



facetime for children

ACTION FOR CHILDREN'S REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2011

Dear friends of Action for Children

We look back on a year that inspired our passion every day—literally taking action for children. Our work centers on the two most important teachers in a child's life, their parents and their providers. These are the people with whom we spend "facetime."

What is **facetime**? It is the direct contact or connection with another—adults or children. Although, we do not provide direct services to children, we provide programs and services to those who do provide **facetime** and the nurturing and caring environments which help children grow and develop to their fullest potential.

This report focuses on our **facetime** programs and services during our fiscal year: July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. This year marked year one in our three-year strategic plan (See page 3) to assure that all children in central Ohio have universal access to quality early learning experiences at home and in child care.

Our year came to a close with Dan's Big Bold Bicycle Adventure, which began on June 19 for 50 days and 3,667 miles through 10 states and Canada—beginning in Astoria, Oregon and concluding in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. There were ups and downs, mountain highs, valley lows, rough terrain, highlighted by beautiful sights, sounds and physical triumphs.

Interestingly enough, the Adventure is a kind of metaphor for this past year for Action for Children—ups, downs, rocky terrain—presented by the effects of the economy, budget cuts at all government levels, and lowered revenues from all sources. Yet, in the face of tough times, Action for Children's 2011 year had many triumphs: We connected with nearly 17,000 parents and 11,000 professionals in central Ohio, enhancing the **facetime** experiences for 40,000 community children.

As we prepare to celebrate our 40th anniversary in 2012, please join us with your time, talents and treasure for activities that will honor the work of special individuals who have been part of our past and present success—community volunteers, board leadership and child care and early learning professionals.

We value your "friend us" spirit in behalf of our community children—those with whom you have **facetime** and those for whom you help to assure quality **facetime** through your continued support of the work of Action for Children. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Rhonda Fraas
President
Board of Directors



Diane Bennett
CEO

July 1, 2010
– June 30, 2011

P.S. While we do have many face-to-face programs and services, we also serve people through our website at www.actionforchildren.org. Check it out. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Action for Children

Our vision

Action for Children will be the community leader in transforming the future of child care into quality 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, human service and social service organizations, neighborhoods, educators, funders, policymakers, and faith-based organizations.

Our mission

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

Our guiding principles

- Parents need access to information and resources to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to support their children and to help them succeed in school and life.
- A qualified early childhood workforce is essential in providing high quality early care and education outside the home.
- Early care and education environments must be constructed so children have opportunities to interact, engage and investigate to fully develop in all early childhood domains (physical, mental, cognitive, social-emotional) in order to lay the foundation for success in school and in life.
- A system for early childhood that supports universal access to quality services, equal opportunities for learning, and an effective finance mechanism to create a sustainable and integrated system is needed in Ohio to support and sustain the work on behalf of children.

Our strategic goals

- **Parents:** Improve the quality of interactions between parent and child
- **Providers:** Improve the quality of interactions between caregiver (teachers, directors, home providers) and child
- **Environment:** Implementation of quality early care and education environments as defined through national research (i.e. National Association for the Education of Young Children and National Association for Family Child Care) and Ohio's quality rating system Step Up to Quality
- **Advocacy:** Implementation of Ohio Center for Early Care and Education; the development of state licensing for all child care by 2016; standards of care for Kith and Kin by 2016; new finance mechanism to support quality early care and education



Numbers at a glance

The face of Action for Children in Franklin, Delaware, Union, and Madison counties with regional partners in Fairfield, Licking and Pickaway counties.

