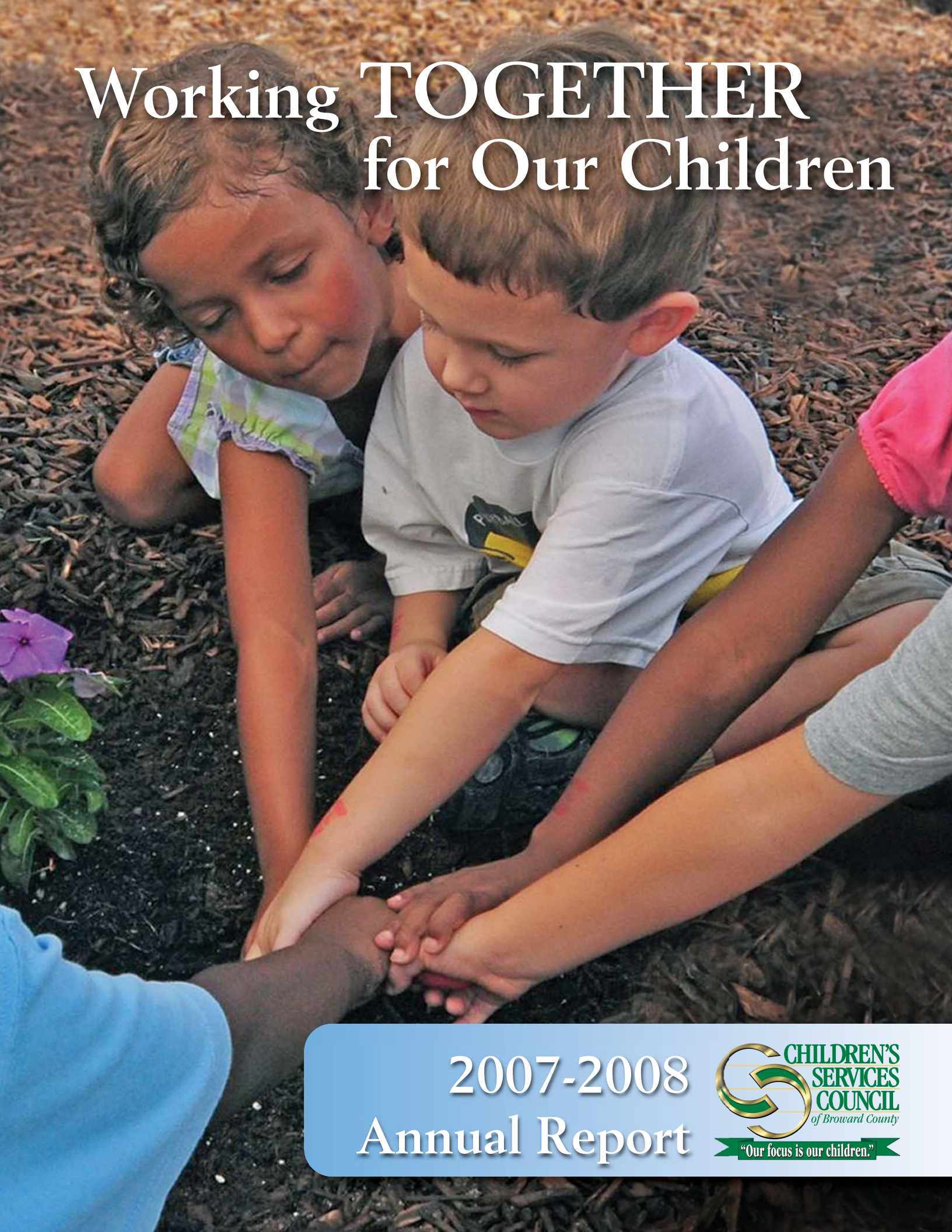


Working TOGETHER for Our Children



2007-2008
Annual Report



Letter from Sue Gunzburger, Council Chair



There are times in the career of a public servant when the satisfaction that comes from being one is tested by unexpected and unprecedented difficulties. Because of the economic downturn, the level of need in our community is at historic levels, while at the same time, budget cuts caused by legislative mandate and the passage of Amendment 1 have limited the ability of local governmental entities to respond in an adequate manner.

The Children's Services Council wasn't created to provide children and families with the opportunity to realize their full potential only during times of plenty. On the contrary, these are the times when we know that our services are more needed than ever and that a broad community effort is necessary to continue delivering on our mission.

Our community understands that the theme of this year's Annual Report, "Working Together for Our Children" is more than a slogan; it is the way we do business every day because we know effective partnerships are critical to our ability to continue serving the needs of the community during difficult economic times.

We are well positioned for the future thanks to our caring staff and my colleagues on the Council. At the start of our sixth year, we had to bid farewell to retiring Council Member David L. Roach, Administrator of the Broward County Health Department, who had been with us since 2004. David had this to say about the new Director of the Broward County Health Department and his replacement on the Council, Dr Paula Thaqi: "I'm sure she will be a wonderful addition to the Council. It has been my honor and privilege serving on the CSC and learning from and growing with fellow members and staff."

As we close the year we must also bid farewell to Council Member Chris Smith who was elected to the Florida State Senate. While we hate to see him go, we are gladdened by the fact that we know we will have another ally in Tallahassee when we fight on behalf of Broward's children.

We also mourned the passing of one of our community's true child advocates, Council Member and Broward County Circuit Judge Howard Zeidwig, a man who championed prevention and diversion programs and understood the importance of providing children with opportunities to redirect their paths. We look forward to working with Judge Martin Dishowitz, who was named as his replacement on the Council.

As CSC Chair, I have had the pleasure of seeing how, even through all the difficulties and dire predictions, we continue to work effectively on behalf of the children and families of our community. Together, we are pulling together for a stronger future for Broward County.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Gunzburger".

Commissioner Sue Gunzburger
Council Chair



CSC Member Comments



Ana M. Valladares, Vice Chair
Governor Appointee

"We live in a diverse community and the Council understands the importance of cultural competence in the delivery of services. I am also happy with the progress made through OCP for children with behavioral health issues."



Jack L. Moss, Secretary
Regional Director, DCF Southeast Region

"Having the CSC as a partner in the effort to keep children safe and to preserve families is critical to the success of the system. Replicating this model of working together to provide prevention services throughout the state has become one of my missions."



Emilio Benitez
Governor Appointee

"The partnership between Children's Services Council and ChildNet bears fruit inasmuch as so many children, who would otherwise spend their entire lives in the foster care system, are united with loving families through adoption, and so many children who age out of foster care are provided with the tools necessary to succeed as adults."



