

Welcome to the first issue of Children & Family Services Center's quarterly newsletter.



VOLUME 8 | FALL 2014

HELLO AGAIN!

Welcome back to *Collaborations Quarterly*, Children & Family Services Center's quarterly e-newsletter designed to keep stakeholders updated on happenings at CFSC and our member agencies. Increased communication enhances collaboration, so please share this newsletter to your staff and supporters.

Collaborating for Kids

Smart Start and Council for Children's Rights

hold a summit for children's law leaders

Smart Start and Council for Children's Rights (CFCR) came together to plan and host a Judicial Law Enforcement Summit focused on the importance of the first 2,000 days in a child's life.

Those first 2,000 days are crucial. That's when 90 percent of brain development occurs.

The July 21 session, which included a barbecue lunch, brought together police officers, judges, district attorneys and others working in the legal system – nearly 50 in all, including 12 judges – to discuss how high-quality early learning programs prepare young children for success in school and in life.

Want to learn more? Visit the Children and Family Services Center website at childrenfamily.org

AGENCY MILESTONES

RECENT SUCCESSES & UPCOMING EVENTS

A Child's Place

www.achildsplace.org

Susan Hansell, Executive Director

- A Child's Place is excited to welcome new executive director, Susan Hansell, who has returned to North Carolina after leading an organizational turn-around for the Girl Scouts of Kentucky Wilderness Road Council, a nonprofit serving 67 eastern Kentucky counties, more than 13,000 girls and 3,000 volunteers.

"Becoming the next leader of A Child's Place provides a wonderful opportunity for me to refocus my skills and passion on some of our public school system's most vulnerable children," Hansell said. "I know the services we provide ... enable our children to discover their purpose and passion for learning during a time of chaos in their lives."

Hansell's 30 years of experience include creating and/or leading county-wide, regional and state-wide organizations in the Research Triangle area. Before joining the Girl Scouts in 2010, she was president of Communities In Schools of Wake County. She earned her undergraduate degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and her law degree from N.C. Central University.

- Our September school uniform drive is in full swing. We especially need white, navy or light blue collared shirts and khaki or navy pants.
- We'll be sponsoring a coat drive in October and November and looking for *new* winter coats in kids' sizes 6-18 and adults' sizes S-XXL.

Care Ring

www.careringnc.com

Don Jonas, Ph.D., Executive Director

- **Bundles of Joy!** Care Ring Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), serving Mecklenburg County, has hired its seventh home visiting nurse to support an additional caseload of 25 first-time, at-risk moms and their babies through each child's 2nd birthday. Our NFP can now serve 175 families annually.

An evidence-based community health program, NFP's outcomes include long-term family improvements in health, education and economic self-sufficiency. By helping break the cycle of poverty, we play an important role in helping improve the lives of our most vulnerable community members, build stronger neighborhoods and leave a positive impact on this and future generations. For more information about NFP,

- **Save the date.** Make plans to join Care Ring and more than 600 of Charlotte's top leaders in healthcare, government, business and philanthropy for networking and sharing our passion for quality, affordable healthcare for all. The **Hope for Community Health** annual luncheon is Wednesday, Oct. 8 at The Westin, 601 S. College St. Networking with community partners, vendors and guests begins at 11 a.m. Doors to ballroom open at 11:30 a.m., and the program runs from noon until 1 p.m.

Dr. Marcus Plescia, Mecklenburg County's health director, is keynote speaker. Dr. Kaaren Sailer, Care Ring's medical director, will be awarded the Maribelle Connerat Award for exemplary community service. Connerat founded the agency in 1955 and served as executive director until 1988. Contact Jennifer Peele at jpeele@CareRingNC.org or 704-248-3727 for more information or to reserve your spot.

- **Let's get physical!** Care Ring's Low-Cost Clinic, right in the CFSC building, is providing back-to-school and sports physicals for \$50, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. (We're closed for lunch from noon until 1 p.m.) To make an appointment, contact 704-375-0172. Appointments are preferred, but we'll also accommodate walk-ins. Don't forget to bring your appropriate forms.
- **Get Covered Mecklenburg** is a coalition of Enroll America and local agencies dedicated to helping our community understand the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and to help eligible families navigate the online Health Insurance Marketplace. It is estimated that 100,000 uninsured people reside in Mecklenburg County; 91 percent of people who signed up last enrollment period qualified for financial assistance.

