



CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE
COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
ALBEMARLE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING – 5TH ST. EXTENDED
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PRESS RELEASE:

Wednesday, January 30th, 2008

CCF FY08 3rd Quarterly Report Highlights:

Stepping Stones 2007 – CCF is pleased to announce the publication of the 8th edition of *Stepping Stones*, a report card tracking 60 indicators of community health and well-being since 1997. Some highlights from this 2007 Edition as related to identified community priorities are: (1) Local data show that public preschool enrollment has been increasing in the County, and the number of children needing additional reading interventions in Kindergarten is going down. (2) The number of children in the public schools for whom English is a 2nd language has increased 175% in Albemarle and over 500% in Charlottesville (compared to an increase of 225% in Virginia). (3) SOL scores are generally increasing in both the City and County, as are the number of instructional personnel per student in each locality.

Partnership for Children Update – (1) The Partnership for Children (PFC) has received a two-year, \$400,000 Smart Beginnings Partnership Grant from the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF). This project will improve the quality of local early childhood services and programs to help all children reach kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed. (2) PFC is convening a group to create and implement an Action Plan for expanding programming and access to affordable early care and education for children from birth to age 5 that meets an agreed upon minimum standard of quality; that is one of the service-oriented priorities identified by CCF's Human Services Strategic Planning process. (3) PFC has had discussions with representatives from the University of Virginia and Virginia Premier to discuss ways to improve local prenatal care statistics.

Intern Efforts Really Add Up! – Each semester CCF is incredibly lucky to have to support of several UVa interns and faculty. In the Fall semester between September and December 2007, UVa (and one volunteer from PCVV!) contributed a combined 1,400 hours to CCF initiatives and research.

Volunteer of the Quarter - CCF is thrilled to recognize Mary Sullivan as our volunteer of the quarter. She is a dedicated, informed, and compassionate family advocate. Please see the attached document or visit our website to read more about Mary's enthusiastic commitment to our children and families.

To learn more about any of the topics above, please use the link on the homepage of our website, www.ccfinfo.org, to get to the online PDF of the full Quarterly Report.

If you have any questions please contact Hallam Roth, Information and Outreach Coordinator:
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CCF is a 28-member planning board that advises the Charlottesville City Council and the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors on improving outcomes for children and their families.

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