MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

2002 Progress Report

Outcomes, Indicators and Strategic Community Initiatives
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Dear Community Member,

Four years ago, the Montgomery County Family and Children First Council began a series of annual reports to the community with the publication of *Turning the Curve*. With each report, the Council honors its pledge to inform the community about progress in achieving the positive results we all desire for children and families. On behalf of the Council, it is now my pleasure to present our 2002 Progress Report, the fifth in our series.

The positive results that we are seeking have been captured by the Council in a set of “Desired Community Outcomes” that, together, spell out our vision for the community. Under each outcome, the Council has identified a small number of measurable indicators for which annual data are available. The trends that emerge by tracking these indicators provide a means of gauging our progress as a community. We are happy to report that, overall, a majority of the indicators are in a better position now than when our first Report was issued.

This encouraging news, however, must be put in perspective. For one thing, even though an indicator is moving in the desired direction, it may still be far from an acceptable level. Even more distressing are those indicators that are not moving in the desired direction.

Soon after publishing our first Report, the Council recognized the need for action. In response to some of the negative trends in the data, we launched three Strategic Community Initiatives. In prior Reports, the Champions leading the initiatives discussed the early work of their teams and provided updates. This year’s Report highlights some of their accomplishments: parents and caregivers exposed to the “Easy Steps to Grow Great Kids;” young people benefiting from the Mentoring Collaborative; court and law enforcement personnel linked via the Family Violence Multi-Jurisdictional Database; students staying in school because of the “Education—Think About It” (truancy prevention) public information campaign; diverse agencies working for a common goal through the Family Violence Coordinating Council; and families enriched by the “Parents as Teachers” program.

The Council thanks all of the team members for their efforts on behalf of children and families. Their collaborative attempt to solve tough problems reminds us that the responsibility to “turn the curve” and to seek better results belongs to all of us.

Sincerely,

Laurence P. Harkness
President and Chief Executive Officer,
The Children’s Medical Center
Chair, Montgomery County Family and Children First Council
The work of the School Readiness / School Success / 4th Grade Guarantee Initiative Team, which began in 1999, is based on the belief that the early years are critical to a child’s optimal social, physical, emotional and cognitive development. This foundational development, furthermore, is the first step in helping children achieve maximum readiness for school. The results of the state-mandated fourth-grade school proficiency test help to illustrate what a serious problem the lack of school readiness is. According to the most recent information provided by the Ohio Department of Education, only 53 percent of Montgomery County children passed the fourth-grade reading proficiency test.

Based on recommendations by the School Readiness team, programs are now in place throughout Montgomery County to teach and emphasize the importance of parental action during the early years to maximize child development and increase the child’s readiness for school. Following is a summary of progress made in 2002:

### Easy Steps to Grow Great Kids

The Easy Steps to Grow Great Kids public awareness campaign, now in its third year, continued in 2002 to remind parents and caregivers that they are the first “teachers” of the children in their care. The message is that every form of interaction adults have with children can help prepare them for success in school.

Through a variety of media—including billboards, RTA bus ads, radio & TV spots, and special events—advice and details related to each of the six “steps” are being communicated to our target audience and the community as a whole. Throughout 2002, a variety of printed materials were distributed within the community, including fact sheets (over 65,000), a brochure (over 200,000), a resource guide (over 150,000) and more. Over 30,000 copies of the ten-minute Easy Steps video were distributed, many incorporated into educational outreach programs. Numerous newspaper ads were run and the Easy Steps Web site (www.easysteps.chisano.com) continued to support the campaign’s community outreach component and to allow citizens to place orders for free materials.
Parents as Teachers

In 2002, the Parents as Teachers program continued to operate in five target school districts: Dayton, Jefferson, Northridge, Trotwood-Madison, and Valley View. The programs for Northridge, Jefferson and Valley View are administered by the Montgomery County Educational Services Center. This program teaches parents how to be better teachers at home to their preschool-aged children. A Parents as Teachers professional assesses the learning level of the child and prepares an appropriate lesson plan. This lesson plan is then taught to the parent, so they may teach it to the child.

At the end of 2002, enrollment in the Parents as Teachers program had risen to:
- Dayton: 52 children
- Trotwood-Madison: 26 children
- Northridge, Jefferson, Valley View (through MCESC): 123 children

Urban Literacy Institute

The School Readiness initiative team also provided funding to the Wright State University Urban Literacy Institute. The Institute is working with Dayton Public Schools to empower teachers with best practices and technology to advance literacy performance in order to help students increase their reading performance. Teachers in three schools—Belle Haven, E.J. Brown and Eastmont—have been identified for participation in this program.

TEAM ROSTER

Thomas G. Breitenbach, Champion .......... Premier Health Partners
Shauna Adams, Ed.D. ............................. University of Dayton
William H. Bines, MS ............................ Combined Health District
Pat Buckingham ............................... Centerville Board of Education
Craig Chancellor ....................... United Way of the Greater Dayton Area
Tim Currier ......................... ADAMHS Board of Montgomery County
Bro. Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., Ph.D. ................ University of Dayton
Maribeth A. Graham ......................... The Iddings Foundation
Ann Granger .............................. Buckeye Trails Girl Scout Council
Laurence P. Harkness ....................... The Children's Medical Center
Sue Koverman ............................... Community Volunteer
Judge Nick Kuntz ............................ Montgomery County Juvenile Court
Joseph A. Lambright ............ American Red Cross, Dayton Chapter
Robert D. Lantz, Ph.D.* ........ Mont. Co. Educational Service Center
Jerrie L. Bascome McGill, Ph.D. ............. Dayton Public Schools
Nancy Reder ............................ Mont. Co. Early Intervention Consortium/Starting Point
Stephen A. Rice .............................. Community Volunteer
Gail S. Rowe ............................... Dayton Public Schools
Marilyn E. Thomas* ........ Miami Valley Child Development Centers
Liane Wagner ......................... Community Volunteer

