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Spring 2007

Time For Kids Mission Statement

Time For Kids is dedicated to supporting the social, emotional, and educational growth of young children in California public schools through participation in research-based early intervention programs such as the Primary Intervention Program (PIP) and others funded through the Early Mental Health Initiative (EMHI).

*“Children are like wet cement.
Whatever falls on them makes
an impression.”*

-Dr. Haim Ginott

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A Message from the President

Scott Lindstrom

Restoration of funding for the Early Mental Health Initiative is in the governor’s initial 2007-08 budget proposal. I was exhilarated beyond words at this news, as I know many of you were. Factually, it means that the total annual budget available for funding EMHI grants is now back to the pre-2003 level of \$15 million. It means there is a proposed \$5 million available for which grant applications are currently being accepted. It means that, if Governor Schwarzenegger and the legislators agree, new grants will be funded at the beginning of the 2007-08 school year, and EMHI will return to a fall funding and training cycle that works much more effectively for schools. Hopefully, it means the budget will remain at this level or grow in coming years, and we can focus on thanking our elected officials rather than advocating with them. It means that 12,000 or more children will receive direct services through EMHI each year, and thousands more will receive support through classroom prevention and parental support.

It is inspiring to consider the great success that all of us, through our advocacy for EMHI, have realized. So many folks wrote letters, made calls, showed up for hearings, and offered encouragement when the task seemed daunting, and that would be worth talking about. But the real conversation is deeper in our hearts. The real conversation is about the opportunity that will be provided for young school-aged children as a result of these efforts. Stories abound about the children who have been touched by simple acts of caring provided by the people who give their energy through EMHI-funded and local programs. It is to create those stories - the opportunities to plant seeds, to heal wounds of the heart, to hold a unique little girl in our thoughts through a rough time, to make school feel safer for an overwhelmed boy - that we work.

I was recently asked: “Do *you* like your job? I answer with more gratitude than ever before. Yes! I like my job! I know that every day I come to work something good is happening for kids. And I know there are others all around the state who really make *time for kids*, and as a result are making the world a better place. ✱

EMHI CONFERENCE 2007



Mother/daughter aides spoke at the Conference

Linda Wood and her daughter Kimberly Wood Morton eloquently shared their passion for EMHI. Both are Primary Intervention Assistants in the Rowland School District. Kim was in high school when Linda started as a PIA in 1998. Seven years later, after becoming a parent herself, Kim became a PIA. She said her job has made her a better parent.

Conference a big success! Biggest attendance in several years

The annual statewide EMHI Conference took place on Thursday, January 19, 2007 at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott. The theme was "Each Child a Treasure." Attendance was almost twice that of recent years reflecting the revitalization of EMHI, and the energy and commitment people have for EMHI.

The keynote speaker was Christine Honeyman-Fazio, a media literacy educator, crisis intervention counselor, and grieving therapist. She talked about how to help children experiencing changes in their lives. She was an animated, energetic speaker who inspired us to keep doing what we do with kids. Ms. Honeyman-Fazio also led a workshop on "Media Madness: Growing up in a Media Saturated World" talking about children's developing brains and self-esteem as they grow up in a media centered culture.

Networking event

In keeping with our philosophy of the importance of play to be healthy, Time For Kids held a fun social event the evening before the

conference. Live music by a pianist, munchies, drinks, silent auction and raffle made for a festive, relaxing atmosphere for EMHI people from across the state to renew old friendships, establish new ones and exchange ideas about programs. Profits from this event will go toward future Time For Kids grants to locally funded sites to help maintain programs.

Scott Lindstrom, TFK President, took the occasion to announce permanent restoration of \$5 million to the EMHI program bringing it back to its pre-2003 level of \$15 million. Much cheering could be heard by all!

As usual, the Conference was a positive, uplifting event that gave us all new energy and enthusiasm to take back home to our local programs. Thank you to the many folks who worked so hard to make the conference happen and to all those attending for making the Conference such a success! *



You Make a Difference

by Scott Lindstrom

Relationships important to success....

As we all know, schools represent the place other than the home that most children spend the largest percentage of their time. This creates both the opportunity and responsibility for school staffs to influence the development of children. In large part, the success of our work with children depends upon the ability of the adults to establish relationships of influence. By influence, I mean relationships in which the adult gains the trust and confidence of the child, to the point that the child is willing and able to learn from and be guided by, the adult.

