



Childwatch

Speaking out for the region's children

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Connecting The Dots: The Budget Outlook is Fair for Now.

But There Are Storm Clouds on The Horizon

In February, President Bush and Governor Rendell released their budget proposals within days of one another – and one week later Mayor Street released his proposed budget. While all three budgets matter a lot to us here, they differ dramatically in their impact on children and families.

The Pennsylvania and Philadelphia budget plans, while not near perfect are reasonably good, but the federal budget is a full of bad news - which inevitably “trickles down” to states and cities. So, if we connect the dots, it’s clear that there will be challenges ahead:

• **President Bush’s 2007 spending plan would cut \$16 billion in domestic programs in 2007 and \$183 billion by 2011.** It would reduce vital services to Pennsylvanians, including the most vulnerable, through cuts in elementary, secondary and vocational education, low-income heating assistance, child care subsidy and nutrition programs for pregnant women. Housing programs would be cut by almost a third. [See chart on page 3 for details.]

The newly proposed reductions come on top sharp domestic spending cuts in the 2006 budget approved just weeks ago. Yet at the same time, the President and Congress are pushing legislation to make permanent the tax cuts enacted in 2001 and 2003, which primarily benefit wealthier Americans. These huge tax cuts would further reduce funds available for services *and* also increase the deficit dramatically.

• **In contrast to deep federal cuts, the proposed Pennsylvania budget for 2006-2007 puts the state’s improved economic health to good use, by restoring or expanding programs that provide a foundation of health, learning and growth for Pennsylvania’s children.** The state budget proposes expansion of health insurance coverage for children with working parents, increased access to early childhood and early intervention programs, and a more robust investment in public education.

Pennsylvania would become the second state in the nation to offer health insurance to every child. The Cover All Kids initiative would expand low-cost CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program) to children whose parents earn up to 350 percent of poverty or \$70,000 for a family of four, and make insurance available to higher income families on sliding fee scale. Significantly, the budget does not propose any service reduction or cost sharing for Medicaid, a hotly contested issue during last year’s state budget debate.

In the Rendell budget, elementary and secondary education would receive the largest increase in 17 years, with a five percent increase in the basic subsidy, and four percent increase in special education. The budget also would fully restore funding to Pennsylvania’s libraries. Community colleges and the higher education system would see increases as well.

The proposed budget continues the Rendell administration's support for early childhood education, expanding subsidized child care slots to serve 17,000 additional children, and increasing support for provider rates (still at 2001 levels!) and quality improvement. State funding for Head Start will increase by \$15 million and 5,000 more children will be reached through the Early Intervention program. There is support for expanding the nurse-family partnership and for exploring ways to bring behavioral health supports to child care programs

While child welfare funding is adequate, we are concerned about sustaining and expanding prevention programs.

- **The proposed Philadelphia budget for 2006-2006 restores cuts made in past years to important programs, and contains funding for two child-friendly initiatives.** One would purchase cribs for families of newborn babies, to avoid the risks of co-sleeping which is a factor in infant deaths. Another program, the Adolescent Violence Prevention Initiative, modeled after a successful program for young adults, will address youth violence with intensive intervention focusing on at-risk teens.

There are some areas where more resources need to be allocated to support kids and families in Philadelphia. Dental services at city health centers should be expanded, to meet growing demand for dental care for children [See story, page 8]. City recreation centers also need repairs, extensive renovation – and better staffing and programming, to create safe and exciting activities for children, youth and families in our neighborhoods. In addition, Fairmount Park, one of the city's unique and prized assets, has deteriorated: parks and trails need attention, to make this recreational space attractive rather than dangerous to those who want to enjoy it.

If you connect the dots – the relatively family-friendly budget outlook in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania will be jeopardized under the recently passed 2006 federal budget – and if the President's 2007 federal budget is approved: both reduce domestic spending and extend huge tax cuts to affluent Americans.