Mariza Cobb
Governor Appointee

"I am proud that the Children's Services Council provides the tools and resources necessary to ensure that all children of Broward, including those with special needs, have access to quality aftercare and summer employment programs that will promote self-confidence, productivity, and a positive outlook for their future as adults."



Stephanie Arma Kraft, Esq.
School Board of Broward County

"The council understands the significance of giving children and youth opportunities to succeed in their personal lives, in education and business. The programs it funds address the needs of children and families throughout the county."



James F. Notter
Superintendent, Broward County Schools

"As a community, we face unprecedented economic challenges that will only be met if we establish formal partnerships and relationships to ensure that resources at all levels are maximized, efficient and effective for the clients we serve. The CSC's role as convener, advocate and funder of programs that benefit children is even more critical than ever."



Terry Santini
Governor Appointee

"Despite these difficult economic times, the Council is even more committed to finding a way to provide services to as many children and families as possible. It is so important that we begin to find alternative ways to keep children safe, healthy and out of trouble"



Christopher L. Smith
Governor Appointee

"The CSC continues to provide organizations at all levels the resources and capacity building tools they need to serve the neediest members of our community."



Dr. Paula Thaqi
Director, Broward County, Health Department

As the new Director of the Health Department, I have great appreciation for the thoughtful, evidence-based approach the Council has taken to its strategic planning. I am proud to be the voice of children's health in this arena"



Judge Howard M. Zeidwig
In Memoriam

Letter from Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, President/CEO



Working Together For Our Children by Being Efficient and Effective

At the Children's Services Council of Broward County, our motto is "Our Focus Is Our Children." It guides our work on a daily basis and reminds us where our responsibilities lie. The CSC has long believed in leading the community in collaborative, long-range planning and advocacy focused on enhancing children's lives and empowering them to become responsible, productive adults.

With that in mind, in April 2008, we co-convened the Children's Budget Summit to work with the child-serving community to prepare for the impending reduction of state funding, lower property tax revenue and the increase in demand for services. Over 150 representatives of funding agencies and service providers agreed to work together to find ways to confront the funding crisis without compromising the quality of services delivered.

Even before the economic downturn – when property values were soaring– the CSC maintained responsible financial management. Since our inception, we have kept administrative costs under ten percent and carefully monitored every program funded for both fiscal accountability and effectiveness. Our commitment to transparency has earned us the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 6 years in a row.

I'm proud to work for Council Members who continue to model a spirit of collaboration and cooperation and to lead a Staff who work tirelessly to ensure that the agencies we fund are living up to their commitments to the children and families they serve and the citizens who entrust us with their tax dollars. In the following pages, I believe you will see that commitment and dedication clearly demonstrated. You should also see that we could accomplish none of this alone. We are indebted to the many funding partners and service providers we work with on a daily basis.

As we look to the future, we know that the current foreclosure rate and the drop in property values coming on top of the cuts already mandated are going to dramatically reduce the amount of money available to fund these important programs, even as the challenges facing our children and families grow in magnitude and scope. But I promise you that we will continue to work efficiently and effectively in a collaborative manner to provide them with the best safety net we can. Our children's future is too important!

Cindy Arenberg Seltzer
President/CEO

The Children's Services Council of Broward County Management Team

LEFT TO RIGHT: Karen Swartzbaugh, Chief Program Officer; Audrey Stang, Dir. Program Services; Sue Gallagher, Dir. Research, Analysis & Planning; Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, President/CEO; Terry Brennan, Dir. Informational Technology; Sandra Bernard-Bastien, Dir. Public Affairs & Organizational Development; Monti Larsen, Chief Operating Officer





Working Together for Our Children by Using the Children's Strategic Plan to **Maximize Resources** and **Minimize Harm**

The Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) has provided leadership and resources to help agencies reduce the harm to children and families caused by the economic downturn. Accordingly, in April 2008, the CSC co-convened the Broward County Children's Budget Summit to discuss ways to minimize the harm caused by dwindling financial resources.

One hundred and fifty dedicated community members, representing over 30 funders and service providers, gathered on a Saturday morning using the Children's Strategic Plan as a framework. Ten work groups met to discuss priority needs and identify strategies and principles for funders to consider when they are cutting their budgets. Funders, including the School Board, Department of Children and Families, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Early

Learning Coalition, United Way, ChildNet, and the CSC resolved to use feedback received from the work groups and the collaboration of community stakeholders to address the emerging economic realities.

Since the Budget Summit, strategic plan work groups have met regularly with renewed energy and focus to find ways to save money and provide more cost-efficient services. Some specific strategies include sharing human resources, purchasing and information technology functions, accessing the Broward Training Collaborative, and utilizing the Community Resource Inventory from First Call for Help-211. The strategies identified at the Children's Budget Summit will continue to guide funders and service providers through the difficult economic times ahead.

Working Together for Our Children by Ensuring that They Have Access to the Food they Need

The worsening economic crisis continues to affect residents of Broward County from all walks of life, increasing the number of families that experience hunger. As the number of needy residents grows, the number of those that can help alleviate the crisis decreases. As a result, food banks and pantries are not able to collect and stock enough food to serve all those in need.



The Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) has been working with the Million Meals Committee consisting of over 100 community partners to fill gaps in hunger relief that especially affect children. In addition, the CSC approved funding for a program called "Out of School Time Youth Food Box" that was to begin in FY 2008/09. However, due to the rapidly worsening economic downturn, the Council released funds to begin the program two months early, partnering with the Cooperative Feeding Program to distribute over 1,000 snack boxes to children who go with their parents in increasing numbers to their soup kitchen.

In an attempt to broaden the pool of resources and reach as many children and families as possible in the fight against hunger, the CSC recently joined local and statewide organizations and policy makers as part of the Florida Partnership to End Childhood Hunger. Other national and state partners

include Florida Impact and Share Our Strength's Taste of the Nation, which raised over \$80,000 in 2008 to feed children in Broward.

Recent efforts to develop new partnerships include engaging **Leadership Broward (LB)**, a premier leadership development program. Every year, LB selects community projects that will make a positive difference. This year they selected hunger relief as a priority area, working collaboratively with the Million Meals Committee of Broward to improve system processes, strategic planning goals, and activities. This project will allow the Million Meals Committee to implement a long range business plan that will assist thousands of residents presently experiencing hunger to improve their quality of life. It will also serve as a tool to rally additional assistance from agencies and businesses to become part of the long term hunger solution.