16,849 Community Parents served

- TAPP (The Art of Positive Parenting) seminars, classes and parenting workshops
- Family 2 Family at Gladden Community House includes TAPP workshops, Resource Management workshops and Education Advocacy workshops
- TAPP at Directions for Youth and Families
- TAPP at Columbus Housing Partnership
- Information and Referral via phone, fax, e-mail and e-Search
- The Father Factor
- Nurturing Nature Through the Foods We Eat for parents
- Woodward Family Resource Center
- Learning Begins Right From the Start® Early Learning Kits for Families
- Parents Who Parent Separately
- Putting the Children First; Caring for 2 (through Columbus Public Health)
- Family Wellness through Columbus Kids (A program of United Way of Central Ohio and Columbus City Schools Foundation)
- Employer Dependent Care

11,744 Child Care and Early Learning Professionals served

- Professional Development core training and technical assistance
- Step Up to Quality; Accreditation
- CDA preparation and coaching
- National Program for After School Science (NPASS)
- Caring Communities: Birth to 3
- Limited Certification orientations
- Nurturing Nature Through the Foods We Eat for After School educators
- Home Care Business Recruitment
- Somali Limited Certified Provider assistance
- How to Start a Child Care Center workshop
- Nutrition Education Through Healthy Child Care Ohio
- USDA Child and Adult Food Care Program (funded by the United States Department of Agriculture) in 12 counties (Allen, Crawford, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway, Richland and Union)



Giving **facetime** to more than 40,000 community children

facetime for parents



Parents need reliable information and resources to help them find and maintain quality child care and early learning programs so that they can work or attend school. Many also need parenting tools, the skills and knowledge, to help them nurture their children's learning and healthy physical, social and emotional development. Our **facetime** programs and services empower, engage and inform parents (teens to grandparents) in their important role as their child's first teacher.

Caring for 2

This **facetime** program is targeted toward teen mothers living in high-risk zip codes in Columbus. Five (5) six-week parent education sessions are provided to cultivate skills in pregnant and parenting teens that will allow them to have the best potential for healthy pregnancies and births and to learn skills needed to parent their children positively. Topics included Infant Care & Child Development, Breastfeeding & Positive Communication, Safe Sleep & Parenting Styles, In Home Safety & Anger Management, Stress Management & Stress Relief, and Substance Abuse & Resource Evaluation.

This year Action for Children implemented the six-week classes at Linden Library, Martin Luther King Library, Columbus Global Academy, and Columbus Public Health and a three-week session at Focus Learning Academy North. Participation and ongoing engagement are a particular challenge with teen parents, making 34 participants (four of them fathers) a true success.

One parent participant remarked,
**"I can use the resources and tools
I received to help me be a better mom."**

Funded by Columbus Public Health

The Father Factor

Action for Children has provided The Art of Positive Parenting: Father Factor education and outreach program for at risk fathers in Franklin County, in partnership with faith-based and community organizations, Ohio Commission on African Males, and the national Daddy's Promise organization. Through the classes and mentoring provided in the program, the participating fathers—some single, some not living with their children, some who do not have positive memories of their own father, and others who recognize the importance of being a positive influence—are guided in techniques that help them become nurturing, caring fathers and a positive force in the lives of their children.

This year we developed a research-based curriculum, *The Art of Positive Parenting: Father Factor**, which includes 12 hours of educational instruction that can be implemented, at the discretion of each group of fathers, either over a six-week period (two hours/week) or in two Super Saturday sessions (six hours each).

During 2011, the program grew from initially being offered in one church site to being offered in 13 church and community sites. The program directly served 268 fathers through the parent education classes. We also received funding from The Columbus Foundation that allowed for translation of The Father Factor curriculum into Spanish for fathers in the Hispanic/Latino community.

*inspired by The TROY Group and Daddy's Promise

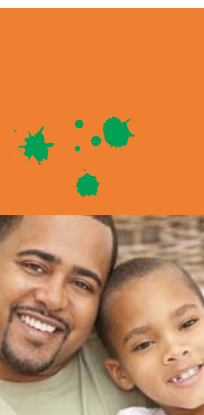
Funded by Ohio Department of Job & Family Services Fatherhood Initiative

Woodward Family Resource Center (FRC)

The Woodward Family Resource Center provides families in the Laura Woodward Elementary School neighborhood in Delaware County with support and services needed to allow their children to take full advantage of the educational opportunities provided at the school. Located on the grounds of the school, the FRC provides access to and encourages use of a comprehensive menu of family support programs, services and activities. The program is offered at no cost to participants.

