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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.

Community Update March 2011



[Stephanie Beckingham](#),

Assistant to the Director, Big Bend

Homeless Coalition, discussed the numerous programs that the BBHC operates to end homelessness in our community and issues regarding children affected by homelessness in our area. Look for new data on community homelessness, it should be out soon.

[Rael Holland Johnson](#), Health and Fitness Director, Parkway Family YMCA, discussed Healthy Kids Day on April 16th.

Please let [Rael](#) know if your organization would like to have a booth.

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

Guest Speakers Include:

- **Lynnette Moriak**, MSW, Clinical Program Director Children's Outpatient & **Maryyum Hamilton**, BS,



Stephanie Beckingham

Contact Heather at 850-414-8344 or htelfer@uwbb.org for assistance.

WCL/LCS KidCare Outreach Project

The WCL/LCS KidCare Outreach Project is continuing to reach out to the families of our students on a daily basis. We welcomed Jennifer Leon as our new Outreach Specialist in February. She has already directly assisted 30 families with the KidCare application process.

We are also excited to announce that we have partnered with the LCS Parent Involvement Project by coordinating to have 3 additional Family Connection Corner computers in the three community centers in which parent workshops and meetings are regularly held.

The new Corners are located at Leon Arms, Lincoln Neighborhood Center and Smith Williams Center and as with all other Family Connection Corner computers parents can access, Whole Child Leon, Florida KidCare, ACCESS Florida and the online free and reduced lunch application.

Tax Prep?

No Worries!

Free. Fast. Easy.

Family Intervention Team Case Manager,
Apalachee Mental Health Center

- **Jason Hight**, MS, GIS Analyst and Training Coordinator, Bureau of Community Health Assessment and **Lori Westphal**, PhD, MPH, Senior Community Health Epidemiologist, Office of Health Statistics and Assessment, Florida Department of Health

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

Whale of a Sale - Developmental Screenings

For the first time, Whole Child Leon's Social-Emotional Action Team partnered with the Junior League of Tallahassee to provide developmental screenings for children during the "Whale of a Sale" on February 26th. Close to 40 children from 6 months to 5 years were screened for an array of developmental delays and dental concerns.

Thank you to our partners! Junior League of Tallahassee, Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend, Florida Diagnostic Learning Resources System, Capital Area Chapter of the Florida Association of Infant Mental Health, Children's Medical Services, Leon County Health Department and Dr. Edward Zapert for their dedication and work on this new initiative.

Family Connection Corner at ELC



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (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, and 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.

Since opening sites in late-January, VITA has already filed 2,148 tax returns for FREE, saving Big Bend residents an estimated \$322,200 in tax preparation fees! Don't pay for filing, loans, or quick refunds! Find out how to get your taxes prepared and filed for free by calling 211 or visiting www.theBESTproject.org.

Summer Camp Splash

The Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend, Moms Like Me.com, Northwood Centre, Cumulus and the Agency for



Photo by Reid Compton

Get Connected from Early Learning Coalition's Family Connection Corner. Connect to Whole Child Leon, to ACCESS for Medicaid, temporary cash assistance and SNAP, and KidCare for children's health insurance and the application for Free and Reduced Lunch. **Got Kids? Get Connected!**

Whole Child Leon/Leon County Schools KidCare Outreach Specialist

Jennifer Leon is a Tallahassee native and a product of Leon County Schools. Jenn is a graduate of Florida State University with a major in Interdisciplinary Social Science and a minor in Economics. She worked for Florida Healthy Kids for 7 years as a Retention and Resolution Specialist. "I've been wanting to be more hands on with getting the word out about KidCare, and Leon County Schools has granted that wish," said Jenn. Jenn can be reached at leonj@leonschools.net or 414-5110.



Statewide Workgroup on Trauma Informed Care

Infant Mental Health and Innovative Interventions for Teen Mothers and Young Children Exposed to Trauma

Wednesday, March 16th , 8:30am - 3:00pm

Workforce Innovation have partnered to present the **1st Annual Summer Camp Splash!**

This exciting event will showcase over 100 summer camp programs in the Big Bend Region. Don't miss out on the opportunity to register your child for summer camp at this FREE community event. Each summer camp will be raffling off a free week of camp...maybe you could be a lucky winner!

Saturday, March 12, 2011
10:00am - 4:00pm
Northwood Centre
1940 N. Monroe Street
Call 385-0504 or go to www.elcbigbend.org for more information.

YMCA's Healthy Kids Day

April 16th 10:00am - 1:00pm at the Parkway Family YMCA. This free event will feature free car seats and proper installation, kid's bike helmets, booths with information, activities from many community agencies throughout the area, and health screenings.

Call Rael Holland Johnson at 877-6151, or click [here](#) to email her, if you would like more information or would like your agency to participate.

Big Bend Anti-Bullying Task Force

The next meeting for the Big Bend Anti-Bullying Task Force is Monday, March 28th

Leon Human Services, 1000 West Tharpe Street,
Tallahassee Phone 850-488-0500

Speakers include: Mimi Graham, Ed.D., Anne Hogan, Ph.D., Karen Haag, LMHC, Mike Watkins, Susan Ellis, LCSW, Jill Little, BSW, Patricia Babcock, Ph.D., LCSW

Click [here](#) for agenda



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.

