

Annual Report to the Community



invest in the future...invest in children

www.cscslc.org



The Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County is a small taxing body that invests in children.

Created and supported by the community for 20 years, the Children's Services Council is the only child-centered organization in St. Lucie County that generates revenue for the community to promote healthy families and babies; increase school readiness and school success; and reduce child abuse, substance abuse and youth violence.

The majority of the Children's Services Council funds are used to support prevention-based programs for children and families. Children's Services Council supports programs that promote *Healthy Babies & Families*; ensure *School Readiness & School Success*; increase *Family Building & Strengthening*; provide *Afterschool Activities & Youth Development*; and promote *Healthy Lifestyles & Decision Making*.

Funded programs are evaluated on an on-going basis to assess their accomplishments towards achieving program goals. Additionally, programs are funded on a reimbursement basis allowing for monthly fiscal review.

The Children's Services Council is governed by ten local community representatives. According to Florida law, the Council is made up of four elected officials: one County Commissioner, one School Board member, one Juvenile Judge, the Superintendent of School; the District Administrator of the Department of Children and Families; and five community residents appointed by the Governor.

Kathryn Hensley, **Chair**; *School Board Member*

H.L. "Vern" Melvin, **Vice-Chair**; *Department of Children & Families Administrator*

Chief Deputy Garry Wilson, **Secretary**; *St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office*

Pat Alley; *TD Bank*

Cynthia Angelos; *Weiss, Handler, Angelos & Cornwell, P.A.*

Dennis Corrick; *Dean, Mead, Minton & Zwemer*

Judge Burton Conner ; *Juvenile Judge*

Michael Lannon; *Superintendent of Schools*

Paula Lewis; *County Commissioner*

Queen Townsend; *Retired Educator*

For an average homeowner cost of \$25 annually, the Children's Services Council improves the lives of over 25,000 children and families, by funding and partnering with quality agencies such as Boys & Girls Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Avenue D Boys Choir, Hibiscus Children's Center, CASTLE and more. In total, Children's Services Council partners with 56 local programs to provide the community:

- Promote the prevention of substance use and abuse, violence prevention and gang abatement
- Provide support to newborns and their parents to prevent child abuse and neglect
- Ensure quality after school and summer programs
- Provide mentors to youth to ensure they are capable of success, no exceptions
- Ensure working parents access to quality child care
- Provide counseling for children to reduce signs of early risk behaviors

Board Chair Message



The Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County was established by a public referendum in 1990. Our community wanted, and voted, to have a local independent body to focus on the needs of our community by supporting prevention and early intervention programs for children and families. The Children's Services Council is positioned to not only provide dedicated tax dollars to support effective programs and strategies, but also to provide leadership to agencies and programs that allow children to reach their full potential.

The Children's Services Council is led by a voluntary group of elected officials, governor appointees and community leaders. The Council invests in voluntary programs focused on prevention that have the greatest impact on the most children and their families. Funding decisions are based on comprehensive data, provider performance, and the needs of the community. Programs are held accountable for positively impacting children as well as proper expenditure of taxpayer dollars.

While it may be difficult to quantify the value of healthy, safe children, the economic value of the Children's Services Council is apparent in its return on investment – reduced juvenile crime, better school performance, reduced teen pregnancy, decreased child abuse and neglect, and reduced infant mortality rates. Further value of the Children's Services Council is demonstrated by the \$6 million that is leveraged from State, Federal and Foundation funding for St. Lucie County.

In these tough economic times, the Children's Services Council is committed to providing necessary services to children and families to identify and create opportunities for success.

Executive Director's Message



At the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County, there is a common word that permeates everything we do – accountability. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for all children in St. Lucie County. In working toward our mission, we are accountable to St. Lucie County's children and families by continuing to develop and make available services that are effective in positively impacting all children and families. And because we are stewards of taxpayer dollars, we are accountable to the taxpayers. We take great strides to ensure taxpayer funds are used appropriately.

We take our role serious and are guided by our strategic investment areas of: Healthy Births & Healthy Families; School Readiness & School Success; Family Building & Strengthening; Afterschool Activities & Youth Development; and Healthy Lifestyles & Decision Making. Working within these strategic investment areas, the Children's Services Council develops and financially supports systems of care that currently reach over 25,000 children and families in St.

Lucie County. The systems of care are comprised of 56 programs that provide direct services to St. Lucie County's children and families.

Like all businesses, this past and current year, the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County is doing more with less. And while our revenue has dramatically decreased over the last few years, the Children's Services Council has been able to maintain its safety net of programs for all children and families in St. Lucie County. This was done in a climate where many of our programs were losing both State and Federal funds. In 2010, 90% of our funding went directly to programs and services.

In addition to funding programs, in 2010 the Children's Services Council investments contributed to a workforce of over 300 professionals committed to working with St. Lucie County's children and families. The same investment also was leveraged to bring down an additional \$6 million in State, Federal and foundation funding for St. Lucie County.

Accountability: to the over 25,000 children and families who utilized services offered by Children's Services Council funded programs. Accountability: to the homeowner that pays on average \$25 in tax expense annually to create opportunities for success for all children and families. Accountability: to our community in continuing our efforts to make St. Lucie County a great place for families.

