

CONDUCT A COMMUNITY EVENT

.... to Engage Others About Early Care and Education. The third annual **Family Fun Fest** was conducted on March 4, 2006. The local Indiana Mall donated the space for the event. This event was very successful with over five hundred families attending. Health, human service agencies, child care providers, civic clubs such as the Indiana Kiwanis Club, businesses, churches, and others set up informational tables for parents and provided activities for children.

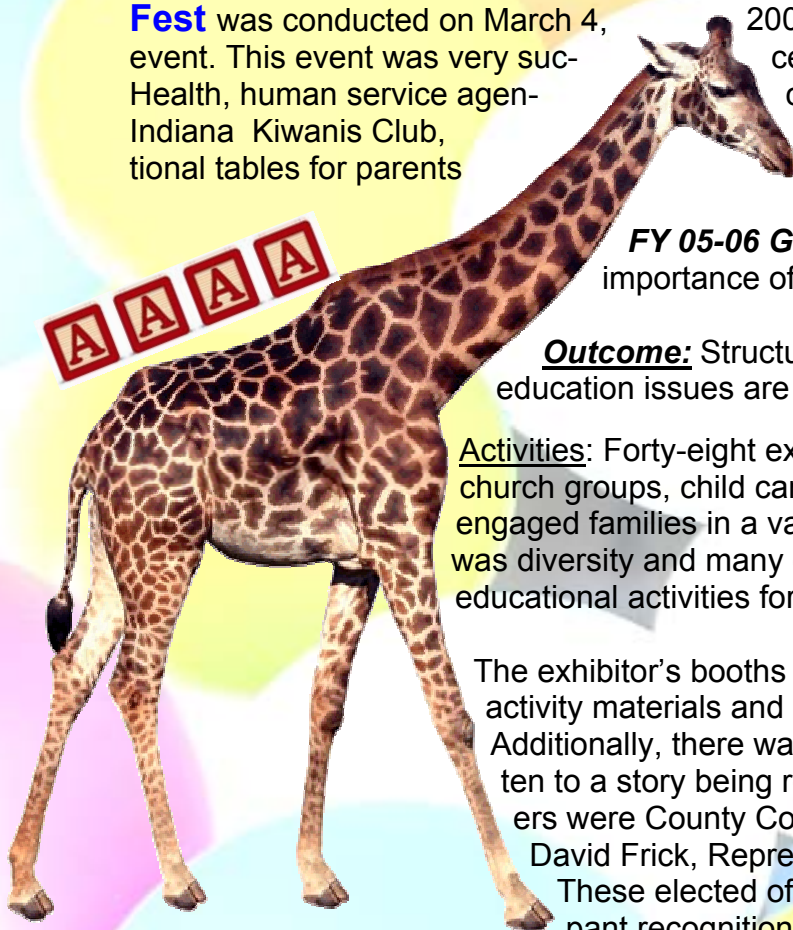
FY 05-06 Goal: The Community learns about the importance of early care and education.

Outcome: Structured opportunities for discussion on early care and education issues are available at the Family Fun Fest.

Activities: Forty-eight exhibitors, consisting of local human service agencies, church groups, child care providers, civic organizations, and businesses engaged families in a variety of learning experiences. The theme for this year was diversity and many of the exhibitors incorporated the theme into their educational activities for children.

The exhibitor's booths were very successful. Many reported running out of activity materials and handing out all of their information to parents. Additionally, there was a *Story Time* area where children could sit and listen to a story being read by a noted community leader. Among the readers were County Commissioner Rodney Ruddock, County Commissioner David Frick, Representative David Reed, and Senator Don White.

These elected officials were also part of a Keystone STARS participant recognition ceremony which was a *Center Stage* event for the public. Keystone STARS participants received an achievement certificate and were congratulated by the elected officials; the CAC Co-Chairs, Linda Berryman and Bonni Dunlap; and Lisa Weyand, the Keystone STARS manager for the NW Key.



