Annual Report 2011 - 2012

Adverse Childhood Experiences

From prevention to intervention—Giving every child an opportunity to thrive
Dear Friends of the Coalition—

This has been a landmark year for the Children’s Coalition for Northeast Louisiana. As an organization, we have stepped out in new directions constantly seeking to find solutions to the most complicated issues facing children and their families. So much change is occurring in our state—from education reform to re-organizing how health care and mental health services are delivered. As an organization that has always promoted change, looking at issues from many perspectives and collaborating with partners to find solutions, we have been challenged in every way possible. Funding streams have changed, staffing patterns have been re-worked and advocacy and public education have become even more important.

We encourage you to read about the important changes described in this annual report, and learn how we are serving our community and working with you, our partners. As a Coalition, we are looking at how adverse childhood experiences can be prevented and addressed from the earliest ages. At the same time we are seeking to work with the community to prevent youth suicide through the new Louisiana Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition. We are expanding our parenting services to reach parents and children of all ages and walks of life. Every day we learn more about the importance of communities supporting children and their families from birth through adulthood.

With that being said, the Children’s Coalition Board of Directors has placed a high priority on educating the community about important issues that affect all of us. We have major educational opportunities in 2012-2013 as part of our “coming attractions.” We hope you will join us in these opportunities and become a part of our learning community. As a member and partner of the Children’s Coalition, you make our work possible. Without your support and guidance, the Children’s Coalition would not exist. Thank you for your past and future support.

We look forward to working with you in the coming year to

“create communities where children and families thrive.”

Sincerely,

Lynda Gavioli
Executive Director

“Leaders are the ones who keep faith with the past, keep step with the present and keep the promise to posterity.”
— Harold J. Seymour

“Change is to give up what we are to become what we could be.” Anonymous
In the fourteen year history of the Children’s Coalition for Northeast Louisiana, we have sought to base our efforts on data that describes child well-being and on the research and evidence-based practices that show us what works to make life better for children. This year we have begun to see our work in our different focus areas from a unique perspective from prevention to intervention.

This perspective comes from the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study—an ongoing collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Kaiser Permanente in San Diego, CA. This study, led by Dr. Robert Anda, MD and Dr. Vincent Felitti, MD, is perhaps the largest scientific research study of its kind which analyzes the relationship between childhood trauma (ACEs) and health and behavioral outcomes later in life. This study reveals staggering proof of the health, social and economic risks that result from childhood trauma. Early exposure to family violence, abusive treatment, neglect, alcohol and drug abuse, separated/divorced parents can lead to negative results for a child that can last a lifetime. The more of these risk factors that are in a child’s life, the more likely that the negative effects will be long-term. However, —

“Safe, stable and nurturing relationships and communities can break the cycle of abuse and maltreatment.”

This study makes the case for what the Children’s Coalition is involved with as we work to improve the quality of the early childhood experience—from quality child care with an emphasis on the social-emotional development of children to working with health care professionals and community members to keep children safe. Parenting that promotes nurturing relationships with children and positive discipline while educating parents about child development can assure that the most important environment in a child’s life is enriching. As children grow, if they have been the victim of the worst our families and communities offer, evidence-based practices and programs have proven that the right interventions can rescue a child from the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

It is never too late to rescue our children. To give up on our children is to give up on our future. From prevention to intervention, the Children’s Coalition is working to give every child the opportunity to thrive.
Early Care and Education—Promoting quality child care and emphasizing the social-emotional development of children

