

# ECS TODAY

*With news you can use from Every Child Succeeds!*

FEBRUARY 2009

## Program Notes

### *As part of its 10-year*

*anniversary*, ECS is hoping to recognize and honor some of the very first families the agency served. If you are in contact with one or more families from 2002 to 2004, we hope you'll encourage their participation! If they are interested, simply send Margaret Clark (Margaret.clark@cchmc.org) the following information: name, account number, phone number(s) and street address. Thank you!

### *Brighton Center's ECS Program*

*Coordinator, Becky Duke*, was recently honored as the agency's Employee of the Year. Chosen from among 174 employees, she received the award as a surprise announcement at the annual agency board dinner. Congratulations, Becky! You are a true ECS star!

### *Don't forget to register for*

*"From Risk to Resilience,"* the all-day conference on Thursday, March 5 at Drake Center. The conference is supported in part by Help Me Grow. Nationally known speaker, psychiatrist and professor Dr. Martin Maldonado will present the morning session, and afternoon breakout sessions on a variety of relevant topics. For more information, email LearningCenter@BeechAcres.org

## A Letter from Judy Van Ginkel, ECS President



Every Child Succeeds welcomes Jim Jones as its new Board President. Jim has been with ECS nearly 10 years, making significant contributions in many areas of the organization, especially finance. A retired P&G executive, Jim is married to Diane and has three adult children. We are very thankful for Jim's work

with ECS and look forward to his leadership as we continue to respond to today's daunting economic challenges!



## All Together Now . . . Beech Acres Parenting Center

Founded as an orphanage 160 years ago, Beech Acres has grown and changed to meet the needs of our community. Today, it provides a broad spectrum of services to help families tap into their strengths and help parents raise children who achieve their unique potential.

Among the agency's many services are education and support groups, an information line for parents, mentoring programs, counseling, foster care, website coaching and, of course, Every Child Succeeds. Beech Acres also sponsors an annual parenting conference called "For the Love of Kids," which last year drew 1,500 participants.

Beech Acres employs 120 individuals, nine of whom work with ECS. "We've been part of ECS from the beginning, and are now one of only two lead agencies that serve families in both Hamilton and Clermont Counties," says Connie Harrison, Team Leader for Beech Acres. "Our caseload is about 240 families."

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*ECS families and other middle- and low-income wage earners* can receive free and fair tax preparation services, thanks to the Regional Earned Income Tax Collaborative. For location information, call the United Way at 211 or visit [www.makeworkpay.com](http://www.makeworkpay.com).

*It's Black History Month.* Please consult the Cultural Competence Team's Monthly Discussion Starter on African American Culture (distributed to Supervisors). In addition to cultural insight, there are great ideas for places to visit, activity ideas for teams and even recipes.

**Staff News:** *ECS welcomes the following individuals to central staff:* Lizzie Frietsch, data coordinator; and Bianca Jones, research assistant for the First Years Project. We also welcome Brighton Center home visitor Jessica Hungler; Santa Maria home visitor Anne Paff; and two interns, Kacey Ash at Children's Home and Stephanie Utrup at STAY.

*Congratulations to Mindy Heathcoat,* Santa Maria home visitor, who gave birth to Emma Grace Heathcoat on Dec. 22.

After families graduate from ECS, they are encouraged to join Beech Acres's "Power in Parenting" mentoring/school readiness program. Parents of children ages three to six are matched with other moms in the community, some of whom are ECS graduates. "The goal is to encourage intentional, strength-based parenting," Harrison says. "Our mentors have 'been there' and are part of the neighborhood, and that's why the program succeeds."



*The Beech Acres ECS staff includes the following people (all are family service workers unless otherwise indicated). Back row, left to right: Diana Evans, administrative assistant; Arista Warren Huffman; Catherine Jarvis; Rozza Gadson; and Tricia Raby. Front row: Jackie Ranieri; Connie Harrison, Team Leader; and Jennifer Hoefle-Baker.*

One of the challenges at Beech Acres is staying in close contact with new ECS families and those who have been in the program for a while. "Texting is sometimes only way to get hold of people," Harrison says. "We rely on it heavily, whether we're reminding moms about an appointment or establishing initial contact with a new family. But to maintain professionalism, we don't use texting abbreviations in our communications."

BTW, if you would like more information about Beech Acres, visit their website at [www.BeechAcres.org](http://www.BeechAcres.org).

**Beech Acres**  
*Parenting Center*  
Strengthening Families for Children

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### Getting to Know . . . Dave Brewer, Director of Learning



Dave Brewer's tools of the trade include a cell phone and training manuals, but his after-hours hobbies call for a Coleman stove, bug juice and a sledgehammer!

#### *What are your roles with ECS and Beech Acres?*

I'm Director of Learning for both organizations. This involves working to understand the training and education needs of the staff and then designing programs to meet those needs. There's a nice synergy between my two jobs in that the organizations have parallel systems, similar training topics and economies of scale that allow us to be more efficient.

#### *What's it like to be a man working among so many women?*

I like to say it has its challenges and its glories. Actually, I have always worked with more women than men. I think women appreciate having a male on the team, and I certainly enjoy working with them. It's different than working with guys, since guys tend to be more direct and less interested in interpersonal dynamics.

#### *We understand fatherhood is a passion for you.*

Yes, it is. I have four beautiful children — the youngest is a freshman in college and the oldest is getting married in March. I've written several articles about fatherhood for local media, and I really appreciate the effort on the part of ECS home visitors to be inclusive of dads, especially in a system that does not often include them.

#### *What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?*

Well, I love the outdoors. I'm an avid camper and especially like hitting the state parks in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. And I enjoy physical labor. One of my sons bought a fixer-upper in Covington, and we've been working on that. I like demolishing old stuff, and building things with my hands.

### *Every Child Succeeds*

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