



Development Matters

Message From the Executive Director By Sharon Bogdan



Sharon Bogdan
Executive Director

It's September 1st and the State of Pennsylvania is one of two states that has yet to pass a budget for the 2009 - 2010 fiscal year. As you may or may not be aware, we have received funding from the State for many years. Although we have seen a 50% decrease in that funding over the last year (which represents 15% of our annual operating budget) we have continued to be able to provide a high level of very effective and successful educational and social services to the children and families enrolled in our programs. Over the past year Arsenal has provided more than 200 children and nearly 150 parents with program and parenting support as the result of our programs: Developmental Pre-

school (only children counted), Supervised Parenting and Play, Individual Parent/Child Mentoring, Teen Parenting and Prevention and Infant and Toddler/Parent Play Groups. In total, Arsenal had face to face contact with 1,731 children and 2,871 parents (not including the preschool students) with ALL programs meeting and/or exceeding anticipated outcomes.

Over the last several months we have become increasingly concerned about the likelihood of receiving ANY State funding during these difficult economic times. In response to this concern, we have worked very diligently, as have many of our families, staff and board members to make our elected officials aware of the work we do by visiting their offices, organizing letter-writing campaigns and keeping our government officials up-to-date on our successes and progress. However, in spite of our efforts it is clear that State funding may not be very likely for the 09/10 fiscal year and into the future.

I write to you first and foremost to ensure you that our commitment to the children

and families that we serve has not changed and we will continue to provide high quality, vital programs and services. Secondly, to also ensure you that we are working very hard to identify sources of income that will off-set this potential loss of funding. Some of our efforts include, but are not limited to, establishing an annual giving campaign, identifying additional foundation and corporate support, developing an entrepreneurial partnership with Carnegie Mellon University, as well as investigating ways in which to use our space during off-hours to generate additional income.

As we continue to progress through the fiscal year we will keep you up-to-date on our progress and I urge you to consider how you can best support our organization and programs. There are some very exciting opportunities highlighted in this newsletter and there will be more to come.

I thank you in advance for your support.

Arsenal Family & Children's Center

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Special Points of Interest:

- © Arsenal has been serving children and families for 56 years.
- © If you are interested in donating items to Arsenal that support our programs our wish list is on page 2.
- © Help Arsenal as you use the internet. Check out www.goodsearch.com and www.goodshop.com. Type in "Arsenal Family & Children's Center" as the agency you support and we will earn a penny for each search and a percentage of each purchase. Tell your friends, too. It all adds up!

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Golf Outing Update

Arsenal hosted our 17th Annual Golf Outing on May 28th at the Laurel Golf Club. Although a little side-tracked by thunder and lightening, we had a very successful day of golf, great food, prizes and auction items.

It is thanks to the golfers, our corporate and individual

sponsors and supporters that this year's event was such a great success, bringing in over \$22,000.

We are already planning our golf outing for next year. So mark your calendars for Thursday, May 27th at the Laurel Valley Golf Club.

SEE YOU ON THE GREEN!!

Arsenal Welcomes Robert Faletti

We are very excited to be welcoming Mr. Robert Faletti to Arsenal's Board of Trustees. Mr. Faletti is a co-founder and Principal of Blue Archer, Pittsburgh's leading web design group. Bob has 15 years of executive management, consulting and entrepreneurial experience.

As the Past-President of ACG Pittsburgh, and Past-President of BNI of Western Pennsylvania's Circle of Excellence Chapter, Bob offers extensive experience with non-profit boards. That along with his exuberance, commitment, and professional expertise we are very excited to have him on our board.

Clairton Teens Celebrate

These last few months have been busy for the teens enrolled in the Teen Parenting and Prevention Program.

During the course of the year the teen program provides education, support and recreation to pregnant and parenting teens and to teens at-risk of early pregnancy. During the 2008/2009 program year program participants met and/or exceeded all program objectives. In addition to these outcome measurements we have had plenty to celebrate among

program participants.

