



*Athens County
Children Services*

**Annual Report
To The Community
2009**

2009 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 1449 referrals of abuse and neglect during 2009. A referral is an allegation of abuse and neglect of a child, and can be made by phone or in person. Of these 1449 referrals, the total number assigned for investigation was 500. 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 2009, these units worked with approximately 141 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 2009, 18 children were reunified with their parents and 5 were reunified with a non-parent relative. An additional 42 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 2009, there were 45 licensed foster care homes, including 9 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 addressed safety factors in the home with the court awarding permanent custody to the agency. At the end of 2009, there were 48 children and youth in permanent custody. Adoption case-workers continue to strive to find permanent families for these children.

Family Support & Prevention Programming

The Family Support Unit (FSU) is comprised of Parent Educators and Family Support Workers. These educators work with families to enhance parenting skills. Parent Educators worked with an average of 15 families per month. The Family Support Workers supervised/monitored a total of 1394 visits in our Visitation Center in 2009.

This unit also houses our School Social Workers as part of our prevention programming. In 2009, the School Social Workers served an average of 33 families a month in the Federal Hocking and Trimble school districts. Also housed in the FSU was the Nelsonville Family Center, which provided many services to the Nelsonville community, including providing an average of 199 community members per month with a meal and donated clothing. The NFC became an independent agency in July 2009, and was renamed the Nelsonville Community Center to showcase its newly-expanded services.



Hula hoop fun during Kids' Day at the Athens County Fair

Dedication to the Community

ACCS is committed to the children and families of this community. The agency sponsored a number of community events in 2009, including Kidfest, Lace Up For Kids, Pinwheels for Prevention and the Santa Tree Project. The Santa Tree, in a partnership with the Athens community, provided Christmas gifts for nearly 1100 children in Athens County. Additionally, ACCS employees donated over \$3500 to local charities through Casual Day funds in 2009.

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 2009, HMG worked with an average of 200 families per month. Additionally, there were 36 visits made through the Newborn Nurse Visitor Program.

Protecting Children, Strengthening Families, Securing Futures

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 served 64 children in 2009 before becoming a private non-profit organization.

Training Opportunities

One of eight regional training centers in Ohio sponsored by the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, the Southeast Ohio Regional Training Center (SEORTC) provides high-quality, family-centered training to staff and caregivers of public child welfare agencies. In 2009, SEORTC held 144 workshops attended by 1,518 participants for a total of 923 training hours.

From the Director

Dear Community Member:

On behalf of the Board and staff of Athens County Children Services, I present our 2009 Annual Report. Our agency's mission is the protection of the community's children. The families we work with face many difficulties. Living in economic despair, often under the dark cloud of domestic violence, mental health issues, and an epidemic increase in opiate addiction, the challenges these families face are great.

With these challenges in mind, we are actively involved in providing a variety of services and community supports to families. Our prevention services include Help Me Grow, school social workers, and parent mentoring. The programming for families in need of protective services includes a strong focus on involving family and relatives in supporting the children.

Our partnerships in the community are vibrant; we recognize that we must all work together to keep children safe and families strong. We are proud of the Nelsonville Community Center and the Athens County Child Advocacy Center, which were programs of ACCS and became private non-profits in 2009.

The safety and wellbeing of our children is crucial for their future and our community's future. We will continue our work to support children and families in 2010 and beyond.

Andrea Reik

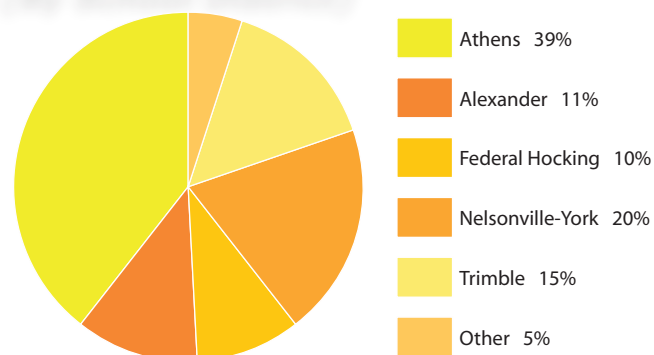
Andrea Reik
Executive Director



The Year in Numbers

- 18 children reunified with their parents
- 500 responses to reports of abuse and neglect
- 2 new non-profits emerged from ACCS
- 11 adoptions finalized
- 23 children in kinship placements on average
- 9 new foster homes licensed
- 19 Girl Power meetings at Nelsonville Family Center
- 2 School districts served by School Social Workers
- 34 youth in the POSITRACT Diversion Program
- 27 Thanksgiving dinners donated by Athens Noon Rotary for families in Trimble and Fed Hock Schools

Referrals of Abuse and Neglect (By School District)



2009 Revenues

Federal	\$2,711,204	39%
State	\$272,042	4%
Local	\$171,638	2%
Levy	\$3,778,494	55%
TOTAL	\$6,933,378	100%

2009 Expenses

Operations	\$800,207	13%
Personnel	\$2,969,596	50%
Children/Families	\$2,221,002	37%
TOTAL	\$5,990,805	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.



Athens County Children Services

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P.O. Box 1046
Athens, OH 45701

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To report child abuse or neglect:
Monday - Friday, 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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Mary Mitchell
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Paula Carpenter

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Chris Innis
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Lacy Russell
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Executive Director

Andrea Reik

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