



A QUARTER CENTURY OF QUALITY

Serving Blount, Jefferson,  
Shelby & Walker Counties

# The Resource

A publication of Childcare Resources, central Alabama's resource for child care

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# Supporting Working Parents

## *From the Desk of Executive Director Joan Wright*

What does Child Care Resource and Referral mean for you, for our community? You may know it means helping families locate child care, however, it is much more than that. It also means supporting families with one of the most important decisions they

missed, children are at a tremendous disadvantage as they grow and enter school.

Childcare Resources partners with families by guiding them through the important selection of an appropriate child care provider - one that is nurturing, safe and tends to the developing needs of the child. We train the professionals who care for our youngest children to ensure that the learning setting is age appropriate and that interaction with the child stimulates the natural curiosity for learning. We also provide financial assistance in order that working families can best afford a quality choice for their child care needs.

Combined, these services support working parents and enable them to be productive members of society contributing to their own livelihood and the well being of the community.

So the next time you think child care resource and referral is one dimensional, consider the valuable resources Childcare Resources contributes to our local economic prosperity and to the future welfare of our communities.

make for their child. This is the major role Childcare Resources plays in our community.

Every day thousands of children are in the care of someone other than their parent(s) who is working to support their family. Approximately 60 percent of women in the workforce have children under the age of five. Families need to know their child is not only being fed, kept clean and well-rested, but also is receiving appropriate care.

Research indicates that the early years are the most opportune time to advance critical brain development that supports young children's healthy growth and progress. If this opportunity is

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# Connecting the Dots

## Linking Teacher Training to Classroom Quality to Success in School and Beyond

If there is one thing that most everyone can agree on, it is that all young children deserve the best start in life. At Childcare Resources we believe our youngest children need a great start on learning and that is why the agency focuses on providing resources, training and support for early childhood programs. By providing teachers with the best tools and information about early childhood development and education, Childcare Resources impacts not only the quality of learning that takes place in classrooms, but also the safety and emotional well-being of our community's children.

Research shows that the quality of child care in the classroom is in direct proportion to the teacher's knowledge and education. Childcare Resources trains about 90 percent of child care professionals in our 4 county service area through on- and off-site training classes, direct consultations, workshops and conferences. One of Childcare Resources' professional development programs is the Infant Toddler Outreach Program, which helps centers improve the quality of care in infant and toddler classrooms by providing on-site assessments, consultations and training.

First United Methodist Church of Hueytown Child Care Center is currently enrolled in the Infant Toddler Outreach Program. Tammy Johnson, director of the center, finds that although often challenging, running a child care center has many rewards. She said, "One of the most gratifying aspects of this work is the opportunity to offer children a safe, loving and nurturing place to learn."

Dawn Allen, Child Development Consultant for Childcare Resources, is providing the Infant Toddler Outreach Program in Ms. Johnson's center. Together they are addressing some of the challenges that the Hueytown center faces.

In a very short period of time, the First United Methodist Church of Hueytown Child Care Center has made great progress in the program. They have combined classrooms so that there are at least two teachers in each room, allowing for increased visibility and supervision of each child and more time for teachers to work one on one with their young charges.

*Ms. Johnson remarked, "Childcare Resources and Dawn have helped us to better the classrooms and the center overall."*



*Childcare Resources Child Development Consultant Dawn Allen and First United Methodist Church of Hueytown Child Care Center Director Tammy Johnson*

Ms. Johnson has created a teacher resource room equipped with supplies, resource books for teachers, a copier and other handy equipment. She also plans for an indoor play area to give her children a place to run and have fun even when the weather is bad.

Ms. Johnson, along with her staff, is beginning to see results from being involved in the Infant Toddler Outreach Program. They continue to work with Childcare Resources to evaluate their center and set goals to become a higher quality center. Ms. Johnson remarked, "Childcare Resources and Dawn have helped us to better the classrooms and the center overall."

Childcare Resources will continue to work with the center offering trainings and model teaching in the classrooms. Dawn will frequently visit the center to monitor their progress and at the end of the summer each classroom will receive a final evaluation. Considering the early successes of the Hueytown center, everyone involved expects their evaluation scores will soar!



