

Kids on Campus

AN ATHENS COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP • 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



OHIO
UNIVERSITY

College of Health Sciences and Professions

WHO'S WHO

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Program Director

Donna Jensen-Besaw

Program Manager

Tina Lenigar

Program Coordinators

Jamie Sullivan (2010)
Beth Elasky (2010)
Crystal Smith (2010-2011)
Amanda Brooks (2010-2011)
Missy Jones (2010-2011)

This report is published annually to summarize the accomplishments of the Summer and Afterschool programs of Kids on Campus. The organization is a community partnership involving a wide range of individuals and organizations, including the Trimble, Athens City and Federal Hocking local school districts, Athens County Department of Job and Family Services, Learn and Serve America, Ohio University's College of Health Sciences and Professions, and many others.

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ABOUT KIDS ON CAMPUS

Our mission

Kids on Campus is a rural partnership that empowers underserved, at-risk children and their families in the realization of their full potential through educational, nutritional and recreational opportunities.

Guiding the organization are the beliefs that every child has the potential to succeed, education is the key to the future, and a supportive home and community environment is essential to achieving educational and social potential.

Our goals

- ★ Provide low-income, at-risk children with the opportunity to enhance academic and life skills

through high-quality out-of-school programming.

- ★ Give priority enrollment (75 percent) to children determined to be academically at risk or whose families qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches.
- ★ Bring together educational institutions, businesses, agencies and community members to aid in the governance, implementation and evaluation of Kids on Campus programs.
- ★ Provide transportation for all students who need it.
- ★ Create and implement a multidisciplinary and multicultural curriculum.
- ★ Maintain or increase students' mastery of concepts taught in read-

ing and mathematics.

- ★ Serve as a model program that will encourage and challenge other communities to develop partnerships to provide services for economically disadvantaged children.
- ★ Continue expanding educational experiences to families, schools and communities.
- ★ Provide nutritious meals and snacks to all participants.
- ★ Demonstrate healthy approaches to resolving conflicts, solving problems and making decisions.
- ★ Ensure a safe environment for the program.
- ★ Secure the necessary funding to make Kids on Campus programming available to all at-risk children and families.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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On the Web

For more information about Kids on Campus, go to:
<http://www.ohio.edu/kids>

Acknowledgements

Much of the information for this report was gleaned from two lengthy studies undertaken by the Voinovich Center for Leadership and Public Affairs. The center provides applied research and technical assistance to government and development organizations, and has worked with Kids on Campus for several years on the program's evaluation efforts. In compiling its studies, the Voinovich Center team conducted site visits, interviewed program participants and analyzed data from surveys and tests.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thanks for making my first year a special one

I want to thank everyone who has helped make my first year as the director of Kids on Campus (KoC) such a rewarding experience. Everyone was very supportive in helping me learn more about our rural partnership, as well as helping me catch up on 22 years' worth of change in my home community. We now have a full-time staff of four, with the recent hiring of two new staff members. Each year, KoC hires approximately 75 part-time staff members to supervise children in schools located throughout Athens



Donna Jensen-Besaw

County, as well on the Ohio University campus during the summer months. Our school and community partners and the volunteers in our program have spent countless hours helping us leverage the resources and expertise in our community. These committed relationships help us provide an enriching, engaging, educational and safe environment where children can build nurturing relationships with adults and peers.

I am happy to report that due to our ongoing partnerships with local school districts, KoC had the opportunity to provide out-of-school extended learning opportunities for more than 300 children during the 2009-2010 school year. This included an additional afterschool site at Trimble Elementary School when the district was awarded a five-year 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. This funding also provided 75 children in first through fifth grades at Trimble a six-week summer 2010 Be Bold program designed to improve attitudes about trying new, healthy foods and adopting new behaviors to encourage a healthier lifestyle.

Unfortunately, as a result of current tough eco-



Members of the Kids on Campus staff are, from left, Amanda Brooks, Missy Jones, Tina Lenigar, Donna Jensen-Besaw and Crystal Smith.

nomie times, funding for our programs continues to suffer significant cuts at both federal and state levels. Due to the financial crisis, the state of Ohio cut Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding, which has helped make KoC available in past summers. Though the current economic situation remains gloomy, we were excited this year to receive one of 17 national grants from Learn and Serve America for a new summer service-learning program.