Get Covered Mecklenburg will host an Open Enrollment kick-off event at Children and Family Services Center Nov. 15. Visit www.healthcare.gov to learn more about the ACA.

Communities in Schools

www.cischarlotte.org

Molly Shaw, Executive Director

- Mark your calendars **for Lowcountry on the Green**. The event happens Sept. 27 from 7 until 10 p.m. at the Mint Museum on Randolph Rd.

Celebrate the return of fall and back to school with our annual lawn party benefiting Communities In Schools! A live band, dancing, a silent auction and delicious lowcountry cuisine await. Order tickets online (\$100 per person, \$60 of which is

Community Link

www.communitylink-nc.org

Floyd Davis, President and CEO

Happy New Year! Well, happy fiscal new year, anyway. Our program numbers from last fiscal year include:

- 2,100 adults and children helped through our Homeless to Housing program.
- 824 households educated and counseled through our Homeownership program.
- 8,055 individuals served through our Financial Literacy program.

Additionally, as we welcome a "new year," we've launched a new website - communitylinknc.org. The hyphen used for our old website was dropped in this new URL. The new site has a refreshed look and more dynamic content.

Council for Children's Rights

www.cfcrights.org

Susan K. Campbell, Ph.D., Executive Director

- This summer, the **Boy Scouts of Mecklenburg County** contacted Council for Children's Rights about the need for disability awareness training for its leadership. Deborah Whitfield, a CFRC staff attorney, developed and led a training workshop for area Scout leaders in late August. The project was designed to help Scout leaders better understand disability and find ways to ensure that all boys interested in Scouting can readily access the program.
- We joined forces with Legal Services of Southern Piedmont and Legal Aid of North Carolina again this year to host our annual **Pro Bono Awards**. The event honors individuals, attorneys and law firms that have donated significant time, resources and expertise to the work of these agencies. The Sept. 16 event was at Sonia and Isaac Luski Gallery at the Foundation for the Carolinas.

CFRC awards were given to:

Outstanding Volunteer Service: Sheri A. Harrison

Outstanding Pro Bono Service: Harriet "Sis" Kaplan

Outstanding Firm Service: Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

In addition, the Distinguished Pro Bono Service award, presented by all three agencies was awarded to Larry J. Dagenhart of McGuireWoods.

members, social workers, potential volunteer advocates and anyone interested in learning more about how to successfully advocate for a student. This was the kickoff event for the Council's ongoing First Wednesday series of monthly training workshops, free and open, starting in October. A complete schedule and list of topics is at www.cfcrights.org.

- Welcome, **Greg Schermbeck**, who joined the Council's research and planning team as director of education initiatives. Greg arrives from Nashville, where he was a founding administrator of Nashville Prep Charter School. Before joining Nashville Prep, he was a Teach for America Corps member in Charlotte where he taught science and coached varsity football at West Charlotte High School. He has a master's degree in leadership and organizational performance from Vanderbilt University's Peabody College.
- CFRCR offers some great volunteer opportunities in our **Custody Advocacy Program** (CAP). The next CAP training will be held Nov. 7; the day-long workshop takes place at the CFSC building. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Mary Schilli at mary@cfcrights.org to learn more.

Read more about what Council for Children's Rights has been up to – in collaboration with Smart Start – in this issue's cover story.

NC MedAssist

www.medassist.org

Lori Giang, MBA, Executive Director



- NC MedAssist is gearing up for its first 5K. **Pancakes for Pills** will be held in Huntersville on Nov. 8. Please forward the race website to friends and family who love running (and enjoy eating hot pancakes during a fall Saturday morning). www.pancakesforpills.racesonline.com/home/.

The Over the Counter Medicine program is growing. In July, MedAssist took the program on the road to High Point and helped 672 people. The program will travel to different areas of Mecklenburg County to help those in need.

RAIN

www.carolinarain.org

Debbie Warren, Executive Director

Project Los Angeles, FIGHT Philadelphia, Harlem United Community AIDS Center, Bienestar Human Services Los Angeles, CORE Center Chicago). Our work includes using a bilingual/bicultural personal health navigator who works to decrease barriers to identification, linkage and retention in medical care for Latinos and Latinas living with HIV.

Safe Alliance

www.safealliance.org

Phil Kline, President and CEO

- Across our geographic footprint – from Charlotte to Union County to Cabarrus County and Lake Norman — our staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to bring comfort to adults and children victimized by trauma. It is not easy work. Each day, each client, each trauma brings with it unique challenges that must be faced and overcome.