**Child Care Connections:** Providing consumer education, technical assistance and training to child care
- 43% of our Class A Child Care Centers are participating in Quality Start.
- $149,750 of School Readiness Tax Credits were raised this year.
- $34,724.15 was awarded in Quality Start Grants to Class A child care centers.
- 251 child care providers attended the Spring Spectacular Training 2012, featuring Jill Molli from Conscious Discipline, on March 24, 2012.
- Quality Connections began as a new intensive technical assistance targeted at 1 or 2 star centers to help improve their star rating.
- Congressman Rodney Alexander toured child care programs with advocates stressing the importance of Child Care Block Grant funding on the federal level.
- 2,996 participants attended training in 187 sessions. Trainings were held in 5 parishes—Morehouse, East Carroll, Lincoln, Caldwell, and Ouachita.
- CCC provided 161 child care referrals to parents seeking child care placements
- 536 Technical Assistance visits to child care centers and family child care homes were conducted this year by staff.
- 81 Child Development Associate candidates were assisted in the accreditation process.
- 36 Family Child Care packets & 45 Child Care Center packets were distributed along with counseling for each potential business owner.
- The Children’s Coalition has been accepted as a Frontiers of Innovation site by Center of the Developing Child at Harvard University—a one year commitment to a program of engagement, discovery and dissemination in collaboration with researchers and policymakers to improve the healthy growth and development of vulnerable children.
- Monroe City Schools received the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy (SRCL) grant. The Children’s Coalition for Northeast Louisiana is partnering with Monroe City Schools to meet the deliverables of the grant.

**Al’s Pals: Kids Making Healthy Choices:** Supporting Pre-K teachers in Ouachita Parish, Monroe City Schools and child care centers in providing this evidence-based life skills program. Life skills for early childhood include learning about different emotions, handling those emotions, problem solving, learning calm down steps, and making healthy choices.
- 61 Pre-K and kindergarten classrooms and 21 child care classrooms implemented the program.
- 1,489 children received 46 lessons to learn to make good choices.

**Mental Health Consultation:** Providing onsite coaching for up to 6 months by a Licensed Professional Counselor with a specialty in infant mental health
- 7 centers are served during each session.
- 14 – 16 visits and 80 hours are completed each month.

“A growing body of scientific evidence shows that early influences—whether positive or negative—are critical to the development of children’s brains and their lifelong health. Early childhood program evaluation studies indicate that it is possible to improve outcomes for vulnerable children as well as to generate positive social and economic benefits to society.”

*The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University*
The Healthcare focus area was honored with the 2012 Delta Style Healthcare Heroes Award for Community Outreach for their work in Region 8.

**Living Well – Safe and Healthy Kids:** Promoting child health and safety throughout the northeast region with funding through the Living Well Foundation

- Conducted 10 fitness and nutrition challenges in child care centers providing healthy snack demonstrations, fitness routines, an obstacle course and follow up information to parents.
- Hosted Dia de La Familia at Lake D’Arbonne State park targeting Hispanic families.
- Held the first of three speaker series at ULM on the topic of Health Literacy in partnership with ULM Health Studies Department with Dr. Terry Davis as keynote speaker.
- Held a 10 year anniversary celebration for SHARE of Northeast Louisiana, a pregnancy/infant loss support group for parent with a reception and balloon release at the future site of the Angel of Hope Statue in Roselawn Gardens.
- Produced a video with Applebox pictures on the Angel of Hope Statue.
- Hosted support group meetings for SHARE of Northeast Louisiana.
- Conducted Safe Sleep/Parenting classes to local parents and distributed packs and plays to ensure safe sleep for those babies.
- Secured a national speaker for the first ever Safe Sleep Summit to be held in October 2012—Dr. Rachel Moon.
- Conducted 18 Basic Health Classes to child care centers/workers.

**Asthma Management and Prevention:** Providing asthma education and promoting asthma friendly schools throughout the region

- Worked with West Carroll Parish Schools to become an Asthma Friendly School District recognized by the State of Louisiana and the Centers for Disease Control.
- Presented to Monroe City School Superintendent, Principals and Administrators to begin the implementation of Asthma Friendly Schools in the Fall of 2012.

**Maternal and Child Health:** Convening the community to address child and infant mortality while working to promote healthy pregnancies and deliveries

- Facilitated 2 Child Death Review Panel reviews, 4 Case Review Team reviews, 3 Community Action Team meetings, and 1 combined CDR/CAT meeting.
- Gave 16 MCH Presentations in the community.
- Distributed FIMR and SHARE materials to area funeral homes.
- Partnered on the LSU-Monroe Baby Fair, Hope Now Youth Suicide Prevention Rally, Ag Alley, 2 Mini Health Fairs for children, SHARE 10-yr anniversary celebration, Dia de la Familia, and the “Knowledge is Power” Jr. high girls event.
- Perinatal Loss Bereavement Training 09/2011.

