

# Jacksonville Children's Commission

FY 2011-12 ANNUAL REPORT



**Partnering** to support  
children and families



Jacksonville  
Children's  
Commission

Helping Jacksonville Grow Great Kids



FY 2011-12

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## From the Jacksonville Children's Commission to the citizens of Jacksonville:

Parents work hard to provide the physical, mental, emotional and educational support that enables their children to remain in school, stay out of trouble and reach their potential. Not every family has access to all of the tools needed to make this happen; sometimes extra help is necessary.

In 1994 the Jacksonville Children's Commission was created to identify the needs of Jacksonville's children, and invest in prevention and intervention services to help our most vulnerable children. Our vision is for Jacksonville's children to be safe, healthy and prepared to succeed. For more than 18 years we have utilized city and grant funding, as well as a community of partners, to achieve our goals for Jacksonville's children.

The Commission is proud to partner with an outstanding cadre of nonprofit agencies that provide essential services for children. They bring new ideas and outstanding services, leveraging Commission funding to raise additional monies for programing. This year our agency partners continued to stretch city dollars, serving more children without an increase in funding and with no decrease in quality. We are truly partnering to support children and families.

Sincerely,

Ken Wilson, Board Chair

Jill Langford Dame, Interim Executive Director

## In 2011-12 many of the Commission's unique partnerships celebrated great success:

**N**ew Town Success Zone completed five successful years of a landmark partnership to empower families in one of Jacksonville's most at-risk neighborhoods.

The Learning to Finish partnership, a collaboration of Duval County Public Schools, the Jacksonville Children's Commission, the Community Foundation in Jacksonville, United Way of Northeast Florida and The Jacksonville Public Education Fund, celebrated an 11 percent increase in Duval County's high school graduation rate.

Full Service Schools of Jacksonville—a partnership of the United Way of Northeast Florida, Duval County Public Schools, Duval County Health Department, Lucy Gooding Charitable Foundation Trust, St. Vincent's Mobile Health Outreach Ministry and many nonprofit agencies—underwent evaluation by the National Center for School Engagement. The results identified a continued need for Commission-funded mental health services, and rated the quality of services being provided through Full Service Schools to be of high value to the community.

The Mayor's Mentors achieved great success in recruiting 584 new, highly-qualified mentors who were paired with students in Duval County Public Schools. The United Way coordinated this initiative and the Commission provided training and background screening for the mentors.

One important area of the Commission's work is training and professional development support. A dedicated staff works in partnership to help early learning, child and youth program workers and volunteers to better serve Jacksonville's children. More than 6,000 workers or volunteers participated in Commission trainings, and 932 infant/toddler, preschool and pre-kindergarten classes received the benefit of coaching and technical assistance. As a result of training or coaching, all of these participants are positively impacting the community and doing a better job serving children in our city.





## Children Have Stable, Nurturing Families

### Family Services

- 12,931 children benefited from childcare tuition assistance, enabling their parents to work or attend school.
- 55 children of refugee families received childcare tuition assistance.

### Healthy Families Jacksonville

- 628 high-risk families with infants received support and education from a trained in-home visitor (1,190 children served).
- 98% of children tracked did not experience abuse, neglect or abandonment more than one year after completion of the program.
- 100% of the participants and their children were connected to a medical provider.
- 91% of the children were up-to-date on immunizations.
- 71% of the children received their first developmental screening.

### Grands/RAPPJAX

The Commission partners with Aging True to support the Relatives as Parents Program, known as Grands/RAPPJAX. Fifty-five grandparents and other non-parent relatives raising children received training, resources and mutual support during the 2011-12 fiscal year.

### KidCare Health Insurance

The Commission provides support for outreach activities to promote and maintain enrollment of eligible families in Florida's low cost health insurance program for children. Non-medicaid KidCare participation increased by 8% between 2011 and 2012 with more than 6,800 children enrolled. In FY 2011-12 Commission funding leveraged an additional \$62,000 in state and federal support.