Staff: Cindy Currell .......... Montgomery County Children Services

* Retired
Attending school regularly and graduating are keys to a successful future and lead to many desirable outcomes, including significantly higher income and better economic opportunities. Yet, too many young people in Montgomery County are not succeeding in school or graduating from high school. The Alternative Learning Opportunities Team (A.L.O.T.) accepted the challenge of helping youth in Montgomery County overcome barriers to school success, graduation, and future self-sufficiency in the areas of:

- Truancy/chronic absenteeism
- Grade retention
- Assessment
- Providing youth with challenges
- Program choice
- Adult support
- Career exploration opportunities

During 2002, the A.L.O.T. continued truancy prevention efforts through direct marketing and community outreach. More than 2,500 people visited the newly created Web site for students and parents, www.SchoolIsWorthIt.org. The Montgomery County Mentoring Collaborative continued its efforts to focus our community on the need for more mentors throughout Montgomery County. The A.L.O.T. also issued its final report in May 2002, which provided a framework for future work.

Following is a summary of progress made in 2002 in all these areas:

**Truancy Prevention**

The award-winning Education—Think About It public awareness campaign was successful in reaching several hundred thousand people through traditional advertising as well as numerous targeted community outreach activities. These included events at recreational facilities, teen clubs and concerts, and cooperative efforts with 600 local schools, libraries, community centers, and social service agencies. Over 115,000 teen cards (with phone numbers of local teen resources), 150,000 campaign brochures (containing family resource directory), 7,400 posters, 6,000 promotional items, and 1,600 videos were distributed during the campaign. The videos also were played on video kiosks at various locations and events.

The Sinclair Fast Forward Center estimated that the A.L.O.T.'s Education—Think About It campaign generated at least 1,500 contacts with Fast Forward staff through promotion of the 512-FAST phone number. The campaign's teen TV commercial won the 2002 Hermes Gold Award from the Dayton Advertising Club and the entire Education—Think About It campaign won the 2002 Hermes Silver Award.
Mentoring Collaborative

The Montgomery County Mentoring Collaborative continued helping to link caring adult mentors to the children who need them. Operated by the Montgomery County Educational Service Center, the Mentoring Collaborative is a central resource to 43 local partner agencies which provide mentors for youth. During 2002, the Collaborative provided mentor-focused activities such as the monthly Partners’ Roundtable, funded background checks for potential mentors, developed a Mentor Dividend Card to provide lower cost activities for mentors and their mentees, increased the supply of potential mentors through presentations and mentor recruitment activities such as the Riverscape Lite Lunch series, and helped support and sustain successful mentoring relationships in Montgomery County. Potential mentors can sign up to be matched with local mentoring programs through www.mentoring-collaborative.org.

A.L.O.T. Final Report

After two and one-half years of work, the Alternative Learning Opportunities Team issued its final report in May 2002. The A.L.O.T. estimated that up to 15 percent of children enrolled in public schools in Montgomery County may be at risk of school failure and be in need of alternatives, either in the traditional classroom or in alternative classrooms. Meeting nontraditional needs of students to
help them succeed could include employing different teaching methods in the traditional classroom (or elsewhere in a traditional school) or establishing different settings. The A.L.O.T. found that there are not enough nontraditional learning opportunities in our community for those who could benefit from them.

Recommendations. After significant dialogue with the educational, social services, law enforcement, and juvenile justice communities, review of successful local and national best practices, and other input, the A.L.O.T. recommendations include:

- Community supports to help students succeed in school
- Resources targeted to youth with early warning signs of school failure
- The creation of effective assessment tools to identify learning difficulties and academic remediation needs as early as possible
- Training for current and future teachers to reach nontraditional learners
- Advocacy for additional funds and alternative-education-friendly laws to ensure that students are given the opportunity to learn in the setting that best meet their needs
- The Youth Council of the Montgomery County Workforce Policy Board should continue the work begun by the Alternative Learning Opportunities Team

Action by the Youth Council

The Youth Council accepted the A.L.O.T. report in July 2002. An Ad Hoc Committee worked quickly to develop a plan to implement the A.L.O.T. recommendations. This plan was accepted by the Youth Council in November 2002. The A.L.O.T.’s recommendations were divided into three responsibility areas:

- Responsibility of the Youth Council
- Responsibility of the Public and Private Schools in Montgomery County
- Responsibility of Another Agency or the Community at Large

The Youth Council’s implementation plan provides an appropriate course of action for the future, including continued focus on truancy prevention and mentoring in our community.

TEAM ROSTER

John E. Moore, Champion .......................... Community Leader
Joseph B. Baldasare* ............................. United Rehabilitation Services
Samuel C. Brewer* ............................... Trotwood-Madison City Schools
Lt. Col. John Compston ............................. Dayton Police Department
Dannetta Graves ................................. Montgomery County Dept. of Job and Family Services
Ann B. Higdon ................................. Improved Solutions for Urban Systems, Inc.
Jeanine Hufford ................................. Mathile Family Foundation
Learwinson Jackson ............................... Trade & Tech Prep Charter School
Clarence W. Jarboe ............................... Northridge Local School District
Carla L. Lakatos ................................. Miami Valley Regional Transit Authority
Ann Levert-Lowe* ................................. Dayton Public Schools
Amy Luttrell ................................. Goodwill Industries of Dayton
Judge Michael B. Murphy ........................ Montgomery County Juvenile Court
Sandra K. Pierce ................................. Parker, Carlson & Johnson
Mary D. Pryor, M.D. ............................... Oakwood Health Commissioner
Catherine Rauch ................................. Miami Valley Teen Coalition
Margaret Sandberg ............................... Dayton Public Schools
Frederick C. Smith ................................. Huffy Foundation
Joseph L. Szoke ................................. ADAMHS Board of Mont. Co.
Donald Thompson ................................. Montgomery County Educational Service Center
Donald A. Vermillion ............................. Sinclair Community College/University of Dayton
Joyce C. Young ................................. Community Volunteer