Working Together for Our Children by Strengthening Families

The Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) has played an important role in fostering strong collaborations to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect in our community. Child welfare system partners, including the Broward Sheriff's Office's (BSO) Child Protective Investigations Section, ChildNet, CSC, and the Department of Children and Families, work closely to maximize resources, expedite service delivery and share information.

The CSC's investment of \$8.2 million in 15 Family Strengthening programs concerns Best Practice, strength-based approaches for working with families at high risk of abuse and neglect or who are at imminent risk of having their children removed. These critical services are designed to keep families together by providing parent training and education, in-home family therapy, case management and other support services. Successes and problems are reported back to BSO to ensure the safety of our children.

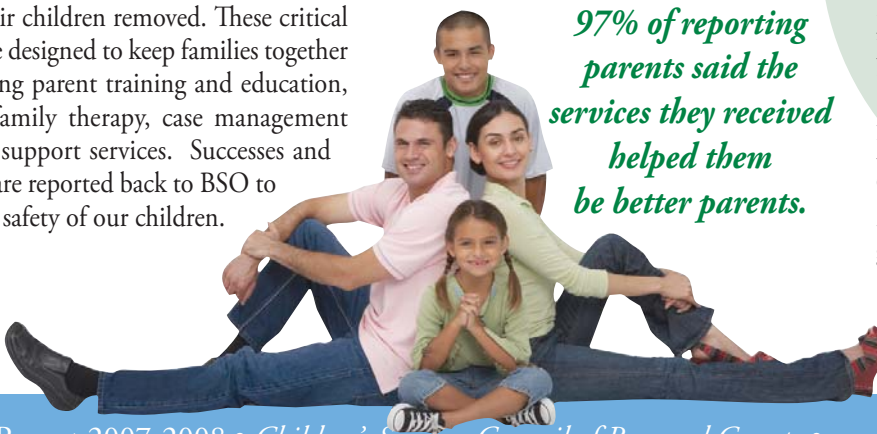
According to BSO, child abuse investigations rose 17% in FY 2007/08 over the prior year and CSC caseloads followed similar patterns with caseloads increasing by 25%. However, despite the rise in abuse referrals, the rates of children who had to be removed from the home decreased by 30%. "This was only possible by our ability to link at-risk children and families to CSC's effective Family Strengthening programs," said James Walker, BSO Administrator.

Family Strengthening services are provided in the home during the day, evenings and /or weekends, at times convenient for families. Many of these parents may have been abused

or neglected themselves as children and continue the cycle of abuse because they don't know better ways to parent or manage personal stressors.

The CSC's efforts to strengthen families are making a difference. In FY 2007/08, 93% of families decreased levels of parenting stress and 97% improved overall family communication and interactions. Parent feedback is also positive, with 97% reporting that the services they received helped them be better parents. One parent said "Now we understand what age-appropriate expectations we should have for our son. The program also helped our son feel good about himself and that made us feel better as parents." Other parent comments, "I feel good, the therapist has helped me change my actions," and "Every session I have attended was a help to me and my kids and I will keep everything I learned in my mind" support the benefits that CSC provides to families in crisis, a strong investment that will pay dividends for generations to come.

97% of reporting parents said the services they received helped them be better parents.



Working Together for Our Children by Addressing Maternal Depression

A strong and positive relationship between a mother and her child creates a solid foundation for the optimal child development. A mother who experiences maternal depression may be less responsive to her baby causing the baby, in turn, to be fussier, unresponsive and not sleep well. This increases the demands on the mother and contributes to her distress. In order to enhance bonding and attachment between mothers suffering from depression and their babies, the Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) invests in maternal depression programs.

These programs work collaboratively with existing maternal-child health systems to provide in-home mental health counseling that served over 230 families in FY 2007/08, adding to the continuum of care provided through community partners like Healthy Start Coalition, the Regional Health Planning Council, the hospital districts and a dedicated network of health care providers.

Families who receive these services report high levels of satisfaction. One mother reported, "I really appreciate everything done for me and my family. My therapist has really

made a difference in my life and I am feeling less depressed."

- 90% of mothers had fewer symptoms of depression.
- 60% completed the program.

Another mother stated, "They have helped so much! I wish more people knew of the program."

By receiving treatment and support for maternal depression, mothers and their families are provided with a safe and nurturing environment that promotes their babies' optimal development.

Working Together for Our Children by Fostering a Love of Reading

The Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) works to give children the opportunity to realize their full potential, their hopes and their dreams. Some CSC funded programs pursue this vision over the long term. Others offer the immediate gratification of seeing a child's face light up in happiness and excitement on the spot.

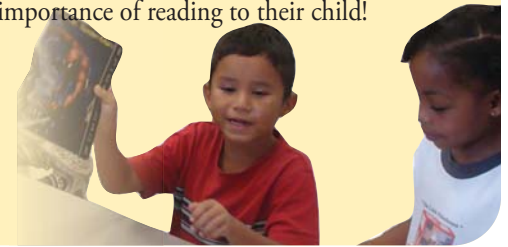
Get the Scoop on Reading is a Summer Literacy program that provides the latter! Between June and August 2008, over 1,000 children, many attending programs that serve under-privileged youth, took part in Get the

Scoop on Reading, funded by the CSC in partnership with Borders Bookstores and coordinated by WKIS FM.

The program included professional story tellers, the participation of Marvel and Disney characters, sign language interpreters from the Alliance for Parents with Deaf Children, a fruit popsicle and a culturally sensitive, developmentally appropriate book, pre-approved and purchased by the CSC.

Children listened attentively to the stories, sang and danced to such favorites as "The

Chicken Song", took pictures with their favorite cartoon character, including Elmo, the Cat in the Hat, the Berenstain Bears and Spiderman, and beamed as they got to pick a book of their choice to take home. What better way to foster a love of reading in children and educate parents on the importance of reading to their child!



Working Together for Our Children by Supporting the Needs of Kinship Caretakers

Kinship Initiatives for Supportive Services, (KISS), was developed to respond to the needs of caregivers responsible for children unexpectedly because their birth parents can't care for them. In Broward County, more than 13,000 grandparents, many under the age of 60, are raising their grandchildren. Many became responsible for the primary care of children unexpectedly, at a time when most are coming close to retirement. Other kinship caregivers include aunts, uncles, older siblings and others who step forward to help their extended family or friends.

