Thrive: to grow vigorously: FLOURISH

If "thrive" means "vigorous growth," then we are thriving at the Children's Coalition. Beginning in August, the addition of three Early Head Start centers almost doubled the size of our staff and annual budget. In December, we became one of six agencies in the state to receive a high-profile federal award that created much-needed Pre-K slots. Child Care Connections and the Community Network Pilots became the gold standard for statewide reforms to increase quality early childhood care and education.

We also grew with the child by expanding our school-age programs to include partnerships with state agencies that explored adolescent health issues in Ouachita Parish, built coalitions to address substance abuse in Union Parish, and added out-of-school programs at the Monroe Housing Authority. We expanded our Al's Pals, Signs of Suicide and Parenting programs into rural parishes, and we created new community events that highlighted the unique needs of fathers and young children.

As you read through the Annual Report, you will see a lot of numbers. Each number represents a child or someone who cares for a child. As we grow as an organization, it is important not to lose sight of that child. Take a moment to look at their faces. Visit our website and hear their stories. Most of all, know that it is the combined efforts of our wonderful staff, dedicated board and amazing community partners that have allowed the Coalition to not only grow, but to also flourish—and in so doing, have created a community where children and families thrive.

-Lynn Clark, Executive Director

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are pleased to report that the goals set at the start of this fiscal year are being met to the utmost degree. As most of you know, Lynda Gavioli, our founder and executive director for 16 years, retired last June. Due to the careful planning and excellent foundation that the Coalition is built upon, it has been a remarkably successful transition and year. Dr. Lynn Clark and the dedicated Coalition staff have done an exceptional job leading the Coalition in the critical planning and execution of the fiscal year.

Children have always been the future and foundation of a great community. We all want to live in a thriving community with vast opportunities. The Children's Coalition strives to give every child the opportunities and resources needed to succeed, which will ultimately benefit everyone. The Coalition continues to bring together and close gaps between agencies, programs and resources for our children. We are proud to report our programs continue to be strong, and we are able to support not only Ouachita Parish but also our rural parishes.

While reading through this Annual Report, please take note of all the hard work to link and extend resources to children 0-18 years old. Through successful programs that continue our mission, we are able to reach so many children. If you would like to learn more about a specific program, you can download a free “QR Code Scanner” app in your smartphone's app store. You can scan the QR Code at the bottom of each page to learn more about a specific program. You can also visit our website at www.childrenscoalition.org.

- Mary Kate Smith, Board President
WHAT DOES THRIVE MEAN TO YOU?

“Vigorously move forward with a plan”
Rev. Tommy Carr  
– Zion Hill Baptist Church, Farmerville, LA

“Push forward and never give up…especially with the ever-changing landscape of child care”
Garnesha Alford  
– Little Ones Child Care Center, Bastrop, LA

“Seeing something grow and develop to its full potential under a loving, nurturing environment”
Debbie Bourg  
– Debbie’s School of Dance, West Monroe, LA

“Utilizing all the resources around you to live a self-fulfilling life”
Curtis Eberts  
– WrapAround of NELA
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION at the Children’s Coalition is at the very heart of the organizational mission and core values. We know that the most critical brain development occurs between birth and age three. The mission of this focus area is to ensure quality, nurturing environments to children in both Type III child care centers and family child care homes. This is done through a coordinated approach to training, technical assistance and coaching.

COMMUNITY NETWORK PILOTS
Working to unify the early childhood system through streamlined program expectations, supporting teachers and coordinating enrollment in three parishes: Ouachita, Morehouse and Richland.

OPENetwork (Ouachita Parish Early Childhood Network)
2,256 children and approximately 220 teachers

MORE Network (Morehouse Parish Early Childhood Network)
482 children and approximately 220 teachers

Richland Parish Early Childhood Network
337 children and approximately 34 teachers

2014 – 2015 OUTCOMES:
CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS
Helping parents find quality child care, and providing training and technical assistance to child care providers region-wide (11 parishes)
2,438 teachers trained
684 Technical Assistance Visits conducted
60 families received child care referrals

CHILDREN’S COALITION EARLY HEAD START
Providing quality child care for children from birth through age three at three centers in Ouachita Parish
90 children served
4 pregnant moms served
77 families served
60 average monthly enrollment
47 community volunteers for six Super Saturday cleaning day events

