

Community & School Representatives

Melissa Anderson, Union Schools
Jodi Askins, Northwest Regional Key
Andrea Baker, Jefferson-Clarion Head Start
Dr. Luanne Bonnet, Clarion University
Nicole Cable, DZ Kids Child Care
Erin Cameron, Family Child Care
Kelly Carpino, Jefferson-Clarion Head Start
Bibiana Chestnut, Penn State University
Marcy Coleman, Brookville Schools
Cindy Cornwell, Jefferson County Children and Youth Services
Wanda Crispen, Family Day Care
Michelle Confer, Brookville Schools
Karen DeBerry, Playhouse Children's Center
Susan DeV Vaughn, Punxsutawney Schools
Jennifer Dickerson, Clarion County Infant Stimulation Program
Jon Fair, Allegheny-Clarion Schools
Mary Faulk, Clarion-Limestone Schools
Barbara Fortunato, Brockway Schools
Sue Fusco, Community Action, Inc.
Dr. Suellen Gorley, Clarion Area Schools
Linda Heath, Keystone Schools
Laura Hertel, Therapy To Go
Rayna Hoke, Jefferson-Clarion Pre-K Counts
Jan Huffman, Clarion-Limestone Schools
Jason Huffman, Redbank Valley Schools
Tracy Hullihen, Family Child Care
Pat Jones, Community Action, Inc. (CCIS)
Amy Kaltenbach, Clarion County Infant Stimulation Program
Kerry Kifer, Clarion County Mental Health
Cheryl Kennedy, Noah's Kids Child Care
Tammy Liebert, Crayon Castle Child Care
Valerie Liebert, Crayon Castle Child Care
Carrie Longo, Allegheny-Clarion Schools
Erin McLaughlin, Play and Learn Preschool
Jennifer Murphy, Northwest Regional Key
Patty Oakes, Early Intervention Technical Assistance

Terri Pendleton, Pendleton's Child Care
Carrie Philips, Clarion County ARC
Stephanie Polosky, Punxsutawney Schools
Kim Rhodes, Mentor Parent Project
Terri Rhodes, Riverview Intermediate Unit
Thelma Rhoades, Keystone SMILES
Paula Quick, Playhouse Children's Center
Connie Schaffer, Little Dreamer's Day Care
Heather Schaffer, Little Dreamer's Day Care
Amy Shambaugh, Integrated Care
Annette Smith, Women Infants and Children
Linda Smith, Playhouse Children's Center
Denise Storer, Creative Kids Learning Center
Janet Swartzfager, Swartzfager Child Care
Barbara Thompson, Clarion Free Library
Julia Toy, Family Child Care
Tracy Weaver, Community Action, Inc.
Lisa Weyand, Northwest Regional Key
Molly Wingard, Redbank Valley Schools
Mary Wolf, Clarion-Limestone Schools

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 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



Community Action, Inc.
 (Serving Clarion and Jefferson Counties)

Community Action, Inc.'s official registration can be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Charitable Organizations, by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-743-0999. Certificate of Registration Number 3942. Registration does not imply endorsement. This document was financed in part by a grant from the federal Department of Health and Human Services under the administration of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development and Department of Public Welfare and Northwest Regional Key.

Community Action, Inc.'s Early Care and Education Project of Clarion and Jefferson Counties

Program Year July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008

Literacy Is A Constant Theme of School Readiness



Children enjoyed an afternoon visit and story with **Punxsutawney Area School District Superintendent J. Thomas Frantz**.



Clarion County Commissioner Donna Oberlander visits children at Creative Kids Learning Center.



Representative Samuel Smith sharing the book *Up Down and Around* to Pre-K Counts children.



In April and May 2008, nearly **100 adults and 364 children** took part in One Book Every Young Child readings in 20 Pre-K Counts, Head Start and Keystone STARS child care facilities across Clarion and Jefferson Counties. The activities featured readers from school districts, county and state government, as well as community volunteers.



Clarion County President Judge James Arner reads to Pre-K Counts children.

"Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him."—Maya Angelou

2007-2008 Goals and Achievements

The Early Care and Education Project was charged with reaching a wide audience to spread the message that good, quality, early care and education is extremely important for proper child development. To achieve this goal, we engaged public policy makers, media, business, civic and school leaders, and community citizens.

Public Policy Makers - Throughout the year we work hard to engage and educate local and state legislators regarding local early care and education programs available to their constituents, as well as to the needs of those programs.

