

DEPUTY SECRETARY VISITS CSC

Harriet Dichter, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), was special guest at a "Communities and Children" luncheon sponsored by CSC on May 16th. She met with 50 community leaders regarding the trends and imperatives for early education in the Commonwealth.

Ms. Dichter directs OCDEL's efforts to coordinate and integrate services for young children across departments in Pennsylvania. She is largely responsible for

- leading the development of early learning standards that guide pre-kindergarten;
- strengthening reimbursement rates for child care subsidy;
- developing a pathway for early childhood professional careers; and
- improving engagement of parents in support of early learning.

She is the force behind the PreK Counts program and Keystone STARS quality improvement program (CSC manages this program for 15 counties in northeast Pennsylvania).

At the luncheon, community leaders participated in roundtable discussions around community priorities to support the healthy development of children. Among their recommendations:

- All families need access to Health Care, Housing & Living Wage jobs
- Safe, clean environment
- Affordable and easy access to jobs, shopping, the arts, and recreation
- Universal access to quality early learning and public education



RAFFLE TICKETS

2009 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN AT SAUCON VALLEY

Raffle tickets for the July 6-12, 2009, event available through CSC. This \$260 value includes two tickets to each day of the event with grounds access for practice and championship rounds. Drawing will be held October 17th at the 13th Annual CSC Donley Awards dinner. (Need not be present to win.) **Only 300 tickets will be sold.**

Send checks for \$20 per ticket, payable to "Community Services for Children," to:
Sara George, CSC, 1520 Hanover Ave, Allentown, PA 18109.

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Design and Layout by Klunk & Millan Advertising



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Community Services
for Children



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Community Services
for Children

Update

Building a future for kids.

Spring 2008 • Volume 5, Issue 2

Volunteers Make the Difference



Bert Winzer (St. James UCC) and Zeldia Bogdonoff, CSC Director of Early Education

Donna DeMott, Lehigh Valley Hospital, Rebecca Mhley, CSC Health Coordinator and Jane Ervin, CSC CEO



Tom Washington, Director of BASD Pupil Services, Lori Storm and Martha Hernandez, teachers in the SPARK program.

Gail Petrisky, St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Nancy Martin, CSC Director of Family Services

Photos by Wilson Black



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CSC honored the 200+ volunteers, in-kind service and product donors, and community partners at its Third Annual Circle Awards Breakfast held April 30th at CSC's Donley Children's Campus.

Receiving special recognition Circle Award plaques:

Outstanding Classroom Volunteer
Laura Almedia, for her years of service and creativity

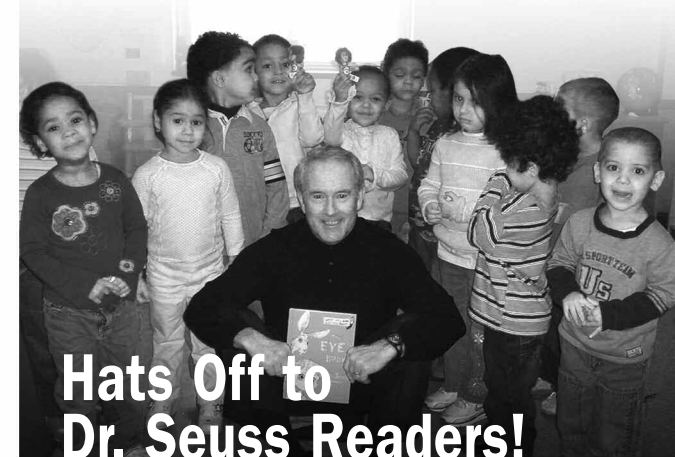
Education Services Category
St. James UCC, Allentown, for longevity of hosting Head Start classroom

Health and Nutrition Services Category
Donna DeMott, dental hygienist, Lehigh Valley Hospital, for providing dental care for years to Head Start children

Family Services Category
St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Allentown, for hosting parent meetings, trainings and classrooms

Corporate Category
Concannon Miller, for miscellaneous support over so many years – time and talent, food, goods, and cash assistance

Community Partner/Collaborator Category
Bethlehem Area School District SPARK, collaboration with CSC in providing about 100 Head Start children with early education.



Hats Off to Dr. Seuss Readers!

In celebration of Dr. Seuss's Birthday and the national "Read Across America" initiative to promote literacy, 25 civic-minded community members read a Dr. Seuss book in each of CSC's 37 independently-operated Head Start and Pre-K Counts preschool classrooms located in Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton.