Our program, Fun and Service Together (FAST), served 87 Athens County youths in grades six through nine who explored environmental issues and the arts, and participated in community-based service. After completing 100 hours of service, 66 of the 87 who attended received a \$500 educational award aimed at increasing their desire to pursue additional education after high school. More than 7,800 hours of service were performed by our local youths with the support of dedicated partners like the Wayne National Forest,

Athens City Parks and Recreation and Athens City School District. Additional support came from Ohio Second Harvest Foodbanks, which provided thirteen VISTA volunteers to assist in our summer feeding programs, bringing an additional 5,200 volunteer hours and a wealth of enthusiasm to our summer.

The support of our donors, partners and friends continues to be essential. Flip through this report to see the difference their assistance makes in the lives of the region's neediest children.

Sincerely,

Donna Jensen-Besaw,
KoC program director

Homework, nutrition and fitness are key

More than 300 children in first through sixth grades participated in the Kids on Campus Afterschool Program during the 2009-2010 school year, most of whom qualified for free or reduced-price lunches.

The program operated at five schools: Amesville, Chauncey, Coolville and The Plains elementaries in those cities, as well as Trimble Elementary in Glouster.

The Afterschool Program began in 1998, but underwent a two-year hiatus from 2001 to 2003 due to a funding loss. The majority of its funding comes from state and federal grants administered through the federal and state Departments of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Programming takes place in gyms, libraries, cafeterias, playgrounds and classrooms at each school.

Each school's program has a coordinator and 20-30 part-time tutors and program assistants who range in age from university students to retirees.

The Afterschool Program's core mission is providing tutoring and homework assistance, and each school devoted at least 45 minutes a day in this area. Each school's program also included enrichment

activities and healthy snacks.

Fitness and nutrition are emphasized on the playground and in the classroom. All snacks provided in the program follow USDA guidelines and include choices from at least two food groups.

Program coordinators also emphasize the importance of good behavior, and each school has its own rules regarding conflict management and consequences.

Each program site pursues a different schedule that reflects differing timetables and needs within its community.

The afterschool activities provide children with a variety of enrichment experiences including art, music, science, computers, multicultural activities cooking, dancing, physical exercise, community service and numerous recreational opportunities.

The program was created to help children who, despite the diligent efforts of their families and schools, need additional assistance and activities to meet state mandatory testing requirements and become proficient readers, writers and problem-solvers. These students work best in the small-group learning environments that Kids on Campus operates at its member schools for 30 weeks of the school year.



Testing, surveys highlight program's success

Several academic tests and surveys were conducted during the 30-week schedule to evaluate the program and the children's learning progress.

Surveys of KoC students' parents and teachers were conducted by Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, which provides applied research and technical assistance to government and development organizations. In addition, the children took standardized tests aimed at measuring improvements in reading and math skills.

At right are highlights of these surveys and tests.

KoC has implemented the LeapFrog intervention system of interactive software. LeapFrog improves reading and math skills by providing personal learning paths to accelerate student mastery of state academic standards.



90% of parents agreed that their child does better in school when attending the program.

81% improved in reading from pre- to post-test on the LeapTrack reading system during the 2009-'10 academic year.

80% of elementary school teachers said the KoC participants in their classrooms had shown improvement (or that no improvement was needed) in turning in homework on time. This was a 3-percent increase over the previous year's results.

73% of KoC participants surveyed said they learned something new at KoC

72% improved in math from pre- to post-test on the LeapTrack math system during the 2009-'10 academic year.

Each school takes its own path to success



AMESVILLE ELEMENTARY

Address: SR 329 N, Amesville, OH 45711
Coordinator: Crystal Smith
Program began: 2003
Children enrolled: 54 total; 12 first-graders; 9 second-graders; 13 third-graders; 6 fourth-graders; 13 fifth-graders; 1 sixth-grader.
2010 highlights:

- ★ Recycled origami.
- ★ Performed "Save the Environment" theatrical skit using hand puppets, a video recorder, and small sets, groups worked together to film their ideas.
- ★ Created Christmas ornaments out of applesauce and cinnamon and handed them out to residents at Hickory Creek Nursing Home.
- ★ Conducted a bake sale that raised \$125 for UNICEF for aid to Haiti.
- ★ Painted a mural in a hallway of the school.
- ★ Planted flowers in the front of the school to celebrate Earth Day.



