



Friends,

The following report represents the work of the Jacksonville Children's Commission for fiscal year 2008 – 2009. Despite fiscal threats and funding reductions on almost every front, we have continued our work to:

- promote stable and nurturing families;
- prepare children for kindergarten;
- support them during out-of-school time; and,
- provide them with extra help when they need it.

We know that between birth and the end of the twelfth grade, children spend only 10 percent of their hours of life in school. It's no wonder that their success or failure depends on the influence of families, friends, neighbors and communities during early childhood. They are our children, and it's up to all of us to support their safety, health, social competence and academic achievement. These early childhood and out-of-school hours give us the opportunity to provide powerful prevention and early intervention services that can help children living in challenged neighborhoods overcome the

gravitational pull of poverty, violence, failure and despair.

Using the framework of Results Based Accountability, this report will tell you how much care the Jacksonville Children's Commission provided through direct or funded services, how well the care was delivered and the results we measured in improved lives. In addition to program descriptions and data, you'll read stories about real children who have benefited from our investment in their lives.

These children are on their way to becoming great adults, and our public investment in them is testimony to our desire of becoming a great city.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Jacksonville Children's Commission, we hope you find this report helpful and encouraging.

Sincerely,

Anne T. Egan, M.D.  
*Board Chair*

Linda M. Lanier  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Raising children who are safe, happy and healthy, and who have the tools to be successful in school and life is not a simple task. It requires a network of people and resources. The Jacksonville Children's Commission funds numerous program providers who promote children's well being and collaboration among other program providers.

The Commission has developed a framework which classifies the programs into four different categories: support for stable nurturing families, preparation of children for kindergarten, support during out-of-school time and provision of extra help for children who need it. The full framework is on the following page.

Stable, Nurturing Families The first group of programs are those that support the building of stable, nurturing families. They help ensure that parents and caregivers have the resources and knowledge they need to raise successful children.

Prepared to Enter Kindergarten The second area involves programs that concentrate on ensuring children are ready to learn when they enter kindergarten. They focus on improving the quality of child care centers, promoting literacy in children and families and assisting families in obtaining screening for children.

Support During Out-of-School Time Children spend only a small portion of their time in school. Programs in the third area work to provide safe, healthy and academically enhanced care for children afterschool and during summer vacation.

Extra Help When They Need It The last group of programs offer extra help for children when they need it. The assistance provided covers a wide range of special services.

This framework of successful children's programs requires a supporting foundation of people and resources. Agencies and organizations that run the programs and professionals and volunteers who work with the children are necessary, as is funding from government and private sources. The Jacksonville Children's Commission works with all of these groups to maximize resources and coordinate services.

The Training Institute is part of this foundation, providing screening and training in a multitude of areas for those who work with children.

The Training Institute's nine training tracks are:

- Parenting, Family Strengthening & Engagement
- Early Learning/School Readiness
- Child Development Associate (CDA)
- Youth Development
- Summer Programs
- Behavioral Health/Special Needs
- Task/Technical Skills
- Fund/Resource Development
- Management/Leadership

Over 14,500 people use the Training Institute annually.

This report is based on Results Based Accountability which focuses on changes in a few indicators for each of the areas above with stories to understand the data trends.

# JACKSONVILLE'S CHILDREN ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND PREPARED TO BE SUCCESSFUL

Between birth and age 18, or the end of the 12th grade, children spend about 10 percent of their total hours of life in the classroom. The other 90 percent of their time is spent with their families and friends and in their neighborhoods. In other words, as a community, we are responsible for 90 percent of their development and success.

CHILDREN HAVE STABLE,  
NURTURING FAMILIES



CHILDREN ARE PREPARED  
TO ENTER  
KINDERGARTEN



CHILDREN HAVE SUPPORT  
DURING  
OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME



CHILDREN GET EXTRA HELP WHEN  
THEY NEED IT



CHILDREN GROW INTO  
SUCCESSFUL  
CONTRIBUTING ADULTS:  
JACKSONVILLE'S  
FUTURE TAXPAYERS

Parents and caregivers have the resources, knowledge and skills to keep their children safe and healthy, raising them in stable, nurturing home environments

Young children experience developmentally-appropriate early learning care as well as screening for problems that could interfere with their ability to learn

Children learn positive values and stay safe and healthy in high quality programs in the out-of-school hours

Children who encounter barriers to their success find help through programs with special services

Provide support and education for high risk mothers with newborns through Healthy Families Jacksonville, a home visiting program.  
Ensure that every eligible child has access to health insurance through Kid Care and Medicaid. Provide child care tuition assistance for parents who are working or attending school. Provide resource information for families: jaxkids.net Web site, family resource guides, family events, Grands/RAPPJax, and family friendly events.

Transform day care centers from custodial child care to high quality early learning environments.  
Assist early learning centers in their pursuit of a quality star rating through Guiding Stars of Duval, so that parents can easily identify high quality preschool education for their children. Provide quality early learning care for vulnerable children in Jacksonville's Eastside neighborhood through support for the Don Brewer Center for Early Learning.  
Promote early literacy for all 4-year-old children through Mayor Peyton's Book Club.  
Ensure developmental, vision, hearing and language screening for children receiving child care tuition assistance.

Provide five-day, academically enhanced after school care in 42 public school TEAM UP sites and 20 community-based sites.  
Provide nutritious after school snacks and meals in all TEAM UP programs. Provide six weeks of full-time, high quality, academically enhanced summer camps.  
Provide nutritious summer lunches and snacks for children in Commission-supported summer camps and low income neighborhoods.

Provide developmental screening, case management and supportive services to homeless children living in shelters or independent living facilities. Provide behavioral/mental health services through Full Service Schools or community-based outpatient care. Provide case management services and alternative education to teens to help them remain in school and avoid teen pregnancy.  
Provide individual and family counseling for runaways and teens in crisis.  
Link elementary, middle and high school children with a caring adult through mentoring programs. Provide therapy, behavioral health and self-help skills training to children with special needs. Provide counseling and mental health services for children at risk for criminal or anti-social behavior. Provide an alternative to out-of-school suspension that keeps children safe and engaged in their school work and also links them to special services. Provide supportive housing and life skills training for teens aging out of foster care.

## FOUNDATION

Staff and volunteers who work with children are highly trained, appropriate and well-qualified.

All stakeholders - families, government, non-profit agencies, foundations, private donors, faith groups, public education, higher education, early learning, health, and business - work together to create a seamless system of care that nurtures and propels children from prenatal to college or post secondary training.

All stakeholders work together to maximize resources, avoid duplication of effort and align services.

The Commission stays abreast of emerging research regarding child development and wellbeing as well as best practices in children's programs.

**Jacksonville  
Children's  
Commission**



Updated January 25, 2010

## Jacksonville Children's Commission: Promotion of Stable, Nurturing Families

It is widely accepted that children do best when they are part of a supportive family, so one of the Commission's objectives is to assist and sustain families. Some of the programs provided for families include parent education and support through Healthy Families, child care tuition assistance, information about resources, workshops, and support for relatives raising children, and family activities such as JaxKids Day.