This year the FRC had 5,343 **facetime** participants (those who sought out and participated in a service offered by the FRC). Another 269 were intensive participants (those with a well-defined need who sought assistance from the FRC to provide links to services to meet their need. Of those linked to services, 260 followed through on the suggestions.

Funded by United Way of Delaware County in collaboration with the Delaware City School District



Putting the Children First

We are the designated provider of this two-hour parent education program, which is required for all parents of minor children who file for divorce or dissolution in Franklin County. The goal of the program is to provide parents with information, tips and resources that will help them to provide their children with a stable, loving environment in each home, without allowing them to be caught in the middle of the parents' challenges and issues.

The **facetime** sessions were offered three times each month—36 times during the year—and served 2,324 parents. This year we also developed an online version of the Putting the Children First seminar. This has since been launched and approved by Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Division of Domestic Relations as an additional alternative for parents filing for divorce or dissolution.

During the year, more than 75% of parents reported that after taking the seminar they had a better understanding of how to help their children through the divorce process.

One parent commented, **"I was offended at first that I had to come to this because I was the responsible parent [attended most doctor appointments, all play dates, etc.]. I knew that I knew how to be a responsible parent in the marriage, but I didn't realize the challenges of co-parenting after a divorce. This gave me some tools and things to think about."**

Funded by Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Division of Domestic Relations

The Art of Positive Parenting (TAPP)

Part of our parent education program since 2001, *The Art of Positive Parenting* provides three- and six-week interactive classes designed to help today's parents 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 year the TAPP program served 2,958 parents through the three- and six-week classes offered throughout Franklin County and community workshops (including parent tables and community visibility events).



Under an agreement with Gladden Community House, TAPP continued to be the provider of parent education programs for its Family 2 Family program; providing 37 TAPP workshops and two new workshops, Resource Management and Education Advocacy, for 228 participating parents. The program at Gladden has grown significantly through word-of-mouth related to TAPP's consistent presence there, the high quality programming, and relevant, helpful information for parents.

TAPP continued partnering with Directions for Youth and Families, with funding from United Way of Central Ohio, to provide six-week classes for at-risk, low-income parents. During the year, classes were held at Action for Children, Directions for Youth and Families, C.M. Grant Leadership Academy, Godman Guild, Columbus Properties of Ohio, and Weinland Park.

TAPP was also selected by Columbus Housing Partnership to provide 34 classes and seminars at seven of their residential communities. These classes provided support and education to parents dealing with life challenges that include low income, single parenthood, parents in recovery, absent parents due to incarceration, and children's school readiness.

Supported, in part, through private contributions

Information and Referral (I&R)

Information and Referral provides the resources that guide parents in the **facetime** they need to select and maintain quality child care and early learning options for their children from birth through school age. As part of this service we maintain a database of more than 1,600 child care and early education programs in the region that include child care centers, preschools, Head Start programs, and family child care homes. This database is accessed by families via telephone consultation with Action for Children counselors or self-search on our website.

Our I&R service region encompasses Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway and Union counties. This year I&R served 4,408 families seeking child care and early education programs for 6,250 children in central Ohio. Care for infants or toddlers, which combined comprise 68.6 percent of all referral requests, remains the area of highest demand—43.4 percent of requests for infants and 25.2 percent for toddlers. Of the parents served, 49 percent requested subsidized care.

On follow-up during the year, 80 percent of the families that used the services reported that they were helped in their search and 81 percent reported that they received increased knowledge from speaking personally with the counselor.

Funded by City of Columbus, United Way of Central Ohio, United Way of Delaware County, and Ohio Department of Job & Family Services

facetime for providers

Those who teach young children are critical to high-quality programs and child outcomes, yet in any given child care program or preschool we still find extremes in the skills and knowledge that caregivers bring to their work with young children. Some have earned college or graduate degrees, while others possess 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 do not. Professional development, technical support, coaching and mentoring—**facetime** services—help providers hone the skills and knowledge necessary to create the highest quality setting—a healthy, nurturing, learning environment called a child's third teacher.

