

Outcome Team Roster

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Dayton Ohio Habitat for Humanity

Susan Brockman

The Children's Medical Center of Dayton
(through August 2010)

Gayle Bullard

Mont. Co. Dept. of Job and Family Services, Children Services Division
(through August 2010)

Joyce Sutton Cameron

HighRise Services

Michael Carter

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Tim Kambitsch

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Robyn Lightcap

ReadySetSoar

Dr. Jane McGee-Rafal

Dayton Public Schools
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Bob Pawlak

Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley

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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

Over the last five years, much of the Young People Succeeding (YPS) Outcome Team's focus has been 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 social, emotional, and decision making skills, which are the foundation needed for success in school and throughout their adult years.



ReadySetSoar, Montgomery County's early care and education initiative, began in 2008 with initial funding from the Family and Children First Council (FCFC) and The

Frank M. Tait Foundation. The vision behind ReadySetSoar is that every child in the Miami Valley will be ready to learn by the time they enter kindergarten.

Funding from FCFC for the initiative's third year was used to continue full-time staffing for the initiative and to continue technical support that assisted early care centers in achieving a star rating under Ohio's voluntary quality rating system, Step Up To Quality. Technical assistance was provided by 4C for Children—Miami Valley and Mini University, Inc. This work has resulted in gains in the following areas:

- Higher Quality in Early Childhood Settings
- Stronger Connections and Infrastructure
- Increased Advocacy
- Heightened Community Awareness

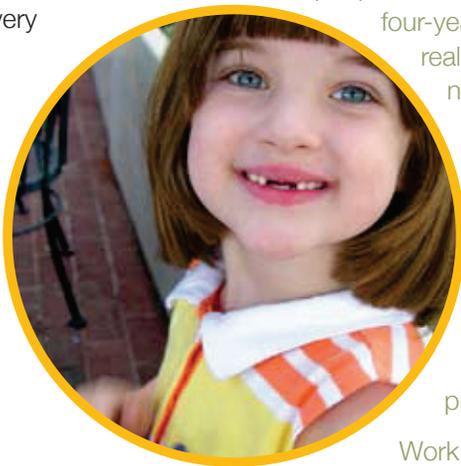
YOUNG PEOPLE SUCCEEDING

Quality: As of December 2010, 39 early care and education centers in Montgomery County have earned a star rating. This is an 18% percent increase from the same time in 2009.

Connections and Infrastructure: A highly successful Kindergarten Readiness Summit sponsored by ReadySet**Soar** in March resulted in relationships being built between the early care and education community and the K-12 system. These relationships are critical to allow the Dayton Region to develop common definitions and measurements for kindergarten readiness.

Advocacy: ReadySet**Soar** is seen as a leader in early care and education policy development as evidenced by invitations to local early learning leaders to participate in state discussions and planning as well as statewide advocacy partnerships.

Community Awareness: ReadySet**Soar** collaborated with the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery for a third year on “Voyages on the Parkway”—a family event offering fun, hands-on educational activities. In addition, **Passport to Kindergarten**, a collaborative project between several organizations led by ReadySet**Soar**, was selected for funding by PNC Bank to be part of their “Grow Up Great” initiative. **Passport to Kindergarten** is initially being implemented with Dayton Public Schools preschoolers and their families.



Another area of interest among YPS Team members is the **transition of young people to adulthood**. During 2010, representatives from YPS, the Positive Living for Special Populations Outcome Team, and several community organizations explored the challenges faced by high-need young people, ages 16-24, transitioning from high school to post-secondary education or employment. The Youth Transition Work Group focused on youth who are homeless, aging out of foster care, involved with the juvenile/criminal justice system, and those with special needs including disabilities. The work group continued its efforts from 2009 to inventory local resources available to assist these young people as well as identifying gaps and barriers. A resource directory was completed and distributed to service providers.

Other important work group activities included advocating for additional training certificate options for young people for whom a two-year or four-year degree is not realizable. In addition, new collaborative relationships resulted in a Transition Expo to benefit transition-aged youth with mental illnesses. This was the first time such an experience for this population was provided.

Work group members were also involved in the planning for a grant proposal submitted to the Gates Foundation. The Communities Learning in Partnership (CLIP) grant planning process involved numerous stakeholders throughout the community. These stakeholders are committed to significantly increasing the number of Montgomery County youth attending and completing post-secondary education or training. The work group’s input reinforced the importance of a “navigator” or case manager-type contact for high-need

youth transitioning to a post-secondary education environment. The CLIP initiative was not funded, but the efforts are being transitioned into a cradle to career initiative, Learn to Earn™ Dayton.

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.



Fast Forward Center opened its doors in 2001 when the school dropout rate in Montgomery County was 25.6%. Since then the county’s dropout rate has declined to 12.6% in 2008.

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. Administered by Sinclair Community College, Fast Forward also participates in the development and funding of programs and schools and assesses their effectiveness.



YOUNG PEOPLE SUCCEEDING

Through the efforts of Fast Forward and its partner charter schools, 2,181 high school graduates earned their diploma between 2002 and 2010. Dropouts are being recovered to lead productive lives.

In 2010, the Fast Forward Center was selected as a finalist for the Community College Futures Assembly (CCFA) Bellwether Award in the category of Workforce Development. The CCFA and the Bellwether Awards are sponsored by the Institute of Higher Education which is housed in the College of Education, University of Florida.

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.

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



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 offers a resource center providing 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 fourteen new mentoring programs in 2010, increasing the total of partner agencies to 73 (60 Certified Partners, 13

Associate Partners). Together these organizations serve approximately 18,000 youth; yet more than another 1,000 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 2010 Outstanding Mentor Award recipients (listed below) were also recognized by the Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners.

- Gary Armstrong, Parity Mentoring Program
- Charles Caldwell, Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School
- John Andrew Leakas, Mountain Top Ministries
- Robin Minch, Miamisburg City School Mentoring Program
- Marva Moore, Wesley Community Center
- Beverly Smith, Montgomery County Juvenile Court Reclaiming Futures

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

