

# Partnerships 4 Families News 4 You

December 2022  
Issue 2008



Upcoming Events

P4F Board Update

P4F Board Member

P4F Early Childhood Task Force

Community Meetings

- ◆ Every Child beginning at birth will be healthy and successful.

## Area Directors Note

December-the month of trying to pack 60 days into 31. If you have, children in your life take a pause and enjoy the season. If you don't have young children in your home, invite some in and enjoy the holiday season through their eyes.

While there are many opportunities in our counties for families that may be in need of extra food or gifts for their children, be on the lookout for those families that may be "falling between the cracks" this year. With the increased cost of living, a gas card or grocery card slipped secretly into their mailbox may be a small gift that shows them that others see their struggles and care.

A recent week at the Carroll County Nest saw five families enroll. It is uncommon for five families to enroll in an entire month. Families enrolling were looking for resources to help stretch their family's budget while they welcome a new one into their home.

At this joyous time of giving, be on the lookout for families that need an extra smile, a break from their children or a gas card in their mailbox. It may be a small gesture on your part but just the boost they need during the holiday season.

Happy Holiday's from P4F to you,

Cindy

## Imagination Library Enrollment Begins

Enrollment in Dolly Parton Imagination Library began in Audubon, Carroll and Greene Counties November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Guthrie County already has 200 children enrolled. All enrollment will be done digitally through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library website at:

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/>

If children enrolled before November 28<sup>th</sup> they will receive their first book in January.

Our Community Health Foundation out of Guthrie County Health Services is the Affiliate for the program and we thank them for offering this program in our area. P4F awarded them funding to kick off the program but more funding is needed.

We are currently recruiting Champions in each county to help connect us to funding opportunities. Reach out to Cindy at [p4fchildren@gmail.com](mailto:p4fchildren@gmail.com) for more information



### CCR&R Consultant

Hello,

Are you looking for a new opportunity in a rewarding career?

Come join the Child Care Resource & Referral team as a Child Care Consultant. We have a desk waiting for you in the Carroll office. Employment criteria includes a valid driver's license, a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood or related field, and ability to work occasional evening or Saturday hours. Must enjoy mentoring, consulting, coaching, and delivering

technical assistance to Iowa childcare providers.

This is a 40-hour per week consulting position with West Central Community Action. The position is eligible for group dental, health, and life plans, IPERS and a TSA plan for retirement, 13 paid holidays each year, and generous vacation and sick pay accruals.

For further details regarding the Child Care Consultant position, please contact Deb Martens at [dmartens@westcca.org](mailto:dmartens@westcca.org). To Apply for the Child Care Consultant position: Submit a statement of interest and resume to Angela Bladt at [abladt@westcca.org](mailto:abladt@westcca.org)

### Count the Kicks

[Count the Kicks](#) is a wonderful example of an unfortunate situation happening to some families that was turned to good and is helping mommā's and babies nationwide. Count the Kicks was created based on public health research in [Norway](#) that demonstrated a 30% reduction in stillbirths by teaching pregnant women how to monitor fetal

movement during the third trimester of pregnancy by doing kick counts on a daily basis.

If you or your organization would like to promote Count the Kicks, materials can be ordered on their website and are free of charge in Iowa. They are available in both English and Spanish.

### Gift Giving with Children

Children can be overwhelmed at Christmas with all the activities and different routines. While parents feel the need to do everything and give everything. A rule of thumb to stick to when family members are giving more than one gift can be as simple as:

The 4 Gift Rule:

1. Something a child needs
2. Something a child wants
3. Something for the child to wear and
4. Something for the child to read.

Try it this year with your gift giving.

### P4F Early Childhood Task Force

The next Early Childhood Task Force meeting will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup> in the morning from 9-noon. A location TBD.

children in our area through collaboration.

This meeting will only be held in person.