We fear that the end result will be further cuts to programs that support children and families and deeper deficits – which will be a dangerously heavy burden on future generations.

What you can do: Visit PCCY's website, www.pccy.org and click [Steven fill in the blank?](#) to sign on to our new, automated email advocacy system. You'll be able to send messages to your state legislators, Congress members and Senators – to thank them when they support children's issues, and urge them to remember the needs of kids and families as they cast their budget votes. Another advocacy opportunity: when your Congress member comes to town, stop by to visit – and raise your voice for children's interests.

Poor, poor baby!



According to the statistics report in February AARP Bulletin, every American - including newborns and children - now shoulders \$156,000 in debt, thanks to the growing annual deficit, the national debt accumulated over the last century, and long-term unfunded commitments to pay for Medicare and Social Security.

The Federal Budget and Kids



The Federal Budget & Kids - Robert Greenstein (center) Executive Director of the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, chats with PCCY President Fasaha Traylor and Honorary Board member John Riggan. Greenstein visited PCCY on March 24, to explain the impact of proposed federal budget reductions on children. [See President's Corner, page 11.]

The Federal Budget Storm Cloud for FY2007

Rain will hit Pennsylvania

Children and families will disproportionately bear the burden of \$183 billion in federal funding cuts outlined in the President's 2007 budget proposal. If passed, the budget would:

- ◆ **Reduce child care assistance** by \$31.3 million by 2011, a cut of 14 percent. This reduction comes on top of the just-approved 2006 federal budget, which will impose higher work requirements on families and states, without providing the necessary additional supports for child care.
- ◆ **Shrink Head Start, services for abused and neglected children, and other community and social services** by \$267.7 million over five years, a reduction of 20 percent by 2011. Between 3,300 and 4,300 Pennsylvania children would lose access to early childhood education provided through Head Start. Contributing to this reduction is a \$144.4 million cut over the next five years to Pennsylvania's Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) allocation.
- ◆ **Decimate** federal funding for **vocational education** by cutting \$293.9 million, or 74 percent, by 2011.
- ◆ **Cut** \$253.5 million from **K-12 education** in Pennsylvania from 2007 to 2011, a reduction of more than 8 percent in 2011.
- ◆ **Slash** \$130.6 million, or 29 percent, in heating assistance for Pennsylvania families to stay warm and safe through the federal **low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP)** by 2011. The cut come despite a request for a \$38.6 million increase in 2007.
- ◆ **Sharply cut** Pennsylvania's funding for the **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** by \$326 million over five years, or 31 percent in 2011. (CDBG funds economic development and housing-related activities such as improvements to roads and infrastructure, rehabilitation of blighted buildings, and homeless assistance.)
- ◆ **Dramatically reduce** funding to **repair public housing** in Pennsylvania by \$174.9 million over five years, a 23 percent reduction in 2011.
- ◆ **Diminish** funding for the **WIC program** (the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) by \$66.7 million over five years, so that 14,200 fewer people could be served in 2011.
- ◆ **Cut 67 percent** from the **Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program**. Independent children's hospitals represent only 1 percent of all hospitals, but they train 30 percent of the nation's pediatricians, 50 percent of its pediatric sub-specialists, and the majority of its pediatric researchers.

Worst of all - these cuts are being proposed at the exact same time that tax cuts of \$70 billion – primarily benefiting the wealthy – are moving forward!

Out of School Youth

An Invisible Epidemic



Thousands of young Philadelphians leave school without graduating each year, as do millions of youth across the country. In late 2004, a group of major foundations, the Youth Transition Funders Group, made grants to five communities around the country, including

Philadelphia. The charge was to delve into the dropout problem and to figure out why it is happening, what can be done to keep kids in school, and how to help those who leave get their diplomas.