The goals of the Healthy Families program include ensuring healthy child development and reducing child maltreatment (abuse and neglect). According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,<sup>1</sup> child maltreatment may affect a child physically, psychologically and/or behaviorally. The effects may impact not only the child and family, but also society, both directly and indirectly. People who were abused as children are more likely to engage in criminal activity as juveniles or adults, abuse alcohol or other drugs and become child abusers themselves.<sup>2</sup>

As part of their goal of ensuring healthy children, Healthy Families strives to make sure all children are up-to-date on their immunizations. Immunizations help prevent serious illnesses and save lives. Through reduction of disease, immunizations also lower national health care costs.<sup>3</sup>

The Jacksonville Network for Strengthening Families provides training, services and support to help families stay on target for success. The family workshops, *7 Habits of Successful Families in Jacksonville*, promote introspection and personal empowerment.

In 2007, 9.5 percent of children in Florida were living in households headed by a grandparent or other relative. In 43

percent of these homes, neither parent was present.<sup>4</sup> The Children's Commission supports grandparents and other relatives raising children through GRANDS and RAPPJax. These groups provide support and information to the participants.

Quality child care centers help prepare children for school and allow parents to work without worrying about their children. Parents who believe that their children are well cared for are better able to concentrate on their work. For low-income parents, child care tuition assistance can help parents move toward self-sufficiency, benefitting both their families and society.<sup>5</sup>

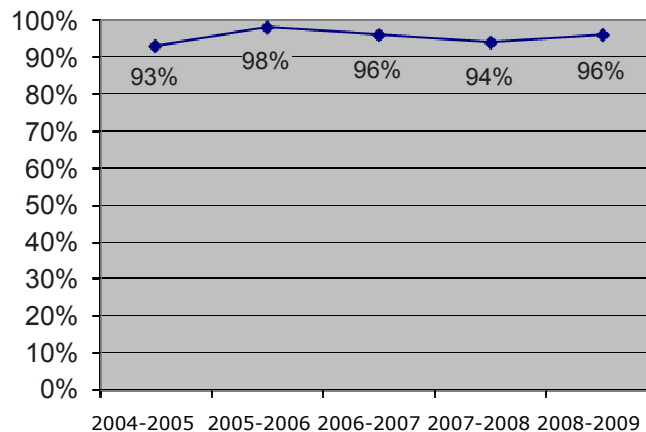
### Programs

Healthy Families Jacksonville  
Jacksonville Network for Strengthening Families  
Child Care Tuition Assistance (funded by the Early Learning Coalition of Duval)  
GRANDS/RAPPJax  
JaxKids Day  
Family Resource Guide and Web site<sup>6</sup>

### Outcomes

- ❖ Healthy Families
  - 1,028 families served
  - 1,959 children served
- ❖ Jacksonville Network for Strengthening Families
  - 1,059 people served
- ❖ Child care tuition assistance
  - 12,019 children served
- ❖ GRANDS/RAPPJax
  - 55 families served

### Healthy Families Jacksonville Children Free From Maltreatment 12 Months After Completion



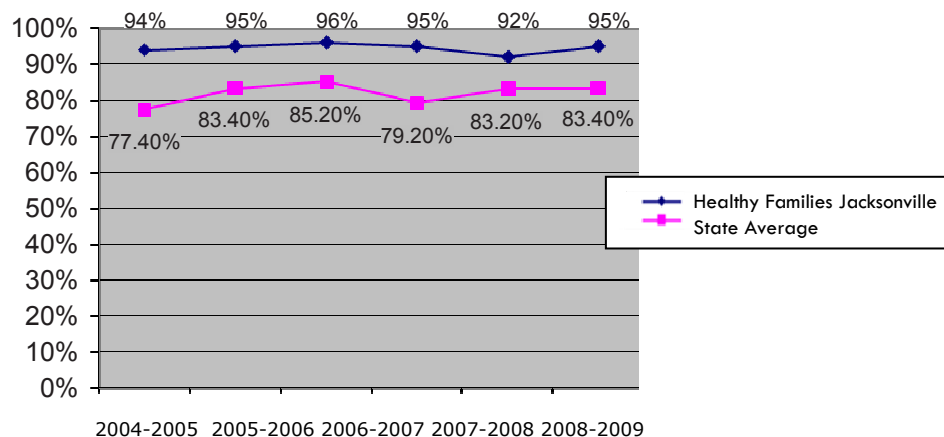
### Healthy Families, Maltreatment:

The Healthy Families programs statewide have been highly successful in reducing child abuse and neglect. Even though Healthy Families participants are at significantly higher risk of abuse and neglect than the overall population, there is 20 percent less maltreatment in their families. In the Healthy Families Jacksonville program, over 90 percent of children have been free from maltreatment for 12 months after their families complete the program. These results are consistent with the state average of all Healthy Families programs.

### Healthy Families, Immunizations:

One indicator of children's physical health is whether or not they are receiving the recommended immunizations on time. The immunization rate achieved by Healthy Families Jacksonville has consistently been over 90 percent and above the state average.

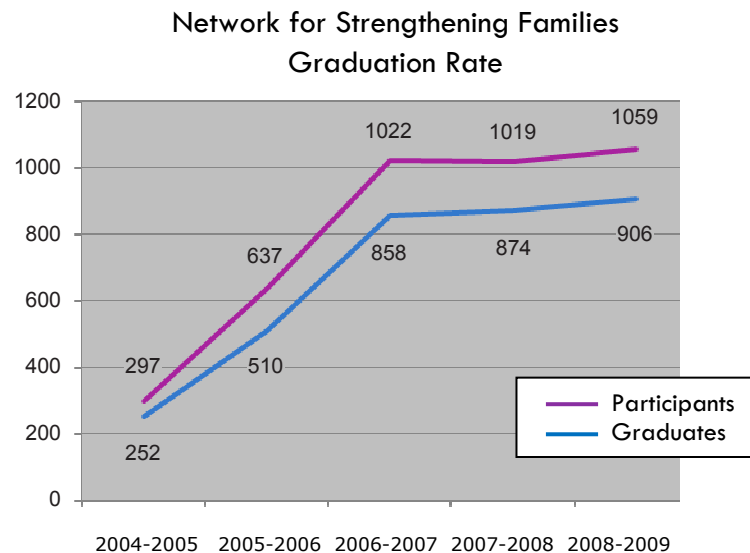
### Children Fully Immunized by Age 2



Healthy Families Graduates

## Jacksonville Network for Strengthening Families:

In the first two years of its existence, the Network for Strengthening Families was able to increase the number of families it served. The number of participants who graduated from the program also increased. In the last three years, the program has been able to sustain these high numbers.