*Ms. Johnson and Devon*

# Childcare Resources Honors Alabama's First Family



Governor and Mrs. Riley  
photograph taken by Robin Cooper

*"In order to ensure that our children will be able to compete in this global economy, it is imperative that we continue building a strong education system that has one mission - giving our children the tools they need to succeed." - Governor Bob Riley*

On March 30, 2010, during the Children's Advocate Award Luncheon, Governor and First Lady Riley will be presented with the 3rd annual Margie Curry Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was inaugurated in 2008 and presented to its namesake Margie Curry, the founding executive director of Childcare Resources. The 2009 award was received by Ben and Luanne Russell for their long time support of children's issues in Alabama.

The Margie Curry Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates exemplary achievement of individuals whose life's work has dramatically impacted the lives of children in a positive manner or focused attention on issues relating to children's welfare. The

Riley's will be recognized and honored for their work on behalf of Alabama's children, such as the First Class Voluntary Pre-K initiative, the Alabama Reading Initiative expanding statewide, the state sales tax holiday to help families with back to school expenses, HIPYPY, Kid One Transport and the Parenting Assistance Line (PAL) to mention a few.

The Board and Junior Board of Childcare Resources looks forward to paying tribute to Governor and Mrs. Riley for all they have done and continue to do for the future of our state - our children. During the luncheon, Mrs. Riley will accept the award on behalf of the Governor and herself.

## 2010 Children's Advocate Award Friends of Children

Barbara S. Allen

Ladye Franklin

Dr. Artis W. Murphy

Birmingham YMCA

Len and Teresa Holland

Wilma Patterson

Larry Cabaniss

Lonnie Holley

Cedric D. Sparks, Sr.

Sam Charif

Jasper Area Family Service Center

Susan Swartz

Community Foundation  
of Greater Birmingham

Beth Johns

Surpora Thomas

Kid One

Toyota Family Literacy Program

Dream Girls Christian Academy

Julie Marks

Alice Williams

Fight 4Life Fitness and Boxing Ministry

# Area Agencies Partner Together

## News Conference Announced \$742,000 in grants awarded by Children's Trust Fund

*"It was truly a collaborative event. The event highlighted the investment the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention has made in the children and families in central Alabama." - Childcare Resources Executive Director Joan Wright*

Alabama has seen its fair share of tough economic times, yet our government remained committed to supporting Alabama's greatest natural resource - its children. Twenty-one agencies in Jefferson, Shelby and St. Clair counties - including Childcare Resources - received a total of \$742,000 in grants awarded by Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Children's Trust Fund.

On November 17, Childcare Resources hosted a news conference to recognize the continued support of our legislators and the investment Children's Trust Fund has made in the agencies. Kelley Parris-Barnes and Jessica Jackson, representing the Children's Trust Fund, attended the event along with Senator Jabo Waggoner and Representatives Rod Scott, Greg Canfield and Sue McClurkin. Others attending included Harry Brown and Sara Newell of United Way of Central Alabama and representatives from Junior League of Birmingham and the Susan Mott Webb Charitable Trust.

Childcare Resources' Parents as Teachers program is supported in part by the Children's Trust Fund grant. This international parent education program is offered by the agency in area child care centers. Through the program, parents take part in individual and group meetings with parent educators and children receive various health and developmental screenings.



From Left to Right: (Front row) Greg Smith, CTF; Representative Sue McClurkin; Regina Wilson; Kelley Parris-Barnes, CTF (Back row) Senator Jabo Waggoner; Representative Greg Canfield; Brandi Chelette; Ferris Stephens, 6th District, CTF; Mary Beth Bruno and Princess, Hand-In-Paw

### Other CTF Funded Agencies include:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Birmingham
- Camp Fire USA Central Alabama Council
- Exchange Club Family Skills Center
- Family Guidance Center of Alabama
- Friends of the Court, Inc./CASA of Shelby County
- Gateway
- Girls Incorporated of Central Alabama
- Glenwood, Inc.
- Hand-In-Paw, Inc.
- Impact Family Counseling
- Kid One Transport
- Pathways, Inc.
- Shelby County Family Resource Center
- St. Clair Children's Advocacy Center (The Children's Place)
- St. Clair County Day Program, Inc.
- UAB Shaken Baby Prevention Program
- UAB Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities
- United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Birmingham
- Vineyard Family Services of Central Alabama, Inc.
- Youth Village