PCCY joined the working group of Philadelphia non-profit organizations and government agencies convened by the Philadelphia Youth Network which set out to investigate the issue over the last 18 months. Other members of the group include the School District of Philadelphia, Department of Human Services, Family Court as well as the Center for Literacy, Eastern Pennsylvania Organizing Project, the Public School Notebook, The Philadelphia Education Fund, the University of Pennsylvania and Johns Hopkins University.

PCCY's contribution to the effort was an examination of the policies and practices that create barriers to success for students prone to leave before graduating – and recommendations for improved practices that will encourage school completion, and discourage students from leaving without diplomas.

Historically, dropouts have been a population that no one noticed, because they could find decent jobs despite their low skills. Today, such jobs are disappearing, and the increasingly competitive global economy demands a highly skilled workforce. For that reason, high school completion is necessity for survival in the 21st century. To find out more about the problem and some policy changes that can begin to “cure” the epidemic of out-of-school youth, read our report, “The Dropout Crisis: An Invisible Epidemic,” available on our website, www.pccy.org.



PCCY Staff members take center stage at our January Forum to debate whether it takes a village – or a family to raise children in the 21st century. With the help of blonde tresses, PCCY Health Director Alisa Simon was convincing as Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton – and PCCY Education Coordinator Brian Armstead demonstrated that nontraditional casting can work, with his portrayal of Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum. Read more about the forum with Celinda Lake on page 8.

Ready by 21:

PCCY Forum Examines What's Needed to Prepare Kids for College, Work, Life



Karen Pittman is Executive Director of the Washington DC based Forum for Youth Development

Editor's note: Our publication schedule occasionally coincides with a PCCY event: The “Ready by 21” forum will be taking place just before (or a day or two after) this newsletter hits your mailbox – so look for a full story in our next newsletter in early summer.

Sociologist, author and youth development leader Karen Pittman was the main speaker at PCCY's latest Forging the Future Forum, held Wednesday March 29th at Moore College of Art and Design. Pittman, who is executive director for the Forum for Youth Investment, helped the forum guest lay the groundwork for a new PCCY initiative to address the issue of out-of-school youth, a growing problem in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the nation. [See “The Dropout Crisis: An Invisible Epidemic,” previous column]

Forum participants were invited to become active stakeholder, in a creative, community effort to help more young people finish high school – and to attract recent dropouts back to the classroom to get their diplomas, and expand their life options.

Our work is just beginning – so if you'd like to join our effort, please contact Education Coordinator Brian Armstead at ext. 12, or Director of Communications Linda Wright Moore at ext 23.



PCCY's Silver Super Party



*The Board and Staff of PCCY invite you to join us for
 food, drinks and fellowship at our
 2006 Silver Super Party
 Thursday April 27, 2006
 5:30pm to 7:30pm
 The Please Touch Museum, 210 N. 21st Street*

Join us as we celebrate 25 years of speaking out for the region's children.

PCCY will present the Wilbur Hobbs "True Friend of Children Award" to:

R. Duane Perry, Executive Director of the Food Trust

and

Dorothy Johnson Speight, Founder, Mothers In Charge

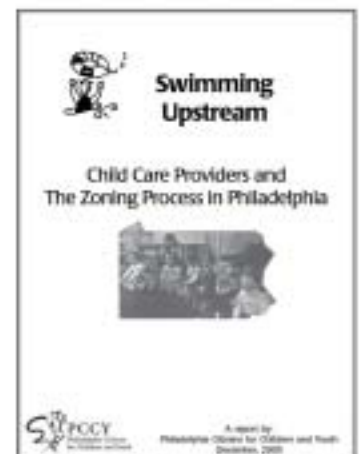
Tickets are \$50 per person

For more information and to RSVP call 215-563-5848 x 11 or go on line at www.pccy.org

Swimming Upstream:

PCCY Publishes Report on Zoning Hurdles for Home-based Child Care Providers

A new PCCY report on zoning requirements and procedures for home-based child care providers is now available. Published in December 2005, the report includes research conducted in response to problems in negotiating the zoning process reported by group child care providers in Philadelphia, who are routinely approved to care for fewer than 12 children in their homes. The PCCY report, researched and written by PCCY staffer Allison Anderson Acevedo, examined 2004 child care cases that came before the Zoning Board of Adjustment, reviewed responses from 2005 survey of group child care providers and analyzed comments and suggestions from a focus group of providers, conducted in fall 2005.



