

ECS TODAY

With news you can use from Every Child Succeeds!

DECEMBER 2008

Program Notes

We extend a fond farewell to Mary Ellen Meier, manager of the St. Elizabeth Medical Center's ECS program. In addition to her role as site manager, Mary Ellen wore many other hats at ECS, helping to develop the ECS Model, serving as Kentucky provider representative to the ECS board and being an in-house nurse and NFP resource. She will be sorely missed at all levels of ECS.

ECS welcomes new staff members Elizabeth Dewar, ECS supervisor at Cincinnati Health Department; Mary Garamy, ECS manager at St. Elizabeth Medical Center; and Kristin Johanson, Part C specialist at YWCA.

Transition ideas sought: Email your thoughts about how ECS could be of greater assistance with regard to transitioning families at program graduation (Margaret.clark@uwgc.org).

Thanks to you, we had an 89% return rate for the Postpartum Survey. We are pleased to report that 86% of respondents said they attended their postpartum visit, and many said they received information about the visit from their home visitor. You're making a difference!

A Letter from Judy Van Ginkel, ECS President



Here at Every Child Succeeds, we're excited about a sales event taking place at Isle of Skye Cashmere from December 9 to 13. Twenty percent of the store's sales that week will be donated to ECS's Bringing Literacy Home initiative! Store hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the store is located at 7004-B Center Street in Madeira.

This marks the event's fourth year, which has so far raised \$30,000 for ECS. Store owner Rita Jones — one of ECS's early volunteers, who did foundational work for the literacy program — sees it as a way for her

business to benefit an organization she cares about. We're thankful for philanthropy-minded individuals like Rita, whose support helps ECS maintain good and effective programs. In these challenging economic times, we will continue to find new and creative ways to raise funds. The families we serve depend on it!

All Together Now: Brighton Center

Last year, Brighton Center served 66,000 individuals in Northern Kentucky through 41 programs that included everything from child care to career planning help to emergency assistance. The agency's comprehensive network of services is an invaluable resource for its ECS workers.

"Our connection to Brighton Center has been especially helpful in this tough economy, when many ECS families are struggling," says Becky Duke, ECS program coordinator at Brighton Center. "It's nice to be able to refer parents to Brighton Center resources, such as emergency assistance, the clothing closet, child care assistance, financial literacy classes and job training. We also are taking part in Brighton Center's holiday drive — local families, agencies or businesses will 'adopt' many ECS families and provide them with food and gifts for Christmas."

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Rates of smoking by pregnant women are unacceptably high: 35% of pregnant women in Kentucky and 27% of pregnant women in Ohio smoke (source: Child Policy Research Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center). ASH smoking cessation materials are still available. Please order supplies with your monthly bag order.

December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.

In 2006, nearly one-third of traffic-related deaths in America involved an alcohol-impaired driver—13,470 deaths in all. According to the CDC, health promotion efforts are effective in preventing deaths and injuries from impaired driving. So please keep up your great work educating families about the dangers of drinking and driving. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

The following websites are helpful resources for families in need: www.meijer.com/pharmacy (free prenatal vitamins and antibiotics from Meijer Pharmacies); cincybenefitsinfo.com (free, printable list of local assistance programs); and www.obb.ohio.gov (helps families determine their eligibility for public programs).

The ECS staff of 16 serves northern Kentucky families primarily in Campbell and Boone Counties. Home visitors provide about 450 visits per month and, thanks to health department funding, can continue to see children through age three and a half.



The Brighton Center ECS staff includes the following people (all are home visitors unless otherwise indicated). Left to right, seated: Jill Olivier, Annie King, supervisor, Becky Duke, coordinator, Gina Pingleton, clerical assistant, and Christina Muench; standing: Regina Ransdell, Judy Brown, Christine Santana, Mary Frankenhoff, Melanie Nelson, supervisor, TJ Nikolich, Yvonne Hawkins, Jena Wells, referral and outreach specialist, Amy Clark, and Maria Tenjo. Not Pictured: Corynne Rohrich

In addition to home visits, the ECS program at Brighton Center sponsors a monthly parent group to encourage supportive relationships among participants. This fall, parents and children went on a field trip to Benton Farm in Walton, Ky., and, in recent weeks, several moms attended a scrapbooking group. Later this month, Brighton Center's ECS program will host a Christmas party for parents and their children, with help from YES volunteers (Youth Engaged in Service), a United Way group.

Another way that Brighton Center serves ECS families is through networking with other local agencies, Duke says. "One example is that I meet regularly with other Northern Kentucky program managers — we share information, solve problems together and discuss ways of reaching more people in need," she explains. "I also attend pregnancy care network meetings to find out more about the many services available to pregnant women in our area."

To learn more about Brighton Center, visit its website at www.brightoncenter.com.

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Getting to Know ... Angie Coyle, Senior Administrative Assistant



Angie has many responsibilities as Judy Van Ginkel's assistant – and can usually hook you up with chocolate in case of an emergency.

You were born in Alabama, raised in Illinois and met your husband in Lexington. What brought you to Cincinnati?

Steve is from Cincinnati, and after he left the military we moved here. We raised our kids in Cincinnati — our son, Tim, is 27 and married (his wife is Jennie) and lives in Independence, Ky., and our daughter, Aimee, is 23 and lives with us.

What are your job responsibilities?

My main roles include keeping Judy's calendar (I schedule a lot of meetings), preparing materials for Board and Executive Committee meetings and providing any other administrative support Judy needs. I'm also the office's go-to person for ordering supplies, help the staff with just about anything, and (along with Ruthanne McKeever) make sure we are never without some form of chocolate.

I've been with ECS for eight years and really like it because of the variety of tasks that I am assigned, and the people I work with. My favorite task is helping in planning events for the moms in the program.

We understand you had something to do with the ECS cookie appreciation effort, which Judy started in 2000.

Yes, every few months, Gwen Davis at The Children's Home would bake cookies and I'd box them up and deliver them to people who had gone above and beyond in promoting and enhancing ECS. Brenda Clark took over the program when she came on as volunteer coordinator in 2001. It has grown tremendously, and we always receive thank yous after the cookies have been delivered. Gwen still bakes the cookies, and they are the best I've ever had!

What do you like doing in your spare time?

I like sewing, reading and spending time with friends. Our son and his wife have two bichon shih tzus, and I love babysitting them — especially when they come over to play with our 16-year-old cockapoo, Ginger. The three of them are hilarious when they're together.

Any special Christmas plans?

Steve's parents always have the whole family over on Christmas Eve — about 35 people in all. That night, we'll go to a candlelight church service, which is always really touching and special.

Every Child Succeeds

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