The following pages of this report review the investments and progress of not only the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County, but our community. A community is made of families, families that support and care for their children. The Children's Services Council is committed to improving the lives of all children and families in St. Lucie County.

20 years of investing in Children 1990-2010

On October 2, 1990, the residents of St. Lucie County overwhelmingly decided to invest in their future by investing in children. On that date, St. Lucie County voted to establish an independent taxing district dedicated to serving children, one of only 8 entities of its kind in the nation. For 20 years the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County has been investing in our community's children and families with great results.



In 2010, an average homeowner contributes \$25 annually to the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County. With that money, the Children's Services Council is able to improve the lives of more than 25,000 children and families through quality programs such as Boys & Girls Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Avenue D Boys Choir, Hibiscus Children's Center, CASTLE and more. This year, Children's Services Council is partnering with 56 programs to provide support to newborns and their parents, quality childcare, after school enrichment, and programs to strengthen and empower families to reduce child abuse and youth violence.

So what does a community look like after developing and investing in services to strengthen families and improve the quality of life for all children? What does a community look like when leaders (business, faith, non-profit) work with parents, grandparents, caregivers and neighbors to make our children a priority?

- 34% reduction in infant mortality rate since 1990
- 19% increase in graduation rate since 1993
- 68% reduction in dropout rate since 1993
- 40% reduction in rate of child abuse and neglect since 1992
- 24.8% reduction in alcohol use since 2000
- 70% reduction in teen birth rate since 1990
- 32% reduction in use of marijuana since 2000
- 17% decrease in the rate of juvenile delinquency referrals since 1990
- 52% decrease in juvenile violent crime since 1990

And while the statistics show the results of the investment of the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County, their impact on our community is better told in the stories from families participating in Children's Services Council funded programs and remarks by leaders in the community.

"When Henry's mentor enters the room, he lights up like the sun. I have seen many positive changes in Henry since his participation in the **Big Brothers Big Sisters Reading Mentoring program**"- Henry's 2nd grade teacher

"I am so grateful for this program especially as a first time mom. It is helping calm some of my fears and answered my questions. Thank you!" - Mother of baby Zach who participated in **Helping People Succeed's Building Readiness Among Infants Now program**

"Thank you **Project ROCK** for opening my eyes the past 5 days of me being with you. You have helped me realize that it isn't worth getting into situations that you will regret. And how there are better ways to resolve certain situations." - Devon, age 15

"I learned how to get out of an unhealthy relationship and see the red flags when I'm just getting into one." - 15 year old participant in **Children's Home Society's Teen Life Choices program**

20 years of investing in Children 1990-2010

From our community leaders:

“Children’s Services Council stands with us on the front line of prevention. Their belief in helping children before they’re hurt has never wavered.” – **Theresa Garbarino-May, CASTLE**

“Getting it right early in a child’s life is so much less costly to society than having to fix problems later. The Children’s Services Council understands and embraces this philosophy. Through their funded programs, Children’s Services Council has changed the future for thousands of children in St. Lucie County.” – **Suzy Hutcheson, Helping People Succeed**

“Our partnership with the Children’s Services Council is saving lives! Working together, we have cut Fort Pierce’s violent crime in half and given our children new hope for a successful future.” - **Chief Sean Baldwin, Ft. Pierce Police Department**



“Over its twenty year history, Children's Services Council has provided significant support to local non profits who are, in turn, able to serve thousands of children each year. Through careful use of financial resources, effective training, oversight and advocacy, they have made a very real difference in our community” – **Judi Miller, Big Brothers Big Sisters**

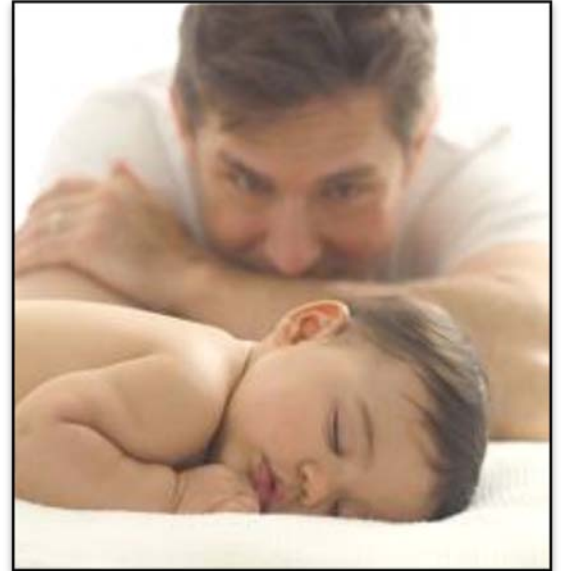
"Unquestionably, the Children's Services Council saved our organization at a critical time in our infancy. The Children's Service Council believed in our ability to positively impact the youth of our community. Their initial investment results today in a \$3 million organization serving thousands of children with a proven impact on our community." - **Norm Penner, Boys & Girls Club**

Children's Services Council invests in...