Media - By engaging media outlets to spread our message, we are able to educate writers and radio personalities in addition to the wider audience of readers and listeners.

Business and Civic Leadership - This group of influential community members often holds the key to whether or not a project is successful. By engaging and educating community leaders we help our programs gain credibility and sustainability.

School Leadership - Quality early care and education programs are just as important to schools districts as their current students. Therefore, engaging school leadership in outreach and transition efforts is vital to every child's school success.

Community Citizenry - Parents, grandparents, foster parents, godparents, aunts, uncles, pastors, neighbors, and everyone else is important in a child's life. If these people are engaged in the early education message, they can also help influence a child's school success.

Community Outreach Highlights Clarion County:

- The Early Care and Education Project partnered with Clarion's Early Intervention Council to host the 4th Annual Fun in the Sun event that reached 120 people.
- Team members participated in other outreach activities that reached a total of 1,235 Clarion County residents.
- Community Action, Inc. held an open house at their new Clarion County office in May 2008 which enabled Early Care and Education Project representatives to connect with a wide variety of local, civic and business leaders.

Jefferson County:

- The 3rd Annual Kids Celebration on Groundhog Day reached over 200 people.
- Team members participated in other outreach activities that reached a total of 1,030 Jefferson County residents.
- In May the Punxsutawney Chamber of Commerce co-sponsored a mixer to

celebrate the Playhouse Children's Center Keystone STARS level 4 designation. The event also enabled chamber members to visit and tour the site.

Bi-County Area:

- Team members engaged WMKX-Mega Rock, WPXZ and WWCR Radio stations, as well as *The Punxsutawney Spirit*, *The Clarion News* and *Leader Vindicator* to promote early care and education activities and programs.



Fun in the Sun 2008—ready for the masses!

2007-2008 Achievements and Quick Facts

Linking Schools, Families and Communities

Bi-County Area:

- All 11 school districts in Clarion and Jefferson Counties held Kindergarten Registration activities with at least 75% of eligible children participating.
- Head Start partnered with the Early Care and Education Project to host a Kindergarten Readiness Parent Meeting in each school district engaging 88 parents.
- 420 *Kindergarten Here I Come* Calendars were distributed to school districts for Kindergarten Registration.
- Staff spoke to parents at Punxsutawney Area School District's PTA/PTO President's meeting, AC Valley School District PTA meeting, two (2) Adult Education Project classes, a Grandparents-Raising-Grandchildren support group and to Jefferson County Foster Parent Support Group.



Collaborators worked hard to promote the new Pre-K Counts program and fill the 198 state-funded slots for three and four year old children.



School-age children make a craft at the "Activate Brookville" Event, May 29, 2008.

Care and Education Providers Clarion County:

- 3 private nurseries and preschools (separate from child care, Head Start, Pre-K Counts and Intermediate Unit)
 - 15 family day cares equaling 90 slots
 - 9 group day cares equaling 108 slots
 - 11 child care centers equaling 548 slots
 - 37 relative/neighbor caregivers equaling 111 slots (Identified by Child Care Information Services)
 - 857 total child care slots in Clarion County
- Of these child care providers, there is:
- 1 Keystone STARS Star 4 accredited facility
 - 1 Keystone STARS Star 3 facility
 - 5 Keystone STARS Star 2 facilities
 - 9 Keystone STARS Star 1 facilities
 - 16 of 33 practitioners known to provide child care are Keystone STARS participants

Jefferson County:

- 7 private nurseries and preschools (separate from child care, Head Start, Pre-K Counts and Intermediate Unit)
 - 16 family day care homes equaling 96 slots
 - 2 group day care homes equaling 24 slots
 - 7 child care centers equaling 498 slots
 - 54 relative/neighbor caregivers equaling 162 slots (Identified by Child Care Information Services)
 - 780 total child care slots in Jefferson County
- Of these child care providers, there is:
- 1 Keystone STARS star 4 facility
 - 1 Keystone STARS star 3 facility
 - 5 Keystone STARS Star 2 facilities
 - 8 Keystone STARS Star 1 facilities
 - 15 of 29 practitioners known to provide child care are Keystone STARS participants

Bi-County Area:

- 274 children are enrolled in 14 Head Start classrooms and 2 home-based programs
- 198 children enrolled in 11 Pre-K Counts classrooms
- 12 Early Intervention classrooms