

July 31, 2010

## **Summary of Overall Progress**

With much appreciation for the funding support we received from the Mayer Family Foundation we are glad to report that we have made great overall progress on our project goals with only one individual goal not at its fullest potential and all other goals exceeding their original targets. We provided our preschool and parent education program to more families than in any previous year. There continues to be great need to reach at-risk families as early as possible and with your continued support we will be able to reach even more families in the coming year.

### **Progress towards individual goals**

*Annually preschool-age children will be prepared for Kindergarten academically & socially:*

- Year-end survey results showed that 96% of parents increased their knowledge of kindergarten-readiness and how to support their child's readiness
- 92% of parents reported their child was more ready for kindergarten after completing the program
- 100% of kindergarten teachers surveyed in a local summer transition program reported that Family Connections graduates were more ready for Kindergarten than their peers

*Enrollment at the East Palo Alto site will increase by 25% each year for the next 3 years*

- Participation increased by 44%! Additionally, father enrollment increased by 22% (an important factor as research shows that father involvement directly correlates to children's academic success)

*Parents will increase their understanding of early childhood development and parent education skills as a result of their participation in the program*

- 96% of parents responded that their positive discipline skills improved
- 100% of parents stated they increased their knowledge of the stages of their child's development

*New Lunch Bunch program implemented targeting pre-kindergarten students with addition of second location and/or increase in sessions offered in 10/11 and 11/12 school years.*

- Lunch Bunch program was fully implemented as planned however, enrollment was much lower than expected

### **Share any unanticipated developments, changes or challenges your project and/or organization has experienced:**

#### *Project Related Developments*

On the positive side we are very surprised by the increase in participation at our East Palo Alto location, we expected to grow but not by such a significant number. The biggest change was that more parents enrolled and stayed enrolled throughout the year vs. dropping out before the year was over. We have been able to link parent/child attendance to their year-end survey results and have found a direct correlation between the length of time they attend the program and their overall learning (learning increases the longer they stay in the program). We are going to work in the next school year to continue to increase that level of commitment.

## Family Connections

Interim Report to the Oscar G. & Elsa S. Mayer Family Foundation

July 31, 2010

Our biggest challenge has been getting the Lunch Bunch program enrolled at a level to make the program viable and effective for the participants. Prior to starting the new program we did thorough needs assessment for this type of intensive pre-kindergarten experience, including interviews with several of our current families who would have children graduating out of our morning program and would be candidates for the Lunch Bunch program. Actual enrollment however was much smaller than anticipated.

With all of the important social and emotional development that takes place in a group preschool setting (learning how to share, play together, sit in a group during circle time, resolve conflicts, etc.) we felt that the overall quality of the program was not at the level that we desired due to the small number that enrolled (6 children). One factor may have been that we launched the program mid-school year when children may have already been set in their schedules and unable to attend an afternoon class.

Our plan is to re-launch the program this September. We will also connect with our Mayer Family Foundation partner, Alix Mayer to discuss our strategy for improving on this goal during the 10/11 school year.

### *Agency Related Developments*

Overall our agency continues to raise more money than in previous years, despite the challenging economy. However, the need for our services has grown at a faster rate than our resources. Foundation giving has been increasingly difficult to secure with more foundations either shrinking their overall giving or significantly narrowing their focus areas. Our agency has been working strategically ensure our financial viability by seeking new revenue sources (sub leasing unused facility space for example) and increasing our individual contributions.

Investing in pre-school age children and their families continues to be one of the best ways to ensure a future society that is educated, skilled and contributing productively to the economy and positively to the community. We cannot thank you enough for your investment of financial of grant support to our work. We are confident we will continue to be successful with your help and will work hard to improve on our goals in the coming year.



Albert and daughter Samantha during “Importance of Play” workshop