



## Steering Committee

Loranne Ausley, Chair  
Ken Armstrong  
Nina Ashenafi  
Kristin Dozier  
Laurie Dozier  
Lauren Faison  
Bob Gabordi  
Ed Feaver  
Robin Johnston  
Serena Moyle  
Bev Owens  
Lori Danello Roberts  
Angel Trejo

## Help Keep Us Current

Please go to the Resource Guide on the [Whole Child Leon website](#) and make sure information about your program is current. Please email [Heather](#) with any updates or corrections. Make sure to send us a list of upcoming events and meetings for our calendar!

### Whole Child Advisors

Check for service requests on a regular basis; you may not always receive email notification. Please feel free to contact us if you need additional assistance or information.

Contact Heather at 850-414-

## Community Update May 2011



### April's Guest Speakers:

- **Barbara Goldstein**, WIC Nutrition Educator, Leon County Department of Health, presented "Wellness for Everyone" and stressed the importance nutrition education for anyone working with children and families. For more information visit [www.leoncountyfl.gov/lchd/wic.asp](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/lchd/wic.asp) , [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org) and [www.mypyramid.gov](http://www.mypyramid.gov)
- **Adelaide Recinella**, BSW, Case Manager for the Refugee Program at Catholic Charities presented "Refugee Social Services" and provided insight on identifying people at risk for being trafficked. Questions to keep in mind to identify trafficking victims: 1. Where did you sleep last night? 2. Where do you work? 3. Could you leave if you wanted to?

Our next Professional Network meeting is Monday, May 23rd at Noon.

### Guest Speakers Include:

- **Mr. Desmond Cole and Ms. Merlin JnBaptiste**, Astoria Park Elementary School on Nutrition Education
- **Sheila Costigan**, Foundation for Leon County Schools on Kidz Bite Back
- **Jennifer D'Urso**, Leon County Health Department on 95210

Email [Heather](#) if you would like to be added to the Professional Network invitation list.

8344 or [htelfer@uwbb.org](mailto:htelfer@uwbb.org) for assistance.

## WCL/LCS KidCare Outreach Project

Leon County School's Outreach Project recently launched a contest within the district to help promote the Florida Kidcare Program by challenging all schools to post a KidCare banner/link on their school's website. We now have 23 participating schools that have the Florida KidCare link on their webpage, as a result of the contest and we are well on our way to meeting our goal of having ALL school websites with a Florida KidCare link. We're also working on a pre-summer outreach campaign to remind parents about the availability of Florida KidCare as an option for health insurance for their children. For this campaign we will be sending out over 8,000 post card to all Title I schools.

Astoria Park, Pineview, Deerlake and Nims have allowed us to present the KidCare Outreach project during their PTO and SAC meetings within the past weeks. We've gained their interest and have been invited to several upcoming school events. We appreciate the support of these schools and their willingness to help promote Florida KidCare in our mission to ensure that every student has access to adequate health insurance.

### Days of Doing:

## Is Your Child Starting Kindergarten in the Fall?

Be on the lookout for the "Kindergarten Parent Input Survey". This survey is designed to make your child's transition into Kindergarten easy and successful. It will also help your child's new school make the most appropriate class placement. The Kindergarten Parent Input Survey offers parents an opportunity to point out their child's developmental strengths and weaknesses and describe how their child reacts to different situations. The rising kindergartener is also asked to participate by drawing a picture of themselves for their new teacher.



Surveys will be distributed through VPK sites and will also be available for download from [www.wholechildleon.org/The-6-Dimensions/Quality-Education](http://www.wholechildleon.org/The-6-Dimensions/Quality-Education). Completed surveys will be collected at VPK sites or can be sent to your child's new school by July 31, 2011.

Whole Child Leon is currently focused upon three key areas impacting young children:

- Children are Healthy at Age 1
- Children are Making Appropriate Progress
- Children are Entering Kindergarten Ready to Learn

The Quality Education Action Team of Whole Child Leon created the Kindergarten Parent Input Form as part of their focus on helping children enter kindergarten ready to learn. The Quality Education Action Team will continue tracking how many forms are returned. This is the second year of this initiative and the feedback from the first year suggests that teachers and principals are very happy to have this information before the start to the new school year.

Click [here](#) to download a survey. Click [here](#) to download Kindergarten Readiness Expectations.

## Whole Child Leon Advisors at TMH



## Read United

by Roger Luke

**4,400 books distributed to 300 first-grade classrooms by 125 volunteers in eight counties within five days results in countless smiles.**

United Way's week-long Days of Doing: READ UNITED effort provides volunteers opportunity to share gift of books, love reading with thousands of first-graders.

"The Cat in the Hat," "Berenstain Bears" and many other childhood books were read and distributed to 300 first-grade classes throughout the Big Bend by 125 volunteers during United Way of the Big Bend's (UWBB) Days of Doing: READ UNITED effort from April 25 to 29.

In five days, countless smiles and widespread inspiration for books and reading was the result for thousands of first-graders in Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla counties.

