

Butler County Children's Center, Inc Annual Report 2009

Butler County Children's Center, Inc. is a private nonprofit 501c3 that is run by a volunteer Board of Directors. The mission of Butler County Children's Center, Inc. is to provide a variety of children's programs and quality services designed to meet the comprehensive needs of families. The vision of Butler County Children's Center, Inc. is to be the leading provider of children's programs and quality services for families.

Programs provided by Butler County Children's Center, Inc. are:

- Child Care
- Head Start
- Northwest Regional Key Professional Development Organization
- Child Care Information Services (CCIS)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Early Head Start
- Pre-K Counts

As part of its strategic plan, The Board of Directors develops and implements a process every three years. The plan is reviewed and updated yearly as needed. A community needs assessment and an Agency self assessment is part of this procedure.

The Butler County Children's Center, Inc. staff and its volunteer Board of Directors are constantly assessing the child care needs of the community and develop programs which meet those needs.

After completion of the most recent Community Needs Assessment, Butler County Children's Center, Inc. submitted an application to continue the administration of the Head Start/Early Head Start programs, the state funded Head Start/Early Head Start programs and the Pre-K Counts with changes to better serve the Butler Community.

Butler County Children's Center, Inc. will serve eighty (80) Early Head Start families in 2010 after being awarded funding for forty (40) additional Early Head Start families while having an Early Head Start state funded grant cancelled.

The 2008-09 program year showed Butler County Children's Center, Inc. serving 382 Head Start Children from 351 families and 69 Early Head Start Children from 54 families. The average funded enrollment was 329 for Head Start and 41 for Early Head Start. Ninety three percent (93%) of the Head Start children were income eligible with 7% over income. Of the Early Head Start children 100% were income eligible. Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive programs that service families who are at the poverty income level or below. One hundred percent (100%) of the Head Start/Early Head Start children received medical exams and 88% dental exams.

Pre-K Counts provides forty-three (43) children from forty-one (41) families with an early learning educational program. Butler County Children's Center, Inc. collaborates with Butler Area School District and Karns City Area School District to provide the Pre-K Counts state funded program.

Butler County Children's Center, Inc. is proud to be a STAR 4 child care center at our Bon Aire Site. The child care program for children birth to 12 years offers programming for 250 children from 231 families. Parents who are working or going to school can be assured that their children are well cared for and receiving a developmentally appropriate early learning education. Before and after school care is provided at our Bon Aire site. The children are transported each day to several local elementary schools. The Dassa McKinney school age program was closed this year due to low enrollment. Meridian Elementary School is now the only off site school age program that we offer.

Butler County Children's Center, Inc. boasts they have been designated a Keystone STAR 4 Program. Keystone STARS is a quality improvement program that recognizes child care providers who exceed state health and safety licensing requirements. Butler County Children's Center, Inc. Chief Executive Officer, Alice Nunes, serves on the Advisory Committee for the Northwest Regional Key, part of Pennsylvania Keys to Quality Initiative, The Pre-K Counts Advisory and the Pennsylvania Early Learning Council. Participation in these councils assures Butler County Children's Center, Inc. to be a leader in the Early Learning Community in Butler County and Pennsylvania.

Butler County Children's Center, Inc. preschool program holds school readiness as its overall goal for each child enrolled in its programs. Through implementation of the Creative Curriculum for Preschool, 4th edition a variety of developmentally appropriate overlays such as: Literacy: the Creative curriculum Approach; I Am Moving I Am Learning and resources from the Center for Social and Emotional foundations of Learning (CSEFL) are also integrated into the curriculum. The program meets each child at his/her developmental level and provides individual and group experiences that promote steady, gradual progress toward individualized, targeted goals across all developmental domains. The goal for each child is to enter Kindergarten ready to learn.

The Butler County Children's Center, Inc. was found to be a Program of Excellence in its most recent Federal Review (2007), has had clean audits for the past six (6) years and is considered a low-risk Agency. The 2008-09 audit reported public and private funds received as listed below.

