

# Athens County Children Services

## OUR MISSION

Athens County Children Services is a child-focused, family-centered agency protecting children at risk of physical and emotional harm by strengthening families through innovative services.

We are invested in a community effort of child abuse prevention, education, public awareness and are dedicated to the challenge of providing children the opportunity to grow in a safe, nurturing, and permanent family.



# Annual Report 2002



Scott H. Ferris, MPA, LSW

*“None of these accomplishments can overshadow the steps taken by individual families and children to improve their circumstances.”*

**2003 ACCS Board Members**

- Ted Foster- Chairperson
- Dr. Karen Carlson- Vice-Chair
- Judy Moffitt- Secretary
- Calista Strickmaker
- Gloria Devol
- Marnie Frey
- Charles Culp
- Bonnie Lackey

## A Message From The Director

2002 was a big year for Athens County Children Services. I hope you will join me in thanking the staff and the Board of Athens County Children Services for their tremendous efforts. Every year I think to myself that there’s no way our staff could do more than they did the year before, and every year I am pleasantly surprised. This past year, however, was one for the record books as 2002 was a year of numerous accomplishments. Here are some of our highlights:

\* The renovation and reopening of the Genesis Group Home as the new ACCS Family Support & Help Me Grow Center-Upstairs, families actively involved with ACCS now have a dedicated space with five multi-functional rooms for family visitations, parent modeling, and independent living classes. Downstairs, our Help Me Grow unit offers an array of family mentoring and developmental screenings for parents with children birth to 3 years old. Help Me Grow services are provided on a voluntary basis.

\* The development of the Family Support Unit-Family Case Aides, the parent mentor, and the agency’s mental health expert are now centrally housed into one team to coordinate and maximize their efforts. They have made a commitment to creating a quality visitation program for children in foster care.

\* Additional support staff have been hired and now all direct service units have a dedicated support person. These positions increase the time caseworkers spend directly providing services to families and children.

\* Through program restructuring, a new quality assurance unit (the Information and Integration Team) was created. This team will conduct family meetings when children may be in need of placement or move back into the family home.

\* Development of a revised mission statement, agency values, and quality assurance measures driven by our new agency vision.

\* The development of a dedicated position to support kinship families. This person will help locate relatives to care for children that are court ordered into agency custody and support those relatives during the life of the case.

None of these accomplishments can overshadow the steps taken by individual families and children to improve their circumstances. The real work of Athens County Children Services happens in the interactions between our caseworkers and parents, resource parents and children, and with our community partners who help us to achieve our mission of safe children and stable families. Thank you to everyone that make our daily accomplishments possible.

## Referrals

A *referral* is an allegation of child abuse or neglect and can be made verbally or in writing. It includes, but is not limited to, allegations involving individuals, families, and out-of-home care settings. An average of 111 referrals per month were received in 2002.

### *Referrals by School District*

63.....(12%).....	Alexander
434.....(33%).....	Athens
177.....(13%).....	Federal Hocking
269.....(20%).....	Nelsonville York
194.....(15%).....	Trimble
98.....(7%).....	Outside County
1335 referrals, 856 families	

## Help Me Grow

In July 2001, ACCS became the fiscal and administrative agent for Help Me Grow, which is a child development program serving families with children aged birth to 3 years and pregnant women. Service coordinators work with families by providing child development information, home visits, service referrals, and support. They help families develop goals that will enhance their abilities to become parents. Help Me Grow received 246 referrals during 2002.

### *Service coordinator cases per month*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
157	163	159	169	168	188

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
189	186	184	195	205	210

## Building Renovations House Innovative Programs

Last year saw the unavoidable closing of the Genesis group home. However, Athens County

Children Services did not let the building stay unused for very long. Through several renovations, the building was converted to a Visitation Center as well as office

space for the Help Me Grow and Family Support units.



The recently completed Visitation Center has several large rooms where families can better enjoy visitations, supervised or otherwise. Every effort has been made to facilitate the best visitations possible. A full kitchen allows families to enjoy mealtimes just as they would at home. In addition, a large conference room allows for family group conferences or to serve as agency staff meeting space.