"What a fantastic READ UNITED event," said Heather Mitchell, UWBB vice-president of resource development. "We are grateful to our partners who helped to make this a reality and our volunteers who made it work. UWBB's Days of Doing was created to promote the spirit and value of volunteerism. increase

Whole Child Leon has two advisors, Lyndsey Westall and Jennifer Davis, at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare on Wednesdays and Fridays helping parents of children in the NICU and Pediatric departments complete profiles and get connected to resources and services through the Whole Child Connection.

Lyndsey Westall

A native of Western North Carolina, Lyndsey Westall received her undergraduate degree in Social Work from Appalachian State University. Her first internship was at Watauga Medical Center in Boone, North Carolina. Shortly after graduating in 2007 Lyndsey and her now husband Rich moved to Palm Coast Florida. She worked for two and a half years as a Para-professional at an elementary school before deciding to continue her education. Lyndsey began the Master of Social Work program at Florida State University in August of 2010, and she will be interning at Whole Child Leon for the summer of 2011. Lyndsey enjoys being outdoors, reading, watching movies and traveling. She is looking forward to this internship, where she hopes to learn more about non-profit agencies, and contribute to services provided through Whole Child Leon.

Jennifer's photo and bio will be featured in next month's Community Update.

---

**Evening With the Stars - Vegas Nights** The Early Learning Coalition presents the 9th Annual Evening with the Stars "Vegas Nights" on Saturday May 14th from 6:00pm - 10:00pm at the Northwood Centre Atrium, 1940 N. Monroe Street. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased online at [www.elcbigbend.org](http://www.elcbigbend.org).

Come dressed to impress and play Casino Games, Bingo, Yahtzee, Dominos and many more!

---

## Gadsden Community Baby Shower

The Inaugural Gadsden County Healthy Baby Community Baby Shower hosted by the Gadsden County Healthy Start Coalition, Inc. and its community partners. On Saturday May 14th 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. the Shower will feature games, giveaways, food, prizes and health information. Health screenings will also be provided. A healthy snack preparation workshop will be offered by the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension Services.

The general session topics will cover mental health during pregnancy and beyond and the importance of good oral health during pregnancy. Zumba and breakout sessions, such as Car Seat Safety, along with door prize giveaways, will occur between the general sessions.

The event is free and will include the following community partners: Gadsden County Health Department, Whole Child Leon, Big Bend AHEC, Gadsden Woman-to-Woman, Magellan Health Services,

the awareness of local human-service needs, and demonstrate what people working together for the community's good can accomplish. Reading helps children develop vital language skills, open up new worlds, enrich their lives, and enhance social skills. Days of Doing: READ UNITED was a great opportunity to make a positive impact in the community."

From the first book being opened for story time to the last book being handed to a first-grader, the READ UNITED effort was widely successful, Mitchell noted. It gave volunteers the opportunity to read a book to a class, foster the love of reading and provide books to get them started on this journey. More than 4,400 books will be distributed, and it wouldn't have been possible without the exceptional generosity of contributing organizations such as Books-A-Million, Fair Point Communications and Volunteer USA Foundation.

"The children were delighted to have a visitor read to them and broke out in applause when they heard they could take a book home!" said Barbara Mitchell, Pineview Elementary reading coach. "We are thrilled and honored to be part of the READ UNITED effort. You totally made a memorable day for our first-graders. I was in the first grade wing at dismissal and throngs of children came into the

Brehon Institute/Healthy Families Gadsden, Mother Care Network, Inc., Florida State University Early Head Start, KidCare, Early Steps, MAACA, Inc. and others. The Shower is sponsored by the Florida Department of Health Women's Health Program and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, National Office of Women's Health in observance of National Women's Health Week, May 8-14, 2011.

Saturday, May 14th, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Shanks Middle School, located at 1400 W. King Street, Quincy, FL.

The Shower provides an opportunity for parents and caregivers to learn how to improve birth outcomes through maternal and infant education. Due to economic hardships, parents in need of baby necessities, such as bottles, clothing, diapers, strollers, car seats, and more, may obtain them at the Shower.

The community may also bring any gently used baby items to the event for distribution to parents in need on the day of the event. This event is open to Young/New and Expecting Parents, Women of Childbearing Age, Childcare Workers and others are all invited!

## Jazz Jams for Good Health - Call to Action

Tallahassee COPE (Childhood Obesity Prevention Education) Coalition, in partnership with The Tallahassee Chapter of The Links, Inc., Presents "Jazz Jams for Good Health - A CALL TO ACTION!!!"



May 20th at Kleman Plaza from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. For additional information, please contact Dr. Cynthia M. Harris [cynthia.harris2@famu.edu](mailto:cynthia.harris2@famu.edu) or Ms. Sokoya Finch [sokoya@earthlink.net](mailto:sokoya@earthlink.net)

Supported by the Blue Cross Clue Shield of Florida Foundation. Click [here](#) for the flier.

## Tooth Decay and Babies

The Florida Department of Health offers some suggestions for keeping your baby's teeth healthy.

