

ELPM BUILDING BLOCKS

Building a Future

A Quarterly publication for our partners, supporters, and friends



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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ELPM CENTERS MAP

First Lady of Georgia, Mrs. Sandra Deal, Visits Georgia Center for Child Advocacy

On September 16th the staff of the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy (GCCA) were honored to host the First Lady of Georgia, Sandra Deal. Mrs. Deal had learned of the exceptional work of the Center and was interested in learning more about the statewide child sexual abuse prevention initiative. The Center discussed finding more ways to deliver their prevention training across Georgia.

As a former educator, Mrs. Deal is well aware of the long range harm that abuse can inflict upon a child. She was very pleased that in addition to the prevention work, GCCA also offers the intervention and treatment services that insure that a child who has been abused can receive proper treatment. The staff at the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy believe that healing from child abuse begins as the child steps through its doors. The Center was delighted to have Mrs. Deal spend so much time learning about the programs and progress it has made statewide!



(l to r) Nancy Chandler, Ms. Sandra Deal,
Yvonne Bryant Johnson and Todd Cohen,
Co-Chairs GCCA Board of Directors

Nancy Chandler, CEO
Georgia Center for Child Advocacy
www.georgiacenterforchildadvocacy.org



Nancy Chandler, CEO—GCCA and
Mrs. Sandra Deal, First Lady of Georgia

Early
Learning
Property
Management, **I** **N** **C**

www.elpm.org





News Around the Block



Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends:

WOW! 2011 has flown by and before we know it 2012 will be upon us. As the new year approaches, it gives us the opportunity to anticipate new achievements and to reflect on past accomplishments. ELPM was very busy in 2011 cultivating potential projects, working with providers and expanding our mission with the purchase of our newest center, Easter Seals of North Georgia at Warsaw. As ELPM looks ahead to new challenges and opportunities, we

are thankful for the success of our mission and look forward to continued growth.

Everyone at ELPM would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners, funders, providers and dedicated teachers for being an integral part of the continued success and growth of our young children.

Wishing everyone a great holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Kara Portnell, Executive Director

Easter Seals Child Development Center at Warsaw

Don Voshall, ELPM Board Chair, recently presented Mike Kerman, SUTHERLAND, with a special recognition plaque dedicated to the SUTHERLAND legal team for the continued partnership and pro-bono services provided to ELPM. ELPM is very grateful to Mr. Kerman and SUTHERLAND for the continued dedication to help ELPM accomplish its mission of providing high quality early learning environments. The plaque will have a place of honor at ELPM's most recently acquired center, Warsaw Child Development Center located in Roswell. Please join ELPM in thanking Mr. Kerman and the SUTHERLAND team for their unwavering commitment to early learning and making a profound difference in the lives of many children and families.



ELPM CENTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS



In addition to high quality educational child care, listed below are a few of the ELPM provider center accomplishments or services provided to the enrolled young children and their families over the past 12 years:

- ELPM early learning centers are NAEYC accredited, or equivalent, offering developmentally appropriate learning programs, toys, music and learning to read programs.
- Approximately 15,000,000+ meals were served throughout the day to children who would not ordinarily receive them.
- Approximately 8,000 immunizations given to enrolled children.
- Approximately 1000+ parent training hours.
- Media centers and family resource rooms in each center are special informational resources for books, magazines, music and family games available for check-out to the community to encourage "at home" educational nurturing.
- Centers offer community outreach programs, such as parenting classes, health and nutrition awareness, adult education, and English as a second language.
- Head Start Family and Early Childhood Education Services at no cost to eligible families.
- Georgia Pre-K Early Childhood Education available at no cost to 4 year olds.
- Extended day services to assist families with childcare so they are able to work.
- Infant/toddler scholarships to qualified families.
- Program transitions working with public schools to ensure smooth transition for children and families.
- Educational and special needs partnerships with local school districts.

Special Interest Childhood Obesity

Obesity in children is a serious health problem and growing at an alarming rate. Learning good nutrition habits at an early age and increasing physical activities will teach young children healthy lifestyles that will follow them into adulthood. ELPM would like to share this article from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and their new statewide campaign, *Strong4Life*.



Faced With an Epidemic, Children's Leads Campaign to Stop Childhood Obesity

As a national leader in pediatric health care, our doctors and nurses are seeing more and more children with diseases once seen only in adults—such as hypertension, liver and kidney disease and Type 2 diabetes.

Why?

- Georgia has the 2nd highest childhood obesity rate in the U.S.
- Nearly 40% of Georgia's children are overweight or obese.

Together, we must change this.

Childhood obesity is hurting kids

The deck is stacked against our kids today. The reality is that they are bombarded with fast food, computers, TV, video games, junk food and splashy advertising for unhealthy behaviors. Not to mention, there are fewer sidewalks and safe, clean places in our communities for kids to play.

To improve child wellness and bring awareness of the obesity epidemic in Georgia, Children's is leading a statewide movement called *Strong4Life*. It's about bringing attention to the serious health risks threatening overweight and obese children and not sugarcoating it. It's the right thing to do for Georgia's kids. In fact, some people ask how we can commit to something this big. Our answer: How can we not?

