



# Children's Services Council

of Broward County

*Our Focus is Our Children.*



**Powering Productive  
Partnerships:  
Achieving Results**

**2011-2012 Annual Report**



# Letter from the Council Chair, Dr. Paula Thaqi, MD



*Powering Productive Partnerships, Achieving Results* is more than just the theme of the 2011-12 Children's Services Council (CSC) of Broward County's Annual Report. It is a model that is proven to work. When communities come together, they can move mountains by leveraging their collective resources. Effective collaboration is not always easy to achieve, but Broward County has been very successful in this regard.

CSC fosters successful collaboration by utilizing a consistent and well defined planning process to develop the Children's Strategic Plan. Over 30 issue-based committees and subcommittees meet regularly to develop action steps that address the needs of our children. These committees harness the power of data to drive their recommendations and decision making. The resulting Children's Strategic Plan is a meaningful and impactful framework that ensures that the community is addressing identified needs and limiting duplication of resources.

Collaboration makes a real difference in the lives of children. Forever Family, for example, is celebrating ten years of CSC support. By producing television news stories about children in foster care, they harness the power of the media to maximum effect. As a result of this partnership, hundreds of adoptions have been completed and much needed foster parents have been identified in Broward County.

The power of partnership is also demonstrated by the KidCare Outreach Team at the Broward County Health Department. They work with community partners to ensure that families have access to free or low cost health insurance, so that their children can be healthy and productive and reach their full potential. The CSC also provides training and capacity building to ensure that child serving agencies are performing to their highest potential. This year, we implemented a brand new Online Learning Center that provides state of the art training at a time and place of the trainee's choosing.

I am proud to serve as Council Chair because we collaborate successfully and operate in a transparent and fiscally sound manner. Our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the tenth consecutive year. This underscores our commitment to spending tax dollars wisely and effectively and communicating to our customers, the residents of Broward County, exactly how our funding is being utilized with maximum results.

The Children's Services Council of Broward County has had a great impact over the past 11 years, but there is still much work to be done. The partnerships we have forged are long lasting and the results we have achieved will be felt for years to come. With the help of our partners and the support of our community, we will sustain this momentum!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. Thaqi MD".

Dr. Paula Thaqi, MD

## Council Members



Seated from Left to Right:  
Ana Valladares, Immediate Past Chair; Robin Bartleman, Vice-Chair;  
Paula Thaqi, MD, Chair; Judge Martin Dishowitz, Secretary.  
Standing from Left to Right:  
Emilio Benitez, Governor Appointee; Kim Gorsuch, Circuit Operations Manager,  
Dept. of Children and Families; Sue Gunzburger, Broward County Commissioner;  
Robert Runcie, Superintendent, Broward County Schools;  
Dr. Chalrene Desir, Governor Appointee; Tara Philipp, Governor Appointee  
Not pictured: Maria Schneider, Governor Appointee

# Letter from Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, President/CEO



It's no secret that we live in challenging times. Families across Broward County are doing more with less to provide the very best for their children. At the Children's Services Council of Broward County, we're doing our part to help and we're not going at it alone. We recognize that our community is richly diverse and therein lies our strength. That's why the theme of this year's Annual Report is *Powering Productive Partnerships, Achieving Results*.

In the pages that follow, you will read about how the business community, non-profit sector and governmental entities are realizing the power of partnership to benefit Broward's children. You'll see how the CSC powered the 2012 Broward County Youth Summit. There, we brought together a range of diverse participants to hear creative and interesting presenters offer solutions to the issues facing young

people who also got to offer their own input.

Our resources touch all corners of Broward and many different populations. We support programming for children with special needs and powered a *Transition to Adulthood Summit*, which provided resources to help teens with disabilities become productive and responsible adults. The CSC powers *Broward AWARE! Protecting our Children*, a year-round initiative to raise awareness about preventing child abuse. The campaign culminates in April, Child Abuse Prevention Month, with a Family Fun and Resource Day at Delevoe Park in Fort Lauderdale.

Thanks to over 100 funded programs, the CSC's power is felt in homes across Broward County. Due to our unwavering legislative and policy advocacy, our power reaches the State House in Tallahassee, the U.S. Congress and yes, even the White House. I was honored to be named National Angel in Adoption. The White House looks to our expertise for best practices through the Office of Management and Budget and together with U.S. Congressman Alcee L. Hastings, we powered a visit from the Congressional Coalition on Foster Care to improve outcomes for children in foster care. When the school year rolled around, we collaborated with our great partners from HandsOn Broward and the Broward County School Social Workers to power a Back to School Extravaganza benefiting children needing school supplies. Governor Rick Scott provided sweat equity by shopping with me and our young people at Staples and joining us at the CSC to stuff backpacks.

The CSC's true power, of course, comes from our staff. They're in the community, sitting on dozens of committees, connecting dots, fostering collaboration and supporting a broad array of events like the Black Administrators in Child Welfare Conference and the Broward Early Educators Conference and many more, as you will see throughout this report.

At the CSC, we recognize that the taxpayers of Broward County have entrusted us with the opportunity to generate the power to help our children realize their full potential, their hopes and their dreams. In 2000, the voters gave us their trust. Each and every day, the Council, our staff and I work to earn your trust and achieve results. By reading this Annual Report, I hope you will see that together, we're making a positive difference by powering partnerships, and most importantly, achieving results!

Cindy Arenberg Seltzer | President/CEO

## CSC Management Team



From Left to Right:  
Monti Larsen, Chief Financial Officer; Sandra Bernard-Bastien, Dir. Public Affairs and Organizational Development; Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, President/CEO; Audrey Stang, Dir. Program Services; Karen Swartzbaugh Ghezzi, Chief Programs Officer; Sue Gallagher, Dir. Research and Planning



Cindy Arenberg Seltzer and Governor Rick Scott



# Powering Partnerships for Community Impact

## Children's Strategic Plan:

The Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) "powers" the Broward County Children's Strategic Plan by providing support to 16 committees and 18 subcommittees engaged in "Turning the Curve" in a positive direction on issues like:

- Infant mortality;
- Maternal and child health;
- Affordable, high-quality, and year-round child care;
- Child abuse and neglect;
- Domestic violence;
- Delinquency;
- Youth leadership, advocacy and employment;
- Increasing the high school graduation rates of black males;
- Support for children, youth and families with special needs and much more.

This important work incorporates the principles of Results Based Accountability (RBA) and each committee generates one-page *Turn the Curve Reports*. The Strategic Plan continues to grow in importance as more organizations see it as the hub of collective impact for achieving child-family results and more committees continue to be added.

