



## Steering Committee

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Lauren Faison  
Bob Gabordi  
Ed Feaver  
Robin Johnston  
Serena Moyle  
Bev Owens  
Lori Danello Roberts  
Angel Trejo

## Help Keep Us Current

Please go to the Resource Guide on the [Whole Child Leon website](#) and make sure information about your program is current. Please email [Heather](#) with any updates or corrections. Make sure to send us a list of upcoming events and meetings for our calendar!

## Whole Child Advisors

Check for service requests on a regular basis; you may not always receive email notification. Please feel free to contact us if you need additional assistance or information.

Contact Heather at 850-

## Whole Child Leon Community Update February, 2011



The first Professional Network meeting of 2011 had great speakers and record attendance!

- Tamara-Kay Tibbey, DMD, Executive Dental Director, Gadsden County Health Department, gave a thought-provoking presentation on the importance of good oral health for children and the need for more education and prevention measures, along with greater access to affordable care.
- Dr. Janet Bard Hanson, Cathy Schroeder, and Jason Zauder of 211 Big Bend gave a demonstration of their resource and referral service with a mock phone call and counseling session.

Our next Professional Network meeting is Monday, February 28th at Noon.

Guest Speakers Include:

- Stephanie Beckingham, soon-to-be Assistant to the Director, Big Bend Homeless Coalition
- Rael Holland Johnson, Health and Fitness Director, Parkway Family YMCA

Email [Heather](#) if you would like to be added to the Professional Network invitation list.

## Step Up For Kids

Tallahassee *Step Up for Kids: Promise, Protect, Perform* Membership Breakfast. Learn how you can become part of a growing network of citizens and organizations across Florida benefiting from the important work of The Children's Campaign, the most dependable and effective public policy voice for children in Florida.

Tuesday February 8th

414-8344 or  
[htelfer@uwbb.org](mailto:htelfer@uwbb.org) for  
assistance.

## Tax Prep? No Worries!



### Free. Fast. Easy.

It's tax time again, and it's important to know that there is an alternative to paying for filing, loans or quick refunds: **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)**.

VITA, part of the United Way of the Big Bend's BEST Project, offers free tax preparation at sites throughout the Big Bend from now until this year's deadline on April 18, 2011. This free service helps residents claim the benefits they earned, avoid refund-anticipation loans and costly income-tax preparers. If your household made low to moderate income in 2010, you can visit a VITA site to have your taxes prepared and filed for free.

Taking advantage of free tax preparation through VITA is a simple way to save money while filing your taxes. Your tax refund, including credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, can help you become more financially secure - better able to

7:30am - 8:30am Complimentary Breakfast,  
8:30am - 10:00am - Program  
Bethel AME Church, 501 W. Orange Avenue

Children's services organizations, agencies and program providers are alarmed and concerned about the future of Florida and our children. **So are we.** It is the position of The Children's Campaign that no new cuts be made to effective children's programs and for past cuts to be fully restored. This will be our **number one** appropriations priority.

What does all this mean to organizations like yours in the Big Bend area?

Join us for an action-oriented meeting:

- Learn how the work of the Children's Campaign can contribute to the success of your organization.
- Find out if Florida's policy trends are leading to improvements or declines in the well-being of children.
- Understand how investing in children impacts public safety, workforce readiness, economic development and quality of life for Floridians.
- See how our members produce real results that make a difference.

RSVP [here](#)

For more information, visit [www.iamforkids.org](http://www.iamforkids.org)

## Whole Child Leon Billboard & PSA

Be on the lookout for our "Got Kids? Get Connected!" billboard. It's on a tour throughout Tallahassee.

Click [here](#) to see the Whole Child Leon PSA.



keep up with household bills, save for emergencies, and fend off more dire situations such as mortgage foreclosure.