### New Town Success Zone

In partnership with many community stakeholders, the Commission has continued to support this holistic approach to providing a continuum of services to children and their families living in Jacksonville's New Town neighborhood.



# Program Highlights

## Children Enter Kindergarten Prepared To Learn

### School Readiness

- 192 early learning centers received coaching, technical assistance and professional development scholarships through a partnership of the Early Learning Coalition of Duval, Episcopal Children's Services and the Jacksonville Urban League. Early learning services were provided to 456 infant/toddler classrooms and 476 preschool and pre-kindergarten classrooms.
- 10,364 children received the benefits of the coaching and technical assistance.
- 252 professional scholarships were provided for early learning teachers.
- 89% of centers participating in the Guiding Stars of Duval Quality Rating Improvement System earned three or more stars out of five.

### JaxKids Book Club

- 10,535 four-year-olds in Duval County became members of the JaxKids Book Club. 134,615 books were distributed to members to promote early literacy and 4,000 books were donated to nonprofit organizations, schools and churches.
- Nine sponsors underwrote the cost of the books, promoting early literacy through the JaxKids Book Club.
- Since its inception in 2004, and by the end of FY 2011-12, the book club served nearly 75,000 members.
- In November 2011, the JaxKids Book Club was selected to attend the National League of Cities annual Congress of Cities Conference and Exposition and has become a national model with more than 40 cities and 20 states creating book clubs based upon the JaxKids Book Club.
- In April, 2012 the JaxKids Book Club received a JAX Boldest award, presented by the JAX Chamber, celebrating bold achievement.





## Children Grow and Develop During Out-of-School Time

### Afterschool Programs

The Commission funds quality afterschool programs for a diverse population in school and community-based locations throughout Jacksonville. Of the total students served, 52% are female, 48% are male; and 83% are black, 9% are white, 4% are Hispanic and 4% are other races. Based on FCAT levels, 76% of the students served are considered academically challenged, and 85% of students came from families qualifying for free or reduced lunch.

#### School-Based Afterschool Programs

**TEAM UP**—a partnership between the Commission, Duval County Public Schools and various youth-serving agencies—operated in 44 public schools, including two sites serving children with special needs.

- 7,926 children participated for 30 days or more.
- Elementary school TEAM UP participants had a 20% better attendance rate (fewer than 10 absences) than non-participants; middle school TEAM UP participants had an 8% better attendance rate.
- Students who participated in TEAM UP programs were more likely to be promoted to the next grade than those who did not. In elementary schools 88.7% of TEAM UP participants were promoted compared to 83.7% of non-participants. In middle schools 97.3% of TEAM UP participants were promoted compared to 93.8% of non-participants.
- All TEAM UP programs maintained at least 90% of their projected average daily attendance.

#### The Wallace Foundation

In February 2012, Jacksonville was one of nine cities selected by The Wallace Foundation to be part of a four year initiative to strengthen its efforts to provide urban youth with high quality afterschool programs. This \$765,000 grant allows Jacksonville to coordinate local afterschool programs to establish uniform quality standards and enhance data collection, which will improve the afterschool experiences for youth across our city. Wallace selected Jacksonville in part because of the Commission's substantial progress in setting up a citywide system with the key building blocks in place – including committed mayoral leadership and a sound, ongoing planning process. Over the four-year grant period, Jacksonville will provide more than \$400,000 in matching funding, plus in-kind office and staff support.



# Program Highlights

## Community-Based Afterschool Programs

- 2,209 children participated in afterschool programs at 17 community-based sites for 30 days or more.
- 90% of projected average daily attendance was maintained.
- 89.2% of participating youth who attended the afterschool program for at least 60 days were promoted to the next grade.
- 79% of participating youth who attended the afterschool programs for at least 60 days had fewer than 10 days of school absence.

