



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

Grants...Grants...Grants

Council has recently received information on a number of grants. To better share this information, we will be meeting the first Tuesday of each month at 8:00 am in the upstairs meeting room at the County Service Building on Island Rd. The first meeting will be May 1st. This will be an opportunity for Council members and community partners to share information on particular grants that they are aware. Group discussions will nurture partnerships for grant applications and the sharing of grant writing skills. Together we can be successful in bringing additional funding to Pickaway County.

**Meeting
Schedule**

May 17, 2007
Annual Retreat-
June 19, 2007
July 19, 2007
Sept. 20, 2007
Nov. 15, 2007

REMINDER

Don't forget to attend the Faith-Based and Community Summit on April 27, 2007 from 9:00 – 12:00 at Brooks-Yates South, 1005 South Pickaway Street. Even if you have not attended in the past, it is not too late to join in to learn more about resources, to improve coordination, and to explore solutions for local problems.

Margaret Lemaster from Jobs and Family Services shares, "I ALWAYS come away feeling refreshed and energized. I have made lasting friends and connections that help me and my clients with their needs."

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS:

Early Learning Initiative - Making a Difference

The first week in April is celebrated nationally as the "Week of the Young Child." Increasingly, preschool is considered a prerequisite for kindergarten success; particularly for children identified most at risk for school failure. In 2005 the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Early Learning and School Readiness launched the Early Learning Initiative (ELI) to provide children with quality early education opportunities. In addition, for families who need full-day, full-year care, ELI provides child care services.

ELI is operated locally by PICCA Head Start. Early Learning programs are required to align curriculum and learning experiences to Ohio's Early Learning Content Standards and participate in an external evaluation process that will measure program quality, particularly in the area of early literacy development. Social services agencies, school districts and the community as a whole are encouraged to serve as a link for families through referral. Your assistance can make a big difference in the effort to connect children to the quality educational services offered through Ohio's Early Learning Initiative programs.

To assist us with following the guiding principle of involving and engaging the entire community for Partnerships for Success, join us for the final phase of the planning year:



STRATEGIC ACTION IDENTIFICATION
KICK-OFF

MAY 2, 2007
12:00 – 1:30 (LUNCH PROVIDED)
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

We will be forming the workgroup that will be conducting a gap analysis, researching potential programs, and selecting a strategy. This will also serve as the Annual Plan for Family and Children First Council (due July 1, 2007).

The Faith-Based and Community Group Summit
“IT ONLY TAKES A *Spark*”
In partnership with
Job and Family Services and Berger Health System
Presents:

Bridges Out of Poverty:
Strategies for Professionals and Communities

Thursday, May 3, 2007
8:00 – 4:00
Crossroads Church
To register, contact Debbie Hoffman, 474-7529

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH COWORKERS, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS.

PCFCFC CONTACTS:

Coordinator: Wilma Beerman, 614-877-9604, wilmabeerman@yahoo.com
Council Chairperson: Marge Wolford, 740-474-7534, wolford.3@osu.edu
Council Vice-Chairperson: Ty Ankrom, 474-7529, ty.ankrom@pickawayesc.org
Council Secretary: Rojanne Woodward, 474-7588, woodwr@odjfs.state.oh.us