The report offers recommendations to improve zoning procedures, including: providing more information to child care providers about zoning at the start of the process; offering zoning seminars for providers; offering educational seminars on child care to City officials and staff; and revising the Zoning Code to include clear definitions of child care and permitted child care uses. Copies of the report were distributed to City departments, other child care organizations and child care programs in the City. PCCY child care staff members are currently meeting with City officials to discuss implementing the recommendations.

Picasso Project Update



PCCY's Picasso Project announced winners of its 2006 grants in March, awarding stipends to schools that have neither music nor art instruction on a regular basis. The stipends, ranging from \$1,500 to \$5,000, were awarded by the Picasso Project Advisory Committee, which reviewed applications. Congratulations to the winning schools, which are listed below. For more detail on their projects, visit our website, www.pccy.org.

At least 65 of Philadelphia's 276 elementary, middle and high schools have neither art nor music teachers on their full-time faculty. Another 100 schools have art or music teachers, but not both. Along with art and music stipends to schools, the Picasso Project aims to build awareness that so many children are missing out on arts experiences, which have been shown to enrich learning by boosting cognitive skills used in math, reading and writing. Since its inception in the 2002-2003 school year, The Picasso Project has raised more than \$143,000 from foundations and individuals to support arts projects in 40 schools. The program is now making plans to spread its wings and become an independent organization, continuing its mission is to raise funds and award arts grants to schools without instruction in music and the arts. The organization also will work with its grantees and other organizations in the community to advocate for more resources for the arts in public education.

And The Winners Are:

AMY-NW Middle School: "Arts Festival" - \$5000 grant

Birney School Elementary School: "Harlem Comes to Birney" - \$5000 grant

Bridesburg Elementary School: "Bridesburg and Beyond: Communities Past and Present Through the Arts" - \$5000 grant

Emlen Elementary School: "Emlen School Community Mural"- \$2000 grant

Freire Charter School: "Promoting PEACE Through Art and Music" - \$1500 grant

Harrison Elementary School: "Art About Us" - \$5000 grant

Leidy Elementary School: "Puppets With a Purpose" \$4850 grant

Overbrook Elementary School: "Art From Many Lands" \$5000 grant

Pennypacker Elementary School: "An African Tale: the Play and the Mural" - \$5000 grant

Hearings on Lead Danger Result in Legislative Action Great News for Pennsylvania Kids

Last year, PCCY successfully urged the Pennsylvania legislature to hold hearings on preventing childhood lead poisoning – with the intent of prompting the creation of legislation to help eliminate this devastating health problem, which affects 10,000 children in the Commonwealth every year.

We are delighted to report that Representatives George Kenney (R, Philadelphia) and Rep. John Taylor (R, Philadelphia) who presided over a series of hearings have agreed to sponsor lead poisoning prevention legislation. The two lawmakers recognize the urgent need to prevent children from across the Commonwealth from being poisoned – and we thank them for their leadership on this critical issue, and for their commitment to improving the health of the state's children.

The House Health and Human Services Committee, under the leadership of Rep. Kenney and the Urban Affairs Committee, chaired by Rep. Taylor held hearings in Philadelphia last spring, in Harrisburg last December and in Pittsburgh in February. Legislators heard from physicians, parents, officials at housing agencies and health departments from around the state about the urgent need to protect children from the irreversible harm inflicted by lead poisoning. ! PCCY is now working with the legislators to research and develop proposals that will help protect the health of Pennsylvania kids by reducing the threat of lead poisoning in the Commonwealth.