LAASR – LOUISIANA ALLIANCE FOR SHARE RESOURCES
A “one-stop-shop” for cost savings and time saving for child care centers and educators

338 memberships
35% participation rate
2014 – 2015 OUTCOMES:

PROGRAM SNAPSHOTs
Summer Spectacular Training with Guest Trainer Dr. Mary Sciara
Family Field Days with Senator Mike Walsworth
Super Saturday Volunteers with Senator Mike Walsworth

2014 – 2015 OUTCOMES:
HEALTHY LIVING concentrates on developing the body as well as the mind. When children are healthy and well-nourished, they are more able to learn, grow and thrive throughout their school years. Our school-based and out-of-school programs encourage positive physical and mental development, and community-based initiatives meet the unique needs of families in our region.

U-ACT
Creating a coalition in Union Parish that will develop and implement a 5-year plan to address underage drinking and prescription drug abuse

400 people served through events, coalition membership and "Rethink the Drink" prom campaign


PROGRAM SNAPSHOTS

Berg Jones Pre-K Teacher, Jeanette Wynn, teaches a lesson on feelings

Unite Against Bullying Day

U-ACT “Rethink the Drink” Prom Campaign

Strauss Youth Arts Academy

Unite Against Bullying Day

MENTAL HEALTH Consultation
Educating teachers and parents on developmentally appropriate practices that foster healthy development

PROGRAM OUTCOMES:

2014 – 2015

LITERACY PLUS
Providing literacy programs that bridge the home and school so children in the housing authority are reading on grade level by third grade

4 parishes: Ouachita, Lincoln, Morehouse, Richland

23 child care centers

300 children per month

656 hours spent in centers with direct service to children, owners/directors.

22 child care centers

4 providers: Ouachita, Lincoln, Morehouse, Richland

Unite Against Bullying Day

Sounds of the South Entertainmentight

Literacy Plus at Monroe Housing Authority

Unite Against Bullying Day

42 PARLS Teaching preschool children the social-emotional and resiliency skills

Funding provided by Northeast Delta Human Services Agency, Monroe Housing Authority, and Tulane Institute for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT encourages positive mental health, physical health and nutrition, and support with key issues that matter to young people. Statistics show that supportive relationships bring safety, stability and encouragement to young people’s lives. In addition to empowering and supporting youth, adults must work together to address some of the serious problems faced by our teens. The Coalition utilizes data and works with governmental agencies, non-profit organizations and school systems assessed for community report.

Funding provided by Northeast Delta Human Services Agency and Louisiana Public Health Institute. The Coalition utilizes data and works with governmental agencies, non-profit organizations and school systems assessed for community report.

4TH JDC YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

20-member, cross-sector coalition from Ouachita and Morehouse parishes dedicated to meeting the needs of youth at risk of entering the foster or justice system in Ouachita and Morehouse parishes.

2014 – 2015 OUTCOMES:

SIGNS OF SUICIDE

Helping middle school students to recognize signs of depression and suicide in themselves and others.

2,897 teens trained

777 screened for mental illness within 7 schools in 3 parishes

LPHI MAPPING ADOLESCENT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Building a coalition to help identify and meet the Reproductive Health needs of adolescents.

3 local coalition meetings

8 health system providers, 12 community organizations and 1 school system assessed for community report

Helping middle school students to recognize signs of depression and suicide in themselves and others.

2014 – 2015 OUTCOMES:

PROGRAM SNAPSHOTs

Junior League Monroe supports Ouachita Youth Summit

Lake D’Arbonne State Park

Judge Sharon Marchman at the 4th JDC Youth Services Planning Board

NASA STEM Workshop

Funding provided by Northeast Delta Human Services Agency and Louisiana Public Health Institute.
PARENT EDUCATION has consistently provided evidence-based programs such as The Nurturing Skills for Teen Parents, Triple P Seminars and Nurturing Parenting Programs for children ages 0-18. Due to the efforts of the parenting initiative, families in Northeast Louisiana have gained knowledge of child development, empathy skills and alternatives to corporal punishment, as well as how to raise resilient and confident children in a positive environment.

