



## ELC News Alert

Issue 9  
October 2010

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### President's Message



Dear Friends:

In the month of September I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. with a small Florida delegation that included the leadership of both the Florida Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. We met with members of Congress from both sides of the aisle and also had an opportunity to address several members of the administration. Although every member of the Florida delegation had a specific set of priorities, our collective message was simple: We are all working together to support economic development in Florida.

More and more the business community understands that our work focuses on early education and supports working parents and economic development. This understanding of our work has not come easy. The Association of Early Learning Coalitions; Governor-appointed, private-sector members of the Early Learning Advisory Council; provider organizations from around the state; and our other partners have been working long and hard to strategically forge important partnerships with the business community.

While we have made some strides, the advocacy work must continue. Until a new Congress is seated, many important budget decisions have been delayed at the federal level. The recurring theme however, is that everyone who holds elected office is concerned about how voters feel. It is important that your elected officials hear from each and every one of you. Relay your struggles as a small business owner. Share your personal stories about the families you serve. Tell them that investments in early education are a workforce and economic development issue--they are good for the country, the children and the economy.

Remember, it is our collective voice that has made a difference in the past and will continue to make a difference. *You* are the voters.

Sincerely,

Evelio C. Torres

President & CEO  
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

### Upcoming Board & Committee Meetings

Program & Strategy  
Tuesday, September 28: 3:30 p.m.  
Please note that this meeting has been CANCELLED.

Finance  
Wednesday, September 29; 8:00 a.m.  
ELC Board Room

Provider Services  
Thursday, September 30; 3:00 p.m.  
ELC Board Room

Board of Directors  
Monday, October 4; 8:00 a.m.  
ELC Board Room

For a complete list of upcoming Coalition meetings and events, please visit our website at [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org).

### Quick Links

[Early Learning Coalition](#)

[VPK](#)

[Agency for Workforce Innovation](#)

### Get Connected with ELC!



### Important Announcements

#### BOD Listening Session to Discuss Funding for School-Age Children in an Aftercare Program

As you know the BOD of the ELC continues to discuss after-school funding in preparation for their strategic plan. We are beginning to schedule listening sessions. The first session is for:

Providers who serve school-age children in an aftercare program

If you are a provider that serves school-age children in an aftercare program and are interested in attending this listening session, we invite you to join us on:

Thursday, September 30 at the ELC from 6-7:30 p.m.  
Early Learning Coalition Office  
2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd, 5th Floor  
Coral Gables, FL

Please RSVP to [info@elcmdm.org](mailto:info@elcmdm.org).

#### Contact Information for Ms. Shaleen Fagundo, Your New Provider Representative on the Board of Directors

Ms. Shaleen Fagundo  
Interamerican Learning Center  
1521 NW 28th Street  
Miami, FL 33142  
Business: 305-663-1000  
Email: [shaleen@interamericanpreschool.com](mailto:shaleen@interamericanpreschool.com)

### Join the Read for the Record Campaign on October 7th

On October 7th, join the Pearson Foundation, Jumpstart, and children nationwide as they Read for the Record! In 2009, over 2 million readers set a world record for the greatest number of people reading the same book. This year, in an attempt to best the world record, the selected book is Ezra Jack Keat's classic, *The Snowy Day*. Read for the Record is a valuable opportunity to highlight the importance of early reading in the lives of young, at-risk children. To participate in this great, collective reading challenge and to learn more about the Read for the Record Service Learning Program, please visit [www.readfortherecord.org](http://www.readfortherecord.org).

### 55th Annual Florida Association for the Education of Young Children (FLAEYC) Conference

The FLAEYC conference is scheduled for September 30, October 1-3, 2010 at the Marriott World Center in Orlando. For more information on the conference's registration fee, events, speakers, Marriott Hotel \$120/night group rate, and online registration form, please visit <http://www.flaec.org/details.aspx?ArticleId=85&PageID=490>.

### The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Launches a Health Care Website in Spanish

The HHS recently unveiled [www.CuidadodeSalud.gov](http://www.CuidadodeSalud.gov), a first-of-its-kind website and comprehensive resource for Spanish-speaking consumers wishing to take control of their health care. CuidadodeSalud.gov provides access to quality, affordable health care coverage. To read the press release, please visit [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org).

