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Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 4:55 PM
To: Donald Zappone
Subject: ADV: United Way Capital Area Success By 6 Update

United Way Capital Area



Success By 6 Update

October/November 2011



A Letter from Open Door Executive Director, Larry Elsner

Several years ago I got an innocuous call from Walter Moreau, executive director of Foundation Communities, the leading nonprofit in affordable housing in Austin. They were beginning to plan a major development in East Austin. They had an option on a parcel of land, hoped to build 150 units, and wanted on-site child care. They hadn't procured funding yet but had begun that complicated process. Would Open Door like to be a part of this dream project?

It took our board a year of questioning, analyzing, and discussing to conclude that yes, we wanted in. Then began the real work: envisioning what we wanted, working with the architects to design a state-of-the-art building, raising funds to furnish and equip the school and for other start-up costs, dealing with construction decisions, hiring staff, converting an empty space into an engaging educational environment, enrolling children and families, and getting that magical license that says we could legally open for business.

Open Door at M Station opened on November 2. We serve children from M Station at heavily discounted rates as well as children from the wider community. From the beginning of our debates on whether to pursue this third location for Open Door, we were clear that we would stay true to our mission. We would continue to be a high quality, inclusive program. We would serve children with disabilities along with typically developing children. We would serve families across the socioeconomic spectrum.

If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a metropolis to open and sustain an Open Door Preschool. We have long said that our strength lies in our partnerships in the community: we are not only for the community but also of the community. It is gratifying that so many have stepped forward to offer their support, to recognize not only our work and approach but also the critical importance of early childhood education.

Austin now has a deeper community resource. Children and families have the opportunity for a transformative educational experience. Open Door has found an amazing partner in Foundation Communities. We have a 20-year lease at \$1/year. Even we can afford to prepay our rent for 20 years!

We love our new digs and are eager to share them with the

A Play and Learn Update

Things are in full swing with our 3 group Play and Learn pilot, funded by a grant from the Tapestry Foundation. Play and Learn is a weekly, facilitator-led early care setting, teaching child-directed learning and parent empowerment that is free for families with 2-year olds. SB6 partnered with KLRU to include a media component and instruction on how to meaningfully watch appropriate television with your child. We are pleased to announce our final pilot group, starting in January, in a newly partnered with the Southeast Austin Community Branch Library. The new location will allow Play and Learn parents to access a community space and learn more about available resources.

Save the Date

Texas AEYC 48th Annual Conference

October 25th-27th, 2012
Galveston Convention Center.

Success By 6 has a Fan Page on Facebook

[facebook](#)

[Click here to join!](#)

Leader Spotlight:

world. We're at 2918 E. MLK, across the street from the light rail station.

Larry Elsner

Exciting News from Mainspring Schools

Mainspring Schools is thrilled to announce that they won a \$100,000 grant from Humana to install a portable adjacent to their building. The new building will house two new classrooms and allow them to educate and serve 30% more disadvantaged children and their parents. They hope to be up and running within six months.

Texas Early Learning Council Announces Two Exciting Opportunities

The Texas Early Learning Council is looking for strong candidates for two new Requests for Proposals. Please help us get the word out to qualified individuals and organizations.

Consultant For Infant And Toddler Early Learning Guidelines:

A key initiative of the Council is to create new voluntary Infant and Toddler Early Learning Guidelines for Texas. To accomplish this goal, the Council worked closely with ZERO-TO-THREE to begin the process and bring experts and stakeholders together. This group of experts and stakeholders is now ready to work with a technical writer to draft the new Infant and Toddler Early Learning Guidelines. You can download a copy of the RFP [here](#).

Application Deadline is Monday, November 28, 2011 at 2PM CST.

Please note that all inquiries related to the Infant and Toddler Early Learning Guidelines RFP should be directed to Laura Wong: Laura.Wong@uth.tmc.edu

Consultant For Quality Rating & Improvement System:

Another important Council goal is to produce recommendations for a Texas Quality Rating & Improvement System. So far, the Council has outlined its preferences for the project, business questions it would like a QRIS to answer, and key potential components of a Texas QRIS. The Council is looking for a talented organization to conduct research, engage stakeholders, and draft QRIS recommendations. You can download a copy of the RFP [here](#).

Application Deadline is Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at 2PM CST.

Please note that all inquiries related to the Quality Rating & Improvement System RFP should be directed to Michael Ochoa: Michael.Ochoa@uth.tmc.edu

Six Questions with Larry Elsner, Executive Director of Open Door Preschool

Q. What is your educational background?

A. I graduated from Oberlin College with a BA in government and have a master's in social work from UT.

Q. What did you do before you became the Executive Director of Open Door Preschool?

A. I had worked as a social worker, mostly for state agencies, for a few years but found the bureaucracy rather frustrating. I joined our family business (wholesale, retail, brokering) where I dealt primarily with finance and personnel for 20 years. We closed the business in 2001 and I wanted to work in the nonprofit world. I had served on (and chaired) the board of Open Door several years before. I think I was hired into this position because of my combined social services and business background, coupled with my long connection to Open Door.