## Afterschool Nutrition Program

- 649,064 suppers and 328,727 snacks were served to more than 8,000 children attending afterschool programs at 48 sites.
- 461 students were taught the importance of healthy eating and physical activity.

## Summer Camp Program

- 6,137 children and youth enjoyed a full-day, five-week high quality, academically-enhanced summer camp experience to reduce summer learning loss and keep them safe during the summer.

## Summer Food Service Program

- 232,923 lunches and 192,358 snacks were served at 174 Summer Break Spot sites, including faith-based institutions, public libraries, non-public schools, apartment complexes, early learning centers, city parks and summer camps. Sites were located in areas where 50% or more of the children qualified for the free and reduced lunch program.



# Program Highlights



## Children Get Special Help When They Need It

### Mentoring

The Commission provides funding and oversight for a variety of mentoring programs that match elementary, middle and high school-aged children with a caring adult. Through these programs:

- 989 children were linked with a caring adult through a Commission funded program.
- 94% of students who participated in a mentoring program have been promoted to the next grade level, while 96% have shown improvements with conduct both inside and outside the classroom, as indicated by report cards and parents.
- 90% of students who completed at least two full years of their mentoring program have graduated from high school.
- 98% of students matched to a mentor improved their school attendance and were absent from school less than 21 days.

### Community-Based and Full Service Schools Mental Health Programs

- 1,271 children and youth received behavioral or mental health services through a Full Service School.
- 885 children and youth received outpatient mental health services.
- 73% of clients who completed community-based treatment increased their functioning as measured by a therapeutic assessment scale.
- 93% of clients who completed treatment at Full Service Schools increased on the Children's Functional Assessment Rating Scale (CFARS).
- 94% of parents or guardians reported overall satisfaction with the services their children received.

### Case Management

- 608 youth received case management services funded by the Commission and implemented by Youth Crisis Center, Daniel Memorial, or PACE Center for Girls.
- 95% of youth admitted to these programs completed the program without being expelled from school, running away from home or being adjudicated by the courts.
- 88% of clients were discharged from the programs with stable housing and employment.
- 97% of the youth were enrolled in an educational program.
- 80% of program graduates were not re-arrested after one year.





# Program Highlights

## Help for Children Who Are Homeless

- 197 youth were served in the Commission-sponsored program at the Sulzbacher Center.
- 100% of the parents residing at the Center were trained to recognize timely childhood developmental milestones.
- 100% of the children residing at the Center who are developmentally delayed were linked to appropriate resources, such as Head Start or other initiatives for children who are at-risk of academic failure.

## Special Needs Programs: Hope Haven Basics, New Heights of Northeast Florida and DLC Nurse & Learn

- 93% of students increased their developmental/adaptive areas as described in their Individualized Education Program (IEP) based goals.
- 407 children and youth with special needs received therapy, behavioral health services, self-help skills training and normalized activities through in-home and afterschool programs.
- 90% of afterschool participants maintained and improved their performance in functional academics during the 2011-12 school year.
- 100% of graduates successfully transitioned into a community-based program.
- 90% of the children showed measurable progress in comprehension and cognitive learning.
- 85% of the children showed measurable improvement in self-help/adaptive functioning and fine motor/daily living skills.
- 100% of parents reported that their children benefitted from services provided as evidenced from the parent survey.

## College Scholarships: Florida State College At Jacksonville – Take Stock In Children

- 100% of students participating in this program were promoted to the next grade level.
- 97% of students graduated from high school and entered college with a Florida prepaid scholarship.

## Teen Pregnancy Prevention

- 99% of youth participating in the Bridge Connection I program did not become teenage parents.
- 98% of youth who actively participated in the program were promoted to the next grade level.

## Support Services for Students at Alternative Schools/Dropout Prevention

ATOSS (Alternative to Truancy and Out of School Suspension) provides a safe, stable and positive environment where students receive support to keep up with their school work and guidance for improving their behavior and study skills.

