

A newsletter dedicated to connecting, supporting, and informing the child care community so we can continue to work together to positively impact the children of Lake County.

Lake County CHILD CARE CONNECTION

June | 2009 | ISSUE 1

A publication of the Lake County Child Care Planning Council



Our Summer Theme Inspiration! Where to find it? How to keep it? Why do you need it?



ECE Award Night!
A great evening honoring Lake County's providers, and recognizing our Lake County Providers of the Year!
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Steps to Leadership
The new face of AB212 — a dynamic program to inspire more ECE leaders in Lake County!
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Much More!
Info and news you can use! Find out what is going on in Early Childhood Education in Lake County!

Early Childhood Educator of the Year Award Program/Provider Appreciation—A Great Event!

A great response for our first year!

It's official, Lake County really does appreciate you and all you do! We received over 40 nomination forms for our Early Childhood Educator of the Year Award Program — a great turnout for our first year!

We squeezed in 150 providers at Moore Family Winery, and had several on the waiting list. It was such an encouragement to see our community's leaders take the time to join us and participate in our event. Watch your local newspapers for advertisements and articles highlighting our winners!

Thank you to Gary Abels and Cindy Machado for volunteering their time and talents to photograph this event. We've included a few pictures inside this newsletter, but if you'd like to view the entire album visit our website, www.lakecountychildcareplanning.com, and click on "Links and Resources". There are some really great shots! Check out the winners and a sampling of the photos on page 4!



WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT?



Summer Events

- May 21 NO Council Meeting!
- June 18 Council Meeting—Yuba Community College, Clearlake Campus, Rm 908 (No parking pass needed)
- July 1-31 Council Office Closed
- August 7 Council Planning Retreat, Wellness Center, Sutter Hospital, Lakeport

We would like our website to be a one-stop shop for all things ECE in Lake County. Let us include your events in our calendar, or a link to your website! Call for info!

GET INVOLVED! GROW! BE INSPIRED!

Sitting on the sidelines doesn't help you, your children or your families. There are many ways to be involved. Your Child Care Planning Council is a great place to start!

Summer Ideas

The Planning Council Website has two resources that might be useful for your summer planning!

- 1) Our Resource Library catalog is available online. It's a great place to access some fresh ideas for your program for FREE!
- 2) Our Family Resource Guide available online has a huge listing of Lake County's parks, activities, pools, and much more. You'll be surprised how much there is to do around Lake County

Both resources can be found by visiting our website and clicking on "Links and Resources".

GOOD THOUGHTS

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.

John Quincy Adams



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Staying Inspired: How She Does It

Marci Psalmonds has operated her family child care center, Training Wheels for 16 years. As the winner of our Family Child Care Provider of the Year Award, we wanted to get her insights on how she has stayed inspired over nearly two decades!

Shelly: Thanks for taking the time to talk to me, Marci. First of all, how long have you been a provider?

Marci: I've been in the field for 20 years and operated my family child care for 16 years.

Shelly: How many children do you estimate you've cared for over the years?

Marci: Well, I just finished my first book, "Still Alive After Raising 400+ Children", so I would say somewhere around 400.

Shelly: What do you think is the best thing about your program? What's your specialty?

Marci: I provide preschool and day care full day or half day, 5 days a week. A lot of preschools only offer half days or 2-day weeks and they repeat themselves. My curriculum is different every day, so there is no repeating and a child can come more than 2 days a week and not learn the same thing twice. I also don't require your child to be potty trained. That is all part of the process of learning. My specialty would be staying sane ...:o) I actually would have to say getting kids to follow a routine daily and stay in centers. The more structure you give a child, the more they thrive on it.

Shelly: How do you stay informed? Where do you go for new ideas?

Marci: The program I use for preschool is a great informant on new books, songs, projects, and even internet sites for kids. Believe it or not, I get a lot of my ideas from the kids. They will want to make something, and usually we come up with something together or we make up games and songs all the time. As far as new ideas for conquering a child's behavior or the wonderful obstacles that children like to throw our way, I would have to say I keep trying something new until it works.

Shelly: After 20 years caring for children, how do you stay inspired?

Marci: I think I just enjoy being around the kids and watching them grow up right before my eyes. Everyday they say or do something that makes me laugh. Sure there are times I want to pull my hair out, but for the most part I love my job. I guess at the end of the day, I feel inspired that I taught a child something, a new letter, a color... I guess you could say it feels like you would after you spring clean—just a sense of accomplishment. Who doesn't get inspired by doing a job well done!