1. Avoid sharing food, forks, spoons, straws,

toothbrushes or licking pacifiers so you don't pass germs to baby.



hallway, clutching and reading their book, and clamoring to show me which book they had. It was obviously something they treasured and were excited about sharing. It is definitely a united effort to bring literacy to our children in important, engaging and exciting ways. Once again, United Way has seen a need in the community and responded. Thank you for your part in this wonderful project."

Thank you Jennifer D'Urso, Colleen Putnam, and Grayson Hagan for reading with Courtney at Astoria Park Elementary School!

## Upcoming Events

**Kidsfest** - On Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the North Florida Fairgrounds, we'll have the 10th Annual Kidsfest. Bring the whole family for a day's worth of good old-fashioned fun! There will be a giant water slide, pony rides, bounce houses, and plenty of hands-on-activities and games for the children. There's a toddler area just for the little ones! Live entertainment is provided and refreshments are sold. General Admission is a minimum donation of \$2 per person and all activities are free. For more information, email [jmiller@kidsincorporated.org](mailto:jmiller@kidsincorporated.org)

**Jazz'n for Autism - Reception** Friday, May 27th at 6:00 p.m. at the Early

2. Wipe baby's teeth and gums after every feeding and especially before going to bed.
3. Look for changes in tooth color. Healthy teeth should all be one color.
4. Be sure baby has a dental checkup by age one.

For more information, visit the website for the Public Health Dental Program, [www.doh.state.fl.us/family/dental/index/html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/family/dental/index/html)

## Get Involved in Your Child's Education



Florida Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC) at the University of South Florida has a mission to "empower Florida's families to support children's academic success through leading edge parent involvement practices and partnerships." Visit their website to get information on programs, downloadable workshops and resources that can help!

Go to [www.floridapirc.usf.edu](http://www.floridapirc.usf.edu) for information.

## Family Connection Corners in Leon County Schools

"Sabal Palm Elementary School has been excited about the Family Connection Corner. The Connection Corner is located in the school Media Center. Parents can come in at anytime during the school day to use the Family Connection Corner. Having these community resources online has allowed our families to learn how local agencies can provide support for their children and their families," said Gloria Smith, Sabal Palm Elementary, Community Project Manger.



Family Connection Corner at Sabal Palm Elementary School

There are Family Connection Corners in 19 Leon County Schools. From these corners, families can connect to Whole Child Leon; KidCare for children's health insurance; ACCESS for food stamps, medicaid and temporary cash assistance; and the Free and Reduced Lunch Application.

Thank you to Leon County Schools, T.I.S. Department for their computer support for the Family Connection Corners.

Learning Coalition offices in Northwood Centre. Jazz Workshops/Clinics Saturday May 28th at Northwood Centre. 10:00 a.m. - workshops geared for Autistic Children only. 1:00 p.m Workshops open to the Public. Cost is \$20. May 28th at 7:00pm - The JWB in Concert with Opening Act Glenn Bostic at Ruby Diamond Auditorium. Tickets are \$20. Click [here](#) for a flier. Click [here](#) for the website.

**2011 Training Institute on Autism** - Recent Advances in Evidence-Based Practice for Autism Spectrum Disorders. June 20-24th at the FSU Conference Center. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Oasis - Single Moms Support Group

Now on Thursdays at The OASIS Center for Women & Girls, 317 E. Call Street.

Free Childcare for children 12 and younger!  
Thursdays 6:00pm - 7:30pm  
Call First! 850-222-2747

Being a parent is tough enough - raising a family alone is that much tougher! OASIS understands and wants to give you access to support and help.

## Thank you

- To Harvest Printing for their help with the

## Capital Area Healthy Start - Annual Meeting

For voting members and those who care about the health of our community. Wednesday, June 1st from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the offices of Capital Area Healthy Start, 1211 N. Paul Russell Road, Suite A101. For more details, [ann@capitalareahealthystart.org](mailto:ann@capitalareahealthystart.org), or call 850-488-0288, ext. 101.

Click [here](#) for the flier.

## Whole Child Leon Staff

**Courtney Atkins**, Executive Director

**Heather Telfer**, Connection and Outreach Coordinator

**Amanda Clements**, Vice-President of Strategic Initiatives, United Way of the Big Bend

**Megan Earnhardt**, Strategic Initiatives Associate, United Way of the Big Bend

**Got Kids? Get connected to community resources that can assist you and your family at the Whole Child Connection.**

[www.WholeChildLeon.org](http://www.WholeChildLeon.org)

**Contact a Whole Child Leon Advisor today, at 850-414-8344.**



Whole Child Leon  
2813 S. Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
850.414.8344

[www.WholeChildLeon.org](http://www.WholeChildLeon.org)

Whole Child Leon  
coloring books

### We're on the web!

The [Whole Child Leon Online Event Calendar](#) gives information on a wide array of local events for kids and for people who work with kids.

If you have news you would like to share, [email it](#) and we'll make sure it gets onto the WCL Website in the Community News section or the Event Calendar.

Find us on Facebook 

Follow us on 



LAWTON CHILES  
FOUNDATION



United Way of the Big Bend