Broward's partners for Community Planning are working towards five key results:

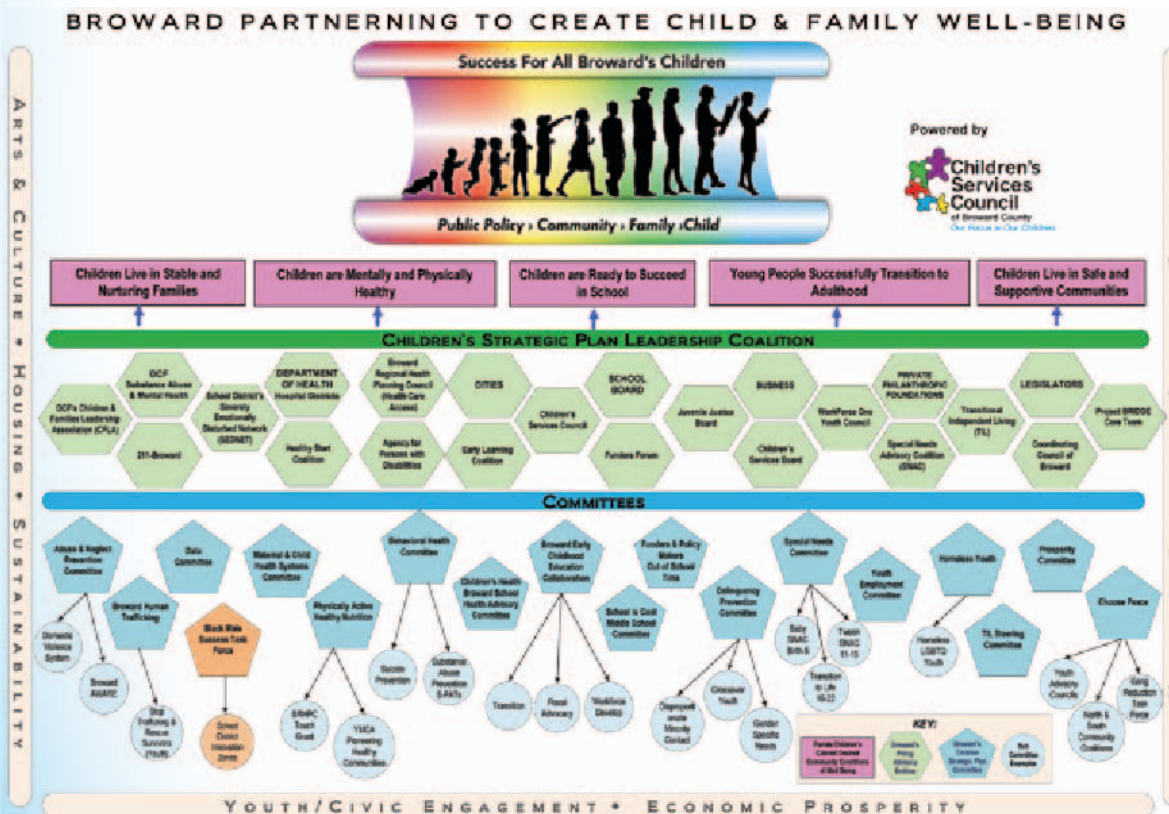
- Children Live in Stable and Nurturing Families
- Children are Physically and Mentally Healthy
- Children are Ready to Succeed in School
- Young People Successfully Transition to Adulthood
- Children Live in Safe and Supportive Communities

The Leadership Committee comprised of top decision makers from the corporate, non-profit and government sectors, provides quarterly oversight, direction and assistance to

the committees and subcommittees. By signing a formal partnership agreement, members of the Leadership Committee agree to adhere to the following action steps:

1. Align the work, programs, initiatives, resources, and advocacy to achieve the shared results of the Broward Children's Strategic Plan, as appropriate.
2. Commit to participation by CEO or designee in the Leadership Coalition, the advisory board to the Children's Strategic Plan.
3. Commit to report to Agency Board/Leadership/Policy Makers at least one time annually on the Children's Strategic Plan.
4. Commit to participation by staff in Children's Strategic Planning Committees, as applicable.
5. Share relevant community indicator and organizational performance measure data with the CSC at least annually. This supports a community report card on the well-being of Broward's children.
6. Work towards creating shared child data where relevant, appropriate, available, and allowable.
7. Share evidence-based, youth & family centered strategic approaches to improving child results, child serving systems, and organizational performance.
8. Support the Children's Services Council of Broward County as the Anchor Entity of the Children's Strategic Plan.

Committee chairs support the Strategic Plan by creating, strengthening and enabling partnerships based on community building best practices.



## Youth Summit Highlighted Partnerships, Advances and Challenges Moving Forward for Broward's Children

Over 1,000 members of the child serving community, students and parents gathered for the "2012 Broward Youth Summit" to celebrate the progress the community has made using the Children's Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is the framework guiding funding and service delivery for children's services in Broward. Part of the Summit encouraged participants to experience difficulties in accessing services addressed by the strategic plan committees. This was an opportunity to give an "out of the box" perspective as the community sets a course of action for the next five years.

The event also underscored the impact of 10 years of the Children's Services Council (CSC) positively transforming children's lives. One of the highlights of the summit, co-

sponsored by the Community Foundation of Broward, was the opportunity to hear Geoffrey Canada, founder of the Harlem Children's Zone.



"Our priorities are misplaced," he said. "Our society has seemingly unlimited resources to fill prisons. It costs about \$40,000 a year to incarcerate a youth. A ten year sentence costs us \$400,000. By comparison a \$5,000 investment a year to provide high quality education and resources is treated as too much of a burden." Those present enthusiastically received his straightforward, commonsense approach on how to create the best outcomes for children from cradle to career.

## Partnering to Enhance the Impact of Community Resources and Initiatives

**211 Broward:** 211 Broward is a critical partner in providing community access to information and resources. As a single-source information and referral database it also establishes a "No Wrong Door" approach to the Broward County System of Special Needs Services and Programs. 211 maintains a telephone hotline staffed by trained, experienced practitioners who make referrals to eligibility specialists, case coordinators and other agencies serving the needs of children with special needs and their families. The organization is also a major partner in the Prosperity Campaign. 211 is responsible for maintaining and referring callers to an up-to-date list of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites funded by the CSC.



**KidCare:** Recognizing that children's health is pivotal to their life-long success, the CSC partners with the DOH to provide KidCare Outreach. KidCare staff presented at over 162 community events and venues, completed over 1,000 applications and responded to an estimated 3,500 telephone inquiries and requests for assistance. Record numbers of children in Florida have no health insurance, but in Broward, KidCare works hard every day to ensure full participation by all eligible families.

**Prosperity:** The Prosperity Committee is a model of effective collaboration powered by the CSC. Formerly focused mostly on promoting the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and during tax season funding Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites, it now promotes all safety-net resources on a year-round basis. A tool in this effort is the Center for Working Families, created through a partnership among the CSC, United Way of Broward County and The Jim Moran Foundation and managed by Urban League of Broward County and Hispanic Unity of Florida.

In FY 2011-12 the Prosperity Committee produced a "Toolkit for Daily Living", a manual that includes information on programs related to healthcare, housing, nutrition, financial literacy and education.

Prosperity Committee's other partners include Broward College-Service Learning, 211 Broward, Community Action Agency, Consolidated Credit Counseling, Broward County Housing Authority, Broward Housing Solutions, and Department of Children and Families.

**Broward AWARE! Protecting OUR Children:** This full-scale public awareness campaign helps ensure that Broward County families, educators, law enforcement and media use and share resources that allow all children to safely realize their full potential, their hopes and dreams. By bringing under the same umbrella organizations that provide those resources through different activities and media, in FY 2011-12 Broward AWARE launched its second CSC led campaign with a press conference





# Partnering to Enhance the Impact of Community

featuring community leaders and abuse survivors; helped promote "Walk in My Shoes" by Lauren's Kids; supported the Mt. Bethel's "You Are Not Alone" march and resource fair; joined the Let's Move Broward physical fitness campaign spearheaded by FLIPANY; supported the Healthy Families Graduation; helped promote the YMCA's *Healthy Kids* events and led the *Broward AWARE! Family Fun and Resource Fair*, at the Rev. Sam Delevoe Park. Partnering with 211-Broward allows Broward AWARE! a web presence on an easy to find site. It also assesses the impact of Broward AWARE! by measuring the number of calls related to child abuse and neglect during the course of the campaign.

**Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth Members Visit Broward:** U.S. Reps. Alcee L. Hastings, Karen Bass and Frederica Wilson led site visits and learning sessions in South Florida on the realities faced by youth in foster care and those aging out of the foster care system. The CSC, Kids In Distress, DCF, ChildNet, the Broward Sheriff's Office, HANDY, Florida YouthShine and Forever Family provided the Congressional delegation opportunities to meet with child serving professionals, youth and adoptive families. "I commend the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth for choosing South Florida as a stop on its nationwide tour," said Congressman Hastings. "As we shed light on the issues facing our child welfare system, it also gives me great pride to bring attention to the countless members of our community working tirelessly to give foster youth a voice."



U.S. Reps Alcee Hastings and Karen Bass visiting ChildNet

Florida's redesign of the child welfare system over ten years ago, created new opportunities. Outsourcing foster care and related services to private agencies promoted a sense of increased local community ownership of service delivery and design. Youth who transition out of the foster care system without the security of a long-term living arrangement are at higher risk for unemployment, poor educational outcomes, health issues, early parenthood, long-term dependency on public assistance, increased rates of incarceration and homelessness. Providing resources to support them as they become adults is an investment well worth the savings in human and financial cost. When Broward began the privatization of foster care, the CSC helped break the logjam that had trapped many children and youth in the system often preventing their adoption.

For the past 10 years, CSC funded **Forever Family** has featured children and youth available for adoption in segments aired on NBC-6. In FY 2011-12, Forever Family featured 33 children available for adoption, with 19 adoptions completed. The campaign raised \$43,000 in donations and in-kind gifts. In addition, the investment generates \$50,000 for the CSC in Federal Title IV-E Adoption Assistance reimbursement while NBC-6 estimates the value of "earned media" exposure for the CSC at \$742,500.

**National Recognition:** The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute recognized Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, President/CEO of the CSC as a 2011 Angel in Adoption. The program honors individuals, couples, or organizations that have made extraordinary contributions on behalf of children in need of permanent homes. Cindy was nominated by U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz. Cindy was also asked to present at two national conferences and for a panel of federal agency leaders hosted by the Forum on Youth Investment regarding strategies for collaborating at the local, state and national level. This has resulted in the CSC being recognized as an innovative leader in building partnerships and strategies for serving children and being selected as a key pilot site for a new Federal Office of Management and Budget project to reduce barriers to funding and collaborative programming for disenfranchised youth, with the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet.



Gia Tutalo-Mote of Forever Family and Cindy Arenberg Seltzer

**Back to School Extravaganza:** Over 100 volunteers recruited by HandsOn Broward came together for two days in early August to help assemble thousands of backpacks with school supplies, uniforms and shoes. Florida Gov. Rick Scott joined them on Day 1, and Blue Bell Ice Cream was served to all on Day 2.

The 2012 CSC Broward Back to School Community Extravaganza benefited more than 4,000 children living in "unstable living conditions". These are students who, although not homeless, are forced to move from home to home and school to school a number of times during the year due to their families' financial distress. Some of the youth also comprise populations identified by Henderson Behavioral Health, ChildNet, Family Central, and SOS Children's Village. With the support of sponsors such as Jim Moran Foundation, Wells Fargo, Pediatric Associates Foundation, Baptist Health and



Governor Rick Scott (center, top) and volunteers at Back to School Extravaganza



# Resources and Initiatives

Coastal Rags among others, the CSC was able to leverage an original grant of \$30,000 to approximately \$90,000 needed in funds and in-kind donations to achieve this year's goal. Other key partners included Neighbors 4 Neighbors, In Jacob's Shoes, Running With Sole, 211-Broward, HandsOn Broward, Carlyn Uniforms, Community Foundation of Broward, Tools for Schools Broward and, of course, Blue Bell Ice Cream, providing free tastings to all the volunteers.

**NSU Day for Children:** Over 15,000 children and families attended the 10th Annual Nova Southeastern University Day for Children. In FY 2011-12, the CSC reprised its partnership with a \$7,500 grant, in support of a Children with Special Needs component. The event provided children and their families the opportunity to partake of a fun-filled, health conscious day, including free health care assessments for vision, medical, speech, behavior, and dental health as well as physical and occupational therapy for children through NSU's Health Care Centers. A partnership of health care providers - Florida Blue, Broward Health, Chris Everett Children's Hospital, Walgreens, Memorial Health Care System, Met Life Insurance, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, Light of the World Clinic, Allergy and Asthma Centers, Florida KidCare, and Special Olympics Broward County- were among the many organizations providing useful resources. A Day for Children also featured games, refreshments, fingerprinting and ID cards for children, free safety and installation demonstrations of child car seats and library cards to children and their parents. A popular added plus included free haircuts, bicycle helmets and amplified hearing devices for children.



## Powering Partnerships to Deliver Results to Children and Families with Special Needs

The Special Needs Advisory Coalition (SNAC) continues to work on initiatives and partnerships in support of children and families with special needs. SNAC subcommittees, (Baby, TWEEN, Transition to Independence and Legislative) made major strides in FY 2011-12 to support children and youth with special needs locally and beyond. As a testament to the statewide advocacy reach of the Broward SNAC, the Children's Movement of Florida and its CEO, David Lawrence, launched their 2011-12 media campaign at a SNAC meeting at the Children's Services Council (CSC), when over 60 community leaders and stakeholders came together on behalf of all the children of Florida.

The pivotal role of the CSC in supporting the achievements of the SNAC has been recognized by the tagline "Powered by the Children's Services Council of Broward County" adopted by the group.

The CSC has a significant investment in serving children and youth with special needs and their families, providing individualized afterschool and summer programs, supported employment, independent living skills programs, and training opportunities. In addition to partnerships such as the Junior Achievement Career Day, when almost 100 youth with special needs participated in hands-on job training opportunities, the CSC sponsors an annual *Transition to Adulthood* fair which provides youth with special needs and their families information pertaining to employment, services and personal development. Over 400 people attended in September 2012.





# Powering Productive Partnerships and Achieving Results through Capacity Building

At the Children's Services Council (CSC) we believe that our success is measured by the success of our partnering child serving agencies. By partners we don't mean only the agencies that receive CSC funding. We also mean the smaller, niche organizations that, even with limited resources, make a difference in children's lives every day. That is why the CSC is committed to assisting children and family serving agencies meet their capacity building goals. Healthy organizations and well-trained staff, along with adequate funding, allow for full achievement of the CSC mission and vision. To that end, staff performance and organizational development, as well as technical assistance, are available in the six components that contribute to organizational health and high performance.

They include:

- Mission, Vision, and Strategy
- Board Governance and Leadership
- Program Design and Evaluation
- Strategic Relationships
- Internal Operations and Management
- Resource Development

As part of the CSC's capacity building efforts, the Online Learning Center (OLC) completed its first full year of operation with positive feedback. A library of 402 professional development, self-paced e-courses and six customized courses were activated. 36 agencies and 498 staff have participated with 82% satisfaction rate. At \$25 per seat, the OLC has generated over \$10,000 in revenues. A wait list is in place for FY 2012-13. E-learning notwithstanding, 2,278 child serving providers attended 170 CSC live training sessions, with 96.5% being very satisfied with the information they learned.

Volunteerism is another important capacity building tool. The CSC supports HandsOn Broward as a critical component of Broward's human services infrastructure. With CSC's financial and technical support, HandsOn Broward provided 87 child serving agencies with over 40,000 volunteer hours. Working year-round, HandsOn Broward links the community with projects that serve children and families. In addition, HandsOn Broward plays a key role in lifting working families out of poverty by recruiting volunteers to staff Volunteer



Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Centers, a critical component of the successful Prosperity Campaign. They also supply volunteers that help the South Florida Hunger Coalition and serve as a community leader in disaster preparedness. Finally, they work with many CSC-funded providers to provide service learning opportunities for youth.