Healthy Births & Healthy Families

Healthy Births & Healthy Families is one of our strategic investments to ensure the health of newborns and their proper development. For 2010, the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County funded eight programs in a system of care that provided families with children ages 0-3 the support and tools to ensure our youngest citizens reach their developmental milestones. In 2010, Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County invested \$1,160,017 in these eight programs (full list in Appendix A).

In St. Lucie County, all mothers who give birth in any of the area hospitals are able to receive a nurse visit in their home within one week from leaving the hospital. The nurse checks on the health of the newborn and the mother as well as answers all questions the caregivers may have. The program has helped reduce risk factors that lead to infant mortality as well as increase parental bonding and health and nutritional skills.



During 2010, 71% of all births in St. Lucie County received a nurse home visit.



Two months after the birth of their child – a time when often the excitement and visitors has died down – parents may also receive a BRAIN (Building Readiness among Infant Now) visit. The BRAIN visit addresses any questions or concerns the parents may have as well as identifying ways the parent can bond with the child. Additionally, the parents learn about the developmental milestones they should look for with their newborn. The BRAIN visit includes a bag of resources including local play groups for the parents, books for the child, and a list of community resources. The BRAIN program also serves as a local resource for parents as their child continues to develop.

In 2009-10, 4,421 children were served through programs in this category.

Children’s Services Council invests in...

Healthy Births & Healthy Families

The Children’s Services Council believes that providing community supports to ensure that our youngest members of the county are healthy and developing properly will lead to stronger families and ultimately a stronger community.

Programs in this category work to:

- Increase early intervention services and developmental screenings
- Increase family development skills to prevent abuse and neglect
- Increase knowledge of physical and nutritional needs of infants
- Increase knowledge of safety and self-care
- Increase knowledge of neighborhood and community resources
- Improve parent/child interaction skills

2009-10 Healthy Births & Healthy Families Programs Fast Facts
99% of Parents/Caregivers improved their parenting skills, including parent/child interactions.
500 uninsured children became enrolled in Healthy Kids Insurance.
96% of parents self-reported increased knowledge of child development and enhanced parent-child relationships.



St. Lucie County’s uninsured rate for children went from 24% in 2009 to 14% in 2010.

A full list of programs in this category is referenced in Appendix A

Children's Services Council invests in...

School Readiness & School Success

Children who are ready to learn in school and have goals to achieve their greatest potential, help to build the structure for future successes. For this reason, the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County strategically invests in programs that promote school readiness and school success. In 2010, the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County invested \$1,693,473 in thirteen programs (full list in Appendix B).

In 2009-10, funded programs helped nearly 200 2nd graders increase their reading skills.

Research tells us that a child's early interactions with parents, caregivers, and educators and other adults helps to lay the foundation for everything from academic performance to interpersonal skills, as well as, physical and mental health. The Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County partners with the Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County to offer working families quality childcare where their children can participate in a positive, learning environment while they are at work. In 2010, the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County's partnership with Early Learning Coalition allowed for 1,500 working parents to receive this access to quality childcare. Quality child care creates a positive learning environment to ensure that children enter school ready to succeed.



Once in school, one of the greatest indicators of continued school success is reading proficiency. The Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County partners with Big Brother Big Sisters to work with children in Kindergarten through the 2nd grade who need assistance in reading. Reading mentors work with students one on one in a nurturing environment to increase the child's literacy skills, build confidence, and to reinforce the lessons learned in their classroom, all while helping parents support their child's learning. In 2010, the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County's partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters provided reading mentors for nearly 500 of St. Lucie County's youngest students.

In 2009-10, 13,069 children were served through programs in this category.

And while we know the early investment to build the foundation for learning is vital, we also recognize that as children go through school, they and their families need support to be successful. The Children's Services Council invests in programs that work with middle school students to teach them about setting positive goals for the future and how the use of alcohol and drugs will undermine those goals. The Children's Services Council invests in other programs in this category including programs to reduce truancy and programs that serve as alternatives to school suspensions to ensure children attend and are successful in school.

Children’s Services Council invests in...

School Readiness & School Success

Investing in programs that encourage school readiness and support school success help ensure children are ready to learn in school and build a strong academic foundation for their future goals.

Programs in this category work to:

- Increase behavioral control skills for parents and students
- Increase academic performance
- Increase knowledge and understanding of the consequences of substance abuse
- Reduce the use of gateway drugs and prevention of experimentation
- Increase coping and anger management skills
- Provide child care to working poor families
- Increase readiness skills for kindergarten
- Reduce unexcused school absences
- Increase reading skills
- Increase promotion to next grade level

2009-10 School Readiness & School Success Programs Fast Facts
84% of children enrolled in funded programs improved their reading skills.
77% of St. Lucie County students were ready for Kindergarten.
Rate of unexcused school absences was reduced by 78%.
87% of children increased knowledge about alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (and reported decreased substance use and other risky behaviors).

