

# *“Serving children and families since 1971”*

In October 2011, RVCDS celebrated 40 years of service at Ritter Park



# River Valley Child Development Services

## Annual Report 2010-2011



*From the Executive Director*

Every year when we do the annual report, I have an opportunity to step back from the constantly moving daily demands of leading and managing River Valley Child Development Services and look at what all that leadership, managing and hard work by our staff looks like as a snapshot of the year. FY 2010 was a very exciting, rewarding, demanding and challenging year. In addition to the planned work we did, it seemed almost weekly new challenges burst into our lives.

When I look at the number of people whose lives we effect across the state, I am always amazed. Our three Resource and Referral programs which cover a total of 20 counties serve 4,600 families per month. Together they trained an average of 113 child care providers/month. That means the lives of thousands of children across the state of WV were affected by the services we provided.

Our Birth to 3 programs cover 12 counties. The timeliness of their services is so important because they need to link families to needed supports for their very young children as soon as possible so they can determine eligibility and develop a family plan if necessary. They serve an average of 890 children per month. They pride themselves on their continual professional development and are continually tweaking their services in regard to best practice.

We began the year with two child care centers, but unfortunately, due to a variety of reasons including the fact that the true cost of child care is not being covered by our rates and the effect of the economy, we had to make the difficult decision to close Norma Gray Early Learning Center after 40 years. The children from there merged with our other center, Enterprise. Both Norma Gray Early Learning Center and Enterprise are nationally accredited by National Association for the Education of Young Children. Both centers offered collaborative Cabell County Pre-K for four year olds.

Our Family Day Care Food Program provided financial reimbursements to 102 registered family day care homes for serving nutritious meals and snacks to children in their care. 1,120 children in 6 counties were served nutritious food because of the services provided by this program.

Our three after school programs combined, which are located in the gyms of Meadows, Southside and Cox Landing Elementary Schools served an average of 50 children per day. They enriched the lives of the children in their care with programs, including anti-bullying, safety and computers. Extra field trips were made possible because of funding from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant.

WV Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources, a statewide program designed to provide professional development opportunities for the early care and education community served more than 12,500 customers this year. These services include scholarships for early childhood professionals, articulated college credit courses, training by nurse health consultants, a registry to recognize the professional levels of early childhood professionals and a multitude of financial/resource supports for people in this field.

To provide all these services for children and families takes a high level of expertise, experience and commitment. Thanks to the staff and Board members who make it possible for us to continue to provide these services to improve the lives of children and families in WV.

Suzi Brodof

WV Birth to Three

WV Birth to Three is the lead agency for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The lead agency is responsible for assuring the early intervention system for infants and toddlers with developmental delays operates in accordance with the federal requirements of IDEA.

Prior to April 2002, there were twelve agencies providing early intervention in the fifty-five counties. Each program was responsible for total implementation of the federal requirements within their geographical area. Practitioners were either employed or contracted by the agency and could not provide services in other than the agency specified areas.

After several years of a complete system analysis, in 2003, the fifty-five counties were divided among eight Regional Administrative Units administered by agencies with extensive early childhood experience. RVCDS has two RAUs, which employ a director, administrative staff, interim service coordinators, and a parent partner. Practitioners in the system are vendors with the state and choose where they wish to work.

The RAUs are responsible for regional point of entry functions for the WV Birth to Three early intervention systems, which include the oversight and facilitation of activities at the local level in accordance with federal regulations and state policies.

These responsibilities include assuring procedural safeguards for all children referred into the Birth to Three system, public awareness and child find activities, interagency collaboration with community partners, establishing interagency transition agreements with county school systems, maintaining a central directory of regional, state, and national resources, linking families to needed informal and formal supports, entering data information, establish and maintaining a hard copy of each child’s educational record, providing service coordination from referral through a child’s eligibility determination and family plan development.