### Don't Miss out on Your Chance to Participate in the CCEP Program for the 2010-2011 School Year

If you are already participating in the Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) program\* and wish to continue doing so for the 2010-2011 school year, **you must re-submit an agreement via mail or drop it off at the Early Learning Coalition's Coral Gables office (2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 500, Coral Gables, FL 33134).** Please note however, you do not need to submit a pre-screening form for employees. Please visit our CCEP webpage at [http://www.elcmdm.org/our\\_services/ccep.html](http://www.elcmdm.org/our_services/ccep.html) for further information and to download the necessary paperwork.

We need to receive your 2010-2011 CCEP forms as soon as possible. Thank you.

\*The Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) program for early care and education providers in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties will allow centers to provide care for an employee's child at the center and be partially reimbursed for that care by the Early Learning Coalition.

### REGISTER by **October 4th** so you can VOTE in the November General Election!

You can apply to register to vote at any time. However, to vote in an election, you must be registered in the state by the book-closing date, which is normally the 29th day before each election. **The remaining book-closing date for the 2010 election cycle is:**

- October 4, 2010.....General Election

For additional information regarding voting, please contact your county's supervisor of elections:

#### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Lester Sola, Supervisor

PO Box 521550

Miami, FL 33152

Phone: 305-499-8683

Fax: 305-468-2507

Email: [soedade@miamidade.gov](mailto:soedade@miamidade.gov)

Web Address: <http://elections.co.miami-dade.fl.us>

## MONROE COUNTY

Harry L. Sawyer, Supervisor  
530 Whitehead Street, Suite 101  
Key West, FL 33040  
Phone: 305-292-3416  
Fax: 305-292-3406  
Email: [info@keys-elections.org](mailto:info@keys-elections.org)  
Web Address: <http://www.keys-elections.org>

On November 2, 2010, make your voice heard on issues that are important to you. To learn the steps one must take to register to vote and/or to download a registration application, please visit <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/voter-registration/voter-reg.shtml>.

## Gerald Schwartz, Yvonne Johnson, and Ana Rodriguez are Honored for their Exceptional Service to the ELC

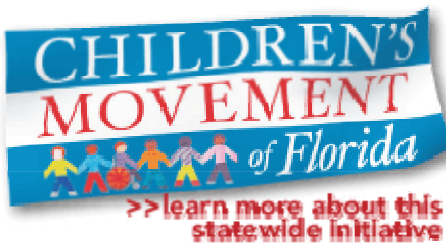


BOD Officers Gerald Schwartz, Esq. (far left) and Yvonne Johnson, M.D. (second from the left) are honored for their dedicated years of service to the ELC and community's children. They are pictured with BOD Chairman Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. (second from the right) and President & CEO Evelio Torres (far right).



Ana Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant to the Sr. Director of Administration & Finance, is honored for being an exemplary employee.

## Children's Movement of Florida



Led by a 27-member committee of influential Floridians, the Children's Movement of Florida has announced a statewide, citizen-led, non-partisan series of "Milk Parties" on behalf of Florida's children. The sweeping series of 15 "Milk Party" rallies will be conducted throughout Florida between Sept. 6 and Sept. 30, beginning in Pensacola and ending in Key West. The goal is to attract substantial media coverage.

The events will include appearances by movement leaders, children's advocates, entertainers and local celebrities and supporters. Refreshments will include milk and cookies. A bus called "The Children's Express" will carry the group on "The Children's Movement Road Tour" from city to city. No public funds are being used.

The objective: To educate political, business and civic leaders - and all parents in Florida - about the urgent need to improve the way we care for our children, making the well-being and education of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens, Florida's highest priority. The need is clear: By almost every objective standard, Florida ranks poorly in measure after measure of how we invest in children.

Through the sheer magnitude of these rallies and the thousands of supporters who attend them, the aim is to show influential leaders in Tallahassee and everywhere else that we have the power to obtain for Florida's children the resources they require and deserve. The Children's Movement of Florida is supported by a broad coalition that includes hundreds of children's advocates and others.

For information about the "Milk Party" rally scheduled for your area, about the origins, objectives and leaders of the Children's Movement of Florida, and about the current state of Florida's children, please visit [www.childrensmovementflorida.org](http://www.childrensmovementflorida.org).

The Children's Movement also has a Facebook fan page, [www.facebook.com/childrensmovementfl](http://www.facebook.com/childrensmovementfl). Please visit the page and click on the "like" button, and encourage family and friends to do so as well. Thank you.



Join us for the Children's Movement Miami-Dade Milk Party Rally on Wednesday, September 29th!

