

ECS TODAY

With news you can use from Every Child Succeeds!

OCTOBER 2008

Program Notes

The United Way campaign is in full swing. The generous support UW provides for our prevention effort is increasingly important as public funders focus limited dollars on mandated services. Please promote United Way!

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, whose sponsors encourage women to practice regular self-breast exams and have an annual mammogram. One in eight U.S. women gets breast cancer during her lifetime; if all women age 40 and older took advantage of early detection methods – mammography plus clinical breast exam – breast cancer death rates would drop up to 30 percent. For more information, visit www.nbcam.org or call: American Cancer Society, (800) 227-2345; National Cancer Institute, (800) 4-CANCER; and Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization, (800) 221-2141.

Quality Indicators are being revised to incorporate Success Priorities. ECS staff will be making visits with agencies in November and December to present and discuss what it means for you.

Tracy Greene has been promoted from home visitor to supervisor at The Children's Home. Congratulations!

A Letter from Judy Van Ginkel, ECS President

In these challenging financial times, donors want to know that the charitable organizations they support are spending their resources wisely. Friends of Every Child Succeeds can now be more confident than ever, thanks to our participation in the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance. We recently satisfied all 20 of the BBB's Standards for Charity Accountability, which focus on how not-for-profits govern their organization, the ways they spend their money, the truthfulness of their representations and their willingness to disclose basic information to the public.



Full compliance is no mean feat — in fact, of the 800-plus charities listed in the soon-to-be-published 2008 BBB Giving Guide, only 118 meet all 20 standards. Further evidence that ECS is achieving the highest levels of financial accountability! To read ECS's report, visit <http://charityreports.bbb.org/public/Report.aspx?CharityID=9758>

All Together Now: Services to Area Youth (S.T.A.Y.)

S.T.A.Y. has changed dramatically since it began in 1990. Back then, the agency worked closely with high schools in Harrison and North Bend, Ohio, to provide mentoring, childbirth and parenting classes, support groups and much more for pregnant and parenting teens.

In 1999 S.T.A.Y. became an ECS lead provider agency. S.T.A.Y. changed its mission statement to align more closely with ECS, expanding its service area beyond the two school districts and expanding its client base beyond teenagers.

"ECS has been wonderful for the young moms in our service area, but we are starting a strategic planning process to evaluate what other services are needed for the youth in our area," explains Kathy Smith, S.T.A.Y. director. The strategic planning process will have many benefits. For ex-

ECS Today

October 2008, Page 2

ECS bids a fond farewell to Donella Baskin, Program Coordinator (Finance), who is taking another position within Cincinnati Children's as a Patient Financial Services Supervisor. Donella has provided consistent, dedicated, professional leadership throughout her more than four years on staff with ECS. In addition to working with billing, she answered the call to lead the Avondale initiative through its start-up phase. We will miss you, Donella!

Please join us in welcoming the following ECS staff members, who were hired since July: CAA—Mia Garnett, home visitor, and Stephanie Parker, supervisor; Family Services—Kelly McDonald, administrative assistant; S.T.A.Y.—Sara Mercer, administrative assistant; YWCA—Eileen Hopkins, manager, and Angie Kuper, home visitor.

ample, it will provide community members with opportunities to share their perspectives, and help S.T.A.Y. re-establish contacts with the local school systems, medical providers and other non-profits in the area.



The ECS team at S.T.A.Y. (all are family support workers unless otherwise indicated). Back row (left to right): Tricia Kroger, LSW, Robin Brock, LISW, MSW, clinical supervisor, Annette Cabigon, RN, Beth Smith, M.Ed., Kathy Smith, director. Front row: Sara Mercer, administrative assistant, Mary Guy, Lori Geers and Karen Westrich, bookkeeper. Not pictured: Diana Raabe and Nikki Boothe, office support.

Some of the challenges S.T.A.Y. faces include operating in a mostly rural area, lack of public transportation for clients and a very large geographic service area. Nonetheless, S.T.A.Y. is very effective, Kathy says. Key indicators include low staff turnover, strong client satisfaction and good client retention.

The agency's new administrative assistant, Sara Mercer, is also a plus. "I didn't find out until after I made Sara an offer that she was an ECS graduate!" Kathy says. "Sara's enthusiasm, organizational skills, and experience as an ECS mom make her an asset to the organization."

In 2003 S.T.A.Y. purchased and moved into a home in Harrison that provided the agency with much-needed extra space for staff.



ECS Today

October 2008, Page 3

Getting to Know . . . Theresa Popelar, Referral Coordinator



Theresa Popelar once aspired to be a physician. Then a special education teacher, and then a rehabilitation therapist. We are happy she found a home at ECS two-and-a-half years ago, and so is she!

What does your job entail?

My main responsibilities are to connect new enrollees with lead provider agencies, and maintain good working relationships with referring organizations. Most of our referrals come through local birthing hospitals, but I also get calls from health clinics, health departments, community organizations and moms. Another aspect of my job involves working with Help Me Grow in Hamilton County to make sure that Part C families receive the services they need. And I'm involved in the ECS employee recognition program.

What brought you to ECS?

I changed my career plans a few times while attending the University of Dayton. In the midst of all my science classes, I decided that what I really wanted to do was study history and religion and even guitar! Eventually I graduated as a psych major, and then served with AmeriCorps for a year. At that point, I returned to Cincinnati and began working at Cincinnati Children's as a rehab tech. After taking classes toward a master's in special education, I wasn't sure special ed was for me after all. When I read about ECS on the Cincinnati Children's website, I knew right away that I wanted to work here.

What do you enjoy about it?

I love that I get to work with so many people, and I enjoy having the balance of being out in the community then returning to the office to crunch numbers and do reports. Most of all, I love the ECS program, because of how we help women transform their lives. And of course all of us here like the chocolate that Ruthanne McKeever keeps on her desk!

What keeps you busy outside of work?

I am working toward my master's in social work through a University of Kentucky program. I'm also training for the half marathon. Those things keep me busy!



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