One such opportunity was the Family Service Day. Sponsored by The Children's Movement of Florida, HandsOn Broward, the Children's Services Council and Broward Family Life magazine, the event benefited the Carver Ranches Child Care Center, the longest continually operating child care provider in Broward County—in operation for about 50 years. After all this time, the center needed a little touch-up. Volunteers helped with a makeover of the center which included painting, landscape beautification, butterfly and vegetable garden creation, and playground rejuvenation.

By bringing together organizations and their staff, Family Day ultimately helped build Carver Ranches' capacity to serve children and families of a long serving agency that would not have had the resources to carry this full scale project on its own.





# Powering Partnerships that Help Moms Overcome Postpartum Depression

It's supposed to be among the happiest events in a mother's life. What happens when it just doesn't feel that way? The hormonal changes that occur soon after giving birth, commonly known as "baby blues" are perfectly normal, but if symptoms don't go away or get worse after a few weeks, then the diagnosis could be postpartum depression. Postpartum depression interferes with a mother's ability to take care of her child and can result in cognitive and behavioral issues for the child. Since 2008, the Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) has funded Supporting Mothers Overcoming Maternal Stress (MOMS), a cutting edge program that engages not just the mom, but the entire family.

In June 2012, CSC staff, in collaboration with Memorial Health Care System, shared the MOMS program as a best practice approach at the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) in Chicago. CSC staff also presented on this critical topic at the State Conference of the Florida Healthy Start Coalitions and the Florida Association for Infant Mental Health, in partnership with Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Broward.

MOMS is part of the Maternal and Child Health System committee of the Broward County Children's Strategic Plan, and because of its positive impact, the Council continued its \$500,000 funding for the program, beginning FY 2012-13.

In FY 2011-12, MOMS served 224 pregnant women or women with very young children experiencing postpartum depression. These programs promote secure and positive attachments between mother and child through intensive therapy, supportive parenting education and guidance that fosters appropriate child care and parenting behaviors that help children grow in safe and healthy home environments. Here are some telling testimonials from program clients:



*"Before I came into the program I was dealing with bad days—I was suicidal and had a breakdown before giving birth. I could barely get out of bed. Now I'm able to function: eating and taking care of myself. I know with depression many moms don't even want to talk about it or even know they are suffering from it. MOMS program staff came to my home and didn't make me feel uncomfortable. They gave me food and diapers, and they provided other resources. Everyone I met was very nice and professional. Without MOMS my son and I wouldn't be doing so well. I had never heard of the program before. More mothers should know about it."*

*"I am very grateful to the MOMS program for the help they gave my wife, son and me after she began experiencing postpartum depression. It is very difficult, very difficult, when one sees that the person that one loves is practically on a self-destructive path. She asked me for help and I didn't know where to turn. During one of her crises, a doctor referred her to the MOMS program. Little by little, the MOMS program staff developed relationships with us, visited us in our home and as a family. We discovered during these sessions that we already had the tools within us as well as our love. We learned to communicate better and I feel happy. I hope my wife also feels happy because I love her. The MOMS program really works and the proof is in the act that our son is a happy child; we are a very united and integrated family. We share and communicate more as a couple. We work hard and have problems like any other family, but now we know how to resolve our problems and move forward with our lives."*

## OUTCOMES

**100%** of families improved family functioning  
**90%** of mothers reported fewer symptoms of depression

# Powering Partnerships for a Successful System of Early Childhood Education

Not long ago, early childhood was viewed as little more than a time to babysit children until they reached a more “appropriate” age for learning. That view has largely been discredited. Education at this stage in life is about laying a sound intellectual, psychological, emotional, social and physical foundation for development which has been proven to increase academic success and graduation rates. It is through high quality early education that children learn the skills that help them seamlessly transition through all stages of future development into adulthood.

The Children’s Services Council (CSC), the AD Henderson Foundation and the Early Learning Coalition of Broward County work hard on behalf of preschool age children, providing them with the tools they need to succeed as adults. The School Board of Broward County and Broward County Government have also become integral partners in establishing early education as the foundation of social and academic success.

Powered by the CSC, the Broward Early Childhood Education Collaborative launched the new School-Readiness/Early Education website ([www.becec.org](http://www.becec.org)), providing a repository for critical *Birth–5* information and a welcoming portal for the Early Learning and Education (ECE) community. Access is very user-friendly for parents, child care providers and stakeholders. Among other useful information, the site highlights brain research, new methods of assessment, strategies for addressing challenging behaviors, and other key topics. Development of the website has served as a unifier for the ECE community, providing partners with the opportunity to creatively work together to bring the vision to life.



## Positive Behavior Support

If adults may find it difficult to properly express emotions like anger, disappointment or fear, how can we expect three and four year olds to act as if they fully understood how to deal with their emotions? When a preschool child expresses frustration in ways deemed anti-social, he may be tagged as a “problem child”; this can actually lead to the child being expelled from preschool. Understanding “acting out” in a way consistent with age is at the heart of collaboration among child care directors, teachers, parents, young children, Family Central, United Way and the CSC to promote children’s positive social and emotional development through Positive Behavior Support (PBS). PBS is a nationally recognized, evidence-based, preventative approach that helps create nurturing child care environments where very young children learn empathy, respect, and positive communication. In addition, PBS provides teachers and caregivers the opportunity to effectively interact with all children in a developmentally appropriate way.

In FY 2011-12, this initiative was funded at \$685,000; \$600,000 by the CSC and \$85,000 by United Way of Broward County at over 30 centers in Broward.



David Lawrence of The Children’s Movement (left)



*“Stress related staff turnover used to be a serious issue in our pre-school. PBS has given teachers a tool where, not only is child exclusion extremely rare, but social interaction has improved at all levels.”*

## PBS OUTCOMES

- 100%** increase in interactions between teachers and children
- 0** children were expelled from preschool
- 92%** of parent were satisfied
- Teacher turnover rate reduced from **10% to 5%**



# Powering Partnerships that Help Families Stay Together

The well being of our community and the prosperity of our state depends on whether families are able to secure opportunities to provide a better future for their children.

From its inception, the Children's Services Council (CSC) has funded an array of Family Strengthening programs that help families in need secure those opportunities. These providers deliver collaborative and innovative programs that reach families at risk for child abuse and neglect, families at risk for separation due to delinquent behaviors of their adolescent children, and families in crisis by:

- Strengthening protective factors by helping at-risk families develop and maintain supportive parent-child relationships;
- Providing effective and appropriate tools to improve child behavior, positive family communication, conflict resolution skills, and strong family attachments;
- Reducing risk factors related to child abuse and neglect through best practice intervention programs, including referrals to existing community resources for housing, food, employment, and other areas of need; and
- Providing in-home intervention services designed to reduce aggressive behaviors between parents/caregivers and their children.

FY 2011-12 was a watershed year in community-wide partnerships enhancing Family Strengthening programs. For the first time Child Welfare continuum agencies instituted a data sharing system among Family Strengthening Providers, Broward Sheriff Office's Child Protective Services and ChildNet, Broward's Community Based Care lead agency. In addition, the Council allocated \$8 million for 20 Family Strengthening programs, seven more than the previous year, serving nearly 3,000 families with multiple risk factors.

