

SECA

Reporter

FALL 2006

After the Hurricanes of 2005

In the aftermath of the 2005 hurricane season, the early childhood community banded together to support their colleagues along the Gulf Coast who faced devastation and loss. SECA developed several ways for people to help:

- Providing information about where to send books and supplies.
- Matching supporters with programs that had been affected.
- Collecting financial contributions to be used to support re-development of centers and homes.

The donated books and supplies and "adopt a program" were immediate steps that were taken in 2005 and early 2006. SECA is now moving forward to utilize the donated funds to assist in the rebuilding effort.

The funds donated for Hurricane Relief are being used in the following ways:

- A check was sent to the Early Childhood Association of Florida in early 2006 to assist them in providing grants to the providers in Florida who experienced damage from the hurricanes. ECA of Florida provided grants of \$250 to providers who were members of the Association, and SECA enhanced the funds they had available.
- SECA will purchase math kits from Lakeshore Learning to distribute to the Mississippi Gulf Coast providers who were victims of the storms. These kits will be distributed in a training session scheduled for September 23, 2006 at Gulf Coast Community College. The session is co-sponsored by the Mississippi Early Childhood Association.



Lakeshore Learning has developed these kits especially for SECA and the Hurricane Relief Effort. SECA will donate its book, *Mathematics for Young Children*, for the kits that will go to Mississippi.

As recognition that this effort will continue far longer than one hurricane season, Lakeshore Learning has agreed to make these kits available for sale to its customers and will donate a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the kits to the SECA Disaster Relief Fund. Everyone who purchases a SECA Pre-School Math Kit from Lakeshore Learning will be making a contribution to the well-being of their colleagues in these devastated areas.

Our thanks go to Lakeshore Learning for their sense of corporate responsibility and their desire to support and improve the quality of life for the South's children and families.

Robin Roberts Selected as the 2007 Friend of Children

In recognition of her contribution to the hurricane relief effort, particularly in her hometown of Pass Christian, MS, the SECA Board of Directors selected Ms. Roberts as the 2007 Friend of Children. She is a native of Mississippi and is currently with *Good Morning America*.

The Friend of Children Award is presented by SECA each year to a national figure who has made a significant contribution to the health and well-being of children. Ms. Robert's presence and support during the initial days after the hurricane's devastation brought hope to children and families along the Gulf Coast. The Award will be presented at the 2007 Annual Conference in Jacksonville, Florida.



The SECA Preschool Math Kit

Lakeshore Learning, in conjunction with SECA, has developed the **SECA Preschool Math Kit**. This comprehensive kit contains an array of hands-on materials ideal for preschool settings and

Dr. Jean M. Shaw's book, *Mathematics for Young Children*, from SECA Publishing.

The kit (Item #KT346) includes the following:

- **Early Math Write & Wipe Posters** (6 jumbo write & wipe posters that come with a guide and matching reproducibles)
- **Teddy Bear Counters** (120 bear counters in 3 sizes and colors)
- **Shapes Manipulatives Tub** (over 170 chipboard shapes)
- **Math Links** (set of 500 links in 4 colors)
- **Pattern Blocks** (set of 400 plastic blocks in 6 colors and 6 shapes)
- **Magnetic Numbers** (set of 50 numbers)
- **4 Muffin Trays** for sorting
- **Counting, Patterning and Sorting Mats** (4 each of 3 different mats)
- **3 Children's Books** (*Shapes, Shapes, Shapes/How Many Snails/Button Box*)
- **Teachers Guide**
- **Mathematics for Young Children**

The first of these kits will go to providers in the Mississippi Gulf Coast area, but they will be available in September 2006 to providers across the country. Lakeshore will donate 10% of the proceeds from the sales of this kit to SECA to help support our current and future disaster recovery efforts.

For more information, call Lakeshore at (800) 421-5354 and ask for Customized Learning Solutions.

Program Directors: Education, Salary and Benefits

The *2005 Directors' Salary Survey* was distributed between January and June 2005 by the McCormick Tribune Center for Early Childhood Leadership and Child Care Information Exchange. The survey was designed to gather information about directors' salaries in relationship to their professional qualifications, the program type of their center and their sources of funding.

Some of the findings from those directors who were surveyed .