Topics to be discussed:

Family Needs  
Non-Registered Child Care  
& Other Topics

*Though society is rapidly changing. Child development is not.*

### P4F Mini Grants Awarded

Partnerships 4 Families Early Childhood Iowa Area released a FY23 Mini Grant this fall. A variety of applications were received and awarded. Grants were targeted at funding to address the quality or capacity of an early childhood program or early childhood services in the P4F Area

that includes Audubon, Carroll, Greene and Guthrie Counties.

Grants were awarded to eight projects and included everything from training to assistance with a market study of childcare for a community. The P4F Board appreciated the board range of requests and learned of many needs in our area.

### Local News Sources and Libraries

Do you serve multiple cities or counties?

How do you find out what is going on in the communities you serve?

Have you considered following the local news sources and libraries through their social media outlets?

Many if not all of the local news sources have a social media presence. Some you may be able to get in your inbox or feed and some

you may have to check their websites.

Knowing what is going on in a community or county helps you stay connected to the families and individuals you serve. It can also be a topic of conversation when you meet with them next. .

Libraries also have newsletters or Facebook pages to follow. In addition, encourage families to follow them also for upcoming events to take their children to.

### Community Coalition Meetings

Community coalition meetings are intentional meetings of community members and service providers gathering to network for the benefit of the people they serve. Anyone is welcome to attend.

**Audubon County** meets at 11:30 AM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month in January, April, June & October at the ISU Extension meeting room in Audubon. Their next meeting is: **Wednesday January 11, 2023 at 11:30 AM, We will meet in person and possibly via Zoom.**

**Carroll County** meets at noon on the third Wednesday of every other month. Their next meeting is: **Wednesday at Noon on January 18th @ ISU Extension Meeting Room in Carroll.** *Now meeting every other month. Mental Health Coalition meets on the opposite months*

**Greene County** meets on the first Tuesday of the month at noon at ISU Extension in Jefferson. They do take July & August off. Their next meeting is: **Tuesday December 6, 2022.** We will meet in person and via Zoom.

**Guthrie County** meets at noon four times a year in March, June, September and December on the second Thursday of the month at the ISU Extension meeting room in Guthrie Center. Their next meeting is: **Thursday December 8th at noon.** We will be meeting in person and via Zoom. Cindy D will be sending out a link.

Join us, the success of the meetings are driven by the people attending and the connections that are developed. In addition, invite others to join us.



Partnerships 4 Families  
Early Childhood Iowa  
Area for  
Audubon, Carroll,  
Greene and Guthrie  
Counties

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## P4F Board

The P4F Board meet on November 17, 2022. In attendance was Shanell Wagler from the ECI State Office. She provided an update on the designation process and the mid cycle review that was recently conducted on P4F contracts. She applauded the board for their dedication and consistency as an ECI area.

The Board also received an update from the Child Care Project and evaluated the mini grants received.

The next meeting of the P4F Board is on Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 11:00. The meeting will be held in person at New Opportunities with a Zoom option.

## Meet a P4F Board Member- Rich Stoffers

What's more important than educating, serving, supporting and advocating for kiddos, moms and families!!! As a P4F bd. member and a retired professional educator of 40 years living in Coon Rapids, I genuinely understand how critical it is to ensure that every child (and their families) has the early-care, resources, educational support and collaborative services to be able to have a positive, healthy and successful transition... whether that child is transitioning into a child-care, PreS, PreK or Kindergarten level program!

Our P4F board, all the agencies and all the professionals we work with and contract with; even through a global pandemic; continued to sacrifice, value and commit to our vision, our goals, and much more!  
As far as myself, I'm a huge ISU fan (as is wife Leesa) & Dodger's fan, a lover of Golden Retrievers, and you may see me @ various extra-curricular school events in the 4-Co. area @ anytime/anyplace!! #P4Frocks #ECI #EveryChildSucceeds

Richard Fred Stoffers

### SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH

- ❖ CO-WORKERS
- ❖ EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS
- ❖ PARENTS
- ❖ EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVOCATES

OR FIND IT ON THE WEBSITE AND SHARE THE LINK