Hand-In-Paw volunteer Mary Beth Bruno and Princess get a look from child



Representatives Greg Canfield and Sue McClurkin

# Ella Jenkins

## The First Lady of the Children's Folk Song



Ella Jenkins

*"The simple but irresistible songs, poems, and mini-language lessons... reflect the beauty and diversity of diverse cultures."*

*--Parenting*

In honor of February's Black History Month, Childcare Resources salutes Ella Jenkins, American folk singer and leading performer of children's music for over fifty years. Although she received no formal musical training, Jenkins benefited from her rich musical surroundings during her childhood years in Chicago. While attending junior college, she became interested in the music of other cultures through her Mexican, Cuban and Puerto Rican friends. In 1951, she earned a Bachelor's of Arts in Sociology with minors in Child Psychology and Recreation from San Francisco State University. She began writing songs for children while working in recreation centers and as a song leader for camp groups.

In 1956, Jenkins decided to become a full-time freelance musician. She began her career as a children's musician touring school assemblies in the United States, often sleeping in a different place each night and encountering racial discrimination. As she performed in more varied venues, she began to write music about her experiences. In 1957, Jenkins' first album was released and since then

she has recorded 29 other albums. She has not only been an important force in children's lives, but also has taught her approach to working with children to parents and fellow music educators. She has participated in many conferences on music education and has offered workshops for music educators, parents and caregivers all over the world.

Her repertoire includes nursery rhymes, holiday songs, bilingual songs, African-American folk songs, international songs, rhythmic chants, and original songs. Drawing from cultures all over the world, Jenkins sings in many languages, exposing her audiences to diverse cultures and promoting greater cultural awareness.

As a recording artist, Jenkins has gained extensive recognition. Her recordings have received Parents' Choice awards and Grammy nominations in the category of Best Musical Album for Children. In 2004, she was recognized with a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. For more information about Ella Jenkins, visit her Web site at [www.ellajenkins.com](http://www.ellajenkins.com).

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## Childcare Resources Expands Team

*It is a privilege as well as a pleasure to work at ChildCare Resources. I am honored to work with some extraordinary and dedicated individuals. We all strive for the best to make quality child care happen. - Nina Miles*

Childcare Resources is pleased to welcome several new professionals to our staff. They are Kimberly Kornman, Parent Education Specialist; Courtney Nix, Child Care Consultant; Nina Miles, Family and Community Services Consultant; Donna Steele, Child Development Consultant; Shakira Trice, Child Development Consultant; Leslie Steckler, Child Development Consultant; and Kadie Whatley, Program Support Specialist. These talented and enthusiastic individuals join the existing staff in helping to achieve our mission of making quality child care happen in central Alabama.



From Left to Right: New team members Donna Steele, Shakira Trice, Nina Miles (back row), Kimberly Kornman, Leslie Steckler, Courtney Nix and Kadie Whatley (not pictured)

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Alice Gordon - 2010 Junior Board President

The Junior Board of Childcare Resources, initiated in 2004, is a dynamic group of young people who are committed to making a difference in the lives of families and children in our communities. This year, the Junior Board is led by Alice Gordon, Manager of State and Community Outreach for Alabama Power Company's Corporate Relations Department. It is no coincidence that her fellow Junior Board members regard Alice as a dynamo - a hard working, tirelessly energetic person whose enthusiasm is contagious.

Alice's background includes a great deal of experience in media and public relations - from broadcast journalist to news anchor and director, entertainment reporter and more. She has been invited to speak for the State of Alabama Department of Human Resources, UAB, Miles College, Leadership Mobile, University of South Alabama, Auburn University, Birmingham Urban League, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Blue Cross Blue Shield, the Girl Scouts Cahaba Council and the Electric Power Reliability Industry among many others. Clearly, Alice is well positioned to help heighten awareness of the many programs Childcare Resources has to offer families, businesses and communities.

