



# Annual Report

2006-2007

Association for the Education of Young Children of Missouri

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## Fostering Excellence in Early Childhood Systems

The past year has been a pivotal and tremendous year for AEYC-MO as we have completed the first planning cycle since the national re-affiliation process that began in 2003. As the AEYC-MO Board of Directors completes a review of the 3-year Strategic Plan and charts a course through 2010, reinventing the affiliate's role in the broader early childhood system is a reoccurring theme. The state affiliate is increasingly engaged in systemic initiatives through various alliances, collaborations, and partnerships with organizations of which we share like purpose. Consistent with our mission to foster excellence in early childhood systems and programs through advocacy, education, and professional development, AEYC-MO is an active participant in the work of improving the well-being of all young children in Missouri.

AEYC-MO partnered with the Missouri Head Start Association (MHSA) to bring forth the *Early Childhood Summit, Shaping the Future* an annual joint conference for both associations. This collabora-

tive effort brings together the strengths of two associations for professionals serving overlapping children and families, which have worked parallel for decades. Conference participants enjoy the opportunity to network with and receive information from other professionals across the state working in diverse sectors.

AEYC-MO continues to serve on the Missouri Alliance for Children, Youth, and Families to offer *Missouri's Child Advocacy Day* at the State Capitol. The Alliance is a statewide network of citizens and community-based organizations that seek to improve coordination and communication concerned about the well-being of children and families. Responsibility for sponsoring Child Advocacy Day is shared with Citizens for Missouri's Children, Missouri Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, Missouri School-Age Community Coalition, Prevent Child Abuse Missouri, and Triality Incorporated. AEYC-MO also co-sponsored several regional meetings as part of the *Making Children's Health*



**Michael B. Abel,**  
AEYC-MO President

*Count Campaign* hosted by Citizens for Missouri's Children.

AEYC-MO took the lead in moving forward to develop a state Early Childhood Director's Credential and is currently collaborating with early childhood leaders in Kansas on a bi-state initiative, sponsored by Mid-America AEYC. Parallel to this work, AEYC-MO is collaborating with the Missouri School-Age Community Coalition to align criteria for a director's credential of school-age programs. Leaders from various sectors of the early childhood community are participating

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### AEYC-MO Mission Statement

AEYC-MO, an organization for early childhood professionals, fosters excellence in early childhood systems and programs through advocacy, education, and professional development

## Dr. Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Fund

### *Supporting New and Emerging Leaders*

In 2004, AEYC-MO established the Dr. Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Fund to recognize Dr. Thornburg's contribution to the early childhood field, AEYC, and specifically her dedication to supporting and developing new leaders. During the past 35 years, Dr. Thornburg has served in various leadership roles in early childhood education at the state and national levels. She served as professor of the Human Development and Family Studies Department at the University of Missouri and directed the Child Development Laboratory. She also served as the Public Policy Co-Chair for AEYC – MO and President for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). In 1997 she established the Center for Family Policy & Research at the University of Missouri, where she continues as the Director.



**Dr. Kathy R. Thornburg**

### *Development of the Dr. Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Fund*

In April 2007, AEYC-MO raised additional funds by hosting a Spring Benefit Reception in Columbia, Missouri. These efforts increased the investment fund balance to \$41,489.36 as of August 31, 2007. The investment plan requires additional fundraising activities over the next five years to meet a goal of \$100,000. This goal will allow AEYC-MO to support four emerging leaders annually, one from each state chapter. In the interim, AEYC-MO will provide one \$500 award annually to a new or emerging leader.

### *2007 Award Recipient Margo Heger*

The AEYC-MO Board of Directors was pleased to announce that Margo Heger is the 2007 Dr. Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Fund award recipient, at the Spring Benefit Reception. Ms. Heger is a

member of the Rivers Bend Chapter, Chair of the Newsletter Committee, and a member of the Spring Curriculum Conference Committee. Ms. Heger plans to attend the 2007 NAEYC Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois and looks forward to sharing the information she gains at a Rivers Bend Coffee Talk.

Award recipients must be actively involved in the Association, plan to attend a state or national conference, and intend to bring back the knowledge and information gained to members of the local chapter. In addition, award recipients must identify a professional mentor who will work with them during the coming year and support their professional efforts.

### *2008 Applications*

The application for the 2008 Dr. Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Fund award will be available on the AEYC-MO website in February 2008.

## Fostering Excellence in Early Childhood Systems—continued from page 1

in this developmental work including early childhood teacher educators from Missouri's colleges and universities.

AEYC-MO is represented on a number of other state initiatives including: 1) *Healthy Minds, Healthy Learners, Healthy Schools*, a mental health initiative spon-

sored by the Center for Advancement of Mental Health Practices in Schools (CAMHPS) at the University of Missouri; 2) T.E.A.C.H Advisory Committee; 3) Missouri Department of Social Services Advisory Council; 4) the *Conference on the Young Years* Steering Committee; and 5) *Safe Schools*

*Working Group* a project of Missouri Office of Homeland Security (OHS). A critical component to becoming a high performing inclusive organization is our ability to foster excellence by working with other partners. We must remember that our work does not exist in isolation

but contributes to a larger body of coordinated effort to reach desired outcomes. Because of the synergist benefits of collaboration, AEYC-MO's contribution to an early childhood system is improving the lives of children and families in our state.

## Public Policy and Advocacy

The AEYC-MO public policy committee was active this year in promoting the Quality Rating System, increased subsidies for child care programs, and the Early Childhood Resolution HCR42.

