

Everything We Do Depends On You



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* of fond memory

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November 2006

Dear Family Networkers,

This summer, we were elected Co-Presidents of Family Network's Board of Directors. We hope that our dual election signals a spirit of future community collaborations. It is collaboration with friends like you that allows Family Network to fulfill its mission every day.

As parents of current and former Family Network children, we know first-hand the impact of Family Network's many programs and services. In fact, we became friends, as well as Board members, through our involvement with Family Network.

Over the past seven years, we have witnessed Family Network's growth and impact on many in our community. Thanks to your support, Family Network continues to reach out to more families and provide a wider variety of programming for young children and their families.

Though our services continue to grow in new directions, our goal remains the same: to promote the well being of children from birth by supporting and strengthening their families in and within their community. **Their community - our community - is every one of us.** We are able to fulfill our mission because of you: our many generous contributors, volunteers, and dedicated staff.

We thank you for your previous efforts on behalf of Family Network and ask that you use the enclosed envelope and **join us again in supporting and strengthening the children and families of our community.**

Sincerely,

Kirsten Laurie
Co-President

Marisa Ozburn
Co-President



All of our programs share a common **mission:** to promote the well-being of children from birth by supporting and strengthening their families in and with their communities.

The Parent/Child Center



WHO WE SERVE

- ◆ 537 Enrolled Participants
- ◆ 43 Dual Language Mornings
- ◆ 5 Postpartum Depression Groups
- ◆ 5 Grandparents Groups
- ◆ 10 Saturday Gym Sessions
- ◆ 3 Quarterly Family Nights
- ◆ 1 Multicultural Concert

WHY IT MATTERS

After almost 25 years, the Parent/Child Center continues to provide opportunities for parents with young children to connect with one another and to become part of a nurturing network which

strengthens their families. The Center offers an informal environment where children can learn through play, while parents build mutually supportive relationships. For many first-time parents, families new to the community, especially those without extended family nearby, the

Center is a place to find resources and friendships which help them navigate this challenging phase of family life.

For the past five years, our unique Dual-Language Morning has brought together English and Spanish speaking families on Thursday mornings, with the goal of increasing trust and comfort between families from different backgrounds.

Looking ahead to 2007, we plan to once again offer an evening dinner program for single parents

and their young children, and an afternoon support group for first time mothers. Although there have been many changes since the Drop-In program began, families with young children still find a "second home" at Family Network.

Terry Beem



Parent/Child Center Staff

Terry Beem *Program Coordinator*
Carol Brusslan *Teacher*
Jessica Franke *Intern*
Barbara Garland *Baby & Me Facilitator*
Sue Grossman *Outreach Associate*
Jane Glickman *Teacher*
Cathleen Hamili *Baby & Me Facilitator*
Patty Pell *Teacher*
Helga Schrimmer *Teacher*
Cheryl Schultz *Social Worker*
Julie Wendt *Teacher*

After School Activity Program (ASAP)



WHO WE SERVE

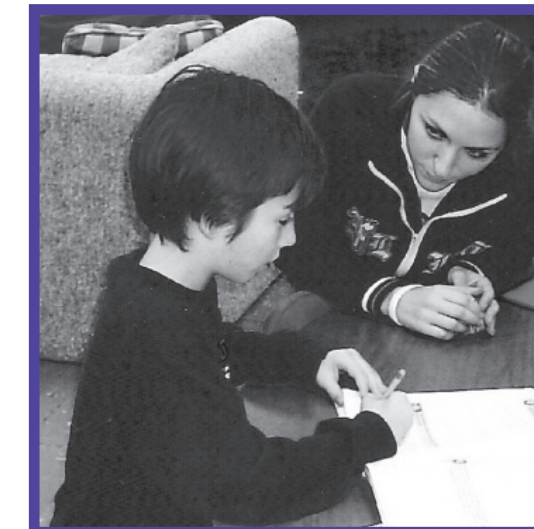
- ◆ 52 Students from K-5
- ◆ 19 Early Dismissal & Full Days
- ◆ 4 District 112 Schools
- ◆ 390 Individuals at 3 Family Nights
- ◆ 7 Students On Scholarships

WHY IT MATTERS

As a result of the success at Wayne Thomas School and the expanding after-school needs of our community, ASAP started the 2005-2006 school year with a second program site at Indian Trail School, doubling the number of children we serve. Both sites, in partnership with North Shore School District 112 continued the mission of providing DCFS licensed, family-centered, affordable, quality care for children of dual-working, single-parent and culturally diverse families with various needs. Through grant funds, we were able

to provide scholarships and fees on a sliding scale. Our talented teachers have welcomed the *Educators of Tomorrow Club* of Highland Park High School into the classroom to provide tutoring services and special programming. In addition, Urban Gateways provided students at both sites with cultural arts programming on early dismissal and full days. Our supportive, home-like environment allows our students to grow as individuals and as members of ASAP and the larger communities.

Lori Levitt



Right From The Start/ Desde El Principio

WHO WE SERVE

- ◆ 957 Enrolled Individuals
- ◆ 30 Prenatal Groups
- ◆ 25 Parent Education Groups
- ◆ 30 Hospital Visits
- ◆ 601 Home Visits
- ◆ 39 *Mi Bebé Y Yo* Groups
- ◆ 59 ESL classes
- ◆ 38 Jewelry Classes
- ◆ 19 Sewing Classes
- ◆ 41 Fitness & Nutrition Classes
- ◆ 7 Summer Swimming Groups
- ◆ 469 Individuals at Family Events
- ◆ 1,268 Referral & Advocacy Calls



WHY IT MATTERS

It has never been easy to be a non-English speaking immigrant in this country. New residents, facing isolation, discrimination, and poverty hold hope in their hearts as they reach out to grasp their American dream.

At Right From The Start, we help Latino immigrant families with young children to prepare for their future as productive Americans. Our ESL, Family Literacy, Parent

Education, Prenatal, Fitness, and Nutrition classes, provide adults with much-needed practical information, helping them become better parents and citizens. Students in our vocational jewelry-making classes have become so adept that they provide extra income for their families. We also help to empower Latino families and

strengthen their sense of community-building through our family events.

Nora Barquin

Right From The Start Staff

Nora Barquin *Program Coordinator*
Dinora Arias *Child Care Worker/Driver*
Marilú Betancourt *Child Care Worker*
Maria Bultó *Hug- A-Book Librarian*
Bertha Chávez *Family Support Worker*
Luisa Lara *Administrative Assistant*
Andreea Sera *Child Care Worker*
Lucrecia Soruco *Family Support Worker*
Luz Maria Vega *Child Care Worker*
Lisa Wisniewski *Family Support Worker*

After School Activity Program Staff

Lori Levitt *Program Director*

Wayne Thomas Site

Ralph Brock *Site Coordinator/Teacher*
Marilyn Greenfield *Teacher*
Elva Velez *Teacher*

Indian Trail Site

Melisa Larson *Site Coordinator/Teacher*
Lia McCoo *Teacher*
Marina Shubin *Teacher*