- 17,480 students were served during the 2011-12 school year at five sites.

# Program Changes



The Commission's contract with the **Early Learning Coalition of Duval**, which provided for enrollment of eligible families into school readiness programs, ended in September 2012. This change concluded a 38-year arrangement between the state and the city to provide staffing and funding for the program, which enables low-income parents to work or attend school. As a result of the reduction in staff, the Commission is no longer able to accept a \$250,000 grant that provided similar services to refugee children. The Commission and the city continue to provide matching dollars to assist the Early Learning Coalition in serving Jacksonville's families.

Responding to changing demographics in Jacksonville, the Commission opened **four new afterschool programs** on Jacksonville's Westside:

- Hyde Grove Elementary and Oak Hill Elementary TEAM UP programs, operated by Community Connections.
- Sadie Tillis Elementary TEAM UP program, operated by Communities In Schools.
- Mallison Park afterschool program, operated by the Police Athletic League.

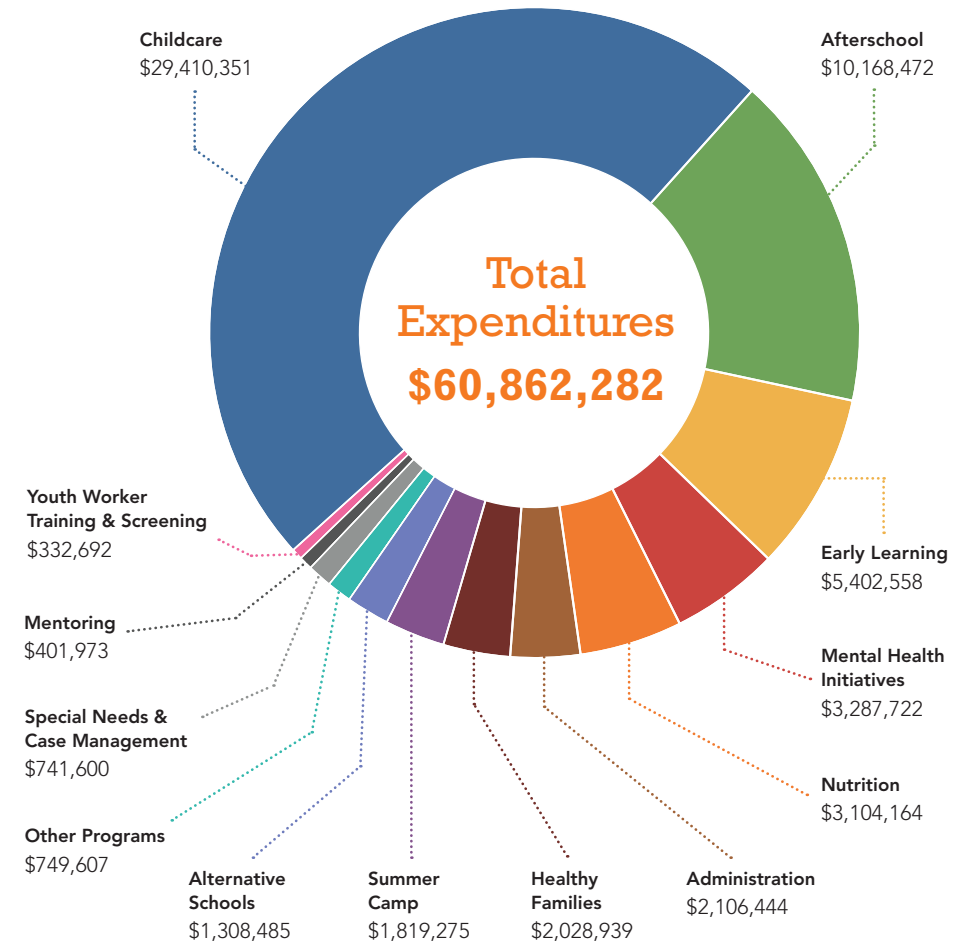
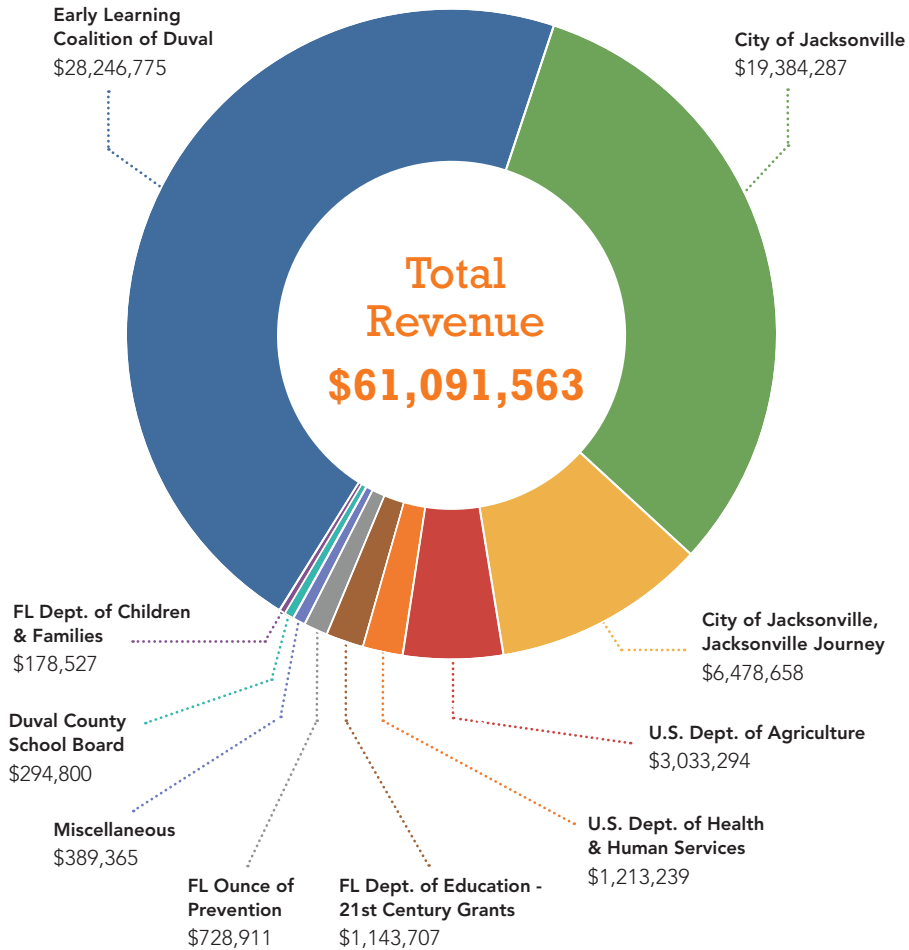
Due to City of Jacksonville budget cuts, funding for two programs was discontinued at the end of FY 2011-12:

- **Jacksonville Urban League Head Start** program was funded for one literacy coach.
- **United Way's Born Learning** program, provided workshops and educational materials for parents to help them to maximize their children's learning potential.



The provider for **Project Second Chance**, a juvenile crime prevention program providing case management services for children at risk for criminal or antisocial behavior, changed from Youth Crisis Center to Daniel Memorial following a competitive grant application process.

**21st Century Community Learning Centers** grant funding for John Love, Pinedale and Rutledge Pearson Elementary schools was not renewed for FY 2012-13; these sites are now funded through the Commission budget.



**Jacksonville System of Care Initiative Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:** FY 2011-12 was the second of a six-year grant cycle totaling \$9 million dollars. The initiative works to build a sustainable system of integrated mental health and primary care services for children and their families who are connected to juvenile justice, child welfare, subsidized early learning and homeless systems. The Commission provided \$100,000 in matching funds, office space with phone and internet access, and staff time to manage the grant.

