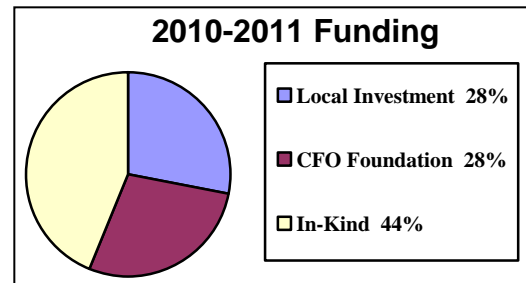
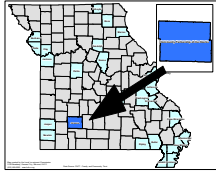


Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Inc.

Established: 1995



FY11 Result Achievement: Kindergarten Camp Young Children Ready to Enter School

September 2011

Community Profile:

Community Partnership of the Ozarks is located in the City of Springfield. Although the city's population currently stands at 151,823, its economic impact influences 27 counties and over 936,000 individuals. While the City of Springfield and Greene County serve as the geographic base of our service area, our programming efforts reach 20 other counties in Southwest Missouri.

Community Partnership of the Ozarks is governed by a 29-member Board of Directors, which is comprised of representatives from local government, the faith and education community, local businesses, civic organizations, the media, and other non-profit organizations. We also have the Ozarks Fighting Back Advisory Board, which oversees our alcohol, drug and tobacco prevention services, and a talented and committed staff and volunteers that work to facilitate and implement our tremendous diversity of programming and collaborative efforts.

Major Collaborative Accomplishment:

Nearly twenty five percent of all children entering Springfield Public Schools do so without the skills necessary to succeed, according to their kindergarten readiness assessment. Kindergarten Camp is our response to children in our community who need experiences, practice and help with being school ready. What began as a federal Department of Education Ready to Learn grant to the City of Springfield has become a program that is quickly being institutionalized into programming for preschool children in Springfield.

The goals of Kindergarten Camp were to

- increase school readiness and literacy skills among high risk, low-income preschool children, focusing on those not attending preschool programs,
- improve social and emotional skills among high risk, low-income preschoolers through small groups and one-on-one mentoring, especially those not attending preschool programs,
- increase parents' knowledge of literacy and developmental milestones and help them build social and emotional skills in their children, and
- reduce the effects of poverty on children through providing referrals to key resources necessary for school readiness and child well being.

To determine program effectiveness, children attending Kindergarten Camp were assessed on their school readiness with ASQ and DECA assessments completed by a parent or guardian, and a skills checklist completed by the teacher at Kindergarten Camp. At the end of camp, parents were provided with a summary of the results, along with numerous tools and items to support them in helping their child gain the necessary skills to enter school ready to learn.

With respect to DECA (social emotional competency) assessments, 23% of children's results indicated at least one area of concern. This translates to potential struggles when they enter the kindergarten classroom. In an effort to address this, all parents were provided with specific hints for building the social and emotional competency of young children.

We were able to serve 232 children and their families with 19 sessions during spring and summer, 2011. At the end of the week, 25.9% of children enrolled in Kindergarten Camp were able to do all 25 items on the skills checklist, and an additional 25% were able to do 19 of 25 items on the list and needed minimal assistance to complete the remaining items. Promising results included all children enrolled showed interest in books and storytelling, and were able to answer questions related to the stories. Also, children who attended Kindergarten Camp were better able to identify their own emotions and those of other children at Camp, wait their turn and share the teacher's attention. Additionally, 86% of children showed marked improvement cutting with scissors and proper pencil grip at the end of Camp. Finally, parents whose children attended Camp reported that they felt better able to help their children prepare for kindergarten with the tools, advice and guidance provided by staff at Kindergarten Camp.

Collaborative Partners:

Springfield Public Schools	Dickerson Park Zoo
Missouri State University	Local Businesses
Springfield Master Gardeners	KY-3 Meteorologists
Local Churches	Evangel University
Springfield/Greene County Health Department	
Springfield/Greene County Libraries	