



Fall 2010

State Funding Continues for Our Children's Place

Like so many others throughout the state, Our Children's Place (OCP) Board and staff members watched with anxiety as the General Assembly worked to revise the state budget throughout the spring and early summer. Fortunately the pass through program development funding that OCP has received in the past remained intact with a 5% reduction for the fiscal year that started July 1.

OCP staff worked with lobbyist Randolph Cloud as well as Summit House, Harriet's House, and Women at Risk, our "sister" agencies, to identify and meet with legislators, answer questions, and track the status of potential funding.

Thank you to everyone who made phone calls, sent e-mails, and wrote letters to their elected officials asking for their continued support.

We are anticipating an even tighter budget situation for the next fiscal year and will again look to our supporters for their guidance and help.

Unfortunately, the revised state budget did not include any opportunities for us to seek capital funding for the renovation of Deerfield Cottage in Butner. Securing an appropriate facility continues to be a top priority. Please see the Facility Committee update (page 2) for more information.

Save the Date for Hats Off to the Kids!



Sunday, November 28, 2010

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Carolina Inn, Chapel Hill, NC

Tickets • \$25, \$10/students and children

Please invite a friend and join us at our annual celebration to support the work being done to create a better life for young children whose mothers are incarcerated! Invitations will be sent in late October.

Lynn Burke, recent law school graduate, will talk about the experience of raising her children during and after her incarceration.

Event sponsorship opportunities are available:

Circle of Compassion - \$500 *Circle of Caring* - \$200

Please call us at (919) 843-2670 for more information.

Program Committee ***Taking a Team Approach to Evaluation***

The Program Committee continues to look at goals, outcomes, and tools for program evaluation. With a solid evaluation plan developed for the children's program, the committee's focus has switched to the women's program.

This spring, a Masters of Public Administration (MPA) student team from the School of Government at UNC-Chapel Hill helped with this project by researching other programs' evaluation components as well as the tools that can be used to evaluate individual progress. OCP now has an evaluation plan that is integrated into the components of the program: child care center, parenting work, educational and vocational activities, and mental health, substance abuse, and trauma treatment.

OCP's evaluations can largely be conducted by existing staff, who gather the data during the normal course of their work, which minimizes expense and normalizes the experience of data collection for the children and their mothers. The evaluation plan also calls for follow-up data collection to occur post-discharge in the family's home. Committee member Wayne Foster has drawn up a logic model to describe our program and evaluation thus far developed.

The work of the committee continues to be of vital importance to the development and implementation of the OCP strategic plan. We are in the process of looking for members to augment this committee as we work on two areas:

- 1) re-entry program
- 2) pre-natal, childbirth, and infant care.

If you or someone you know can provide expertise in one or both of these areas, please

contact Carolynn Crowder, Program Director, at ourchildrensplace4@gmail.com.

Facility Update ***Focus on Finding a Home***

The Facility Committee is keeping busy, despite the fact that there are no capital funds currently available for the renovation of Deerfield Cottage, the building that had been identified as our future home. Recognizing the need to think "outside the box" or perhaps "outside the cottage" as the case may be, the committee organized two facility brainstorming sessions – September 15th and 16th.

A broad range of supporters and stakeholders were invited to join the sessions. Some of the questions addressed were:

- Is Deerfield Cottage and state renovation funding our best options? Why or why not? What are the funding options? State funds? Capital campaign?
- If we don't go with Deerfield, what are our options? Another state building? Non-state building?
- Should we consider a temporary facility leading to a permanent facility?
- Create a partnership with another agency?

Participants gathered in small groups for lively brainstorming. Graduate students from the North Carolina State University School of Architecture volunteered as discussion facilitators and scribes to record the flow of creative ideas. The conversations were very fruitful. Topics ranged from available buildings and modular construction to agency collaborations and innovative fundraising strategies. The new ideas generated a renewed sense of optimism. The next steps are for the Board, Facility Committee, and staff to review the brainstorming data and assess

our options. We will be exploring each new lead in the pursuit of a fitting home for OCP.

We are especially grateful to the session participants for their time and more importantly for the valuable perspectives they shared. We thank them for their commitment to OCP's mission and passion to make the dream a reality.