Led by the Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC), a collaboration of community stakeholders found that most kinship arrangements were informal, with no legal custody relationship between the birth parents and caregivers. Kinship caregivers

have historically been excluded from the full range of assistance available to birth parents or licensed foster parents. To meet the needs of these underserved families, the CSC funded **Kids In Distress (KID)** to act as a lead agency with Legal Aid, ChildNet and the School Board of Broward County to empower kinship caregivers and help them to access health care and mental health services; navigate the school system; find emergency financial assistance; receive parenting support, and other services that help keep families together. In FY 2007/08 KISS services were provided in their home or other convenient locations throughout Broward County.

As a partner in this initiative, **Legal Aid Services** provides legal assistance and information custody, legal guardianship, housing and medical and disability benefits.

Thanks to a new Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant, the Health Foundation of South Florida, Broward Health, Memorial Healthcare System and Ounce of Prevention are new CSC partners, providing healthcare and healthcare navigation to kinship families.

FY 2007/08:

- 99% of children remained with kinship caregivers.
- 94% of caregivers reported a decrease in needs required to keep a stable home for their kinship children.

CSC continues to provide a responsive and progressive approach to ensure that children separated from their parents maintain a healthy identity and security by remaining connected within families.

Working Together for Our Children by Strengthening Organizational Performance and Personnel

Now more than ever, child serving agencies must work effectively and create new partnerships to meet the challenges that come with growth, change and tumultuous economic times. The Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC), through the Broward Training Collaborative, helps child serving agencies improve their organizational effectiveness. Our efforts assist agencies to better achieve their mission, enhance performance and improve their impact. This approach benefits staff, the organization, the children and families they serve and over time, spreads to the community at large.

During FY 2007/08, agencies received one-on-

one professional consulting to identify areas for improvement, increase effectiveness and improve their problem solving abilities. The CSC collaborates with the Community Foundation of Broward, Senior Volunteer Services, Volunteer Broward and other partners to provide a full range of services and support. This past year, 700 hours of consulting services and over 10,000 hours of volunteer hours were provided.

More than 3,200 staff attended CSC-funded training sessions.

The CSC also provided over 200 low or no-cost classroom style trainings covering 74 different

topics. CSC training staff provided trainers with coaching and skills building, helping many of them go from "good to great!"

Every year, more child serving staff participate in CSC-sponsored trainings. Even with shrinking resources, 240 agencies acknowledged that an investment in staff training promotes staff growth and helps boost morale. This year, more than 3,200 staff attended CSC-funded training sessions. Our leadership role and a \$150,000 investment in this area has conservatively meant a collective savings to service providers of \$1.3 million for training. The CSC remains committed to strengthening the performance and personnel of child serving agencies in Broward County.

Working Together for Our Children by Confronting the Causes of Higher Black Infant Mortality



A Pediatric Autopsy Report funded by the Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC), Broward Health and

the Broward County Commission attempted to get at the root cause of the fact that black babies in Broward County are dying at more than twice the rate of white babies. The report, released in November 2007, summarized the findings of a four-year study, and was the catalyst for a community-wide Call to Action held in April 2008.

The Call to Action was supported by a broad partnership of government, nonprofit and

community businesses, including the Healthy Mothers-Healthy Babies Coalition of Broward County, the Healthy Start Coalition, CSC, United Way, Broward County Health Department, the March of Dimes, Broward County Human Services Department, Broward Regional Health Planning Council, United Healthcare, Memorial Healthcare, Broward Health, the African American Research Library and Cultural Center and the Fetal/Infant Mortality Program of Broward County and other partners. All agreed that action must be taken to eradicate this disparity in both fetal and infant mortality rates.

At the heart of the impetus to act is the finding in the Autopsy Report that at least 40% of

these deaths are preventable. "In general, we considered deaths in the infection, SIDS, maternal medical, accidents and homicide categories to be preventable, and deaths in other causes to be less preventable.

The Call to Action, featuring medical experts and other community stakeholders, provided a forum to educate and mobilize the community to develop strategies to address this disparity. Since the Call to Action, focus groups have been held which further explored the causal factors for the disparity. Feedback from these efforts is being used to develop targeted prevention and intervention messages aimed at saving babies' lives.

Working Together for Our Children by Providing Culturally Competent Services

In the past ten years, Broward County has experienced a dramatic change in population and demographics. According to Broward-by-the-Numbers, since 2000 an unprecedented number of West Indians and Central/South American Hispanics now reside in Broward County. For the first time, these residents rank in the top five of Broward's total population. The Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) has been responsive to this transformation by supporting several initiatives to promote cross-cultural acceptance and improve communication.

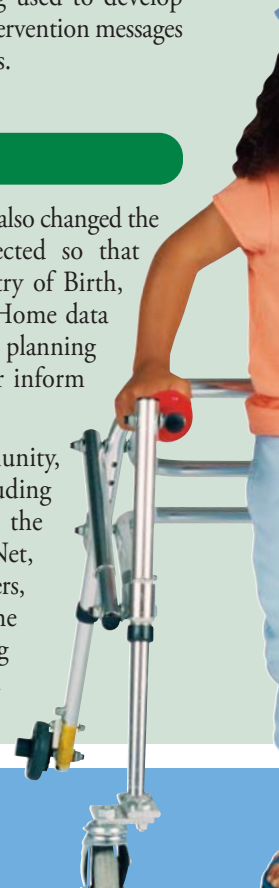
To this end, the CSC is providing training and technical assistance to increase diversity awareness and knowledge among child-serving

agencies. The first session in March 2008 saw 56 participants from 26 different agencies. The second session was even more successful, with 119 staff from 42 organizations giving high praise for this important venture. These trainings have provided staff with the tools they need to understand and respond to the diverse needs of Broward's multi-cultural families, embracing both our differences and similarities.

Working together with other funders, in FY 2007/08, the CSC joined the County in requiring Agency Cultural Competence Plans as a prerequisite for funding. This effort further promotes services to families that are delivered in a sensitive manner, regardless of ethnicity.

In a related effort, the CSC also changed the way service data is collected so that Cultural Influence, Country of Birth, and Language Spoken at Home data will be available for service planning and delivery and to better inform funding decisions.

As a collaborative community, system partners including County Government, the School Board, ChildNet, United Way, service providers, parents and youth share the common goal of meeting the growing diversity and needs of all of our families.



Working Together for Our Children with Special Needs by Fostering a Comprehensive System of Care

To better align and enhance services for families with children with special physical and developmental needs, the Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) created the **Special Needs Advisory Committee (SNAC)**. With CSC and School Board leadership, stakeholders represented on the SNAC include the North and South Broward Hospital Districts, the County, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation, the Family Care Council, a youth representative, our provider network and other community decision-makers.