Staff:
Diane Luteran ................................. Office of Family and Children First

*Prior participants
Work continued on the prevention of family violence in 2002, with the development and implementation of the Domestic Violence Database along with other related activities. The initiative team worked very hard to develop a better understanding of family violence and the factors that make this complex issue so challenging. The team has identified four goals:

- Eliminate repeat violent offenders
- Promote the “buy in” of the criminal justice system to the existing protocols regarding violence
- Create a Family Violence Coordinating Council
- While zero tolerance is the vision, we must progress toward that goal by developing a consistent message about what’s tolerable in this community

**Domestic Violence Database**

This multi-jurisdictional database will allow law enforcement and the justice system to be more aware of the complete family violence history of the perpetrators they deal with. It will also act as a repository for evidence so that it may be more efficiently and effectively used for court proceedings.

Phase I of this project is well underway. It involves court clerks traveling throughout the court system and inputting family violence case information. The daily input of information regarding domestic violence incidents began in the spring of 2002 when Dan Foley, Clerk of Courts, assigned two data entry clerks to begin inputting information from Area Courts 1 and 2 and from the Dayton Municipal Court. By fall, Kettering, Miamisburg and Vandalia Municipal Courts joined the database. To date, approximately 20,000 cases have been input into the system. Oakwood Municipal Court is now also a part of the system.

Prosecutors, judges, police agencies and child welfare workers will begin training on the database in early 2003. As the Clerk of Courts, Dan Foley will continue to work with FCFC to assure the database’s smooth implementation.

Phase II of this project involves the “warehousing” of current domestic violence data from each court’s MIS system into the domestic violence database. This phase is expected to be completed by fall of 2003, allowing the system to hold up to 10 years worth of data.

**Coordinated Community Response**

The Initiative Team also met to discuss how to achieve a coordinated response from the community regarding the elimination of family violence. Conducting training with the criminal
justice system on the domestic violence protocols made progress toward this goal.

**Family Violence Coordinating Council**

The team began work on the third goal of creating a Family Violence Coordinating Council by looking at the current efforts that exist in Montgomery County. Ten organizations were identified as currently being involved with family violence. Small groups tackled issues such as how a coordinating council would function and, in relation to the fourth goal, whether there is consensus regarding the level of violence the community would tolerate.

With the domestic violence database operational, we will continue in 2003 to move toward our goal of helping to stabilize families by making homes free from violence. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to the public officials who have expressed commitment to this initiative and to all those individuals who have worked to make our community a better place to live for all citizens.

**TEAM ROSTER**

Vicki D. Pegg, Champion ........... Montgomery County Commission  
Debra Armanini ................. Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office  
Donna Audette ....................... Shelter Services/YWCA  
The Honorable Richard Bannister .... Vandalia Municipal Court  
Ken Betz ......................... Montgomery County Coroner’s Office  
Kate Cauley ...................... Center for Healthy Communities  
The Honorable Denise Martin Cross .... Montgomery County Domestic Relations Court  
James Dare ..................... Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas/Probation Dept.  
Dr. James H. Davis ............. Montgomery County Coroner's Office  
Ronald A. Eckerle, Ph.D. ............... Catholic Social Services  
Lars Egede-Nissen ............... Planned Parenthood  
Dan Foley .................. Montgomery County Clerk of Courts  
Kriss Haren ....................... Womanline of Dayton, Inc.  
Dianne Herman .................. Artemis Center, Inc.  
Lisa Hermans ............ Ombudsman's Office / Long Term Care  
Charlie Holderman ............ Montgomery County Adult Protective Services  
Kathleen K. Hoyn ............... Deloitte & Touche  
Helen Jones-Kelley .......... Montgomery County Children Services  
Judith A. LaMusga .......... Montgomery County Board of MR/DD  
James Levinson ............... Montgomery County Prosecutor’s Office  
Deidre Logan ............ City of Dayton Municipal Court Prosecutor  
Pat Mayer .................. Area Agency on Aging  
Douglas McGarry ............... Area Agency on Aging  
Linda Mercuri-Fischbach .... Womanline of Dayton, Inc.  
Sharon Minturn ............. Senior Resource Connection  
Idotha Bootsie Neal .......... City of Dayton Commission  
Bonnie Parish ............... Family Services Association  
Chief Deputy Tony Rankin ........ Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office  
Gregory Rozelle ............. Combined Health District  
Patti Schwartztrauber .......... Artemis Center, Inc.  
Joseph Szoke ............... ADAMHS Board of Montgomery County  
Dave Vore ............... Montgomery County Sheriff  
Deb Wenig ................. League of Women Voters  
Gary J. Weston .............. Legal Aid Society of Dayton  

Staff:  
Ann Johnson ............. Montgomery County Commission Assistant  
Ed McNachtan ............. Office of Family and Children First
**Community-Based Projects**

The Family and Children First Council acts as an agent for the State of Ohio for several grants to the community. The FCFC uses this role to ensure local collaborative decision-making for these state initiatives. These grants are currently provided to a variety of community agencies for services including teenage pregnancy prevention and to provide support for the families of children ages 0 – 3 who have, or are at risk for, developmental delays or disabilities.

