

Development Matters

Executive Director End-of-Year Message

By Sharon Bogdan



As the year ends, I find myself thinking of all that we at Arsenal Family & Children's Center have to be grateful for. At the top of that list are without a doubt the hundreds of children, families, and professionals that our agency and I have had the privilege to work with and serve during this last year.

The commitment and dedication to Arsenal's mission is seen everyday in so many ways: through parents and community members volunteering, through corporations and foundations giving of their resources, and through

staff members tirelessly going above and beyond the call of duty.

During this last year, as a direct result of the economic crisis we, like many families and non-profits, have been confronted with financial obstacles and struggles. We have received significant cuts in funding from the State and have seen a decrease in the funds available from foundations, corporations and individuals. We have confronted these challenges head-on making some difficult decisions and thinking creatively as to how we can bring more funds and resources into the agency.

In the last year we have asked a lot of our constituents and without hesitation you have made yourselves, your ideas, contacts and resources available. We can not begin to thank you enough

for these obvious acts of selflessness and generosity.

I am pleased to say that in spite of the struggles of the last year we continue to meet and/or exceed the standards and outcome measurements that are set for us by the National and State agencies that assess our work and the very high goals and objectives that we have set for ourselves. We are and continue to be ranked among the best of early childhood programs and the unique support programs we offer report exceptional results for the families enrolled.

As we move into 2010 please know that our commitment to our mission and the children and families that we serve has not wavered and we will confront our challenges and obstacles as we always have. I am hopeful for the New Year and very excited about what Arsenal has to offer in 2010.

Arsenal Family & Children's Center

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Special Points of Interest:

- © Arsenal has been serving children and families for 56 years.
- © Help Arsenal as you use the internet. Check out www.goodsearch.com and www.goodshop.com. Type in "Arsenal Family & Children's Center" as the agency you support and we will earn a penny for each search and a percentage of each purchase. Tell your friends, too. It all adds up!

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At this joyous time of year, we are grateful for our work with you. We wish you abundance, happiness, and peace in a new year filled with hope.

Happy Holidays!



Pittsburgh Foundation's "Day of Giving"

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! to all of you who participated in the Pittsburgh Foundation's Day of Giving with a gift to Arsenal Family and Children's Center.

On October 28th, the Pittsburgh Foundation allocated \$300,000 to be used to match donations, 50 cents to every \$1, made to non-profit agencies located within Pittsburgh and surrounding areas. Due to the generosity and caring of thousands of donors, the match money

was exhausted within the first 30 minutes.

We are thrilled to announce that we received \$2,134 in both on-line and direct donations as a result of this event. In addition, we received \$550 in matching funds for a total of \$2,684. One hundred percent of the on-line donations were matched.

Due to the overwhelming response of the generous and caring people of

Pittsburgh, many experienced very frustrating delays and problems getting online. If you were among the many who spent time attempting to make a gift, only to be frustrated by the technology supporting the program, we appreciate your efforts and apologize for the inconvenience. The Pittsburgh Foundation has committed to working on these issues to prevent similar problems in the future.

Change for Children.....Coming Soon!

In February we will be kicking off our 1st Annual "Change for Children" campaign. Running for four weeks we will be distributing banks for people who are interested in collecting change to support our organization.

All money raised from the campaign will go directly to the activities and programs that are offered to the children and families enrolled at Arsenal Family

& Children's Center.

Look for more information in the upcoming weeks about the campaign and how to get your hands on an Arsenal bank.

If you are interested in assisting with the campaign please contact Sharon or Michelle at 412-345-0008.



Match Maker, Match Maker, Make Me a Match

By Contributor

Who would have guessed that in 1986 when Caralynn Kline was accusing Jason Kiley of taking the ONLY red tricycle because she wanted it, (we hear there was some "smacking" involved) that they would be marrying one another on November 14, 2009? Well apparently Caralynn and Jason.

Caralynn and Jason first met in their 2 year-old preschool class at Arsenal Family & Children's Center, then located in Lawrenceville. Caralynn and Jason's families live in Lawrenceville and although the two of them knew each other from the neighborhood, they went to different schools and their paths only really crossed while they attended the Developmental Preschool at Arsenal.

However, at the ages of 18, Caralynn and

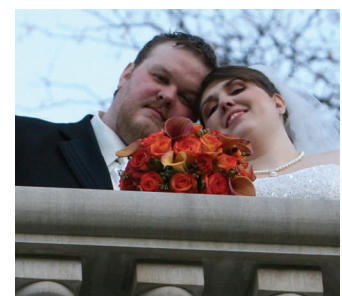
Jason reunited and were soon a couple. Caralynn worked at Starbuck's and attended college and now works for PNC downtown. Jason started a career in retail at Hollywood and Blockbuster Video and is now in management at GameStop in Edgewood. The couple have purchased a home and reside in nearby Sharpsburg.