CSC welcomed both men and women readers, with a special emphasis on men as part of a "Cool Guys Read" campaign, a model for life for the preschool children.

Allentown readers included **Zac Cohen, Leslie Collins, Kathy Denison, Pam Dent, David Ellowitch, Dan Farrell, Steve Flood, Larry Kacyon, Lisa Kappes, Tim Kennedy, Sharon Kowolski, Vickie Mayk, Shirley Miller, Peter Schurman, Pastor Ray Stark, Bob Wood, and Tom Zajac.**

Bethlehem readers included **Roy Gruver, Dr. Henry Odi, Cheryle Russo, and Dr. Bruce Taggart** (shown above with children from a Head Start classroom hosted by Salem Church, Bethlehem).

Easton readers included **Jack Bradt, Paul Brunswick, Gregg Dowty, Jane Ervin, Sara George, Guy Greenfield, and Lisa and Eric** (age 10) **Leiss.**



SAVE THE DATE

The Donley Awards to support Community Services for Children

Honoring Dolly and Lee Butz – 2008 Inez and Edward Donley Lifetime Achievement Award for Children's Advocacy Organizational Awardee: The Women's Leadership Initiative

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2008 • 6 P.M. AT THE CANDLELIGHT INN

Our Mission

CSC provides leadership and excellence in diverse programs, where each child is valued and is prepared for success in school, social relationships, and a productive future, delivered in partnership with the family and community.

Measuring Our Success



By Winema Exum, SafeStart Parent

Hello. I am Winema Exum and I am a parent in the SafeStart program.

My child Octaver has been enrolled in the program for 2-1/2 years. I just want you to know that I love SafeStart and it has really helped me and my family.

It has helped me to learn how to trust others.

I have learned about my child's development.

I have learned how to save money for food and diapers and I have learned how to make healthy choices.

But most of all I have learned that I am Octaver's First Teacher.

And I can advocate for Octaver's needs and for my other children's needs as well. Since my son started the program he has learned to socialize with other children and has learned how to express his feelings, sound out words and developed self help skills.

He has had experiences he would never have had if he had been at home.

But he is not the only one who has learned. I have learned just as much as him.

SafeStart is more than a place to send your child for the day. For me it is a home away from home. My child is loved and respected.

The teachers are supportive and involved with my child's well being and take an interest in my entire family. They are more than just teachers – they have become my child's second parent.

But the program cannot do this alone.

They need volunteers to help with donating time to the children and their families.

They need books and items to help families in crisis.

They need you to spread the word about the program.

As a parent of a child in SafeStart, I want you thank you for all your time and your kindness.



St. Luke's Hospital and Health Network brings its dental van to CSC's Donley Campus several times a year so that children may receive check ups. Dental care is one component of an enormous health, safety, and nutrition service that CSC provides low-income children and families.

Memorials

Memorials are a very special way in which to remember and honor friends or a loved one and help the children and families of CSC.

IN MEMORY OF MARY LOU RICHARDS

Keith & Carolyn Boroch
The Honorable & Mrs. Charlie Dent
Barbara & Chuck Fraust
Sara George & Steve Flood
Diane Scott, EdD
Summit Management (Frank Smith)

IN MEMORY OF BRUCE BENOVIITZ

Paula Tahler

New Foundation Donations and Grants

CRAYOLA

\$1000 to support November 14, 2008, Fall Conference of CSC's Institute of Child & Family Development. "How Maternal Depression Affects Babies and Toddlers."

HOMMER FOUNDATION

\$25,000 to support the Donley Family Library with summer programs and other related library support – a free lending library open to the community, offering books, toys, videos, resources for children, parents and early learning professionals.

TWO RIVERS HEALTH & WELLNESS FOUNDATION

\$6500 to support renowned speakers for the November 14, 2008, Fall Conference of CSC's Institute of Child & Family Development. "How Maternal Depression Affects Babies and Toddlers."

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

\$5000 for SafeStart for Fragile Families, a collaborative program between Early Head Start and the Children & Youth departments of Lehigh and Northampton County for infants and toddlers who have been abused or neglected.

\$5000 for GROWTH program that helps strengthen marriages of income families

A special thank you to all who contribute.