**Teenage Pregnancy Prevention**

FCFC administered various teenage pregnancy prevention efforts in 2002. There are many statistics that illustrate the effects that teenage pregnancy has on individuals, families and communities. The aggregate results of teenage pregnancy are seen in reduced educational attainment, diminished economic resources and increased chances of involvement with the juvenile court system by both the young women who become pregnant and the children born of these pregnancies, when compared to women who were not pregnant as teenagers. Other family members also feel the ripple effects of teenage pregnancy.

The Family and Children First Council feels that this information is well founded and is making local decisions with state funding to provide interventions. Funding is currently focused through the Buckeye Trails Girl Scout Council, Catholic Social Services, the Dayton Urban League, Family Services Association and Planned Parenthood to provide mentoring, life skills development and education on healthy behaviors.
FCFC continued to administer the Help Me Grow program in 2002. Funded by the State of Ohio, Help Me Grow is a program for both expectant parents and parents of newborns, infants and toddlers under age three and their families. Families access these services through one central intake and referral phone number. By calling Starting Point at 237-0123, families receive initial support and information about the available voluntary services.

Services for newborns currently begin with a first home visit by Fidelity Home Care, Kettering Medical Center or Southview Maternity Home Health staff to provide information, answer questions and make an early assessment of any developmental needs of the infant. If this visit suggests that further services may be appropriate, the family is referred to the Montgomery County Educational Services Center for follow up and case planning. This case plan is individualized for the family depending on the level of risk or prevailing developmental delay or disability. The Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association’s Brighter Futures program also provides a counterpart program which begins prenatally and includes all services.

Help Me Grow provides valuable information about child health, wellness, immunizations, nutrition and developmental delays and disabilities. Over 3,000 families from throughout Montgomery County received services from the Help Me Grow program in 2002.
The Family and Children First Council provides support to projects that are designed to enhance the human services system throughout Montgomery County by improving knowledge, information and service delivery. Staffing for these activities is provided by the Office of Family and Children First.

AgencyLink

AgencyLink is a technology project which includes a variety of computer applications that are seamlessly integrated. Its purpose is to link social service providers throughout Montgomery County to better meet the needs of their clients and to improve the overall system. AgencyLink will support secure, collaborative and efficient social service delivery by improving delivery of services, providing better data for strategic planning, and an improved basis for service needs analysis.

AgencyLink’s infrastructure was put in place and tested in 2002. The .net software technology tools will be tested in 2003 through the pilot use of the Resource Directory and On-line Community modules. This infrastructure also currently facilitates the Family Violence Database that is in pilot stage and will ultimately connect other collaborative community activities, including Case Management. Further AgencyLink information may be gained by visiting www.agencylink.org.

Diversity Awareness and Cultural Competency

The Dayton Dialogue on Race Relations is an initiative that began in 2000. Its goals are to improve race relations, eradicate racism and create a harmonious Miami Valley community that understands, appreciates and values the diverse strengths and dreams of its residents. These characteristics, ideally, would be demonstrated in strong, positive interpersonal and economic relationships. The focus is to provide long-term solutions to racial division in the form of healing, reconciliation and understanding through action.

This collaborative initiative has received the support and input from all facets of the Miami Valley community. The Family and Children First Council has partnered with the Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners to provide financial assistance to these efforts.
Juvenile Sex Offender Management

The Juvenile Sex Offender Management Steering Committee was formed by the FCFC to recommend local strategies for enhanced treatment and management of juvenile sex offenders. Youth who have been found guilty of these offenses have highly specialized supervision and usually remain on probation for 18 to 24 months.

On January 1, 2002, the Juvenile Sex Offender Registration Notification bill went into effect in the state of Ohio. The committee has been involved in recommending policies to implement the legislation and in related training. Several activities were completed in 2002 to respond appropriately to case management requirements. Montgomery County Juvenile Court trained a probation officer to manage its juvenile sex offender caseload. A juvenile sex offender assessment protocol is being developed in response to requests by community service providers. Committee members also continue to train agencies in the use of a “red flag” screening tool that helps identify youth who may share common characteristics with adjudicated sex offenders.

Resource Mapping

The Office of Family and Children First has collected spending information from a variety of human services agencies since 1998. This data has been examined and organized through the use of consistent filters (templates) to depict how resources in Montgomery County have been utilized. The templates allow OFCF to sort program resources by both their fit to each of the Six FCFC Community Outcomes and their Prevention/Intervention level.

The prevention level model presumes that services are provided at three levels of intervention. Prevention occurs before a problem presents. Selective Prevention/Early Intervention targets individuals or groups that are at-risk. Intervention/Treatments are provided after the issue has presented.

In 1998, OFCF started this process with $751 million in mapped resources. This amount increased to $1 billion in 2001 with the addition of Dayton Public Schools Educational At-Risk Funds and Criminal Justice Fund from the County and all of the cities throughout the county since the first mapping.

OFCF will continue to expand this project under the guidance of FCFC by identifying additional human service-related funds that are utilized in Montgomery County.
Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M. Ph.D. Award

The Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M. Ph.D. Award was established by the FCFC in 2001 to honor Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., former president of the University of Dayton, for his years of leadership and service to the community.

Brother Fitz served as the first chair of the FCFC from 1996 to 1999. He also served as Chair of the New Futures/Youth and Family Collaborative for the Greater Dayton Area from 1994 - 1995, and was co-chair of the Child Protection Task Force. The Award is intended to recognize someone who exemplifies Brother Fitz’s extraordinary dedication to the cause of nurturing and protecting children and families by his or her everyday efforts in the community.

The winner of the 2002 Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., Ph.D. Award was Ronald Reigelsperger, an employee of the Montgomery County Juvenile Court for 27 years. After three years as a traditional probation officer, he requested a transfer into Building Bridges because he believed he could have a greater impact on the lives of court-involved youth within the advocacy structure of this program. He has been with Building Bridges/Community-Based Services Program ever since, and is currently the Supervisor for the Community-Based Services Unit.