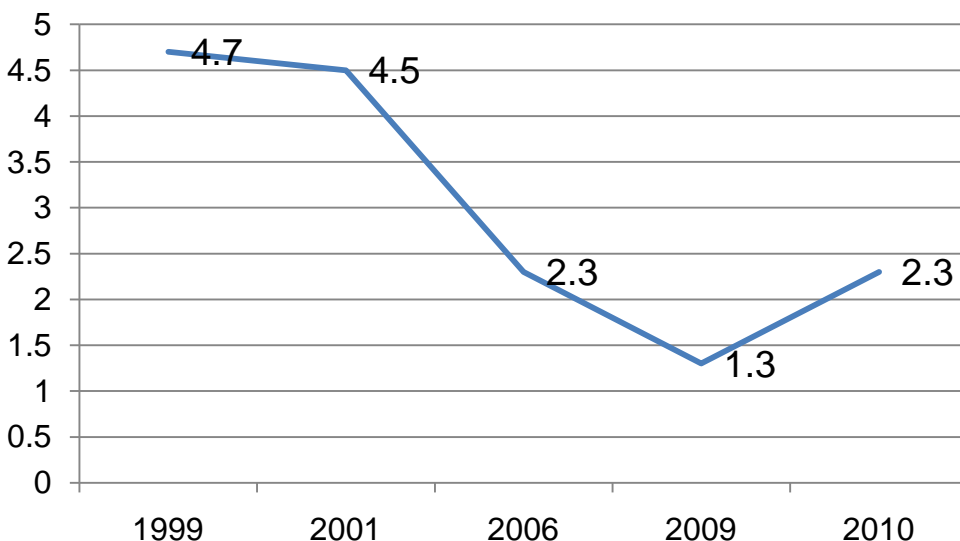


Chart: St. Lucie County Drop-out Rate

-Dropouts are students who leave school before graduation and do not enroll in another institution or education program before the end of the school year.

A full list of programs in this category is referenced in Appendix B

Children's Services Council invests in...

Family Building & Strengthening

Strong families and caregivers that provide support for their children and are involved in their life is the greatest indicator for success for children. For this reason, the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County strategically invests in programs that promote Family Building and Strengthening. In 2010, the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County invested \$1,740,144 in twenty one programs (full list Appendix C).

Being a parent is the greatest responsibility anyone will ever have. And while parenting has many rewards, there are many stresses that can make parenting hard. The Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County invests in research based programs that work with parents and caregivers who are struggling or need help in being a better parent. Program partners such as the CASTLE, Hibiscus Children's Center, Catholic Charities, and Family Preservation Services offer services to provide parents with the skills and tools to be an effective parent. Without the tools provided, parent and caregivers often revert to what happened to them as a child and in some cases can lead to abuse and neglect. The effectiveness of these programs is measured not only by the parenting skills acquired but also by the number of abuse and neglect cases prevented. Additionally, the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County program partners work with families and children to prevent substance abuse.



In 2009-10, 4,002 children were served through programs in this category.



Furthermore, when it comes to the success of our children, it is not only the parent and caregivers' responsibility to be involved, but also neighbors, relatives, teachers and faith members. The results of the 2006 (?) gang assessment showed us that our kids need and want to have positive active role models. It is for this reason that the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County invest in and promotes the Kids at Hope initiative. The Kids at Hope initiative is a simple belief that all children are capable of success, no exceptions. This is accomplished by finding the strengths of each child and ensuring that he/she has a positive adult role model in their life. The Kids at Hope initiative is currently being implemented in our schools, faith organizations, businesses and community programs. St. Lucie County is the first Kids at Hope County in the nation.

Children’s Services Council invests in...

Family Building & Strengthening

Parent and caregivers are the greatest influence on children. By providing parents the resources to be great parents and influences on their children, we strengthen the core of our community – families.

Funded program Strengthening Families is rated #2 in the Country for outcome achievement – they work every day to increase parenting skills and help prevent child abuse.

Programs in this category work to:

- Increase protective factors and reduced risk factors associated with child abuse for families
- Increase pro-social behavior and decreased anti-social behavior attitudes
- Reduce alcohol, marijuana, and illicit drug use
- Increase family functioning through positive parenting classes
- Decrease school discipline referrals
- Improve knowledge and competency in accessing community resources
- Increase skills in the ability to teach health education, parenting skills and life skills
- Increase comfort levels of parents in talking to their children about health issues, values and decision-making skills

2009-2010 Family Building & Strengthening Programs Fast Facts

99% of parents/caregivers improved parenting skills including skills to prevent child abuse/neglect.

95% of parents/caregivers increased knowledge of parenting and child development.

81% of children improved coping skills including anger management, empathy, and self-control.

99 % of families involved in funded programs increased skills to prevent child abuse as evidenced by no reports of abuse/neglect.

A full list of programs in this category is referenced in Appendix C

Children's Services Council invests in...

Healthy Lifestyles & Decision Making

Healthy Lifestyles and Decision Making is one of our strategic investments that help ensure our community's youth have a bright future. For 2010, the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County funded five programs that provide youth and families with the skills to make appropriate choices regarding their health and well being. In 2010, the Children's Services Council invested \$791,429 in five programs (Appendix D).

