



# 2010 Annual Report

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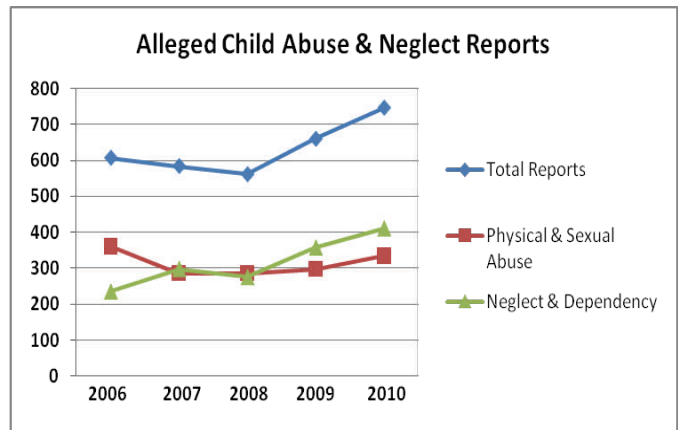
## Protecting Our Children



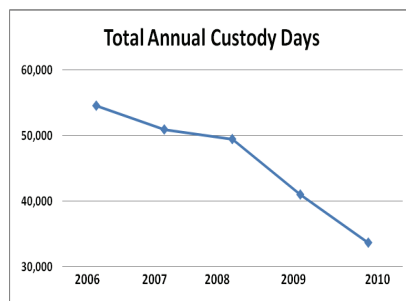
On behalf of the Board and Staff of Allen County Children Services, I would like to extend our deep appreciation to our community for its approval of our 2010 replacement levy. In these tough economic times, everyone's resources are stretched, yet our voters showed their support of our mission and purpose. Thank you! As Ohioans, we supported all children services levies that were on the ballot last

fall. Ohioans definitely take care of their most precious resource, their children.

During the last two years, reports of alleged child abuse and neglect in Allen County have increased 25%, direct evidence that families are feeling increased stress in their lives (see chart at right). Last year we received 747 reports involving 1,793 children.



The number of children entering our court ordered custody has also increased by 17% since last year. However, both statewide and our local efforts to help children to safely reunify with their parents or to achieve permanency with their relatives or through adoption have been very successful. Since 2002, Ohio has led the nation in the safe reduction of children experiencing out of home care with a decrease of 42%. In Allen County, our joint efforts to engage families quickly and to reduce the time a child spends in an out of home care placement have resulted in a decrease of 38% since 2006 (see chart at left).



Our staff have worked diligently with our community partners to help families achieve positive outcomes. We continually ask for input, survey stakeholders, foster parents and families we serve. Our Choose Your Partner Carefully parenting curriculum was developed with input from several community organizations.

Once again, on behalf of the Children Services Board, I would like to thank our partnering agencies, our dedicated staff and our community for your continued support of our mission. In Allen County, it truly takes a community to protect a child.

ACCS Executive Director, Scott H. Ferris, MPA, LSW

## Longtime Director Retires

### Jackie Loescher...In Her Own Words



I began at Children Services in 1969, the day after graduating from The Ohio State University with a degree in Social Work. There were four people working in the office located then on South Pine Street. There were few established procedures, no rules relating to child welfare and no structure to screening, investigation and ongoing services. If a child needed to be removed from a home, the decision was made by the Allen County Humane Officer for Children in collaboration with law enforcement and our role was to assist in finding placement. In the years since, Ohio Administrative Code Rules were developed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and today are followed by all county child welfare programs, creating consistency and focus on best practice around the state.

When I began work with the agency in 1969, it was the extreme poverty of the families that impacted me the most. Drugs had always been around but in the 1980's crack cocaine was introduced to our community and problems intensified. Many families who had been surviving marginally were devastated by this drug. In the 1980's sexual abuse began to be reported to the agency. In my early years, we rarely received these reports. The hidden side of our culture finally came to the forefront when women began to tell about their own sexual abuse as children. Overall, the community is more aware today of child abuse and neglect issues and do report their concerns more than in the past.