You may feel confused or overwhelmed when faced with filing your tax return, but before you go to a paid tax preparer, who may charge \$100 or more, consider using a VITA site that can help you prepare and file your taxes for free. VITA has no fees or hidden expenses. Returns are e-filed so you'll receive your refund in 10 days - faster if you receive your refund using direct deposit.

To find a VITA site near you, dial 211 or visit [www.theBESTproject.org](http://www.theBESTproject.org).

## Parent to Parent Support Group

For parents with school age children with disabilities.

February 23, 10:30 - 12:30  
Continuing Education  
Options with Anne Parker (ACE). Bring your lunch.

Children's Medical Services, 2390 Phillips Rd.  
1st Floor Conference Room

Call Chris Heron, ESE Parent Liaison for more information at 487-7135

Workshops: ESE Mini Conference 2/19/11 and Summer Recreation Options for Kids 4/9/11 9:30 - 11:30am

**Thank you to ELC for Sponsoring**

## Whole Child Leon Advisor at TMH

Whole Child Leon now has an advisor, Caitlyn Trinkle, at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare on Wednesdays helping parents of children in the NICU and Pediatric departments complete profiles and get connected to resources and services through the Whole Child Connection.



"I'm excited to be a part of Whole Child's Family Connection Corners at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare," said Caitlyn Trinkle. "As a Whole Child Advisor, it is important to me that parents of children in the NICU and Pediatrics units receive the services they need. TMH has given us a great opportunity to make a difference in the lives of these children, and to broaden the Whole Child Community."

## Benefits to Businesses: Florida KidCare and You

An opportunity for business professionals to learn why health insurance makes good sense for businesses.

Did you know that children without health coverage can cost you money?

- Employee absenteeism due to caring for a sick child cost businesses \$12 billion annually
- Employee presenteeism costs employers \$250 billion annually
- When children have health insurance, quality of life is improved throughout your community

Save the date, Wednesday April 6th, 9:00am - 11:30am (registration begins at 9:00am) at the Betty Easley Center, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd. To register, email [arosnick@health.usf.edu](mailto:arosnick@health.usf.edu).

Florida KidCare is health insurance for children, from birth through age 18. This workshop provides an overview of Florida KidCare and teaches how to assist families with the Florida KidCare application process.

## United Way Teams Up With Young Leaders, Volunteers for 4th Annual Extreme Agency Makeover

## our "Catching Smiles" CD

"Catching Smiles - Music for the Spiritual Dimension of the Whole Child" will be reproduced thanks to support from the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend.

"Catching Smiles" will be given to new parents as they leave the hospital. "Catching Smiles" artists include: Velma Frye, Rodger "SafariMan" Tripp, Carol Ann Matthews and more.

Songs are currently available for download on the WCL website. For songs, click [here](#).

## Children's Week - Save the Date



Children's Week is a grassroots event that brings together over 90 organizations in an effort to highlight children's issues during the legislative session.

Tuesday, April 5th is "Children's Capitol for a Day" with a Legislative reading corner, guided tours of the Capitol, entertainment, and a "Kids Only" Town Hall Meeting. Go to [www.childrensweek.org](http://www.childrensweek.org) for more information.

## Thank You...

WorkForce Plus for

On Feb. 26, three United Way of the Big Bend (UWBB) Certified Agencies will receive help with a few needed projects during the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Extreme Agency Makeover, hosted by UWBB's For Young Leaders Only (FYLO.)

"The Extreme Agency Makeover allows young leaders to put their hands where their dollars are making a difference," said Kelly-Ann Fasano, UWBB campaign associate. "Agency representatives gave the volunteers a tour of their facilities so they could see the work being done to better our community."

FYLO members are up-and-coming leaders of the community (under the age of 40) who contribute to UWBB at the Leadership level of \$1,000 or more annually. By actively participating in volunteering, networking and personal-and-professional growth opportunities, FYLO members are helping UWBB make a lasting, positive impact in people's lives and our community.

FYLO is partnering with Florida State University's Student United Way (SUW) and Access Tallahassee to assist Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, and Capital Region YMCA with painting, landscaping, decorating, and repair work.

