

Enhancing Children's Healthy Opportunities (ECHO)

"... Poverty can impede children's ability to learn and contribute to social, emotional, and behavioral problems. Poverty also can contribute to poor health and mental health. Risks are greatest for children who experience poverty when they are young and/or experience deep and persistent poverty."

National Center for Children in Poverty

How CFO grant made ECHO possible?

1. By focusing on "red flags, blue ribbons," CFO created an opportunity to build collaborative relationships among the Springfield Public Schools, Burrell Behavioral Health, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, and the Institute for School Improvement at Missouri State University to meet the increasingly greater needs of children and families living in poverty.
2. Through generously providing needed funds, CFO made it possible to help meet the needs of underprivileged children in two elementary schools with resources that were not available in the school district.

What impact has ECHO made?

1. ECHO has influenced the achievement of:
 - a. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in student academic growth.
 - b. Fewer disciplinary actions when compared to other high-poverty schools.
 - c. Positive relationships among children, parents, and educators.
2. Established a more complete set of integrated services for children and families in both schools—expanded counseling and mental health services, parent education and events for families and adults after the school day, after-school tutoring, and new programs for experiential learning.
3. Developed a system to collect, analyze and use data to provide empirical evidence of the impact of interventions, and to make more informed decisions on how to guide, assist and support children's personal and academic growth.

What do we see in the future?

1. A need to more fully develop school-family-community-university relationships that engage strategic resources and services to better meet the physical, social, emotional, and educational needs of disadvantaged children.
2. Continued development of social capital networks that are at the core of public and private efforts contributing to individual and community well-being.
3. Renewed efforts to increase awareness of and response to the needs of children living in poverty, because children are defenseless in facing the worst effects of this economic recession.
4. Creating programs and community events that invite community members not only to give financially but also to be empowered in giving of their time, talents and friendship that will have a positive impact on our community as a whole.



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