Following recommendations from the SNAC, CSC launched a new initiative for teens with disabilities transitioning from high school on to adulthood. These **"Learning Independence Through Focused Transition (LIFT)"** programs provide social and job readiness skills, so important for successful employment and independence after high school. Although LIFT is new, early indications are very promising. With 142 teens with disabilities participating in FY 2007/08, over half demonstrated significant gains in communication and problem-solving skills, job readiness skills and, of equal importance, meaningful friendships were formed. Even greater strides are expected in FY 2008/09!

The CSC's **Supported Training and Employment Program (STEPS)** program

finished its 3rd year of paid summer employment for youth with disabilities. Supported by professional job coaches at 27 work sites throughout Broward County, 109 youth had the opportunity to earn money while gaining important job experience. Their achievements were impressive; 98% maintained their employment throughout the summer, with 94% demonstrating improved job skills and social skills. One teen said it all: "I will remember this summer for the rest of my life!" What did their employers say? "This summer, I had the opportunity to work with 4 wonderful young adults who made a big impact on me, personally and professionally," said one.

"I will remember this summer for the rest of my life!"

For the younger children, CSC continued its staunch support of specialized and inclusive after-school and summer programs. Over 1,625 children with special needs received academic enrichment, social skills building, cultural arts and field trip opportunities. While having fun, 90% improved gross/fine motor skills and increased their social skills and adaptive functioning; 88% improved reading and language development.

Based on a SNAC recommendation, CSC has significantly improved Broward's Information and Referral (IR) network for families of children with special needs. With guidance and support from experienced professionals in the disabilities field, our Special Needs IR Hotline at 211-First Call for Help assisted 2,884 families, a 31% increase over last year. Additionally, the enhanced, user-friendly website received over 4,700 hits; an increase of 42%.

The list of system improvements is extensive, including training for over 100 provider and school staff to help them work more effectively with children and youth with disabilities. The SEARCH initiative is yet another partnership of SNAC stakeholders including CSC, the School System, Memorial Healthcare, Workforce One and others to provide opportunities for youth exiting public school to work in hospital settings.

This ongoing collaborative commitment to strengthening a system of care that supports individuals with disabilities, has received State and National attention. But its greatest accomplishment has been the sense of pride it has generated in the children, youth and families it serves.

Working Together For Our Children by Helping Youth Transition from Foster Care to Self-Sufficiency



The Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) takes to heart the old African proverb "It takes a village to raise a child..." We also recognize that some children need support even after reaching adolescence. As a result, the CSC, acting in conjunction with community partners, such as the Jim Moran Foundation, has developed a safety net of services to assist young adults transitioning from foster and relative care towards self-sufficiency.

In 2003, the CSC led the first community-wide effort to draw attention to the difficulties faced by transitioning youth. That effort resulted

in the development of Future Prep, a program providing comprehensive educational support, counseling, life skills instruction, community linkage and case management for these youth. The CSC maintains annual funding of \$1 million to support the initiative and as a result, more than 300 youth have received services through HANDY, Camelot Community Care and Kids@Home.

"Breaking down barriers to provide brighter futures..."

Programmatic outcomes are astounding:

- 89% promoted to next grade, graduated, attained a GED or successfully maintained a job.
- 95% postponed parenthood and avoided non-marital births.
- 81% maintained or improved self-esteem and peer/adult interactions.
- 95% demonstrated pro-social behaviors by avoiding new law violations.

These successes paved the way for relationships with partners such as the Jim Moran Foundation, which matched the CSC's \$1 million Future Prep commitment with an additional \$250,000 in FY 2007/08.

This collaborative funding will increase in FY 2008/09. Our continued partnership with the Department of Children and Families and City of Pembroke Pines provides a 42-bed housing complex dedicated exclusively for transitioning youth helps expand the range affordable housing options available to youth just starting out in life.

Transition to adulthood is difficult under the best circumstances, and given the challenges for these youth, it can seem impossible. The CSC, however, is responding to their needs. Together with community partners, we are breaking down barriers in order to pave a brighter future for the leaders of tomorrow.

Working Together for Our Children by Funding Enrichment Opportunities During Non-School Hours

A remarkable partnership among the Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC), the School Board and the YMCA provides students at four low-performing high schools with some exciting afterschool programs.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) are part of a national program that provides academic support

during non-school hours for youth, particularly students who attend high-poverty, low-performing schools. The program helps students meet state and local standards in core subjects, such as reading and math; offers students enrichment activities to complement their academic studies and provides literacy and other educational services to their families.

In Broward, 9th-12th graders attending Coconut Creek, Dillard, Hallandale, and Stranahan High Schools are part of this free program on campus. With transportation and snacks provided, students participate in activities ranging from tutoring and homework help to step teams and community service. The program is offered after school Monday through Thursday and the YMCA's certified, school-based teachers work with students who need additional help in specific areas.

The programs are a safe and fun haven for students after school. In one focus group, students said they felt that the program gave them something fun to do while helping them perform better in school.

In FY 2007/08, students at Coconut Creek High School were pen pals with students in Haiti and, sharing stories, learned how their peers live. At Stranahan High School, students learned to cook and showcased their skills for other students at community events. Students at Hallandale High School mentored younger youth at Boys and Girls Clubs. Dillard High School's Step Team competed all over the county. Overall, this partnership has enriched our students' lives and continues to grow, reaching hundreds of teens each school day.



Working Together for Our Children by Enhancing Everyone's Quality of Life through the Prosperity Campaign

Pundits and experts may debate whether we are experiencing a recession, a depression or any other kind of economic crisis. Broward County residents know these are extraordinarily difficult times with unprecedented levels of unemployment, foreclosures, inability to secure credit, exorbitant cost of health care and a general sense of financial instability.

To help alleviate these worst of times for Broward's working families, the Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) continued funding and staff support for the 6th year to the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** outreach campaign. The EITC is a tax credit for certain people who work and have low wages. Since its inception, the CSC led EITC outreach campaign has drawn an additional \$80 million in tax reimbursements to those who need it most, money that goes directly into the pockets of Broward County residents. Working with local IRS staff, the CSC's \$200,000 funded 26 **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** sites, as well as the nationally recognized VITA mobile unit—which by itself resulted in over \$500,000 in reimbursements just in the 2008 tax season!

Over the years, the CSC focus has steadily shifted from outreach to increased capacity at free tax-preparation Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites, where EITC recipients

are encouraged to file their returns, as well as receive access to other social services likely to improve their well-being. These broadened efforts, including Credit Counseling, KidCare

***VITA mobile unit... by itself
resulted in over \$500,000 in
reimbursements just in the
2008 tax season!***

and Food Stamp registration, have resulted in the renaming of the EITC Campaign to Prosperity Campaign.