Throughout his 25 years working for and supervising the Building Bridges component of Community-Based Services, Ron never rested on his laurels. He constantly strove for more for each youth and family. If a youth was not responding to his direction and plan, he changed the direction. If the youth was responding, Ron pushed harder to further engage him/her. Ron thought of and interacted with each of his probationers the same way he did with each of his own children. Childhood is a resource Ron will not allow to be squandered. The refrain heard consistently from probationers referred to him in the past is: “he stuck with me through thick and thin … he never gave up on me.”
Simply put, the purpose of the Montgomery County Family and Children First Council is to help the community achieve its shared vision—that Montgomery County is a place where families, children and adults live in safe, supportive neighborhoods, care for and respect one another, value each other, and succeed in school, the workplace and life.

Serving as the lead collaborative for human services, the Council has focused on getting increasingly positive results for children and families as we strive to achieve the vision. This means asking a lot of questions:

“How are children and families doing?”

“Are conditions improving or getting worse?”

“How well do the community’s programs and services work?”

“Are we spending our resources in the most effective manner?”

“What can and should we do differently?”

These questions are aimed at maintaining and improving the overall quality of life for the people who live here. Asking these questions is easy but answering them can be difficult, partly because “quality of life” is a subjective term and there is no easy way to measure it. However, as our shared vision demonstrates, it is possible to reach consensus on a general description. We can then identify some specific attributes that are measurable.

With the release of Turning the Curve in 1998, the Council began this series of annual reports and introduced some tools that not only measure our progress but also focus our discussion about things we can do as we strive for better results. The tools—Outcomes, Indicators, Milestones and Targets—are discussed below:

**Outcomes**

- Healthy People
- Young People Succeeding
- Stable Families
- Positive Living for Special Populations
- Safe and Supportive Neighborhoods
- Economic Self-Sufficiency

(See Page 19 for a description of each Outcome.) Collectively, these Outcomes can be said to capture our shared vision.

Because of their general nature, Outcomes do not lend themselves to measurement. Therefore, in order to quantify the achievement of the Outcomes, we have selected some measurable attributes of the community to use as **Indicators**. They serve as proxies for the Outcomes. While there may be hundreds of potential or available Indicators, in Montgomery County we have chosen to begin with a small number for each Outcome. The reasoning is that if these few Indicators are moving in the desired direction from year to year, then other related Indicators are also moving in the desired direction and we are making progress toward achieving that Outcome.

The most useful Indicators are intuitively understood, reflect something basic about their associated Outcome, and are ones for which data are available or obtainable. To make them more useful, we have, whenever possible, assembled data that not only reflect our own history but also enable us to compare...
This work had its start in March 1996 when the Council began to operate. One of the very first things it did was to embrace results-based accountability by charging an Outcomes Committee with examining what other communities were doing in this area and with developing a local set of Outcomes and Indicators. Guided by the Council’s feedback, the Committee prepared a working draft that the Council approved in November 1996.

At that point, the Committee expanded and intensive data collection and analysis began. In September 1997, the Council received a revised working draft which included trend data. The Outcomes Committee continued to revise and refine the document and, in March 1998, “passed the torch” to the newly appointed Accountability Committee.

With the publication of *Turning the Curve* later that year, the Council formally adopted the tools discussed above as well as the Targets recommended by the Accountability Committee. The Council continues to honor its pledge to issue regular reports on the community’s progress in achieving the Outcomes.

**How Is Improvement Measured?**

1. Articulate Outcomes
2. Identify, track and report Indicator data
3. Set Targets
4. Monitor progress along Milestones
ourselves to other large counties in Ohio, to the state as a whole, and to the nation.

**Targets** represent the goals for the Indicators in the near-term future. The ideal Target can be considered a “stretch goal” for an Indicator; in other words, a value that the Indicator can reach with a fair amount of intention and effort. Depending on the Indicator, the Target may be a specific value and/or a relative rank in comparison to Ohio’s other urban counties. The Targets were set in the inaugural Report (1998) with next year’s Report (2003) in mind.

**Milestones** provide an approximate way of determining whether progress toward a given Target is sufficiently aggressive during the reporting periods prior to the 2003 Report.

**How are we doing?**

Having tracked Indicator data for several years allows us to suggest some answers to questions like “How are children and families doing?”

We can begin with the short-term trends—the direction of the change when comparing the most recent data with the preceding year’s data. We label a trend as being in the desired direction if either the value or the rank (where both are applicable) has moved toward the Target, or if the value has remained unchanged.

Using this definition, we observe that ten trends (out of 17) are in the desired direction. In the 2001 report, 11 trends were reported as being in the desired direction, while eight such trends were reported in the 2000 Report and 11 such trends were reported in the 1999 Report.

In other words, more than half of the Indicators (on average) have moved in the desired direction in any given year—meaning that almost half of the Indicators do not move in the desired direction in any given year. While it would seem from this year-to-year comparison that every step forward is matched by a step backward, a slightly different observation can be gained with a longer-term perspective.

First we note that some of the Indicators in our first Report are no longer tracked (for example, the 12th-grade proficiency tests were discontinued) and that two current Indicators (those for the Positive Living for Special Populations Outcome) were not part of the first Report.

When we look at the remaining Indicators, we see that one Indicator has moved in the desired direction each of the four years since the release of *Turning the Curve*, and another nine Indicators have made a net move in the desired direction since then. In other words, ten of the 14 Indicators that have been tracked since our first Report have improved over that time.

This is a slightly more encouraging observation than that reached by the short-term year-to-year comparison. They both add up to the sobering conclusion that the conditions facing children and families merit our continued vigilance. This conclusion is reinforced by the fact that many of the Indicators which have improved are still far from an acceptable level.