As a result of community input and extensive data analysis, in FY 2011-12 the HomeBuilder's model was added to the Family Strengthening continuum of care. The program, one of the best-documented Intensive family preservation programs in the country, is designed to break the cycle of family dysfunction by strengthening families, keeping children safe, and preventing foster care, residential and other forms of out-of-home placement when avoidable. Broward County is the first and only community to utilize this best practice model in Florida.

Families don't always fit traditional models. That is why the CSC also funds Kinship programs

supporting grandparents and other relatives raising children. There are 12,500 grandparents responsible for their grandchildren in Broward County. In FY 2011-12, as a result of partnerships with Legal Aid and Kids In Distress, the Kinship program served 205 families, a 21% increase over the prior year.

The Kinship support program provides coordinated, comprehensive services in the home and at convenient community locations, including case management, parent and family skills training and legal advocacy to strengthen families and reduce risk factors for children in kinship care. Emphasis is placed on empowering the family, promoting self-definition, developing and improving decision-making strategies with active family participation.



"Our therapist was very nice to me. I enjoyed being around her. She wasn't 'telling' me what to do, but rather she showed me. She made me be a better person than I was. Made me realize drugs were not for me."

"Initially my 12-year old son was having problems where he wasn't communicating with us, and now he's communicating much better. This program allows me and my family to have and maintain positive relationships. I'm very satisfied with the services, and I really enjoy working with staff."



"The program has really helped my grandson. It allows him to express himself and he looks forward to the visits."

## FAMILY STRENGTHENING OUTCOMES

- 100%** of children in Homebuilders program avoided out-of-home placement
- 93%** of parents decreased parenting stress
- 96%** of families had no verified abuse 6 months post program completion

## KINSHIP OUTCOMES

- 98%** of children able to remained in relative care
- 99%** of caregivers reported a decrease in unmet needs

# Powering Partnerships to Help Youth Make Better Choices

What if being arrested for a small mistake could provide a youth a choice between a revolving door in the justice system or a clear path towards valuing self-worth and understanding consequences? The Children's Services Council (CSC) and eight community partners have come together to provide New Diversion Alternatives for Youth (New DAY). In the past year, through CSC funding, diversion and civil citation programs effectively engaged 1,440 non-violent offenders and allowed them to refocus on positive options for their lives.

Rather than stigmatize a youth for the rest of his/her life, quarterly "expunction workshops" have been conducted for almost three years through collaboration among diversion providers, the State Attorney's Office and the CSC. These workshops give youth who successfully complete a diversion program for a misdemeanor charge the opportunity to have their record expunged, meaning, have the crime removed from their records. As a result, by FY 2011-12, Broward County had the largest number of diversion expunctions in the state.

Why do expunction and civil citation alternatives matter? In today's job market, it is not necessarily a conviction that disqualifies candidates from law enforcement, military, high security clearance or many other careers, rather just an arrest on their record. Giving these youth a second chance helps ensure we, as a society, don't automatically preclude many qualified job seekers from their chosen careers because of a minor youthful mistake.

Diversion and Civil Citation programs provide highly-structured juvenile justice alternatives to protect public safety and decrease likelihood of re-offending through restitution, community service, counseling, family support services and youth development activities.

Targeted juvenile offender populations may include typical offenders, juvenile offenders with behavioral health conditions, and/or juvenile offenders with sexual behavioral issues. Youth served in delinquency diversion programs must be referred through the Juvenile Division of the State Attorney's Office Circuit 17; or for civil citation, referrals must be provided by the arresting law enforcement agencies.



*"In May 2011, I had been living on the street for over a month, after running away from foster care. I was scared and hungry so I did what many would do in that situation. I stole food from Publix so I could eat. Walking out of the store, I was stopped by a manager and searched. Soon after the police were dispatched, I was put in handcuffs and taken to the Broward County Sheriff Office where my older sister, who had custody of me at the time, was called. In anger she told me that she was going to have me sent back to a group home. I waited until she turned her back and ran away. I was gone for 3 months. When I went back into foster care I was told I had a pick-up order for missing my court date. I spent the night in the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), then after appearing in front of a judge, was released into a youth foster care center."*

*"After two weeks there, I went back to court and was given the option to go into the Diversion Program or go back to DJJ. My Child Advocate took me to meet my BSO counselor for the Diversion Program. My experience in the Diversion Program has been both helpful and educational. I have to say the Diversion Program helped save me. If I had not gone into this program I don't know where I would be. Now I see that what I have done is wrong, and I know not to make the same mistakes. I truly have to thank my BSO counselor and my family for helping me to realize that although I made some bad decisions I am still a good person deep inside and I am going to turn my life around."*

## NEW DAY OUTCOMES

- 88%** of participants successfully completed program
- 85%** decreased their risk factors
- 94%** did not get rearrested 12 months post program completion



# Powering Partnerships to Keep Children Engaged in Valuable Out of School Programs

All children, regardless of physical, behavioral or economic conditions need the opportunity to thrive in an environment that is safe, stimulating and fun. Most parents, when choosing an out-of-school-time program, would agree with that. The largest slice of Children's Services Council (CSC) funding goes to programs that provide such a positive environment.

To meet CSC funding criteria, the 26 agencies delivering Maximizing Out of School Time (MOST) programs at 126 sites throughout Broward in FY 2011-12 had to include academic achievement, social and physical development and strengthen children's relationships with adults and peers within the context of their families, schools and communities.



High quality, enriching activities exposed children to art and culture, music, social studies and science. Community service learning activities mixed service learning with life and academic lessons. Many MOST programs also provided non-school day programming

including summer camp, an essential benefit for many working parents.

Program components include:

- Homework assistance and academic enrichment, including reading, math, and science;
- Social skills building, cultural arts and field trips;
- Physical fitness activities, nutrition education and healthy snacks; and
- Family involvement activities and community service learning.

The CSC does not only provide funding for MOST programs. It also helps build the capacity of child serving professionals to provide the best possible learning and social environment

for our children. In August 2012, over 200 child serving professionals participated in a three-day Professional Development training hosted by the CSC. This first of its kind event highlighted a new out-of-school-time curriculum and featured an array of renowned instructors and subjects.

Our children are our future. Providing them with a safe, engaging and fun environment to learn and thrive in during out of school time empowers them to grow into the responsible and productive adults that will make for a better community for all.



*"I really like the way they teach me all kinds of fun stuff. Some days I do karate, some days they take me swimming. I've made a lot of friends here, too."*

## MOST GENERAL POPULATION OUTCOMES

- 91%** of children improved reading skills
- 88%** improved math skills over the summer
- 87%** improved social skills and interactions with peers and adults
- 100%** remained safe

## MOST SPECIAL NEEDS OUTCOMES

- 89%** of children maintained or improved their reading and language development
- 91%** maintained or improved physical functioning
- 88%** maintained or improved social skills and interactions with peers and adults

*"This program is so helpful to me and my children. I can't ask for a better program. The staff is so friendly and loving they are like family. Because of this program I'm able to work knowing my children are safe."*

# Powering Partnerships that Inspire Potential

Every year high schools everywhere celebrate the accomplishments of graduating young men and women in caps and gowns parading across a stage to receive their diplomas. Usually, proud families applaud as the names of their loved ones are called and the iconic scroll is handed to the jubilant graduate. This achievement means even more when odds are stacked against success, as often is the case with children who have been raised in the foster care system and, upon turning 18, are left to fend for themselves. It is to help youth like these that the Children's Services Council (CSC) funds Future Prep, a program that provides



life coaches and that helps those in foster care and aging out of foster care learn how to balance a checkbook, cook, find employment, housing and even opportunities to advocate for their needs.