## Stories of Success

A note from a graduate over a year after completing the Network program:

*"As a result of my substance abuse, I lost custody of my son. I was homeless and getting by on odd jobs. I came across a brochure about the [Network] program while cleaning a friend's house for money. I entered a rehab program and graduated 7 Habits. I got clean and the Network helped me write a letter to the judge to reopen my case. I was able to get my son back and have started my own cleaning business. I am drug free and in a healthy relationship now."*

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A note from a grandmother participating in GRANDS/RAPPJax:

*"I did not know that I was eligible for services for my special needs grandson. I learned through our support groups that I am eligible for cash assistance, child care and therapeutic services. I was given the tools to access all of these services and through my efforts I was able to have my needs and that of my grandson's met. If I had not attended our support group I probably would have never known about these services."*

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The following stories are told by those who work with Healthy Families Jacksonville:

Marissa, a 34-year-old first time mom, credits the Healthy Families program with helping her transition into parenthood, teaching her about child development and safety and showing her the importance of reading to her daughter. The workers also helped her cope with the stresses of her life. Since beginning the program she has been able to repair her credit and purchase a home through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program; locate a good child care center for her daughter and find a good job. She says her family is having regular family time and this has improved their relationships.

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Neither Brenda, a 21-year-old mother of three, or Lisa, an 18-year-old mother of one child, had high school degrees when they enrolled in Healthy Families. This lack of education meant that they were unlikely to be able to find jobs which would pay them enough to support their families. Now they have both gone beyond high school, earning associate's degrees. Lisa, along with working full time, is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree.

*In 2009, 5,000 people and 45 community organizations participated in JaxKids Day, a free family event.*



Fun at JaxKids Day

## Jacksonville Children's Commission: Preparing Children to Enter Kindergarten

Children who start school behind their peers in readiness skills are seldom able to catch up.<sup>7</sup> Quality preschools have positive effects on children - academically, socially and emotionally - and help to prepare them for school success. Quality early-childhood education has consistently been found to benefit not only the participants, but also society. For every dollar spent on these programs, \$4-\$13 is returned to taxpayers over the course of the children's lives. These benefits come from fewer children needing expensive special education classes or having to repeat a grade, fewer becoming juvenile delinquents and more graduating from high school. When the children become adults, there is less chance they will need to be on welfare or will commit crimes, and they are more likely to earn higher salaries and pay more in taxes.<sup>8</sup>

In order to reap these benefits for children and society, the early childhood programs must be high quality. However, the majority of preschools in the country rate below "good."<sup>9</sup> The Jacksonville Early Literacy Partnership (JELP) Early Learning Teams work with preschool center staff providing technical assistance, coaching, training and learning materials to improve the quality of the center.

Reading ability is considered to be an important factor in school success and later life. Children who have books in their home and parents who read to them are more likely to enter kindergarten with better reading skills and be more prepared for school.<sup>10</sup> However, today one-third of children do not have books in their homes<sup>11</sup> and are therefore missing this important part of school preparation. Through Mayor Peyton's Book Club, a part of *RALLY Jacksonville!*, all 4-year-old Duval County pre-kindergarteners are eligible to receive

a free book bag filled with fun reading tools and a series of 12 Jacksonville-themed books.

In order to learn in school, children's hearing, vision, speech and other milestones must be at developmentally-appropriate levels. Parents and caregivers of young children often are unaware that there are problems. Early intervention can help reduce later problems and assure that children are successful in school. The Early Learning Coalition of Duval funds programs that facilitate access to screening for children who receive child care tuition assistance and provide referrals for children who need additional help.

Inclusion services are offered to all area child care centers and family child care homes at no cost. The program helps child care providers support children with special needs and help create an enriched, inclusive environment.

### Programs:

#### *RALLY Jacksonville!*

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)

Jacksonville Children's Commission

Episcopal Children's Services

Born Learning

United Way

Early Literacy Coaching

Jacksonville Urban League Head Start

Mayor Peyton's Book Club

Child Development Associate (CDA) Training and

Scholarship programs

Developmental Screening

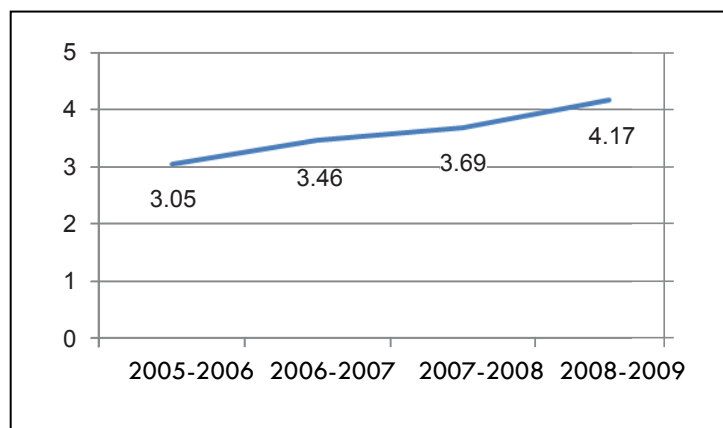
Inclusion



#### Outcomes:

- ❖ 5,856 Children served in QRIS centers
- ❖ 118 QRIS centers served
- ❖ 2,520 Head Start children served
- ❖ 3,367 Born Learning workshop participants
- ❖ 5,542 Children received Level I Developmental Screening
- ❖ 9,766 Mayor Peyton's Book Club members
- ❖ 632 Child care centers received assistance for inclusive classrooms

**Average Star Rating**



The average quality rating for child care centers participating in the Quality Rating and Improving System (QRIS), *Guiding Stars of Duval*, has increased each year. The number of rated centers is also higher. This means that parents have more information to help them choose the right center for their child. They also have more high-quality centers to choose from.

According to the Early Learning Coalition of Duval Report (2008) prepared by the Florida Institute of Education (FIE), preschool and prekindergarten children in the QRIS centers showed significant gains in school and reading readiness measures during the 2007-2008 school year. The average score of the children has consistently been above state standards for readiness, meaning that the children are entering school with more of the tools they will need to succeed.

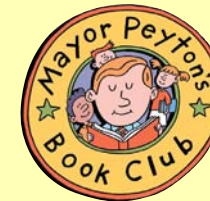
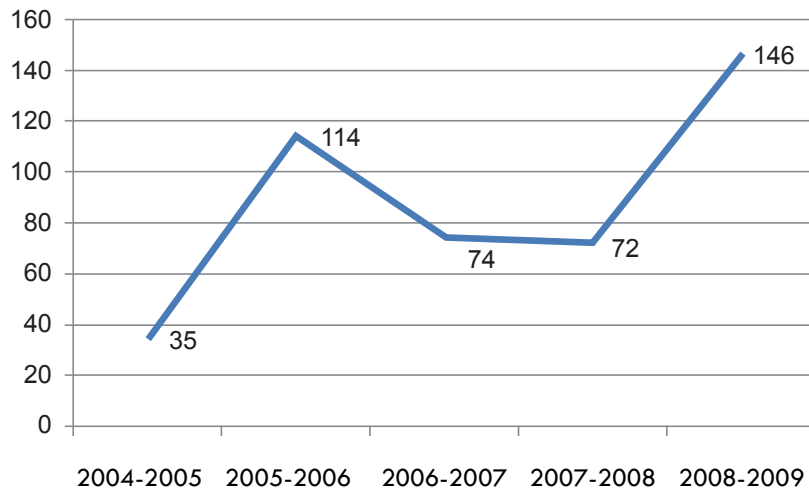
#### **Jacksonville Early Literacy Partnership (JELP)**

*Shared Goal: Every Child Enters Kindergarten Ready to Read, Ready to Learn, and Ready to Succeed*

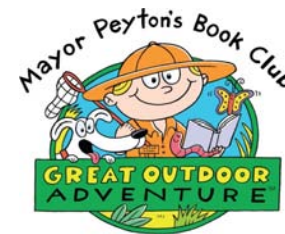
This success reflects the community-wide enthusiasm for the program and is due in part to both Mayor John Peyton's personal commitment to improving early literacy and the hard work of a large number of partners that work together to promote early literacy. These partners include: the Jacksonville Children's Commission, Early Learning Coalition of Duval, Duval County Public Schools, Episcopal Children's Services, Florida State College at Jacksonville, The Community Foundation, Jacksonville Public Library, the Urban League Head Start, United Way of Northeast Florida, Nemours BrightStart! Dyslexia Initiative and Florida Institute of Education at the University of North Florida.

