



Resource & Referral Center

a publication of the Quality Child Care Initiative

Children Count

May / June 2011

QCCI Funding Received

Sincere thanks to The Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge and the Augusta Health Foundation for recent grant awards that will allow the Quality Child Care Initiative to continue Health & Safety Training programs.

The awarded funds will be used to subsidize the CPR, First Aid, Daily Health Observation and Medication Administration trainings that are offered through the QCCI. These are extremely important trainings for all child care staff to complete, and we are thrilled that our local foundations have offered invaluable financial support. Thank you!!



Quality Child Care Initiative

(540) 245-5899 x108

Family Resource & Referral Center

(540) 245-5899

1600 North Coalter Street, Suites 11 & 12B
Staunton, Virginia 24401

www.FRCenter.org



What is Project GROWS?

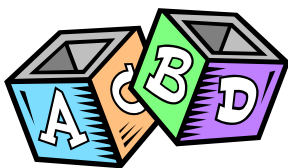
You may have read in the news lately about a new program in our area called "Project GROWS". Project GROWS (Growing Responsibly & Organically with Sustainability) is a Youth-based Community Garden funded jointly by grants from the Augusta Health Foundation and the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth. Many local agencies, including the Valley Community Services Board, Office on Youth, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Mary Baldwin College, Augusta Health WOW Program, Social Services, The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, the Virginia Cooperative Extension, Shenandoah Valley Head Start and the Boys & Girls Club have joined together to support the program.



Jill Templeton, Project GROWS Coordinator, explains that the program is still in the planning stages. She expects that the main community garden will be in operation for the 2012 growing season. The location for the garden has not yet been determined. There are also plans for some form of composting as well as the possibility of a small greenhouse. Volunteers will be used when available to assist with the program.

At this point, the seeds for Project GROWS have been planted, and it will take a little planning and effort for the seeds to grow. In the meantime, the partnership is open to suggestions on how the community would like to be involved. If you have any questions or suggestions, or need additional information, please contact Jill Templeton by phone at (540) 480-0371 or by email at jtempleton@vcsb.org.

News from Shen Valley Social Services



For many years individuals receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) payments through

social services have been exempt from participation in the Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare (VIEW) program for up to twelve months with the birth of each child while continuing to receive TANF payments. Effective July 2011 this policy will change.

Each parent will receive up to twelve months of an exemption in a lifetime regardless of how many children they have. If all twelve months are used the parent will be allowed six weeks of exemption after having a child and will then enter the VIEW program to seek employment. This significant change in policy will result in more parents of infants entering the workforce and will in turn increase the need for additional quality child care for infants.

If you have questions regarding this impending change please contact Carmel Murphy Norris @ 540-245-5800.

Kids Matter Day

The 2011 Kids Matter Day event will be held on Saturday, May 7 from 10:00 am—1:00 pm at the gym in Gypsy Hill Park, Staunton. There will be many activities for children of all ages, including a bouncehouse, arts & crafts, games, etc. There will be information tables from community resource agencies. Many vendors will be offering literature as well as free items, such as books or bike helmets. It's a great event for families!!

Thank You, Staunton Public Library

We feel very fortunate to have such a wonderful facility in which to hold our Spring & Fall Training Series, and we would like to thank the Staunton Public Library for the use of the training room.



Family Resource & Referral Center

We are located at 1600 North Coalter St., Suites 11 & 12B, in Staunton. Hours are 8:30 to 5:00. ** Please note: if you need to borrow child care videos, we suggest that you first check availability with Sarah Foster at 540-245-5899 x108 or SarahFoster@ntelos.net. The videos are very popular, and frequently all checked out. We don't want you to drive out here only to find there are no videos available for you.

Provider Profile

Celia Wade is the Director of the Lighthouse Early Childhood Center in Swoope. The center opened in August 2006 and currently has 22 children attending but is licensed for 50. It is located in the lower level of the Lighthouse Church. Science and Art projects are a favorite at the center. The children also love painting at the easel, playing outside and the weekly Bible lessons.

Celia has enjoyed working with children for more than 20 years. Her earlier experience was with Shelvy Shank at Hunting Hills Early Learning Center. She attended MBC and is still taking classes online. Celia lives in Staunton with Eric, her husband of 24 years, her son Miles, 19, and daughters Mary Scott, 15, and Maddie, 13. Hobbies include her children's sports events, home decorating, and spending time with her pets— Jack and Kitten. Keep up the good work, Celia!