Child Advocacy Day, held January 30th in Jefferson City, had over 800 participants attending workshops, visiting legislators and attending a rally on the steps of the Capital. An AEYC-MO delegation representing Missouri

attended the annual NAEYC Public Policy Forum in March 2007 in Washington, D.C. . The delegation visited legislators, to advocate for increased funding for domestic programs in the 2008 federal budget. Increases would include funding for childcare, Head Start, education and other essential children's programs. The primary message for visits "on the hill" was "The Right Choice: Invest in Children".

AEYC-MO has carefully monitored the debate on funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). As co-sponsors of "Making Children's Health Count Campaign", Citizens for Missouri's Children conducted several sessions around the state designed to inform the public about MO HealthNet, Missouri's Medicaid program for low income families.

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"The primary message for visits "on the hill" was "The Right Choice: Invest in Children".

## AEYC-MO Professional Development Seminar, September 16, 2006

This one day seminar offered early childhood colleagues from across the state the opportunity to connect through training and networking with other professionals.

The featured keynote speaker, Dan Gartrell, shared his method of behavior guidance techniques to help children develop successful social skills.

Dan Gartrell, EdD, is director of the Child Development Training Program and professor of early childhood and elementary education at Bemidji State University in northern Minnesota.

A former Head Start teacher, Dan is the author of *The Power of Guidance, A Guidance Approach for the Encouraging Classroom*, and

*What the Kids Said Today*.

In addition to the keynote, breakout sessions introduced the Quality Rating System for licensed child care programs. The 125 participants were able to select the session that best meet their needs as a director, teacher, or others choosing to hear more of Dr. Gartrell's classroom tips.



Dr. Dan Gartrell

## Shaping the Future – 2007 Early Childhood Summit

The Early Childhood Summit is the result of a two-year collaboration between the Association for the Education of Young Children of Missouri (AEYC-MO) and the Missouri Head Start Association to co-sponsor a state-wide conference for early childhood professionals. By working together, these

organizations are creating learning opportunities for their members and others to gain fresh insight from the richness of their collective experience and knowledge.

Held in October of 2007 at the Inn at Grand Glaize Lake, Osage Beach Missouri, this three-day conference offers a full slate of topics including

sessions on leadership, curriculum development, building relationships with parents and issues facing children with special challenges. Opportunities for networking and an exhibit area support the goal of making this conference a "must attend" for Missouri's early childhood professionals.



*Recognition of Service  
Association for the Education of  
Young Children of Missouri*

The following Association for the Education of Young Children of Missouri Board members or former Board members (since Fall, 2004) are being recognized for their service and dedication to improving the well-being of all young children.

Jo Fritts	Secretary
Anita Geisler	Midwest Representative
Marcia Hildebrand	Ozark Chapter Representative
Karen Kelley	Central Missouri Chapter Representative
Andrea Kientzy	River Bends Region At-Large Representative
Valeri Lane	Central Missouri Region At-Large Representative
Michelle Mathews	Rivers Bend Chapter Representative
Denise Mauzy	Public Policy Co-Chair
Linda Midyett	Mid-America Region At-Large Representative
Rose Munoz	Mid-America Chapter Representative
Darin Preis	Parliamentarian
L. Carol Scott	President
Lynda Snuffer	Treasurer

**FY06 Financial Report**

(9/1/06— 8/31/07)  
Data provided by Clarence Jett, CPA  
Columbia, MO

**INCOME**

Membership Dues	31,730.35
NAEYC Affiliate Council	500.00
Fall Mini-conference	3,453.20
KRT Leadership Fund	2,352.08
Family Foundation Grant	8,600.00
Retail Sales	4,135.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,770.63</b>

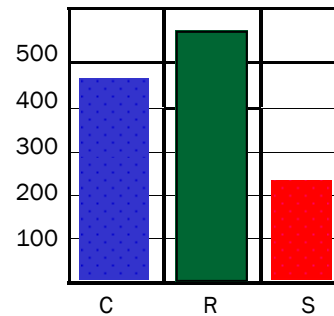
**EXPENSES**

Administrative	2,272.69
Contract Services	7,078.25
Travel	3,368.37
Board of Directors	2,278.65
Committees	10,145.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,143.46</b>

**Membership  
AEYC-MO  
Current -1227**

**By Level**

Comprehensive.....	460
Regular.....	547
Student.....	220



**Board of Directors 2007—2008**

**President**

Mike Abel  
UMKC Institute for Human Development  
Kansas City, MO

**Mid-America AEYC**

Sam Schissler  
US Toy /Constructive Playthings  
Grandview, Mo

Amy Freshwater  
Southeast Missouri State University  
Cape Girardeau, MO

**Vice President:**

Dana McMillan  
McMillan/Jacob Consulting  
Fairway, KS

**Rivers Bend AEYC**

Gina Dittalo  
Child Day Care Association  
St. Louis, MO

**Public Policy Co-chair**

Mary Spence  
Second Presbyterian ECLC  
Kansas City, Mo

**Treasurer**

Jan Frost  
Center for Family Policy and Research  
Columbia, MO

**Ozark AEYC**

Mary Stone  
Community Partnership of the Ozarks  
Springfield, Mo

**Public Policy Co-Chair**

Shawntay Myers  
Center for Family Policy and Research  
Columbia, Mo

**Parliamentarian**

Loxie Stock  
Kansas City School District-Head Start  
Kansas City, MO

**Members At-Large**

Marcia Hildebrand  
Educare-Community Partnerships of  
the Ozarks  
Ozark, Mo

**NAEYC Affiliate Council**

Mary Beth Mann  
Early Childhood & Family Development-  
MSU  
Springfield, Mo

**Executive Assistant, Cindy Imhauser**