## Athens County Children Services

### EXPENSES

Operating	\$711,053.48
Foster Care/Placement Costs	\$2,136,510.39
Other	\$280,155.69
Program Staff	\$1,912,725.93
Support Staff	\$893,122.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,933,567.77</b>

### REVENUES

Local	\$2,567,314.43
State	\$2,840,596.41
Federal	\$601,414.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,009,325.60</b>

## Working For Families

### Total Cases

166 families with 388 children (178 female, 210 male) had an open, active on-going case during the year. These children were served by the Family Services Teams, the Intensive Family Based Service Team, and the Resource Unit adoption caseworkers.

### Family Services Cases

326 children (148 female, 178 male) were served by the Family Services Ongoing caseworkers in the following age groups:

91.....(28%).....	Age 0 to 5
119.....(37%).....	Age 6 to 12
116.....(36%).....	Age 13 and older

326 children

### Closed Active Cases

45% (173) of these children had their case close during the year upon completion of services, aging out, or moving from county. 9% (15) of those children re-opened as an active case during the year.

## OTHER PROGRAMS

Expenses & Revenues:

### Regional Training Center:

Expenses  
\$191,746.84

Revenues  
\$195,465.73

### Help Me Grow:

Expenses  
\$587,598.75

Revenues  
\$829,928.67

### Post Adoption Program:

Expenses  
\$43,950.76

Revenues  
\$45,848.78

Contact Information:

**Athens County  
Children Services**  
18 Stonybrook Drive  
Athens, OH 45701  
www.athenschildrenservices.com

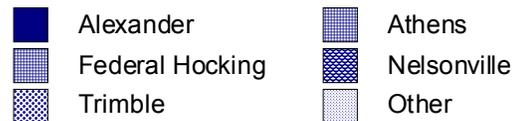
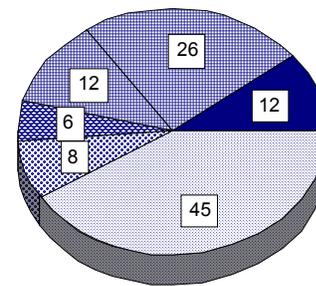
Phone: (740) 592-3061  
Fax: (740) 593-3880

# Inquiries and Foster Homes 2002

An inquiry is when a person/household calls ACCS for more information on becoming foster/adoptive parents. There were **110** inquiries in 2002. The majority were from the five Athens County school districts with 46 (41%) from outside the the county.

## School District

2002



12.....(11%).....Alexander  
 26.....(24%).....Athens  
 12.....(11%).....Federal Hocking  
 6.....(6%).....Nelsonville  
 8.....(7%).....Trimble  
 46.....(41%).....Other  
**110 foster/adoptive inquiries**

## Website Re-launch

In 2002, Athens County Children Services was pleased to present its relaunched website. This fully revamped site was created to serve as an interactive journey through the services provided by Children Services as well as an educational tool for families and others.

Scott Ferris, Director for Children Services said, “We want the new website to be a 24 hour a day resource for families as well as a way to help keep children safe.”

[www.athenschilrenservices.com](http://www.athenschilrenservices.com)

This redesigned website also contains information on the many community events Athens County Children Services is involved in annually, including Kidfest! and the Heritage Health Fair.

Athens County Children Services hopes you find our new website helpful and please visit us often for updates on what’s new at the agency.

## Domestic Relations Clinics

Couples who have filed for divorce or dissolution through Athens County courts are required to attend a one time clinic to learn about child support laws and to discuss how parents can help their children through this difficult time.

**23** were conducted (there were 22 in ‘01)  
**156** adults were served (171 served in ‘01)

## Family Support Unit Provides Unique Services

The purpose of the Family Support Unit is to provide the intensive help required to assist families make the necessary changes which led to their involvement with the agency.

Services include:  
 Parenting services  
 Homemaker  
 Short-term counseling  
 Transportation  
 Visitation



The goal of each service is to provide individual attention and instruction in order to meet the needs of each family. This is done through an assessment process and by meeting with families on a regular basis to discuss concerns and evaluate progress.

## Regional Training Center

The Ohio Child Welfare Training Program is a *comprehensive, competency-based, in-service* training program that provides *high quality, culturally responsive, family-centered, job related* training for staff in public child welfare agencies throughout Ohio. In 2002, the Southeast Ohio Regional Training Center presented **215** workshops (**235** training days) totaling **1348** training hours, and served **2965** participants.