



From the Chair-An Update from Lansing by John Colina, President

Everybody Ready's Quarterly Meeting

January 21, 2004
The Guidance Center
Center for Excellence
13111 Allen Rd., Southgate
9:30 P.M.

Our Speaker will be
Reginald Williams, Wayne
County Librarian.

Please Join us. For more
information please call
Linda Stanko at 734 282
5497.

In 2003 I was asked to join the Michigan Legislative task force on Early Education and Care. We have completed 12 hearings throughout the state under the able leadership of Representative Elkins. Drafts will be worked on through January, with the final product being presented to the full legislature the week of March 15, 2004. It is hoped that this will provide a blueprint of priorities for the next 5-7 years for legislative action in the area of Early Childhood.

The Family Independence Agency (FIA) will have new leadership beginning in January. Marianne Udow will be on loan to the state from Blue Cross, Blue Shield for this important

task. We are fortunate to have a person of great management talent with a passion for children to fill this role. I have had the pleasure of working with Marianne the last two years on the Ready to Succeed partnership.

The Children's Action Network, (CAN) will continue to work together to improve cooperation between the various state departments that touch children's lives. The head of FIA will chair it, with active support from the Governor and her chief of staff.

Michigan Foundations in cooperation with the Council of Michigan Foundations and state government are working on

several fronts to focus on Early Childhood as one of six key issues. A group of family foundations under the title of Be Ready by Five are looking at methods to involve small family foundations at the grass roots level in their own communities.

Ready to Succeed continues to work at the state level on the issue of Early Development. A new phase of the "Be Their Hero" campaign is in the beginning stages of development.



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Whitney Awards ER \$15000 for Parenting Survey

Thanks to a Whitney Fund donation of \$15,000, Everybody Ready has collected valuable information about how parents help their pre-school children prepare for kindergarten. Over 1200 parents of children entering Downriver public school kindergartens returned ques-

tionnaires. The answers to five questions will help local educators, early childhood specialists and researchers help parents of children from birth to five so the children can be even better prepared. The questions deal with:

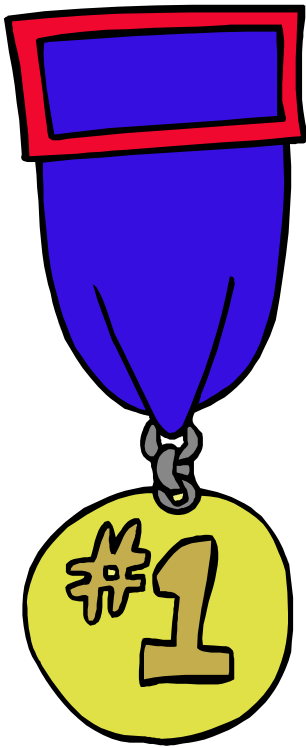
1. What learning activities

families participate in.

2. How parents prepare their children for work and responsibility.

3. How parents play with their children.

4. What resources parents use and/or would like



*Parents are often so busy with the physical rearing of children that they miss the glory of parenthood, just as the grandeur of the trees is lost when raking leaves.
Marcelene Cox, American writer*

Appreciation Corner

We would like to thank all of the people who make Everybody Ready possible!

The Colina Foundation

The Richard and Rosalind Meyer Family Foundation

The Whitney Fund

Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church

Bovitz & Co. CPA, PC

Charter One Bank

Comcast

The Pilot Club

Island Connection

And all of the individuals who donated we thank you!

We can not thank our generous benefactors enough. Without their support we could not go forward. If you would like to become a sponsor, please con-

tact us. There are many ways in which you can help. **Time, Talent or Treasure.** We are an organization run by volunteers and we have several committees that are active. If you are interested in becoming a part of Everybody Ready, we encourage you to come to our quarterly meeting to see what we are all about.

Speakers Bureau to Add 40 Assets by Linda Stanko

The speakers' bureau, part of the Public Awareness and Policy Committee, has been successfully doing presentations on Brain Development this past year. We have averaged at least two per month at a variety of organizations. We are now going to offer a second presentation, an overview of the Search Institute's 40 developmental

assets. These are concrete, common sense, positive experiences and qualities essential to raising successful young people.

The assets are for all ages, but are most effective when applied starting at birth.

The developmental asset framework is categorized into two groups of 20 assets. External

assets are the positive experiences children receive from the world around them. The twenty internal assets identify those characteristics and behaviors that reflect positive internal growth and development of children.

To learn more about the 40 Assets, go online to the Search Institute. www.search-institute.org/

Save the Date!
**Family
Enrichment
Fair**
March 27, 2004
**Kennedy High
School**

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Whitney Fund (cont. from page 1) by Mary Zahler

available to increase their parenting skills.

5. What arrangements parents have for their children's current health and childcare needs.

Oversight for the research is by Gail Stewart, MSW, CSW, of the Guidance Center. An Executive Summary will be avail-

able for the public, while each participating school district will receive general information specific to their families. Results will be released later this month.