In FY 2011/12, the CSC and The Jim Moran Foundation invested \$1,575,000 in Future Prep, to serve 359 youth. In addition, the CSC continues to strengthen the relationships between WorkForce One, ChildNet and Future Prep providers like HANDY, Camelot Community Care, Henderson Behavioral Health and the Memorial Healthcare System, to expand work opportunities for this special youth population. This summer, 57 foster youth gained paid work experience in CSC's Summer Youth Employment (SYEP) program.

The yearly graduation, organized by the FLITE Center, ChildNet and the Children's

Services Council of Broward County and emceed by Gia Tatalo-Mote, founder of Forever Family, recognizes foster youth who graduate from middle and high school, GED programs, technical schools or college, giving them an opportunity to bask in the glow of the pride and support of those who have helped them along the way. In June 2012, 132 youth were honored at the 8th Annual Build on Your Dreams graduation, held at Broward College.

Considering the high rate of homelessness, unemployment and crime among youth who are left to fend for themselves simply by turning 18 and aging out of a much needed support system, investing in programs that provide them with real opportunities at success makes a lot of sense.



Future Prep is the lynchpin of the system of care that allows young men and women aging out of the foster and relative care system to have a shot at success.

Antyon didn't have a typical childhood. In other words, he grew up fast. At the age of eight, he and his five siblings were placed in the custody of his maternal grandmother. He had to learn how to cook, clean and babysit while his grandmother worked a late night shift to provide for the family. This didn't soften his drive and ambition, however. Thanks to a CSC-funded Future Prep Program at HANDY, Antyon learned to keep fighting, even when things got tough. Last year, he graduated Fort Lauderdale's Stranahan High School with a 3.1 grade point average, silver cord and over 200 hours of community service. All this while participating on the varsity basketball, cross-country and swimming teams. His future, as they say, is limitless. "HANDY made sure I was surrounded by the positive role models I wasn't able to find in my neighborhood," said Antyon. "The life coaches and mentors were always there for me and I'm for that reason, I'm truly blessed."

## FUTURE PREP OUTCOMES

- 83%** of youth increased employability skills
- 78%** graduated and/or are employed
- 92%** had stable housing
- 94%** had no new law violations



# Powering Positive Employment Experiences for Broward County Youth

Most of us can remember preparing for that first job interview, getting that first job and cashing that first check. It was an opportunity to learn responsibilities, like timeliness,



proper professional attire and budgeting. For over eight years the Children's Services Council (CSC) has partnered with WorkForce One to create summer job opportunities for hundreds of youth throughout Broward. The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) serves Broward County youth, ages 16-18, with summer work experience at local non-profit and government agencies.

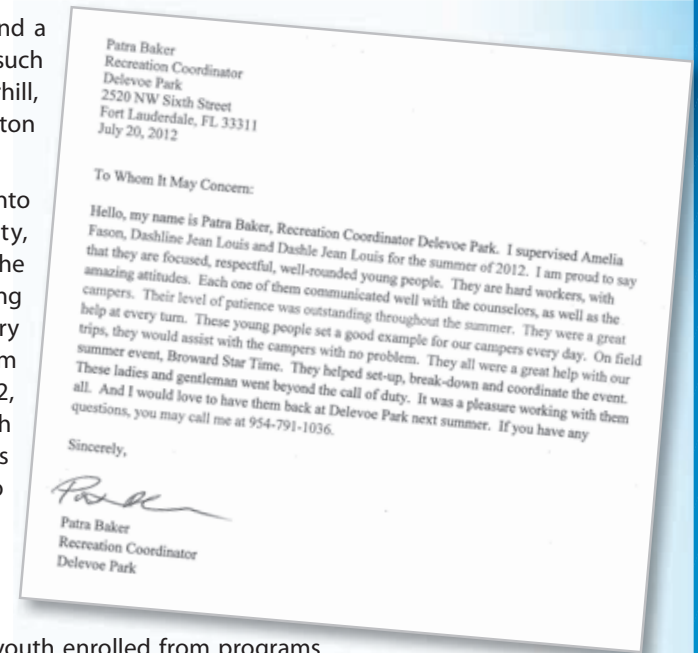
Youth earn minimum wage and may be eligible to receive supportive services, such as transportation assistance and child care. Youth also attend employability skills training workshops prior to job placement to enhance their success while employed.

In FY 2011-12, the CSC provided \$1.5 million for SYEP. So that youth from the most economically disadvantaged areas of the community receive services, WorkForce One targeted its recruitment efforts for the majority of the 576 youth participating in SYEP during FY 2011-12, in Fort Lauderdale, Pompano Beach, Lauderdale Hill and the underserved areas of Deerfield Beach. Job sites included the School

Board of Broward County, and a number of municipalities, such as Lauderdale Lakes, Lauderdale Hill, Sunrise, West Park, Wilton Manors and more.

The program also took into account cultural diversity, reflected in the fact that the number of youth reporting Haiti as their primary cultural influence rose from 62 in 2011 to 73 in 2012, and the number of youth identifying themselves as Spanish/Hispanic/Latino rose significantly from 26 to 59, due in part to a new collaboration with Hispanic Unity of Florida.

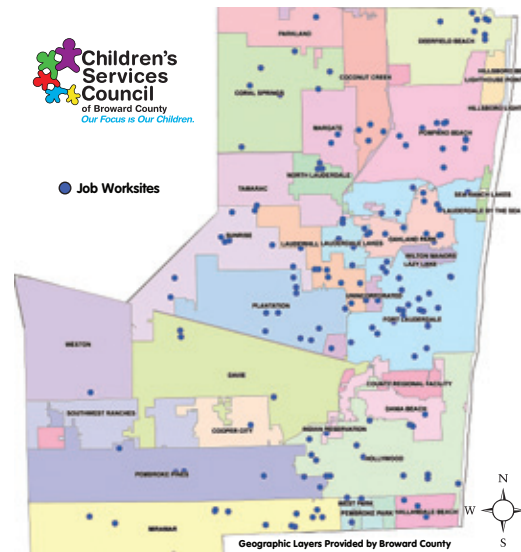
Additionally, there were 57 youth enrolled from programs supporting youth aging out of the foster care system, 13 from diversion programs, 12 from programs serving youth with disabilities, 76 from 21st Century youth leadership programs, 9 from the Urban League's YouthBuild program, and two from Smith's Behavioral Health Youth FORCE program.



*"This opportunity has given me the confidence to live my life independently. This past summer was the first time I was able to take public transportation and get to work on my own."*

*"Thank you for providing me with a job. I had been searching for work and now God answered my prayers. Yes, I know the job is temporary, but it will still be an experience in knowing what it is like to work. It has been a very good experience."*

## Summer Youth Employment Program Worksites



*"I supervised three youth in the summer of 2012. I am proud to say that they are focused, respectful, well rounded young people. They are hard workers, with amazing attitudes. Each one of them communicated well with the counselors, as well as the campers. Their level of patience was outstanding throughout the summer. They were a great help at every turn. These young people set good examples for our campers every day. ... It was a pleasure working with them and I would love to have them back working with us at the park next summer."*

### SYEP OUTCOMES

- 90%** of youth successfully completed the program
- 93%** demonstrated employability and job skills proficiency
- 98%** of employers reported satisfaction

# Powering Partnerships that Empower Youth for the 21st Century

High school is a time when students can explore the full gamut of possibilities... an opportunity to combine energy and passion as they leap into adulthood. There are many different ways to learn, and it's not only about academics. Leadership skills, having a voice in shaping the programs and activities they find compelling: all of these are more opportunities to understand personal responsibility and develop the idea of "community". Successful afterschool programs foster attachment to the school, which in turn helps a student develop a broader attachment to the community. By keeping them engaged in productive activities, after school programs help decrease youth delinquency and victimization.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) were created to maximize the quality of afterschool programs for students residing in low-income areas and/or attending low-performing schools as part of President Bush's "No Child Left Behind Act". The focus of this program is to provide expanded academic enrichment opportunities for teens attending Title I eligible schools.

