

# Washtenaw Success by 6<sup>®</sup> Partner Update

## **Washtenaw Success by 6<sup>®</sup>: A community commitment to ensure that all of Washtenaw County's children enter school ready to succeed.**

The fulfillment of this commitment is only possible through collaborative work and funding across the community, and a dedication to meeting our goal of creating new county-wide systems that support parents, child care providers, health providers, social agencies, and educational centers. In the past year, Washtenaw Success by 6<sup>®</sup> has received support from all parts of the community which is making significant progress possible. Our supporting partners include:

**Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation • Chrysler Foundation • IHA Cares Foundation • James A and Faith Knight Foundation • Michigan Early Childhood Investment Corporation • Pfizer Legacy Grant • The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor • United Way of Washtenaw County • Washtenaw County Health Department • Washtenaw County Government • Washtenaw Intermediate School District • Individuals and organizations who designated donations through the United Way Campaign**

This update is to thank you for your participation and to highlight some of the ways in which the support you have provided has allowed a great deal of county-wide work to take place - all aimed to ensure that children enter school ready to succeed.

## **May Leadership Commission Meeting**

Monday, May 11th, 2009

8:00—9:30 am

Washtenaw United Way—2305 Platt in Ann Arbor





# Supported Programs: Progress and Development

## Making Our Work Possible!

The work of Washtenaw Success by 6<sup>®</sup> is only made possible by the combination of the financial support of the partners highlighted in this update, and the hard work of many, many volunteers - from professionals working in the early childhood field, to parents, to high school and college volunteers.

In the past year, Washtenaw Success by 6<sup>®</sup> has received over \$900,000 from the partners and contributors listed on page one. The majority of the money goes directly into services to support families and young children in our community. Over the past twelve months, Washtenaw Success by 6<sup>®</sup> has also been the recipient of over 3700 hours of volunteer support and work, a value of \$75,000.

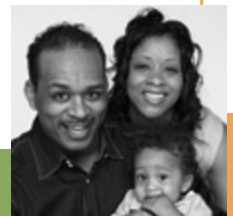
This is an incredible commitment to the children of Washtenaw County - your participation in this work is deeply appreciated - thank you for all you do to support us!

## Parent Network

During the 2008-09 school year the Washtenaw Success by 6<sup>®</sup> Parent Network has really taken off! Funded by support from the **United Way of Washtenaw County**, **The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor**, and the **WISD Great Parents/Great Start Grant**, this outreach to parents throughout the county offers age appropriate parenting packets over the first six years of life; bi-monthly newsletters highlighting parenting skills; and local community events for young children. Membership in the network has been growing month by month since its public launch in October and now numbers over 500 families. Outreach is taking place through First Steps Washtenaw, our collaborating agencies, and St. Joseph Hospital, where 250 new parents receive information every month.

## Children's Health Insurance Advocate

The **County Health Department (Washtenaw County Government)** and **United Way of Washtenaw County** funds our Children's Health Insurance Advocate. Kelly Stupple, has now been with Washtenaw Success by 6<sup>®</sup> for one year. In that time, she has had a significant impact on the community: reaching out to families experiencing difficulty securing Medicaid, MiChild, or Washtenaw Health Plan insurance; helping alert parents to necessary re-enrollment steps and requirements; and conducting a great deal of early childhood health related outreach throughout the county. As an example of her work, in the month of March she facilitated eleven problem re-enrollments to Medicaid through the DHS system, supported partner agencies with Medicaid and MiChild problems thirty-four times, conducted five outreach events spreading information about publicly funded children's health insurance, and directly enrolled three children in insurance. Each of these cases is a complex one, that requires significant time and attention as the clients have unique situations that have necessitated their referral to Kelly.



## Pfizer Legacy Grant Program

In January of 2009, Washtenaw Success by 6<sup>®</sup> was honored to be chosen by the **Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation** as a recipient of a **Pfizer Legacy Grant**. The grant provides additional training and support for childcare providers across the county. Four areas of training will be provided: developing speech and language skills; responding well to challenging behaviors; early identification and referral of children with developmental concerns; and increasing cultural competency within childcare centers. We are currently in a planning and preparation period with this grant and full implementation will take place in the 2009-10 school year.

## First Steps Washtenaw

The county-wide First Steps Program continues to serve families with home visits, play groups, parent education, developmental screenings and, when appropriate, referrals to Early On for additional development services. Supported by the **Intermediate School District**, the **United Way of Washtenaw County**, **Washtenaw County Government**, the **Rotary Club of Ann Arbor**, the **Chrysler Foundation** and the individual school districts, the First Steps programs serve over 2000 families a month, complete over 4000 home visits a year, and screen all participating children for possible developmental delays.

## First Steps Washtenaw Outreach

Thanks to a grant from the **Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation**, this year seven First Steps programs around the county received funds to support outreach beyond their school-based programs. Playgroups and parent education events are taking place in doctors' offices, community centers, and other service agencies. In Ypsilanti, a parenting class is being held in the Michigan Works! Center on Harriet Street. Each class offers support for parenting with a focus on speech and language and pre-literacy skills. Participants are encouraged to bring their children to playgroups and when appropriate are referred to Early On. Participants in the parent education and playgroups earn credit toward weekly activities required by the Michigan Works! Program.