Shelly: Is there something you plan on working on, an area in which you are looking to grow during the next year?

Marci: Sure, there is always room for improvement. I would like to implement more science into my program. We have a science area, but it is lacking some good concepts for children to learn.

Shelly: What is one thing you would say to someone just starting out in the field?

Marci: Oh there are plenty of ideas I could throw their way, but we don't have all day! The number one thing I would tell someone is, "There are going to be some good days and some bad days, but remember that the glass is always half full in the eyes of a child, and don't change that. Always be positive and encouraging."

Inspiring Thought:

"You never fail until you stop trying, and that is so true with children."

"The more structure you give a child, the more they thrive on it."



Marci accepting her award at the Award Dinner on May 8.



Vicki (center), with Joann Matz from NCO (left), and Tom Jordan from First 5 Lake (right) at Award Dinner.

Meet Vicki Hays!

Vicki is our newest Council Member, and replaced Tom Jordan as our representative from First 5. It's great to have her enthusiasm and ideas on the Council! Let's get to know a little more about her!

What is your day job? Administrative support staff to the Executive Director of First 5, Lake County. I'm going on 7 years!

Why do you serve on the Council? I want to be instrumental in any way I can to supporting and improving the Lake County child care industry.

What is your perfect day? One where I can spend the entire day with my kids doing something we all enjoy - going to the ocean or riding dirt bikes. They are my pride and joy!

Who is your greatest inspiration? Anyone who can hold onto hope when they are dealing with extreme adversity. That's really all any one of us has.

What are you most excited about in your work? It's always rewarding to give money away! I'm also thinking of exploring a different direction, something that is more "hands on" in the social or health care fields. So I'm very excited about that possibility.

What Can You Do Right Now?

Children need us to speak up for them! Here are a few things you can do over the summer to be the voice for our kids.



May 19th — Vote!! The most basic and effective way to speak for our children is to vote! Encourage your families to vote as well. For information on the propositions, visit the California Budget Project at www.cbp.org.

June 9th — Early Learning Advocacy Day, 2009 Sacramento. This is a great way to let our elected leaders hear our voice. If you would like to join a group and go together, let me know! For more info, visit: www.preschoolcalifornia.org or www.caeyc.org.

Become Inspired! There are lots of great resources to take advantage of during the lazier summer months to make sure you are up and running come Fall. The Planning Council Resource Library is a great place to start. Read, dream, take a breath and think about where you would like to improve and grow in the coming year!

Resource Highlight

The Child Care Planning Council has a Free Resource Library full of books, DVDs, laminator, die-cut, and more. These resources are available for any provider. Call Cheryl Graves for more information! 707-994-4795.

Our Resource Library Catalog is now available online! Visit lakecountychildcareplanning.com, and click on Resources to view our entire catalog. Take advantage of this FREE resource!

The Ooey Goey Handbook
Lisa Murphy
Even More Fizzle, Bubble, Pop and Wow!
Lisa Murphy

Many still talk about Lisa Murphy's great workshop here in Lake County a few years back. Get INSPIRED by her great ideas and have some fun this summer!

*The resource library will be closed for the month of July.



**2009
Early Childhood Educator of the Year
Award Winners**

**Family Child Care Provider of the Year
Marci Psalmonds, Training Wheels, Lakeport**

Honorable Mentions

Angie De Maria Souza, Patty Cakes, Lakeport

Roxi Hoogendoorn, Hoogendoorn Family Child Care, Hidden Valley Lake

**Center-Based Provider of the Year
Letty Lopez, Early Head Start, Lakeport**

Honorable Mentions

Stephan Thill, Early Connections Preschool, Burns Valley

Denise Villalobos, Head Start, Meadowbrook

**School-Age Provider of the Year
Steve Mahar, Riviera ASES**

Honorable Mentions

Barbara Montalvan, Pomo ASES

Heather Miller-Madden, Lucerne Latchkey

**Advocate of the Year Award
Mary Sherman, Healthy Start, Burns Valley**

**Special Needs Inclusion Award
Connie Hodges, Alphabet Soup, Middletown**

**Leading the Field Award
Lesa Serrano, Early Connections Preschool, Lakeport**

**Careers With Children High School Student Scholarship
Maria Montanez Hurtado, Lower Lake High School**



Check out all the great photos!
www.lakecountychildcareplanning.com
Click on "Links and Resources"



Week of the Young Child Family Art Festival and Auction— A HUGE SUCCESS!