For those of you who were unable to attend a session but surely have important creative suggestions about the future facility, we have prepared a brief questionnaire to gather your ideas. Please contact Melissa at (919) 843-2670 or ourchildrensplace@gmail.com to receive a copy.

Advisory Board Offers Their Talents

April marked the first anniversary of the creation of the OCP Advisory Board. Board and staff members marked the occasion by hosting another event for the group of advisors at Panciuto in Hillsborough. Being the wonderful community partner they are, Panciuto owners and staff prepared and served a delicious meal.

Former OCP Board members Joseph Jordan and Florence Peacock were welcomed to the Advisory Board. Turn to page 8 for a list of members.

Offering three different perspectives, Meg Scott Phipps (Board member), Rich Rosen (former Board member), and Annie Harvey and Bianca Harris (both from the North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women) talked about the importance of a project like Our Children's Place.

Board and staff members gave program and facility updates, answered questions, and asked Advisory Board members for their help as the General Assembly prepared to go into session only a few weeks after the event.

Time to Say "Thank You and Good Bye" . . .

Three individuals – Beth McAllister, Rich Rosen, and Kathleen Shapley-Quinn – completed their Board service at the end of June.

From providing the perspective of someone who oversaw a program for women involved in the criminal justice system to interviewing the first Executive Director to serving as a founding Board member and co-chair of the Program Committee, Beth wore many hats during her two terms on the Board. We will miss her commitment to women and children and her vision for Our Children's Place.

Not one to toot his own horn, Rich has provided invaluable insight and perspective on the political aspects of creating an "outside the box" program such as Our Children's Place. We have appreciated and respected his thoughtful and low-key approach, hands-on knowledge of the criminal justice system, and willingness to be a sounding board.

Advocacy comes easy to some people. Kathleen is one of those individuals. Her insistence on the very best - for program design, facility renovation plans, and overall agency functioning – has set the bar for both current and future Board and staff. Outgoing chair of the Facility Committee, she will continue to serve on that committee as well as provide health care information and insight to the Program Committee.

While their "official" time with OCP may be complete for Beth, Rich, and Kathleen, we expect to continue calling on them for their expertise as we move forward in our development.

We also said "good bye" to two staff members and a consultant in the past several months – Carolyn Ikenberry, our first Program Director, Sally McLean, our first Administrative Coordinator, and Linda Washington, our child care consultant.

Carolyn was instrumental in launching our program design and development, forming and staffing our Program Committee, and establishing numerous relationships with professionals in the community. She researched best practices in the areas of substance abuse, mental health, and parenting, learned what other programs were doing to see what was working, and began the process of designing an evaluation plan. We will miss her inquisitive nature, her advocacy efforts on behalf on children and others without a voice, and her amazing connections within various Orange County systems and beyond.

As part of an update she put together before she left in the spring, Carolyn wrote this:

On a personal note, as I leave the position of Program Director, I want to thank the Board and Executive Director for the opportunity to work in a project that will make a major contribution to the understanding and welfare of incarcerated women and their children. In addition, working with the Program Committee has been one of the more rewarding aspects of the job. A number of busy professionals have given freely of their time to help OCP lay the foundation for a solid program. I will always be grateful for their contributions

As our first Administrative Coordinator, Sally did a wonderful job creating a new position that resulted from combining two part-time positions. She implemented our new bookkeeping software, streamlined several administrative and financial systems, coordinated our H.A.T.S. participation in several alternative holiday markets last fall, and more. We miss her quick smile, stories about her beloved dogs, and her "how can we do things better?" approach.

Linda came to OCP in the summer of 2008 to design a high-quality child care center. During her time with us she worked with the Facility Committee to visit model child care sites, provided licensing requirement information to the architect, researched potential funding sources, polled child care center directors about what worked and what they would change, and

developed several important resource materials. We already miss her vast knowledge of the child care world, her thoughtful nature, and her great, insightful questions.

... and "Welcome!"