**Total Revenue By Source
2008-2009**

	Daycare	CCIS	HS/EHS	EHS-C	HSSAP	Pre-K	Total
Govt. Grants		3358602	2749384	101204	206366	282600	6698156
CACFP	552172		114146		7982	15245	689545
Other	52438						52438
DPW/CCIS	451659						451659
Other	77952						77952
PHEAA	10367						10367
Total Govt.	1144588	3358602	2863530	101204	214348	297845	7980117
Prog. Fees	255510						255510
Cont. Support	10089						10089
U. Way/ Comm. Act. Other	32175						32175
Total Revenue by Source	1472362	3358602	2863530	101204	214348	297845	8307891
Public	1195963	3358602	2863530	101204	214348	297845	8031492
Private	276399						276399
	1472362	3358602	2863530	101204	214348	297845	8307891

The summer of 2009 found Butler county Children’s Center, Inc. in a financial crisis due to the absence of a State Budget. The budget was delayed for 101 days. Seven out of eleven programs at Butler County Children’s Center, Inc. are state funded. Borrowing on our line of credit and cutbacks were implemented and we were able to survive this crisis due to the sound fiscal management of the center.

The Board of Directors have approved budgets for the 2009-10 year in all programs operated by Butler County Children’s Center, Inc, and receives monthly financial report on all programs. The Board also approves all grants that are applied for while Policy Council approves all grants related to Head Start and Early Head Start.

In April 2009 the Board of Directors, Policy Council and staff conducted the annual Self Assessment. The very positive outcomes denoted no deficiencies and management staff created improvement plans to insure for continuous quality improvement to the programs. The Board of Directors, Policy Council and staff continue to work on its long range strategic plan goals. New Board Officers were elected in

December 2009. Each board member has considerable experience and expertise to offer to Butler County Children's Center, Inc. The Board of Directors is very active and conducts most of their work in committees.

Throughout the year Butler County Children's Center, Inc. received small community grants to help supplement its services. The most significant in 2009 was a venture grant from the United Way of Butler County. This grant allowed the center to hire a part-time Family Advocate, who works with families to help them obtain child care assistance so they can afford child care while they are working or going to school. Both the United Way funds and the Community Action Block Grant funds are available to help families become self sufficient. These funds are available to families to attend the child care of their choice throughout Butler County

Butler County Children's Center, Inc. is proud to work with the Northwest Regional Key to provide trainings for child care workers in Butler and six (6) surrounding counties. This past fiscal year we presented twenty seven (27) workshops for four hundred and fifty six (456) childcare staff for a total of eighty three (83) training hours; provided thirty five (35) parent training workshops to four hundred thirty one (431) parents; monitored seventy six (76) family day care homes for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). During the past year the CCIS program provided state subsidized care for one thousand seventy six (1,076) children.

Family activities were a big hit this year. Many families enjoyed the Books for Kids night. There were literacy activities for the family and each child was able to take a book home. Movie night, craft night and sled riding were also activities that were very popular this year. Male involvement activities consisted of a trip to Jennings Nature Reserve, a kite flying day and a fishing day.

The Chief Executive Officer and the Building and Grounds Committee of the Board of Directors worked to purchase the Franklin Township Elementary School on Rieger Road. The building was purchased in April 2009. Needed renovations were completed and the Administrative offices of the Center moved in to the new facility in August 2009. Although there are still many needed renovations and updates, the new Children's Center facility houses three (3) Head Start classrooms, administrative and program offices, a gym, kitchen and two (2) new playgrounds. The Intermediate Unit IV rents space from the Children's Center for their Early Intervention Preschool program which allows for great collaboration. The Board of Directors held a Door Campaign to help defer the cost of the renovations. Businesses were asked to sponsor a door or room for a donation. We received \$3,620 in donations in 2009. An Open House was held on December 21, 2009, to celebrate the opening of the new building.

Butler County Children Center, Inc. employs one hundred and seven (107) full-time and forty six (46) part-time during the school year and fourteen (14) additional employees for the summer months.

Butler County Children's Center, Inc. staff is very active in the community by participating in and collaborating with many agencies. The Early Care and Education Council (Butler's Engagement Group) and the Butler Collaborative for Families both are well represented with Butler County Children's Center Staff. Staff serve on local boards and committees that keep Butler County Children's Center informed and involved in the community.

During the 2009 holiday season the Children's Center was again amazed at the generosity of the citizens of Butler County who donated Christmas gifts for 181 children from local businesses.

With a busy and active 2009 behind us, Butler County Children's Center looks forward to continuing to serve Butler County residents in 2010.