into the project for a total of 52 accredited centers.

## Home Provider Accreditation

*(funded by Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services)*

The National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) is the accreditation body for family child care home providers. This voluntary accreditation system was created to verify the quality of services for families.

Action for Children provides technical assistance, professional development and resources to assist home providers in achieving NAFCC accreditation.

Four months into the current program year, County funding was terminated due to budget cuts. Action for Children continued to support the program through January 2009 to complete work with participants currently engaged in the process.

29 providers are current; 10 are in process and 10 providers are renewing accreditation during the 2009 calendar year.

## Nurturing Nature in the Wonder Years

*(funded by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency)*

Research has shown that for children's health and well-being it is important that they get a chance to experience the outdoors. Nurturing Nature is a program that teaches early childhood educators and parents how to use outdoor space or their own backyard to bring wonder and excitement to children's learning and a love of nature.

Twenty-five professionals participated in the Nurturing Nature workshops and 87 participated in the outdoor classroom experience. A newly created Instructors Curriculum and Facilitators Guide were developed and distributed at the Train-the-Trainer program which had 30 participants. There were 29 parent attendees at the Parent Nature Circles and newly formed Parent Groups.

All of the participants in Nurturing Nature (parents, educators and train-the-trainers) received its Resource Guide for Nature Explorations.

## USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program

*(funded by United States Department of Agriculture)*

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

Often marketed as the Food Club, the service also provides training related to serving nutritious and appealing meals and snacks with emphasis on preventing childhood obesity, a major public health issue.

We worked with 234 family home child care providers, facilitating the delivery of 743, 535 nutritious meals and snacks to the children in their care.

## Nutrition Program and Health and Safety Information

*(sponsored by Healthy Child Care Ohio, Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association)*

Action for Children's Child Care Nutrition Consultant is a registered dietician available to provide free nutrition information to child care centers and family child care homes in central Ohio in support of children's health and well-being.

35 trainings were presented and the nutritionist consulted with 136 providers around child nutrition, meal planning, accommodating children with special dietary needs, and classroom activities.

## Starting a Family Home Child Care Business

Limited Certified Provider (contract service with Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services) or Registered Family Home Provider (This is a voluntary registration process for those caring for six or fewer children in their home and are not county certified. Ohio is one of only five states which do not license home providers.)

Action for Children provides pre-certification services for home providers applying for limited certification – caring for the children of one family (theirs or a friend's). For the Somali applicant, the limited certification process is facilitated by a Somali staff person.

The agency provides guidance and specialized workshops for individuals interested in starting a child care and early learning business in their home through a voluntary registration process. These individuals are private entrepreneurs.

Of the 47 potential providers who attended orientation classes to become registered, 39 new providers were added to the database, increasing services to potentially 234 children. 507 participants, primarily from the Somali community, received technical assistance to become Limited Certified providers. The opportunity to work with a Somali staff person has forged a relationship of trust and commitment with the Somali community.

## After School Programming

*(funded by Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association.)*

Action for Children provides workshops and technical assistance to directors and staff working in schools, centers and other organizations offering before and after school

programming. Staff also administers the School Age Care Environmental Rating Scale (SACERS).

In the fall, Action for Children, through collaboration with the City of Columbus Mayor's office, hosted a three-part luncheon series to connect faith-based programs with community resources.

The after-school specialists collaborated with the Franklin County Educational Council to deliver after school essential trainings to a wide range of after-school staff and collaborated with Metro Parks to deliver services on environmental education.

## First Steps/Infant Toddler Initiative

*(funded by the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services)*

Action for Children's First Steps Infant/Toddler Specialists provide technical assistance, use of the Infant and Toddler Environmental Rating Scale (ITERS) and professional development for directors and staff working with infants and toddlers.

During this past year, the I/T staff rolled out the Best Practices Series trainings for a total of 13 different specialized trainings that they are able to offer. More than 750 teachers attended these trainings in a six-month period.