In closing it is important to mention that according to Jason, his taking the red tricycle had nothing to do with Caralynn, he was just always the first one out into the play yard and the red tricycle was always the first bike in the line. Needless to say, Caralynn disagrees.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM
YOUR FRIENDS AT ARSENAL!



Above: Caralynn and Jason on an Arsenal field trip in May 1986.
Below: The Newlyweds



Hey Golfers, Mark Your Calendars!

On Thursday, May 27th Arsenal Family & Children's Center will be hosting our 18th Annual Golf Outing. This day of golf, fine food, great prizes, and auction items is one of the major fundraising events that we will hold in 2010.

The dollars raised from this event go directly to the operating budget of the agency, benefitting the children and families in our many programs.

Each year we have a wonderful time and greatly appreciate those who come out to the course to support Arsenal by playing golf or by joining us for the reception and auction.

If you would like to attend or are interested in sponsorship opportunities contact Hazel, Sharon, or Michelle at 412-345-0008.



18th Annual Golf Outing

Thursday, May 27th
The Laurel Valley Golf Club
Ligonier, Pa

10am Registration
12:00pm Buffet Lunch
1:00pm Shot Gun Start

Reception Immediately
Following

Arsenal Receives the State's Highest Rating

By Sharon Bogdan

Keystone STARS (Standards, Training/Professional Development, Assistance, Resources and Support) is an initiative of the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) designed to improve, support and recognize the continuous quality improvement efforts of early learning programs in Pennsylvania.

Each year Arsenal Family & Children's Center is reviewed by OCDEL and rated using the Keystone STARS performance standards. Ranging from STAR 1 to STAR 4, with STAR 4 being the highest rating, agencies offering early childhood services are assessed on their effectiveness in promoting early learning environments and positive child outcomes. The standards address staff qualifications and professional development, the early learning program, partnerships with family and community, and leadership and management.

We are delighted to report that Arsenal's Developmental Preschool Program continues to be ranked with the highest rating of STAR 4, and has earned the HIGHEST individual score on the Environmental Rating Scale ever seen by our Keystone STARS Specialist.

Arsenal's Holiday Wish List

By Michelle Rupert

Dear Santa,

Arsenal has been very good this year. We have provided unique programs and services that have a longstanding history and proven success in promoting the healthy development of young children and supporting parents in building nurturing and healthy relationships with their children. We hope that we find ourselves on your "NICE LIST" this holiday. We are hoping that under our tree we find :

School/Art Supplies

Construction Paper
Crayons, Paint, and
paint brushes
Glue Sticks
Safety Scissors

Paper Products

Facial Tissues
Napkins
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels

Office Supplies

File Folders
Copy/Printer Paper
Pens

Equipment (new/gently used)

Video Camera
Digital Camera
Laptop Computer
LCD Projector
Leaf Blower
Polaroid Film

Teen Program:

Conference Table and
Chairs
Air Hockey Table
Ping Pong Table
Living Room Furniture
Computer

Gift Cards:

Best Buy
Giant Eagle
Staples
Target

Santa, any gift that you are able to leave under our tree or in our stocking will be greatly appreciated by the staff and children of AFCC. If you have any questions please contact Michelle Rupert at 412-345-0008, ext. 11.

**HOPE YOU LIKE THE
COOKIES WE'LL LEAVE
FOR YOU!**

**ARSENAL
FAMILY &
CHILDREN'S
CENTER**



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Visit us at
www.arsenalfamily.org

Our Mission, Philosophy and Programs

Our Mission

The mission of Arsenal Family & Children's Center is to promote and to be an advocate for the healthy development of children and to support their parents in building a nurturing relationship with each child.

Our Philosophy

Through more than 50 years of observation, careful study, and work with young children, we know that two things are essential to their healthy development: opportunities for active learning through play and the passionate involvement of an adult in their lives. We organize all of the programs and services we offer around these essential elements.

Our Programs

Developmental Preschool:

Ages 3 to 5/ Morning and Afternoon Sessions

Supervised Parenting & Play Program:

Saturday mornings/Thursday evenings

Teen Parenting and Prevention Program (Clairton only):

Groups and activities held throughout the week

Individual Parent/Child Mentoring

Individually scheduled

Infant/Toddler and Parent Groups

For information regarding
our programs and
enrollment please call
412.345.0008.