Child Development Associate (CDA)

Our CDA program, available to center-based and home-based providers in central Ohio, prepares providers to earn the national credential. The **facetime** program offers 120 hours of coursework to meet requirements in each of the CDA content areas. The program includes twelve 10-hour modules, cost of materials, cost of continuing education units, CDA application packet, CDA preparation sessions, limited individualized coaching, and an advisor to complete the observation instrument. We have also worked with Columbus State Community College (CSCC) to develop a collaborative model that includes opportunity for program participants to apply this coursework for credit in CSCC's early childhood two-year degree program.

During this year, we provided the program to 24 participants.

Participant remarks included **"provided an excellent opportunity for me to get coursework that will improve my ability to teach children."** **"The Action for Children program gave me great networking opportunities and helped reduce my fears about going back to school."**

Credentialing scholarships to the participants are made available through T.E.A.C.H. and United Way of Central Ohio Start Smart



National Program for After School Science (NPASS)

Ohio is one of seven states selected by the National Program for After School Science to implement this prestigious program, which includes professional development and training for hands-on science in after school programs. Action for Children was one of the agencies selected to implement NPASS.

To become a participant, after school programs committed to attend six NPASS workshops over a ten-month period and their teachers agreed to provide a weekly science project follow-up to each class in the form of a science club. At each workshop, our NPASS-trained specialist presented a new hands-on science or engineering project and modeled strategies for successfully implementing the project with children; e.g., bridges, roller coasters, cars and gliders. Each workshop stressed best practices in informal science learning and youth development with a focus on making science enjoyable and accessible to all children.

During the year, we worked with seven child care centers, providing on-site technical assistance and six three-hour NPASS sessions for ten of their after school staff.

One teacher shared her experience after taking an NPASS class, **"I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed this course. I started using the materials today with my younger school-agers. Most have just completed kindergarten, some have completed first grade, and two have completed second grade. With a small group, we talked about rockets and I charted their ideas. They then drew rockets and we put their pictures on poster board to be displayed. Some also built rockets from blocks and I photographed what they built. We are busy on a field trip tomorrow, but eager to be back at this again on Wednesday."**

Funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation and the Hannah Dillard Legacy Fund



Caring Communities: Birth to Three

The three-year project involves working with five early learning centers in Franklin County to provide infants and toddlers (ages six weeks to three years) with consistent skilled teachers in family style intimate communities. The children are cared for in small, mixed-age groups, by one primary caregiver, until they are three years old, providing a continuity of care that is especially important for at-risk children and families whose lives are less stable due to poverty, illness, job loss, and frequent moves. Each of the centers is urban and offers comprehensive programs for children birth to age six and serves many lower income children, including those receiving state subsidies.

The five centers—Kids Care Academy, Our Play Station and Learning Center, Starting Point Learning Center, Columbus Montessori Education Center, and Schoenbaum Family Center at Weinland Park (OSU)—have committed to structuring their infant/toddler programs to provide continuity of care in a family style setting. Our infant/toddler specialist provides training and technical support to the participating centers and their staff.

The initial year of the project was spent defining appropriate space at the centers for the mixed-age classrooms, receiving training and technical assistance, and assigning staff. In this second year of the project, four of the five centers began implementing the mixed-age classrooms at their sites. The fifth center has classroom space available and is currently working to assign staff and recruit children. All five centers participated in a celebration at the end of the year, sharing the highlights of their project throughout the year and celebrating their successes.

Remarks from the teachers in the newly implemented classrooms included the realization that they were getting as much out of the switch as the children.

One teacher commented, **“Watching the children grow and not having to move them to another classroom has been a joy and also amazing!”**

*Partners with
Early Care and Learning Inc. (ECAL)*



Nurturing Nature Through the Foods We Eat

Nurturing Nature Through the Foods We Eat was developed by Action for Children as a pilot program to provide afterschool educators with standards-based professional development focused on environmental and agricultural education. The program consists of four major areas: a 10-hour curriculum linking food and the environment; technical assistance to support implementation within the afterschool setting; field experiences bringing the educators, children and parents to environmental/agricultural education sites; and a statewide train-the-trainer program to disseminate the curriculum throughout Ohio.