Many Broward residents are service sector workers and low to moderate wage earners who rely on construction, tourism and retail sales to earn a living. The crushing effects of the financial downturn, particularly on families with children, make it imperative that they know about services available to them and all tax-related benefits.

To reach potential EITC beneficiaries, the CSC relies on community partners. Staff and volunteers recruited by Hispanic Unity, in particular, were responsible for managing ten VITA sites and the mobile unit

over a period of eight weeks. Their work resulted in total reimbursements of approximately \$6 million. Other partners included Minority Development and Empowerment; ACORN; 211-First Call for Help; Volunteer Broward; and Consolidated Credit Counseling, among others.

Recognizing that regionalizing efforts will add effectiveness to local endeavors, in July 2008 the CSC was a catalyst for the creation of the Florida Prosperity Partnership, a statewide collaborative that has already begun identifying advocacy and policy issues that will bring about more financial relief for working families.



Working Together for Our Children by Providing High Quality Afterschool and Summer Programs

Since 2002, The Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) has funded out-of-school time programs to support the social, physical, and academic development of children. These "Maximizing Out-of-School Time" (MOST) programs ensure that children from lower income families and children with special behavioral, physical, or developmental needs have safe, productive, fun and supervised activities in the hours after school, on school holidays and during the summer.



These periods when school is not in session can become prime opportunities for youth to experiment with violent juvenile crimes, delinquency behavior, sexual activity, experimenting with drugs and alcohol, and gang involvement. According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, juvenile crime triples during the hours immediately after school lets out. Despite this, over 25% of our nation's children are responsible for taking care of themselves during out-of-school times.

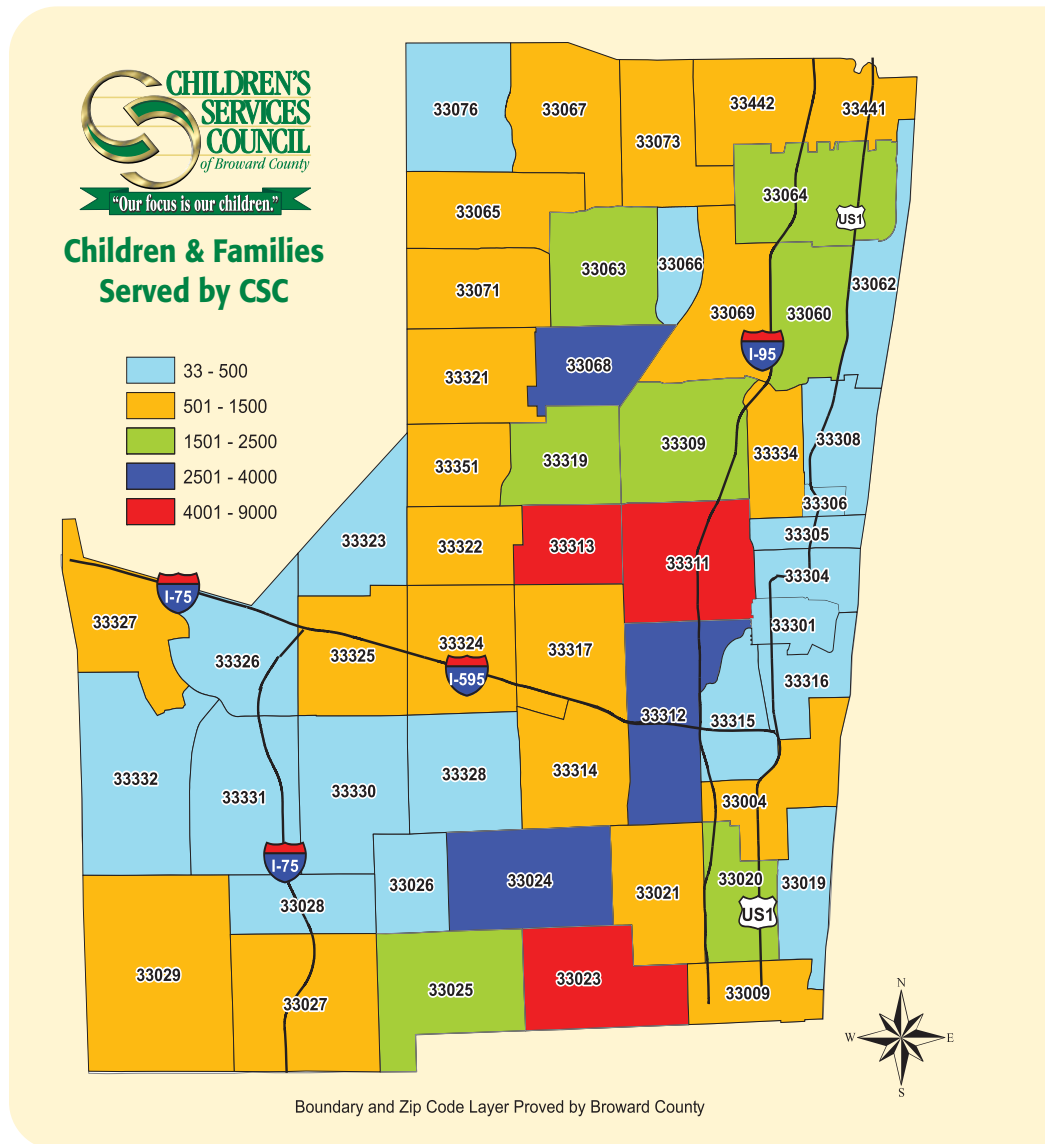
The CSC's afterschool and summer programs target three populations: lower income, typically developing children attending Title I schools, children and youth with physical, developmental, sensory or learning disabilities and children with behavioral health conditions that disrupt daily functioning.

These MOST programs are located throughout Broward County at various schools, churches, community centers, and parks and recreation sites. Sliding fee scales help ensure that the neediest families have access to affordable services and that parents have an investment in the care provided to their children. MOST programs emphasize quality and all use certified teachers for academic enrichment and homework assistance. Fitness and recreational activities, cultural arts, social skills building, family events and field trips make these programs fun while providing important opportunities for children to learn and succeed.

In FY 2007/08, 16,108 children benefitted from CSC-funded afterschool and summer programs. While these MOST services helped children improve their reading skills (94%), math skills (83%) and social skills (73%),

they were also fun since 91% of children said they enjoyed their program. Parents were also very pleased with the services provided to their children. Ninety-three percent (93%) of parents praised the quality of homework assistance and the caring and friendly staff and

99% of parents said they would recommend the programs to others. Helping our community by keeping children safe, engaged and out of trouble while providing fun activities and support to working parents is absolutely a worthy CSC investment!



