

## Community and School Representatives

**Melissa Anderson**, Union School District  
**Jodi Askins**, Northwest Regional Key  
**Barb Austen**, Kids N' Us Child Care Center  
**Andrea Baker**, Jefferson-Clarion Head Start  
**Ainsley Bevin**, DuBois School District  
**Cydney Bezak**, Punxsutawney Christian School  
**Dr. Luanne Bonnet**, Clarion University  
**Vickie Butzin**, Brookville Area United Fund  
**Vickie Campbell**, Keystone School District  
**Kelly Carpino**, Jefferson-Clarion Head Start  
**Bibiana Chestnut**, Penn State University  
**Michele Confer**, Brookville School District  
**Kerry Crawford**, Pendleton's Child Care Center  
**Sonia Crissman**, Group Day Care Practitioner  
**Teresa Cyphert**, Clarion-Limestone School District  
**Susan DeV Vaughn**, Punxsutawney School District  
**Mary Faulk**, Clarion-Limestone School District  
**Lori Fulton**, Jefferson County Health Department  
**Lori Galbraith**, Punxsutawney Christian School  
**Sue Groner**, Clarion County Health Department  
**Linda Heath**, Keystone School District  
**Debra Hoffman**, Keystone School District  
**Rayna Hoke**, Even Start Family Literacy  
**Jan Huffman**, Clarion-Limestone School District  
**Tracy Hullihen**, Family Day Care Practitioner  
**Debra Juart**, Family Day Care Practitioner  
**Pat Jones**, Child Care Information Services  
**Staci Jordan**, Union School District  
**Amy Kaltenbach**, Clarion County Early Intervention  
**Kerry Kifer**, Clarion County Mental Health  
**Lori Kersey**, AC Valley School District

## Community and School Representatives Continued

**Tammy Leibert**, Crayon Castle Child Care Center  
**Carrie Longo**, AC Valley School District  
**Chuck Lytle**, Northwest Regional Key  
**Jean McCleary**, Union School District  
**Jennifer Murphy**, Northwest Regional Key  
**Linda Murray**, Brookville School District  
**Terri Pendleton**, Pendleton's Child Care Center  
**Stephanie Polosky**, Punxsutawney School District  
**Paula Quick**, Playhouse Children's Center  
**Thelma Rhoads**, Keystone SMILES  
**Mary Jo Rhode**, Clarion County Human Services  
**Kim Rhodes**, Mentor Parent Program  
**Terri Rhodes**, Riverview Intermediate Unit  
**Heather Schaffer**, Little Dreamer's Day Care  
**Cindy Shuster**, Pendleton's Child Care Center  
**Annette Smith**, Women Infants and Children  
**Linda Smith**, Playhouse Children's Center  
**Denise Storer**, Creative Kids Learning Center  
**Janet Swartzfager**, Swartzfager Child Care Center  
**Barbara Thompson**, Clarion Free Library  
**Julia Toy**, Family Day Care Practitioner  
**Mindi Verdill**, Union School District  
**Nicole Walker**, Punxsutawney School District  
**Tracy Weaver**, Community Action, Inc.  
**Lisa Weyand**, Northwest Regional Key  
**Reece Wilson**, Clarion University Siler Center  
**Jessica Wineberg**, Wee Care Child Care  
**Mary Wolf**, Clarion-Limestone School District

This document was financed in part by grants from the federal Department of Health and Human Services under the Administration of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development; the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Northwest Regional Key; and the Brookville Area United Fund.

## Early Care and Education Quick Facts

### CLARION COUNTY

#### Early Education

- 274 children are enrolled in Head Start programs in the bi-county area
- 6 Head Start centers; 1 home based program
- 8 Early Intervention classrooms
- 2 nurseries and pre-schools (separate from child care and the Intermediate Unit)

#### Early Care and Keystone STARS

- 15 family day care homes equaling 90 slots
- 7 group day care homes equaling 84 slots
- 8 child care centers equaling 457 slots
- 49 relative/neighbor providers (identified by Child Care Information Services) equaling 147 slots
- 778 total child care slots
- 1 Keystone STARS Star 4 accredited facility
- 2 Keystone STARS Star 2 facilities
- 6 Keystone STARS Star 1 facilities
- 8 Keystone STARS Start with Stars facilities
- 17 of 30 practitioners known to provide care are Keystone STARS participants

### JEFFERSON COUNTY

#### Early Education

- 274 children are enrolled in Head Start programs in the bi-county area
- 8 Head Start centers; 1 home based program
- 4 Early Intervention classrooms
- 6 nurseries and pre-schools (separate from child care and the Intermediate Unit)

#### Early Care and Keystone STARS

- 18 family day care homes equaling 108 slots
- 2 group day care homes equaling 24 slots
- 7 child care centers equaling 461 slots
- 51 relative/neighbor providers (identified by Child Care Information Services) equaling 153 slots
- 746 total child care slots
- 3 Keystone STARS Star 2 facilities
- 7 Keystone STARS Star 1 facilities
- 7 Keystone STARS Start with Stars facilities
- 17 of 27 practitioners currently providing care are Keystone STARS participants



Who Is  
Watching  
the  
Children?