Location: Huntington, WV, Charleston, WV and Logan, WV

Counties Served: Clay, Jackson, Kanawha, Roane, Boone, Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, Mason, Putnam, and Wayne

Number of Staff: 12

Highlights of 2011:

- Staff developed “red flags,” a document highlighting commonly overlooked indicators of a typical development.
- Attended a conference parent partner presented called Brain Zone training.

School Age Connections (SAC)

Afterschool and summer enrichment programs consist of five small programs including Meadows, Southside, and Cox Landing Elementary, Summer Connections, and its newest program, WVSU School Age Connections. Each of these programs have new and exciting events for the children they serve. Meadows had canine unit and fire department visits. Cox Landing continues to have a great computer program. Southside has a new facility, set up in a “classroom” setting. The Summer program did an anti-bullying program. In August of this year a new program at WVSU began in collaboration with Kanawha County Head Start serving children ages 3-12. The School Age program serves over 150 children and families total.

Location: Huntington, WV and Institute, WV

Counties Served: Cabell, Kanawha

Number of Staff: 8

Highlights of 2011:

- Received a book grant for \$250.00.
- Summer program participated in Teen as Teachers.



Child Care Resources and Referral Programs

River Valley Child Development Services has three of the six Resource and Referral programs in the state of West Virginia. These programs cover 20 counties in the state and serve 4,600 families and over 700 child care providers. All R&Rs are funded by WV Department of Health and Human Resources, State Division of Early Care and Education. All R&R programs provide assistance to families financially for the cost of quality child care. These programs also provide training for child care providers, technical assistance, and supportive services for new or established programs. The following is a brief breakdown of each outstanding program.

Link Child Care Resource and Referral

Established: 1992

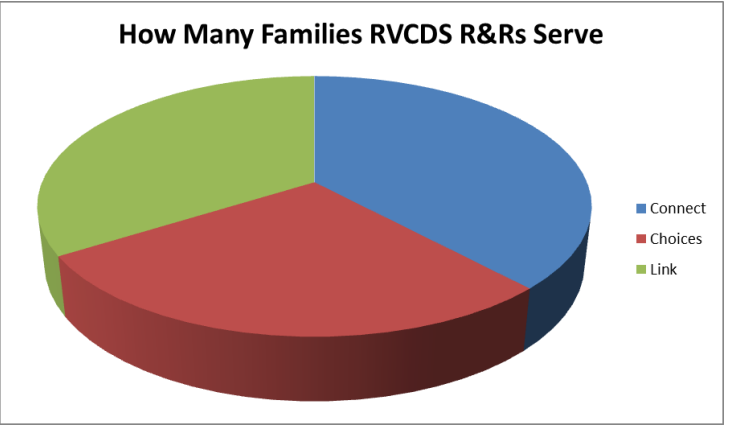
Locations: Huntington, WV and Logan, WV

Counties Served: Boone, Cabell, Lincoln, Mason, Mingo, Putnam, and Wayne

Number of Staff: 23

Highlights of 2011:

- AEP Foundation donated over 500 book bags with science activities to be distributed to families in Logan and Mingo counties.
- The Provider Supervisor received a \$1,200 grant for “First Books” to purchase books to give to children in Link’s 8 county districts.



Connect Child Care Resource and Referral

Established: 2000

Location: Cabin Creek, WV

Counties Served: Clay, Jackson, Kanawha, Roane

Number of Staff: 24

Highlights of 2011:

- Family Services Unit received the lowest error rate of all Resource and Referral programs in the state of WV during the WVDHHR, Division of Early Care Education Error Rate Review.

- Early Childhood Unit received public recognition from WVDHHR; Division of Early Care of Education for leading the CCR&Rs in offering technical assistance to child care providers.

Choices Child Care Resource and Referral

Established: 2001

Locations: Parkersburg, WV, Clarksburg, WV

Counties Served: Calhoun, Gilmer, Pleasants, Ritchie, Wirt, Wood, Doddridge, and Harrison

Number of Staff: 20

Highlights of 2011:

- Choices had the highest ITERS scores in the state.
- Choices Director was awarded a \$5,300 oral health grant to assist families in the Wood County Area.

