

ECS TODAY

With news you can use from Every Child Succeeds!

MARCH 2009

Program Notes

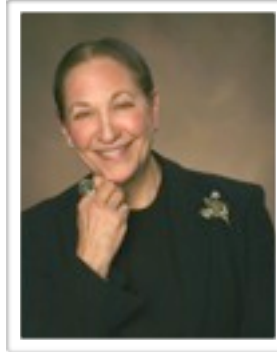
Thank you to all who submitted names of ECS mothers to recognize as part of our 10-year anniversary. We look forward to spotlighting these success stories. And thank you, also, for the quick turnaround in finding moms for United Way to photograph.

ECS warmly welcomes two new home visitors: Jamie Lecian at Beech Acres and Mandy Whitton at Family Service.

Home visitors: ask your manager about the next phase of Bringing Literacy Home. Now that the pilot phase is complete, we will be spending the next year implementing this early literacy curriculum with a larger group of families and testing its effectiveness in improving early language and literacy skills.

March is National Professional Social Work Month, and the theme is Social Work: Purpose and Possibility. We greatly appreciate the contributions and perspective of the Social Workers on our team. They do, indeed, see purpose and possibilities in the lives of those they serve. Please email the names of the Social Workers on your team to Margaret.Clark@CCHMC.org and we will enter them in a raffle for a free lunch.

A Letter from Judy Van Ginkel, ECS President



“The first years of a child's life are a time of incredible growth and development. There may not be another issue in which a modest investment can have such a tremendous and lasting effect as the early care and education of our youngest children.”

Any one of us at ECS could have made this statement, but these in fact are the words of Ohio Governor Ted Strickland. In recent

months, we have been delighted to learn about his commitment to early childhood education, which is reflected in his 2010-11 proposed budget. In addition, Gov. Strickland has established an Early Childhood Cabinet, which unites key state agencies around the common goal of promoting school readiness by setting and coordinating state policy and programs that serve Ohio's children, prenatal to six years of age.

Much of the ECS budget is dependent on funding from the State of Ohio, so these indications of Gov. Strickland's support are encouraging. We do not know how his plans and initiatives will unfold, but we will certainly keep you informed!

All Together Now . . . Family Service

Family Service is an essential resource for people throughout Greater Cincinnati who rely on the agency for counseling, parent education, employee assistance programs and much more. With offices in Price Hill, Sharonville, Eastgate, downtown Cincinnati and Covington, Family Service reaches out to 6,000 children and families every year. Its seven ECS family support workers average about 180 client visits a month.

“Our moms tend to be very low income and very much at risk,” says Pamela Wilz, ECS manager and director of early childhood and parent education programs for Family Service. “One of the things I like is that we can offer additional services to our clients

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Parent Reflections are now available for the prenatal period, so you should have a complete set for prenatal until age one. They are on the downloads page for ease of access. We are also having the information translated into Spanish.

ECS welcomes back Marjorie Crouse, to serve this time around as our Transition Coordinator! She will be working to strengthen ECS support for home visitors as they help families transition from our program to preschool. Data indicate that children are best prepared for school when they experience high-quality pre-school. Thanks to the United Way of Greater Cincinnati for helping fund this effort.

Congratulations to ECS board member Vivian Schwab, who has been selected as an Enquirer Woman of the Year. One of Vivian's recent roles with ECS was chairing the Employee Recognition Committee. It's wonderful to see someone who worked so hard to see that home visitors are recognized receive well-deserved recognition herself.



because of the agency's in-house programs. For instance, we have counseling for ECS moms who aren't eligible for MIDIS, and ESL classes for those wanting to learn English."



The Family Service ECS staff includes the following people (all are family service workers unless otherwise indicated) Front Row, left to right: Jenny Berndsen, Mandy Whitton, Mary Martin; back row: Heidi Sullivan, Ann Fuqua, Carrie Sanker, Katie Kowalak and Pamela Wilz (Manager)

Camaraderie and morale are essential to the success of Family Service's ECS program. "In the midst of the challenges of their job and pain they witness every day, our family support workers almost always keep their spirits up," Wilz says. "They are a resilient bunch, and I think they also benefit from our weekly team meetings and staff recognition efforts. For instance, one of our workers served on an agency committee, which took a significant amount of her time, and we thanked her with a modest cash bonus as part of our spot award program."

ECS systems help Wilz and her staff as well. "Every time I see Jodie Short (research data coordinator) I tell her that eECS is the friendliest database I've ever seen!" Wilz explains. "It makes it so easy to see how Family Service is doing and to monitor our quality improvement efforts."

For more information about Family Service, visit www.servingfamilies.org.

Many thanks to six nursing students from College of Mount St. Joseph, who recently hosted a baby shower for about 20 Brighton Center moms and their families. The nursing students shared wellness information and injury prevention tips, and moms received tons of literature and (donated) gifts. Total donations were valued at \$1,000 and raffle prizes included six handmade quilts and diapers. Pictured is the centerpiece and grand prize, a diaper cake! Thanks to Theresa Popelar for providing the support to make this happen.

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Getting to Know . . . Lizzie Frietsch, Data Coordinator



She had a small speaking part in the 1991 film Little Man Tate . . . produced videos for the Xavier Musketeer men's basketball team as an undergrad . . . and is known by at least one co-worker as the "Rock Star of Data." Who is Lizzie Frietsch? Let's find out.

How did you come to join ECS?

I had been living in Nashville for about three years, ever since graduating from XU. Last summer, I moved back to Cincinnati and temped while I looked for a job. The position at ECS really intrigued me, probably because I like the attention to detail that it requires. Plus, my mom was a social worker, so I've always had an interest in that field. I work closely with Jodie Short to manage data that's used for eECS and various projects.

What were you doing in Nashville?

I moved there hoping to break into the video production side of the music industry. But the market is really oversaturated with other people wanting to do the same thing. I ended up working for Amsurg, a company that operates ambulatory surgery centers. My job involved helping helping the centers get licensed and enrolled with Medicare. I liked my job, and I miss some things about Nashville, especially the restaurants. Nashville has a fun social scene for people just out of college. But I'm glad to be back in Cincinnati.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I'm sort of a game geek. My boyfriend and I are really into Settlers of Catan, which is big in Germany—it's sort of like Risk. We love playing lots of other board games and also games on our wii. I also love movies. My favorite from the past few years is a French film called Amelie. And my favorite authors include Kurt Vonnegut and Tom Robbins.



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