When asked to describe a favorite teacher, most people's descriptions have much to do with a special relationship with that person. One of mine was Mrs. Felix, my 5th grade teacher. Other than the fact that she was enthusiastic, playful and had a warm smile, there was a specific "situation" that forever placed her on my list of mentors. I'll skip the details, but let's just say

"Research supports the importance of relationships to children's success."

that one day there was an incident of misbehavior on my part (the one time I misbehaved in school) for which I received deserved consequences. The next day, Mrs. Felix called me to her desk with the specific intent of reestablishing a positive connection. It was a meaningful gesture to me at the time, but I understand its significance very clearly now. She had established a relationship with me about which she was consciously concerned.

In our daily experience with children, we see that the quality of adult-child, and child-child relationships impact children's success. Research in effective schools, resiliency, brain functioning, developmental assets, and bullying also support the importance of relationships.,

Strong student support programs that provide prevention/early intervention services have a core value that acknowledges the importance of relationships. Program development and staff training includes a conscious focus on developing skills that enhance respectful, empathic adult-adult, adult-child and child-child relationships. By mindfully focusing on relationships as the foundation, student support programs enhance school climates, and program staff act as role models, building stronger connections at school and positively influencing the lives of children.

For those of us working in the schools, the opportunities to support children are endless. No one person can do it all, but when consciously focused on building relationships, one can certainly see the positive results. Be sure to read the real life stories in other articles in this newsletter about how you have made a difference. We at Time For Kids appreciate the difference you make in the lives of so many children. ✱

Scott Lindstrom is President of Time For Kids



Let us hear from you!

*We are always looking for articles and news to include in the TFK Newsletter. Please send articles or suggestions to TFK editor
Linda Myers at lindamyers2@comcast.net*

Calaveras County Gets Time For Kids Grant

by Bonnie Danielson

Rural county hangs on... Gets \$1500 grant

For over fifteen years, ten schools under the auspices of the Calaveras County Office of Education maintained the EMHI Special Friends program. Sadly, five of the ten sites had to close their programs this year due to lack of funding. The remaining five schools have reduced the program to just one round of EMHI services for the year. The \$1500 grant from Time For Kids will triple the current EMHI budget of \$500 at Mokelumne Hill School and allow for a Child Associate to provide services for one full day a week for the rest of the year. We are most grateful for this recognition and help from Time For Kids.

Free playroom materials available

We want to pass along materials and equipment from the playrooms of our closed programs to any EMHI program in the state. Take advantage of this opportunity to obtain free materials and equipment from some of the best equipped and innovative playrooms in the state. Please call Bonnie Danielson, MFT, Special Friends Supervisor, to discuss your needs and arrange for pickup of materials in San Andreas, 209-754-3023, email: homesteadadjp@yahoo.com.*

The Power of EMHI

by Penny Marks

As I was preparing to start the new school year, I entered the office and there was silence. I soon knew why. The principal was reading off the winners of the recent ASB elections over the intercom. I stopped to listen. He read off the next name and I was pleasantly surprised to hear it was Amber, one of my former PIP kids. The next name was Andrew. I had him in our PALS small group program. As the principal continued, I recognized one more name. It was Heather who had also been one of my PIP kids. Wow! What a great way to start the new year. But it didn't end there. I went to the teacher's work room and the local paper was opened to the page of the winners from the LA County Fair. There was Christopher smiling from ear to ear. He had won first place in a cooking contest.

This was just the boost I needed after a pretty rough start. You see, we had lost one of our own to a drunk driver the first of October. Maria Cisneros, a wonderful lady that loved the PIP program. She had been with us for over 9 years, a former partner of mine and friend to all of us. She will be missed.

We often wonder if we really make a difference. I am grateful to have seen the changes in these children before they left my school. *"We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee."* -Marian Wright Eldelman *

*Penny is a Primary Intervention Assistant
in the Rowlands School District*

Thanks from a Parent...

The following letter was received by a Project Coordinator and is printed as received

Dear XXX,

I just want to say thank you so much for helping XXX in the program. She enjoyed the program so much that she was saddened that it's end today. She has learned a lot from the program. (She always tell me what she learned from rainbow room.) I can see her improvements in handling shyness. We just celebrated Chinese New Year with my family. XXX saw many relatives (she has met them before, but never talk to them) at the family dinner, and this is the first time I saw her spoke to them and not showing shyness. I was very grateful.