The CSC collaborates with the School Board of Broward County and the Florida Dept. of Education to provide 21st CCLC after school programs in nine high schools operated by the YMCA and Hispanic Unity of Florida. The students receive:

- Structured academic support services that foster positive youth and family development;
- Opportunities for articulated and comprehensive educational outreach to students and parents;
- Cultural and recreational activities that empower parents and help students meet/exceed state accountability standards and graduation rates; and
- Enrichment activities to increase attendance, reduce drug/ alcohol abuse, teen violence, and expose families to literacy and other needed community resources.



*"This program makes it possible for me to set the stage for my future success. I believe these kinds of programs should be offered in every school. It would make a world of difference to students and their community."*

*"I want to be a leader and this program gives me an opportunity to learn the kinds of skills that will make it possible for me to be the master of my own success. Dreaming of a better future is just the start. I want to live up to my potential and realize those dreams."*

## OUTCOMES

<b>92%</b>	of youth improved reading grades
<b>88%</b>	improved math grades
<b>87%</b>	improved science grades
<b>61%</b>	improved daily attendance

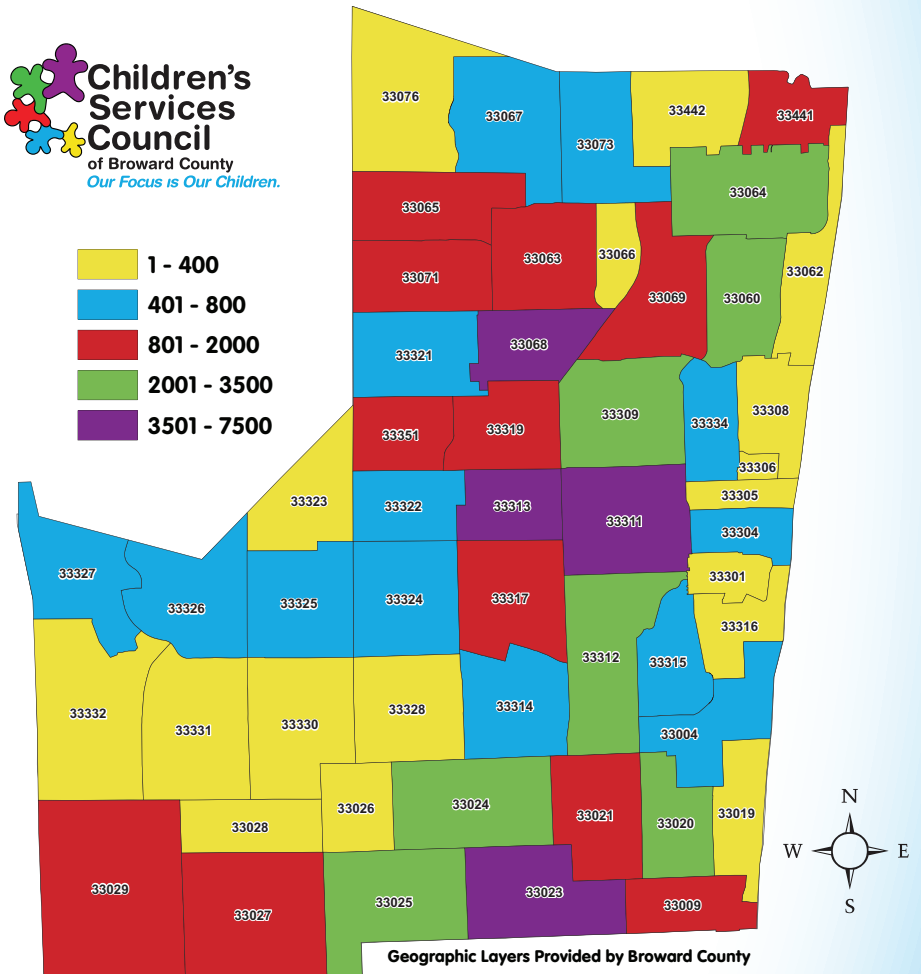


# Children & Families Served



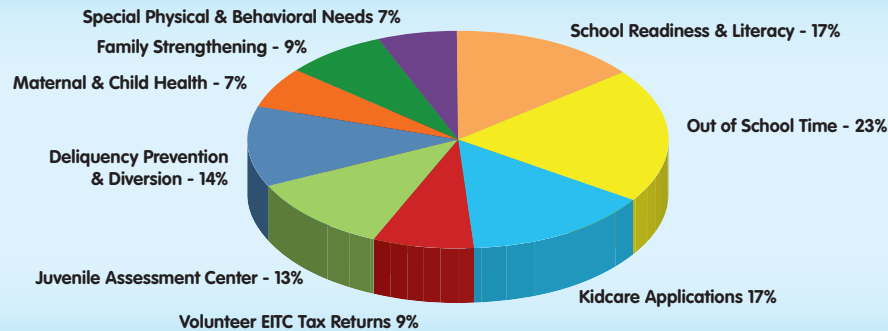
Mrs. Ann Scott, wife of Gov. Rick Scott, speaking to children in a MOST program.

## Children & Families Served by CSC by Zip Code



Note: Students assisted by CSC-funded school health services at 40 high-need schools are not included in this population-served recap.

### Percentage of Numbers of Children & Families Served by Program Area

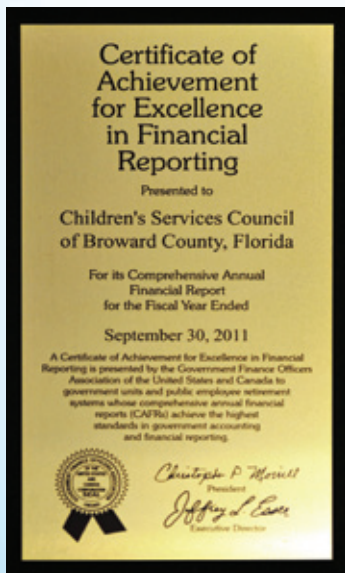


- CSC also funds school health services at 40 high need schools with a total student body of 34,000.
- CSC also funds Drowning Prevention and Water Safety initiative serving over 26,000 children.

