

CLARK COUNTY **FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL**
Partnerships for Success

1345 Lagonda Avenue, P. O. Box 967A, Springfield, Ohio 45501-1037

Marilyn Demma, Executive Director, Ph: 937-327-1991, Fax: 937-327-1910 E-mail: ccfcfc@clarkdjfs.org

January 22, 2008

Dear Community Partner ---

A *Partners In Caring* event is planned for April 9, 2008, at the Courtyard by Marriott. Continental breakfast, lunch and continuing education units will be provided at no cost, but registration is required to assure sufficient food, space and supplies.

This day began as a recommendation from Study Circles on Youth Violence in 2007, sponsored by the City of Springfield Human Relations Department. *It Takes A Village Study Circle* members and others working with youth in Springfield and Clark County are planning a day of reflection and inquiry into the best child, youth and family work being done in Clark County. Join us as we learn and use *Appreciative Inquiry*, an innovative approach to community change. Dr. Chester Bowling and a team of OSU Extension Educators will facilitate a day of celebration, conversation and action designed especially for people in Clark County who work with children, youth and families. Our goals are to learn from our successes, envision new possibilities, and create opportunities for deeper collaboration.

This event continues and builds on work accomplished in Clark County through the Partnerships for Success (PfS) strategic planning process. That work prioritized the need for violence prevention and youth and family engagement for school success. During PfS planning community members learned from Dr. Dawn Anderson-Butcher also of OSU that effective youth development programming does more than keep children and youth happy and busy and good. This day affords us an opportunity to come together to discover what exactly makes our programming more effective.

An important component of PfS planning is bringing the community together to understand what works and what is of value. Please plan to be part of this important discussion. Registration forms will be sent to you soon. Although there is no cost, registration is required. Funding has been provided in part by Clark County Department of Job & Family Services, Mental Health & Recovery Board of Clark County, Clark County Juvenile Court and Springfield City School's Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative.

We look forward to seeing you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Demma
Executive Director