Health Notes

2006 Give Kids A Smile Day

A Worthwhile Effort to Meet a Growing Need

Dentists and hygienists across the city provided free oral health care to hundreds of children on February 3rd and 4th as part of the American Dental Association's annual "Give Kids a Smile Day." Smile Day was organized in Philadelphia by the Southeast Region Oral Health Task Force, a group that PCCY helps facilitate.

Several of the city's district health centers participated, along with several private pediatric practices, as well as the dental schools at Temple University and the University of Pennsylvania, and Community College's school of dental hygiene. The public response was strong – indicating that the need for basic dental care for children is great.

Another purpose of the Smile Day observance is to build public awareness about the importance of children's dental care and how to access it any day of the week. PCCY helped spread the word to parents and caregivers by placing radio and television public service announcements and publishing articles in neighborhood newspapers. However the most successful outreach strategy was an automated recorded phone message about Smile Day, delivered by the School District to 170,000 city household with students attending public schools. The District's calls helped generate nearly 1,000 calls to PCCY seeking referrals to free and low-cost dental care!

For two, full days, the PCCY staff was swamped with calls from parents who needed to obtain dental care for their children but didn't know where to turn. Sometimes calls came directly from children – complaining of tooth pain and asking for help.

Most of the callers had public health insurance that covers dental services; others had private insurance provided by their employer that provided inadequate or no dental coverage, and still others had no insurance at all for their children. The 96 callers without health insurance were referred to PCCY's Child Health Watch Helpline, where PCCY staffer Deborah Zubow assesses their eligibility for coverage and completes a health insurance application over the phone. (To reach the Health Watch Helpline, call 215-563-5848, ext.17.)

Listening to these parents, caregivers, and students, we learned that families continue to struggle to find dentists in their neighborhood who will accept their insurance – particularly in the Northeast, Olney, and Oak Lane. Many parents were surprised but pleased to find out that the city's district health centers also have free dental services, and that both dental schools provide reduced cost care for children and adults. They also expressed concern about getting appointments in a timely manner, because many health centers had long waiting lists, and with no available openings until spring or summer. Many parents also were looking for dental providers offering low-cost braces.

PCCY and the Oral Health Task Force are looking deeper into these issues and plan to devise new strategies to address the unmet oral health needs of children in the city – and help give more kids a reason to smile.



A young patient receives a free dental screening from volunteer dental professionals on Give Kids A Smile Day, inside the Ronald MacDonald Care Mobile.



Pollster and Political Strategist Celinda Lake Speaks at PCCY January Forum

Analyzes American Attitudes about Kids, Work and Family Values

At our January 25th Forging the Future forum, guest speaker Celinda Lake laid out a sobering description of public attitudes about children and children issues. For starters, she said we live in a very child-centered society...sort of. "People talk a lot about their commitment to children, yet we don't see this reflected in public policy and that's one of the big frustrations we face," she said. "Last year, for the first time, Americans spent more consumer dollars on pets than on children." Add to that the reality that only about 40 percent of Americans who vote have children under 18, and it's clear that advancing children's issues is becoming more challenging.

Speaking to an audience of about 100 at Moore College of Art and Design, Lake offered her take on how Americans are thinking, and what child advocates, parents and others need to consider, as they try to build support for children's issues.

Lake explained that "big issues" are pushing concerns for children to the second tier in the public mind. "People are focused on economy, war, terrorism, and for that reason, it will probably be best in coming years to talk less about children's issues specifically, and more effectively attach them to the bigger currents out there," she said. Those bigger currents include health care, the role of government (driven by concerns

about corruption and accountability), education and the economy. Lake said that recent focus group interviews indicate that 68 percent of Americans believe the economy and nation are generally doing badly – and that many are concerned about jobs that don't pay well enough to keep up with soaring prices for energy and health care. More strikingly, Lake says polling shows that for the first time, more than half of Americans – 52 percent – say they expect the next generation to be worse off than previous generations. "That is a very, very profound violation of the American Dream," Lake said. "It creates both a challenge and an opportunity."

