

Outcome Team Roster

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Sinclair Fast Forward Center

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Children's Medical Center

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Dayton Metro Library

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Dr. Thomas Lasley II

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YOUNG PEOPLE SUCCEEDING

Vision

Children are well prepared for learning when they start school and receive support outside of the classroom for their efforts inside the classroom. Intellectual curiosity, skill development and achievement are valued. Young people receive mentoring, guidance and support as they develop the capacity to differentiate between positive and negative risk behaviors. Positive role models are plentiful, and others in the community talk to teenagers with candor and respect about the difficult choices they face. Students finish high school ready to compete successfully in the labor market and/or in continuing education and skills development.

Young People Succeeding Outcome Team Report

The Young People Succeeding (YPS) Outcome Team has focused the majority of its attention over the last four years on improving the quality of early care and education in Montgomery County. A child's early years are a time of remarkable growth with ninety percent (90%) of brain development taking place by age five. Young children develop self-confidence and social, emotional, and decision-making skills, the foundation needed for success in school and throughout their adult years.



ReadySetSoar was launched in the second half of 2007 with initial funding from the Montgomery County Family and Children First Council (FCFC) and The Frank M. Tait Foundation. Originally known as the

Montgomery County Early Care and Education Initiative, the vision behind ReadySetSoar is that every child in the Miami Valley will be school ready by the time they enter kindergarten.

FCFC continued funding this initiative in its second year. Funds were used for a newly-hired full-time Director and for technical support to assist early care centers in achieving a star rating under Ohio's Step Up To Quality system. Technical assistance was provided by 4C for Children – Miami Valley (4C), the region's resource and referral provider for early care and education. Funding from FCFC increased 4C's ability to reach providers by sixty percent (60%) in 2009.

ReadySetSoar's second year of work has resulted in gains in the following goal areas:

- Higher quality in early childhood settings
- Stronger connections and infrastructure
- Increased advocacy
- Heightened community awareness

YOUNG PEOPLE SUCCEEDING

Quality

Eleven focus sites, which were identified through an open request for participation at the end of 2007, received individually tailored technical assistance, grants of up to \$16,000, and a one-time quality achievement award of \$4,000 to aid in their pursuit of a star rating through the State of Ohio's Step Up To Quality rating system. As of December 2009, nine of the eleven have earned a star rating; the other two are eagerly awaiting a site visit that will determine their rating:

- A&D Daycare and Learning Center (Jefferson Township) – awaiting a site visit
- All Kids: An Easter Seals Child Development Center (Dayton) – earned 1 star
- Childtime Learning Center (Centerville) – earned 1 star
- Clara's Heart Child Care Center (Trotwood) – awaiting a site visit
- Dayton Christian Center (Dayton) – earned 1 star
- Kinder Care Learning Center (Huber Heights) – earned 1 star
- Miami Valley Family Care Center (Dayton) – earned 3 stars
- The Nurturing Nest (Butler Township) – earned 1 star
- The Point YMCA Early Childhood Center (Butler Township) – earned 2 stars
- Seven Dwarfs Childcare Center (Miamisburg) – earned 1 star
- YWCA Childcare (Downtown) – earned 2 stars

To continue the Step Up to Quality progress, a new *Mentoring Group* program was initiated under the leadership of Mini University, Inc. As needed, technical assistance is provided by 4C. The goal of the mentoring groups is to guide 30 participating centers to a star rating

by June 2010. In addition to higher quality, accomplishing this goal will mean an estimated \$300,000 in Quality Achievement Awards from the State of Ohio.

Connections and Infrastructure

With guidance from an Advisory Cabinet that met monthly, the full-time Director of ReadySetSoar built strategic partnerships with various organizations also involved in serving young children and their families. In addition, connections with providers were increased by doubling the number of providers on an early care and education provider listserv.

Advocacy

ReadySetSoar increased the advocacy efforts of the community during a difficult state budget process. Specifically, ReadySetSoar facilitated strategy sessions with Early Learning Initiative child care providers, and contacted directors of all 220 ODJFS licensed early childhood programs to explain proposed changes and encourage directors to call and write legislators. The efforts of early childhood leaders in Montgomery County combined with those of leaders around the state ensured a few "wins" for early care and education during a very difficult budget time.