Carolynn Crowder (*above right*) began working as the Program Director for Our Children's Place in March of this year. She is a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS) and a social worker with over a decade of experience working with homeless, dually diagnosed mothers in both individual and group settings. She came to us from Family Preservation Services Henderson where she worked as an outpatient therapist. In addition to focusing on program design and development for Our Children's Place, Carolynn also works as a shift leader for Freedom House at Durham Center Access.

Jenn Barr (*above left*), our new Administrative Coordinator, began working at Our Children's Place in early May. Having worked in the non-profit field for a number of years, including several positions at The Women's Center and Victim Services Director at the Family Violence Prevention Center of Orange County here in Chapel Hill and Executive Director at the Outer Banks Conservationists (Currituck Beach Lighthouse) in Corolla, Jenn comes to us after taking time to be home with her young son.

Welcome, Carolynn and Jenn!

This summer we also welcomed new Board members Gretchen Aylsworth, Warren Dukes, and Lester Laminack. You can read more about them in our next newsletter. We look forward to having them as part of our team!



From Mary's Pen Second Chances

We have all been at a point in our lives where we wish we had a second chance or a do-over. Many of us have faced adversity and made a conscious decision to make a change. We were given another chance (or 2 or 5) and we were able to make a change and take a different path.

There are more than 40 pregnant women in prison in North Carolina as of this newsletter. If you asked any of them if they wished they had a second chance I am sure all of them would welcome the opportunity to change the path of their lives. All of these women have made serious mistakes in their lives. They wouldn't be pregnant and in prison if they hadn't. All of them want a better life with more opportunities for their children.

Our Children's Place wants to be a place where women can have that second chance to make a difference in their children's lives.

In late August there was an article in the *News & Observer* (see link below) about one of our local business owners who is helping prisoners with a second chance. Mildred Council is the owner of Mama Dip's, a local favorite restaurant in Chapel Hill. She employs prisoners on work release as dishwashers and other staff. She and the prisoners have only positive things to say about the experience. Many of the prisoners credit Ms.

Council for giving them a second chance and helping them have a hope for their future on a different path upon their release from prison.

Soon-to-be-lawyer Lynn Burke is a shining example of what being given a second chance can do in your life. She decided while in prison, away from her young children, that she wanted a better life for her children and herself. She decided to become a lawyer and after serving her time and many years of hard work she achieved her goals. You can hear more of Lynn's story at our Hats Off to the Kids! annual celebration in late November (see page 1) where she is our guest speaker.

We have had a few setbacks this year with state budget cuts and the loss of our building funds. The Board is still dedicated and working hard to keep this dream a reality. We all thank you for your continued support to offer a second chance to these mothers and their young children.

Mary Stowe
Chair, Board of Directors

Link to *News & Observer* stories:

- <http://www.newsobserver.com/2010/08/30/654704/mama-dip-serves-up-just-what-these.html>
- <http://www.newsobserver.com/2010/06/01/509931/ex-con-mom-beatsodds-gets-law.html>

Sharing Their Time and Talents

At first people refuse to believe that a strange new thing can be done, then they begin to hope it can be done, then they see it can be done – then it is done and all the world wonders why it was not done centuries ago.

~ Frances H. Burnett

The above quote is what we used for this year's volunteer appreciation week in April. On a regular basis we are amazed and appreciative of the number of individuals and organizations who

offer their time and talents to making Our Children's Place a reality. With that in mind, we send out a big "THANK YOU" to the following:

- Michelle Hall, Suzanne Julian, Emily Portner, Heather Stingley, and Erika Walker, members of UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government MPA student team who researched other programs' evaluation components as well as the tools that can be used to evaluate individual progress (see Program Committee update on page 2)
- Jina Dhillon and Nathan Cooper from the UNC School of Law's Community Development Clinic who reviewed our bylaws and suggested language for rewording
- Erin Miller (former OCP summer intern) and Ann Roper, both students from the MPA program, who did a financial needs assessment of Our Children's Place as part of their non-profit financial management class at the UNC School of Social Work.

Going Green

If you received this newsletter in the mail and would like to receive it via e-mail instead, please let us know (ourchildrensplace@gmail.com).

Our newsletters are posted on our website (www.ourchildrensplace.com, click on Newsletters). Thank you for helping us take a little green step!

