



Pickaway County  
**Family and Children First Council  
Newsletter**

**Meeting  
Schedule**

Jan. 17, 2007  
March 20, 2008  
May 15, 2008  
July 17, 2008  
Sept. 18, 2008

This is a busy time for all Pickaway County Family and Children First Council members as 2007 comes to an end. It is also a good time to pause and take pride in the accomplishments of the past year:

- Approximately 40 families and over 70 children have been served through TEAM for Youth.
- The design of the Council website ([www.pickawayfamilyandchildrenfirst.org](http://www.pickawayfamilyandchildrenfirst.org)) was completed and includes up-to-date information of Council activities, resource information, and links to other community, state, and national sites. Council members can also make announcements and add information to the site.
- Through Partnerships for Success, a community needs and resource assessment has been completed and the information that was gathered from that is available on the website to use in strategic planning and grant writing.
- A collaborative effort of council members resulted in a successful summer program that served over 40 children with special needs.
- The fourth annual "It Only Takes a Spark" Summit was held with workgroups focusing on Homelessness, Volunteers/Information and Referral, Bridges Out of Poverty, and Family Connections.
- Council has formed two new committees to address needs that came out of the PfS process. The Dental Committee is addressing the unmet dental needs in Pickaway County and The Asset Committee is promoting an asset-rich community for children and families.

*Community celebrations:*

The YMCA of Pickaway County has nearly reached its goal of raising \$250,000 for the current capital campaign to increase accessibility, update safety, and improve the facilities. YMCA of Central Ohio will match up to \$250,000, giving the local facility a total of \$500,000 for the projects. The capital campaign includes plans to install an elevator and to purchase adaptive weight equipment to increase accessibility for all patrons. Automatic interior and exterior door openers will be added. The money will also be used to replace the existing tile gym floor which is 29 years old and to install air conditioning in the gym. The capital campaign helps the YMCA with the mission to serve the whole community through programs expressing Judeo-Christian principles that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body.

The YMCA has been a collaborative community partner by operating the Circleville City Pool, providing Camp Can Do, and hosting the summer GED program and providing child care for participants. The YMCA has provided more than \$162,000 in financial assistance in 2006 to low-income individuals and families.



During the planning year for PFS, discussion centered on the current economic status of our county and issues related to poverty. This information was shared with the Bridges Out of Poverty Workgroup from the Faith-based Summit. In a collaborative effort, a grant was submitted and we are happy to announce:

On December 5th, the Board of Directors of The Women's Fund of Central Ohio voted to award seven social change grants totaling more than \$59,000. These programs strive to change the world for women and girls through the enhancement of their economic independence, leadership and life skills. Notification was sent to all of our grant applicants via postal mail. ***The Getting Ahead Program a program of Pickaway County Job and Family Services (\$10,000)***

The Getting Ahead Program in Pickaway County will provide education to female participants about understanding economic class and its impact on economic stability. The program will strengthen participants by teaching them how to develop social skills and social supports that will help them escape from poverty. The participants will be linked with the community resources needed for them to take action and achieve their future plans.

---

### *Council member announcements*

Pickaway HELPS is a collaborative higher education initiative between Pickaway County Job and Family Services, Pickaway County Board of Commissioners and OCAN - Ohio College Access Network.

Our Mission: To promote higher education opportunities among students and families in Pickaway County.

Our Vision: To support a Higher Education Coordinator and related educational outreach activities available to all students with an emphasis on targeting low income children and families and first generation college students.

Our goals are to increase the number of students in Pickaway County engaged in the higher education process through program activities provided by Pickaway HELPS and to increase awareness of the value of higher education among those students and families.

Contact Information:

Christy Mills, Coordinator  
Pickaway HELPS  
Higher Education Learning Partners for Students  
740-474-5383  
E-mail: [highered@pickawayboc.org](mailto:highered@pickawayboc.org)

---

#### PCFCFC CONTACTS:

Coordinator: Wilma Beerman, 740-474-3105 ext. 701, [wilmabeerman@yahoo.com](mailto:wilmabeerman@yahoo.com)  
PFS Coordinator: Debbie Hoffman 740-474-7529, [Debbie.hoffman@pickawayesc.org](mailto:Debbie.hoffman@pickawayesc.org)  
Council Chairperson: Marge Wolford, 740-474-7534, [wolford.3@osu.edu](mailto:wolford.3@osu.edu)  
Vice Chairperson: Ty Ankrom, 740-474-7529, [ty.ankrom@pickawayesc.org](mailto:ty.ankrom@pickawayesc.org)  
Council Secretary: Rojanne Woodward, 740-474-7588, [woodwr@odjfs.state.oh.us](mailto:woodwr@odjfs.state.oh.us)

---