

# Livingston's Great Start Gazette

Great Start Collaborative of Livingston County

Volume 1, Issue 1 Spring 2011



Our e-newsletter is meant to inform the community about early childhood news within Livingston County

## Welcome to the Great Start Livingston Newsletter!



We're excited to share our first newsletter with all of you! Our newsletter will be published quarterly and will contain helpful information and ideas about early childhood.

We strive to work together as a community to accomplish better results for young children and families through the components of Pediatric and Family Health, Social and Emotional Health, Parental Leadership and Parent Education, Child Care and Early Education, and Family Support. We hope you enjoy it!

## Legislative Update. . .Great Start Collaboratives at Grave Risk

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for K-12 School Aid began its budget deliberations last month. Senator Howard Walker's (R-Traverse City), Chair of the Subcommittee, proposed budget plan to **eliminate** the \$6 million in funding for GSCs was approved by the Senate on April 14, while the House DHS Appropriations Subcommittee instead approved a \$750,000 cut to ECIC. Watch the "Capitol Corner" video from April 15 for details: <http://michigansandboxparty.org/policy-legislation/policy-reports/state-policy-reports>



Senator Howard Walker (R-Traverse City) proposes to eliminate the funding for Great Start Collaboratives.

Please talk to your legislators about the important role GSCs are playing in coordinating services for children ages 0-5 and their families, improving efficiencies, and leveraging new private and federal investments. [www.michigansandboxparty.org](http://www.michigansandboxparty.org)



## Community-wide Diaper Drive

During the month of April, Great Start Livingston's **Parent Coalition** (a group of volunteer parents) has partnered with Gleaners, Love INC and the Kiwanis of Howell to hold a community-wide Diaper Drive. Agencies such as Family Resource Center and

Pregnancy Help Clinic are in desperate need of diapers to give to local families in need. **We need your help!**

One in three American moms struggles to provide diapers to their babies. The Pregnancy Help Clinic

issued more than 40,000 diapers last year in our county. Please consider donating diapers during April (some locations are in May.) For a list of drop off locations and special events, go to:

[GreatStartLivingston.org](http://GreatStartLivingston.org)

**Register Today for**

**Bill Millett Event**

**April 29**

**7:30 - 9:00 a.m.**

**Crystal Gardens**

**5768 E. Grand River  
Howell, Michigan**

Listen to nationally-respected expert, Bill Millett, speak about the amazing impact early childhood education has on any community committed to this effort. Attendance is a MUST for anyone with a vested interest in Livingston County.

**[Click here to register!](#)**

## Upcoming Events:

- **Month of the Young Child** throughout April
- **Star Power Day** on May 19
- **Health Insurance Enrollment Training** May 13
- **Breakfast with Legislators** June 6
- **Parent Coalition Meeting** April 21 6:00-7:30 p.m. at LESA in Howell. FREE childcare and dinner. Contact Parent Liaison Jennifer Lange at: 734-634-7051 OR [JenniferLange@LivingstonESA.org](mailto:JenniferLange@LivingstonESA.org)

## *In honor of March's Parenting Awareness Month*

### **Great Start sponsors event at Brighton District Library**

In support of Parenting Awareness Month in March, the Brighton District Library and Child Connect for Family Success hosted a "Parent Appreciation Day" on March 26.

As part of the activities, Great Start Livingston sponsored a family concert by the Zippity2Dads, where parents and their children enjoyed laughter and songs interwoven with lyrics on the importance of reading books.

Great Start's Parent Coalition was on hand to distribute parenting information and raise awareness about its group.



Parent Coalition Liaison Jennifer Lange (left) sets up a parenting information display with the help of children who attended the event.

If you'd like to serve as a voice for young children in our community (birth to age 5), you are invited to join the Parent Coalition, which is a dedicated group of local professionals and parents/caregivers working to ensure that children are prepared to succeed in school and in life. Meetings are monthly and include free childcare and dinner.

For more information, contact Jennifer Lange at (734) 634-7051 or E-mail: [JenniferLange@LivingstonESA.org](mailto:JenniferLange@LivingstonESA.org)



"Zippity2Dads" perform to the amazement of children and parents while incorporating lyrics containing the importance of reading books.

## April is Month of the Young Child®

*Early Years Are Learning Years™*



Each April, Michigan celebrates Month of the Young Child® (MOYCR®). This is a time when communities and individuals recognize the needs and rights of young children and their families. Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children (MIAEYC) coordinates this campaign with the support of local and state organizations and agencies.

**Great Start Livingston** (GSL) and its partner agencies endorse this valuable effort. Wear or display a purple ribbon in support of this campaign. Visit the Great Start web site to learn more about resources for kids 0-5 and how you can become involved.

In honor of MOYCR, GSL helped sponsor "Mother Goose Café" at the Brighton District Library on April 8. Guest readers Brighton Mayor Ricci Bandkau and Brighton Chamber President Pam McConeghy read stories to the children. The children also enjoyed crafts provided by GSL and snacks provided by Child Connect for Family Success as part of the celebration.

## **Star Power Day May 19**



Because you care about Michigan's infants and young children, gather with thousands of others in the early childhood community and speak to those decision makers who directly impact our youngest learners.

Register at [www.GreatStartLivingston.org](http://www.GreatStartLivingston.org) OR use the button above.

*Meet with your Legislator.  
Enjoy Children's Activities,  
Music,  
Free Lunch. And Much More!*

This year, a majority of legislators are new and have never heard the tremendous benefits early childhood programs and services bring to our state. Be a voice for children, stand together to ensure every child in Michigan arrives at the kindergarten door safe, healthy and ready for school success!

## **Health Insurance**

Learn how to enroll children in Health Insurance through MICHild and HealthyKids on **May 13** from either 8am-10am or 11:30-1:30pm at LESA located at 1425 W. Grand River in Howell. There is no cost. To register call or E-mail Aaron Seagraves: (517) 899-9525 OR [aaron.seagraves@mpca.net](mailto:aaron.seagraves@mpca.net)

## **Breakfast with Legislators**

Great Start Livingston will host a breakfast for Legislators and community leaders on **June 6** where they will learn about Great Start and visit local early childhood programs.