Easy Ways to Support OCP

- Celebrate your birthday with a Facebook Causes Birthday Wish.
http://birthdays.causes.com/?bws=causes_reader
- GoodSearch/GoodShop
<http://www.goodsearch.com/>
- www.justgive.org

- Donate your used printer toner cartridges to us. We will recycle them at Staples and earn points for future purchases.

Keeping the Post Office Busy



We were pleased to receive an e-mail this spring telling us that Lion Brand Yarn had selected us as their monthly charity feature for March.

To see the "Weekly Stitch" listing, go to <https://mail.google.com/mail/?shva=1#search/ion/12754f63ad69807d>.

As a result of that selection, we have received donations of yarn and handcrafted items from across the country! To date, supporters have sent us packages from Georgia, New York, Ohio (three people), Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Texas (two), in addition to folks here in North Carolina.

We are also listed with Bernats on their BernatsCare site, <http://www.bernatscare.com/>. Click on the "Find" tab and search for Our Children's Place.

The result of this great awareness raising? We have quite a few hats available for display at alternative holiday markets and other events this fall and winter. If you know of an opportunity or would like to help us staff a table at one of these events, please call our office at (919) 843-2670.

Our Mailing List

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list or if your contact information has changed, please call our office at (919) 843-2670.

A big **"THANK YOU!"** goes out to the following donors for their support
from January 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010. *

Rachel Aaron, Manuel Escoto,
Rafael Green, Raven
Moeslinger, Joshua Bradley
Quinones *to celebrate Erika
Walker's birthday*
Jeffrey Chambers
Barbara and Joseph Cilenti
Debley, Inc.
Duke University Chapel
Mary and Mark Fraser, Maeda
Galinsky, Carol Gunther-
Mohr, Lisa Hamill, Marianne
and Lee Hark, Rosemary
Hutchinson, Prue and Peter
Meehan, Ruth Morrow,
Florence and Jim Peacock,
Martin Smith, Kristen and
Mark Sullivan, Mary Zaragoza,
Julie and Daniel Zola *in honor
of Baby Sullivan*
William Frey and Patricia
Tomczak Frey *in honor of Ellie
Kinnaird*
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
IBM Employee Charitable
Contributions
Fatimah Jackson *in memory of
Curtis and Sara Collier and
Abdullah F.H. Muhammad*
William Jenkins
Ellie Kinnaird *in memory of Dan
Pollitt and Ashley Osment*
Gustavo and Joan Montana
Barbara and Paul Nettesheim
Diana Tolar Parks *in memory of
Daniel H. Pollitt*
Linda and Roger Perry
Naomi Slifkin
Rita Bigham Ttee and Eric
Bigham
Chick and Jim White

Celebrating Mother's Day

*We hope that the zinnia seeds
brought beauty to your garden!*

Kathleen and William Allee

Sarah Andrews *in honor of Mary
Andrews*
Mary and Mike Andrews *in
memory of Jeanette Andrews and
Ruth Umberg*
Kristen and Jonathan Andrews *in
honor of Patti Johnston and Mary
Andrews*
Anonymous
Kathy and John Austin *in honor of
Vera Schroeder*
Robin Bartlett and Kenneth Byrd
Mark and Natalie Breakfield
Laura Clark
Kathryn and Robert Cook-
Deegan
Marguerite and Francis Coyle
Rt. Rev. Bishop Michael Curry,
Bishop's Discretionary Fund
Lucy Daniels
Helen Dannatt
Leah Devlin
Shirley Drechsel
Corinne Dunn, Krombach Dunn
& Co.
Rachel and Sid Eagles
Connie Eble *in memory of Florence
Eble*
Charles Espy
Jill and Stephen Friedman
Ann Hillenbrand
Kim and Tim Hoke *in honor of
Elizabeth Andrews, Robin Tracy
Bartlett, Laura Cuddy, Ande
Hewitt, Jane Hewitt*
Christine and Trevor Hoke
Jenny and Zaki Huq
Patti and Thom Johnston *in honor
of Kristen Andrews*
Lester Laminack
Caroline and Paul Lindsay
Kay Lockhart *in honor of Mary
Andrews*
Marguerite Loddengaard *in
memory of Robert Loddengaard*
Ashley Lucas *in honor of Billye
Lucas*
Kelly Maxwell and Richard Pierce