Thirty (30) after school educators have participated in the Nurturing Nature Through the Foods We Eat program. Ten of the educators attended a two-hour field visit to Stratford Ecological Center with 34 parents and children. A resource guide for providers was also created: *Healthy Children, Healthy Families and a Greener Planet*.

“As professionals, we know how important healthy eating and physical activity is to obesity prevention and its associated disorders. It is not so easy to engage school-age children. These classes were real eye-openers”. Another commented, **“Our role in building a healthy environment and our responsibility to the planet was strongly conveyed in this course. I am so happy to be able to share my experiences with the children and families in my classroom.”**

Funding from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund (Ohio EPA)

Partners include Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association, Stratford Ecological Center, Early Childhood Quality Network/OSU, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

Limited Certification Orientation

All state-subsidized family child care homes in Ohio must be certified by their local county. Limited Certification means they are limited to providing care for the children of legal relatives or the children of one friend. The certification process requires background checks, home inspections, a medical statement verifying the applicant’s ability to provide child care, and completion of initial and ongoing training.

The Limited Certification Orientation program provides a three-hour training session, which must be attended by both the Limited Certification provider applicant and a parent of the child. The program includes information about the application process.

During the year, we conducted 138 Limited Certification Orientation sessions, attended by 256 participants. More than 50 percent were Somali providers. Our Limited Certification staff includes a Somali staff member to work with Somali providers.

Funded by Franklin County Department of Job & Family Services

Columbus Kids

In February 2010, our staff began working with Columbus Kids: Ready. Set. Learn., a program designed to increase the early detection of developmental delays and potential learning obstacles; including speech, hearing and vision problems, among future Columbus City Schools' students. The program is aimed at reaching every child of preschool age in the district. All of the children in the target age group receive a Learning Checkup every six months and parents are directed to resources if the results of the Learning Checkup identify a need.

The Columbus Kids project started in Columbus' central city and the Weinland Park neighborhood in 2010 and was implemented in the Linden neighborhood in 2011. Our family wellness specialist assists in recruiting participants for the project, teaches parents (and center staff) how to administer the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) child assessment, and provides resources for parents needing assistance with ASQ results. During this past year 2,230 children, between 2 ½ and 4 years of age, were administered Learning Checkups. Of those children, 950 were identified as "maybe needing further assessment with a professional" and 503 were identified as "maybe needing further assessment in more than one area."

Program of United Way of Central Ohio and Columbus City Schools Education Foundation

Step Up to Quality (SUTQ)

Step Up to Quality is Ohio's voluntary three-star quality rating system for child care centers that are licensed by the State. SUTQ helps parents and families identify centers of high quality and assists centers in implementing standards of quality in their programs. Recognizing that centers are at various stages of preparation to seek star ratings—from one star, the first level in SUTQ, to, currently, three stars, the top SUTQ level—our staff supports child care centers in a process of continuous quality improvement. We provide technical assistance that supports child care centers in developing a Quality Improvement Plan, in completion of the Program Administrative Scale (PAS) and Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) assessments by reliable assessors, and by providing on-site technical assistance around quality improvement/enhancement and the SUTQ process.

During the year, we received funding to provide technical assistance targeted specifically toward centers in the seven-county central Ohio region seeking a two-star SUTQ rating. This rating is a particularly challenging transition and takes time. We provided 1,260 hours of **facetime** technical assistance to 40 centers. By the end of the year, nine new centers had achieved a two-star rating. In addition, one of the centers that started working on a two-star rating exceeded requirements and achieved a three-star rating. The remaining centers have continued to receive technical assistance.



In addition, we received funding from United Way of Central Ohio Start Smart to support continual quality improvement for those centers in Franklin County seeking one-star and three-star SUTQ ratings. During the year, we provided 1,676.25 hours of technical assistance to 55 Franklin County child care centers focused on SUTQ. By year's end, fourteen of the centers had applied for their star ratings and eight centers had achieved one-star rating. All of the centers have continued to receive our SUTQ technical assistance.

Funding from Ohio Department of Job & Family Services and United Way of Central Ohio

Accreditation

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest organization of early childhood educators, established its accreditation system to raise the quality of early childhood education and to help families and others identify high quality early childhood programs. Through this program, we provide child care centers with technical assistance to support them in achieving accreditation.