Attendance A A A A	The Indiana Mall recorded an attendance of over 10,000 people on March 4, 2006. Each exhibitor reported distributing/completing the majority of their information/activities. The ECEC added close to 500 names to their Family Fun Fest data base (from raffle entries.)
Public Survey C C	The survey was available in hard copy on the day of the event and online to the public. However only 21 people answered the survey. The Fun Fest Committee will need to determine a better way to get opinions from the public.
Exhibitor Survey A A A A	78% of the exhibitors completed the on-line survey. 96% rated their over-all impression of the Fun Fest as excellent or above average. Specific information was collected on event organization, publicity efforts, activities, volunteers, and suggestions for improvement. The Fun Fest Committee will use this information to improve the event for next year.
Keystone STARS participants attend recognition ceremony B B B	58% of Keystone STARS participating Child Care Providers attended the award ceremony in their honor.

INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION

Community Engagement Information Distribution Chart: 05-06

A A A A	Department of Human Services Literature	Early Care & Education Information Developed by the Community Engagement Grant Staff	No Child Left Behind Resources	TOTALS
1 st Quarter	5,812	4,246	703	10,761
2 nd Quarter	2,108	2,369	82	4,559
3 rd Quarter	2,723	7,115	162	10,000
4 th Quarter	1,423	2,085	91	3,599
TOTALS	12,066	15,815	1,038	28,919

WHAT WAS DISTRIBUTED?

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES LITERATURE:

- * WHERE TO TURN FOR HELP IN INDIANA COUNTY
- * CHILDREN'S SERVICES BOOKLET
- * TEEN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
- * VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES LIST
- * MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION INFO
- * TRANSPORTATION BROCHURE
- * HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN INDIANA COUNTY
- * SUPPORT GROUP LISTING FOR INDIANA COUNTY
- * DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES BROCHURE
- * STEPS TO EMPLOYMENT
- * DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES LITTER BAGS
- * DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES POST-IT PADS

INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GRANT STAFF:

- * KINDERGARTEN CHECKLIST
- * WHAT ABOUT KINDERGARTEN?
- * KEYSTONE STARS FLYER
- * TEACHERS TELL IT
- * GUIDE TO SAFE SURFING (ON THE INTERNET)
- * FUN AND EDUCATIONAL WEBSITES – RESOURCE LIST
- * GIRAFFE GROWTH CHART
- * RECIPE FOR READINESS
- * TOY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS
- * FAMILY FUN FEST FLYERS
- * TID-BITS
- * 04-05 REPORT CARD
- * ECEC LITTER BAGS
- * DISCOVERY TOY PARTY INFO

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND RESOURCES:

- * READING GUIDE
- * HELPING YOUR PRESCHOOL CHILD
- * LET'S DO SCIENCE
- * HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH HOMEWORK
- * PARENT/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT
- * GUIDE TO KEEPING YOUR CHILD DRUG FREE
- * HELPING YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL
- * PARENT INFORMATION BOOK
- * HELPING YOUR ADOLESCENT
- * HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN MATH
- * BECOMING A READER
- * IMPROVING IN MATH*

How WAS THE INFORMATION DISTRIBUTED?

- * TO SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS AND PRINCIPALS
- * DURING KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATIONS
- * DURING "BACK TO SCHOOL" NIGHTS
- * AT COMMUNITY EVENTS (FAMILY FUN FEST)
- * TO HEAD START FAMILIES
- * DURING KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION
- * TO SALVATION ARMY'S PROJECT BUNDLE UP AND TREASURES FOR CHILDREN REGISTRANTS
- * TO CHILDREN'S ADVISORY COMMISSION MEMBERS
- * AT THE IUP HEALTH FAIR
- * AT MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPS) MEETINGS
- * AT STAND FOR CHILDREN (COMMUNITY EVENT)
- * TO PARENTS AT DAY CARE CENTERS
- * ON BROCHURE RACKS THROUGH-OUT INDIANA COUNTY
- * AT THE BUSINESS EXPO
- * AT INDIANA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
- * TO MEMBERS OF THE INDIANA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL AND MEMBER AGENCIES IN INDIANA COUNTY