Sally McLean *in honor of Erin
Dawson*
Erin and Matt Miller
Maura O'Donoghue *in memory of
Ursula O'Donoghue*
Jean and Robert Phay
Ann and William F. Powers *in
honor of Dennis Bordelou*
Peggy and Theodore Pratt
Mary Putman
Diane and William Race *in honor
of Barbara Stewart*
Waltraud and Robert Reeber
Susan Steinberg
Anne D. and Harry Stowe *in
honor of Mary Stowe*
Anne Wall Thomas
Carolyn Van Sant
Susan and James Vogt
Paul Wakeford
Linda and Herbert Washington
Gail and Wallace Wood
Mary and Ross Wood *in memory
of Dorothy McNeill Wood*
Pam and John Zornick

Annual Appeal 2009

Laura and Jeffrey Clark
Mary and Gabriel DesHarnais
Dennis Gaddy, Community
Success Initiative
Christine Gellings
Eleanor Leung-Hollins and Mark
Hollins
Ellen Johnson
Susan and George Reed
Jean and Peter Vaughn
Nancy W. and Andrew Zeman

**"Hats Off to the Kids! "
Celebration - 2009**

Chellie Martin Joines and Vann
Joines
Prue and Peter Meehan

Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, *Honorary Board Member*

Inkind Donations

Handcrafted Items, Yarn, Patterns, Other Supplies
Rose Colagiovanni
Sandra Dawson
Diamantina Diaz
Jeanette Dunham
Cathy Elmore
Joy Falk
Fellow Knitter
Ellen Fornier
Grace Moravian Church
Ruth Harris
Sarah Hoyt
Linda Jordan
Sandy Pearson
Richard Plecenik
Geri Rayford
United Methodist Women at Grace United Methodist Church
Alma Winkler

Office and Storage Space, Supplies, Equipment
Anonymous
Janet and Rich Csarny
Sally and Bill McLean
Sonya Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History at UNC-Chapel Hill

** We've worked hard to create accurate lists and apologize in advance for any errors. Please contact us at (919) 843-2670 with corrections.*

Board of Directors

Gretchen Aylsworth, MA
Mary Andrews, MEd.
Mark Breakfield, CPA, *Treasurer*
Karen Chapple, MA, CCJP
Dorothy Cilenti, DrPH, MSW, *Vice Chair/Chair-Elect*
Warren Dukes, MS
Kim Hoke, MEd., *Past Chair/President*
Jen Hovendon, MD
Valerie Johnson, Ph.D.
Lester Laminack, Ed. D.
Meg Scott Phipps, JD, LLM
Mary Stowe, *Chair/President*
Katie Wakeford, M.Arch., *Secretary*

Advisory Board

Jean Anoff	Prue Meehan
Dwain Coleman	Florence Peacock
Leah Devlin	Linda Perry
Shirley Drechsel	Herbert (Bert) B. Peterson, MD
Sid Eagles	George Reed
Jaki Shelton Green	James (Jim) K. Roberson
Joseph Jordan	Patti Thorp

How to Reach Us

Website
www.ourchildrensplace.com

Mail
P.O. Box 1086, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Fax</i>
(919) 843-2670	(919) 962-3725 (please call first)

E-mail
Melissa Radcliff, *Executive Director*
ourchildrensplace@gmail.com

Carolynn Crowder, LCAS, P-LCSW
Program Director, ourchildrensplace4@gmail.com

Jenn Barr, *Administrative Coordinator*
ourchildrensplace2@gmail.com

Facebook
<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/182305?m=a9753488>

Our Children's Place (OCP) is creating a residential facility which will allow North Carolina infants and preschoolers to live with their mothers while the women serve out their sentences for non-violent offenses. OCP is designed to break the intergenerational cycle of crime, poverty, substance abuse, and family violence. It will empower the children with the help of their mothers to enhance their cognitive, social, physical, and emotional development.

(9/25/10)