



Athens County Children Services



2008 Annual Report To The Community

2008 *In Review*

Athens County Children Services is committed to providing quality services to protect children from abuse and neglect. With our community partners, we strive to ensure that there is a safety net to protect our most vulnerable population, our children.

Referrals of Child Abuse

The Intake unit received 1430 referrals of abuse and neglect during 2008. A referral is an allegation of abuse and neglect of a child, and can be made by phone or in person. Of these 1430 referrals, the total number assigned for investigation was 568. The agency responds to concerns about child abuse and neglect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Services for Families

ACCS has two Family Services units which provide ongoing services to children and families to ensure stability and safety for children. In 2008, these units worked with approximately 137 families. The families served by these units may have children in their homes or have children in the temporary custody of the agency with a goal to safely reunify the children with their families. In 2008, 50 children were reunified with their parents and an additional 5 were reunified with a non-parent relative. An additional 54 children found a temporary home with non-parent relatives in kinship placements.

Foster Care and Beyond

The Placement unit handles child placement-related services, foster and adoption recruitment, Independent Living activities, and Permanency Placement activities. At the close of 2008, there were 42 licensed foster care homes, including 13 newly-licensed foster homes. Eighteen youth in the custody of ACCS received Independent Living Services while an additional 16 adults (ages 18-21) received Emancipated Independent Living Services.

Finding a Permanent Family for Children

A child may be placed in the permanent custody of ACCS if a parent willingly surrenders the child, the child is abandoned, or the family has not adequately observed safety factors in the home with the court awarding permanent custody to the agency. At the end of 2008, there were 31 children and youth in permanent custody. Adoption caseworkers continue to strive to find permanent families for these children.

Family Support & Prevention Programming

The Family Support unit is comprised of Parent Educators and Family Support Workers. Parent Educators work to eliminate negative parenting issues. Parent Educators worked with an average of 11 families per month. The Family Support Workers supervised/monitored a total of 1472 visits in our Visitation Center in 2008.

This unit also houses our prevention programs, School Social Workers and the Nelsonville Family Center (NFC). School Social Workers seek to strengthen families and promote positive school relationships to enhance student success. In 2008, the School Social Workers served an average of 34 families a month in the Federal Hocking and Trimble school districts. The NFC provided many services to the Nelsonville community, including providing an average of 250 community members per month with a meal and donated clothing.



Pinwheels for Prevention kicked off Child Abuse Prevention Month in April.

Dedication to the Community

ACCS is committed to the children and families of this community. The agency sponsored a number of community events in 2008, including Kidfest, Lace Up For Kids, Pinwheels for Prevention and the Christmas Project. The Christmas Project, in a partnership with the Athens community, provided Christmas gifts for nearly 1100 children in Athens County. Additionally, ACCS employees donated over \$3300 to local charities through Casual Day funds in 2008.

Help Me Grow

Help Me Grow (HMG) is a child developmental program serving families with children age birth to 3 years as well as pregnant women. HMG Service Coordinators provide families with child developmental information, home visits, and support. In 2008, HMG worked with an average of 236 cases per month, and 11% increase from 2007. Additionally, there were 180 visits made through the Newborn Nurse Visitor Program.

Protecting Children, Strengthening Families

The Year in Numbers

Child Advocacy Center

The mission of the Athens County Children Advocacy Center (CAC) is to bring together already existing disciplines and organizations in a collaborative and cohesive manner to respond to child abuse. The CAC uses a multi-disciplinary approach to provide for the needs of the victims of child abuse and their families and to reduce further victimization. The CAC attained 501(c)3 non-profit status in 2008, and will work toward becoming an independent organization in 2009.

Training Opportunities

One of eight regional training centers in Ohio sponsored by the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, the Southeastern Ohio Regional Training Center (SEORTC) provides high-quality, family-centered training to staff and caregivers of public child welfare agencies. In 2008, SEORTC provided Foster Parent Training to 2533 individuals.

From the Director

Dear Community Member:

Athens County Children Services recognizes the importance of parents and families in children's lives. We work to support and strengthen families in hopes that they can safely care for their children. However, if the families are not able to safely care for their children, we will work diligently to find safe, stable families for children. We strive to secure a stable, safe future for children in our community.

We know that there are many factors that contribute to child maltreatment, including poverty, lack of parenting skills, and family isolation along with issues of mental illness and substance abuse. In 2008, we saw an increasing number of parents struggling with addiction issues while facing limited treatment options. Joblessness or poor paying jobs continues to put stress on families in our area. Athens County Children Services partners with a coalition of local agencies to provide support to families to alleviate the stresses worsened by recent economic conditions.

I am proud of this agency's commitment to the wellbeing of Athens County's children, and look forward to continuing our work in 2009.



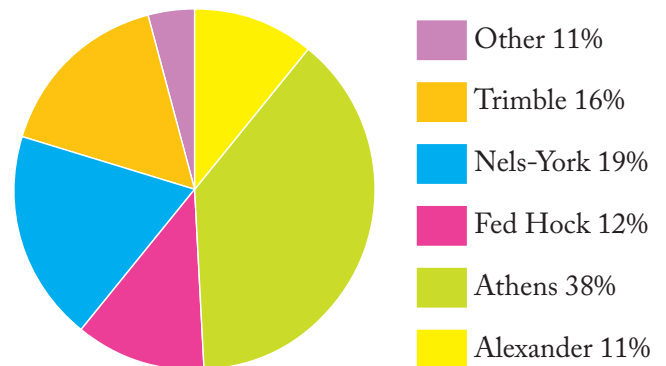
Andrea Reik
Executive Director



2008 Accomplishments

- 50 children reunified with their parents
- 568 responses to reports of abuse and neglect
 - 9 Independent Living youth graduated high school
 - 15 adoptions finalized
 - 54 children in kinship placements
 - 13 new foster homes licensed
- 78 Girl Power meetings at Nelsonville Family Center
 - 2 School districts served by School Social Workers
- 20 youth in the POSITRACT Diversion Program
- 50 Thanksgiving dinners given to Nelsonville families

Referrals of Abuse & Neglect by School District



2008 Revenues

Federal	\$2,164,798	32%
State	\$586,575	9%
Local	\$262,495	4%
Levy	\$3,730,432	55%
TOTAL	\$6,744,300	100%

2008 Expenses

Operations	\$830,735	14%
Personnel	\$3,042,950	50%
Children/Families	\$2,148,406	36%
TOTAL	\$6,022,091	100%

ACCS appreciates the support of the Athens community. The primary funding source for Athens County Children Services is a 3 mill ten-year property tax levy approved by the voters in 2005 and a 2 mill ten-year property tax levy approved by the voters in 2000. These funds allow ACCS to be responsive to the needs of the community.

ning Families, Securing Futures



**Athens County
Children Services**

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Athens, OH 45701

Athens County Children Services

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To report child abuse or neglect:

Mon-Fri, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm:
Please call 740.592.3061

After-hours, emergencies or weekends:
Please call 1.800.477.0772

Board Members

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Paula Carpenter
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Lacy Russell
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Andrea Reik

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