Thank you for a job well done!

Note:If you can share a letter or success story, please send it to Linda Myers, editor, at lindamyers2@comcast.net.

Time For Kids Recognizes Our Sponsors

We want to acknowledge the generous support and assistance of our sponsors for the 2006 Wine and Food Fair. We could not have put on this event without their assistance.

Comcast: Headquartered in Sacramento, Comcast's Central California region serves more than 750,000 customers with more than 2,000 employees from the local community. Comcast Cable is a division of Comcast Corporation, the nation's leading provider of cable, entertainment and communications products and services.

Comcast is committed to giving back to the communities it serves by spending more than a million dollars each year in Central California on sponsorships, college scholarships, foundation grants and other forms of support that help keep our neighborhoods strong. Since its founding in 1963, Comcast has believed in the importance of being a responsible corporate citizen and providing financial support to the organizations that make our communities stronger.

Comcast is most excited by literacy, volunteerism, and youth leadership programs and has a strong commitment to enriching education. Comcast is always looking to find ways to collaborate - and to make a meaningful and measurable difference.

Comcast is intent on finding organizations and programs that show that they really do make a difference. With this in mind, Comcast and Time For Kids are natural partners. With Comcast's support, Time For Kids is able to help children reach their full potential through supporting programs for young at-risk children in the public schools.

Tom's Printing: Tom's Printing produced the advertising flyers and tickets for the Wine and Food Fair as well as TFK brochures and newsletters. Tom's is a mid-size family business that started over forty years ago. Naywah Tom worked in the printing department of a life insurance company when he purchased a tiny printing press and worked out of his garage doing small print jobs on the side to support his family. He made cold calls and went door to door to generate business. With Naywah Tom's recent death, sons Daniel, Robert and Mel and daughter Becky

have carried on the business. Joyce Tom, the matriarch of the family, is still very much involved with the business as well and provides home-cooked meals to those working at Tom's Printing.

Waterfront Creative: Waterfront Creative is the "youngest" of our sponsors. Incorporated last year, it is a partnership between Montana Payne and Ken Larson. Montana has been in design, internet and software for nearly ten years. Ken has been involved in photography for a similar time. Montana describes the partnership as a business that came together "as a result of friendship and opportunity."

Montana attended Liberty High School in Benicia where he became acquainted with Time For Kids board member Spence Rundberg. He describes Spence as a positive influence in his life. Shortly after starting the business, he had a chance encounter with Spence. After hearing about Time For Kids, he offered to help with the TFK website and has found his association with TFK an enjoyable and affirming experience.

Laguna Creek Real Estate: Tina Jones of Laguna Creek Real Estate started selling real estate in the Laguna Creek community of Elk Grove 20 years ago and started her company fifteen years ago. She loves her work and sees the real estate industry as service oriented. Tina's job allows her to meet many people and to help them with the adventure of beginning a new chapter in their lives. Tina has always had a commitment to the community and a passion for supporting organizations dedicated to children. Tina says she was thrilled to be invited to become a sponsor of the Time For Kids organization by contributing to the Wine and Food Fair.

We are so thankful to these generous sponsors. If anyone knows of any other businesses or people who would like to become TFK sponsors, please have them contact Cindy Briggs, Director of Community Relations for TFK at 916-354-0134. *

Don't Forget!
Wine and Food Fair
 Silent Auction and Raffle
Friday, April 20, 2007
5:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Elk's Lodge
6446 Riverside Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95831

Tickets: \$35 pre-sale or \$40 at the door
Tickets available online at
www.timeforkids.net
or call 916-354-0134
Proceeds go for TFK grants to
locally funded schools.
 *To make a donation to the silent auction or raffle, call number above.

Contact any Board member with comments or questions

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Yes, I want to join TIME FOR KIDS, INC. in supporting children!

Contribution for 2007 (check one)

Friend \$10 ___ Advocate \$50 ___ Patron \$250 ___

Other (any amount is appreciated) ... \$ _____

Interested in sponsorship of \$1,000 or more? Contact Cindy Briggs at 916-354-0134

TIME FOR KIDS, INC. is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. Donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

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Contributions can also be made on the Time For Kids website – www.timeforkids.net

Newsletters are sent by email. Check here if you prefer to receive a copy by mail _____