Lesa Serrano and her staff from Early Connections Preschool in Lakeport did a fantastic job organizing this wonderful family event. The art pieces were beautiful, the activities fun, and with entertainment from John Carter it was a perfect Lake County spring day. Thank you to everyone who participated to raise awareness about the importance of quality child care in Lake County!



Lake County Child Care Map — Up and Running!



- Marketing tool
- Community planning resource
- Data resource for grants and other reports
- Handy resource for the entire ECE community!

AB212 — Getting a Face Lift!

For nearly a decade the Planning Council has operated a grant called AB212. This program provides stipends to employees of state-funded programs who are continuing their education. It has been an effective, successful program, and we are excited this year about making it even better! It will be called Steps to Leadership, and here are a few highlights:

- Successful applicants will have access to a series of in-depth workshops and roundtable workgroups.
- The first level of stipends is not dependent on college units.
- There is a longevity stipend for more than 5 years in the same program that is not dependent on college units.
- The stipends require attendance at additional workshops, but are significantly larger, providing a greater benefit to successful applicants.
- We hope to make this program benefit the entire ECE community and all providers!

We believe this program will be exciting, and there will be a limit to the number of applicants who can participate. Watch for information in August about informational meetings and deadlines!



The Planning Council is very excited about this new feature on our website. It is a visual map of the entire county, and has an icon representing each and every child care program in the county. When you click on the icon, a window will pop up giving contact information and program information about each program. We can include links to program websites, and include philosophies and program descriptions. Each geographic area will also feature a separate icon, which will lead you to basic information about that community — how many programs, how many child care slots for each age group, and more.

We believe this will be a useful marketing tool, and data resource for the entire ECE community.

If you are a child care center, basic information will automatically be included for your program. If you are a family child care provider, you must request to be included. Just contact our office, or watch for information in the Fall.

In the meantime, visit our website, click on Child Care Map, and snoop around this resource. We are still in the process of adding data and information, but we're excited about this useful addition to the menu of services provided by your Child Care Planning Council!

CAEYC Conference

An inspiring day for Lake County Providers!



Our AB212 stipend program enabled us to send a select number of employees from state-funded programs to the CAEYC conference this year. Since the conference was held in Sacramento, it made it feasible for us to attend. Teams from Early Connections, The Learning House and Yuba Child Development Center attended.

Pictured at left is the team from Early Connection Preschool, East Lake. Angel Whitson, Site Supervisor (second from left) told us, "It was great hearing ideas and stories from [Beck Bailey presenting on "The Hidden Power of Play"]... We have already begun implementing ideas into our day and classroom. Other attendees reported that the conference was a great opportunity to experience a wide variety of workshops together with their team, and allowed them to work together to create a better learning environment for the children they serve!

Lake County Child Care Planning Council Nominated for a Star of Lake County!

In case you missed it, your LPC was nominated for a Star of Lake County in the category of non-profit organization. Thank you so much to Lesa Serrano for taking the time to nominate our agency to honor the work of the collective group and individual members of the past decade. Several of our members have served the council for 10, 12 years and more. What a testament to the dedication that exists to quality child care and advocating for the issues that affect the ECE community.

People Services of Lake County won the Star award in the category of non-profit organization. I (Shelly) had the privilege of attending the award dinner, and it was heartwarming to see this group of dedicated individuals receive recognition for their work with disabled adults.

Regardless of whether our organization was selected for the award, it was an honor to be recognized, and to know that folks notice the commitment and hard work of our dedicated members!

Lake County Preschool Task Force

Join this important work!

We are currently formulating a Lake County Pre-School Task Force that will work together to ensure that all of Lake County's children receive equal opportunity to succeed in school.

A number of counties throughout California have created Preschool for All plans to ensure that all children enter kindergarten ready to learn. We are ready to create such a plan for Lake County, and the Child Care Planning Council is excited about taking a lead role in the organization of this project.

The recently approved American Recovery and Reinvestment Act may result in additional resources for making quality, voluntary preschool available for all children. Our goal is to be ready to effectively utilize any available resources for Lake County's children by creating a system that is ready to implement to deliver voluntary high quality preschool education to all preschool-age children in Lake County.

Elementary school principals and kindergarten teachers overwhelmingly cite lack of school readiness as the greatest hindrance to quality education.