The education levels of teachers are a commonly used indicator of preschool quality. Like all children, preschoolers need teachers who are highly trained and educated. In Jacksonville, the number of child care teachers who enrolled in college degree courses in the last year is at the highest level for any year.

**Number of AA, AS, and BA Degree Classes Taken by Center Teachers**



- In 2008-2009, 9,766 children joined the Book Club
- Almost 45,000 children have participated since the program's inception in 2004
- Over 10,000 Book Club members participated in six different free, literacy-themed events throughout the year



The Great Outdoor Adventure, a component of Mayor Peyton's Book Club that focuses on environmental conservation and encourages members and their families to enjoy local parks and natural treasures.

The Great Outdoor Adventure was inspired by the concept of "Nature Deficit Disorder" as coined by Richard Louv, author of "Last Child in the Woods.". This book created a national conversation about today's disconnect between children and nature.

## Stories of Success

A letter from the mother of a preschooler with special needs:

*"I want to thank you dearly for the improvements in my son's life. My son is 3 years old. Through the services provided by the Jacksonville Children's Commission and the Early Learning Coalition our lives have forever changed.*

*At the age of 2 I knew my son wasn't performing at 'normal' levels. I contacted the Jacksonville Children's Commission and was provided with information to have my son evaluated. We learned that Mark has many characteristics of the Autism spectrum. He was provided Speech Therapy through The Therapy Closet. I can never thank you enough for how my son has improved.*

*When we first started this journey he said about 10 words. Now, six months later, he says about 50 words. And, most importantly he knows the meaning of these words and how to ask for some of his needs. During Halloween he went door-to-door saying, "Treat, treat." Just his effort to speak brought tears to my eyes because six months ago I thought he may never speak. Every day is a blessing when I hear his sweet little voice say new words.*



*He also has Sensory Integration therapy and it helps him to calm when he feels overwhelmed. I was taught a few techniques which have improved our home life a lot. When I arrived at the Jacksonville Children's Commission I was lost, confused and felt hopeless. Through everyone's help and guidance we have gained so much for Mark, and our family will forever be grateful. Without your help and services we would be lost."*

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A note written by the director of a child care center which is participating in the Guiding Stars of Duval Program:

*"My center and my staff have benefited from assistance with the coaches. With them I have learned what a quality program consists of. My expectations for my center and my staff have been raised. With their assistance, I have had employees who started with me without a high school diploma who have obtained it, their CDA and want to continue to further their education."*

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A letter written by one of Jacksonville's young readers:

*"My name is Tyler and I love to read, especially mystery books. Last year, I was listening to a friend who had to wait for a long time in the emergency room. I couldn't believe it when he told me they didn't even have any books for him to read! That day, I decided I wanted to have a book drive at my school and donate all the books to a hospital.*

*I collected over 200 books. But none of the hospitals would take them. Then I got in contact with RALLY Jacksonville!. They wanted the books and I was so happy! I have already held another book drive this year.*

*Thank you for making sure that all kids get a chance to read."*

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## Jacksonville Children's Commission: Support During Out-of-School Time

Children in Jacksonville spend about two-thirds of their waking hours in activities outside of school. Many children will spend all or part of their after school time unsupervised or in care situations where they spend much of their time watching TV or videos, playing computer games or listening to music.<sup>12</sup> Researchers have found that children who are left unsupervised are at higher risk for emotional, social and academic problems and are more likely to engage in delinquent acts.<sup>13</sup>

Participation in structured out-of-school activities can result in better academic performance, higher promotion rates, improved work habits, lower dropout rates and fewer disciplinary referrals.<sup>14</sup> The children who are most at risk benefit the most from these programs.<sup>15</sup> The Children's Commission funds programs in Jacksonville that provide structured care for children after school (TEAM UP and Community Based Afterschool) and in summer camps.

Other assistance is provided for school-age children by the Children's Commission through vision screening and nutrition programs. Approximately 25 percent of school children have vision problems.<sup>16</sup> If these problems are not corrected they can lead to headaches, learning difficulties and/or permanent vision loss. The Vision Screening Program, a pilot project, screened children this summer and helped 95 children obtain two pairs of glasses each.

Children who are poorly nourished are more likely to have trouble concentrating, suffer from illness and miss school than are well nourished children.<sup>17</sup> The Children's Commission sponsors summer snack and lunch programs along

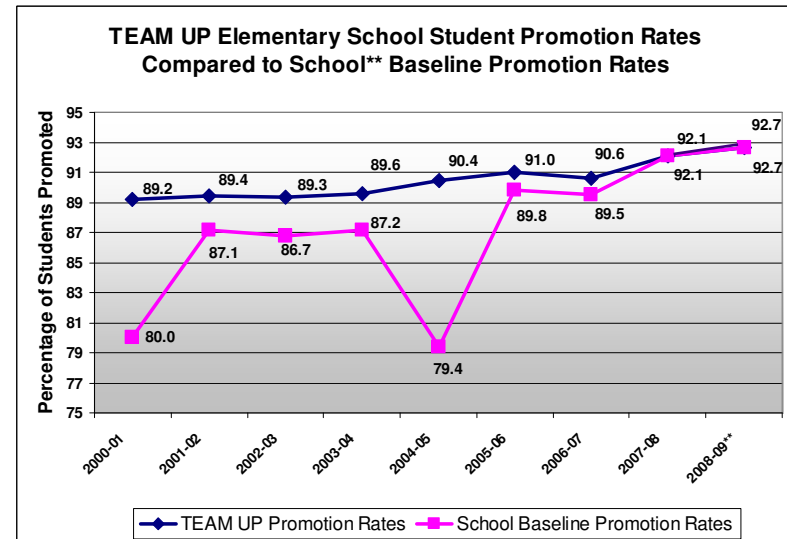
with providing snacks and meals to participants in the TEAM UP programs. Even when children have enough food, they may not be eating foods that are healthy for them, so the Children's Commission funds nutrition education for school children.