"Access Tallahassee promotes FYLO and United Way to members as an opportunity to get involved within the community in which they live," said Dana Noles, The Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce Director of Events and FYLO Committee member. "Specifically, the Extreme Agency Makeover gives members a chance to learn about a specific United Way agency, meet individuals from an organization that makes a difference in our city, and in turn, make a difference themselves by participating. Members love the chance to give back, as well as to chance the meet their peers and network while they help their community".

FSU SUW is the first student-run United Way in the nation. It is modeled after the United Way pillars of giving, advocating, and volunteering. SUW hosts many events to raise funds throughout the year. The SUW is unique because it is the only student United Way that allocates the money they raise to deserving FSU organizations for service projects.

For more information about FYLO, UWBB or how to get involved, call Kelly-Ann Fasano at 488-8325 or send an email to [KellyAnn@uwbb.org](mailto:KellyAnn@uwbb.org).



FSU student-athletes from fall sports rolled up their sleeves and renovated the shelter lobby at Capital City Youth Services during the 3rd Annual Extreme Agency Makeover.

## Get Connected to Whole Child Leon - from the Leon County Courthouse

partnering with us over the past few months. This has been a great experience for Whole Child Leon!

## ECHO

Come to the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Taproom on Thursday, February 24, to hear the fabulous, high energy Celtic rock band... Enter the Haggis, and bring along a box of cereal (preferably rolled oats) and/or a no longer-needed winter coat to help keep our clients warm during these last weeks of cold weather. Visit [www.enterthehaggis.com](http://www.enterthehaggis.com) for details.

## PigFest - Capital Area Community Action Agency

Join Us! Capital Area Community Action Agency  
Southeast Regional  
**PIGFEST**  
North Florida Fairgrounds Tallahassee Florida  
February 19, 2011 10:00 am to 5:30 pm  
February 20, 2011 10:00 am to 4:30 pm  
BBQ Cookoff!  
Over \$8000 Cash Prizes  
Music Festival!  
Legends of Southern Rock!!!  
Battle of the Bands!  
Car & Bike Show!  
Arts & Crafts Market!  
Vendor Food Served All Day  
Special!!!  
VIP & After Party Package  
Admission  
Adults \$5  
Children (6-12) \$3  
Kids (1 and under) Free  
(850) 222-2843  
www.CACA/MACC.org

February 19 - 20th at the North Florida Fairgrounds. For more information, 222-2043 or [www.cacaainc.org](http://www.cacaainc.org)

Whole Child Leon will soon have a kiosk in the Leon County Courthouse to provide easier access to our Connection and Resource Guide for parents and families in our area.

From this kiosk parents will be able to access the Whole Child Leon website, KidCare for low cost health insurance, ACCESS for temporary cash assistance and medicaid, as well as the free and reduced lunch application.

## TCC Health Fair - Black History Month

On Thursday, February 17, the College will welcome guests to the Student Union Ballroom from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a Health Fair. Vendors representing various entities in the community will be on campus providing information that will ensure a healthier tomorrow. Blood pressure, sickle cell and wellness screenings will be available to all in attendance.

Confirmed vendors for the Health Fair include: Women's World Gym, Florida State University's Thagard Student Health Center, TCC's Dental Hygiene Program, TCC's Health Care Programs, Sickle Cell Foundation, National Hookup of Black Women, Southeastern Community Blood Center, Big Bend Hospice, Lupus Support Network, DISC Village, Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition, Bond Community Health and Ovarian Cancer Alliance of North Florida, Joanne Rogers' TCC Outdoor Recreation, MADD, American Red Cross, Leon County Health Department, The Hour Glass, Anytime Fitness, and Capital Health Plan.

## The Sooner We Start, The Further They'll Go

On Saturday, February 26, the Whole Child Leon Social-Emotional Action Team is teaming up with the Junior League of Tallahassee to provide free developmental screenings for children ages 6 months - 5 years at the "Whale of a Sale".

