

ECS Today

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SUCCEEDS

February 2011



New Year, New Board of Directors

By Judith VanGinkel, PhD, ECS President

The ECS Board of Directors plays a critical role in casting the organization's vision and helping us maintain the highest standards of quality, service and integrity.

The 2011 board includes seasoned board members and several newcomers. New members include Douglas J. Arvin, CPA, vice president of finance for UC Health/University Hospital System Shared Services; James M. Greenberg, MD, professor of pediatrics, director of the

division of neonatology and associate director of the Perinatal Institute at Cincinnati Children's; Diana Hagenbuch, senior vice president of corporate relations and communications at Ohio National Financial Services; Douglas R. Pyne, senior counsel at Macy's Inc; and Deborah A. Vargo, director of P&G Global Research and Development. Welcome!

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"During my time with ECS, I saw my baby change from a quiet and shy girl into this outgoing, energetic, happy and unstoppable girl. It is the best gift I have received in my life."

— ECS mom



Program Notes:

Thank you to Santa Maria for awarding ECS with the Program Award at its birthday brunch event in December celebrating 113 years of service. All were moved by the most inspiring speaker—an impressive ECS graduate!

ECS research coordinator Angel Teeters was recently honored with the Compassion Award. Presented by the behavioral medicine and clinical psychology department at Cincinnati Children's, the award recognized Angel for exemplifying extraordinary compassion on the front lines of research. The award presenter, Jennie Noll, PhD, thanked Angel for inspiring her colleagues and modeling respect, empathy and compassion. We second that! Congratulations, Angel!

The training team offered approximately 3,230 hours of training in 2010! Planning for this spring's training conference is underway, with a tentative date of April 14.

Check out our newly designed website at everychildsucceeds.org. While there you can download the 2010 ECS Report Card, which features the program's 2010 outcomes and achievements. Please be sure that a link to the ECS website is posted on your agency's website; our URL remains the same.

The 2010 Isle of Skye cashmere promotion resulted in a \$10,000 gift for Every Child Succeeds. Many thanks to those of you who took part!

New Year, New Board of Directors

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We know ECS will benefit greatly from your impressive knowledge, skills, experience and talents.

Long-time board member Mike Kremzar will serve as chair, while outgoing chair Jim Jones ensures continuity by staying on the board for another year. Dan J. Gahl is now first vice president; he will continue to serve as board secretary as well.

Many thanks to outgoing board members Thomas F. Boat, MD, professor of pediatrics, CCHMC/executive associate dean, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine; David W. Clark, senior vice president at Federated Department Stores; Carrie K. Hayden, community volunteer; and Ernest L. Perry Jr., chief innovation officer at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. We could not have achieved our outstanding results without their many contributions.

ECCS Initiative Focuses on Improving School Readiness in Price Hill

About 330 babies are born in Lower and East Price Hill every year, and more than 60 percent of them don't receive early childhood education intervention before starting kindergarten. A new initiative is designed to tackle that problem.

The initiative is called Transforming Early Childhood Community Systems (TECCS), and members include ECS, Santa Maria Community Services, Cincinnati Children's, United Way of Greater Cincinnati and Cincinnati Public Schools. TECCS began as a collaborative effort of the United Way Worldwide and the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, and it is funded in large part by the Kellogg Foundation. TECCS initiatives are in place in communities nationwide; Chellie McLellan serves as project director for *Continued on next page.*

Donated Blankets Keep Babies Cozy

ECS babies will be swaddled in style this winter, thanks to the work of GE Aviation employees! This crafty group of volunteers recently spent a half day together, creating 105 no-sew fleece blankets that were then distributed to ECS agencies. Since 2006, the group has donated 325 blankets to ECS.

"GE is very committed to serving our community, and that's especially true in the Aviation Services Division," says Ray Flores (pictured), sourcing manager, who led the group this year. "ECS Blanket Day is a very popular activity—many employees sign up year after year. The blankets are a gift for families, but they make us feel good too!"



Special thanks to CCHMC financial team—Judy Tekulve, Laura Nixon and Stephanie Murray—who are keeping the ECS financial function moving as we search for a new business director.

Please welcome Jill Ruther (SY) and Melonie Williams (CAA), both new administrative assistants.

Congratulations to home visitor Mindy Heathcoat (SM), who welcomed baby Noah on December 26!

Congratulations to the following ECS staff, who celebrated anniversaries in January and February. We appreciate you and all the good work you do!

- 12 years: Jackie Ranieri (BA)
- 9 years: Lora Kurtz (CH)
- 4 years: Eleanor Henry (SM); Gina Pingleton (BC)
- 3 years: Tricia Raby (BA); Amy Clark (BC); TJ Nikolich (BC); Elaine Whittle (STE); Melanie Abeling (STE); Julie Beaulieu (YF)
- 2 years: Minnie Terry (CAA); Jessica Hungler (BC); Jamie Coyle (BC); Mandy Whitton (LPS); Anne Paff (SM)
- 1 year: Regina DeWard (BC); Christina Singleton (YF); Stacy Wolfe (CH); Megan Posinski (BC); and Dellisa Ford-Edwards (BC)

Saluting Our 10-Year Staff

ECS Today is showcasing the agency staff celebrating 10 years of employment in 2011. This month, we feature Joanne Trisler, home visitor with YWCA-Eastern Area. Joanne has been described by her colleagues as "experienced, resourceful and dedicated to her families."



How did you hear about the position with ECS?

A friend of mine told me about the position opening. I have always worked with children and was excited to work one-on-one with individual families.

What is the most gratifying part of your job?

I like the challenge of working with moms to empower them to meet their goals, and sharing in all their successes. I love meeting a mom during the prenatal stage and watching her grow to be an excellent mom who makes good parenting decisions for herself and baby.

What have you learned about yourself through your experiences with ECS?

I have learned that I love helping moms and babies meet their full potential in life, especially when I see moms years after they have graduated and they have good jobs, a college education or specific skill training.

Any special moms that stick out in your mind?

There was one mom I worked with years ago. She had not graduated from high school. While in the ECS program, she received her GED and got married to the father of the baby. Mom graduated from ECS, and a couple of months ago I saw her and her five children at the grocery store. She is still married, and she and her husband just bought their first home. She is now the assistant to the YMCA director and works full time, and credits her success to the intervention of the ECS program.

Anything else you'd like to share about yourself?

I love to garden, and I am an angler—I love fishing! I have lost 60 lbs with Weight Watchers in one year. Also, I love being a grandma, and taking my grandchildren waterskiing.

Improving School Readiness in Price Hill

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the Price Hill project, which is based at Cincinnati Children's.

"Our goal is to design, test and implement strategies to improve the system of services and supports for young children and families in Price Hill," McLellan says. "We want to empower parents and improve the way agencies, doctor offices and other providers work

together to improve school readiness. Six teams began working together in November. One, for example, is looking at ways to reduce the amount of time it takes to begin ECS home visits after a mom has enrolled in the program."

Interested in getting involved in TECCS? Please contact Margaret by [email](#) or at (513) 636-2834.