She cited child care as a critically important issue which is not a top priority for voters, but could potentially resonate if placed in a context that connects to "big issue" concerns Americans share. "Child care is an example of a narrow solution, that doesn't catch a big wave issue," Lake said. Secondly, she encourages progressives "co-opt" conservatives. "Often child care is presented a village claim rather than the family's claim," she said. "Actually, child care can be talked about in ways that reinforce family: by sanctioning parents as primary caregivers but saying that in this economy

and day and age, they need some support and help – which child care provides." Another approach is to tie the value of child care to the importance of early learning, because education is a "big issue" that the public embraces.

Along with tying children's issues to larger issue currents in American society, Lake says it is essential to focus not only on investments in children – but also on accountability and responsibility. A focus on mutual responsibility, of the village and the family, the community and the individual, can effectively counter to the go-it-alone concept behind the "ownership society." She also says it's important to "think surgically" about small steps and gradual solutions. "We cannot revamp the economy or health care overnight, particularly with terrorism a concern and the Iran war still going on, and a limping-along economy," she said. "But we can create a more



PCCY Board Members at the January Forum: Matt Riggan, LeAnn Ayers, Miguel Ramirez, Judy Silver, Sister Nancy Hagenbach (Celinda Lake, Forum Speaker) Stephanie Kallen, (Shelly Yanoff, PCCY Director) John Riggan, Carolyn Adams

fertile terrain for the issues we care about."



Ethyl McGee, Reverend William Gray, III and Shelly Yanoff

Peace School Update

Youth as Peace Makers: Crossing Boundaries of Race, Religion and Culture

Approximately 100 people gathered January 30 for an evening program hosted by the Parkway Northwest High School for Peace and Social Justice, featuring Rev. William H. Gray III and members of Operation Understanding, a program promoting cross-cultural leadership and exchange between African American and Jewish students. After a presentation by the newly-formed school choir, Principal Ethyl McGee and student body president Kenneth Borum welcomed the guests, Parkway NW student Ni'mat Guyton performed a "peace rap."

Rev. Gray, a former U.S. Congressman and past president of the United Negro College Fund, welcomed the "Peace School" as an important model to provide leadership to reduce violence in our city and the world. He described his experiences figuring out how to organize for change in the anti-apartheid and civil rights movements.

Laurena Tolson, a senior from High School for Creative and Performing Arts and Zachary Frankel, of Friends Central described their summer experiences traveling with other Jewish and African-American students. They noted that learning to deal with differences was rarely easy, but the pay-off was profound growth and an expanded world view. Two Parkway NW students, Brittany Kinning and Dharmadev Jayaraj, offered their response to the program with an appeal to get involved and find a way to make the world a better place. Closing the program was Pamela Hooks, Parkway NW Home and School president, who urged adults to become involved in the lives of young people. The program was one of a series of seminars, designed bring the school and community together.

What Every School Should Have

Resources and Conditions Surveyed at Philadelphia's Comprehensive High Schools

As a follow-up to our 2005 examination of conditions and needs at Philadelphia's public elementary schools, PCCY has revised its survey for 2006, to focus on "What Every **High** School Should Have." There are thirty neighborhood high schools in Philadelphia, and we are interviewing the principal at each of them, to determine whether or not their school has the basic resources and supplies required to effectively educate our children; from books and computers, to adequate staff and classrooms. The "What Every School Should Have" survey was created out of recognition that too many of our schools are being "left behind" in their ability to teach their students simply because the school and School District do not receive enough resources. Some of the early responses have shown that our high schools often have outdated or very limited libraries, not enough counselors, various facilities problems, and other challenges.