Working Together For Our Children by Giving Low Risk Juvenile Offenders a "Second Chance"

The Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) collaborates with the Broward State Attorney's Office (SAO) and several community agencies to provide low risk juvenile offenders a "second chance" before entering the Juvenile Justice System. Through the diversion process, youth who have few or no prior arrests and who have committed minor law violations, are given the opportunity by the SAO to complete a diversion program



instead of going to court and getting a criminal record. CSC-funded diversion programs, **New Diversion Alternatives for Youth (New DAY)**, provided supervision, consequences and life-changing experiences to over 1,716 Broward County youth in FY 2007/08.

CSC staff and New DAY providers take an active role in ensuring that Broward County youth have powerful diversion alternatives by participating in the Diversion Coalition and in the Juvenile Justice Strategic Planning Committee. The Diversion Coalition is a collaborative group of all diversion providers, the SAO and others to ensure the diversion part of the Juvenile Justice System works smoothly. At the same time, the Juvenile Justice Strategic Planning Committee looks at ways to use diversion to further reduce the number of youth who enter the delinquency system.

In addition to writing letters of apology, learning about victim empathy and completing

community service work, New DAY participants attend educational activities that offer opportunities for personal growth and future success. For example, the Urban League took diverted youth to the Disney Youth Leadership Series, where Middle School students focused on Arts and Humanities while High School students focused on Life Management skills. These activities help youth transition successfully into adulthood, while ensuring that they learn to make positive decisions for themselves, their families and their communities.

With CSC and provider support, over 88% of all youth successfully completed all of their diversion requirements and 95% have stayed out of trouble with the law for at least a year after program completion.

Diversion saves the community time and money while giving teens a second chance at a brighter future.

Working Together for Our Children by Helping Youth Move Successfully into Adulthood

More than ever, today's teen are at risk of dropping out of school, becoming incarcerated, having an unplanned pregnancy, or other events that could negatively impact their healthy development and future success. In an effort to promote positive youth development, the Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) created the **Youth FORCE (Friends, Opportunities, Resources, Counseling, & Education)** program for over 1,000 middle and high school students across the county, including youth with behavioral health and other special needs.

Eleven *Youth FORCE* programs began operations during the summer of 2008 and will continue throughout the school year. The programs promote school success through homework assistance, tutoring and training in areas such as study skills and time management. Personal success is promoted through counseling and case management and staff work individually with each youth to identify positive goals and strategies. Risk behaviors are addressed through intensive prevention education workshops on topics such as teen pregnancy and substance abuse. Positive civic involvement is promoted through service learning activities where youth identify community issues and implement projects to

help address the problem. Mentoring, cultural arts enrichment, physical fitness, life skills, and

Positive outcomes for Youth FORCE:

- no law violations
- no alcohol or drug use
- no pregnancies
- passing grades
- regular school attendance
- decrease in risk-taking behaviors

employability skills training are also provided.

Summer 2008 kicked off a variety of exciting activities. Youth with Minority Development and Empowerment planted sea oats to prevent beach erosion. Harmony Development Center offered the Mad Science component which culminated with a visit to Kennedy Space

Center. Youth at Hispanic Unity of Florida learned about healthy lifestyles, cooking nutritional meals with FLIPANY and participated in fun fitness classes like dancing and swimming. Several programs produced performing arts projects. The League for the Hard of Hearing presented "Deaf Theater Jam," featuring theatrical, musical, and dance talents of their program participants. Mt. Olive Development Corporation's "A Night at the Movies" featured a student video production where youth portrayed well-known characters from theater and film.

By offering engaging activities this past summer, *Youth FORCE* providers connected over 1000 at-risk youth with positive, pro-social activities designed to promote good decisions and healthy growth and development.



Working Together for Our Children by Providing Real Work Experiences

An early, positive experience with the workforce can significantly contribute to a young person's future success in the labor market. Since 2005, the Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) has partnered with WorkForce One in support of youth employment programs as a strategy for helping teens successfully transition to adulthood. During the summer of 2008, CSC's **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)**, managed through a contract with WorkForce One, provided real world job opportunities at 221 government and non-profit worksites for 740 economically disadvantaged teens ages 16-18 across Broward

County. In addition to receiving paid employment, these youth participated in employability skills training workshops and received counseling and case management services to help them succeed in their

“Work prepares me for life and the real world.”

positions. They also developed portfolios that included resumes, letters of reference, employer evaluations, and examples of various work products.

Program outcomes were exciting, with 92% able to maintain their employment: quite an accomplishment for young, mostly first time workers! What did their employers think? One-hundred (100%) were satisfied with the operation of the program, with comments such as “the kids were well prepared” and “the WorkForce One youth were very good overall.” And what did the teens think? Over 97% reported being satisfied with their work experience, with comments such as “Work prepares me for life and the real world,” and “working gave me a greater sense of responsibility.”

Working Together for Our Children by Partnering in YouthBuild Broward

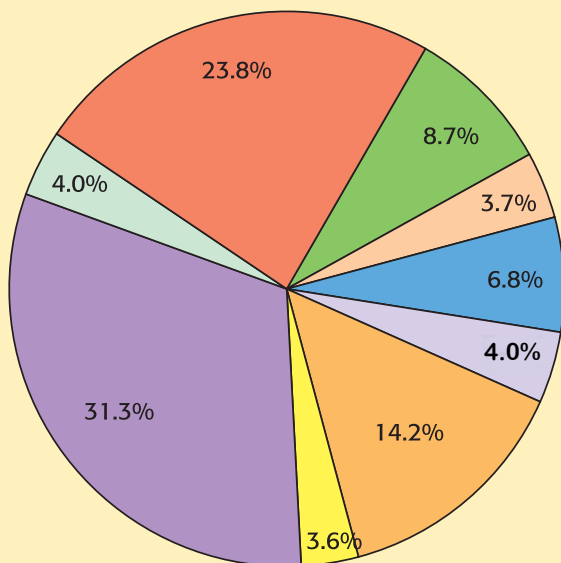
The Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) recognizes that young adults from low income communities face extraordinary challenges. It's why we provide strong support to **YouthBuild Broward**, a



program that helps at-risk youth work toward their GED or high school diploma, learn job skills and serve others by building affordable housing.