Getting Children to Move



The US Office of Head Start recently chose CSC to be one of 24 agencies nationwide to implement their new initiative to prevent childhood obesity. Called "Little Voices for Healthy Choices," the innovative program involves infants and toddlers along with their parents and teachers.

Involving a parent in the initial training team is unique to this program, which will bring to CSC's Early Head Start program training tools to improve nutrition and exercise levels, contributing to the overall healthy development of infants and toddlers. Among other changes to CSC's Early Head Start program will be an emphasis to help parents

ensure their young children have at least 30 minutes of structured (such as planned dancing to music) and 30 minutes of unstructured activity (including child-chosen play) per day.

"This program will get all of us moving – parents alike," says Heather Held, the CSC Head Start parent chosen to participate in the initial training. "I especially appreciate that Head Start wants parents involved right from the beginning. That is, after all, the true Head Start difference from other early childhood programs," she adds.

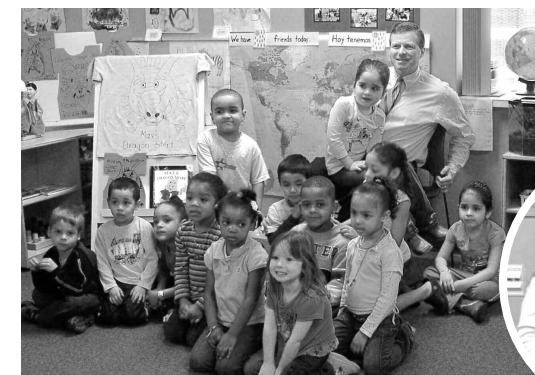
"By helping children, families and staff make healthy food choices and by implementing physical activity throughout the day, children and families will be developing healthy habits that will last a lifetime and reduce the incidence of obesity," says Lora Lesak, Director of Health & Nutrition at CSC.

Our 2008 Gala Committee



Above, left to right: Shirley Miller, David Elowitz, Donna Haggerty, Val Holt, Linda Anthony, Gerry Riegger, Margot Hillman, Helena Lindquist, Jared Steckel, Kathy Leber, Peter Schurman, Katie Loeb-Schwab (not pictured Sara George, Colby Kent, Linda Nabb)

Congressman Charlie Dent spent a morning with Head Start children reading and talking about his job. His wife Pamela is an avid Volunteer Reader for CSC and current board member.



Junior League members Donna Barry, Robin Wollok and daughter Kelly Wollok visited four Head Start classrooms recently to help the children learn about planting seeds and growing a garden. In addition to reading to the children, 80 children planted their own pumpkin seeds and are watching them grow.



Lygia Bellis from the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) distributed hundreds of hand-made blue scarves to children, parents, and staff recently. The CAC in Lehigh County provides outstanding assistance to children who have been abused. The blue scarves represent a message of love and hope from dozens of volunteers.

Head Start classrooms get top rating

CSC, which operates Head Start of the Lehigh Valley, is one of the first early childhood programs to earn accreditation under new, more rigorous standards from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) – the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals.

"We're proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to maintaining the highest professional standards," said Jane Ervin, CEO/President of CSC.

Nine sites containing 16 classrooms were reaccredited under the new standards. Three additional sites with 8 classrooms will be reviewed later this year as their current accreditation expires.

NAEYC Accreditation is a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. More than 11,000 programs, serving one million young children, are currently accredited by NAEYC – approximately 8 percent of all preschools and other early childhood programs. "CSC's NAEYC Accreditation is a sign that they are a leader in a national effort to invest in high-quality early childhood education, and to help give all children a better start," said Mark Ginsberg, Ph.D., executive director of NAEYC.



CORRECTIONS:

Please accept our apologies for inadvertently omitting the following donors from our 2007 Honor Roll: Martha Lebovitz, Blue Cross, and the Express-Times.

A heart-felt thank you!

BITS -N- PIECES

SHOP 'N GIVE

www.iGive.com offers on-line shopping at over 680 brand name stores and a portion of each purchase is donated to Community Services for Children: 2% to 13%!

AIR PRODUCTS ANALYST JOINS BOARD

Michana L. Johnson recently joined CSC's Board of Directors. Johnson

is a Senior Business Analyst for Air Products. In her position, she provides analysis and communication of financial results to commercial and financial management. She led a project team establishing new corporate policy on shared asset allocations across global business units, among other achievements. She joined Air Products in 2002. Prior to that, she worked for

Hewlett-Packard and Dun & Bradstreet Corporation. Johnson holds an MBA in Finance from Penn State University. In addition to her board position with CSC, she is the Youth Director at Grace Deliverance Baptist Church in Bethlehem. She began "Girls of Grace Development Program" for girls ages 12-18 to teach life skills for academic, social; and spiritual development.