**What has the Council done?**

After publishing *Turning the Curve*, the Council looked at these data and other information and identified a number of issues facing the community. Seeking to have a dramatic impact on these issues, the Council launched three Strategic Community Initiatives in areas determined to be of the highest priority:

- Promoting School Readiness and Fourth Grade Success
- Promoting Alternative Learning Opportunities
- Preventing Family Violence

Collectively, these Initiatives set an action agenda for the Council. Each Initiative is led by a Champion—a respected community leader who stepped forward and took charge at the Council’s request. The Champions recruited broad-based Teams consisting of Council members and others from the community, and have set a simple but ambitious goal: to design, stimulate and promote actions that make a dramatic impact on the community’s Outcomes.

Each Team’s work has recognized that no Indicator moves in isolation from a host of other factors, influences and conditions in our society. Each trend needs to be viewed in that context to be better understood.
Therefore, before discussing any responses or strategies, the Teams considered as much data as possible.

Once again, we have asked each Champion to provide a report on his or her Initiative. (see Pages 2-9) Their work reminds us that Outcomes, Indicators and programs are interrelated. No single agency or program is solely responsible for the status of any of the targeted Indicators. In fact, each member of the community has a role to play at some level. We express our gratitude for your efforts and we renew our invitation for your continued help as we seek to turn the curve and get increasingly positive results for our children, families and community.

**Outcomes**

**Healthy People**

Everyone makes choices—for themselves or for those entrusted to their care—which promote better health. Everyone gets the information and support they need to avoid preventable health problems. Both physical and mental wellness are valued. Everyone has access to an adequate level of health care, including prenatal care, from birth through death.

**Young People Succeeding**

Children are well prepared for learning when they start school and receive support outside of the classroom for their efforts inside the classroom. Intellectual curiosity, skill development and achievement are valued. Young people receive mentoring, guidance and support as they develop the capacity to differentiate between positive and negative risk behaviors. Positive role models are plentiful, and others in the community talk to teenagers with candor and respect about the difficult choices they face. Students finish high school ready to compete successfully in the labor market and/or in continuing education and skills development.

**Stable Families**

The community respects and supports families, recognizing that family composition in a diverse society is varied. Family members have healthy relationships with each other. Families nurture their members and provide a sense of well being and safety. Family members work together and feel that they also belong to something larger than themselves.

**Positive Living for Special Populations**

The elderly, and people of any age who are disabled, are supported (when necessary) with services which allow them to live in the most appropriate, least restrictive environment. With support from the community, everyone has the opportunity to participate in every aspect of community living that he or she desires. People with disabilities live, learn, work, and participate in typical accessible community settings. The community respects and protects their rights and includes them as contributing members.

**Safe and Supportive Neighborhoods**

People live in safe, affordable housing. They have access to positive educational and cultural experiences. Recreational centers are convenient and provide positive role models, especially for the children. All aspects of the environment—e.g., air, water, soil—are safe and healthy. The community values the unique attributes of each neighborhood, whether rural or urban.

**Economic Self-Sufficiency**

Residents have access to employment that provides a living wage and benefits. Barriers to employment, including transportation and daycare issues, are minimized. Adequate opportunities for lifelong learning help prepare the workforce for the realities of 21st-century jobs. Educational, vocational training, and worker re-training services are readily available to support the needs of residents and employers.
BACKGROUND
Air quality is measured by an index that considers various pollutants in different jurisdictions. These pollutants affect the cleanliness of the air in these areas.

NEW DATA
The percentage of good air quality days in Montgomery County for 2001 was 48 percent. The percentage represents 172 days of good air quality. In 2001, the EPA monitoring was changed from the former system. The new monitoring method includes an ozone standard. The 2001 air quality index is not comparable to prior years for Montgomery County. The comparative county rank for Montgomery County was sixth. The percentage of good air quality days for the state of Ohio in 2001 was 74 percent, or 270 days.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The comparative ranking among urban Ohio counties moved from fourth to sixth in 2001. It is not moving in the desired direction.

OUTCOME HEALTHY PEOPLE
INDICATOR AIR QUALITY

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TARGET
Montgomery 90
Among the top three counties
Most desirable ranking is number one.

*In 1992-2000 PSI (Pollution Standard Index) was used. Beginning in 2001 AQI (Air Quality Index) is used. This means that the 2001 data are not comparable to the other data.
BACKGROUND
The term “low birthweight” is used to describe babies born with a weight of less than 2,500 grams, or 5 lbs., 8 oz. Babies with higher birthweights are more likely to begin life with a healthy start and to have mothers who had prenatal care and did not smoke or drink during pregnancy. Strategies to affect birthweight are focused on education and prevention.

NEW DATA
The provisional value for low birthweight for 2001 was 9.3 percent, less than the 2000 value of 9.5 percent. Montgomery County’s comparative county rank for 2000 was tenth. The statewide provisional value for 2000 was 7.9 percent.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The 2001 value is moving in the desired direction when compared with the 2000 value. However, Montgomery County’s comparative rank dropped from sixth in 1999 to tenth in 2000.

TARGET
Montgomery 6.6
Among the top five counties
Most desirable ranking is number one.
BACKGROUND
Premature mortality is measured by the Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) statistic. This figure is calculated as the sum of the difference between the average age of death for each age group, and age 75 for each death. The method of calculation gives greater computational weight to deaths among younger persons and does not include deaths after 75 years of age. The YPLL statistic reflects the preventability of early deaths through changes in lifestyle, reduction of substance abuse and behavior modification. Smaller values of YPLL are desired.

NEW DATA
In 2001, the YPLL provisional value per 1,000 people under 75 years for Montgomery County was 77.7. The final value for 2000 was 77.1, which replaces the provisional value of 76.8, as reported in the 2001 Progress Report.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The value for Montgomery County is not moving in the desired direction.