You may have heard that the governor has asked the Intermediate School Districts to define education as from birth through

12th grade, rather than K-12. At a time of harsh cutbacks at every level of government we need to find ways to support families and early childhood professionals in their efforts to help every child be all that they can be.



Early Childhood Support

This committee was instrumental in attaining the grant from the Whitney Foundation to go forward with the early childhood survey. The survey analysis has been completed and an executive summary is in the works. We look to present the schools with this information in the beginning of the new year.

The committee also worked

with the Reverend Karl Travis in developing a presentation for the faith community. On November 6th there was a seminar called Neurons, Nurture and the Church Nursery which was attended by different denominations. The presentation was so well developed, with the help of Cheryl Frost and Pat Sargent that there is talk of taking it on the road. This

committee with the help of Lena Montgomery of RESA, and Karl Travis, of the Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church, and Cheryl Frost of Children's Outreach will move forward with this project in January. Stay tuned for more information on this!



Public Awareness and Policy

Have you seen our website? [Www.everybodyready.com](http://www.everybodyready.com). This past year we have gotten it up and running and our administrator Linda Stanko has taken a class in order to keep it maintained and updated. We are able to put all of the monthly newsletters on it in a pdf file so they can be downloaded and reproduced. We also have an events page, so please send us your events for children 0-5 and we can put them on it. Our Positive Parenting news-

letter, that we produce in collaboration with the Guidance Center's Family Resource Center, has been going out monthly to over 1000 families, caregivers, churches, libraries, and anyone who has signed up to be on our mailing list. Thanks to the Colina Foundation we will be able to continue our newsletter through 2004 with a new look.

Our quarterly meetings continue to be successful and it is

always well attended. You can read about the 2003 quarterlies on page 4.

Our speakers bureau is going strong. We continue to do at least two presentations a month on brain development. We are also adding the 40 Assets power point presentation to our repertoire.

As always, we could use volunteers. Please if you would like to join us, come to the quarterly in January and see what ER is all about.

"What is done to children, they will do to society.

*Karl A. Menninger,
Psychiatrist*

Presentations 2003

These are just some of the organizations that the Speakers Bureau did the power point Brain development presentation at.

- Grosse Ile High School Rally Against Drugs
- Grosse Ile Rotary
- Taylor Schools Principals Meeting
- Cable show for the United

- Steel workers with Harry Lester
- Early Childhood Administrators
- AAUW
- First Step Day Care
- Trenton Library
- Gibraltar Early Child Care Center

- FIA Director and Michigan Foundations
- United Way
- Primary Colors Day Care
- Head Start Staff Members
- Partners for Teen Parents
- Council of Michigan Foundations
- Taylor Preschool

SAVE THE DATE!

Healthy Down-river Living Expo

**March 13, 2004
Roosevelt High**

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Suite 230
Southgate, MI 48195

Phone: 734-282-5497
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Email: everybodyready@yahoo.com
www.everybodyready.com



Quarterly Meetings 2003

Our quarterly meetings for 2003 were a great success. We averaged between 30 and 40 people at each meeting and managed to build our data base to 600.

We kicked off our year in January with Kathy Gibson from RESA as our keynote speaker. She gave a wonderful talk on the benefits of the Search Institutes "40 Assets", developmental factors that make a powerful difference in the lives of children. A topic that Everybody Ready embraces and plans on adding to their speakers program.

Our next quarterly, in April,

we were honored to have Suzanne Miel-Uken, from Public Sector Consultants, updating us on Ready to Succeed, the state initiative for children 0-5, and the "Be Their Hero" campaign.

In July, we called on our own Pat Sargent, Treasurer of Everybody Ready and the Director of Early Childhood Services at The Guidance Center, to coordinate the talk for the meeting. Pat, along with Sally Stinson and Regina McKinney, did a presentation on "Let's Talk". The Guidance Center's pilot program to work with parents and early childhood professionals in all settings to understand

how adult interaction and responsiveness is the key to increasing the communication skills in children from birth. The results are increased vocabulary and other emergent literacy skills, as well as a greater ability on the part of the child to communicate his/her needs.

Our October meeting was very informational for Preschools. We were privileged to get Dr. Lawrence Schweinhart, the President of the High Scope Foundation who talked about the long term study establishing the human and financial potential of high-quality early childhood programs.

We will continue our quarterly meetings in 2004, starting **January 21** at the Guidance Centers new venue, the Center for Excellence. 13111 Allen Road in Southgate. The time will remain the same, 9:30 am until 11:00 am.

Our speaker for January will be the Wayne County Librarian, Reginald Williams.

We hope to see you there!

Please call Linda Stanko at Everybody Ready, 734-282-5497, to reserve your spot!

Or email : everybodyready@yahoo.com