



HANDPRINTS

The newsletter of Corvallis Community Children's Centers

News from the Executive Director

With the start of the New Year, we are launching a CCCC newsletter to improve our organization wide communication. The focus of this issue is parent involvement and volunteerism with CCCC. In this issue you'll find news about CCCC happenings and ideas of ways to contribute to the success of your center and to CCCC events, committees, and outreach efforts. On the back page, you'll also find a calendar of events (including closures and

holidays for 2009) and information about how to sign up for Google Groups, our email communication system.

This newsletter is the first effort of the new Parent Outreach Committee (POC), an informal parent committee designed to increase communication and promote parent involvement. We hope to publish it 4-6 times per year.

We will have more information about POC in the

next newsletter, in the meantime, if you would like more information please contact me.

In this newsletter we are also pleased to share that our new fundraising events last fall met our budgeted goal for 2008! Look for more information about how you can help support CCCC's fundraising efforts and keep us on track for meeting our 2009 goals.



LouAnn Spevacek,
CCCC Executive
Director

February 2009

Vol. 1, Issue 1

Staff Anniversaries

4 years

Julene Brubaker

2 years

Jaclin Harman

1 year

Kelley Russell

Dorothy Malinowski

Thank you for your continuing commitment to the children.



In a nutshell:

Fundraising 2008	2
eSCRIP	2
Policy Corner	3
Volunteering	3
Google-Groups	4
2009 Calendar	4

News from the Board of Directors

One of the things that makes CCCC different from other childcare centers is that we are a non-profit organization. We have a volunteer board of directors and have historically relied on parents to set the direction and priorities for the organization.

This July, several of our long-serving board members will be stepping down. We are seeking several new board members for the 2009-2011 term, and will be electing a new board chair and vice-chair for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Please consider volunteering a couple hours of your time each month to a position on the board. It is rewarding and stimulating work that helps ensure quality care for all our children. Parent involvement has been key to CCCC's success for 40 years — help be a part of its future!





Fundraising in 2008 -Thanks to you, we did it!

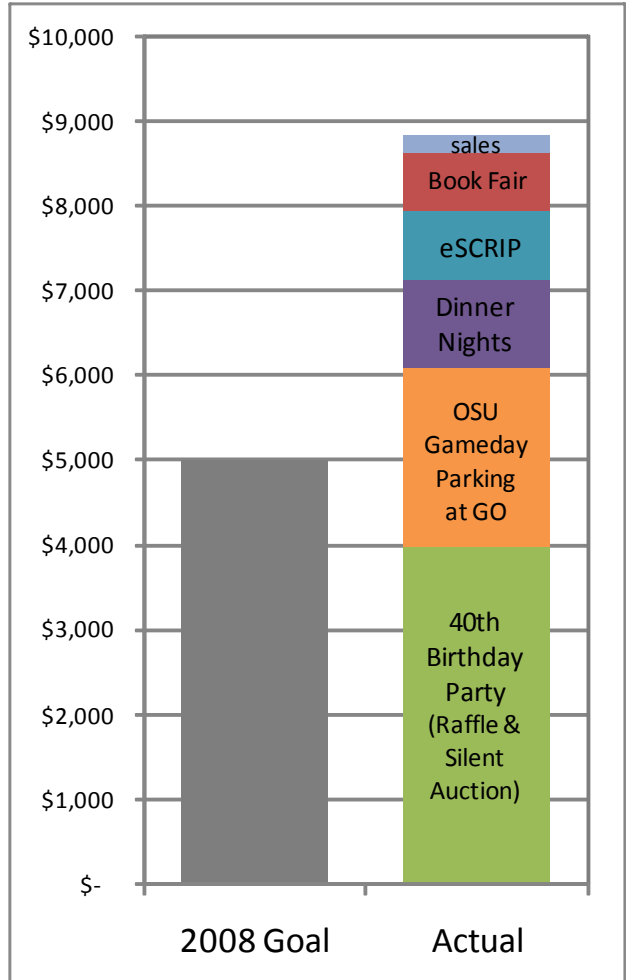
In 2008, we launched two new events: a 40th Birthday Party that included a raffle and silent auction, and Gameday Parking at Growing Oaks for OSU football games. Together, these events raised over \$6000, exceeding our budgeted fundraising goal for the fiscal year. We plan to hold both of these events again in 2009, and will need your help!

CCCC also raised over \$2000 from smaller events that meet one of the following fundraising guidelines:

1. encourage interaction among staff, parents and children within and across the three centers (dinner nights - El Sol de Mexico , Papa's Pizza)
2. require small parent effort for moderate to large payback to the centers ("rewards" programs - eSCRIP, see below)
3. promote parent involvement in the mission of CCCC (Scholastic book fair)
4. increase our visibility within the community (T-shirt sales in conjunction with the 4th of July Parade)



Kudos to our 40th Birthday community partners, family and friends who made donations! Special thanks to the organizing committee *LouAnn Spevacek, Naomi Oak, Maria Wright, Sarah Lewis, Charmel Laam, Brigitte Cluver & Cynthia McMahon* and thanks to our title sponsor *Barker-Uerlings Insurance*



What is eSCRIP and how do I sign up?

Your rewards card & online purchases = \$\$ for CCCC!

CCCC participates in eSCRIP, a program that securely registers your debit, credit or rewards cards so that CCCC can receive a percentages of your purchases with qualifying merchants in their stores or online.

We currently have 35 participants in this program, and have averaged \$60 a month, for a total of over \$800 in 2008!

We have found that our most consistent contributions come from our participants who have registered their **Safeway Club Card** with eSCRIP.

Please consider signing-up today!