CHAUNCEY ELEMENTARY

Address: 21 Birge Drive, Chauncey, OH 45719
Coordinator: Jamie Sullivan
Program began: 2003
Children enrolled: 54 total; 6 first-graders; 14 second-graders; 9 third-graders; 12 fourth-graders; 9 fifth-graders; 4 sixth-graders.
2010 highlights: During the fall, students organized and ran an aluminum can drive to raise money for cancer research. KoC also partnered with Ohio University's College of Education to provide "Reading Buddies" to each student. This enabled each Chauncey student to create a nonfiction book, which was then shared at the end of the quarter at an event called Literacy Night. Students also completed the Second Step Anti-Bullying program, and adopted this quote to live by: "I am whatever I say I am. I am not poor, I am rich. I am not weak, I am strong. I am not sick, I am well. I am not a loser, I am a winner. I am destined to greatness. I am somebody."



COOLVILLE ELEMENTARY

Address: 26461 Main Street, Coolville, OH 45723
Coordinator: Crystal Smith
Program began: 2002
Children enrolled: 46 total; 9 first-graders; 11 second-graders; 9 third-graders; 5 fourth-graders; 8 fifth-graders; 4 sixth-graders.
2010 highlights:

- ★ Grew crystallized snowflakes in a mason jar.
- ★ Created a clay rain forest.
- ★ Wrote a story and put it in a story book with pictures.
- ★ Created personal "passports" with stamps from countries the students studied and want to travel to.
- ★ Made boats to learn about wind energy.
- ★ Made airplanes to learn about gravity dynamics.
- ★ Generated static electricity and static power to separate particles.
- ★ Learned about snakes and birds from Dave Sagan at Hocking College's nature center.

Activities are fun, healthy and educational



THE PLAINS ELEMENTARY

Address: 90 Connett Rd., The Plains, OH 45780
Coordinator: Jamie Sullivan
Program began: 2007
Children enrolled: 72 total; 8 first-graders; 18 second-graders; 17 third-graders; 10 fourth-graders; 12 fifth-graders; 7 sixth-graders.
2010 highlights: Teams brainstormed about ways they could help people. One group decided to help the local dog shelter by making dog biscuits and delivering them. Another team helped out the local food pantry by having a bake sale. Another decided to do something for a nursing home by sending residents holiday cards, place mats and pictures to help brighten up their holiday season. Students attended a small walking field trip to the Land Lab, a nature preserve owned by The Plains Elementary. Students explored the creek, used binoculars to watch birds, and explored all types of wildlife above and below.



TRIMBLE ELEMENTARY

Address: Rt. 3, 18500 Jacksonville Rd. Glouster, OH 45732
Coordinator: Beth Elasky
Program began: 2005
Children enrolled: 90 total; 20 first-graders; 20 second-graders; 23 third-graders; 27 fourth-graders
2010 highlights:

- ★ March was weather month, and the children learned about weather predictions, different types of weather, and the causes and effects of weather.
- ★ In April and May, the kids focused on gardening.
- ★ Parents got involved in Family Fun Fridays.
- ★ The staff implemented the Homework Log as a communication tool between KoC staff and parents.



Be Bold program helps make nutrition fun

Kids on Campus completed its 15th year of summer programming in 2010 with activities that involved 162 children, many of whom qualified for free or reduced-price school lunches.

The summer program had two components. The first was a service-learning initiative called FAST, involving about 87 children entering grades six through nine who worked on environmentally friendly service projects throughout Athens County. (See Page 10 for details).

The second component involved nutrition- and learning-centered activities for 75 children entering first through fifth grades that took place at Trimble Elementary School in Glouster.

The Be Bold program at Trimble was funded by the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program, established by Congress to help rural and inner-city public schools meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects.

Be Bold was designed as a summer adjunct to the afterschool program at Trimble during the school year. Students regularly participated in activities that were both fun and educational. Particip-

ants improved reading skills and participated in writing and critical-thinking activities in the Reading Lab. They also took field trips to places such as the Marietta Aquatic Center, Hocking College Nature Center and the Ohio University Biology Department.