**MIAMI-DADE MILK PARTY RALLY**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2010**  
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (DOORS OPEN @ 6:00PM)

**Miami-Dade County Auditorium**  
2901 West Flegler Street  
Miami, FL 33135

Watch the Children's Movement TV Commercial Urging Candidates to Attend the Gubernatorial Debate

Watch the compelling TV commercial presented by the Children's Movement of Florida encouraging Gubernatorial Candidates Alex Sink (D) and Rick Scott (R) to attend the October 16th debate on children's issues!

[http://childrensmovementflorida.org/about/debate/tv\\_commercial/](http://childrensmovementflorida.org/about/debate/tv_commercial/)

Voters, we need your help! If you care about the future of Florida's children, please call Republican Nominee Rick Scott at 954-915-3360 and urge him to attend the debate at the University of Miami on October 16th. To learn more about the Children's Movement of Florida, please visit <http://www.childrensmovementflorida.org>.

### Team Member Spotlight

This month, the spotlight shines on another valued team member and the important work she accomplishes in

bringing quality early childhood education to our community. In this issue, it is our pleasure to highlight **Belinda Jeanty-Gauthier**, VPK Monitor.

Belinda Jeanty-Gauthier has been an ELC team member for over five years. She joined the Coalition as an assessment specialist, a position in which she administered several environmental rating and program administration scales, and completed high-stakes classroom assessments in various socio-economic settings. Also, she assessed the quality of early childhood education programs according to NAEYC standards for locally- and federally-funded grant and quality initiative pilot programs.



In her current capacity with the ELC, Belinda serves the community as a VPK monitor, overseeing monitoring responsibilities in the northern region of Miami-Dade County for more than 300 pre-schools and early childcare centers participating in the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program. She provides technical assistance to VPK centers and low-performing sites in the areas of improvement plan and goal setting, lesson planning, curriculum selection and training, room arrangement, and self-evaluation checklists.

Belinda is fully aware of the vital role the ELC plays in the lives of South Florida's young children, "Being part of an organization that believes *every* child should have a fair start in their education and works to constantly level the playing field by encouraging and facilitating high-quality programs is what drives me," she says. It is through Belinda's work in the field however, where she sees firsthand how the mission of the Coalition comes to life, "It is so gratifying to visit a center for a second time and see the center's renewed commitment to quality and how the classroom environment and the children's portfolios have dramatically improved as a result of the recommendations that were given during a previous monitoring visit."

In previous professional positions Belinda served as a research analyst and writer for a nationally-recognized public opinion and political consulting firm. There she was a project manager for the first national study of Haitian-Americans. Additionally, she directed a project to analyze the role of female juveniles in the Dade County Criminal Justice System as a University of Miami research fellow.

In her time outside of the ELC, Belinda enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with her family and close friends.

## **Miami-Dade County News Briefs**

School Readiness (SR)

### **Child Screening and Assessment Update**

Welcome back to school year 2010-11. The Early Learning Coalition in collaboration with Miami-Dade County Child Development Services will continue providing an annual developmental screening for every school readiness child with signed parental consent. The results of the screenings are helpful in determining if a child is developing typically, may be at risk for delays and/or should be referred for further evaluation.

The Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) will be mailed monthly beginning in September as school readiness children will be screened in their birth month rather than all at the same time. This should ease the burden on teachers having to complete many screenings in a short period of time. Additionally, there will be no need to determine which ASQ a child will need; it will be the 12-, 24-, 36-, 48-, or 60-month questionnaire. At the beginning of each month centers will receive the ASQs in the mail. They should be completed immediately and returned by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. A self-addressed envelope in which to return the completed questionnaires will also be provided.

For more information or assistance in completing the ASQs, please call Miami-Dade County Child Development

Services at 305-953-6007 in the North or 305-270-2905 in the South.

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)

### 2008 VPK Standards Training

The following 2008 VPK Standards training sessions will be conducted at St. John the Apostle, 479 E 4<sup>th</sup> Street, School Cafeteria, in Hialeah from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please visit the website to register.

- Tuesday, September 21, 2010; Reference #960
- Tuesday, October 12, 2010; Reference #964
- Tuesday, November 9, 2010; Reference #967
- Tuesday December 7, 2010; Reference #972

The following 2008 VPK Standards training sessions will be conducted at Miami-Dade College, 500 College Terrace, Building G, Room 206, in Homestead from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please visit the website to register.