- Seventy-six percent (76%) of the directors have a minimum of a BA degree. Thirty-two percent (32%) of those have gone on to a graduate degree.
- One-third of the directors (32%) have less than 24 hours in child development or early childhood education.
- Almost one-half (47%) of the directors had less than 3 hours in program management.
- The mean annual salary for an administrator of a single site program was \$42,765.
- The salary differentials were significant based upon the type of program they managed. Directors of for-profit programs were paid less than directors of college or university programs.
- There is a positive correlation between a director's education and salary.
- Less than 2/3 of directors of for-profit and private non-profit programs receive health insurance.
- Only thirty-four percent (34%) of directors of for-profit or private non-profit programs received retirement benefits.

(Source: *Research Notes: A Focused Look at Program Directors: Education, Salary, and Benefits*. Summer 2005, McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership, St. Louis University.)

For more information about research conducted by the McCormick Center, call 800-443-5522, ext. 5060.

Early Care and Education Participation Among Immigrant Families

High quality early childhood education is universally recognized as one significant strategy of assisting at-risk children and preventing school failure. Children of immigrant families are particularly benefited by participating in an early childhood program but less likely to participate in such programs.

The Center for Law and Social Policy published *Reaching All Children? Understanding Early Care and Education Participation Among Immigrant Families* in January 2006. The report gives some statistics that have enormous implications for early childhood education.

One out of every five children in the United States lives in a family with at least one foreign-born parent. According to the 2000 US Census, children in immigrant families are the fastest growing segment of the child population in the United States. Ninety-three percent (93%) of children of immigrants under the age of six are US citizens and will live in the United States permanently.

Children of immigrants are less likely to participate in every type of non-parental care and early education than children of US born citizens.

- The majority of children of immigrants are in parental care or do not have a regular care arrangement.
- Relative care is the most common form of child care.
- Center based care is infrequent.
- Census data suggests that children of immigrants are under-enrolled in preschool.

What factors influence participation of children of immigrants in preschool?

Children of immigrants are:

- More likely to be living in low-income households.
- Have parents with less formal education.
- More likely to live with both parents but less likely to have both parents working.
- Impacted by the nature of immigrant employment.

Top Three Countries of Birth for the Foreign-Born Population in SECA States, 2000

| State | Top Three Countries by State | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Alabama | Mexico (27%) India (5%) | Germany (8%) |
| Arkansas | Mexico (46%) Germany (5%) | El Salvador (6%) |
| Florida | Cuba (24%) Haiti (7%) | Mexico (7%) |
| Georgia | Mexico (33%) Vietnam (4%) | India (5%) |
| Kentucky | Mexico (19%) India (6%) | Germany (8%) |
| Louisiana | Vietnam (15%) Mexico (8%) | Honduras (10%) |
| Mississippi | Mexico (24%) Germany (7%) | Vietnam (8%) |
| Oklahoma | Mexico (43%) Germany (5%) | Vietnam (8%) |
| S Carolina | Mexico (27%) United Kingdom (6%) | Germany (7%) |
| Tennessee | Mexico (28%) India (5%) | Germany (5%) |
| Texas | Mexico (65%) El Salvador (4%) | Vietnam (4%) |
| Virginia | El Salvador (10%) Philippines (6%) | Korea (7%) |
| W Virginia | Germany (9%) United Kingdom (8%) | India (9%) |

Source: *Reaching All Children? Understanding Early Care and Education Participation Among Immigrant Families*, January 2006, Center for Law and Social Policy, Washington, DC.

www.clasp.org

SECA's Community Service Project for 2006-2007



The Board of Directors of the Southern Early Childhood Association is pleased to announce that SECA will be adopting the *Trike-A-Thon* and *Math-A-Thon* programs to help support St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN, as our community service project for 2006-2007.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, founded by the late entertainer Danny Thomas, is the world's premier center for the research and treatment of pediatric cancer and other catastrophic diseases. Children from 50 states and more than 70 countries have come through the doors of St. Jude for treatment, and thousands more around the world have benefited from the research conducted at St. Jude—research that is shared freely and immediately within the global medical community.

The life-saving work performed at St. Jude would not be possible if it were not for the efforts of its volunteers. Every year, thousands of schools, pre-schools, and daycares participate in *Trike-A-Thon* and *Math-A-Thon*, and their efforts result in millions of dollars raised for the hospital. SECA is proud to be a part of the St. Jude family, and we hope that you will consider hosting an event with your students.



Trike-A-Thon

The St. Jude *Trike-A-Thon* is a free, one-week curriculum that teaches children riding-toy safety with a series of interactive stories and lessons featuring a character named Bikewell

Bear. Teachers receive a professionally illustrated storybook designed to help students learn a different safety lesson each day.