Providing on-demand workshops throughout the region using evidence-based programs at CCNELA

- 812 parents served in 81 sessions

2014 – 2015 OUTCOMES:

FATHERHOOD NETWORK

- Parenting support for men led by men using the Nurturing Fathers Curriculum
- 265 fatherhood participants at Dad's Draft Day
- 55 active fathers in 5 fatherhood networks in Ouachita and Union parishes

JUS4ME TEEN PARENTING

- Supporting pregnant and parenting teens at the school site through Nurturing Skills for Teen Parents
- 40 teen mothers at schools in the city of Monroe

SHARE

- 115 people through bi-monthly meetings, SHARE week (October 2014), SHARE
- Bi-weekly meetings and peer-to-peer support for families who have experienced pregnancy and infant loss

FATHERHOOD NETWORK

- 25 attendees at each of 5 Fatherhood networks in Ouachita and Union parishes
- 25 Fatherhood Mentors at Dad's Draft Day:
  - 55 attendees

Funding provided by Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund, Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, United HealthCare and School Readiness Tax Credits

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT;

Senator Francis Thompson, Rod Williams, Bruce Peddie, Mark Boyle and Rev. Welton Gaddy at Dad’s Draft Day

Dad’s Draft Day with National Center for Fathering CEO, Carey Casey

Parenting support for men led by men using the Nurturing Fathers Curriculum

Parent Education has consistently provided evidence-based programs for children ages 0-18, due to the efforts of the parenting initiative, such as Nurturing Skills for Teen Parents, Triple P Seminars and Nurturing Parenting Programs.
In addition to working on programs in our four focal areas, the Children’s Coalition comes together as a staff to present several community-based events each year. Building on the success of our annual WHAT WORKS CONFERENCE and ALL CHILDREN’S DAY, we added two new events this year: DAD’S DRAFT DAY and FAMILY FIELD DAY. We also increased our community partnerships to ensure that local businesses and the arts are invited to join us in our programs. The Coalition continues to present several community-sponsored events each year, including our annual fundraising event: FASHION FUSION.

**ALL CHILDREN’S DAY**

Despite the tornado the week before, the River Market was filled with happy families celebrating the power of a community that came together. OCT 18, 2014

- 700 attendees
- 92 children in costume parade
- 12 partners

**DAD’S DRAFT DAY**

National speaker and CEO of the National Fatherhood Institute Carey Casey inspired men from across the community to be “championship” fathers. JAN 15, 2015

- 120 fathers attended
- 80 fathers who pledged

**WHAT WORKS CONFERENCE: PARENT IS A VERB**

Participants chose from six career paths offering CEUs in Nursing, Teaching, Social Work and Counseling to learn about ways to parent teaching social work and counseling in their own personal and professional lives. JAN 16-17, 2015

- 315 participants
- 200 CEUs awarded
- 120 attendees

**FASHION FUSION**

Beginning with a stunning 25-page spread in Delta Style, this unique blend of dance and design highlighted our local champions for children, local businesses and the arts. APR 18, 2015

- 600+ attendees
- 20 community celebrity models
- 75 performers/models
- (sold-out venue)

**JULIE & DEWEY WEAVER**

APR 18, 2015

- 12 partners
- 72 children in costume parade
- 120 attendees

In addition to working on programs in our four focal areas, the Coalition continues to present several community-sponsored events each year, including our annual fundraising event: FASHION FUSION.
For the past 17 years, the Children’s Coalition has worked with its members and partner agencies to identify and address critical issues that affect the care and education of children ages 0-18 in our region. By joining the Coalition, you have an opportunity to be part of this community effort and support important programs that are currently unfunded.

Your membership not only provides funding for community-based initiatives like SHARE and Jus4Me Teen Parenting, but it also helps the Coalition to better meet community needs through your input and participation in community-wide events like All Children’s Day and Dia de la Familia.

Consider becoming part of the Coalition today as either a member or patron, or renewing your membership. It takes all of us to create a community where children and families thrive!

There are three main ways you can support the Children’s Coalition:

- **BECOME A MEMBER**
  - Membership has its benefits! Find out what it means to join the Coalition.

- **SPONSORSHIP**
  - Sponsor an event or program and align your organization or business with a community-based organization that impacts over 30,000 children each year.

- **SCHOOL READINESS TAX CREDITS**
  - Receive a dollar-for-dollar refundable tax credit for a $5,000 donation to the Children’s Coalition.

Visit www.childrenscoalition.org/support for more information.
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