



# Pickaway County Family and Children First Council Newsletter

Message from the Council Chair.....

Why is Family and Children First Council important to me? I believe in our new mission, "a community collaboration which coordinates services to support and empower children and families" which was developed earlier this year during a Council retreat. OSU Extension, as an organization with the primary focus on education, has a similar responsibility to "partner with individuals, families, communities, business and industry, and organizations to strengthen the lives of Ohioans". For the past 15 Years, I have been fortunate to serve as OSU Extension's representative to Council and as an officer for several of those years. This year as Chair of Council, has been a very rewarding experience. Through the Partnerships for Success (PFS) funding we were able to take a thorough look at planning for the future under Debbie Hoffman's leadership and with guidance from The Ohio State University's Center for Learning Excellence. Through that process we learned to use a logic model for strategic planning that will benefit Council members for years to come. As a result of visits from key legislators and Mrs. Strickland, our community leaders were able to share concerns and needs for our children and families. My three year term on the Council Executive Committee will end on March 20. Thanks to everyone for your support and best wishes as you continue to work together to make a difference for families in Pickaway County.

Sincerely,  
Marge Wolford

## **COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS:**

The Asset Committee has developed a mission statement and guiding principles. They hope to develop Pickaway County into an asset-rich community where all youth are valued and thrive with the guiding principles of:

- Engage adults
- Strengthen families
- Understand "community"
- Support a common core of values
- Mobilize community resources

The committee is in the process of securing local funding to conduct the Search Institute Attitudes and Behavior Survey, purchase materials about assets to be included in the kindergarten transition packets, and to support costs for "We Noticed" cards. These cards will be distributed to adults throughout the community so that they can send children and youth cards to show we care!

If you would like to serve on this community to be a part of this effort, contact Michele Lanman, (United Way), at 477-8171.

### **Meeting Schedule**

March 20, 2008

May 15, 2008

July 17, 2008

Sept. 18, 2008

Nov. 20, 2008

All meetings are  
8:30 – 10:30 am at  
the Pickaway County  
Public Library



PICKAWAY COUNTY HAS RECEIVED A GRANT FROM THE WOMEN'S FUND OF CENTRAL OHIO TO IMPLEMENT THE GETTING AHEAD PROGRAM. 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 COMMUNITY RESOURCES NEEDED FOR THEM TO TAKE ACTION AND ACHIEVE THEIR FUTURE PLANS.

DURING THE PFS PROCESS, THE POVERTY RATES IN OUR COUNTY APPEARED AS A MAJOR INDICATOR IN EACH OF THE COMMITMENTS TO CHILD WELL-BEING. THE STRATEGIC ACTION WORKGROUP IDENTIFIED THE GETTING AHEAD PROGRAM AS AN ACTION TO IMPACT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE. THE GRANT FUNDING AND INKIND FUNDING (PFS, JFS, PICCA HEAD START, AND HAVEN HOUSE) WILL ENABLE US TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROGRAM.

THE PROGRAM WILL BE HELD THREE TIMES IN 2008. EACH PROGRAM CONSISTS OF 15 SESSIONS, INCLUDING AN INTERVIEW AND CLASS CELEBRATION. THE FIRST PROGRAM WILL BE MARCH 4 – APRIL 17. CONTACT DEBBIE HOFFMAN FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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## **COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- If anyone has information to include in the kindergarten packets, contact Brenda McMahon at 477-6781. The kindergarten packets reach 900 families during kindergarten registration.
- The Early Childhood Coordinating Committee is planning an early childhood public awareness campaign for April. The month includes: National Infant Immunization Week, Public Health Awareness Week, Week of the Young Child, National Library Week, Child Abuse Prevention Month, and YMCA Healthy Kids Day. If you are interested in the planning for the campaign and recognition of your services for young children, a meeting has been scheduled for March 10 at 3:30 pm at the Pickaway County Public Library. The National Association for the Education of Young Children theme for April is: "Bring Communities Together for Children – Children Bring Communities Together".....help us celebrate!
- Continue to check out the council website: [pickawayfamilyandchildrenfirst.org](http://pickawayfamilyandchildrenfirst.org). Also – send any information you would like added to the website to Debbie Hoffman. Meeting dates, community announcements, and pictures can be added at any time! We also hope to make this a website that families find useful for local information.
- A Community Baby Shower is being planned for May 20 for all pregnant women in Pickaway County. If your agency is interested in being involved in this community event, contact Michelle Callahan at the Pickaway County Public Library.

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### PCFCFC CONTACTS:

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