At the end of the *Trike-A-Thon* week, students bring their trike or riding-toy to school and practice

all of the rules they have learned. Parents turn in donations collected from friends, family and co-workers. Children learn riding toy safety, help St. Jude, and earn fun prizes for participating.

Every *Trike-A-Thon* coordinator kit includes the storybook, *Bikewell and Pedals' Big Trike Adventure*, which teaches the four major safety rules through daily lessons:

- Always wear your helmet.
- Don't ride in the street.
- Always be careful around driveways.
- Always watch where you are going.

Every student that participates in *Trike-A-Thon* will receive a Bikewell Bear license. St. Jude also offers fundraising awards for students and schools.

To help you implement the *Trike-A-Thon* program, SECA has developed a **teacher's guide** with some additional teaching strategies and activities that will assist you in making this a productive learning experience for your children. To access the teacher's guide, go to our Web site at www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org and click on the "Curriculum Ideas" page.



Math-A-Thon

Math-A-Thon is a supplemental math education program for grades K-9 that also serves as a fundraiser for St. Jude

Children's Research Hospital. The program is a free curriculum. St. Jude provides all of the materials and incentive awards for participating students and coordinators.

How can Math-A-Thon help my students?

- *Math-A-Thon* is an entertaining and educational way for students to review their standard math skills and prepare for state testing.
- *Math-A-Thon* is a great way for students to exercise problem-solving skills and improve their critical thinking.
- *Math-A-Thon* is a great way to teach students about the social importance of being a volunteer.

- *Math-A-Thon* teaches students about technology, allowing the students to take their fundraising efforts online. Students can create their own fundraising Web pages on the *Math-A-Thon WIRED* site, a safe and secure online fundraising portal for teachers and coordinators.

What does St. Jude provide?

- Sponsorship materials to help students collect pledges based on the problems they solve in the *Math-A-Thon* Funbook.
- The *Math-A-Thon* Funbook, available for grades K-9, contains over 250 problems in each workbook. Teachers can choose between the printed Funbook and a CD-ROM version.
- Every student who participates in *Math-A-Thon* will receive a Certificate of Achievement. St. Jude also offers fundraising awards for students and schools.

How do I get involved?

It's easy!

For more information you can go to these Web sites:

www.stjude.org/trike
www.mathathon.org

When you're ready to start either a **Trike-A-Thon** or a **Math-A-Thon** project, call **1-800-573-9564** and the St. Jude team will send the program materials your way.

St. Jude has a great team of Coordinator Support Representatives who will assist you to make sure your event is a success.

This is a wonderful way to teach your children about being a volunteer and helping others. The materials are free. All it takes is your commitment to make the event happen!

The South is indeed fortunate to have St. Jude Children's Research Hospital located in our midst. Let's do our part to assist them in their life-saving work. Call St. Jude today and start your *Trike-A-*

Thon or *Math-A-Thon* project. You'll have a great event and your children will learn the value of helping others.

What Do We Know About Public Schools With Pre-kindergarten?

Schools with these characteristics are more likely to offer pre-kindergarten classes:

- ✓ Most children are eligible for free and reduced lunch.
- ✓ High levels of minority enrollment.
- ✓ Larger enrollments.
- ✓ Located in the Southeast.
- ✓ Located in cities.

(Source: Child Trends Databank)

For a copy of the full report, go to www.childtrendsdatabank.org/indicators and search for *Public Schools with Pre-kindergarten and Special Education Pre-kindergarten Programs*.

Dimensions of Early Childhood Adds New Feature

In the spring/summer 2006 edition of *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, we introduced a new feature entitled, *Put These Ideas Into Practice!*

We've asked the authors of the articles in *Dimensions* to put together some practical tips on how to take the information in their articles and make it work in your classroom. The pages are designed to be copied and distributed to staff.

Make Sure You Cast Your Vote!

By the time you receive this newsletter, you should have already received your ballot to vote for the next SECA President-Elect. We've made it as simple for you as possible by creating a tear-off ballot with postage paid. All you have to do is mark it and put it in the mail.

Remember, only **YOU**, a SECA member, can determine the leadership of SECA during the next two years!

Clean Water Tour Down the Mississippi

Marine-life artist Wyland is bringing his annual Clean Water tour, *Barging Down the Mississippi*, to the South and will be making several stops in SECA states. The Wyland Foundation is promoting healthy habitats, for people and wildlife, and that starts with clean water.

The 29-day tour in October 2006 will begin at the headwaters of the Mississippi, and stops will be made in Little Rock, Memphis, Jackson, and New Orleans. The tour is a wonderful way to introduce your children to the natural resources of your state, the rich history of the Mississippi River and its impact on the South.