### Programs

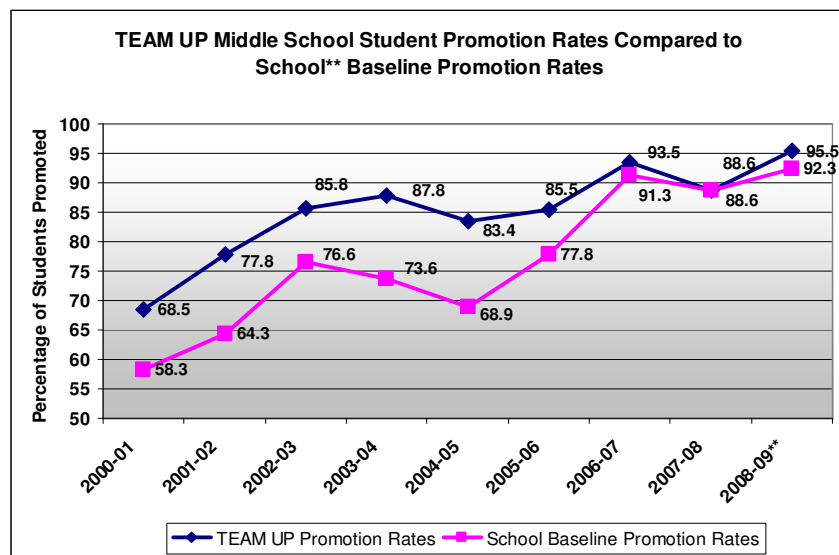
- TEAM UP Afterschool (including two programs for students with special needs)
- Community-Based Afterschool
- Summer Camp
- Nutrition (Education, Summer Lunch, and Afterschool Snacks and Meals)
- Vision Screening

### Outcomes

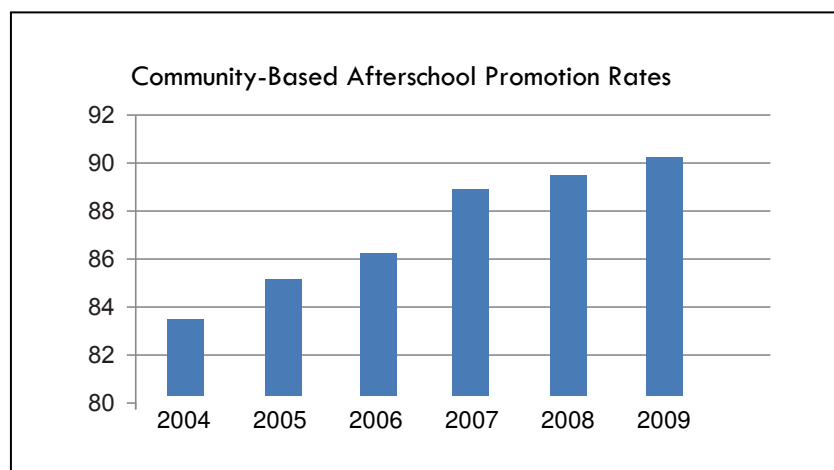
- ❖ 3,974 children served in 25 TEAM UP elementary programs



- ❖ 2,649 children served in 15 TEAM UP middle school programs



- ❖ 2,440 children served in 19 Community-Based Afterschool programs



Two outcomes that are important for afterschool programs are promotion rate and school attendance. School attendance is an important measure because children miss instructional time when they are not at school.

The promotion rates of students in both elementary and middle school TEAM UP programs have generally been increasing throughout the duration of the program. The TEAM UP promotion rates are consistently high, usually above the overall school promotion rate. This fact is particularly remarkable because many of the TEAM UP participants have academic challenges. The school attendance rate for TEAM UP participants is also high.

The community-based afterschool programs have had steadily increasing promotion rates. The participants also show higher school attendance rates. These outcomes are especially noteworthy because while these programs provide homework assistance, they also focus on providing a safe environment for the children as well as offering enrichment and sports activities.

### Vision Screening Pilot Program

*385 children screened  
95 children each received 2 pairs of glasses*

#### Question from one participating child needing eyeglasses:

*"Why do teachers write all that stuff on the board?  
After all, no one can see it."*

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### Nutrition Program

#### School Year:

**457,503 Snacks served in after school**  
**382,932 Meals served in after school**  
**5,918 Children in nutrition education**

#### Summer:

**264,935 Snacks served**  
**308,900 Meals served**

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### Stories of Success

These stories are told by those who work with the children and youth in the afterschool programs:

Tony came to his afterschool program one day at Community Connections and said that his best friend had been shot the previous afternoon. He was very upset, but also thankful. "If I hadn't had afterschool, I would have been with him," he said. "And I would have gotten shot too!"

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Tonya is a fifth-grade student who was struggling academically and had low self-esteem. At home, as the oldest child, she had many adult responsibilities including helping to care for her infant sibling. She was in TEAM UP, but the

program staff had to dismiss her from the program. Not only was she always the last student to be picked up, but the staff often had difficulty finding a family member who could come get her. To give Tonya a more stable home environment, her grandmother assumed responsibility for her and requested that she be allowed back in the TEAM UP program. Since returning to the program, Tonya has worked hard to improve her academics, and she joined the Girls on the Run Club. After training hard, Tonya completed a 5K challenge. Though she came in last, she displayed more pride in her accomplishment than many of those who finished before her.

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A TEAM UP Beauty Queen



Elaina, a former TEAM UP participant, is currently in the Early College program at Ribault High School. During her time in TEAM UP she was selected for a Take Stock in Children Scholarship. She has worked hard to maintain a 3.6 GPA so she can obtain a Bright Future Scholarship. She is currently giving back to the community by volunteering two-to-three days a week in the TEAM UP program that she attended.

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Daren is a young man who lives to give back to the community. He faithfully attended the TEAM UP program during middle school, received a Take Stock in Children Scholarship and graduated with honors from high school. He has received his associate's degree at Florida State College at Jacksonville and is currently attending the University of North Florida. He often represents TEAM UP, serving as a role model and mentor.

*Summer Camp*

*5,979 Children served*



Summer Camp Scientists

## Jacksonville Children's Commission: Extra Help for Children Who Need It

Some children need extra help to succeed, and a variety of programs are required to provide the necessary assistance. In some cases, family situations or poor environments cause children to run away or become involved in crime or substance abuse. In other cases, the child may have a disability - physical, emotional or intellectual. Approximately 20 percent of children will suffer from a mental disorder for which they need treatment.<sup>18</sup> In each of these cases, early intervention can enhance children's chances of success in life and reduce the need for more extensive and costly treatments later.

The Children's Commission funds a number of different programs in this area including mentoring and mental health services. Other programs support families in crisis, families that include children with disabilities and children who are homeless.

