



Dear Friends,

First of all, thank you for your interest and ongoing support of the Charlevoix, Emmet and northern Antrim counties Great Start Collaborative! As you know, we are a group made up of parents, clergy, business people and health and human service organization leaders, and our mission to ensure that all children arrive at the kindergarten door ready, willing and able to succeed.

Fiscal year 2009 was a tough, busy one, to be sure. The state budget tested all, but most especially young children and their families. That said, out of trial comes strength, and the good news was that we discovered that by working together passionately we can improve the lives of young learners and their families, and therefore improve Michigan's economic and social future.

The listing below is by no means comprehensive, but it does provide the highlights of the year and demonstrates the hard work and commitment of the GSC and Parent Coalition members.

We wish you all the best as we head into another challenging – and hopefully rewarding – fiscal year.

Great Start of Charlevoix, Emmet & Northern Antrim Counties  
Board of Directors

### Parents as Leaders....



...Leaders Investing in Early Childhood

## GSC Activities

- ✓ Enhanced the GSC website, [www.greatstartforkids.com](http://www.greatstartforkids.com) to offer parents and caregivers increased access to early childhood information and resources for families.
- ✓ Collaborating with Muskegon 2-1-1 call center and the Char-Em United Way to bring work on bringing 2-1-1 to area counties to provide families with instant access to early childhood programs and information.
- ✓ Created and distributed 800 brochures to area agencies, churches, schools, etc. to increase exposure to free health care services for children and families. Radio advertisements were purchased to increase awareness of MI child and Medicaid.
- ✓ Hosted a Community Coffee Hour with State Rep. Gary McDowell and many attendees including Carlin Smith, Executive Director of the Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce, who served as the moderator.
- ✓ Accepted into the Michigan Now Recovery Program to develop a revenue development plan and increase non-profit and collaborative professional development.
- ✓ Participating in an upcoming March 2010 Parent Leadership Conference.
- ✓ Participating in Great Start Regional Child Care Planning Grant.

## Success Stories

- ✓ Welcomed Boyne USA as a new member.
- ✓ Implemented the 0-5 Family Friendly Business Seal of Approval for local businesses supporting early childhood.
- ✓ Created 250 Advocacy and Educational Packets for parents and teachers of the Great Start Readiness Preschool Programs that saw drastic budget cuts.
- ✓ GSC was featured on Mary in the Morning on 106.7 FM.
- ✓ Provided \$500 in gas cards for the Native American Babies conference in Sault St. Marie.
- ✓ Provided over 1,000 child identification kits to 0-5 aged children at health fairs, festivals and events.
- ✓ Provided \$1,000 worth of diapers for children in need.
- ✓ Provided collaborative members with professional development opportunities to attend conferences that aid in the work of the collaborative and support early childhood.
- ✓ Collaborating with the Frey Foundation on a grant to help increase access to social and emotional services for the 0-5 aged population.
- ✓ Increased in-kind donations and monies to support early childhood. Currently over \$12,000 towards February 3, 2009 Project Connect.
- ✓ Hosted a November coloring contest that provided families with sleds, boots and turkey dinners.



### GSC of Charlevoix, Emmet & Northern Antrim Counties

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