In 2009-10, 2,666 children were served through programs in this category.

The Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County believes the primary educator for youth about their health and behavior is the parent. Programs that educate youth and their parents/caregivers on the realities about drug and alcohol use, and the consequences of sex, lead to realistic family discussions on how the decisions made today affect the goals of the future. The funded programs in this category stress the dangers of drug use and the need for youth to delay the onset of sex. Teen Pregnancy is below the state rate for the first time since 1990. That change did not happen by accident, but rather was the result of a strategic approach to educating parents and teens and teaching the importance of goal setting, and making plans for the future.

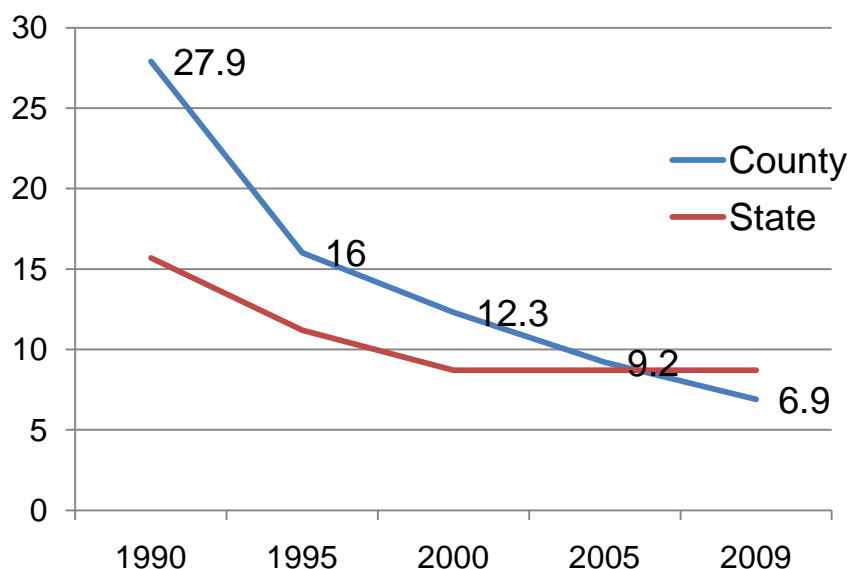


Chart: Teen Pregnancy – ages 10-17, rate per 1000.

Children’s Services Council invests in...

Healthy Lifestyles & Decision Making

By promoting abstinence first, the Children’s Services Council program partners stress the need for youth to develop goals and dreams for the future and a road map on how to get there that does not include being pregnant.

Because of Children’s Services Council and its partners, youth have greater access to educational health services and information to make healthy decisions.

Programs in this category work to:

- Increase child/parent communication on the subject of sex
- Increase skills of youth to resist pressures to become sexually active
- Decrease number of youth participating in high risk behaviors (drug/alcohol use, unsafe sex practices)
- Improve academic performance
- Decrease discipline referrals
- Improve family interactions and communication skills
- Reduce incidences of teen pregnancy

2009-10 Healthy Lifestyles & Decision Making Programs Fast Facts

88% of youth increased knowledge of skills to postpone sexual involvement

100% of youth improved knowledge of human development and sexual health, including risks and prevention of STIs and pregnancy

The number of repeat pregnancies in teen mothers was reduced by 100%.

98% of teen participating in funded programs did not become pregnant.

A full list of programs in this category is referenced in Appendix D

Children's Services Council invests in...

After-school Activities & Youth Development

Giving children a positive and engaging place to go after-school to keep them from getting into trouble or the negative influences of gangs is an investment strategy by the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County. The after-school programs funded by the Children's Services Council provide children and youth a valuable safety-net during hours when most parents are working. For 2010, the Children's Services Council invested in nine after-school programs for a total of \$1,006,640 (Appendix E).



All of the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County's funded after-school programs focus on academics, physical activity, social-skills, and family involvement. While the after-school programs provide a recreational outlet for children and youth, the importance of academic achievement, and staying and attending in school is emphasized. Furthermore, the after-school programs work with each participant to build positive decision making to prevent youth from joining gangs and committing crime.

In 2009-10, 3,127 children were served through programs in this category.

Funded programs such as Boys and Girls Club, Avenue D Boys Choir, Frontline for Kids, and Future Generations have also incorporated the arts into their after-school programs. The arts – such as chorus, orchestra and drum line – have increased youth involvement as well as brought about a sense of pride for not only the participating youth, but also the program and the community.

The Avenue D Boys Choir serves as a great example of the power of the arts to draw youth into a program. The Children's Services Council funding enabled the Avenue D Boys Choir to get their start and the program has served as a source of pride for St. Lucie County ever since. Having performed throughout the State, nation and world, the Avenue D Boys Choir uses music to teach young men the importance of academics, good decision making and giving back to the community.



Over 5,400 youth annually have a positive safe place to go during out-of-school time through these funded programs in this category.

Children’s Services Council invests in...