### Children with Disabilities

Living with a child who has a physical or cognitive disability can be stressful for families. Support can help both the child with the disability and the rest of the family to be successful.<sup>19</sup>

#### Programs:

New Heights of Northeast Florida  
DLC Nurse and Learn - Extended Care  
Hope Haven Basics

#### Outcomes:

- ❖ A total of 574 children served
- ❖ In the after-school programs, 90 percent of students demonstrated an increase in school performance in at least three areas of their Individualized Education Plans



### Mentoring

Quality mentoring programs can help children who are considered at-risk in educational achievement, social and emotional development and/or health and safety. Mentoring relationships can have positive effects on students' school attendance, parental relationships and reduce behavioral problems and substance abuse<sup>20</sup>. As President Barack Obama said about mentoring, "These moments can have an enormous, lasting effect on a child's life."<sup>21</sup>

#### Programs:

BIGS - Big Brothers and Big Sisters  
Seeds of Change - Big Brothers and Big Sisters  
Tipping the Scale - Bridge of NE Florida,  
Take Stock in Children - Communities In Schools  
Yes You! - Wayman Community Development Corporation

#### Outcomes:

- ❖ A total of 1,157 children served
- ❖ BIGS
  - 97 percent of youth improved in behavior
  - 94 percent of youth promoted to the next grade
- ❖ Seeds of Change
  - 98 percent of youth improved in behavior
  - 94 percent of youth promoted to next grade
- ❖ Tipping the Scale
  - 100 percent of youth provided vocational training and sponsorship
- ❖ Take Stock in Children
  - 95 percent of youth promoted to next grade
  - 99 percent of seniors graduated
- ❖ Yes You!
  - 95 percent of youth improved in behavior
  - 89 percent of youth promoted to next grade



### Homelessness

Children who are homeless are more likely to be hungry, suffer from illnesses and have emotional, behavioral and learning problems than are children in stable housing situations. They are also more likely to have to repeat a grade and to drop out of school. Many of the school problems can be reduced when support is provided for children.<sup>22</sup>

#### Programs:

Sulzbacher Developmental Screening Services  
Project Prepare - daniel  
Communities In Schools Case Management Services

#### Outcomes:

- ❖ A total of 286 children received services
- ❖ Sulzbacher Center
  - 169 children received developmental screening and one-on-one tutoring
- ❖ Project Prepare - daniel
  - 18 children provided with supportive housing
  - 95 percent of youth were not arrested during a 12-month period
  - 95 percent of youth discharged with stable housing and employment
- ❖ Communities In Schools Case Management
  - 102 children served
  - 90 percent of students promoted to the next grade



### Families in Crisis

All families experience periods of stress. Sometimes because of personalities, lack of coping skills, the depth of the problems and/or other factors. In some cases parents decide that they cannot cope with raising a child. Other times, the home situation becomes so difficult that a child believes it is best to leave home or run away. Nationally, one in seven young people between the ages of 10 and 18 will run away from home. While some will return home within a few days, others will never return.<sup>23</sup> The Youth Crisis Center's Family Connections Program provides immediate intervention to families and young people who are in crisis situations, including young people who have run away from home.

#### Programs:

Family Connections - Youth Crisis Center

#### Outcomes:

- ❖ 225 children served
- ❖ 93 percent of youth in the program were enrolled in school or other educational training during program services
- ❖ 98 percent of youth in the program remained in their homes during participation in the program



### Mental Health

Children with mental health problems are at higher risk for dropping out of school, becoming involved in juvenile crime, substance abuse, family discord, violence and committing suicide. If the disorders are not treated, as adults they are likely to have limited job opportunities and live in poverty.<sup>24</sup>

#### Programs:

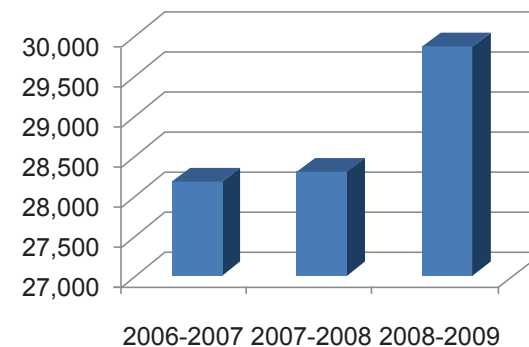
United Way Full Service Schools  
Child Guidance Center  
daniel  
Hope Haven  
Mental Health Resource Center  
Northwest Behavioral Services  
Outpatient Mental Health Services  
Child Guidance Center  
Northwest Behavioral Services  
Project Second Chance – Youth Crisis Center

#### Outcomes:

- ❖ Full Service School programs:
  - 1,301 children served
  - 96 percent of clients who completed treatment improved their social/emotional functioning
  - 99 percent of parents indicated that the services received were beneficial
- ❖ Outpatient Services
  - 2,053 children served
  - 96 percent of clients who completed treatment improved their emotional functioning
  - 99 percent of parents indicated that the services received were beneficial
- ❖ Project Second Chance
  - 292 children served



**Clients Served by Full Service Schools**





### Prevention and Intervention

The Children's Commission supports programs that help youth who are having problems or who are at risk for having problems in school or in their personal lives. PACE Center for Girls is an alternative school for girls ages 12-18. Bridge Connections provides case management and support services to youth ages 10-14.

#### Programs:

PACE Center for Girls  
Bridge Connections – The Bridge of NE Florida

#### Outcomes:

- ❖ PACE Center for Girls
  - 212 girls served
  - 100 percent of girls were not arrested
  - 95.6 percent were promoted to next grade
- ❖ Bridge Connections
  - 231 children served
  - 90 percent were promoted to next grade



### Alternatives to Out-of-School Suspension

The American Academy of Pediatrics published a policy statement in 2003 voicing concerns about children who are given out-of-school suspensions. Many of these children come from single parent and/or low-income homes and are likely to be left without supervision. Suspension may increase academic problems, delinquency and substance abuse.<sup>25</sup> The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that out-of-school adolescents are more likely to commit crimes and engage in substance abuse. Children who threaten violence, disobey rules, cause disruptions in school or suspended are often the very children who are most in need of professional help.<sup>26</sup> *The Jacksonville Journey: Alternative to Out-of-School Suspension (ATOSS)* centers were created in April 2009 to provide supervision and academic and social support to Jacksonville students who have been suspended. During the short period of time that the ATOSS program has existed, the school culture regarding suspensions has changed, leading to a 70 percent reduction in the number of suspensions.

#### Programs:

Alternative to Out-of-School Suspension (ATOSS)

#### Outcomes:

- ❖ 2,409 children served
- ❖ 70 percent reduction in the number of out-of-school suspensions in Duval County

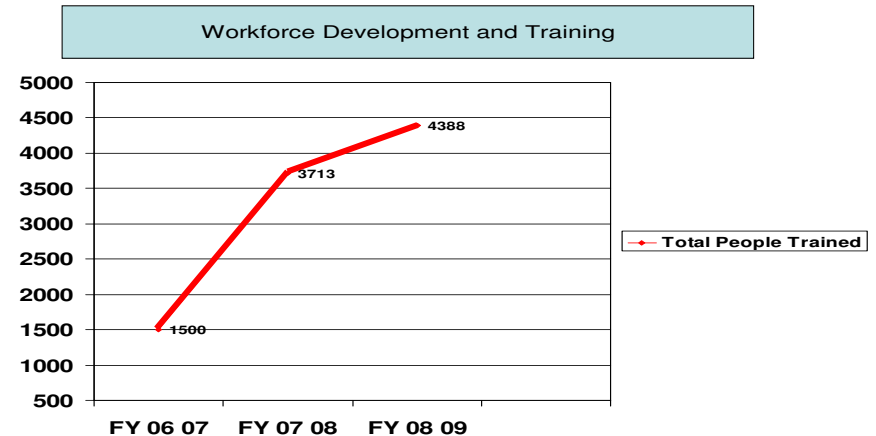
## FOUNDATIONS

### Workforce Development

A core value of the Children's Commission is the importance of investing in adults who are parents, family members, staff or volunteers working with children. Based upon sound research about early learning and positive youth development, the Commission's Workforce Development Department promotes the philosophy that children are assets in the making, not problems to be fixed. Positive adult/child relationships are at the core of every successful prevention and early intervention program.