During 2011, our staff worked with 37 centers in Franklin County; providing 423.75 technical assistance hours. Eight of the centers achieved NAEYC accreditation. The remaining centers are continuing to receive our technical assistance.

Funded by United Way of Central Ohio Start Smart

The National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) is the national accreditation body for family home child care providers. This voluntary accreditation system defines the standards of quality for family child care.

While we are not currently funded to provide technical assistance for NAFCC accreditation, five home providers are currently accredited (down from more than 20 accredited providers before funding cuts) and continue to receive our support as we seek funding.

Healthy Child Care Ohio—Child Care Nutrition Consultation

The goal of Healthy Child Care Ohio is to support the health and well-being of Ohio's children. Through this program our Nutrition Consultant, a registered dietitian, provides nutrition consultation and professional development for child care centers around child nutrition, meal planning, accommodating children with special dietary needs, and classroom nutrition activities.

This year our Nutrition Consultant provided 102 technical assistance consultations and 33 nutrition trainings to family child care providers and child care centers in the central Ohio region.

Funded by Ohio Department of Health

facetime for children

Learning Begins Right From the Start®

In 2004, in response to parent demand for early learning tools to help them prepare their young children for school, we developed early learning kits for families. These “Adventure” kits give parents of young children, infancy to five years, research-based early learning tools in the form of play-based, content specific activity kits and guidebooks that align with the Ohio Department of Education’s Prekindergarten Standards for English Language Arts, Math, and Science. The Early Literacy Kit, the first to be developed, received the Ohio Department of Education Award of Excellence.

More than 7,000 Early Literacy, Math, and Science kits have been distributed to families in need over the past seven years. While the kits are aligned with Ohio’s content standards, they are relevant for early learning and school readiness nationwide.

Here are some activities from each of our early learning kits to provide you with some **facetime** activity ideas for working with your children.

Adventures in LITERACY for Families

Let’s Pretend

It doesn’t have to be Halloween for a child to enjoy dressing up and playing “Let’s Pretend.” When your child puts on an apron, he or she can become a great chef, waiter, or grocery store clerk, as well as an artist. Your kitchen can become the setting for a grocery store or restaurant. Children, even as young as two, can “read” the labels by looking at the picture of the product. Have your preschool-age child help you make signs for a grocery or menus for a restaurant. You can print the words and your child can draw the pictures.

Reprinting funded by United Way of Central Ohio



Adventures in MATH for Families

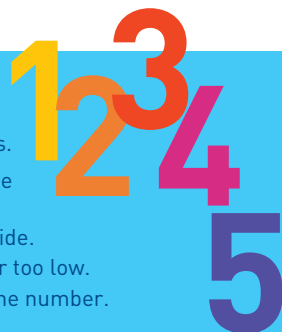
By opening up the world of words through conversation, books and just plain everyday experiences, you will encourage your child’s curiosity, sense of adventure, joy, wonder and the love of learning.

Guess My Number (for parent and child)

Make two sets (5 cards each) of playing cards. Number the cards in each set 1 through 5. Give each player a set of cards.

- Choose a card, look at the number, and put it aside with the number facing down.
- The second player guesses which number has been set aside.
- Player one tells whether the guess is correct or too high or too low.
- Player two continues to guess until he or she figures out the number.
- Players switch roles.

Funded by Chase and Nationwide Foundation with support from Cardinal Health and Ross/Abbott Laboratories



Adventures in SCIENCE for Families

Science in the Kitchen

Children need to learn about good eating to help their bodies grow healthy and strong. Nutritionists agree that a healthy diet is not about putting children on a diet. It is about providing healthy choices.

Helping with meal preparation will encourage your child’s interest in eating a healthy diet. Your preschooler can help you with meal preparation that explores “science in the kitchen.”

For example:

- Wash and tear lettuce and peel bananas.
- Assemble dry and fresh ingredients and kitchen tools.
- Pour prepared liquids.
- Add dry ingredients.
- Stir, mix or beat ingredients.