After-school Activities & Youth Development

After-school programs provide a positive place for children and youth, and provide working parents a sense of comfort knowing that their children are safe from the negative influences of gangs

2009-10 After-school Activities & Youth Development Program Fast Facts
88% of youth improved or maintained academic performance.
100% of youth increased judgment, decision making and social interaction skills to prevent juvenile delinquency referrals.
94% of youth participating in funded programs reduced unexcused school absences.
94% of youth increased ability to identify bullying practices and learned methods to stop bullying.

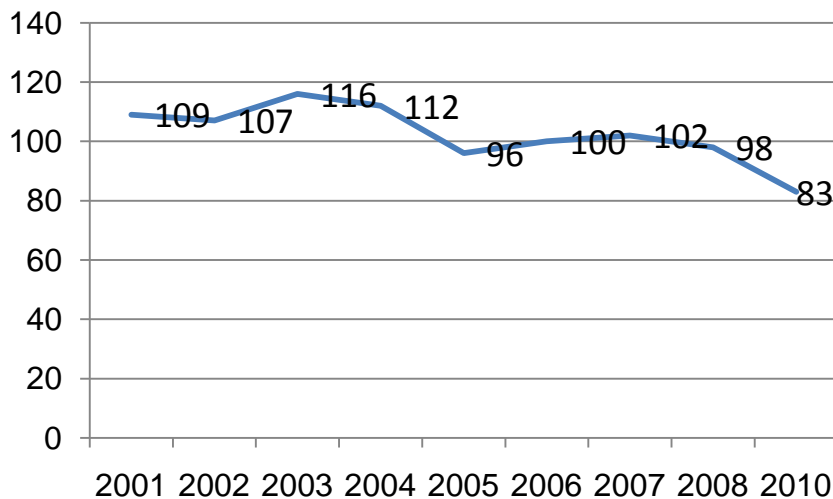


Chart: County Juvenile Referrals as defined as rate of juvenile arrests, youth ages 10-17.

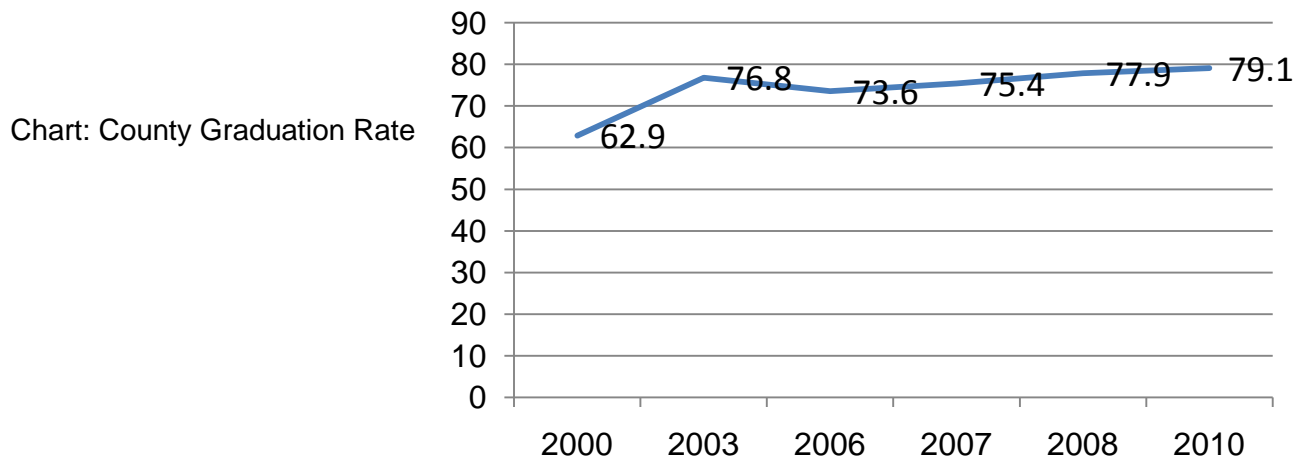


Chart: County Graduation Rate

A full list of programs in this category is referenced in Appendix E

Children's Services Council invests in...

Knowledge

The greatest influence on a child's life is their parent. The Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County is dedicated to providing opportunities for parents to increase their skills. To honor this commitment, the Children's Services Council offers free parenting classes throughout the community including many school-based locations. Workshops offered by the Children's Services Council include Redirecting Children's Behavior and Managing and Surviving Parenthood. In 2010, the Children's Services Council trained over 200 parents in these workshops.

Additionally, The Children's Services Council invests in the capacity of the workforce that provides needed services to our community. The Children's Services Council surveys child-serving agencies to determine the greatest need for training for their professional staff. In addition to hosting its own workshops, the Children's Services Council partners with Florida Atlantic University to offer free monthly workshops to local counselors and social service professionals. In 2010, Children's Services Council trained more than 750 professionals. The total investment in professional and parent training was \$40,242.

Other Initiatives for Children & Families

In 2009-10, the Children's Services Council invested over \$250,000 in additional summer opportunities for children. This funding provided scholarships to local camps including the Ft. Pierce Police Athletic League and the YMCA. In total, an additional 1,200 children had safe, positive, learning environment to attend during the summer, while their parents were working.