Visit www.escrip.com

CCCC's group ID #500015641

Other participating ONLINE merchants include: Lands End, Nordstrom, Eddie Bauer, Shutterfly, Drugstore.com, eBay, SONY and many more. Just enter the site through eSCRIP and use a registered card to make your purchase!

Shop at Albertsons or First Alternative Co-op? Give back to CCCC!

Albertsons Community Partner # (coming soon)!!
Coop Member # 79928

(no rewards program available yet with Fred Meyer)



Parent Involvement & Fundraising Policies

For many years, CCCC had mandatory parent involvement & fundraising policies. We required parents to volunteer two hours in the classroom each month or contribute supplies or cash equivalent, and required 4 hours of fundraising or \$100 per year from each family in care. In 2006 we ended these policies because they seemed punitive and created feelings of ill will among parents. Instead, we hoped to

encourage true volunteerism -- by making it voluntary!

Two years into this experiment, we find it challenging. Our families are working parents with young children — many of us feel like we are barely balancing all of our commitments, let alone prepared to take on another. Yet those who do volunteer find it rewarding. They feel pleased to know

that they are contributing to the Corvallis community, and glad to have a new window into their child's school experience.

The key to making volunteerism work, is making volunteer opportunities known and asking for help. With this newsletter, we hope to encourage you to find a way to be more involved with CCCCC.



Looking for ways to make a difference in your child's classroom?

Talk to your child's teacher or site director. Some possibilities:

- Share your career or hobby—bring in materials and visit with the children.
- Do you play a musical instrument? Consider visiting for a sing-a-long.
- Do you like to read picture books? Story time is always welcome.
- Do you know how to make a simple food dish? Work with our chef to develop a cooking activity.

- Have a creative art project? Consider sharing it with the class.
- Donate out-grown but gently used clothes, shoes, toys or books to your center. The younger classrooms may need something that is no longer of use to you.
- Can you fix things? Our playground equipment and bikes could always use a tune-up.

Each center also has specific needs—check the bulletin boards and monthly newsletters!



Photo: Pre-K Rainbow Room, Growing Oaks, Fall 2008

Share your child's favorite book (or write your own) and share it with the classroom.



Want to volunteer in a professional capacity?

Can you find a few hours a month?

- Help maintain computers and bring technology to our centers.
- Update our website and increase our presence on the internet.
- Produce this newsletter.
- Assist in preparing grant applications to funding organizations.
- Assist in planning our annual events, such as Teacher Appreciation Week and Birthday Party
- Join the parent outreach committee (POC) or another committee.

Contact: ccccfund@peak.org

Board Focus Issues Spring 2009:

- Update of employee handbook and review of benefit practices.
- Review of closure policy for inclement weather and in-service days.
- Budget development for 2009-2010, including decisions on tuition increases and capital improvements.
- Recruitment of board and committee members for the next fiscal year.
- Revision and implementation of Parent Involvement and Fundraising Policies.

Parent input is always welcome and valued. Meetings are held once a month on Monday evenings from 6-8pm at the United Methodist Church. The agenda is posted prior to each meeting, and the minutes are available for review. Dinner and childcare are provided (call Monroe Center 753-2519 to request care for a meeting).

Upcoming meetings are February 9, March 16 and April 20.

Contact information:

Growing Oaks: 737-7745

Site director: Melanie Peterson
growingoaks@corvallischildcare.org

Monroe Center: 753-2519

Site director: Janet Hewitt
monroe@corvallischildcare.org

Lancaster Center: 753-0191

Site director: Jennie Dalgas
lancaster@corvallischildcare.org

Administration

3285 NE Oxford Circle
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LouAnn Spevacek, Executive Director
executivedirector@corvallischildcare.org

**Building a strong foundation
for children and their families.**

Want to get your newsletters and notices via email?

Sign up for the Google Groups email list for your center!

There are two ways to join:

1) Request to join the forum by visiting:

Growing Oaks groups.google.com/group/cccc-growing-oaks

Lancaster groups.google.com/group/cccc-lancaster

Monroe groups.google.com/group/cccc-monroe

2) Write your child's name, your name and your preferred email address and center affiliation on a piece of paper and give it to your site director **OR** email it to ccccgen@peak.org.

You should receive an invitation to join from noreply@googlegroups.com via the email address you provided. *Check your junk mail, as some filters may not let this message through.* You may need to create a user name & password in order to join.

*Interested in helping out with the list serv management?
Email: executivedirector@corvallischildcare.org*

2009 Calendar

Upcoming Events:

Feb 9: Board Meeting 6-8pm — All welcome
Feb 24: Papa's Pizza Fundraiser
Mar 16: Board Meeting 6-8pm — All welcome
Mar 23: In-Service Day — All Centers Closed
Apr 20: Board Meeting 6-8pm — All welcome
May 4-9: Teacher & Staff Appreciation week
May 18: Board Meeting — All welcome
May TBA: Annual Potluck and Board Election
May 25: Memorial Day — All Centers Closed

2009 Closures & Holidays

Jan 1,2	New Years	Closed
Jan 19	MLK Day	Closed
Mar 23	In-Service day	Closed
May 25	Memorial Day	Closed
June 15	In-Service day	Closed
July 3	4th of July (obs)	Closed
Sept 7	Labor Day	Closed
Sept 25	In-Service day	Closed
Nov 26,27	Thanksgiving	Closed
Dec 25	Christmas Day	Closed

For more calendar & event information
visit www.corvallischildcare.org
to see our **NEW** online calendar



Would you like more information about these events or how you can support Corvallis Community Children's Centers?
Contact LouAnn at 541-752-1274 or executivedirector@corvallischildcare.org