The Workforce Development Department delivers training on all aspects of child development, effective communication with youth, and the essentials of safe, powerful services for children. The presence of a caring adult is a powerful influence in the success of a child, and the department provides background screening and training for volunteers who want to be mentors. Department staff serves as adult advisors to the Duval Youth Voice Council, a group of young adults who serve as spokespersons and advisors to the board of the Jacksonville Children's Commission and the Florida After School Network.

In fiscal year 2008 – 2009 the Commission was approved to provide clinical Continuing Education Units (CEUs) by the Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling. The Commission has also been approved to provide CEUs by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training.



### Partnerships

The Children's Commission has always worked in partnership with many funders, private donors, service providers, government agencies, faith groups and communities. However, the current bleak economic environment makes it even more important to be smart and strategic if we are to increase the impact of our investments, align our services and avoid duplication.

In particular, the Children's Commission is the convener of the collaborative New Town Success Zone project. Using the proven strategies of the Harlem Children's Zone®, more than 20 financial supporters and service providers are in the early stages of mobilizing their resources to provide a seamless prenatal-to-college pipeline of success for children and their families living in the historic New Town neighborhood on Jacksonville's West side.



The following is a partial list of the Jacksonville Children's Commission funders and community partnerships:

Action News WAWS FOX30/WTEV CBS 47  
AmeriCorps  
ARAMARK  
Bank of America  
Big Brothers and Big Sisters  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida  
Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida  
The Bridge of Northeast Florida  
The Chartrand Foundation  
Child Care Resource and Referral  
Child Guidance Center  
City of Jacksonville  
Communities In Schools of Jacksonville  
Community Connections  
The Community Foundation of Jacksonville  
CSX Corporation  
daniel  
Department of Children and Families  
DLC Nurse and Learn  
Duval County Health Department  
Duval County Public Schools  
Duval County Schools' Challenge Day  
Early Learning Coalition of Duval  
Early Steps: Florida's Early Intervention System  
Edward Waters College  
Episcopal Children's Services  
Family Support Services  
FDLRS – Child Find  
Fidelity National Information Services  
Florida Children's Services Councils  
Florida Department of Education  
Florida Department of Health

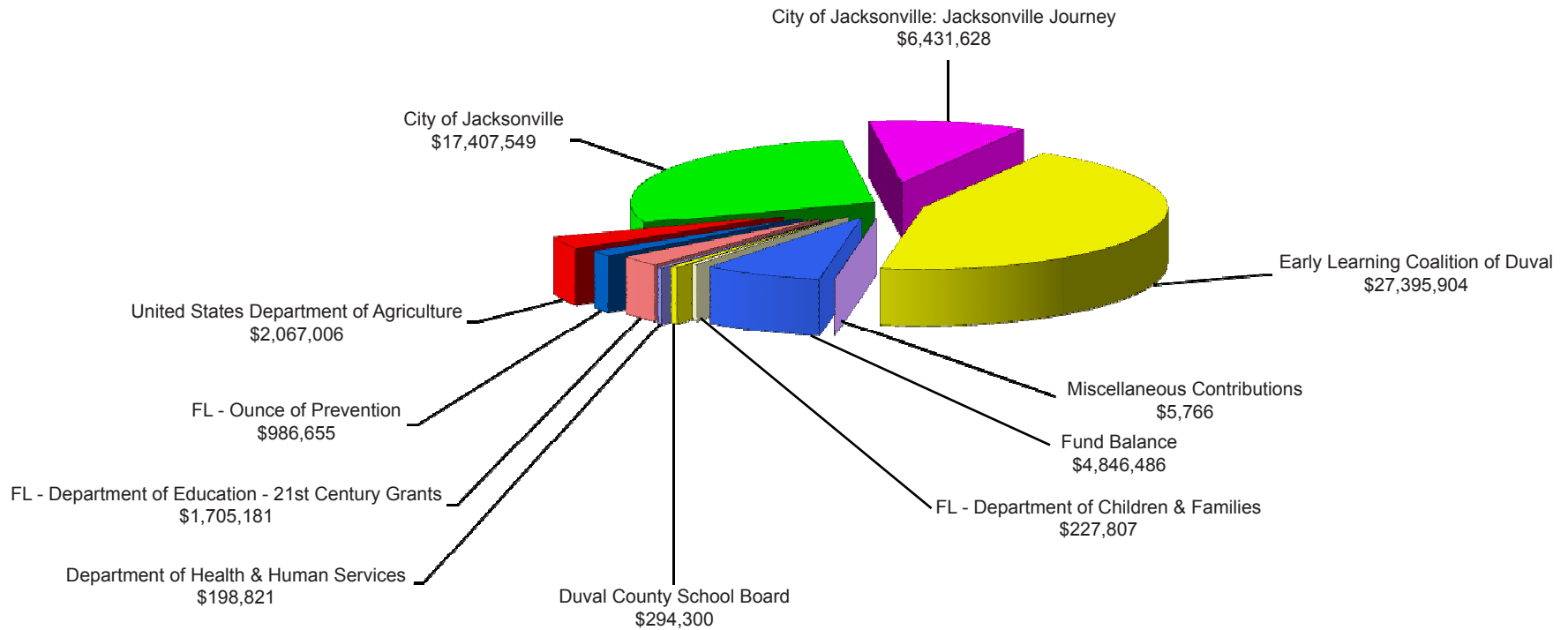
Florida State College at Jacksonville  
Florida Institute of Education at the University of North Florida  
G.A. Food Services  
Girls, Inc.  
Health Care Coalition  
Healthy Families Florida  
Healthy Start  
Hope Haven Children's Clinic and Family Center  
Jacksonville Early Literacy Partnership\*  
Jacksonville Greyhound Racing  
Jacksonville Jaguars  
Jacksonville Kids Coalition  
Jacksonville Network for Strengthening Families  
Jacksonville Public Education Fund  
Jacksonville Public Library  
Jacksonville Public Library Foundation  
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office  
Jacksonville University  
Jacksonville Urban League – Head Start  
JEA  
JaxParks  
JM Family Enterprises / Southeast Toyota Distributors, LLC  
Mali Vai Washington Kids Foundation  
Mental Health Resource Center of Jacksonville  
Mentor First Coast of Northeast Florida  
Nemours Brightstart! Dyslexia Initiative  
New Heights of Northeast Florida  
Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida  
Northwest Behavioral Services  
Ounce of Prevention  
PACE Center for Girls  
Police Athletic League  
Ramco-Gershenson Properties Trust  
Speech and Hearing Center of Jacksonville  
IM Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless  
The Therapy Closet