The main goal of the Be Bold program was to improve the attitudes of students and their parents about trying new and healthy foods, as well as helping them to adopt new behaviors to encourage a healthier lifestyle.

Four days a week, participants engaged in staff-led physical activity. The youths also participated in making simple, nutritious snacks such as fruit dips, which helped improve their knowledge of food groups and healthy food preparation.

The Be Bold staff encouraged students to also make these kinds of snacks at home and to share them with their families as alternatives to junk food.

Be Bold combined fun group activities, nutritional and physical education, and academic assistance in ways designed to help children build lifelong knowledge and establish the habits of a smart, healthy lifestyle.



Engaging activities help children to learn

The Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs undertook an evaluation of the Be Bold program that involved the following elements:

- * Participant questionnaire concerning healthy lifestyle choices learned in the program.
- * Satisfaction survey of participants.
- * Satisfaction survey of participants' parents.
- * Staff questionnaire concerning what worked, barriers and student performance.

Following are highlights of these surveys and questionnaires:

82% of parents said that their child's social skills had improved as a result of Be Bold.

79% of parents saw their children's physical activity improve as a result of the program.

79% of parents saw their children's self-esteem improve as a result of Be Bold.

76% of parents reported improvement in their child's reading and critical-thinking skills.



"I really appreciate this opportunity for my child. [The program] has provided continued educational stimulus during non school months."

— Parent

New service-learning program takes off

The Fun and Service Together (FAST) summer program, a new offering for KoC, engaged youths in grades six through nine in community-based service learning, environmental issues, and the arts.

The 87 FAST participants initiated, planned and completed several community service projects around Athens County. In the process, they learned about commitment, team building and leadership. Through partnerships with the USDA Forestry Service at the Wayne National Forest Office in Nelsonville, FAST participants became more aware of their physical environment and how to take care of it.

The students also worked on art projects ranging from painting murals to putting on theater performances. Art experiences offered an outlet for personal expression and communication. This combination of activities promoted both education and enjoyment.

Service-learning projects were held at Millfield Park, Wayne National Forest, the Athens County Dog Shelter and other locations throughout the region. The program combined fun activities with community service, and participants were able to enjoy themselves while building valuable lifelong skills such as leadership, teamwork and pride.

In addition, upon completing 100 hours of service, 66 participants received a \$500 educational award toward additional education after high school.



“[My favorite part] was working with all the great staff members and working on improving the environment. Also I liked meeting all kinds of new friends.” — Participant

Students learned while serving community

The Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs undertook an evaluation of the FAST program that involved the following elements:

- ★ Review of program records concerning implemented activities.
- ★ Participant questionnaire concerning skills learned.
- ★ Satisfaction survey of participants.
- ★ Satisfaction survey of participants' parents.
- ★ Staff questionnaire concerning what worked, barriers and student performance.

75% of the students said that their job skills for the future were greatly improved due to their time working with FAST.

72% of the students in the program said their goal-setting abilities improved.

69% of students reported having stronger leadership skills as a result of participating in the program.



Our programs depend on community support

COMMUNITY

Alexander Local School District
 Athena Grand
 Athens City Pool
 Athens City School District
 Athens County Children Services
 Athens County Dept. of Job and Family Services
 Athens County Library System
 Athens Foundation
 Athens Humane Society
 Athens Historical Society
 Athens News
 Beck, Charles and Judy
 Bob Evans Farms
 Boyd, Roy and Sara
 Brown, Duncan
 COAD Early Care and Education Division
 Community Food Initiatives
 Corporation for National Service (COMCorps)
 Doxsee, Gifford
 Federal Hocking Local School District
 Fletcher, Marvin
 Flournoy, Don and Mary Anne
 Foster, Ted and Sue
 Garbo, Robert
 Health Recovery Services (Rockin Reggie)
 Hickory Creek Nursing Home
 Hocking College – Dave Sagen