The "Whale of a Sale" will take place Friday and Saturday, February 25 and 26, at the Tallahassee Mall in the former Goody's department store. The screenings will be available for free for children ages 6 months - 5 years on Saturday from 9:00am to 3:00pm in a screened-off area in the center of the store.

Trained professionals will be available to perform basic developmental screenings for children ages 6 months - 5 years. These screening will provide a brief overview of your child's development in the areas of communication, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, problem solving and personal social skills. Dental screenings will be provided from 9:00am - 1:00pm. Parents will also receive guidance on the results of the screenings and further steps they can take to promote their child's development. Whole Child advisors will be on hand to connect parents to area resources.

In the United States, 17 percent of children have a developmental or

## Oasis - Single Moms Support Group

Now on Thursdays at The OASIS Center for Women & Girls, 317 E. Call Street.

Free Childcare for children 12 and younger!  
Thursdays 6:00pm - 7:30pm  
Call First! 850-222-2747

Being a parent is tough enough - raising a family alone is that much tougher! OASIS understands and wants to give you access to support and help.

### We're on the web!

The [Whole Child Leon Online Event Calendar](#) gives information on a wide array of local events for kids and for people who work with kids.

If you have news you would like to share, [email it](#) and we'll make sure it gets onto the WCL Website in the Community News section or the Event Calendar.

Find us on Facebook 

Follow us on 



behavioral disability such as autism and/or other intellectual delays. Many children have delays in language or other areas, which also impact school readiness. However, less than 50 percent of these children are identified as having a problem before starting school. 90 percent of a child's brain development occurs before age 5.

You can ensure your child is meeting expected developmental goals by having your child's development screened on a regular basis. With proper intervention, a child can overcome a wide range of developmental, behavioral, and learning problems. Timely intervention can improve the prospects, and the quality of life, for many children who are considered as risk for cognitive, social or emotional impairment.

Children who participate in early intervention programs are more likely to graduate from high school, hold jobs, live independently, and avoid teen pregnancy, delinquency, and violent crime. Bring your infant, toddler or preschooler to the former Goody's at Tallahassee Mall on Saturday, February 26 from 9:00am - 3:00pm for free developmental screenings.

For more information, call 414-8344, or visit [www.WholeChildLeon.org](http://www.WholeChildLeon.org).

## Kids Inc - Kidsfest

*Mark your calendars!* To celebrate the 10th year of Kidsfest, we are throwing *two* events this year! On Friday, May 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the N. Florida Fairgrounds we'll have dinner and dancing for adults. Beer and wine will be sold and we promise to make it a fun event. Tickets are \$50 per person.

On Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the N. Florida Fairgrounds, we'll have the 10th Annual Kidsfest. Bring the whole family for a day's worth of good old-fashioned fun! There will be a giant water slide, pony rides, bounce houses, and plenty of hands-on-activities and games for the children. There's a toddler area just for the little ones! Live entertainment is provided and refreshments are sold. General Admission is a minimum donation of \$2 per person and all activities are free.

For more information, email [jmiller@kidsincorporated.org](mailto:jmiller@kidsincorporated.org).

## Whole Child Leon Staff

**Courtney Atkins**, Executive Director

**Heather Telfer**, Connection and Outreach Coordinator

**Amanda Clements**, Vice-President of Strategic Initiatives, United Way of the Big Bend

**Megan Earnhardt**, Strategic Initiatives Associate, United Way of the Big Bend

**Got Kids? Get connected to community resources that**



United Way of the Big Bend



can assist you and your family at the Whole Child Connection.

[www.WholeChildLeon.org](http://www.WholeChildLeon.org)

Contact a Whole Child Leon Advisor today, at 850-414-8344.

Whole Child Leon  
2813 S. Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
850.414.8344  
[www.WholeChildLeon.org](http://www.WholeChildLeon.org)

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