Community Awareness

For the second year, ReadySetSoar collaborated with the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery and Five Rivers MetroParks on "Voyages on the Parkway" – a family event offering fun, hands-on educational activities. In addition, connections with the business community and dialogue with pediatricians have begun in the past year. A community-wide communication plan was designed; a funding award from The Frank M. Tait Foundation will be used to implement the first phases of the communication plan in 2010.

Relationships have been formed between early childhood professionals

and K-12 school leaders. These relationships are critical to allow the Miami Valley Region to develop common definitions and measurements for kindergarten readiness. A Kindergarten Readiness Summit will be held in the first quarter of 2010, and this effort will move the community forward as gaps are identified, community-wide priorities are established, and new programs are implemented to help every child be prepared for a successful start to kindergarten.

Another area of interest among YPS Team members is the **transition of young people to adulthood**. Throughout 2009, representatives from YPS, the Positive Living for Special Populations Outcome Team, and community organizations explored the challenges faced by young people with special needs transitioning from high school to college or the workforce. The work group defined "special needs" as learning or other disabilities, disadvantages such as homelessness or aging out of foster care, as well as involvement with the juvenile justice system. The work group spent considerable time identifying local resources, discussing barriers, developing a resource directory and looking for ways to expand opportunities for these young people. One gain that came from their work is an informal agreement with Sinclair Community College to expand the availability of Individualized Learning Plan Counselors whose help has been shown to make the transition to a college environment much more successful.

YOUNG PEOPLE SUCCEEDING

The Young People Succeeding Outcome Team historically has monitored progress of two programs implemented as a result of prior FCFC initiatives. The following sections briefly describe each program and their respective successes.



The Mentoring Collaborative of Montgomery County has been networking with agencies providing mentoring services for youth since 2001. The Collaborative works to raise community awareness of the critical need for mentors, provides agency training, mentor training, mentee training and background checks as well as sponsoring local mentoring events.

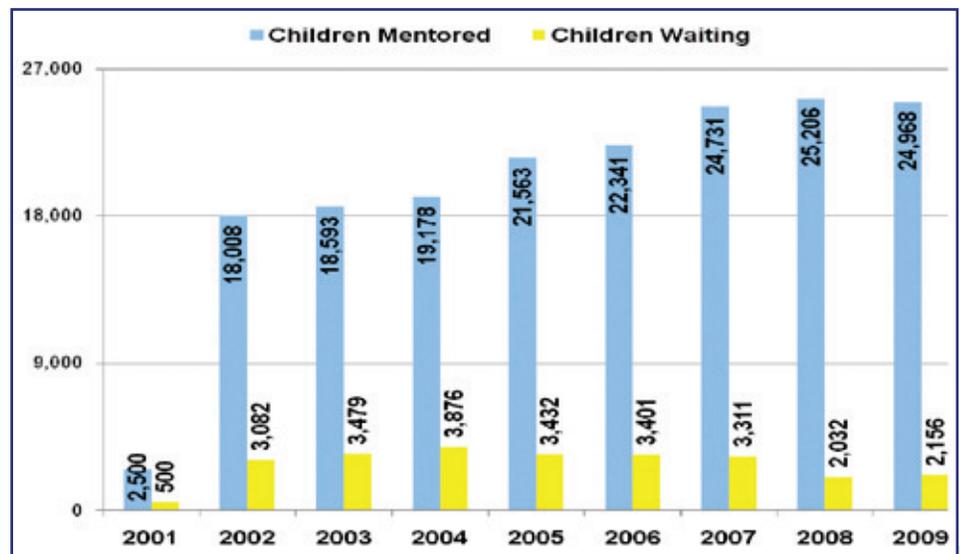
In 2008, the Collaborative began providing Agency Certification Training in partnership with MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership. The Collaborative provides a full resource center with tips, advice and the most current best-practice information to help partner agencies create successful experiences for their mentors and mentees. The Collaborative includes partner agencies that provide mentoring services to youth through non-traditional methods; these partners are Associate Partners.