Hocking, Athens, Perry Community Action
 Junior Achievement
 Kiwanis Club of Athens
 Knauerhase, Suzanne
 Knisley, Christine
 Koonce, David & Elizabeth
 Learn and Serve America
 Lowe's
 M&M Inflatables
 Marietta Aquatic Center
 Mark Wood
 Mobile Dentist
 Nelsonville City Pool
 Nelsonville York School District
 New York City Schools
 Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
 Ohio Second Harvest Foodbanks
 Reynolds, Butch
 Sisters of Saint Joseph Charitable Fund
 Stempel, Guido & Anne
 Teske, Ann
 Trimble Local School District
 USDA Summer Food Program
 Wayne National Forest Ranger Station
 Wright-Stover, Patricia
 ...and many other generous community members

OHIO UNIVERSITY

Aquatic Center	Legal Affairs
Atrium Café	Literacy Center
Auxiliary Services	Office of Community Service
Chauncey Literacy Partnership	Office of Finance and Administration
College of Education	Office of Financial Aid
College of Health Sciences and Professions	Office of Institutional Equity
Computer Network Services	Office of Sustainability
Dance Team	Office of University Events
Facilities Management	Ohio Valley International Council
Hearing, Speech and Language Clinic	Recycling Center
	Russ College of Engineering



Continuing to address kids' learning gaps

Research has shown that much of the gap in school achievement and grades is rooted in what occurs outside of formal schooling. By and large, low-income students learn as rapidly as more economically advantaged peers during the hours spent in school. Where they lose ground is in their lack of participation in learning activities during afterschool hours and summer vacations. With an emphasis on extending the hours children have available to learn, and with the need for quality extended-day learning opportunities continuing to increase, I am proud to say that KoC has been ahead of the curve in providing quality in both summer and afterschool programming.

Kids on Campus (KoC) has been addressing the gap in academic achievement between disadvantaged students and others in elementary schools in Athens City, Federal Hocking and Trimble Local school districts. We consistently meet our benchmark of at least 75 percent of program participants qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch programs. Like the rest of the country, KoC and our partners have been affected by the current economic crisis. Even with the significant reduction in funding this past year for our summer program, we were able to provide all children our programs for free.

With heightened concerns about childhood obesity, it is even more important that KoC provide programming to address this serious health concern. As we plan future activities, an even stronger emphasis is being placed on physical activity and nutrition education. We are pursuing summer 2011 funding that supports our efforts to educate children and their families about

making healthy lifestyle choices. We partnered this school year with the ComCorps/AmeriCorps program at Ohio University's College of Osteopathic Medicine to recruit a full-time volunteer to support integration of health and wellness initiatives in our afterschool program.

The ComCorps position is also supporting a continued educational focus on providing learning in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities during our afterschool educational enrichment programming in the elementary schools. Youths in middle and high schools are currently engaged in our STEM LEGO robotics initiative that introduces young people to the fun and excitement of science and technology while building self-confidence, knowledge and valuable employment and life skills. Additional funding is being sought to recruit coaches to develop teams in each community to compete in a regional first LEGO league tournament in Athens.

Decreased funding for federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers requires an even more vigorous effort to secure supplemental funding, specifically next year to support both the Athens City and Federal Hocking Local school districts in providing elementary-age children a safe and educational a place to go once the school day ends.

In our desire to continue to implement afterschool programming "best practices," we will also continue to solicit input from program participants and their parents so our activities are responsive to the interests of the individuals whom we serve.

We will continue to partner with local school dis-

tricts to submit proposals for 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) funding to expand services to schools where there are currently no afterschool programs. We are very excited about the 21st CCLC grant awarded to Federal Hocking School District this year for an afterschool program at their middle/high school. Look for details about the impact of extending the school day for older children in next year's annual report.

We see on a daily basis the difference that programs like KoC make in the lives of at-risk children and their families. Although poverty rates for children continue to increase in rural Ohio, through the work of a dedicated staff and those of you who believe in the Kids on Campus mission, we continue to help prepare children for success in school and in life.

I encourage each of you to take the opportunity to visit the program to see firsthand the difference Kids on Campus makes in the lives of our area's children. Become involved as a volunteer, provide in-kind resources, raise funds for your favorite program or school building, keep KoC in your thoughts this coming year and let us know when there is an opportunity to partner with you!

Sincerely,

Donna Jensen-Besaw,
 KoC program director

PHOTO GALLERY



PHOTO GALLERY



Correspondence regarding Kids on Campus can be sent to:

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