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PRESS RELEASE:

Commission on Children and Families' (CCF) *Stepping Stones* Report Released to the Public

Trends identified in critical areas of child and family well-being

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA— The Charlottesville/Albemarle Commission on Children and Families (CCF) has issued the eighth edition of *Stepping Stones*, the annual Charlottesville and Albemarle statistical report on the well-being of local children and families.

Stepping Stones was created in 1999 as a tool to chart the health of children and their families in the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County. Now, eight years later, *Stepping Stones* includes sufficient longitudinal data to identify positive and negative trends on a growing percentage of the 60 indicators chosen to measure child and family well-being. Some of these trends are highlighted below.

Stepping Stones is intended to stimulate community dialogue and action regarding regional trends in the Charlottesville/ Albemarle community. **For more information on CCF and *Stepping Stones* please call Maryfrances Porter, CCF Coordinator of Research and Planning at 872-4546 or visit our website to view a PDF of the full document: www.ccfinfo.org.**

Academic Achievement:

- ▲ The percentage of Grade 3 students who pass English, math, history, and science Standards of Learning tests has significantly increased in Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville since 1998.
- ▲ The percentage of Grade 5 students who pass English, math, history, and science Standards of Learning tests has significantly increased in Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville since 1998.
- ▲ The percentage of Grade 8 students who pass English, math, and history Standards of Learning tests has significantly increased in Albemarle County since 1998.

Community Characteristics:

- ▲ The number of passenger rides per person on public buses has significantly increased in Charlottesville/Albemarle since 1997.

▲ The percentage of adults registered to vote has significantly increased in Albemarle County since 1997.

▲ The percentage of public school students with Limited English Proficiency has significantly increased in Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville since 1998.

Community Involvement:

▼ Enrollment in school-sponsored programs has significantly decreased in Albemarle County since 1998.

▼ Enrollment in fine arts classes has significantly decreased in the City of Charlottesville since 1997.

▼ There is a possible emerging decreasing trend in extracurricular and sports program enrollment in the City of Charlottesville over the last 5 years.

Conduct in Community:

▲ Alcohol arrests for youth under the age of 21 have significantly increased in Albemarle County since 1997.

▼ Teen pregnancies have significantly decreased in Albemarle County since 1997.

▼ Births to teens have significantly decreased in Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville since 1992.

▼ Petitions for Children In Need of Services/Supervision have significantly decreased in Albemarle County since 1997, and in the City of Charlottesville there is an emerging decreasing trend over the last 6 years.

▼ Delinquency judgments of youth ages 10-17 have significantly decreased in Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville since 1998.

▲ CSA cases for youth ages 10-17 have significantly increased in the City of Charlottesville since 1994.

Discipline in School:

▼▲ There is a possible emerging decreasing trend over the last 5 years in the incidents of possession of drugs/alcohol in public schools in Albemarle County, while this rate appears to be going up in the City of Charlottesville for the last 6 years.

▲ Student suspensions have significantly increased in Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville since 1997.

Early Childhood Education:

▲ There is a possible emerging increasing trend over the last 6 years in the number of children enrolled in publicly subsidized pre-school programs in Albemarle County.

▼ There is a possible emerging decreasing trend over the last 7 years in the percentage of children identified for intervention services in Albemarle County.

Family Characteristics:

▼ Divorces have significantly decreased in the City of Charlottesville since 1997.

Family and Community Safety:

▼ Domestic assault arrests have significantly decreased in the City of Charlottesville since 1997.

Financial Assistance Program Participation:

▲ There is a possible emerging increasing trend in the percentage of students receiving free/reduced meals in the City of Charlottesville since 2000.

▼ Children receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families has significantly decreased in Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville since 1993.

▲ There is a possible emerging increasing trend in food stamp participation in Albemarle County, over the last 7 years.

Financial Status:

▶ While there has been an increase in the average per capita income in the Charlottesville Metropolitan Area, after adjusting for inflation, the increase is not significant.

Infant and Early Childhood Health:

▼ The percentage of women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester has been significantly decreasing in Albemarle County since 1993.

▲ The percentage of low weight births has significantly increased in Albemarle County since 1993.

School Characteristics:

▼ The percentage of children entering and withdrawing from school in one school year (community mobility) has significantly decreased in Albemarle County since 1997.

▲ Instructional personnel positions per student have significantly increased in Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville since 1993.

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. www.ccfinfo.org

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