Q. Who or what drew you to the field of early childhood?

A. When I look at my colleagues in other nonprofits, much of what they focus on is fighting against something (sex abuse, hunger, poverty, discrimination). These are all worthy fields, but what separates early childhood from the pack is that we are building something every day. Our impact--both in a micro and macro sense--is great.

Q. What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?

A. The absolute most rewarding aspect is getting feedback from parents--especially those whose children are older--about the impact that Open Door has had on their children's development. They may mention how well prepared they were academically for elementary school, but much more impressive is how they

Council RFP's can always be found at the UTHHealth Procurement page:

<http://www.uthouston.edu/buy/bid-list.htm>



Born Learning Spotlight: Text4Baby Initiative

Success by 6 is now an official Text4baby Outreach Partner. We're currently working with Reach Out and Read to help launch the initial phase of our public outreach campaign.

Text4baby is a free mobile information service designed to promote maternal and child health. An educational program of the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition (HMHB), text4baby provides pregnant women and new moms with information to help them care for their health and give their babies the best possible start in life. Women who sign up for the service by texting BABY to 511411 (or BEBE in Spanish) will receive free SMS text messages each week, timed to their due date or baby's date of birth.

Get in the giving spirit with Trinity CDC

Trinity Child Development Center presents our Annual "Sharing with Santa", a holiday alternative that emphasizes the "giving and doing" spirit of Christmas. This will be the 26th year that families in Austin are invited to come to our child-oriented event with lots of fun activities.

There is no charge for admission, brunch, visits with Santa, or entertainment. The Trinity CDC children sing some of their favorite songs at 10:15 and Santa's grand entrance is at 10:30 a.m. Children (and adults) may bring a new or "like new" unwrapped toy for APD's Blue Santa. Santa thanks them for being a Santa Helper and if they are brave enough to visit with Santa, he doesn't talk about what they are going to GET for Christmas but rather tries to focus the children on what they are going to DO. Austin Firefighters will be outside with their fire truck for conversations and viewing from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Activities that have a minimal cost include photos with Santa; an "Elf Room" where only children under 18 shop for gifts for family members and then have fun wrapping them;; craft-making; fishing booth and other games; and face painting. Children enjoy the playground and courtyard while adults shop at both a Silent Auction and a Yard Sale Room. We have many wonderful donors that help to raise money for our 47 year old non-profit center, so come enjoy this special day with us!

Saturday, December 3, 2011
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Trinity Child Development Center

developed as caring, socially responsible people.

Q. If someone wrote Bookspring a check for a million dollars, I would...

A. Use most of it to purchase a building so that we would not be at the mercy of landlords. I would ask each staff member for input on how these funds could best be used to advance our mission.

Q. If I'm not at work, you can find me...

A. Swimming laps at UT or Deep Eddy, engrossed in a great book, working on a crossword puzzle, walking our spirited Irish terrier, watching television shows I'm too embarrassed to name, and spending time with family and friends.

Upcoming Early Childhood Events

**Family Matters Trainings
November 16: Mad, Sad, Frustrated? What to do when kids are driving you crazy, with Kathryn Zenter**

Join Us! Family Matters is an exciting free parenting workshop run by dedicated and experienced professionals from Austin IN Connection & hosted by Child Inc. This family-focused series offers up-to-date information on family relationships, attachment, and emotional development with time for discussion and support. Families with children ages 0 to 9 years are encouraged to attend. A Spanish-English Interpreter is available at all workshops. Dinner and childcare provided!

Time: 6:00-8:00pm

Location: 818 E. 53rd Street (Child Inc.)

RSVP: Rachel Castillo 451-7361 X191

Spring 2012 Family Matters Schedule:

Jan 18: Comfort at Home: Coping with family stress, Kate Culligan & Annie Dorman

Feb 15: Falling Apart: How to help kids bounce back from tough times, Debby Jacobvitz & Sue Marriott

5801 Westminster Drive (next door to Windsor Park Branch
Library)
928-2212
trinitycdc@gmail.com

From Our Friends at Austin Child Guidance Center

The Austin Child Guidance Center (ACGC) has worked hard this year to expand the awareness of our services as well as educate other professionals on issues effecting young children in Travis County. In October, Melanie Walter-Mahoney, LMSW and Seanna Crosbie, LCSW presented at the Texas National Association of Social Workers Conference in Dallas. Their presentation focused exploring the need for early childhood intervention and social-emotional learning for young children in Texas. The use of evidenced-based mental health treatment and intervention with infants and children in childcare settings was also discussed.

