



Collaborative for Colchester's Children

HEALTHY, HAPPY & SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN

Notable News!

- Continued implementation of our Sustainability Plan
- Obtained \$39K Discovery grant to continue C3 work
- Early Literacy Partnership grant continued with \$49K grant
- Support from Town of Colchester was \$7,500
- Dime Bank contributed \$1,000 to support C3
- BOE continued to support Coordinator position with \$21,001
- Advocated for the continuation of State funds for our Community Plan
- Bookmobile continued to travel to area programs
- C3 Family programming and workshops stayed strong serving 54 families
- Explored 2 Generation practices and partnerships

Annual Report July 2015 – June 2016

People Empowering People (PEP) Make a Difference in Colchester

The UConn People Empowering People Program is a personal and family development program designed to build on the strengths and life experiences of the participants to inspire them to make connections in their community and get involved through community action. Six Colchester residents participated in 11 two-hour intensive training sessions from January through March of 2016 to develop their leadership skills and learn how they could

make a difference in our community. During these sessions they covered topics like problem solving, parenting, action planning, and community opportunity. Participants showed their enthusiasm with feedback like *"I can't say enough about this class!"* and *"It would be great if more people could benefit from this awesome program!"* Upon completion of their training our Colchester PEP group didn't waste any time putting their skills to

work. As their community project, the group worked with Creative Canvas of Colchester and Toyo Hibachi & Asian Cuisine to organize a "Paint for Purpose" night on April 25th. Proceeds of the evening went to benefit the Collaborative for Colchester's Children. Folks were invited to come and try their hand at painting, enjoy delicious Asian cuisine, and enter to win prizes donated by local businesses. A good time was had by all and \$1502 was raised to help fund programs like C3's Play and Learn classes!

The Power of Partnerships

At 10:00 a.m. on May 4th, 2016 all staff and students at **Colchester Elementary School** set aside whatever they were doing and participated in what has been dubbed "the world's largest exercise class", also know as ACES Day. Project ACES (All Children Exercise Simultaneously) is a signature program of the Youth Fitness Coalition, Inc. created in 1989 by a physical education teacher. It is intended to motivate children to exercise and to promote the establishment of habits for a healthy

and fit lifestyle. Leading up to the event, Dawn LePage from C3 worked closely with Don Levine and the CES Physical Education staff preparing for the big day. When the clock struck 10:00 on ACES Day, a school-wide exercise parade began! Adding to the festive mood, music teacher Colleen Bretthauer led the marchers in song over the intercom. All in all the event was a big success and we hope to do it again next year! More information on Project ACES can be found at www.projectaces.com/.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Kate Byroade
Board Chair

Staff
Cindy Praisner
Coordinator

Dawn LePage
Assistant to Coordinator

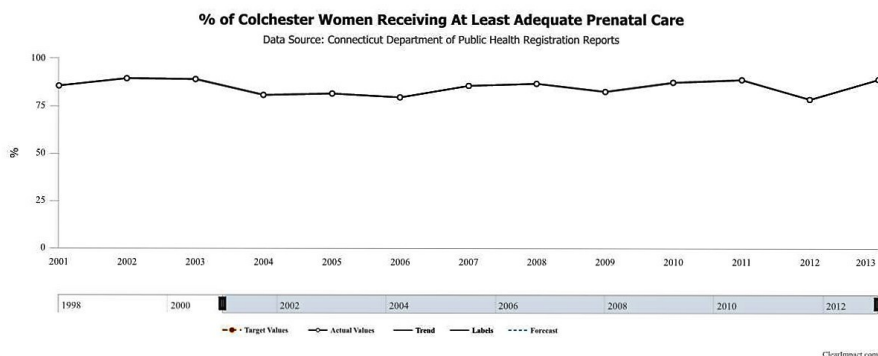
Tammy Stolzman, Program
Accountability Coordinator

We use the following indicators to see if we are getting results...

We want Colchester children to be healthy.

Did you know?

- We track the quality of prenatal care Colchester women receive when they are pregnant as a way to monitor whether Colchester's youngest citizens are getting a healthy start. Colchester has had an average of 84.5% of pregnant women receiving at least adequate prenatal care between 2003 and 2013. To increase these numbers, connecting with women while they are pregnant is a goal for C3.