Knowing that one of the major causes of death to children in Florida is accidental drowning, the Children's Services Council invests each year in water safety lessons throughout St. Lucie County. In partnership with St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation Department, and our funded programs, the water safety lessons reached over 250 children in our community last year, as well as helped train Junior Lifeguards and Water Safety Instructors.



Finally, with limited funding available, the Children's Services Council was able to provide start-up funds for a mobile pediatric oral health clinic through St. Lucie County HANDS. The portable dental clinic enables a dental hygienist to travel to schools, child care centers and after school and summer programs to evaluate the oral health of students. Oral health can affect a young child's behavior and performance at school. By funding this initiative, the Children's Services Council took great strides to address a high need area in our community. The mobile pediatric oral health clinic is just one of many valuable programs the Children's Services Council has helped get started in the community including the Avenue D Girls Choir and the St. Lucie Mets Literacy initiative.

Children's Services Council invests in...

Community

The Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County believes that investing in children is really an investment in the community, and when we support communities, we support the families that live in them. When families are supported, children are more likely to grow up happy, healthy and capable of success.

At the Children's Services Council, we believe we are uniquely poised to educate the community about valuable programs and services available to them, while supporting those programs and other special events. Over the last few years, the Children's Services Council has become increasingly successful in forging partnerships with local business and organizations that also support children and families.



One of those partnerships, with the St. Lucie Mets Minor League baseball team, has led to a widely successful program to support independent reading among Kindergarten to 8th grade students. The Slide into Reading program was introduced to help foster a child's love of reading by tracking the number of books they have read with a special bookmark. Once they have completed the "bases" on their bookmark, they can earn two free tickets to any St. Lucie Mets home game*. This program has grown from only 500 participants in 2009, to over 22,000 participants in 2011, showing how worthwhile these partnerships can be.

As we began talking to community members through our Children's Services Council Listening Tour, we found that most parents were unaware of all the services made available by Children's Services Council funding. The Listening Tour made stops at almost all St. Lucie County school Parent Teacher Organization or Student Advisory Council meetings and talked with parents and school faculty about the needs facing our children and ways the Children's Services Council may be able to support. Through the information gathered in these meetings, it became apparent that we needed to focus on education of the available programs. We then decided to produce and publish a Directory of Funded Programs to distribute to local agencies, schools and businesses that outlined each program supported by the Children's Services Council and how families can access them. The Directory is also available on our website to download.

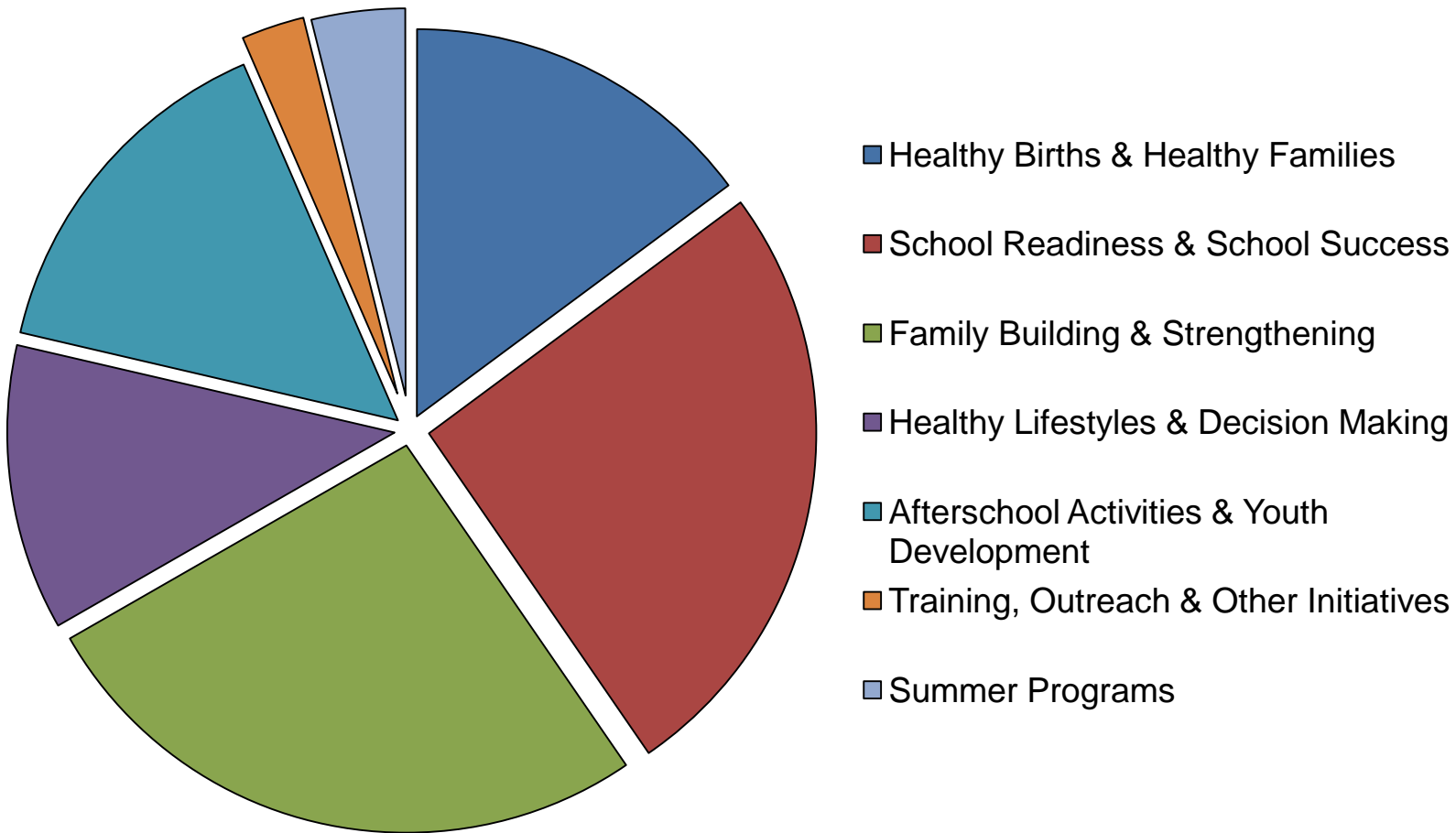
Another way the Children's Services Council is able to reach out and educate the community has been through a newly created radio show on a local AM station. Larry Lee, Jr., owner of WIRA 1400AM recognized a need to inform his listeners about what services were available to them and the special work being done by the Children's Services Council. After several discussions, we embarked on a journey to host a weekly radio show called "Community Connections." The purpose of the show is to inform our local community about services and programs available to them. The show features guests of funded program staff, as well as local community leaders. Past shows are available to download on the Children's Services Council website, and are also available as a podcast.