*Early Care  
and Education  
in  
Clarion  
and  
Jefferson  
Counties*

Program Year  
July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007



# EARLY CARE and EDUCATION PROJECT 2006-2007 KEY SUCCESSES

## In 2006-2007, the Early Care and Education Project and community partners focused efforts on:

- Public outreach events
- Engaging schools in transitioning children from early care and education sites to kindergarten
- Promoting Keystone STARS to businesses, government and community representatives
- Leveraging community resources in support of the Northwest Regional Plan for Early Care and Education
- Public relations activities

Team members made significant progress towards these efforts.

## PUBLIC OUTREACH

### Jefferson County:

- A major public event was held during the Groundhog Festival Celebration and reached approximately 300 people.
- Kids Celebration on Groundhog Day (February 2, 2007) reached 175 people.
- Team members participated in numerous other outreach events and activities and reached a cumulative total of 895 Jefferson County residents.

### Clarion County:

- Flyers were distributed during Clarion's Autumn Leaf Festival to approximately 400 Clarion County residents.
- Team members participated in Sligo's Family Fun Day Event which reached 500 Clarion County residents.
- Team members participated in numerous other outreach events and activities and reached a cumulative total of 1,420 Clarion County residents.

## ENGAGING SCHOOLS

### Jefferson County:

- Parent Transition Trainings were held in Brockway, Brookville, DuBois and Punxsutawney School Districts to help parents become familiar with their local school and prepare their children for school.

### Clarion County:

- Parent Transition Trainings were held in A.C. Valley, Clarion Area/Clarion-Limestone, Keystone, Redbank and Union School Districts to help parents become familiar with their local school and prepare their children for school.

### Bi-County:

- Head Start held two Transition Team meetings where school districts, Head Start staff and child care representatives interacted to build a more cohesive transition process. One meeting also included federal auditors who were impressed with the amount of early childhood collaboration taking place in the bi-county area.
- With assistance from ECE project staff, Head Start took the lead in applying for more than \$1 million in Pre-K Counts funding to build a program that would include 14 school districts and child care partners.

## PROMOTING KEYSTONE STARS

### Jefferson County:

- Representative Sam Smith and Senator Joe Scarnati were educated through information packets on local projects such as Child Care Works (Child Care Information Services), Early Care and Education Project, Head Start, Keystone STARS and Early Intervention.

For more information about Community Action, Inc's Early Care and Education Project, contact Tracy Weaver at 814-938-3302, ext. 244.

- Team members mentored 46 potential child care practitioners.

### Clarion County:

- Representative Fred McIlhattan and Senator Mary Jo White were educated through information packets on local projects such as Child Care Works (Child Care Information Services), Early Care and Education Project, Head Start, Keystone STARS and Early Intervention.
- Team members mentored approximately 24 potential child care practitioners.

### Bi-County:

- ECE Project staff joined colleagues from Beaver, Venango, Cameron/Elk/McKean/Potter and Warren/Forest to meet Governor Rendell and share child care and Keystone STARS success stories.
- Both county teams agreed to adopt the following mission statement: *Bring together parents, child service representatives and other interested parties to help improve our children's quality of life by supporting and promoting early care and education.*
- Several business contacts were made and child/family related information was successfully shared with Reynoldsville Casket Company, Beverly Health Care—Clarion and Goodwill Industries.

## LEVERAGING RESOURCES / SUPPORTING REGIONAL PLAN

### Jefferson County:

- WPXZ Radio donated free air-time to support the early care and education message.
- Punxsutawney Chamber of Commerce assisted in helping the Jefferson County team find prime event space for the Groundhog Day event.
- Brookville United Fund continued to support the project through their fundraising campaign.

### Clarion County:

- Clarion Holiday Inn donated free space for the spring Week of the Young Child event.
- Kid Street USA and Creative Kids Learning Center donated monthly meeting space.

### Bi-County:

- Free materials for child care practitioners were obtained from Junior Achievement of Southwestern PA and PNC Bank.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

### Jefferson County:

- Pennsylvania Promise for Children ad (see below) ran in two Jefferson County newspapers with a circulation of 20,500.

### Clarion County:

- Pennsylvania Promise for Children ad ran in a Clarion County newspaper with a circulation of 7,294 and a multi-county newspaper with a circulation of 17,500.

### Every child is Pennsylvania's future

Quality early learning and child development play a major role in a child's future success in school and in life.

Young children learn best when they have proper health and nutrition, a safe and stable family and home life, and activities that stimulate creativity, curiosity, and all the skills they will need to succeed in school and life.

Here are ways you can help our children reach their promise!

- Sign our declaration to support Pennsylvania's Promise for Children.
- Learn simple ways that you can support learning in the young children in your life.
- Talk to child care programs in your neighborhood about Keystone STARS.
- Ask your employer to provide resources on quality early learning opportunities.

For more info, visit [papromiseforchildren.com](http://papromiseforchildren.com) or contact Community Action, Inc.'s Early Care and Education Project at 814-938-3302 x244 or 800-648-3381 x 244.

**Pennsylvania's Promise for Children**  
Because every child is Pennsylvania's future  
[www.papromiseforchildren.com](http://www.papromiseforchildren.com)

