

Washtenaw Success by 6®

February 2009 Update

Washtenaw Success by 6 receives Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation - Pfizer Grant

Washtenaw Success by 6 is honored to receive a grant through the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation from the Pfizer Legacy Gift Fund. This grant will be used to expand support and training for Early Childhood Care and Education professionals throughout the county. .

When Pfizer left Ann Arbor in 2008 it gave \$1,000,000 to the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation to be used to support nonprofits in the community. The AAACF chose three areas to target and also opened up a competitive grant opportunity called "The Big Idea." Washtenaw Success by 6 was chosen as one of the collaborative programs. Through a process of discussion and collaboration with the foundation a plan to directly impact the early childhood care and education professionals around the county was developed and implementation will begin in Spring of 2009. We will be providing training and support to early childhood teachers and care providers in the areas of speech and language development, working with challenging behaviors, developmental delay identification and referral, and strengthening cultural inclusion across programs throughout the county.

This is a huge vote of confidence in Washtenaw Success by 6, and only made possible by the great work being carried out by volunteers and committee members who have committed themselves to supporting the needs of our youngest citizens.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of making this grant possible!





Bill Millet speaking in Washtenaw County! Save the date!

Wednesday, March 4 • 7:00 p.m. • WISD

A presentation for everyone working to support young children in our community whether through the schools, family-service agencies, childcare and early education, or as a volunteer. Bill will highlight the ways in which early childhood education is economic development, and help prepare you to share the message with the parents and business people you work with.

Co-sponsored by Child Care Network

Thursday, March 5 • 7:30 a.m. • Weber's Inn

A business breakfast for everyone interested in the economic development and business future of Washtenaw County. This event is designed to highlight the connection between the areas economic health and quality early childhood experiences for families and children throughout the county.

**Co-sponsored by the Chambers of Washtenaw County
including Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti**

Bill Millet is a South Carolina Businessman with more than twenty-five years experience in both private business and public services including serving as Executive Director of two Regional Councils of Government; Senior Vice President for Economic Development for the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, and Principal for Business Development for a major design firm. In his work he seeks to stress the link between economic development and quality early education.



March Leadership Commission Meeting

Monday, March 9th, 2009

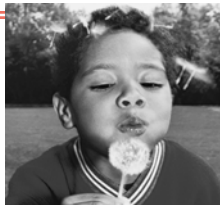
8:00—9:30 am

Washtenaw United Way—2305 Platt in Ann Arbor

News from Washtenaw Success by 6[®]

- **Ongoing Washtenaw Success by 6 work:** The work of Success by 6 in many areas is continuing strongly around the county. The Parent Network is regularly sending 150 developmental packets a month to parents, designed to support them in their parenting as their child grows and matures; the children's health insurance advocate is working to get children insured, and then to keep them insured, and coordinating a new system designed to help families access Medicaid dentists; low income childcare provider training continues; and the collaborative progress with the Birth to Six ICC, the Head Start/GSRP enrollment tool and outreach about the importance of early childhood is taking place across the county.
- **Washtenaw First Steps Community Outreach:** With the support of an Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation Grant (not the Pfizer grant announced on the previous page) the Washtenaw First Steps programs throughout the county are able to take the First Steps parenting education and development programs out into their communities - new programs include outreach and classes at physicians offices, parenting programs and classes in community centers and local service agencies, and a parent education program at the Michigan Works! Center in Ypsilanti. These new initiatives allow the First Steps staff to reach parents and children in new places and situations.
- **Parent Coalition:** With the support of the Washtenaw Great Start Collaborative Grant and the efforts of both Melissa Pinsky and Donna Lasinski our Parent Coalition has been growing by leaps and bounds. This group is currently meeting every other month and are involved in parent advocacy and education, as well as planning a spring event for parents and children. This event will be designed to connect parents to services and resources, while also involving them in ways to ensure that their voice and ideas are heard in Lansing.





Washtenaw Success by 6 Staffing Update

Who to call for what!

Siân Owen-Cruise: Director of Washtenaw Success by 6

734-994-8100, ext 1277

sowencruise@uwwashtenaw.org

Call Siân for any Success by 6 question or inquiry, including the parent network, Leadership Commission, Birth to Six Interagency Collaborative, volunteer opportunities, and funding.

Melissa Pinsky: Co-Director of the Washtenaw Great Start Collaborative

734-994-8100, ext 2177

mpinsky@uwwashtenaw.org

Call Melissa for any ECIC or Great Start Collaborative related topic, and communication, publicity and events

Kelly Stupple: Children’s Health Insurance Advocate

734-544-3079

stupplek@ewashtenaw.org

Call Kelly for any questions related to publicly funded health insurance for children, including assistance with DHS process and paperwork. She also coordinates Medicaid dental access for children and the Spanish Health Outreach Collaborative.

Donna Lasinski: Parent Liaison for the Parent Coalition

734-994-8100, ext 2177

lasinski@mac.com

Call Donna for questions on the Parent Coalition, or to join.