**Covering Kids and Families – LaCHIP:** Promoting LaCHIP enrollment and facilitating the roll out of the Coordinated Care Networks

- Facilitated 14 Healthcare coalition meetings.
**Parent Education** - **Modeling and teaching evidence-based parenting techniques to parents**

**Triple P Positive Parenting Program & Nurturing Parenting**

The Triple P Positive Parenting Program (www.triplep-america.com) has been promoted by the Children’s Coalition by providing training for other parent educators in the region. This highly rated evidence-based program is being provided in partnership with the Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund, the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families, the Northeast Louisiana Parenting Education Network and MacArthur Models for Change.

- 16 professionals from our region are now accredited in (Triple P levels 2, 3, 4, and Triple P Teen).
- The Children’s Coalition’s Parent Education Director has been termed the most trained Triple P provider in the state of Louisiana and participated in an International video discussion about the use of the Triple P Program in our region.
- Became a state trainer of trainers for the Nurturing Families Program.
- 10 agencies and over 500 participants received parent education.
- “Jus 4 Me”, a teen support program funded by the Sisters Of Charity provided services to 86 teen mothers.

**Youth Development** - **Focusing on the strengths of youth with the support of families and community**

**Teen Screen**: Screening students for potential mental health problems in schools using an evidence-based model created at Columbia University (www.teenscreen.org).

- 600 students were screened during the 2011/2012 school year from Monroe City and Ouachita Parish Schools.
- 400 youth were screened in south Louisiana using Garrett Lee Smith Act funding.
- Teen Screen was featured at the Joint Juvenile Justice and Education Summits in Shreveport, Monroe and Baton Rouge.

“Adolescence is an important window for intervention because 50% of all lifetime mental health disorders start by age 14., according to the National Institute of Mental Health.”

*Columbia University*

**Suicide Prevention Coalition**: In response to the suicide cluster our parish has experienced in the past year we have focused on suicide prevention. We have offered A.S.S.I.S.T. trainings and SAFE TALK trainings to our area school personnel, clergy, community leaders and local high school students. We have developed a suicide coalition for Ouachita Parish that meets monthly in partnership with the Louisiana Partnership for Youth Suicide Prevention.

- 2 Assist Trainings (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training).
- 3 SAFE Talk Trainings (Suicide alertness for everyone).
- 25 community leaders and a national facilitator participated in a day-long Strategic Planning session for the 4th JDC Youth Services Planning Board.
In 2012, the Children’s Coalition was selected as one of five non-profits in Louisiana to form Family Support Organizations (FSO) as part of the roll out of the new Coordinated System of Care. The Wraparound Agency of Northeast Louisiana was also formed as part of this effort. The past 15 months have been spent hiring staff, attending training, becoming credentialed through Magellan Health, which is the State Management Organization. This whole effort is designed to prevent youth who are in or at risk of being placed in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems.

This new system is designed to assure that youth are properly screened for mental and behavioral health issues and that they and their families are being properly served with community and state resources.

The role of the Family Support Organization is to work with families and youth in navigating the very complicated systems that are designed to help youth—the juvenile justice, child welfare, medical, educational and mental health systems. Staff were hired who could focus on the strengths of families and their children and who could use their personal experience in navigating these systems to help mentor families and to understand and overcome barriers. Over 100 families and youth have received services since March 1, 2012.

It is estimated that 70% of youth in the Juvenile Justice System have undiagnosed mental health disorders.
The 2nd annual Fall Fit Fest was held on Saturday, November 5, 2011 at Kiroli Park in West Monroe. It was a fun-filled festival with activities, food, games and entertainment focused on nutrition, fitness and fun for the whole family. A hands-on nutrition exercise was conducted by the LSU AgCenter allowing children to make their own healthy snacks. Dr. Wilson Campbell, Kinesiology Professor at ULM, demonstrated fun exercises on the tennis courts to do as a family. On stage was interactive jump rope and hula-hoop contests, Zumba with Lindsay Turner, line dancing with the ladies from Southern Sass and the West Ouachita junior high dance line.

