

## Outcome Team Roster

**CO-CHAMPION Frank DePalma** (Montgomery County Educational Service Center) **CO-CHAMPION Thomas Lasley, Ph.D.** (LearnToEarn™ Dayton) **CO-CHAMPION Jenni Roer** (The Frank M. Tait Foundation) **Frieda Brigner** (Dayton Ohio Habitat for Humanity) **Joyce Sutton Cameron** (HighRise Services) **Michael Carter** (Sinclair Fast Forward Center) **Lorna Chouinard** (4C for Children – Miami Valley) **Linnae Clinton** (Dayton Public Schools - Beginning in October) **Tim Kambitsch** (Dayton Metro Library) **Kelly Kavanaugh** (The Children's Medical Center - Beginning in October) **Robyn Lightcap** (ReadySetSoar) **Jane McGee-Rafal** (Dayton Public Schools Through January) **John Moore, Sr.** (Community Volunteer) **Bob Pawlak** (Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley) **Geraldine Pegues** (Montgomery County Department of Job & Family Services, Children Services Division) **Margy Stevens** (Montgomery County Educational Service Center) **Donald A. Vermillion** (University of Dayton, Fitz Center) **Cecilia A. Vocke** (The Children's Medical Center - Through September)

**STAFF: Catherine A. Rauch** (Office of Family and Children First)  
**Pamela Zehring** (Montgomery County Educational Service Center)

## 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.

During 2011 a major emphasis of the Young People Succeeding Outcome Team's energy continued to be early childhood education. Early childhood – the years from birth to age five – are critical in building a foundation for a child's success in school and life. These are the years when important social, emotional, problem-solving, and pre-literacy skills are developed. Right now too many of Montgomery County's children are entering kindergarten behind.

FCFC provided funding in 2011 to support staffing for the initiative and to provide technical assistance to child care and preschool programs working on a star rating. The star rating is awarded as part of *Step Up To Quality*, the state's quality rating system for child care and preschool programs. Technical assistance was provided by 4C for Children, the region's resource and referral agency for child care. Key accomplishments in 2011 include:

Increase in Quality Programs: Montgomery County crossed the fifty mark in 2011 - as of December 2011, 52 child care and preschool programs in Montgomery County have earned a star rating. This is a 33% percent increase from the same time in 2010.

Connections and Infrastructure: The second annual Kindergarten Readiness Summit was held in March 2011 to align K-12 education and early learning providers on kindergarten readiness goals. As a result, six school districts are proactively leading community coalitions to improve school readiness goals.

Advocacy: ReadySetSoar worked with elected officials, leading to Governor Kasich's visit to a child care program in Huber Heights to discuss

opportunities for the state's early learning systems. In December of 2010, Ohio was one of nine states awarded the Early Learning Challenge federal grant, a follow-up to Race to the Top. ReadySetSoar will work with state leaders to implement the commitments made in the grant to improve early learning for the region.

Community Awareness: ReadySetSoar continued leading *Passport to Kindergarten*, a collaborative project funded by PNC to improve oral language skills for preschoolers. The program was expanded to West Carrollton, Northridge, and three Dayton Public school buildings. The fourth annual *Voyage on the Parkway* community event was also held in October to promote awareness with parents on important school readiness skills.

For additional details, please see the ReadySetSoar Annual Report at [www.readysetsoar.org](http://www.readysetsoar.org).

For a look behind the numbers, go to page 56.



### Vulnerable Youth in Transition to Adulthood

Another area of focus within the YPS Team is the transition of young people to adulthood. The Youth in Transition Work Group was created in response to concerns about older youth and



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young adults in transition to adulthood and self-sufficiency (youth in transition) falling through the cracks of various systems. The Work Group identified youth, ages 16 to 24, without parental support and experiencing the following as their target population:

- Aging out of foster care,
- Transitioning out of the juvenile justice system,
- Experiencing serious mental illness,
- With other disabilities, and/or
- Homeless.

During 2011, the Work Group continued to improve its understanding of the challenges and barriers faced by vulnerable youth and young adults (ages 16-24) transitioning from high school to self-sufficiency. During its two years of work, the Work Group:

- Assessed what services were available in Montgomery County, publishing and distributing a resource directory.
- Identified gaps interfering with youth success, especially with post-secondary experiences.
- Identified specific linkages resulting in support to vulnerable youth in transition; some related to post-secondary success and others connecting with work at the state level.