Not only is Alice active within her industry - serving as past president, chair of public relations and chair of special events



Childcare Resources Junior Board President  
Alice Gordon

*"I think Childcare Resources is one of the most vital agencies in our community" - Alice Gordon*

for the American Association of Blacks in Energy, Birmingham Chapter - she is also active in the community. Some of the many organizations Alice has befriended include the YWCA of Central Alabama, the Birmingham Cultural and Music Foundation, UNCF, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, and the Sustainable City Commission of the City of Birmingham.

Since joining Childcare Resources Junior Board in 2008, Alice has assumed several leadership positions, including Nominations Committee Co-chair and Public Relations Committee Chair for the Fairy Tale Ball. Alice is eager to begin her new role as Junior Board President. "I think Childcare Resources is one of the most vital agencies in our community, providing unique programs and services to ensure our children get a great start. I believe that the Junior Board can help make Childcare Resources even better!"

During the first official meeting of the 2010 Junior Board, Alice shared her vision and goals for the year. "We want to not only present Birmingham's premier family event - the Fairy Tale Ball - but also help spread the good news about this agency to all corners of our four county service area."

## Childcare Resources Intern Fills Important Roles

Study, work, achieve, succeed. That is the motto of Holy Family Cristo Rey High School in Ensley, Alabama that aptly describes the efforts of Olivia Leonard, 10th grade student at the school who is performing an internship at Childcare Resources this year.

Olivia, like other students at Holy Family Cristo Rey High School, is participating in the school's Corporate Internship Program. The program is an integral part of the Holy Family Cristo Rey education. It provides opportunities throughout the city of Birmingham for students to work in entry-level office positions in banking, law, medicine, finance, nonprofit and other exciting career opportunities.

One day a week Olivia works at Childcare Resources. Her duties vary from assembling theme boxes for the Early Childhood Development Center's library to helping set up for group meetings to

compiling training materials and general office duties such as typing, copying and filing. This spring, Olivia will fill an important role by helping with a major child care professional conference, Sky's the Limit, and a statewide Pre-K Conference in Montgomery.

When asked about her experiences as an intern at Childcare Resources, Olivia replied, "I can't imagine interning anywhere else - I love being here and everybody makes me feel like I'm at home. This has been an amazing experience. I've learned how to communicate with the people here and I learn something new every time I come."

Olivia has learned a lot about working in an office environment. She has also learned about the agency itself. "I think Childcare Resources helps our community in dependable ways. They help people who can't afford child care get their kids in a program. That's a loving honest thing."



Miss Olivia Leonard

Joan Wright, executive director for Childcare Resources, sums it up for the entire staff, "Olivia has become an integral part of our team at Childcare Resources. Her skills, interests and enthusiasm enhance our work each time she is with us."



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## THE RESOURCE

WINTER 2010

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### Childcare Resources Mission

The mission of Childcare Resources is to make quality care and education of children happen by providing information, education, and assistance to families, providers of child care, and the community.



## Looking Ahead

March 30<sup>th</sup>  
Children's Advocate  
Award Luncheon

April 11 - 17<sup>th</sup>  
Week of the Young Child

April 23<sup>rd</sup>  
A Night at the Baron's

June  
Next Generation Campaign

August 28<sup>th</sup>  
4th Annual Fairy Tale Ball

## Please join us

at the

### 2010 Children's Advocate Award Luncheon

Benefiting families and communities served by Childcare Resources

Tuesday, March 30, 2010  
11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.  
Sheraton Birmingham Ballroom  
2101 Richard Arrington, Jr. Boulevard North

#### Honorary Chair

**Mr. L. Gwaltney McCollum, Jr.**  
Chairman and CEO, First National Bank of Jasper

Luncheon Co-Chairs  
Carole M. Pizitz and Leila Watson

#### Margie Curry Lifetime Achievement Award presented to

**Governor and Mrs. Bob Riley**  
Mrs. Riley will be on hand to receive the award

For ticket or sponsorship information go online to [www.ccr-bhm.org](http://www.ccr-bhm.org) or contact  
Childcare Resources Development Director Joy Godsey at  
[jgodsey@ccr-bhm.org](mailto:jgodsey@ccr-bhm.org) or (205) 252-1991 ext. 305