TARGET
Among the top three counties
Most desirable ranking is number one.

*2000 and 2001 data are provisional
BACKGROUND
Ohio students are currently required to take fourth-grade proficiency tests in several academic areas. The Family and Children First Council sets targets for the percentage of students passing all portions of this examination. By convention, data are reported for the year in which a school year ends. Fourth graders may now, in some cases, be promoted to the fifth grade although they have scored in the “below basic” range of performance. In previous years, students who did not pass all portions of the fourth-grade proficiency test were not promoted.

NEW DATA
In school year 2002, 39.5 percent of Montgomery County students passed all portions of the fourth-grade exams. Montgomery County ranked eighth among urban Ohio counties. The percentage of students in the state of Ohio who passed all portions of the exams in 2002 was 41.1.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The value is moving in the right direction. The comparative ranking among counties remained at eighth, as it was the previous year.
BACKGROUND
Ohio students are currently required to take sixth-grade proficiency tests in several academic areas. The Family and Children First Council sets targets for the percentage of students passing all portions of this examination. By convention, data are reported for the year in which a school year ends.

NEW DATA
The percentage of Montgomery County students who passed all portions of the sixth-grade proficiency examination in 2002 was 40.7. Montgomery County ranked seventh among urban Ohio counties in 2002. The state of Ohio value for students passing all portions of the sixth-grade proficiency test in 2002 was 40.8 percent.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The value of this indicator is moving in the desired direction. The comparative county value for Montgomery County stayed the same with a rank of seventh.

PERCENTAGE OF 6th GRADE STUDENTS PASSING ALL TESTS

- Montgomery County
- Ohio
- Montgomery County Target
- Milestones
OUTCOME   YOUNG PEOPLE SUCCEEDING

INDICATOR   STUDENT PROFICIENCY — 9th grade

BACKGROUND
Ohio students are currently required to take ninth-grade proficiency tests in several academic areas. The Family and Children First Council sets targets for the percentage of eighth-grade students taking the ninth-grade exam for the first time and passing all portions of this examination. By convention, data are reported for the year in which a school year ends. It was anticipated that in the year 2000 there would be a tenth-grade proficiency exam that would replace the ninth-grade test. Eighth-graders were not given the test in the 2001 in anticipation of this change. The change in testing, however, was delayed so the current eighth-graders (Class of 2006) are the last class required to pass the Ninth-Grade Proficiency Tests in order to graduate. The classes of 2007 and beyond will have to pass the new Ohio Graduation Tests.

NEW DATA
The percentage of Montgomery County students who passed all portions of the ninth-grade proficiency examination in 2002 was 43.1. Montgomery County ranked eighth among urban Ohio counties in 2002. The state of Ohio value for students passing all portions of the ninth-grade proficiency test in 2002 was 46.0 percent.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The value of this indicator stayed at the same value. The comparative county value for Montgomery County moved in a positive direction, from ninth to eighth. The value for Montgomery County has exceeded the target in 2000 and in 2002.

Note: These data represent eighth-grade students taking the exam for the first time. No eighth-graders took the test in 2001.
OUTCOME  YOUNG PEOPLE SUCCEEDING

INDICATOR  PUBLIC SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (K – 12)

BACKGROUND
The attendance of all students, kindergarten through 12th grade, receiving instruction in a Montgomery County school district is considered for this indicator.

NEW DATA
The attendance rate for the 2000 - 2001 school year was 92.6 percent for Montgomery County schools and the comparative county rank was eighth. The attendance rate in Ohio schools for the 2000 - 2001 school year was 93.9 percent.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The value is moving in the desired direction and the comparative ranking among counties moved in a positive direction, from ninth to eighth place. In both Montgomery County and Ohio, the attendance rates have increased from the last school year.

Note: FY92-98 data were obtained through ODE Vital Statistics. FY99 data came from ODE Information Management Services as gathered for the District Report Cards using a slightly different formula. (ODE Vital Statistics data are no longer available.)
BACKGROUND
The teen pregnancy value includes the number of teen births, fetal losses and terminations of pregnancy. The child of a teen mother has a greater risk of being premature and experiencing poverty, child abuse and, if female, premature childbearing.

NEW DATA
In 2000, the value for teen pregnancy for Montgomery County was 4.1 percent.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The value is moving in the desired direction.
OUTCOME

STABLE FAMILIES

INDICATOR

AVOIDING POVERTY

BACKGROUND

Research suggests that American children of parents who have their first child after they reach the age of 20, finish high school and get married have only an eight-percent chance of growing up in poverty. However, children of parents who do not meet these three conditions have a 79-percent chance of being raised in poverty.

NEW DATA

In 2001 in Montgomery County, the provisional percentage of first births which were to parents who were married, had finished high school and had reached age 20 years was 43.5 percent.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS

The value for this indicator is moving in the desired direction.

TARGET

Montgomery 65.0

Among the top five counties

Most desirable ranking is number one.

PERCENT OF FIRST BIRTHS WHERE BOTH PARENTS COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL, PARENTS ARE MARRIED (AT ANY TIME FROM CONCEPTION TO BIRTH), AND MOTHER IS AT LEAST 20 YEARS OLD

- Montgomery County
- Ohio
- United States
- Montgomery County Target
- Milestones

*Montgomery County 2000 and 2001 data are provisional

Note: Calculations made by Combined Health District, Office of Epidemiology. Since the educational status of many of the fathers is unknown, the above percentages may not be accurate.
BACKGROUND
The Family and Children First Council has adopted a target of zero tolerance for domestic violence-related homicides. The number of domestic violence deaths is a solid indicator of the prevalence of domestic violence in a community.

NEW DATA
In 2001, there were 10 domestic violence-related deaths in Montgomery County.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The value is moving in the desired direction.