A report outlining the most significant challenges and barriers was presented to the YPS Team and then to the Family and Children First Council with the recommendation that a committee be created to:

- Strengthen coordination and collaboration among Montgomery County agencies, other service providers and community partners that results in improved outcomes achieved on behalf of and with vulnerable youth in transition.
- Identify and address gaps and barriers to supportive services for

vulnerable youth in transition in addition to those reported by the YPS Youth in Transition Work Group.

- Ensure sufficient options exist in Montgomery County for vulnerable youth to successfully complete their secondary education.
- Take steps to improve access, success and completion in higher education and training for vulnerable youth in transition resulting in employment that pays at least a living wage.
- Identify what kind of data should be collected to better understand what supports are needed for vulnerable youth in transition to succeed.
- Take other appropriate actions that enable the community to better respond to and address the needs of youth in transition in Montgomery County.

The Vulnerable Youth in Transition Committee of the Montgomery County FCFC began meeting in December 2011 with the Montgomery County Administrator, Deborah Feldman, as its chairperson.

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

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 certification training, mentor training, mentee training and background checks along with sponsoring local mentoring events.

A major accomplishment is the attainment of additional funding to expand resources to benefit youth served by Mentoring Collaborative partners. With the oversight of Montgomery County Educational Service Center, the Mentoring Collaborative was awarded an AmeriCorps State Planning Grant in 2010 to expand and enhance mentoring programs in Montgomery County. The new program called MCMC AmeriCorps Program



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addresses the AmeriCorps priorities of helping children and youth achieve success in school and preventing them from dropping out before high school graduation. In June 2011, the Collaborative was awarded an AmeriCorps State Operational Grant. The MCMC AmeriCorps Program began serving K-12 “at-potential” youth in Montgomery County at 11 host sites utilizing the support of 20 AmeriCorps members who serve as Mentoring Project/Service Coordinators.

Each year, during its Mentor of the Year Awards Luncheon, the Collaborative recognizes individuals who display extraordinary commitment assisting young people in achieving their full potential. These 2011 Outstanding Mentor Award recipients were also recognized by the Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners:

- **Constance Andrea Carr-Beatty**, Mountain Top Ministries
- **Edward Dixon**, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Miami Valley, Inc.
- **Sue Jenkins**, Life Resource Center
- **Pastor Jamie McVey**, MC Juvenile Court Reclaiming Futures
- **Alicia Price**, Community Action Partnership of the Greater Dayton Area
- **Jared Roper**, Edison PreK-8 Neighborhood School
- **Ginger Schwieterman**, Miamisburg Schools Mentor Program
- **Dr. Robert C. Walker**, Wesley Community Center
- **Brenda Wise**, Jefferson Township Local Schools
- **Mentors at Kemp PreK-8 (Dayton Public Schools)**, Parity, Inc.

To become a mentor or for additional information about The Mentoring Collaborative, call 236-9965 or go to [www.mentoringcollaborative.org](http://www.mentoringcollaborative.org).



Since 2001 when it opened its doors, **Fast Forward Center** has united public and charter school systems to help out-of-school youth who want to complete their high school education. Fast Forward assesses their reading and math skills and connects them with appropriate educational resources.

Through the efforts of Fast Forward and its partner charter schools, 2,422 high school graduates earned their diploma between 2002 and 2011. For the school year ending June 2011, Fast Forward had 230 students graduate from four partner high schools. In addition, a total of 140 students from the four partner high schools have been awarded John and Connie Taylor scholarships to Sinclair Community College over the past four years.

For accomplishments such as these, the Fast Forward Center received the 2011 Program of the Year Award from the International Association for Truancy and Dropout Prevention (IATDP). The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network (NDPC/N) - the authoritative national entity on dropout recovery initiatives—has deemed the Fast Forward Center a model program with “Strong Evidence of Effectiveness” which is their highest distinction.

More information about Fast Forward Center’s history and accomplishments can be found at [www.sinclair.edu/centers/ffc](http://www.sinclair.edu/centers/ffc).