- Thursday, October 21, 2010; Reference #965
- Thursday, November 18, 2010; Reference #969
- Thursday, December 9, 2010; Reference #974

Please note that there is a **\$10.00 class-fee which must be paid by credit card at the time of registration.** As a result of the class-fee, walk-ins will no longer be accepted. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of class; anyone arriving at 5:45 p.m. or later will not be admitted. **THERE ARE NO REFUNDS.** Thank you for your cooperation.

Employment Opportunities

### Miami Children's Initiative, (MCI) Inc.- Executive Director

The Miami Children's Initiative, (MCI) Inc. is looking for a dynamic individual with proven ability to provide overall leadership and management to MCI and the implementation of the approved Community Strategic Plan. The Executive Director reports directly to the MCI Board of Directors. Full announcement, job description, and required qualifications may be viewed at [www.ounce.org](http://www.ounce.org), Florida Children's Initiatives, Miami Children's Initiative. Resumes are due October 8, 2010.

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### Monroe County News Briefs

*Save the Date*

#### **Monroe County Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, September 30th @ 1:00 p.m.**

**Monroe County School District Board Room, 241 Trumbo Road, Key West**

Please join ELC Monroe board members, President and CEO Evelio Torres, staff and our community partners as we discuss important information of interest and concern to our early education and care provider community. Provider participation is strongly encouraged in our first quarterly meeting of the new 2010-2011 program year.

\*Note: Participation via school district videoconferencing is available at Marathon High School, Room 2106; and Coral Shores High School, Library Media Center Conference Room, Tavernier.

To participate via conference call, the call-in number is 1-888-813-8477, pass code 143130.

#### **Children's Movement of Florida "Milk Party" Rally- Key West**

**Thursday, September 30th @ 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Key West High School Auditorium, 2100 Flagler Avenue**

The Children's Express bus will roll into Key West as part of a statewide campaign to encourage the people and

leaders of Florida to make the well-being and education of our children the state's highest priority. Led by a 27-member committee of influential Floridians (including Dave Lawrence, President of The Early Childhood Initiative Foundation), the movement is organizing a series of 15 "Milk Party" rallies throughout Florida - from Pensacola to Key West - between Sept. 6 and Sept. 30. Parents, teachers and all interested citizens Keys-wide are encouraged to attend the Key West rally, with a goal of 998 participants to fill the auditorium and send a strong message to our leaders. For additional information about the Children's Movement of Florida, visit their website at <http://childrensmovementflorida.org>.

### Alan Eckstein Receives the Children's Movement Proclamation from Key West Mayor Craig Cates

At the City Commission meeting on September 21st, Alan Eckstein, Chairman of the Monroe County Children's Movement Steering Committee, received the Children's Movement proclamation from Key West Mayor Craig Cates. After the presentation, Alan spoke briefly to the commissioners and attendees on the importance of the movement and invited all to attend the Key West rally on September 30th.

Pictured from left to right are: Alan Eckstein, Esq. and Craig Cates, Mayor of Key West.



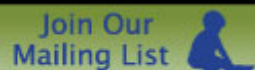
### Quality Counts



Carol Brogan, the newest member of the Quality Counts team, is the consummate early childhood professional. When Carol speaks about her experiences, it is based on a wide range of early childhood positions, from lead teacher to center director to education manager. Carol has worked in both the private and public sectors and has had the wonderful opportunity of working directly with children, parents, teachers, family childcare providers, technical assistance specialists, center directors, and center administration. An accomplished trainer and presenter, Carol has provided numerous trainings and education sessions at a variety of national and local conferences in both the USA and Canada. As a center director, Carol successfully led her centers through multiple NAEYC accreditations.

Carol is a passionate and ardent advocate for the care and education of all children including her own and the children at the centers with which she interacts. One of her biggest challenges was when a local company solicited her help in designing developmentally appropriate toys. It took some time but Carol trained the company's business professionals and together they successfully produced a number of fun, developmentally appropriate toys.

From her experiences as a toddler caregiver, preschool teacher, and child product consultant in Pennsylvania; center director and early childhood training and technical assistance specialist in Buffalo, New York; and education manager at Family Central, Inc. and Miami-Dade CAA Head Start /Early Head Start in Miami, Carol has held to the belief that quality is the willingness to achieve a level of excellence that will benefit all children and all stakeholders. It is through this commitment that quality is realized and that quality counts.



2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd. Suite 500; Coral Gables, FL 33134