We have accomplished a great deal as an agency and I am proud to have been part of the progress made over the years. We were able to get levies passed and keep our caseworkers longer which resulted in better knowledge of the work, improved compliance with rules and most importantly consistency for our families. We closed our children's home to seek out more family like settings for our children. We have learned to work more effectively with other community service providers and collaborate in a variety of ways. We have kept at risk children with their extended families by seeking out relatives and kin. We have become better professionals and we have greatly improved upon the agency since its creation in 1946.

My advice for social workers just starting out: Listen carefully to what is being said by children, because they will often tell us what's happening in their lives if we ask the right questions; believe that many parents can change and families can get better with help; and accept small improvements with families and celebrate their strengths with them.

## Foster Homes Abound

During the past few years, the foster care and adoption unit at Allen County Children Services has undergone some unit restructuring, in an effort to provide timely services to foster parents. The foster care program continues to evolve as we attempt to meet the changing needs of the children who require foster care placement. The philosophy is not about labeling children or foster homes, but rather identifying the individual child needs and securing placement which can best meet those needs. We continue to make every effort to be flexible in our approach and ensure that foster parents have the necessary skills and training to meet the needs of the children in their home. We provide monthly training for our foster parents on topics we believe reflect the needs of the children we serve.



There has been a steady increase in the number of foster homes licensed by the agency since 2008 which ended the year at 43 homes. In December, 2009 there were 45 licensed homes and in December, 2010 there were 62 homes licensed, which accounted for 63 children being placed. This continued increase in licensed homes enables our children to remain local, thus having the ability to maintain contact with family, friends and school participation. On average, our agency licensed homes cost half of what it requires to place a child in a private network and that child may not be placed locally. Our staff, need to be commended for being willing to attempt new recruitment efforts and we continue to value the role the foster parent plays in the life of each foster child.

ACCS Director of Social Services, Michelle Vorhees

## 2010 EXPENDITURES

Direct Service to Children & Families	
Intake & Investigations	\$445,656.69
Family Stability	\$397,082.47
East On-Going	\$348,529.49
West On-Going	\$368,230.56
Foster Care	\$242,042.78
Adoption	\$65,705.71
Independent Living	\$122,158.81
Case Aides	\$156,728.21
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$2,146,135</b>

### Services for Children in Placement

Foster Care Payments	\$1,375,217.88
Misc. Foster Care Expenses	\$69,866.62
Adoption Subsidy Payments	\$91,309.81
Independent Living Initiatives	\$15,634.44
Adoption and Foster Care Recruitment	\$42,379.74
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,594,408</b>

### Other Direct Service Programs

Family Emergency Support	\$91,309.81
Kinship Permanency Incentive	\$38,775.00
Family & Children First Council	\$39,926.00
Medical Expenses	\$12,380.68
Prosecutor Services	\$171,177.86
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$353,569</b>

### Other Cost Categories

Human Resources & Administration Costs	\$357,843.23
Fiscal and PQI	\$318,086.60
Support	\$353,015.94
Staff Training & Education	\$4,568.12
Community Education	\$36,560.37
Facility Operations	\$94,599.72
Misc. Administrative & Operational Costs	\$555,829.55
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,720,504</b>

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$5,814,616**

## 2010 REVENUE

Federal	\$3,492,184.04	56%
State	\$611,146.58	10%
Local	\$2,097,814.52	34%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,201,145.14</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*These numbers reflect delayed payment by ODJFS from 2009.