We are so proud of our team at Safe Alliance. They've produced many measureable accomplishments this year – but most of all, they have provided hope to those who need it most.

Here's a look at some of our successes over the past year:

- We served 419 adults and 394 children at the Clyde & Ethel Dickson Domestic Violence Shelter.
- Our Shelter Hotline fielded 11,452 calls – 4,000 more calls than last year.
- Our Victim Assistance Team accompanied 4284 clients to court, and our Legal Hotline responded to 3,580 calls.
- Clinical counselors across our system completed 13,421 sessions with clients.
- Our Tree House Children's Advocacy Center in Union County served 167 children impacted by child abuse, child sexual assault and neglect.
- Our Sexual Trauma Resource Center Hotline fielded 838 calls across our system, and this team made 133 hospital accompaniments with sexual assault survivors.

On the fundraising/events front, we are looking forward to the **Third Annual Fighting for Women With Fashion Show** that takes place at the Foundation for the Carolinas on Oct. 7. FFWWF features a collaboration between local women doctors and lawyers who produce a fashion show that raises funds to support Safe Alliance domestic violence programs and services. Learn more at www.safealliance.org/fighting-for-women-with-

Please put our **Second Annual Evening of Hope & Healing** on your calendars. This gala takes place Nov. 15 at The Peninsula Club and is our signature fundraiser for the programs and services provided by our Lake Norman office. For details, visit www.safealliance.org.

Smart Start of Mecklenburg County

www.smartstartofmeck.org

Jane Meyer, Executive Director

- Our second annual **Toast for Tots** is set for Oct. 16 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at Nan & Byron's in SouthEnd, which was voted "Best New Restaurant" in 2014 by *Charlotte* magazine. Guests will enjoy wine, good food and an exciting live auction led by City Councilwoman LaWana Mayfield, as well as a silent auction and raffle while learning more about the importance of the early years.

Smart Start supports 30 valuable programs in the areas of family support, health, high-quality early care and education and teachers' professional development. Together with PNC, our premier funder of this event and with other partners, we are working toward the ambitious goal that all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed.

Please join us for a fun evening that will also help children and families in our community.

Read more about what Smart Start has been up to – in collaboration with the Council for Children's Rights – in this issue's cover story.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Nonprofit Governance Center

From the Shared Services Committee

The Role of the Nonprofit Board

Serving on the board of a nonprofit organization is a serious commitment. To bring maximum value to the organization and experience personal satisfaction, board members must be passionate about the mission of the organization. Effective board service requires knowledge, time, attention and accountability.

Each member of a nonprofit board, as well as the board as a group, is responsible for fulfilling three legal duties: the duty of care, the duty of loyalty and the duty of obedience.

- **The Duty of Care** requires that board members “be reasonably informed about the organization’s activities, participate in decisions and do so in good faith and with the care of an ordinarily prudent person in similar circumstances.” This has to do with attendance at board meetings and with participation in the work of the board.
- **The Duty of Loyalty** requires that board members “exercise their power in the interest of the organization and not in their own interest or the interest of another entity, particularly one in which they have a formal relationship.” Each board is expected to adopt policies related to potential conflicts of interest.
- **The Duty of Obedience** requires that board members “comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws; adhere to the organization’s bylaws and remain guardians of the organization’s mission.” Decisions to authorize activities beyond the scope of the mission may have tax or other implications.

Since “to govern” means “to steer, influence and control,” a board has three major roles in the life of the organization:

- To establish mission and direction
- To ensure the organization has the necessary resources of funds and leadership to implement the mission
- To provide fiduciary oversight on behalf of the people served, the organization’s members and supporters and the public

While the board has the authority to establish the organization’s mission and set major policies for how this mission will be fulfilled, responsibility for *implementing* these policies is usually delegated to management through the chief executive. In order to differentiate the work of the board from that of management, it is common to describe the work of the board as making policy, while management is described as responsible for implementing board policies.

THE LAST WORD

Let’s keep the conversation going. Tell us your success stories, how collaboration has helped your clients and what you’d like to see in *Collaborations Quarterly*. Contact

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CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES CENTER

601 EAST FIFTH STREET, SUITE 100 | CHARLOTTE, NC 28202 | P 704-943-9400

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