

ECS TODAY

With news you can use from Every Child Succeeds!

OCTOBER 2009

Program Notes

ECS's move is finally happening:

on Monday, October 5, ECS is moving to the second floor of the newly constructed Herald Building. When you visit us (at 3440 Burnet Ave.), you can park in the building's visitor garage, and you'll need to call ECS from the main lobby for access (a directory will be available). Our phone and fax numbers, email addresses and mailing address will remain the same.

Thanks to all who have supported the United Way campaign

through presentations and personal donations. Let's continue our strong support through this final month!

Your success in ensuring that children are attending their well-

child visits is the focus of current quality improvement efforts. This Success Priority will be tracked on the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center Scorecard. Stay tuned for more information!



From the President

It's officially Fall, and children are settling into a new school year. Many of our graduates are transitioning, too, to preschool programs or Head Start. We wish them well in this next phase of their developmental journey.

If you are a home visitor who is or will be helping an ECS family on this journey, I hope you'll contact Marjorie Crouse (513-218-4696) whose role — Transition Coordinator — says it all. Marjorie is a problem solver at heart, eager to help moms find the best preschool for their child, understand various Head Start application guidelines, sign up for HIPPY, and much more. Her ultimate goal — and ours — is to ensure that families continue to build on the foundation that ECS has helped them establish.



Thank you for all you do to ensure that our children are ready for school.

All Together Now... A Few Words from Gwen Robinson

As president and CEO of Hamilton County-Community Action Agency, Gwen Robinson was one of the first community leaders to take a seat at the table when ECS was in its formative stages. CAA eventually became one of the agency's three founding partners, and Gwen one of its most ardent supporters.

I was excited about Every Child Succeeds from the moment I heard about it over 10 years ago. I saw right away that an organization like ECS could take home visitation to the next level through its research efforts and curriculum. Today, CAA offers home visitation services (Continued on page 2)

This Month in ECS History

- ◆ ECS Board is established (1998)
- ◆ MDTP Program Begins (2001)
- ◆ First Lady of Ohio Goes on Home Visit (2001)
- ◆ Geoffrey Canada Speaks at Avondale Partnership Kickoff Event (2006)

A literacy refresher for Bringing Literacy Home participants is scheduled for two half-days this October (see training calendar for details).

Here's a literacy fact from Donna Bell: A [new study](#) finds that when the television is on and can be heard in the home, children and caregivers use fewer words and have fewer conversations. The study indicated that for every hour the television could be heard, children heard an average of 770 fewer words from caregivers.

Young Families home visitor Julie Beaulieu and her husband, Jake, welcomed baby Cole on Sept. 11. Cole was six weeks early, but weighed in at a healthy 5 pounds, 13 ounces. Congratulations!



to families through ECS and Head Start. The two programs complement each other and allow us to expand our competencies and the outcomes we're able to achieve.

I'm still amazed by how many meetings and agenda items we had in the early days of ECS. But all the hard work that people put in was worth it, because it built a strong foundation. We were able to find people to support our mission and identify those who didn't. We met with some resistance, but we continued to move forward. I think Judy Van Ginkel has done a phenomenal job of bringing the private sector on board, and the ECS staff is truly dedicated. I am not surprised by the success of ECS, because of the great leadership we have and the hard work that goes on every day.



Something that's always impressed me about ECS is its commitment to helping home visitors and other staff understand the needs of the diverse families we serve. I feel like I was able to contribute in this area, to make sure that cultural diversity was incorporated into our training so that moms would feel included and valued for who they are.

One thing I'd like to see ECS do is build on the success that the Avondale Community Partnership has had so that the program as a whole is more community based. People in Avondale feel like ECS is their program, because it's located right there in a church and serves the community at large. This removes potential barriers to people taking advantage of our services, and helps us continue to "build the village," so to speak.

Home visitors can be part of the process of helping ECS becoming more community based. They are already building trusting relationships with families and know the community. They can help people become more invested in ECS and contribute to its growth.

Research Coordinator Angel Teeters worked as a volunteer with Lakota Sioux Indians in South Dakota during the summer of 2005. While there, she found time to go horseback riding in the Badlands. Read more about Angel on the next page.



Getting to Know . . . Angel Teeters

Angel joined ECS in 2006 and is now a research coordinator in the lab of Scientific Director Bob Ammerman.

What does your job at ECS involve?

I work on the First Years Project, which is a clinical trial investigating the effectiveness of motivational interviewing to increase retention in ECS. It's a longitudinal study, and we're still in the data collection phase. In about a year, we will begin analyzing the data and drawing conclusions.

I enroll moms in the study, go on home visits to interview them and, of course, enter a lot of data. I also supervise my research assistant, Alayna Tackett. Part of the challenge we face is maintaining contact with moms who are enrolled in the study — I know that every home visitor can relate to that.

How does your relationship with moms differ from a home visitor's relationship with moms?

My relationship with them is all about the data. During my home visits, I don't give advice or talk about what's going on in their lives beyond the scope of the information I'm collecting. When a mom drops out of ECS, I try to keep her enrolled in the study so that we can understand why she left. And I'll go pretty far to get data. In fact, I've driven almost to Tennessee!

You're also a student.

Yes, I'm pursuing a doctorate in clinical psychology at Xavier University. My academic work involves providing 20 hours a week of clinical counseling at the Xavier Psychological Services Center. Once I earn my doctorate, maybe in about two-and-a-half years, I'd still like to stay at ECS. My research interests include maternal depression and parent/child interaction.

Your interest in ECS families isn't just business for you, it's personal — right?

Yes. I come from a low socioeconomic background, and I became a mother at age 18. I feel drawn to help the people ECS serves because of that experience. Now, my daughter is 21, and I have a 10-year-old son.

Do you have any advice for home visitors who work with ECS moms?

I would tell them that one person really can make a difference in a someone's life. For me, it was my husband. When I met Matt, my daughter was only eight and I was working three jobs to make ends meet. He changed my life because he believed in me more than I believed in myself. My husband rocks!



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