In October 2007, the Urban League of Broward County was awarded a federal YouthBuild grant. With the support of the CSC and partners such as United Way of Broward County, WorkforceOne, the School Board of Broward County, Leadership Broward, Atlantic Vo-Tech, Broward Housing Authority, Minority Builders Coalition, Habitat for Humanity Broward Community College and ChildNet, YouthBuild Broward is making a difference!

YouthBuild Broward began in March 2007 with 22 active participants. Four entered the program with their High School Diploma and four acquired their GED while in YouthBuild. The remaining 14 are involved in GED instruction and are on pace to graduate. All 22 YouthBuild participants are involved in pre-apprenticeship classes to learn the construction business and receive hands-on learning experiences. Several participants have received full or part-time construction positions. As another YouthBuild class is set to begin its journey in November 2008, the CSC eagerly anticipates the incredible impact this one program will have on so many of the hardest to reach youth.



Percentage of Numbers of Children & Families Served by Program Area

- School Health & KidCare**
- Swim Central*
- Out of school Time
- Delinquency Prevention & Diversion
- Juvenile Assessment Center*
- Maternal & Child Health
- School Readiness & Literacy
- Family Strengthening
- Physical & Behavioral Needs

* Juvenile Assessment Center and Swim Central are jointly supported by multiple funding sources.

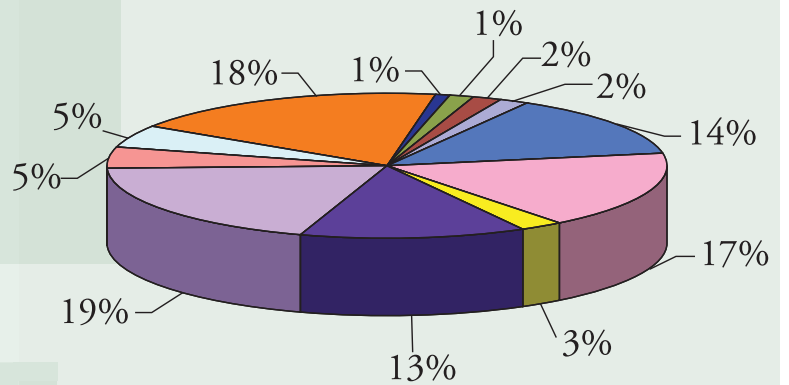
** Nurses at 52 schools and KidCare insurance applications.



Financial Report 2007-08

The Children's Services Council of Broward County General Fund

REVENUES	FY 2008 ACTUAL	FY 2007 ACTUAL
Property Taxes	\$ 60,092,171	\$ 61,533,409
Interest	1,283,194	2,672,542
Grant Income	213,830	223,277
Miscellaneous	311,815	83,140
Total Revenues	\$ 61,901,010	\$ 64,512,368
EXPENDITURES	FY 2008 ACTUAL	FY 2007 ACTUAL
Contracted Programs/Direct Services	\$ 55,626,665	\$ 54,966,003
Contracted Services Administration	2,883,221	2,533,695
General Administration	2,236,906	2,130,563
Capital Outlay	35,463	130,450
Non-Operating Expenditures	1,555,588	1,593,271
Total Expenditures	\$ 62,337,843	\$ 61,353,982



- Agency Capacity
- Seamless System of Care
- Public Awareness & Advocacy
- Unallocated Budget
- Family Strengthening
- Delinquency Prevention & Diversion
- Child Abuse Prevention
- School Readiness & Literacy
- Out of School Time
- Physical Health
- Maternal & Child Health
- Physical & Behavioral Needs

Funded Providers

Achievement & Rehabilitative Center
 After School Programs
 Ann Storck Center
 Boys & Girls Clubs
 Broward Children's Center
 Broward County Health Department
 Broward County Libraries
 Broward County SWIM Central
 Broward Public Library Foundation
 Broward Regional Health Planning Council
 Broward Sheriff's Office
 Camelot Community Care
 Changing Directions 4 Youth & Families, Inc.
 Children's Harbor
 Children's Home Society
 Community After School Programs
 Community Foundation of Broward

Cool Kids Learn, Inc.
 Coral Springs*, City of
 Dan Marino Foundation
 Dania Beach*, City of
 Davie*, Town of
 Deerfield Beach Housing Authority
 Deerfield Beach*, City of
 Early Learning Coalition
 Ebenezer Human Services
 Family Central
 Family Christian Association
 First Baptist Church Piney Grove, Inc.
 First Call for Help/211
 First Church of the Open Bible Pre-School
 Florida Atlantic University
 Florida Network of Youth & Family Services, Inc.
 Fort Lauderdale*, City of

Fort Lauderdale, Housing Authority
 Girls & Boys Town
 Gulf Coast Community Care
 Hallandale Beach*, CRA
 HANDY
 Harmony Development Center
 Healthy Mothers / Healthy Babies Coalition
 Henderson Mental Health Center
 Hispanic Unity of Florida
 Hollywood*, City of
 Institute for Family Centered Services
 IntelliStaf Healthcare
 Jewish Adoption & Foster Care Options
 Kids @ Home, Inc.
 Kids In Distress
 League for the Hard of Hearing
 Legal Aid of Broward
 Life Works Family Therapy Center
 Margate*, City of
 Memorial Healthcare System
 Minority Development & Empowerment
 Miramar*, City of
 Mount Olive Development Corp.
 New Hope World Outreach, Inc.
 NBC-6/Forever Family
 North Broward Hospital District
 Nova Southeastern University
 PACE Center for Girls
 Pembroke Pines*, City of
 Planned Parenthood
 Pompano Beach*, City of
 Providence Management Corp.
 Senior Volunteer Services
 Smith Community Mental Health
 Soref Jewish Community Center
 South Cluster Children Services
 Starting Place
 State Attorney's Office
 Sun-Sentinel Children's Fund
 Sunshine After School Child Care
 United Cerebral Palsy
 Urban League
 Volunteer Broward
 West Park*, City of
 WKIS-FM / Summer Reading Program
 WorkForce One
 YMCA



● HEADQUARTERS
 ● SERVICE LOCATIONS



Boundary and Road Layer Provided by Broward County



* The Council maximizes your dollars by partnering with several cities to provide after school and summer programs for as many children as possible.



Children's Services Council of Broward County Staff

Vision

The children of Broward County shall have the opportunity to realize their full potential, their hopes and their dreams, supported by a nurturing family and community.

Mission

To provide the leadership, advocacy and resources necessary to enhance children's lives and empower them to become responsible, productive adults through collaborative planning and funding of a continuum of quality care.



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