A growing body of research shows us that:

- Children who do attend quality preschools have higher rates of school readiness, better language ability and math skills and fewer behavior problems (Bowman et al. 2001; Peinser-Feinberg et al. 1999, Helburn et al. 1995).
- Four-year-olds participating in quality pre-kindergarten classrooms made the most progress in closing the achievement gap for disadvantaged children (Henry, 2003).
- Every \$1 spent on high quality early education saves \$7 in reduced future expenditures for special education, delinquency, crime control, welfare, and lost taxes – or an estimated \$48,000 in benefits per child (Reynolds et al., 2002).

Additionally, a recent report from Preschool California indicates that 96% of all kindergarten teachers believe it is important for children to go to preschool before they start kindergarten.

If you would like to be involved in this important project, we would love to have you. The more diverse the individuals serving on the task force, the more our plan will effectively serve our communities!

Contact us right away for more information:
smascari@lake-coe.k12.ca.us
707-994-4795

To Our Sponsors and Donors...

A sincere and resounding THANK YOU!

Without the generous support from agencies and individuals, our Council would not be able to provide many of the services and events we do throughout the year. We want to take a moment to recognize and say thank you to our partners and supporters! We appreciate you!

Mary Borjon
Gloria and Tim Bradford
Child Safe Playground Services
J. Daly, Attorney at Law
Department of Social Services
Early Head Start
Easter Seals
Family Child Care Association
Feed My Lambs
Ester Gould

HARC Enterprises
Jesus Christ Fellowship
Lake County Office of Education
Child Development Division (LCOE)
Lake Family Resource Center
North Coast Opportunities
Redwood Empire Association for
the Education of Young Children
Yuba Community College,
Clearlake



Inspiration — The Antidote to Apathy!

It's been just over a year now since I joined the Lake County Child Care Planning Council, and what a year it has been! We've accomplished a great deal, I've had a big learning curve to get around, and of course, there is the unprecedented situation with the California budget. I just returned from meetings at the California Department of Education and the Child Development Policy Institute, and it is easy to become overwhelmed by the frightening possibilities of what lies ahead for our state. However, I am a FIRM believer in the concept of opportunity. I have several favorite quotes around this subject — for example, one of my favorites from John F. Kennedy is, **“When written in Chinese the word ‘crisis’ is composed of two characters—one represents danger, and the other represents opportunity.”**

I am committed to working alongside each one of you to find those opportunities for Lake County. I am very proud of the accomplishments of the Council this year, and I am inspired by the potential of the year ahead of us!

This first issue of our newsletter focused on inspiration. I want to encourage you that inspiration and participation go hand in hand. Another favorite quote I have is by Eleanor Roosevelt — **“So much attention is paid to the aggressive sins, such as violence and cruelty and greed with all their tragic effects, that too little attention is paid to the passive sins, such as apathy and laziness, which in the long run can have a more devastating effect.”** Apathy is truly a killer of inspiration, and, unfortunately, it is alive and well in Lake County. I know that I am personally going to take a little time over the summer to consider areas in which I have been apathetic. We all complain about needing more services, more resources, more quality, more funding, but how many of us are willing to get involved and work for that change? Sometimes we recognize areas that need a champion, but it's difficult to see how we can make any impact. Here are a few ideas on that subject:

- Are you a member of the Council? Come to the meetings and events, raise your voice, share your opinions at the meetings. Come to our planning retreat in August. Show up and let your voice be heard!
- If you aren't a member of the Council, consider getting involved. Again, if this is your chosen field, don't just complain about things, join us and let's make things happen! Why wouldn't you join the organization that is focused on advocacy, working for change, and accomplishing goals specifically chosen for and by the Lake County ECE community?

Sitting on the sidelines is an easy habit to fall into, but it serves no one — not yourself, not your colleagues, and certainly not Lake County's children and families. How about joining us at our June meeting? June 18, 6:30, Yuba Community College, Room 908. We have fun, and, more importantly, we do work that matters. There is no greater satisfaction in life than expending yourself for a worthy cause, working for something that matters! Please call me if you have any questions or want more information on what we do and how to get involved. Just a little informational tidbit — *we hold our meetings in the evenings for the SOLE PURPOSE of making it feasible for family child care providers to attend.* We need your voice!

It is a privilege to serve you, and I am looking forward to a productive, exciting year ahead!

Shelly Mascari