TV Verite  
United States Department of Agriculture  
United States Department of Health and Human Services  
United Way of Northeast Florida  
University of Florida/Duval County Extension Office  
University of North Florida  
Vision Is Priceless Council  
Wayman Community Development Corporation  
Wolfson Children's Hospital – Baptist Health  
Worksource/ First Coast Workforce Development  
YMCA  
Youth Crisis Center

\*Jacksonville's Early Literacy Partnership includes the following:

The Community Foundation of Jacksonville  
Duval County Public Schools  
Early Learning Coalition of Duval  
Episcopal Children's Services  
Florida Institute of Education at the University of North Florida  
Florida State College at Jacksonville  
Jacksonville Children's Commission  
Jacksonville Public Library  
Nemours BrightStart! Dyslexia Initiative  
United Way of Northeast Florida  
The Jacksonville Urban League Head Start

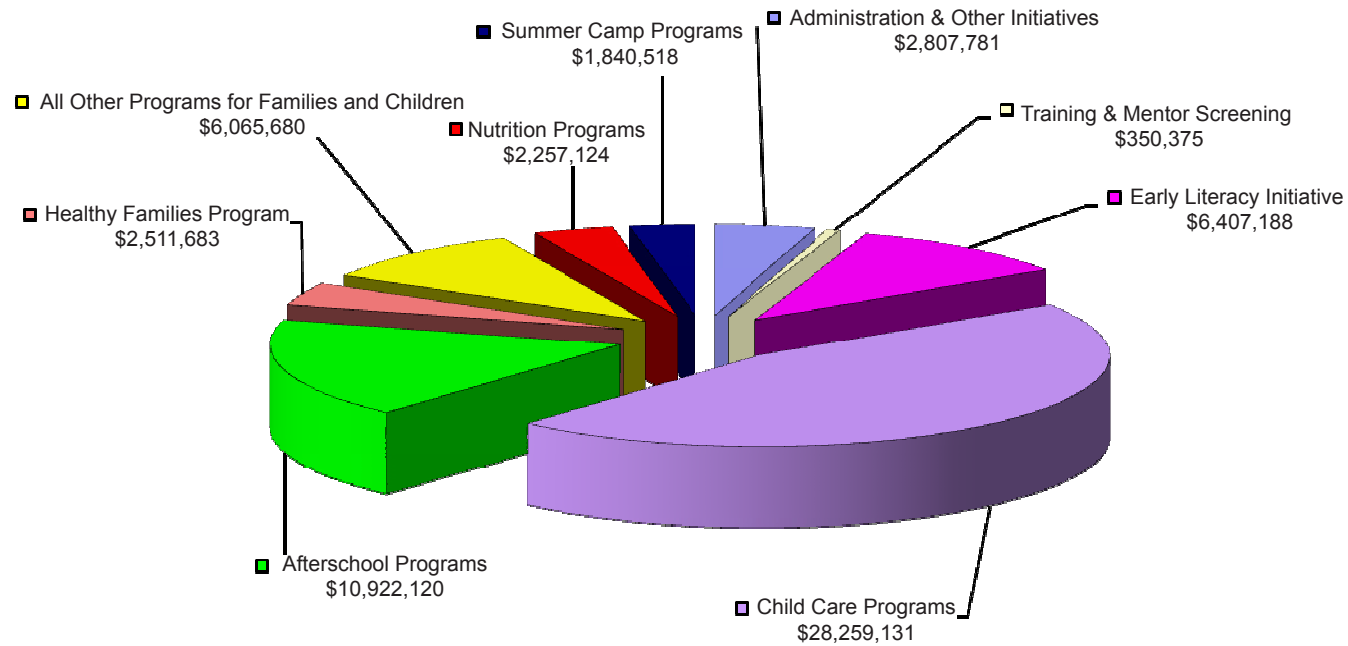
# Revenue



■ Miscellaneous Contributions	■ Fund Balance	■ FL - Department of Children & Families
■ Duval County School Board	■ Department of Health & Human Services	■ FL - Department of Education - 21st Century Grants
■ FL - Ounce of Prevention	■ United States Department of Agriculture	■ City of Jacksonville
■ Jacksonville Journey	■ Early Learning Coalition of Duval	

# Expenditures

(Includes Encumbrances at Year-end)



Administration & Other Initiatives	Training & Mentor Screening	Early Literacy Initiative
Childcare Programs	Afterschool Programs	Healthy Families Program
All Other Programs for Families & Children	Nutrition Programs	Summer Camp Programs

## Program Changes

**During the fiscal year 2008-2009, the following programs were defunded:**

Girls, Inc. of Jacksonville operated two community-based after school programs that were defunded - Spring Park and Arlington Community Centers. These programs were defunded because of low attendance.

Girls, Inc. of Jacksonville also operated two TEAM UP school-based sites that were transferred to other agencies. These sites include:

- S.P Livingston Elementary TEAM UP site was transferred, via competitive bid, to Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida and is now part of the New Town Success Zone.
- Carter Woodson Elementary TEAM UP site was transferred, via competitive bid, to Communities In Schools of Jacksonville.

### **Other Program Changes Include:**

Eugene Butler Middle School became part of the New Town Success Zone and was transferred from Communities In Schools of Jacksonville to the Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida via a competitive bid.

The Lola Culver Elementary TEAM UP site was operated by the Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida. The school was closed by the Duval County Public Schools. Students were transferred to an existing TEAM UP site, North Shore K-8, which is operated by The Bridge of Northeast Florida.

Hope Haven no longer provides services at the Beaches Full Service School. The Beaches Full Service School Program was transferred, via a competitive bid, to the Child Guidance Center. This transfer occurred because of a change in focus of Hope Haven.

Community Connections transferred their after school community based site located at Nia Terrace Housing Development to the new Normandy Center.

The Character Counts! program was transferred to the Recreation and Community Services Department (JaxParks) of the City of Jacksonville.

**Program changes (con't)**

The Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council data tracking program was transferred to the Children's Commission as a cost-saving measure.

Cerebral Palsy of Northeast Florida legally changed their name to New Heights of Northeast Florida, and former programs remain in operation under this new name.

Challenge Enterprises of North Florida did not pursue funding due to transportation costs and the program was defunded.

The federal grant for the Jacksonville Network for Strengthening Families concluded on Sept. 30, 2009, but the program will continue as a not-for-profit housed at the Westside Church of Christ. The senior minister at this church, Brother Pete Jackson, is a co-founder of this initiative.

The Family Involvement program of the Commission's School Readiness Division was eliminated due to budgetary constraints.

The Children's Commission was able to obtain a new five-year grant from the Florida Department of Education, Florida's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center initiative in the amount of \$2,570,640 over the five-year period to operate two TEAM UP programs.



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