For more information about dates and activities go to the *Calendar* page at www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org or visit www.wylandfoundation.org. (You'll find information about each event listed as **Clean Water Tour** in the month of October 2006 on the SECA calendar.)

The Healing Power of Touch

The Child Trauma Academy has a newsletter that provides good information on therapeutic interventions for maltreated children. The June/July 2006 issue of the newsletter has articles on *The Healing Power of Touch* and *The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog*.

Dr. Bruce Perry, M.D., Ph D. is one of the founders of the Academy. For more information about subscribing to the newsletter, go to www.ChildTrauma.org. The newsletter is available in electronic format.

**2005 SECA Annual Report
Available at
www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org**

Protecting Children from a Flu Pandemic

If you are watching the news, you've been seeing news bulletins about a possible "bird flu" pandemic that may be coming our way. Although it hasn't happened yet, many groups in the United States are planning to ensure that we're ready in case something of that seriousness and magnitude develops.

The Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta have developed a *Child Care and Preschool Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist* that is available on their website at www.cdc.gov. Check under the School Planning button on the Pandemic Flu section.

The checklist contains check-offs about planning and coordination, student learning and program operations, infection control policies and actions and communications planning that includes a statement about family planning for an epidemic. These are all things that you can do **NOW** to be sure you're ready in case this ever becomes an issue.

Additionally, Glenda Bean, Executive Director of SECA, is a member of the CDC Child Care Planning Committee that is working to develop further resources for the child care community. We'll pass along information as it becomes available.

No one wants to envision that a flu pandemic might be coming but good planning is the best way to be prepared. Get the checklist today and make sure you're ready to act if it should be necessary.



Interested in attending SECA 2007?

Go to www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org and click on the "Conference" button to get a preliminary agenda, information on keynote speakers and special events.

Don't miss out!

What's Happening in the SECA States

Arkansas

The State of Arkansas is showing a record surplus of \$600 million from tax collections in 2006 and Governor Huckabee has expressed his desire to refund that surplus to taxpayers. Lawmakers are discussing whether the surplus might be more effectively utilized and expanding the ABC program (the state pre-K) has been mentioned. Future tax cuts to reduce the surplus are also being discussed.

Florida

When children start kindergarten in August, they will be tested with the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener, a new assessment in 2006. The Screener uses two components of the DIBELS assessment and parts of the Early Childhood Observation System developed by Harcourt Assessment, Inc.

Kentucky

Programs have been notified that early childhood accreditation provided by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools will be accepted for the "Excellence" requirements for public schools and for licensed centers who are working through the Quality Rating System. NAEYC accreditation is also accepted.

Mississippi

The State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Hank M. Bounds provided an editorial in the *Daily Times Leader* that included strengthening pre-kindergarten programs as one strategy to promote education. He recommended that the state fund at least a pilot program if it could not fund a statewide program. Mississippi currently has no pre-K program.

The Early Childhood Institute at Mississippi State is sponsoring *Project Joy*, a training program to help providers understand the impact of childhood trauma and how to use play to support the social-emotional development of children.

Oklahoma

The Oklahoma State Department of Education has developed a pre-kindergarten language screening test for English Language Learners and bilingual students. The tool will be available for the 2006 school year.

South Carolina

South Carolina lawmakers dedicated \$23.6 million to creating 4-year-old programs in 2006. The money falls short of the Superintendent's request of \$100 million. The program will serve 8200 children from low-income families who currently don't have access to a pre-K program.

Tennessee

Governor Phil Bredesen announced the addition of \$20 million to the state's pre-K program for the 2006-2007 school year. 136 Tennessee school systems will receive state funding to add pre-K classrooms. Each new classroom is expected to cost about \$100,000.

Texas

San Antonio mayor, Phil Hardberger, convened a summit this summer to develop strategies to move the community forward. Early childhood education was recommended as one of three strategies.

Virginia

Governor Timothy Kaine convened a 23-member panel, called the Start Strong Pre-K Council, that will examine preschool services statewide and recommend ways to make early childhood education an option for all families.

West Virginia

Marshall University has received a \$300,000 grant to provide professional development and assistance to pre-school teachers. The program will be offered statewide.

SOUTHERN EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 55930 • Little Rock, AR 72215-5930
Toll Free: 800-305-7322 • www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org

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*Embracing
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For more information go to
www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org
and click on "Conference"

Registration packets will be mailed to all SECA members in September 2006.