ACGC, which has 60 years of providing mental health treatment for to the most vulnerable populations in Travis County, is also enhancing services provided to trauma survivors. The Center is implementing trauma informed care as well as evidence-based treatments for trauma related issues for children and families. Staff has recently been trained on the use of Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy; the most research supported intervention for children who are dealing with trauma related issues. Families seeking services can contact ACGC at 451-2242.

Postpartum Services from Any Baby Can

In Travis County, more than 20,000 women give birth annually, and many of them present risk factors for PPD. Addressing the need in our community to provide education, information, and support to new mothers with multiple risk factors for postpartum depression (PPD) is critical to ensuring the healthy development of children. During the postpartum period, about 85% of women experience some type of mood disturbance. For many women, these symptoms are short-lived; however, 10-15% of women develop more significant symptoms of depression or anxiety (Massachusetts General Hospital, 2010). Left untreated, PPD can exact a heavy toll on a mother's ability to adjust to the demands of caring for herself and her child.

Any Baby Can continues to assure that Travis County's socially and economically disadvantaged mothers are identified and have treatment options for PPD. Any Baby Can connects women to the mental health resources they need during this critical period for their own well-being and that of their children and other family members. Any Baby Can improves outcomes for women and children in Travis County through the provision of outreach, provider education, parent education, support groups, counseling

Mar 21: Why do Children Cry?,
Cathy Weaver & Robert
Leyendecker

Apr 18: Minding the Family:
Mindfulness at home, Patty Olwell
& Robert Leyendecker

May 16: Keeping Your Cool in the
Summer: Kids at home, Annie
Dorman & Alexander Zesati

Classes at Any Baby Can

All classes held at Any Baby Can:
1121 East 7th Street, Austin, TX
78702. Classes are free unless
otherwise specified.

For questions and to register,
please call Any Baby Can at 512-
454-3743.

Parenting Classes

These classes give parents the tools and skills to support their children's success in school, increase their self-sufficiency, and raise a healthy family. Any Baby Can staff work with parents to be proactive, confident and appropriate role models for their children. Parents, grandparents and foster parents are welcome to attend. All participants receive a certificate of completion at the end of each class.

No reservation is needed, but space is limited. Childcare for children up to age 10 is available free of charge.

Date & Time: Saturdays 9:15am -
10:15am (Spanish 3-4pm)
Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:00pm -
8:30pm (Spanish Available)

Childcare Provider Training

Date & Time: 3rd Saturday of
every month from 10am- 2pm.
Childcare is not available.
Registration is required as space is
limited. Please register one week
prior to class as there is limited
seating.

Family Literacy Semester-Long Classes (by reservation only)

These courses offer adult basic
education and English as a Second
Language (ESL) instruction.

Date & Time: Tuesdays and
Thursdays 9:00am to 12:00pm OR
Wednesdays and Fridays 9:00am

and referral services, including a helpline (512-334-4444).

Free, bilingual, weekly support and education groups facilitated by highly qualified and experienced therapists are held at three convenient locations with no registration required and babies welcome:

Tuesdays 10-11:30am (Spanish)

Mom's Place
WIC Breastfeeding Clinic
8701 B Research Blvd
Austin, TX 78758

Tuesdays 6 - 7:30pm (English)

Texas Oncology Building
4101 James Casey St., 2nd Floor
Austin, Texas 78745

Thursdays 10 -11:30am (English)

Any Baby Can
1121 East 7th St.
Austin, Texas 78702

Please be sure to use our links to the Programs and Services page for Any Baby Can for further information.
www.abcaus.org/programs-services

to 12:00pm

Drop in Tutoring (open to the public)

These sessions are available to help improve reading and writing, provide tutoring and help with homework assignments.

Date & Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30pm to 6:00pm; Saturdays 10:30am to 2:30pm
Sessions are available to help improve reading and writing, provide tutoring and help with homework assignments.

Be Ready for Baby

Be Ready for Baby classes help parents prepare for the physical and emotional challenges of pregnancy and childbirth. Spanish Class Available.

Date & Time: The classes are held every Wednesday, (Jan. - Nov.) for a total of 4 classes, from 6-9pm.

Cost: A fee may be charged, using a sliding scale, based on the annual family income. Please call for more details.

Baby's First 3 Months

Baby's First 3 Months focuses on the mother's emotional health, adjustments after the newborn arrives, feeding, bonding, safety practices and basic baby care. Ideal for pregnant mothers, their partners and parents of newborns. Spanish Class Available.

Date & Time: The classes are held every Monday from 6:30-8pm.

Building Healthy Lifestyles

Building Healthy Lifestyles aims to teach parents healthy behaviors, activities, skills, and nutrition that will support their child's optimal development, including the benefits of breastfeeding. Bilingual.

Date & Time: Mondays in January from 6:30-8:30pm

Have an Article for the Next Update?

If you have any articles, events, anecdotes, advice, suggestions or anything else you would like included in the next Success By 6 Update, we'd love to hear from you.

Send an email with your content to steven.olender@unitedwaycapitalarea.org.

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