Funded by American Electric Power Foundation



Dr. Michael Rich, director of the Center on Media and Children’s Health at Children’s Hospital Boston, writes in his Ask the Mediatrix online column, “**Electronics are good for skills and drills learning. They are not good at teaching children how to think or that they should ask questions or use creativity. These skills are what help young children learn to love learning itself, one of the most important academic skills to gain. For that, in-person interaction is essential.**”

adventures in science

Learning Begins Right From the Start® Learning Kits

Adventures in SCIENCE for Families

In 2008, AEP Foundation provided funding and partnered with Action for Children in the development of the materials and guidebook for Learning Begins Right From the Start® Adventures in Science, the Early Science Kit. In 2009, the Foundation provided funding for fulfillment and distribution of 1,200 of the kits to families in need in Franklin County and surrounding communities. With the success of this initial distribution, AEP Foundation funded Action for Children to fulfill and distribute an additional 5,000 kits during 2010 and 2011 in AEP's footprint communities in Ohio, West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Texas.

By the end of 2011, 3,750 Adventures in Science kits had been distributed to families in Ohio, West Virginia and Oklahoma, and 1,250 kits had been fulfilled in preparation for distribution in Texas.

With each science kit distribution, we have included a parent evaluation to assess the program's impact on families and the program's effectiveness. During the year, parents who received the kits reported a noticeable increase in their child's science-oriented play, knowledge and curiosity. More than 80 percent were using activities in the guidebook with their children and 94 percent of the parents and children were using the kits on a regular basis. Parents continually indicated that one of the most important aspects of the kit was that it showed them what their children did not know and helped them better understand what they need to know to begin school successfully.



A sampling of the parents' comments includes the following:

"The kit is amazing and I truly appreciate the efforts and consideration of those who made it happen."

"Thank you so much! Noah has played with everything and visits his backpack several times a day."

"I appreciated the ideas of how to explore science with my two-year-old."

"It gave me ideas for things to do with my babies that I never would have thought about doing."

"I like that a measuring tape was included. Measuring is an important part of science that is often not emphasized. I also really like the Cook It! Book—not only do I like the subject and pictures, but I was pleased to note an interracial family and a father who was doing the child care and cooking."

"These kits are such a good way to get families involved in doing things together."

"I think the kit is a fantastic idea. So many kids are hooked to technology all day and the kit gives them tools and ideas needed to really use their minds to play and learn."



facetime for the community

Advocacy

Our staff and board provide leadership and participate in statewide advocacy efforts in support of universal access and provider licensing. This is an ongoing activity. During this past year, the agency worked with The Alliance for Early Education Advocates, comprised of the Ohio Association of Child Care Providers (OACCP), Action for Children, and the Early Care and Education Consortium. Advocacy efforts were election-focused from July through December and focused on the new administration from January through June.

During the first part of the year, all statewide offices, the House of Representatives, and half of the Senate were up for election or re-election. The Alliance for Early Education Advocates completed 30 tours with key elected officials to child care programs in their districts from July through October. Rumors of substantial budget cuts were already looming at that time due to the projected \$8 billion state budget deficit. Our message to the legislators was that centers were struggling, given the budget cuts implemented in the previous biennial budget and, since parents need child care to be able to work, subsidized child care was not a place that could withstand further cuts and survive.



As advocates, we also spent time during the first six months of the year developing messages for both gubernatorial campaigns and implemented those message points and supporting data/facts with policy staff of both campaigns.

The election brought dramatic change to the landscape—change of person and party in the Governor's office, as well as change of party and leadership team in the House.

Also during the last half of the year, the Ohio Business Roundtable was advocating for amendments related to quality child care. Essentially they wanted all centers to participate in Ohio's quality initiative, Step Up to Quality (SUTQ), in order to receive state funds. In anticipation of a \$3 million federal Race to the Top grant, work continues toward moving all providers who receive state funds into the SUTQ program by 2020. At that time, there will be five levels of quality (currently there are three). This work would also include funding providers based on educational outcome metrics.