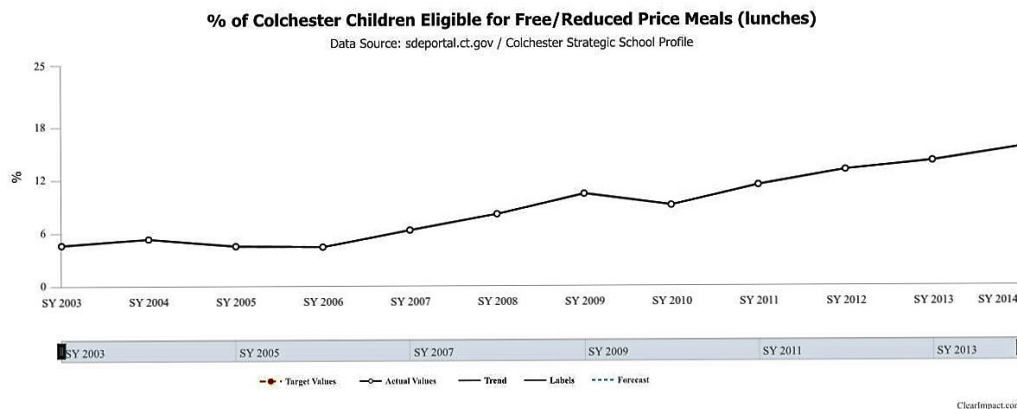


- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children are considered to be at a healthy weight if they have normal Body Mass Index (BMI) levels (between the 5th and 85th percentile). The amount of Colchester children in grades K-3 considered at a healthy weight has consistently been between 69 and 73% since Colchester Public Schools began calculating students' BMI in 2011.

We want Colchester children to be happy.

Did you know?

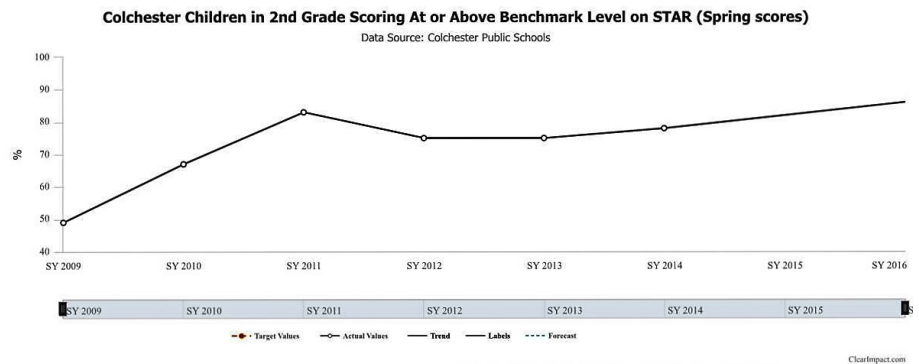
- Since 2013 at CES and 2015 at JJIS the Behavior and Emotional Screening System (BESS) has been used to identify students that have an elevated or extremely elevated risk level for emotional and/or behavioral difficulties. The test specifically screens for behavioral and emotional strengths and weaknesses. In 2016, 89% of K-2 children at CES and 86% of 3rd graders at JJIS were found to have normal risk levels.
- The number of children eligible for free and/or reduced lunch in Colchester has been steadily increasing from 4.6% in 2003 to 15.6% in 2014. Eligibility for free and reduced lunch is one way to measure the economic security and stress of our students and this upward trend may indicate that there are more children affected by economic stresses at home. This statistic is important to note so that we can be sensitive to this potential stress factor.



We want Colchester children to be successful.

Did you know?

- Future learning as a child grows into young adulthood relies heavily on a strong foundation in both math and reading. Colchester Public Schools use a variety of assessments to track and adjust to each student's progress: AIMSWEB (a brief curriculum-based general outcome measurement), DIBELS (a set of procedures designed to be short one minute fluency measures used to regularly monitor the development of early literacy skills), and STAR (computer-adaptive assessments that continually adjust the difficulty of each child's test based on their responses). In the Spring of 2016, 86% of Colchester 2nd graders scored at or above benchmark on the STAR assessment.



- 2016 is the second year that Colchester students participated in the new Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessments to measure academic achievement. These assessments are aligned with the Connecticut Core Standards and replace the CMTs and CAPTs. Colchester 3rd graders did well again in 2016 with 67.1% meeting or exceeding expectation in English Language Arts (67.3% in 2015) and 65.6% in Math (67.7% in 2015). We look forward to seeing how our scores on this test trend over the years to come.

We want a Collaborative that is effective and strong.