## Physician Outreach and Education

Physicians around the county have a key role to play in the early identification and referral of young children with developmental concerns. However, they often lack information on the resources available and how to effectively help parents access these resources and otherwise support their patients. With the support of the **IHA Cares Foundation** and the **James A. and Faith Knight Foundation**, we have been conducting physician office visits, mailing information packets, presenting at physician meetings and case discussions and providing individual support to physicians around the county.

## Washtenaw County Great Start Collaborative



In April of 2008, Washtenaw Success by 6<sup>®</sup> became part of the state-wide Great Start Collaborative system. With the support of the **Early Childhood Investment Corporation**, we have been able to strengthen the Leadership Commission, increase our outreach and advocacy on behalf of young children and their families, create a Parent Coalition, and revise and update our website, with a focus on providing resources and support to parents and childcare providers. In addition to enhancing our local capacity building our participation in the statewide Great Start system further supports our advocacy and system development efforts.

## Other Programs and Activities

The programs described in the first three pages are our larger and directly fund-supported activities. However Washtenaw Success by 6<sup>®</sup> also provides:

- Free childcare training for providers for low-income children
- Community trainings and events around parenting, health and developmental delay
- Coordinated community-wide outreach and enrollment support for Head Start and the Great Start School Readiness Programs
- Coordination of the United Way of Washtenaw County fund distribution for the Early Childhood Care and Education Area
- Coordination of Early On Services county-wide
- Maintenance of an Early Childhood Resource Directory, available through our website
- Coordination of the County-wide Interagency Coordinating Council - Washtenaw Birth to Six
- Advocacy on behalf of our children and families at the local and state level

## Staff Members - Who to Call

The daily work of Washtenaw Success by 6<sup>®</sup> is carried out by the staff. Please feel free to contact them with any questions or ideas:

### **Siân Owen-Cruise:**

**Director of Washtenaw Success by 6<sup>®</sup>**

734-994-8100, ext 1277 -

sowencruise@uwwashtenaw.org

### **Melissa Pinsky:**

**Co-Director of the Great Start Collaborative**

734-994-8100, ext 2177 -

mpinsky@uwwashtenaw.org

### **Kelly Stupple:**

**Children's Health Insurance Advocate**

734-544-3079 - stupplek@ewashtenaw.org

### **Donna Lasinski:**

**Parent Liaison for the Parent Coalition**

734-994-8100, ext 2177 - lasinski@mac.com

**Our website has resources for  
parents and children  
throughout Washtenaw County**

**[www.washtenawsuccessby6.org](http://www.washtenawsuccessby6.org)**

## Leadership Commission Members

Direction and oversight of Washtenaw Success by 6<sup>®</sup> is provided by our Leadership Commission, community leaders committed to ensuring the success of the youngest children in Washtenaw County - they are:

### **Leadership:**

Martha Darling  
Mark Ouimet  
David Rutledge

Community Volunteer  
County Commissioner  
WCC Board Member

### **Members:**

Anya Abramzon  
Chris Aris  
Jesse Bernstein  
Elaine Brady  
Pam Byrnes  
Robert Chapman  
Ellen Clement  
Constance Colthorp  
Mindy Costello  
April Davis  
Julie DuChateau  
Joseph Dulin  
Linda Edwards-Brown  
Cheryl Elliott  
Mark Foster  
Bryan Girbach  
Robert Guenzel  
Holly Heaviland  
Norman Herbert  
Sandra Hilton  
Pat Horne-McGee  
Marj Hyde  
Angie Juarez  
Diane Keller  
Donna Lasinski  
Shannon Luhrs  
Jennie McAlpine  
Susan Miller  
William Miller  
Josie Parker  
Katie Prall  
Todd Roberts  
Sandra Rupp  
Donna Sabourin  
Clay Shouse  
Steven Sheldon  
Pam Smith  
Nancy Thelen  
Cynthia Travis  
Larry Voight  
Patricia Warner  
Althea Wilson

Jewish Family Services  
EMU Children's Institute  
Ann Arbor Chamber  
Parent Member  
State Representative  
United Bank and Trust  
Washtenaw Public Health  
Parent Member  
Parent Member  
Parent Member  
Parent Member  
Roberto Clemente  
Juvenile Court  
Ann Arbor Area Comm. Fnd  
Rotary Club of Ann Arbor  
Milan Area Schools  
Washtenaw County Gov.  
Junior League of A.A.  
Community Volunteer  
Perry Nursery School  
Washtenaw Head Start  
First Steps Ann Arbor  
Parent Member  
Ypsilanti Chamber  
Parent Coalition Chair  
Parent Member  
UM Work/Life Program  
Community Volunteer  
Washtenaw ISD  
Ann Arbor District Library  
Parent Member  
Ann Arbor Public Schools  
United Way of Washtenaw  
Community Support/Treat.  
High/Scope Foundation  
Community Health  
Child Care Network  
MSU Extension  
Washtenaw D Human Serv.  
Catholic Social Services  
UM Mott Hospital  
Parent Member