Celebrate Screen-Free Week: April 18-24

Whole Child Leon is proud to be an official endorser of [Screen-Free Week](#) (April 18-24), the annual celebration where children, families, schools, and communities turn off screens and turn on life. Please visit www.screenfree.org to learn how you can get involved and join in the fun.

We all know that [children spend far too much time with screens](#): an astonishing average of 32 hours a week for preschoolers and even more for older children. Excessive screen time is harmful for children-it's linked to poor school

at 6:00pm at the Tallahassee Community College - Wakulla Center, 5 Crescent Way in Crawfordville. This meeting is open to the public.

Upcoming Events

Working Together for a Healthy Community - a Chamber Mixer on the Coast, Panacea Style... A Great Networking Opportunity Hosted by Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition and Wakulla Medical Center. Heavy Hors d'oeuvres, Desserts, Special Guests, Door Prizes and Music.

Thursday March 17th

5:30 - 7:30pm

Wakulla Medical Center, 1328 Coastal Highway in Panacea.

R.S.V.P. (850) 926-1848 or click [here](#) to email your response. Please respond by 3:00pm March 14th.

Calvary Baptist Church Health Fair - March 26th

Click [here](#) for directions.

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.

April 3 - Hanging of the Hands - over 100,000 paper hands decorated by children

performance, childhood obesity, attention problem, and the erosion of creative play.

Screen-Free Week (formerly TV-Turnoff) is a wonderful way to help children lead healthier, happier lives by reducing dependence on entertainment screen media-including television, video games, computers, and hand-held devices. By encouraging children and families to unplug, Screen-Free Week provides time for them to play, connect with nature, read, daydream, create, explore, and spend more time with family and friends.

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."

Family Connection Corners in Leon County Schools

"Sabal Palm Elementary School has been excited about the



Sabal Palm Elementary Family

across Florida will be displayed.

April 4 - Community Innovation Awards Luncheon - presented by United Way of Florida and Whole Child Florida. The awards luncheon honors and recognizes the collaborative efforts taking place in communities statewide.

April 5 - 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 for more information.

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.

Thank you

- To Darren Miller for all of his help unloading the IBM KidSmart computers.
- To Harvest Printing for their help with the Whole Child Leon

Family Connection Corner. The Connection Corner is located in the school Media Center.

Connection Corner

Parents can come in at anytime during the school day to use the Family Connection Corner. Having these community resources online has allowed our families to learn how local agencies can provide support for their children and their families," said Gloria Smith, Sabal Palm Elementary, Community Project Manger.

There are Family Connection Corners in 19 Leon County Schools. From these corners, families can connect to Whole Child Leon; KidCare for children's health insurance; ACCESS for food stamps, medicaid and temporary cash assistance; and the Free and Reduced Lunch Application.

Thank you to Leon County Schools, T.I.S. Department for their computer support for the Family Connection Corners.

Child Savings Accounts

Envision Credit Union, Whole Child Leon, and the BEST Project congratulate you on the new addition to your family. We want to work with you and your child (ages 0-5) to have a safe, sound and secure financial future. **To begin the process we will open your child's account and deposit the first \$25.** From there it's up to you, other family members and friends to keep their account growing and in no time, your child will have the beginnings of a nest egg. Envision is here for you too. whether it's for help managing your money, advice on buying a car or home or if you just want a local, trusted institution to work with you through all stages of life. You can log on to www.envisioncu.com to see all of the services we offer and convenient locations. Contact Leslie Smith at 942-9000 ext.1056 for more information. Certificates are available for download from the Whole Child Leon website, or click [here](#) to download the Child Savings Account Certificate.

coloring books

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 Twitter](#)



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United Way of the Big Ber



Leon County Courthouse Connection Corner

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

Whole Child Leon now has 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.

Thank you to Leon County Schools, T.I.S. Department, for the technical assistance and donating a computer to this project.

Free Health Screenings Set for April

SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT · PUBLISHED: MARCH 01, 2011

Since 2009, Whole Child Leon's Social-Emotional Action Team has organized a group of agencies who work together to provide free developmental screening to children - ages 6 months to 5 years - twice a year. "This effort is a true coming together of local agencies" says Angel Trejo, Chair of the Whole Child Social and Emotional Action Team.

Children's Medical Services provides the location and clinical staff. FSU provides its expertise and its students get a great opportunity to practice their future trade.

Early detection of developmental delays and early intervention helps families, and in the long run, society as a whole. By strengthening positive early experiences, children are more likely to thrive and grow up to be healthy and productive adults. Benefits include:

- With parental approval, the child's physician is sent a letter with screening results.
- The screenings have identified children without a primary physician or health insurance.
- About 70 percent of children with developmental concerns have been further referred and evaluated by service agencies.
- A total of 124 children have been screened and an equal number of families have been referred to agencies during a preliminary telephone screening.
- At least 25 percent of the children screened with developmental concerns have received a full assessment from the referral agency and are now receiving intervention services.
- Parents/Guardian participating in the screening event have provided positive feedback that the community is providing this service.

The next screening will be held on April 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Children's Medical Services, 2390 Phillips Road. Screenings include: vision, hearing, motor skills, speech, language, cognitive, behavior, growth, and dental. Call (850) 487-2630 ext. 2231 for a reservation. For more information, visit www.wholechildleon.org or call 414-8344.

Click [here](#) for a flier on the upcoming screening day.

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 North 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 North 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 .

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

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

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