At the same time, the survey is turning up many reasons for celebration. For example, one school has successfully improved school climate by getting students and parents together to make a 'contract' about acceptable student behavior and ways to deal with problems; another neighborhood school has found ways to integrate technology across the curriculum; yet another has developed ways to help the large proportion of kids in their school with special education needs or with behavioral challenges.

Look for the final report later this spring. And if you'd like to go out with us on a high school site visit to conduct the survey, contact Education Coordinator Brian Armstead, at 215-563-5848 ext. 12.



Executive Director's Corner

Shelly D. Yanoff



After last year's marathon federal budget battle (which we lost by one vote nationally), we begin another round of federal budget advocacy with a deeper conviction that together we **can** build a better society, one that cares about its future and therefore about the health, education and safety of its children in their homes, at school and in our communities.

Earlier this year, someone who had lived through Ireland's long civil conflict reported that in the midst of the violence there, Irish children were safe on their way to and from school and inside in their classrooms. In the midst of a war torn country, the community had a standard that protected children. **Why don't we have a standard that protects children?** During a recent panel discussion on violence, when I suggested that too much of our music glorifies violence, a young man in the audience, a rapper, said he agreed with me: but he explained that until he put violent lyrics into his rap, he couldn't get airtime on radio. **Why do we glorify violence?**


Earlier this year, when billboards were being placed in neighborhoods around the city celebrating violence, Men United for a Better Philadelphia convinced Clear Channel to take them down. Why don't we stand up more frequently for a better community – against negative influences and for what's positive for kids? Peace is more than the absence of war; peace is active and affirmative and intentional. **We need more peacemakers in our communities, in our families, on our streets, in our schools and in our aspirations. What more can we do to improve the climate?**

Philadelphia voters have overwhelmingly endorsed a proposal to limit gun purchases in the city. City Councilman Darrell Clarke has sponsored an ordinance to limit illegal hand guns. State Rep. Jewell Williams and other state legislators have introduced legislation that would require gun owners to report missing or stolen guns. Rep. John Meyers and Sen. Leanna Washington have put forward state proposals to allow municipalities to limit gun purchases to no more than one weapon a month. Rep. Dwight Evans supports the one gun a month proposal, and has called for a ban on assault weapons and requiring background checks on gun buyers... Yet still we cannot get illegal handguns off of our streets – and the casualties continue to rise.

Why can't we get our state legislature to protect our children? Where is our standard for the safety of kids?

The guns that kill Philadelphians are from our area

- 50% of traced crime guns were from 8 dealers that had more than 25 traces each
- 76% of traced Philadelphia crime guns were bought in Pennsylvania
- 53% were bought in Philadelphia
- 61% were bought within 10 miles of their crime use in Philadelphia



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It is not all about guns – but some of it is. It's also about talking with children, supporting them and growing with them. Each of us has a critical responsibility to support, nurture and protect our children. Dr. James Comer has said that when he was growing up, his parents, neighbors and teachers were in a conspiracy to raise him well.

That sort of conspiracy is a real patriots' act. If we embrace *real* family values – and work as a community to truly value families and children, we can emerge from the winter cycle of violence and discover within ourselves an invincible, peaceful summer.

“How Does A Difficult Childhood Affect Adult Health” - Dr. Vincent Felitti to Speak at Forum

It is well understood that bad experience in childhood - such as abuse, neglect and the absence of one or both parents - can affect a child's development in a negative way. However, until now, no one has examined how a rough childhood impacts adult health. A lecture on “The Relation of Adverse Childhood Experiences to Adult Health” will be held on April 20, 2006 at 6:15pm at the College of Physicians, 19 South 22nd Street. The presenter will be Dr. Vincent J. Felitti, who is co-principal investigator of the study - a research collaboration between Kaiser Permanente and the Centers for Disease Control. The event is sponsored by the College of Physicians of Philadelphia in conjunction with PCCY, The Department of Psychiatry at Temple Medical School and the Residency Program at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. RSVP by April 17th by e-mail to sereda@collphyphil.org or call 215-563-3737 x 232.