As a result of the focus on early childhood during the first months of the new Administration, the Governor committed to establishing a position in charge of child care and early education within the Governor's office. Although this position had not been filled by June 30, 2011, it is anticipated that this person, the Governor's Early Education and Development Officer, will be responsible for the "development and effective execution of a plan to realize the Governor's vision for a system of high-quality public and private early childhood education and development."

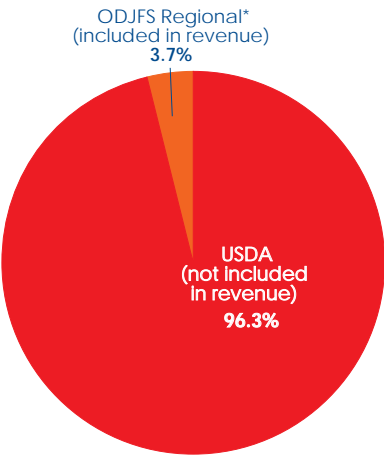


program funding

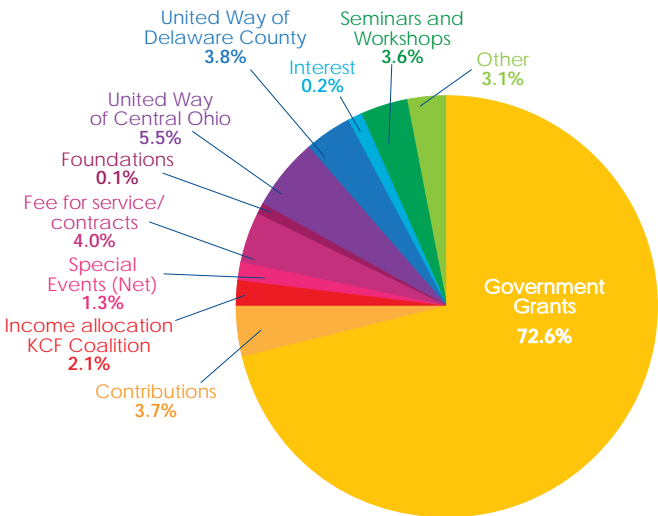
2011 Budget Review

All funding (except 9.3 percent administrative costs) goes directly to programs and services, which during this year reached 16,849 parents and 11,744 providers affecting the **facetime** of more than 40,000 children.

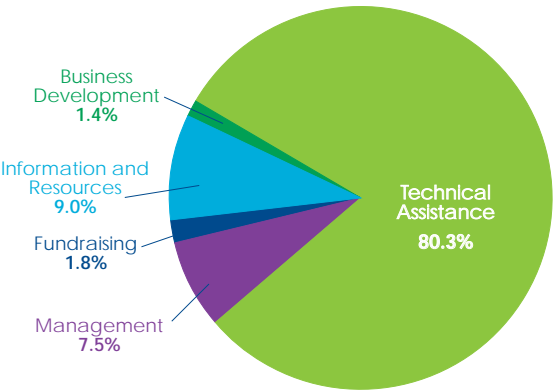
The June 30, 2011 financial statements were audited by Saltz, Shamis & Goldfarb, Certified Public Accountants, who expressed an unqualified opinion on them. The audited financial statements are available on request by calling Action for Children, 614/224-0222, ext. 138.



Pass-Through Money
\$928,805



Program Revenue
\$2,813,912



Program Expenses**
\$2,985,560

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

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

**Expenses for a large special project were incurred this year and related revenue was recognized in a prior fiscal year.

Dan's Big Bold

bicycle adventure

1 man:

Dan Schoedinger

50 days:

June 19 - August 8, 2011

3,667 miles:

From Astoria, OR to Portsmouth, NH

Raised \$52,485.60



DAN'S BIG BOLD BICYCLE
ADVENTURE

Presented by

VORYS

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5.1.11-9.30.11

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July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Every contribution to Action for Children is important. Some of the contributions are in the form of grants, others as a result of the ABCee Fund, Seven Generations Circle of Women, Dan’s Big Bold Bicycle Adventure, the annual campaign, and gifts made in honor and in memory of someone special. 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 that allows us to take action in behalf of more than 40,000 children in central Ohio.

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