Fashion Fusion
The 2nd annual event, Fashion Fusion, took place on Saturday, March 17, 2011. It was a night of high-energy dance, fashion and entertainment for the whole family. The fashion show showcased local boutiques and salons along with the Debbie Bourg Dancers. Special guest performer included our very own professional dancer, Miss Kelsey Bourg. This event was a great performance of very talented dancers, and a high-energy runway-type show, benefitting the Children’s Coalition.
In 2007, the Louisiana Legislature passed a law creating the school readiness tax credits to support Quality Start—a voluntary program for licensed child care centers—designed to recognize, support and increase the quality of child care. The tax credits include benefits for: Quality Start rated centers, or child care providers and their employees, for parents who choose quality-rated centers and for businesses who invest in the quality start system. There are two ways that businesses can receive tax credits: 1) By investing in a quality rated center, businesses can receive a credit based on eligible expenses in a Quality Start rated center. 2) By investing through a Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, such as the Children’s Coalition, businesses can invest up to $5,000 that is 100% refundable even if the business does not owe state taxes or corporate franchise taxes. Credits are available to both for-profit and non-profit businesses.

Argent Financial Services  
Dr. Emile Barrow, MD  
Cheniere Properties  
Community Trust Bank  
Douglas Caldwell, A Professional Law Corporation  
Financial Institution Service Corporation  
Gulf Inland, LLC  
Gulf South Warehouse, LLC  
Heard, McElroy & Vestal  
Key Tech Communications  
LA Agricultural Corporation  
Larry Harper Consulting Corporation  
Luffey, Huffman, Ragsdale and Soignier  
John Luffey  
Johnston, Perry & Johnson  
Mark Napoli, MD  
McIntyre & Associates  
MCS TWO, LLC  

James Moore Properties  
NetTech  
Northgate Development, LLC  
O’Neal Gas, Inc.  
Orthopedic Clinic of Monroe  
Ouachita Bancshares Corporation  
P Two, LLC  
Peters, Merritt, Oliver Company, LLC  
Poly Corr, LLC  
Premier Plaza of Monroe  
Ram Rent-All, Inc.  
Shipp Family LTD Partnership  
St. Francis Medical Center  
Strauss Properties, LLC  
Strauss Tallulah, LLC  
Thomas & Farr Agency, Inc.  
Vantage Health Plan

“Carols Kids Daycare would like to express our gratitude for the School Readiness Tax Credit monies the center has been given this year. The center participated in the Quality Connections Initiative and received funds that allowed us to purchase all new cribs that meet the new national safety standards.

We were able to purchase many books, age appropriate toy’s, tables, chairs and shelves for our new toys. We also received a state of the art changing table with a sink, something this center has never had in 25 years. Thank you for helping our children to experience quality childcare. “

*Carol Bishop, Owner and Director, Carols Kids Daycare*
Platinum ($1,000 & up)
- Capitol One Bank
- CenturyLink
- Community Trust Bank
- Lynda and Louis Gavioli
- Jean and Saul Mintz
- P & S Surgical Hospital
- Julie and Dewey Weaver
- Dr. and Mrs. Keith White

Gold ($500 - $999)
- Kristin McMillan
- Melinda and Morris Mintz
- Betty and Kenny Smith
- St. Francis Medical Center

Silver ($250 - $499)
- Believe and Achieve Physical Therapy
- Judy and Charles Bell
- Corporate Computing
- Gretchen Dean
- Andrea Dyer
- Gentry Investments
- Claire and Hardy Gordon
- Karen and Raymond Haik
- Felicia and Bob Kostelka
- Luffey, Huffman, Ragsdale & Soignier
- Charlotte and Roy Glen McGrew
- Denna and Jim McGrew
- Michelle and Andy McIntyre
- Lindsey Murry
- Wendy and Mark Napoli
- Robin and Patrick Pierce
- Amy and Sammy Pyles
- Connie Smallwood
- Mary Kate Smith
- Patti and John Mark Wilhite
THANK YOU
Members of the Children's Coalition!
Your support allows for the important work to expand and continue. Your membership contribution is used as the “local match” necessary to leverage other dollars from foundations, as well as state and federal sources.
Executive Committee

President:
Burton Wade

President Elect:
Bonnie Robinette

Past President:
Stalanda Butcher

Secretary:
Mary Kate Smith

Treasurer:
Wendy Gentry

Board Members

Caroline Cascio
Mary Crandall
Adrian Fisher
Lois Jordan
Jacqueline Matthews
Felicia Kostelka
Wendy Napoli
Loria Pierce
Lisa Richardson
Dr. Beth Ricks
Carlene Riley
Michelle Saucer
Jody Stratton
Donna Underwood

Board Member, Wendy Napoli, with her children at Fashion Fusion.

