

# OPPORTUNITIES

*Every day!*

## About Us

**ACHIEVEMENT** is defined as something attained after much effort and often in spite of obstacles and discouragements.

Our youth have great ambition and drive to better their circumstances. They come to the programs with intention to work hard, improve their relationships, and move themselves past the many obstacles that are holding them down.

Most will be successful in that endeavor by earning sufficient credits for that diploma; by learning how to better direct their behavior; and to be more engaged in the community. You can support their achievements by becoming a mentor, helping to employ them, and keeping the programs operational. Let's acknowledge their achievements by supporting their efforts.

Shirley Hathaway,  
 Executive Director



## Community Partnerships Helping Youth Thrive

"Gateway Youth Programs was formed on the belief that youth development will occur when there is connection, inspiration, and motivation. Gateway Youth along with many tri-county agencies have worked diligently over the past 22 years to sustain strong links and partnerships. These collaborations have provided hope and life changing services to thousands of young individuals through opportunities and experiences.

Services are offered in Darke, Miami, and Shelby Counties through prevention, enrichment, skills and WIA (Workforce Investment Act) work programs with referrals to the program coming from parents, schools, Juvenile Court, and children services programs.

Gateway WIA Program (Workforce Investment Act) provides job services for individuals 14 – 21 years of age with a focus on developing occupational, professional and leadership skills. After selected, youth receive on-the-job training and work experience at a local company along with supportive services by the Gateway Youth Program. Youth have the opportunity to be involved in creating a positive future for themselves and learn the right skills.



## Gateway Youth Programs Significant Successes during 2009:

- Mentored 288 youth aged 7 to 17.
- 92% of the youth involved in Gateway Youth had no Juvenile Justice issues while enrolled in the program.
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Program placed 43 youth in temporary host homes for a total of 179 days while youth and family conflicts were resolved.
- Staff counseled and mentored youth in 7549 school, home, and office visits.
- Through WIA funding, Gateway Youth employed 28 youth aged 14 to 21 in the Summer Work Experience program in Darke County and 25 youth in Shelby County.
- Through the WIA Year-Long Program, funding supports 33 active and 20 step-down participants in the current program.

**"We have a powerful potential in our youth; and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends." ...Mary McLeod Bethune**

# Innovative Partnerships Redefine a Student's Future

The Achievement Center for Educational Success (ACES) is a true product of a nine year collaborative partnership with Darke County schools. It continues to make an enormous impact on the lives of at-risk students that want or need an alternative educational environment.

The school offers smaller classes, less peer pressure, no class downtime, and less drama in the school setting; a place where youth want to learn.

This ACES school program not only offers students an alternative education program, but also presents additional choices in education; electives like fine arts class, current events, and computer applications. The program is staffed by two teachers with Master's Degrees; one a licensed intervention specialist. In addition there is a tutoring assistant with a Master's Degree and a teacher's certificate.

Most youth attend ACES for an average of two years, and it is a win/win situation for the students and the home district schools. ACES benefits youth that may drop out of school and benefits schools through their graduation rates and school report cards.



## ACES Significant Successes:

- Registered 45 students in the program, the students came to ACES from the eight Darke County Schools, along with Covington and Newton Schools in Miami County.
- Of the 45 students, 38 are males and 7 are female in the freshman through senior grades.
- The students earned 172.25 credits out of the 185.75 attempted with a success rate of 95.4% in the last semester.
- 18 students are on track to graduate this May from their home school, with four already completing their credits.
- Seven of the students maintained employment through the WIA (Workforce Investment Act) program throughout the semester, averaging 20 hours a week.
- The students also receive job readiness training from the Job Center, nutrition education from the OSU Extension Office and 15 hours of mental health and substance abuse counseling from Darke County Recovery Services.

## Great Financial News

- Awarded \$1.13 million to expand Head Start funded preschool in Sidney by adding two new classrooms/68 new children and \$4.36 million to expand Early Head Start funded program in eight counties by 156 infants and toddlers. Both of these grants are funded by the Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) as temporary grants through September 2011.
- Awarded \$274,087 as Quality Improvement funding for the Head Start and Early Head Start grants; this includes COLA for staff, three new busses, playground equipment, technology equipment and staff training.
- Awarded \$295,000 for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program, funded through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
- Awarded \$47,000 for the Justice Assistance Grant - "Thinking for a Change" program in Shelby Co. and after-school prevention in Miami and Darke County.,
- Awarded \$ 1000 from the Lydia E. Schaurer Memorial Trust for audiometers for early childhood programs.
- Awarded \$800 donation to HandsOn West Central Ohio from Logan Co. Electric Cooperative "Operation Round-Up" funds where members contribute by "rounding up" their electric bills.
- Awarded \$8,700 from United Way of Logan County to HandsOn West Central Ohio for their 2010 allocation.



**Council on Rural Services**  
*programs for innovative learning*

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