# Financial Report

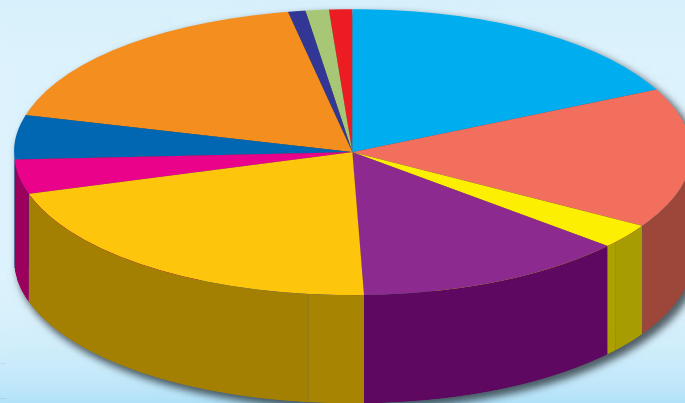
## GENERAL FUND

REVENUES:	FY 2011/12 Actual	FY 2010/11 Actual
Property Taxes	\$57,483,644	\$57,795,765
Interest	152,865	111,354
Grant Income	343,463	2,994,765
Miscellaneous	568,853	65,879
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$58,548,825</b>	<b>\$60,967,763</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>		
Program Services	\$52,723,851	\$52,514,871
Program Administration	2,875,163	2,931,195
General Administration	1,948,542	2,010,343
Capital Outlay	57,303	136,019
Non-Operating Expenditures	1,679,586	1,762,748
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$59,284,445</b>	<b>\$59,355,176</b>



Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting

## Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget for Program Services By Goal



Family Strengthening	18%
Delinquency Prevention & Diversion	16%
Independent Living	3%
School Readiness & Early Education	13%
Out of School Time	21%
Physical Health	4%
Maternal & Child Health	5%
Physical & Behavioral Needs	18%
Agency Capacity & Training	1%
Seamless System of Care	1%
Public Awareness & Advocacy	1%



# Funded Agencies

211 Broward  
 Achievement and Rehabilitation Centers  
 After School Programs  
 Ann Storck Center  
 Aspira of Florida  
 BECON - Future First  
 Boys & Girls Club  
 Broward Children's Center  
 Broward County Health Department  
 Broward County Parks & Recreation  
 Broward County Public Library  
 Broward Regional Health Planning Council  
 Broward Sheriff's Office  
 Camelot Community Care  
 Center for Hearing and Communication  
 Children's Harbor  
 Children's Home Society of Florida Intercoastal Division  
 City of Deerfield Beach  
 City of Hollywood  
 City of Lauderdale Lakes  
 City of Miramar  
 City of Pompano Beach w/Partner CD 4 Youth  
 City of West Park  
 Community After School  
 Community Based Connections  
 Community Foundation of Broward  
 Community Leadership Consulting  
 Early Learning Coalition of Broward County  
 Early Literacy Education/AD Henderson (ECE)  
 Family Central  
 Father Flanagan's Boys Town Florida  
 First Baptist Church Piney Grove  
 First Church of the Open Bible  
 FLIPANY  
 Florida Afterschool Network  
 Forever Family  
 Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority  
 Gulf Coast Community Care  
 HandsOn Broward  
 HANDY-Helping Abused, Neglected,  
 Disadvantaged Youth  
 Harmony Development Center

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition  
 Harvest Drive  
 Henderson Behavioral Health  
 Hispanic Unity of Florida  
 Impact Broward  
 Jewish Adoption and Foster Care Options  
 Juliana Gerena & Associates  
 Juvenile Assessment Center  
 Kid Vision/WPBT  
 Kids In Distress  
 Legal Aid Service of Broward County  
 Medical Staffing Network  
 Memorial Healthcare System  
 Miami Children's Hospital  
 Minority Development & Empowerment  
 New Hope World Outreach  
 Nova Southeastern University, Day for Children  
 OIC of Broward County  
 PACE Center for Girls  
 Smith Community Mental Health  
 Sierra Lifecare  
 Soref Jewish Community Center  
 South Cluster Children's Services  
 Sun Sentinel Children's Fund  
 Sunshine After School  
 The Starting Place  
 United Cerebral Palsy of Broward County  
 United Way Family Day  
 Urban League of Broward County  
 Women in Distress  
 WorkForce One  
 YMCA of Broward County

**NOTE:**

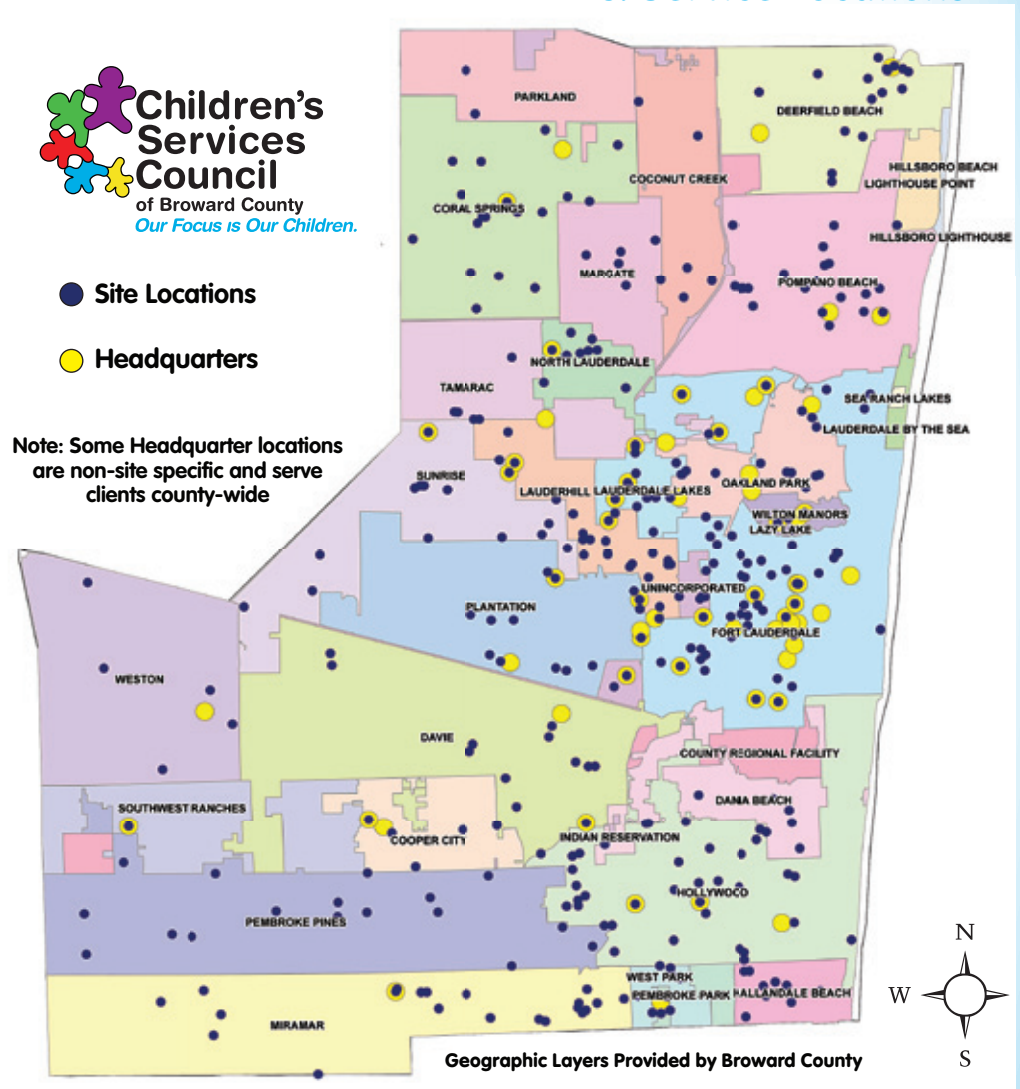
Some programs are not site specific; services are offered county-wide.  
 The Council maximizes your dollars by partnering with several cities to provide after school and summer programs for as many children as possible.

## CSC Funded Programs Headquarters & Service Locations



- Site Locations
- Headquarters

**Note: Some Headquarter locations are non-site specific and serve clients county-wide**





# Children's Services Council

of Broward County

*Our Focus is Our Children.*

## MISSION

To provide the leadership, advocacy and resources necessary to enhance children's lives and empower them to become responsible, productive adults through collaborative planning and funding of a continuum of quality care.

## VISION

The children of Broward County shall have the opportunity to realize their full potential, their hopes and their dreams, supported by a nurturing family and community.



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