All kids deserve a healthy childhood

Along with raising awareness, *Strong4Life* also delivers solutions that inspire today's kids and families to develop lifelong healthy habits with four simple, positive steps: Eat Right, Stay Active, Get Support and Have Fun. When kids and families take actions in each of these focus areas, they make strides to be healthy and feel good. They are *Strong4Life*.

If you share our passion for helping kids lead healthier lives, **contact us today**. There are a number of ways to **get involved**, whether you are a mom or dad looking for resources to help your kids or a donor looking for ways to positively impact the next generation.

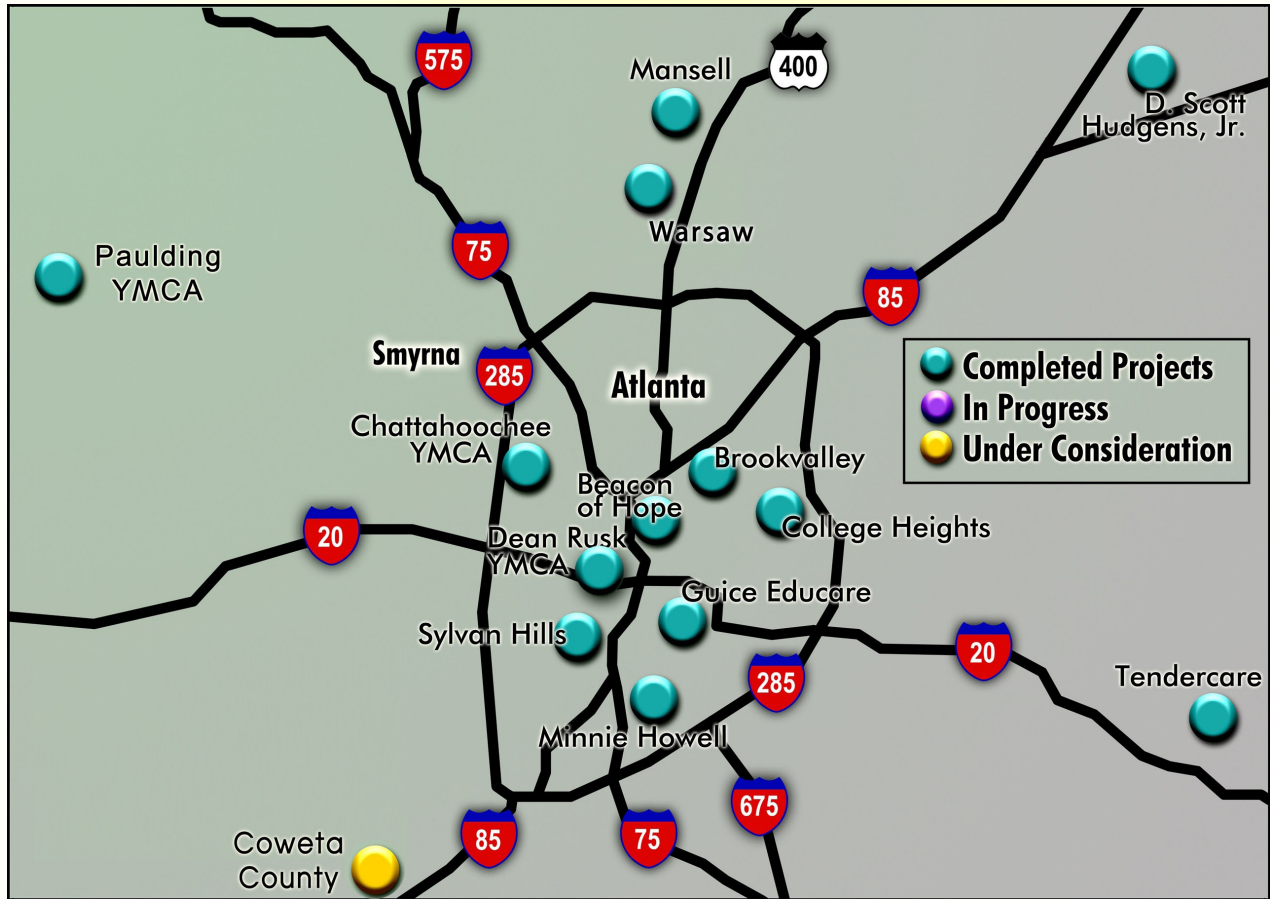
You can also be a part of the *Strong4Life* discussion on Facebook.

For more information on Strong4Life, please visit: www.choa.org/Child-Wellness/Strong4Life.

Article submitted by Megan Weinzierl, CHOA

Early Learning Property Management Mission Statement

To support and promote early childhood learning and development by providing safe and adequate facilities where early learning programs and activities can be conducted.



ELPM CENTER LOCATIONS

For ELPM center program information, please visit www.elpm.org



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TO: Our Partners, Supporters and Friends