HEAD START PARENT HONORED

Northampton Community College recently selected **Raymond Herron**, a Head Start parent, as one of four students for the All-Pennsylvania Academic Team, an honor that recognizes excellence among students attending community colleges. Ray is a single father who has maintained almost a perfect grade point average while raising six children.

CFO HITS 25 YEARS

Helen Carroll (at right), Chief Financial Officer, celebrated 25 years at CSC. She's responsible for tracking and monitoring our \$40 million budget as well as purchasing, payroll, AP/AR, grant reporting, and the subsidy program.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS AT CSC

Wanda Fucci, Bus Driver, and **Cheryl Hartranft**, Education Support Specialist.

EXEC VP SELECTED AS MANAGEMENT FELLOW

Paula Margraf, Executive Vice President at CSC, was selected as one of 40 senior executives in Head Start programs nationally to participate in a two-week intensive management training program



sponsored by Johnson & Johnson and conducted by the UCLA Anderson School of Management. Executives are chosen through a competitive application process. The Head Start – Johnson & Johnson Management Fellows Program provides a unique opportunity for Head Start administrators to build their executive and entrepreneurial management skills. Eighty hours of classroom instruction, case studies, workshops and group discussions will cover human resource management, organization design and development, finance, data analysis, operations management and marketing.

THANK YOU, SACRED HEART HOSPITAL!

Hearty thanks to Sacred Heart for donating **Iron Pigs** tickets for our families! A fantastic way to spend a summer afternoon.



GOVERNOR HELPS FAMILIES SELECT QUALITY EDUCATION

You can catch him on TV, radio billboards or CSC's website (www.cscinc.org) – Gov. Ed Rendell is letting families know that the Keystone STARS program offers parents an easy way to identify a quality program. A STAR 4 is the highest level while STAR 1 is an entry level program. CSC's Regional Key department administers Keystone STARS in 15 counties of northeastern Pennsylvania, affecting quality of early education for an **estimated 30,000 children**. For more information, call CSC's Child Care Information Service of Lehigh County, 610-437-6000 (if a Lehigh resident) or Northampton's Child Care Information Service, 610-419-4500. Or visit the state's website for more information: www.compass.state.pa.us.

Percentage of regulated facilities involved in STARS in Northeast Region

	2006	2007
centers	73%	71%
family sites	29%	29%
group sites	45%	47%

CEO JOINS ADVISORY BOARD

Jane Ervin, CEO/President of CSC, was recently

appointed to serve on the Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts Advisory Committee, providing feedback to the Rendell Administration on the state's newest preschool initiative. This new state-wide preschool initiative began the fall of 2007 with \$75 million intended to provide an additional 11,000 children access to quality early education. Six organizations in the Lehigh Valley were granted a total of 400 pre-kindergarten slots. CSC received funding for 120 children, including 100 in Allentown and 20 in Easton.

THANKS TO Dan Mest, his wife Cindy, and other volunteers in the St. Paul's Park Neighborhood Group and St. Paul's

Crime Watch Group and with assistance from Mayor Pawlowski, Sen. Pat Browne and others, Allentown, Head Start children and other neighborhood families have a safe, clean and well-maintained Community Park at Jackson & 9th Streets. Dan and Cindy have also organized community activities involving the children. Thank you!

SAFESTART CHOSEN FOR PRESENTATION

Paula Margraf, Exec VP, along with research investigators **Dr. Jim DeSantis** and **Dr. Elliot Graham**, were selected to present research findings regarding CSC's **SafeStart for Fragile Families** project at the Head Start 9th Annual Research Conference. Their presentation is entitled "Child Welfare – Early Childhood Partnerships: Promising Practices for Improving Outcomes on State Child and Family Service Reviews." SafeStart provides therapeutic intervention for babies



Bill Christine is one of CSC's Artists in Residence. Artists in sculpture, painting, photography as well as drama, dance and music have worked with children and teachers in several classrooms to integrate The Arts in Learning. PNC's Grow Up Great program provided major funding in addition to the Dorothy and Dexter Baker Foundation.