Three of our members achieved honor roll status and 2 students have chosen to attend the cosmetology and culinary programs at the Vo-tech program at Clairton High School. We have also welcomed two healthy babies that were born over the summer.

To celebrate the many successes of the year and each other the participants enjoyed a picnic at Ms. Gloria's home in Clairton.

Participants of the Teen Program work on materials during a weekly program session.



Agency Wish List

The wonderful work that is done each and every day at Arsenal Family & Children's Center would not be possible without the support of numerous individuals and organizations. When you donate to Arsenal, you are supporting unique programs and services that have a longstanding history and proven success in promoting the healthy development of young children and supporting parents in building nurturing and healthy relationships with their children. If you would like to make an in-kind donation please consider the following "Wish List":

School/Art Supplies

Construction Paper
Crayons, Paint, and paint brushes
Glue Sticks
Safety Scissors

Paper Products

Facial Tissues
Napkins
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Paper Cups

Office Supplies

File Folders
Copy/Printer Paper
Pens

Equipment (new/gently used)

Digital Camera
Laptop Computer
LCD Projector
Leaf Blower
Snow Blower
Polaroid Film

Teen Program:

Conference Table and Chairs
Air Hockey Table
Ping Pong Table
Living Room Furniture
Computer

Gift Cards:

Best Buy
Giant Eagle
Staples
Target
WalMart

Any donation that you are able to make will be greatly appreciated by the staff and children of AFCC. To make arrangement for donations please contact Michelle Rupert at 412-345-0008, ext. 11.

**THANK YOU IN
ADVANCE FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY**

Pittsburghgives.org
a resource of The Pittsburgh Foundation

**Watch Your
Donation Dollars Grow
For
Arsenal Family & Chil-
dren's Center**



Wednesday, Oct. 28th.
The best day of the year to connect
with a local cause.

The Pittsburgh Foundation has made it easier than ever for you to extend your helping hand to the Arsenal Family & Children's Center. On **Wednesday, October 28th** at 10 am, The Pittsburgh Foundation will host **Pittsburgh's Day of Giving** - a day when your gift of \$50 or more through the site will be matched 50¢ to the \$1, up to a gift of \$2,500 per individual. So an individual gift of \$2,500 will be matched by \$1,250 for a total gift of \$3,750.

And it is easier than ever.....just log onto the new pittsburghgives.org on October 28th and with a click of your mouse you can increase your donation dollar and support the children and families receiving services from Arsenal Family & Children's Center.

All money donated is given to the Arsenal Family & Children's Center and will be used to support the children and families enrolled in our programs and services.

Thanks in advance for your support

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Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/PghFdnFacebook> • Twitter: @PittsburghFdn

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Visit us at
www.arsenalfamily.org

Our Mission, Philosophy and Programs

Our Mission

The mission of Arsenal Family & Children's Center is to promote and to be an advocate for the healthy development of children and to support their parents in building a nurturing relationship with each child. Through a diversity of programs and partnerships with other community agencies, Arsenal strives to reach children whose circumstances foster a positive start in life as well as children whose circumstances make such a beginning uncertain. In addition, Arsenal educates other professionals about the structure and content of quality early childhood programming for children and families.

Our Philosophy

Through more than 50 years of observation, careful study, and work with young children, we know that two things are essential to their healthy development: opportunities for active learning through play and the passionate involvement of an adult in their lives. We organize all of the programs and services we offer around these essential elements.

Our Programs

Developmental Preschool:

Ages 3 to 5/ Morning and Afternoon Sessions

Supervised Parenting & Play Program:

Saturday mornings/Thursday evenings

Teen Parenting and Prevention Program (Clairton only):

Groups and activities held throughout the week

Individual Parent/Child Mentoring

Individually scheduled

Infant/Toddler and Parent Groups

For information regarding
our programs and
enrollment please call
412.345.0008.