More than ever, we at the Children's Services Council recognize the need to educate and assist families with access to the programs that are available to help them. We will continue to support community partnerships and education opportunities through our funded programs and local initiatives.

A Breakdown of our Budget

\$6,624,761 invested in Programs and Other Initiatives



Children's Services Council funding leverages an additional \$5.9 million from State, Federal and Foundation funding sources.

Children's Services Council invests nearly \$3.7 million to provide salaries for over 300 St. Lucie County jobs.

Appendix A

Healthy Births & Healthy Families Programs

BRAIN Program	Helping People Succeed
Crib Safety Program	Healthy Start Coalition
Early Steps Program	Easter Seals Inc.
Healthy Families	Healthy Start Coalition
Healthy Kids	Healthy Kids St. Lucie
Infant/Family Resource	Helping People Succeed
Mother Baby Home Visitation Program	Martin Memorial Medical Center
Newborn Home Visitation Program	Healthy Start Coalition

Appendix B

School Readiness & School Success

AmeriCorp – Florida Reads	Big Brothers Big Sisters
Reading Bigs	Big Brothers Big Sisters
Truancy Project	Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County
SLC Truancy Project	Children’s Home Society
Child Care Purchasing Pool	Early Learning Coalition
Help Me Behave	Helping People Succeed
Student Assistance Program	New Horizons of the Treasure Coast, Inc.
Project ROCK South	Project ROCK South, Inc.
Project ROCK, Inc.	Project ROCK North
School Nurse Program	St. Lucie County Health Department

Appendix C

Family Building & Strengthening

2-1-1 Helpline	2-1-1 Palm Beach & Treasure Coast, Inc.
Adult Role Models	Planned Parenthood
Camp Holiday	Daniel M Center for Behavioral Change
Children of Promise	Big Brothers Big Sisters
Family Support Services	Big Brothers Big Sisters
Heart Gallery Adoption & Recruitment	Children's Home Society
High Hopes for Kids	CASTLE
Kids at Hope	Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Inc.
La Promesa	Planned Parenthood
Safe Families	CASTLE
Strengthening Families	CASTLE
Strong Fathers/Strong Families	CASTLE
Supporting Families in Crisis	Hibiscus Children's Center
Treasure Coast Kids	Catholic Charities
Valued Visits	CASTLE
Youth Grief Services	Treasure Coast Hospices

Appendix D

Healthy Lifestyles & Decision Making

Teen Life Choices	Children's Home Society
Adolescent Health Program	Florida Community Health Center
Teen Case Management	Healthy Start Coalition
Teen Time	Planned Parenthood
Teen Time Afterschool	Planned Parenthood

Appendix E

After-school Activities & Youth Development

Afterschool Music Enhancement	Future Generations
Afterschool St. Lucie	YMCA of the Treasure Coast
ARC Afterschool & Summer Program	ARC of St. Lucie County
Avenue D Boys Choir	Avenue D Boys Choir
Computer Assisted Tutorial	ALPI
Core Program	Boys & Girls Club of St. Lucie County
Frontline for Kids	Frontline for Kids, Inc.
Helping Youth Succeed	Helping People Succeed
Multi-Cultural Resource Development	Multi-Cultural Resource Center
PACE Transition Services	PACE Center for Girls
Studio 2-B	Girl Scouts
Tutorial, Cultural, Recreational Enhancement	Save Our Children, Inc.