### By The Numbers

Children in Custody as of 1-1-10: 80  
 Children entered Custody in 2010: 103  
 Children exited Custody in 2010: 87  
 Children in Custody as of 1-1-11: 96  
 Children in Custody during 2010: 183

Children in Protective Supervision as of 1-1-10: 136  
 Children with a new order of P. S.: 132  
 Children with P. S. order ended: 165  
 Children directly into Custody of Relatives: 71  
 Children in Protective Supervision as of 1-1-11: 103  
 Children in Court Ordered P. S. during 2010: 268  
 Adoption Finalizations during 2010: 5

Total number of children in Court Ordered Custody and Protective Supervision during 2010: 538



**CHOOSE YOUR PARTNER CAREFULLY...**  
*...your child's life depends on it.*

**When you choose a partner for you, you are choosing for your child too.**

**Your baby is counting on you to make the right decision.**

**Never leave your child with someone you don't trust with their life.**



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## 2011 Board of Directors

Professor Jennifer Hughes, MSW, LISW-S  
 Richard Meredith, Retired  
 Donald Brubaker, Counselor, LISW-S  
 Christine Provaznik, VP SRMC  
 Josh Ebling, CEO, Family Resource Center  
 Linda Buckley-Skaja, Lima City Schools  
 Missy Roush, LSW, Retired  
 Dr. Thomas Holmes, Covenant Ministry Services  
 Brook Elrod, LMHS  
 C.M. "Buzz" Long, Retired

### 2010 Staff Community Involvement

ACUTE  
 Allen Co. Family & Children First Council  
 Allen Co. Health Insurance Committee  
 Allen County Healthy People 2020  
 Allen-Lima Leadership  
 Apollo GRADS Committee  
 Black Achievers  
 Black Swamp Council of the Boy Scouts  
 Bluffton University Social Work Advisory  
 Council  
 Board of Trustees of The Arc  
 Building Partnerships Initiative  
 CAST Advisory Committee  
 Chamber of Commerce  
 Child Abuse Response Team  
 Child Fatality Review Board  
 Early Childhood Conference Committee  
 Early Childhood Mental Health Committee  
 Family Abuse Prevention Team

### Administration

Scott H. Ferris  
 Jacquelyn Loescher  
 Pamela Meihls  
 Michelle Vorhees  
 Brenda Kidd  
 Mike Carpenter

### Management Services

Cindy Prye  
 Regina Coates  
 Caran Coil  
 Donna Guerra  
 Joanne Sidener  
 Kim Swallow

### Quality Improvement

Michael Hensley  
 Sharleen Hartzog  
 Kris Romo  
 Pam Swickrath  
 Bonne Toth

### Intake/Investigations Unit

Staci Nichols  
 Jenny Knippen  
 Linda Andrews  
 Seth Bowersock  
 Kylee Cramer  
 Elizabeth Dilworth  
 Sharon Fenton  
 Ken Gross  
 Ann Jenkins  
 Liz Lengerich  
 Amy Murphy  
 Bill Pierce  
 Sarah Pierce  
 Nick Roby  
 Wendy Winder

### Family Stability

Shelly Conrad  
 Megan Coffman  
 Megan Harmon  
 Debbie Jamison  
 Zerian Peterson  
 Anna Rex

Sylvia Schulz  
 Jan Waltmire

### East Family Services

Brent Bunke  
 Tobias Adkins  
 Yvonne Cusac  
 Missy Makley  
 Kelly Smith

Lawrie Warner  
 Sarah Ridenour

### West Family Services

Karen Martin  
 Nicole Christy  
 Tiffanie Geren  
 Abigail Herbst  
 Amber Martin  
 Michelle Miller  
 Marion Roach  
 Christin Winter

### Foster Care/Adoption Unit

Brad Rabley  
 Ericka Boddie  
 Lori Hubbard  
 LaKenya Johnson  
 Volanda Kirkman  
 Nicole Long  
 Bonnie Monford  
 Loire Taylor

Family Life Center  
 Family Promise  
 Girl Scouts of America  
 Help Me Grow Core Committee  
 Lima/Allen Co. Housing Consortium  
 Lima Exchange Club  
 Lima Rotary Club  
 Lima Young Professionals  
 Partnership for Violence Free Families  
 Public Child Safety Assn. of Ohio  
 Rape Crisis Coalition  
 Safe Neighborhoods Committee  
 Teen Pregnancy Prevention Task Force

\*The ACCS staff participated in more than 50 different community presentations or training events in 2010.