NEWSLETTERS & PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Information Coordinator for the Community Engagement Grant wrote updates on the grant activities for publication in the monthly *Council Chronicle* newsletter that is e-mailed to 100+ Human Services Council members in Indiana County and is also available online at <http://humanservices-countyofindiana.org/>

Additionally, public service announcements relating to early care and education topics were sent to the local media. Many were published in the local newspaper, the *Indiana Gazette* (readership of 17,000). All of the announcements are available for download on the Children's Advisory Commission website: www.IndianaCountyCAC.com

Public Service Announcement List

Motor Development - How Your Child's Physical Skills Develop
Choosing a Child Care Program for Your Child
Choosing Child Care For a Child With Special Needs
Choosing a Child Care Setting (Checklist)
Supporting Your Child's Learning Development
Language Development
Helping a Child Learn (Learning is a Lifelong Process)
Separation Anxiety
Helping Your Child Prepare to Read
Halloween Safety Tips

Holiday Safety Tips
Christmas Safety Tips
Toy Tips For the Holidays
Winter Safety Tips
Helping Children Learn
Preparing Your Child For School
Early Learning
Social Readiness: Rules
Social Readiness: Sharing
Stimulating the Love of Reading
Summer Safety Tips



"...children's early experiences affect not only the quality of their present lives, but also their later ability to learn and reason." Barbara Kantowitz - Newsweek Magazine

TRANSITION



Indiana County children who are currently in a registered day care setting, but will be transitioning to kindergarten at East Pike Elementary or Blairsville Elementary, received a special gift from the Early Care and Education Committee of the Children's Advisory Commission of Indiana County. To help ease them into their new environment, CEG staff prepared a personalized book for each child called *I'm going to Kindergarten!* The book features pictures of the school they will be attending, the classrooms, the cafeteria, the playground, and more.



Goal: Children will be familiar with what an elementary school and kindergarten classroom looks like.

Activity	Activity Results	Grade
Create "Going to Kindergarten" books for each child	Child becomes familiar with elementary school setting.	A A A A
	Child has keepsake that may make the transition to kindergarten easier.	A A A A



Hallway at Blairsville Elementary School.



Kozy Kidz Daycare: The Blairsville Providers Group meets with Dr. Johnson, Principal of Blairsville Elementary School, to discuss transition issues & preview the "I'm Going to Kindergarten" book.

Blairsville Elementary School playground.



Color fills a kindergarten classroom at East Pike Elementary School

Reading activity in a kindergarten class at Blairsville Elementary School.



Hallway mural at East Pike Elementary School

The Children's Advisory Commission of Indiana County

Seeking to improve outcomes for children, adolescents, teens, and their families.

Visit the CAC Website:
www.IndianaCountyCAC.com

- Calendar of Events and Activities for Families
- Resources for Parents
- Information for the Community
- Early Care & Education News



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"The Early Care and Education Committee of the Children's Advisory Commission of Indiana County supports the efforts of the North West Regional Key. More information about the North West KEY can be found online at: www.pakeys.org

Early Care and Education Online: www.IndianaCountyCAC.com:

- Articles on child care and child development topics
- Links to Child Care Information Services, The Northwest KEY, Keystone STARS, Indiana County Head Start, Indiana County Department of Human Services
- Information on the Family Fun Fest and other safe and positive activities for families
- Kindergarten readiness information
- ...and more!

Go to the CAC home page and click on "Early Care "

Indiana County Early Care and Education Committee

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**MISSION: TO PROMOTE EARLY
EDUCATION INITIATIVES BY EDUCATING
AND ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY.**