# Making the Connection with Children

## An Early Learning Model for Success

### Franklin County Early Learning Consortium (ELC)

(a partnership of 35 Franklin County child care centers, Action for Children and the YMCA of Central Ohio worked to implement Ohio's Early Learning Initiative -ELI)

For the Consortium center partners, the program provides technical assistance, professional development, classroom observations, child screenings and assessments, and use of the Early Learning and Literacy Classroom Observation (ELLCO) tool for directors and staff at the centers. The program monitors the centers to ensure compliance with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Standards.

The ELC centers provide children with meaningful early learning experiences, aligned with the ODE Early Learning Content Standards. 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 for physical development, i.e., small and large motor skills, and social and emotional skills, i.e., getting along with others.

Children in the 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 ways of helping children be well-prepared for school. Since the tracking began, children in the program have shown considerable gains in all areas and are considered "on target" for entry into kindergarten.

Created as a pilot in Franklin County in 2004, from 2006 through 2009, the Consortium (funded by Ohio Department of Education and Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services for 734 children annually) served more than 3,000 children.

During this past year, Action for Children's Family Wellness Specialists worked with 976 children and their families at the Consortium (ELI) centers. They facilitated and provided referrals and follow-up services around critical assessments and screenings that included 830 dental screenings; 911 hearing screenings; 1,018 vision screenings; and 923 developmental assessments. Of the 976 children evaluated, 912 were referred

for a "closer look" and follow up in areas of concern. These follow-up services led to early detection and treatment of vision, hearing, and developmental problems, which are potential obstacles to children's learning and development prior to kindergarten.

Note: While the program was eliminated in Ohio's 2010-2011 budget, Action for Children and its partners are striving to preserve all that was learned through ELI and working to see it reflected in Ohio's policies and priorities for children.



A model for what a comprehensive system of child care and early learning would look like in Ohio, ELI provided the highest quality early learning environment for preschool-age children, from income-eligible families, that integrated research-based curricula, provided early childhood assessments and health screenings, and included comprehensive support services for families.

### Benefits of ELI for Children & Families

- Free Early Learning Services for children and families, for families that qualify.
- Educational Programs for children aligned with Head Start Standards and Ohio's Early Learning Content Standards
- Family Wellness Specialists to support families, children, and centers
- Free screenings for children



## The Franklin County Early Learning Consortium

### ELC Child Care Center Partners

#### North Columbus

Creative Child Care - North  
1601 Shanley Drive, Columbus, OH 43224  
261-8153

Jelly Bean Junction  
1123 Bethel Road, Columbus, OH 43220  
451-5200

Kid's Care Academy  
3360 Kohr Blvd., Columbus, OH 43224  
475-1678

Royal Child Daycare & Preschool  
1155 Windsor Ave., Columbus, OH 43211  
294-7232

Stepping Stones Learning Center  
860 Griswold St., Worthington, OH 43085  
885-6656

St. Stephen's Christ Child Center  
1500 E. 17th Ave. Columbus, OH 43219  
294-6347

#### Northwest

Jelly Bean Junction  
3480 Snouffer Road, Columbus, OH 43235  
792-8700

#### OSU Campus/Clintonville

Columbus Early Learning Center North  
94 E. 3rd Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201  
299-1131

The Ohio State University Child Care Program  
725 Ackerman Road, Columbus, OH 43202  
292-4453

#### Westerville

Vineyard Early Childhood Center  
6000 Cooper Road, Westerville, OH 43081  
890-0000

YMCA St. Ann's Educare Center  
495 Cooper Road, Westerville, OH 43081  
898-8687

#### Airport

YMCA Early Learning Center  
2879 Johnstown Rd., Columbus, OH 43219  
342-5836

#### Near East Side

Our Play Station & Learning Center  
520 N. Nelson Road, Columbus, OH 43219  
252-2600

Central Community House Child Care  
1150 E. Main Street, Columbus, OH 43205  
253-7267