Past President, Stalanda Butcher, enjoys the Fashion Fusion event.
Staff Members

**Administration**
Lynda Gavioli, Executive Director
Denna McGrew, Director of FSO
Kasy Black, Director of Accounting
Christel Brown, Administrative Assistant
Andrea Dyer, Director of Grants and Budget
Michelle McIntyre, Development Coordinator

**Early Care and Education**
Robin Pierce, Training Director
Chelle Brown, Resource and Referral Director
Dee Cramer, Child Care Specialist
Earnestine Dunn, Child Care Specialist
Romona Reed, Technical Assistant
Renae Williford, Administrative Assistant for CCC
Gerry Binkley, Child Care Development Specialist
Misti Thomas, Al’s Pals Coordinator
Patti McGilton, Mental Health Consultant
Carey Tomlinson, Child Care Specialist

**Health Care**
Lindsey Murry, Director
Mary Barrios, Child Safety Coordinator for Region 8
Kelly Lowery, LACHIP Coordinator
Daija Johnson, Asthma Regional Health Coordinator
Amy Pyles, FIMR Nurse Abstractor
Brenda Handy, Nurse Family Partnership RN
Samantha Crawford, Nurse Family Partnership RN

**Parent Education**
Gatha Green—Parent Education Director

**Youth Development**
Jan Daniels—Teen Screen Director

**Family Support Organization**
Sandra Howard, Supervisor
Joyce Landrum, Parent Trainer
Moira Meredith, Parent Support Specialist
Faren Wise, Youth Support Specialist
Jason Strader, Parent Support Specialist
Fall Fit Fest: Saturday, September 22, 2011

The 3rd annual Fall Fit Fest will be at Forsythe Park in Monroe this year! There will be a 5K Run/Walk and a 1-Mile Fun Run sponsored by the Living Well Foundation. There will also be a boys & girls tennis tournament, activities, games and fun for the whole family! We hope to see you there!

School Readiness Tax Credit Drive: October-December 2012

There are two ways that businesses can receive tax credits: 1) By investing in a quality rated center, businesses can receive a credit based on eligible expenses in a Quality Start rated center. 2) By investing through a Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, such as the Children’s Coalition, businesses can invest up to $5,000 that is 100% refundable even if the business does not owe state taxes or corporate franchise taxes. Credits are available to both for-profit and non-profit businesses.

Safe Sleep Summit: October 19, 2012

Dr. Rachel Moon will be the featured speaker in this third health care education session for the community sponsored by the Living Well Foundation. Dr. Moon authored the National Safe Sleep Standards and currently serves as the chair to the Task Force on SIDS for the American Academy of Pediatrics. Our hope in doing this is to highlight trends, educate on proper protocols and to make our first-line community workers aware of the need to translate safe sleep practices to our highest risk families.

Educational Conference: January, 2013

A state-wide conference is being planned with national speakers focusing on early childhood and behavioral health targeted toward health providers, social workers, education professionals, child care and parents. Continuing education credits will be offered.

Fashion Fusion: Saturday, April 6, 2013

The 3rd annual Fashion Fusion event will be held at the West Monroe Convention Center! We plan to have even more seating this year to accommodate the sold-out crowd from last year. This event will be another high-energy fashion show and entertainment for the whole family!
The Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana, Inc.  
Statement of Activities for the Years Ended June 30, 2010 & 2011

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2010 & JUNE 30, 2011

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<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2010 & JUNE 30, 2011

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NET ASSETS (DEFICIT) AT BEGINNING OF YEAR | 186,532 | 201,072 |
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR               | $126,694 | $350,233 |
“Creating communities where children and families thrive”