The Mentoring Collaborative added nine new mentoring programs in 2009 increasing the total of partner agencies to 60 (49 Certified Partners, 11 Associate Partners). Together these organizations serve approximately 24,968 youth; yet another 2,156 children are waiting for caring adults to mentor them.

Each year during its **Mentor of the Year Awards** Luncheon the Collaborative recognizes individuals who have displayed extraordinary commitment assisting young people in achieving their full potential. The 2009 Outstanding Mentor Award recipients (listed below) were also recognized by the Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners.

- Robert Boyd, Juvenile Court Reclaiming Futures
- Cindy Goff, Miamisburg Schools Mentor Program
- Larry Jenkins, ACE-E
- Richard Moore, Unified Health Solutions
- Angela Potter-Taylor, Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School Mentor Program
- Jennifer Schrader, Life Resource Centre
- Sweetie Seals, Wesley Community Center
- Kelli Wynn, Community Action Partnership of the Greater Dayton Area

To become a mentor or for additional information about The Mentoring Collaborative, call 937-236-9965 or go to www.mentoringcollaborative.org.





Fast Forward Center opened its doors in 2001 when the school dropout rate in Montgomery County was 25.6%. Since then the dropout rate has declined by 13 percentage points to 12.6% in 2008.

Administered by Sinclair Community College, Fast Forward Center unites public and charter school systems to help out-of-school youth who want to complete their high school education by assessing their reading and math skills and connecting them with appropriate educational resources.

In addition, Fast Forward participates in the development and funding of programs and schools and assesses their effectiveness.

Through the efforts of Fast Forward and its partner schools, 1,934 high school graduates earned their diploma between 2002 and 2009. Dropouts are being recovered to lead productive lives.

These successes have received national attention and have earned the Fast Forward Center designation as a best practice in dropout recovery.

For additional information about Fast Forward Center, call 937-512-3278 or go to www.sinclair.edu/organizations/ffc.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Teen pregnancy and childbearing remain issues for many young people in Montgomery County.

Pregnancy occurred among just under five (4.7) out of every 100 teens ages 15-17 during 2008. This rate has generally remained steady since 2003. (See page 24.) Slightly less than half of these pregnancies resulted in fetal losses or terminations with the remainder ending in live births.

Studies indicate that teen childbearing often results in life-long consequences. The conditions of teen parents – individual, social, and economic – are remarkably different from those of teens who do not become pregnant. For instance, teen parents are far more likely to live in poverty.

The most recent data available from the Ohio Department of Health indicate there were 280 births to teens ages 15 to 17 in Montgomery County during 2008. The rate of teen births for this age group in Montgomery County has increased slightly from 24.3 per 1,000 girls of the same age in 2007 to 25.5 per 1,000 girls in 2008. However, these rates still remain higher than the state's rate of 19.7 per 1,000 in 2007 and 2008. Alarmingly, the teen birth rate of African American teens continues to exceed that of Caucasian teens as it has since 2000.

For example, for every Caucasian teen giving birth in 2008, 2.6 African American teens gave birth (17.6/1,000 versus 45.7/1,000, respectively).

Teen pregnancy prevention services have received funding through the Office of Family and Children First since 1998. The following organizations received such funding for the delivery of teen pregnancy prevention services in Montgomery County during 2009: Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley, Dayton Urban League, East End Community Services, Girl Scouts of Western Ohio (formerly Buckeye Trails Council), Unified Health Solutions, and YWCA of Dayton.

The ultimate goal of teen pregnancy prevention services is to teach young people to think critically about the consequences of their actions and to take personal responsibility for themselves and their futures. Adolescents participating in these programs learn to value obtaining their education and rejecting early sexual behavior and teen pregnancy as options for themselves.

Due to numerous state budget cuts made to resources for local services, teen pregnancy prevention services are no longer funded through a separate pool of money from Montgomery County. Providers have sought funding from other sources, yet some services have had to be reduced because of funding challenges.