Nationwide Children's Hospital Child Care  
255 E. Main Street, Columbus, OH 43215  
355-0600

Columbus Montessori Education Center  
979 S. James Road, Columbus, OH 43227  
231-3790

Creative Child Care - Washington Square  
2525 Petzinger Road, Columbus, OH 43209  
235-7979

Columbus Early Learning Center East  
162 N. Ohio Avenue, Columbus, OH 43203  
253-5525

#### Downtown

Columbus State Child Development Center  
315 Cleveland Ave., Columbus, OH 43215  
287-3600

Gladden Community House  
183 Hawkes Avenue, Columbus, OH 43223  
227-1600

Heavenly Kids Center for Learning  
404 E. Mound St. Columbus, OH 43215 221-  
5750

Columbus Early Learning Center West  
40 N Grubb Street, Columbus, OH 43215  
224-9284

#### Far East Side

Creative Child Care - East  
5831 Westbourne Ave. Columbus, OH 43213  
864-2424

#### South

South Side Learning & Development Center  
255 Reeb Avenue, Columbus, OH 43207  
444-1529

South Side Learning & Development Ctr. at  
Lincoln Park  
1700 S. 20th Street, Columbus, OH 43207  
445-8731

South Side Settlement House  
310 Innis Avenue, Columbus, OH 43207  
444-9868

#### South East

Starting Point  
2533 Lockbourne Rd, Columbus, OH 43207  
491-1916

#### West Side

YMCA Hilltop Educare Center  
1952 West Broad St, Columbus, OH 43223  
752-8877

Creative Child Care - West Broad  
5765 W. Broad Street, Galloway, OH 43119  
878-6846

Creative Child Care - Westland  
485 Industrial Mile Rd., Columbus, OH 43228  
276-2737



# Thank you to our donors:

July 1, 2008 – December 31, 2009

Every contribution to Action for Children is important. Some of the contributions are in the form of grants, some as a result of Breakfast with the Best fundraiser, others as a result of the ABCee Fund, Circle of Business, Seven Generations Circle of Women, the annual campaign, and the new Kids Come First campaign. We are acknowledging all of these gifts in alphabetical order, rather than by giving levels. We deeply appreciate your financial contributions to Action for Children. They help us offer our programs and services to parents, providers and the general community. They also let us provide new and innovative kinds of programming. Thanks to each and every one of you for your support.



**Action for Children**  
THE SOURCE  
For Child Care and Early Learning Services

# Connecting with the Community

## 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 child care 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.

This year working with a lobbyist, Pappas & Associates, and organizations like Groundwork, Voices for Children, Ohio Professional Development Network and the Ohio Association for Child Care Providers (OACCP), Action for Children provided testimony at the state level to help assure funding for programs for children whose families earn less than 200 percent of poverty and in support of maintaining the market rate based on 25 rather than the proposed 35 hours.

Am. Sub. HB 1 authorizes Ohio to create a Center for Early Childhood Development

within the Ohio Department of Education to improve the coordination and integration of early childhood development programs, services and funding sources. In line with her leadership in the development of a strategic design for the creation of a comprehensive early learning system, *The Strategic Framework: Building an Early Learning System for Ohio's Children*, Diane Bennett has played a pivotal role in the development of the Center for Early Childhood Development Implementation Plan, which was released on December 30, 2009.

## Website

www.actionforchildren.org offers high quality, hand-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 timely information for business, legislators and community planners.

On July 10, Action for Children's new website was launched. The community can also find us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

## Business

Workplace productivity, recruitment retention and employee commitment are influenced by how employees manage their work and personal lives. Research has indicated 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. These program benefits cover more than 100,000 employees.

The Circle of Business received a \$10,000 grant from the Alfred B. Sloan Foundation to become one of 30 communities throughout the nation that will partner to promote workplace flexibility and provide local educational forums on workplace effectiveness.

- |   |                                      |  |                                |                                       |   |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
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# 2009 Local Scene

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