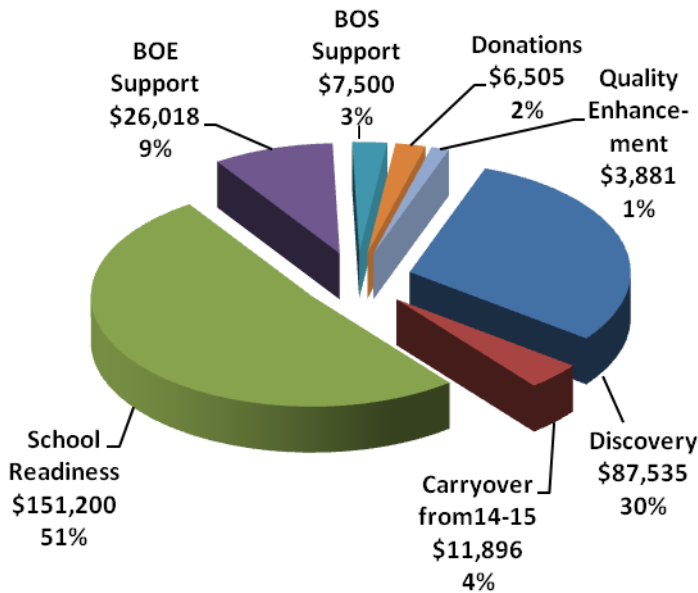
Did you know?

During 2015-16, our part-time staff and volunteer members accomplished the following:

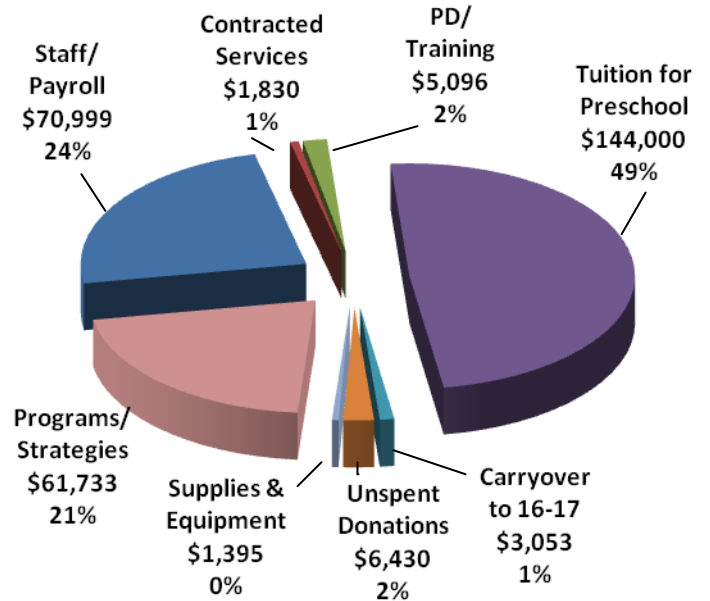
- Advocated at the State level to maintain funding for our Community Plan and successfully extended the public funding for one more year. These funds are used to strengthen our organization as well as provide programs and services to young children and their families.
- 28 C3 members representing Colchester's town government, school system, local organizations and businesses, parents, and the community-at-large attended strategic meetings throughout the year.
- Continued to serve Colchester families with young children through 89 sessions of C3 Play and Learn Programs and Parenting Workshops.
- The Bookmobile traveled weekly to 3 community childcare programs over the summer months. Over 225 books were checked out through these visits. The participating kids stayed excited about reading this summer!
- Continued to reach out to the community through our website, facebook page, and twitter account.
- Subsidized tuition for 29 preschool spaces through our School Readiness grant.
- Received over \$6,500 in small grants and donations from William W. Backus Hospital, Dime Bank, Colchester MOMs Club, , PEP, Toyo Hibachi & Asian Fusion, Creative Canvas of Colchester, Colchester Learning Foundation, Colchester Lions Charities, and the CES Social Committee. Thank you!

Financial Information for 2015-2016

Monetary Revenues Total: \$294,535



Expenses Total: \$294,536



Thank you to our supporters and partners!



**Colchester
Public Schools**



Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood

Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood



**William Casper
Graustein
Memorial Fund**



**Town of
Colchester**



The Children's Fund
of Connecticut

**The Children's Fund
of Connecticut**

C.A.S.T.L.E.

CES Social Committee

Colchester Board of Education

Colchester Board of Selectmen

Colchester Elementary School PTO

Colchester Learning Foundation

Colchester Lions Charities

Cragin Memorial Library

Colchester MOM's Club

Colchester PEP Group

Colchester Youth & Social Services

Creative Canvas of Colchester

Dime Bank

Toyo Hibachi & Asian Fusion

TVCCA

UCFS

William W. Backus Hospital

We need you! Contact Cindy Praisner at cpraisner@colchesterct.org to find out how you can help!

Visit our updated website online at: www.ColchesterC3.org

Like us on Facebook!



Collaborative for Colchester's Children

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