# Partners

## Contract or Grant Funders

City of Jacksonville  
Duval County School Board  
Early Learning Coalition of Duval, Inc.  
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Florida Department of Children and Families  
Florida Department of Education  
Florida Department of Health  
Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, Inc.  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration,  
    Child Mental Health Initiative  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
The Wallace Foundation

## Book Club Sponsors

CSX Corporation  
Early Learning Coalition of Duval  
Florida Blue  
Jacksonville Jaguars, LLC  
JM Family Enterprises/Southeast Toyota Distributors, LLC  
Ramco-Gershenson Properties Trust, LLC  
Regency Centers  
The Boeing Company  
The GATE Foundation

## Affiliations

Florida Afterschool Network  
Florida Children's Council  
Jacksonville Kids Coalition  
Learning to Finish

## Summer Lunch Program Locations

66 Faith-based sites  
59 Park and community centers  
22 Housing complexes  
14 Jacksonville Public Library branches  
7 Childcare centers  
6 Non-public schools

## Summer Camp Program Locations

53 Community-based sites, including 9 faith-based  
35 School-based

## Community Partners

Aging True  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority  
American Red Cross of Northeast Florida  
Baptist Health  
Blue Bell Creameries  
CARD (Center for Autism and Related Disorders)  
CareSpot (Solantic Baptist Urgent Care)  
Chartwells Dining Services  
The Community Foundation in Jacksonville  
Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens  
Downtown Vision, Inc. Ambassadors  
Duval County Supervisor of Elections  
Early Steps  
Emergency and Safety Educators Group, LLC  
Empowerment Resources  
Family Support Services of North Florida, Inc.  
FDLRS Child Find  
First Baptist Church  
First Coast Kids Triathlon  
Florida State College at Jacksonville Dental Program  
G.A. Food Service, Inc.  
Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department  
Jacksonville Public Education Fund  
Jacksonville Public Library  
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office  
Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center  
Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra  
Jacksonville University  
JSO's McGruff the Crime Dog  
Junior League of Jacksonville  
KOHLS Department Stores  
MOSH  
Museum of Contemporary Art  
Naval Air Station Jacksonville  
Nemours BrightStart!  
Northeast Florida AHEC (Area Health Education Centers)  
Peterbrooke Chocolatier  
Poison Control Center-University of Florida  
SAFE (Stuffed Animals for Emergencies)  
Safe Kids Northeast Florida  
Shannon Miller Lifestyle  
St. Johns Riverkeeper

St. Vincent's Mobile Health Outreach Ministry  
Starbucks Coffee Company  
The PLAYERS Center for Child Health  
    at Wolfson Children's Hospital  
University of North Florida - College of Education  
    & Human Services  
Whole Foods Market  
WJCT

## Agency Partners

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida, Inc.  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida  
The Bridge of Northeast Florida  
Child Guidance Center, Inc.  
Communities In Schools of Jacksonville, Inc.  
Community Connections of Jacksonville, Inc.  
Daniel Memorial, Inc.  
DLC Nurse and Learn, Inc.  
Duval County Public Schools  
Edward Waters College  
Episcopal Children's Services, Inc.  
Florida Healthy Kids Corporation  
Florida State College at Jacksonville  
Hope Haven Children's Clinic and Family Center  
Jacksonville Urban League, Inc.  
JaxParks  
MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation  
Mental Health Resource Center, Inc.  
New Heights of Northeast Florida, Inc.  
Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.  
Northwest Behavioral Health Services, Inc.  
PACE Center for Girls, Inc.  
Partnership for Child Health/Jacksonville System of Care  
Police Athletic League of Jacksonville  
Sulzbacher Center  
United Way of Northeast Florida  
Wayman Community Development Corporation  
YMCA of Florida's First Coast  
Youth Crisis Center, Inc.

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