President's Corner

Fasaha Traylor



On February 24, PCCY invited Robert Greenstein, executive director of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington DC, to give a talk about President Bush's latest budget. Thinking about what Greenstein said, I was reminded of two "causes of poverty" that were popular in the late 1960s and early 1970s. I'm sure some of you remember these "causes:" Poor people were poor because they were unable to delay gratification. Or, they were poor because they didn't do a good job of making investments in the future.

The evidence for this was anecdotal. Some said that poor people would buy Cadillacs (I suppose today it would be a Hummer) instead of saving to buy a home. Others said that poor people didn't succeed in school because they didn't have the patience to work hard to get good grades, graduate, and prepare for the future.

Bob Greenstein's presentation (now up on the PCCY website www.pccy.org) was a stunning and grim reminder that those at the highest reaches of our government are better at pursuing immediate gratification and not investing in the future than the poor ever were or could ever hope to be. His slides told a tale of massive disinvestment in the future of America – its children, its families, and its communities – including Philadelphia. Greenstein covered the whys and wherefores of immediate gratification (tax cuts) and disinvestment (spending cuts).

The question facing all Pennsylvania citizens is: Do we want tax cuts for a small minority of Americans to have cascading negative effects on the ability of government to do its job? Over the next five years, Pennsylvania would lose \$112 million for K-12 education, \$21 million for food for pregnant women and children, and \$69 million for child and family services.

The aftermath of Katrina has shown us what happens when government isn't able to carry out its basic responsibilities. Promoting immediate gratification for millionaires and ignoring the future, the President's budget seems to be serving up one, two, or even more Katrinas – here, and everywhere. Welcome to a bleak future – which I hope we, as citizens, have the will to change.



News from PCCY:

PCCY Child Care and Advocacy Director Sharon Ward takes on a new challenge – Sharon Ward, who has managed child care and early learning advocacy for PCCY for more than seven years, will be leaving to become director of The Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center. Sharon's leadership in building coalitions and developing and implementing strategies resulted in lots of wins for kids. She's made a huge contribution to children, families and PCCY and she'll be greatly missed. Sharon, we wish you the best!

Mural Arts Program Salutes PCCY – On February 28th, the Mural Arts Program presented inspiring canvas murals of Martin Luther King to leaders of the Support Center for Child Advocates, the Red Cross, Lutheran Settlement and PCCY. Over lunch at the Constitution Center, Mural Arts executive director Jane Golden thanked each organization for its work in pursuing King's dream. As Jane unveiled each canvas – we all were moved and inspired again.

PCCY's Education Roundtable program is now in its third season on PSTV, Channel 52. Hosted by PCCY's Shelly Yanoff is joined by a panel of regulars, including Mensah Dean Education Writer for the Philadelphia Daily News, Loraine Ballard-Morrill, News and Public Affairs Director for Clear Channel Radio Stations, and Susan Snyder, Education writer for The Philadelphia Inquirer and Paul Socolar, Editor of the Public School Notebook. The program, taped monthly, airs on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:00pm; Thursdays at 5:30pm; Saturdays at 1:00pm; and Sundays at noon. Please tune in – and give us your feedback, at educationroundtable@pccy.org.



PCCY Calendar

Save the Date for a “Super Party”

Thursday, April 27, 2006

PCCY's Annual Super Party - 5:30pm to 7:30pm - Please Touch Museum, 210 North 21st Street. Tickets can be purchased using our website at www.pccy.org. Also, if you would like to be an individual or corporate sponsor of the party, please contact Steven Fynes at 215-563-5848 x 11. This year's Super Party will be the kickoff to our 25th Anniversary!

Mission Statement

Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth is the region's leading child advocacy and public policy organization, dedicated to improving the lives and life chances of children in the city, region and state. Founded in 1980, PCCY is an independent, non-profit organization.

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