Note: Data include victims of all ages and genders. Information is not available from other counties.
BACKGROUND
The number of child deaths in Montgomery County due to homicides, suicides, accidents and undetermined causes is counted each year. This indicator is intended to focus attention on the vulnerability of our children and the effectiveness of our efforts to keep them safe, recognizing that some of these deaths are unavoidable tragedies.

NEW DATA
In Montgomery County in 2001, there were 36 child deaths that met the criteria for this indicator.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The value for child deaths is not moving in the desired direction. The value for Montgomery County increased from 2000 to 2001.

*2001 data are provisional
Note: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome deaths are included in this graph because a S.I.D.S. death is the death of an infant that remains unexplained after the performance of an adequate postmortem investigation. The Montgomery County Coroner’s Office categorizes S.I.D.S. deaths as “Undetermined Causes.”
BACKGROUND
This indicator serves to measure a "common quality of life" for people with special needs, defined as those individuals who are challenged physically and/or mentally, as well as those who are elderly. This indicator measures the percentage of Montgomery County residents who feel that persons with special needs have a quality of life that is excellent, very good or good. The percentage is determined by an annual telephone survey of hundreds of Montgomery County residents.

NEW DATA
In 2002, the percentage of Montgomery County residents surveyed who felt that persons with special needs have a quality of life that is excellent, very good or good was 60.3 percent—less than in 2001, when it was 61.3 percent.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The trend is not moving in the desired direction.
BACKGROUND
This Indicator also serves to measure a “common quality of life” for people with special needs, defined as those individuals who are challenged physically and/or mentally, as well as those who are elderly. This indicator focuses on those Montgomery County residents who have a household member with special needs and/or a family member living in Montgomery County with special needs. It measures the percentage of those residents who feel that persons with special needs have a quality of life that is excellent, very good or good. The percentage is determined by an annual telephone survey of hundreds of Montgomery County residents.

NEW DATA
In 2002, of those Montgomery County residents who have a household member with special needs and/or a family member living in Montgomery County with special needs, 60.5 percent feel the quality of life for people with special needs is excellent, very good or good, which is less than 61.0 percent in 2001.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
This trend is not moving in the desired direction.

*Survey protocol in 2000 did not identify residents who have a family member with special needs living in Montgomery County. Therefore data from the 2000 survey are not comparable.
BACKGROUND
Violent crime is measured by incidents per 1,000 residents. Violent crimes include murders, forcible rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults reported in the Uniform Crime Index published by the FBI.

NEW DATA
The violent crime rate for Montgomery County in 2000 was 6.0%, ranking Montgomery County seventh among Ohio’s largest counties. In 2000, the value for violent crime for Ohio was 3.3% and 5.0% for the United States.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The value is not moving in the desired direction. The rank remains the same as in 1999.

Note: Violent crimes represented in this graph are Murder, Forcible Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault.
BACKGROUND
The property crime rate is measured by incidents per 1,000 residents. Property crimes include burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft and are reported by the Uniform Crime Index published by the FBI.

NEW DATA
In 2000, the property crime rate for Montgomery County was 56.5, ranking Montgomery County seventh among Ohio's largest counties. The property crime rate for Ohio was 37.0 in 2000 and 36.1 for the United States.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
Based on the counties for which sufficient data are available, the rank has moved from eighth to seventh. The trend is moving in the right direction.

Note: Property crimes represented in this graph are Burglary, Larceny and Motor Vehicle Theft.
BACKGROUND
The unemployment rate is a measure of the percentage of the labor force that is unemployed. The unemployment rate reflects the match between the number of people seeking employment and the number of available jobs. Factors that influence unemployment are transportation, child care and work skills.

NEW DATA
The value for unemployment in Montgomery County in 2001 was 4.3 percent. The comparative rank among counties was fifth for Montgomery County. The unemployment rate for the state of Ohio in 2001 was 4.3 percent and the United States unemployment rate in 2001 was 4.8 percent.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The trend is not moving in the desired direction. The comparative rank among counties moved from fourth to fifth. The value did not move in the desired direction from 2000 to 2001.
OUTCOME
ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

INDICATOR
PER CAPITA EFFECTIVE BUYING INCOME

BACKGROUND
Per Capita Effective Buying Income represents disposable income after taxes.

NEW DATA
The value for Per Capita Effective Buying Income in 2001 for Montgomery County was $19,112, and the rank in comparison to Ohio’s other large counties was fourth. In 2001, the value for Ohio was $18,096 and the value for the United States was $18,426. The value for the Consumer Price Index in 2001 was 176.7 (1982-1984 = 100).

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The comparative county rank for Montgomery County is moving in the desired direction. The comparative ranking among counties has moved from fifth to fourth place. The value for Montgomery County has remained higher than the values for Ohio or the U.S. from 1996 through 2001.

Note: Beginning in 1996 the definition changed to be based on “Money Income” rather than “Personal Income.”
THE DATA IN THIS REPORT COME FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:

Center for Disease Control
Center for Urban and Public Affairs, Wright State University
Demographics U.S.A. - County Edition
Montgomery County Child Fatality Review Board
Montgomery County Combined Health District, Office of Epidemiology
Montgomery County Coroner’s Office
Montgomery County Prosecutor’s Office
National Center for Health Statistics
Ohio Bureau of Employment Services
Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Department of Health
U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Ohio Department of Health specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations or conclusions from the data provided for the charts.
Our **VISION** is that Montgomery County is a place where families, children and adults live in safe, supportive neighborhoods, care for and respect one another, value each other, and succeed in school, the workplace and life.

The **MISSION** of the Montgomery County Family and Children First Council is to serve as a catalyst to foster interdependent solutions among public and private community partners to achieve the vision for the health and well-being of families, children and adults.