

Square One 2008 Year End Report

- Municipal funding requests for FY 2009 were made to 5 South Hampton Roads municipalities. (Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach) **As of June 15, 2008, confirmations of funding were received from Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach. (\$107,278)** As has been the case for eight years, municipal funds are used to leverage state and federal dollars required by Square One. A municipal contribution schedule is based upon \$2 per preschool child in each municipality derived from the U.S. Census Bureau. (Norfolk and Virginia Beach requests were fully funded.)
- Square One solicited private/corporate funds in an effort to leverage public funds and maintain programs in a comprehensive format. As of December 31, 2008, **\$51,678 had been awarded** from The Virginia Beach Foundation, E. C. Wareheim Foundation, Target Corporation, Dragas Companies, The Patricia and Douglas Perry Foundation, and The Landmark Foundation.
- As of September 2008, Square One entered into a collaborative partnership with Old Dominion University Darden College of Education to become a sponsored program called **“Square One @ ODU.”** The ODU Programs for Continued Learning manages registration for the Square One PEI courses and audio/web conferences. The ODU Research Foundation is the grant/contract administrator.
- A **\$15,000** sub-contract was awarded to Square One from James Madison University to **develop a 2-day Mental Health Course Curriculum** Module for the Virginia Home Visitors Consortium.
- In December 2008, the **Square One Director became certified as an “Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale” (ECERS) assessor** from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, NC. This assessment tool will be utilized as part of the proposed Virginia “Quality Rating Improvement System” to determine the quality of learning environments in preschools/childcare center classrooms in Virginia. Customized trainings on the ECERS assessment tool will be offered by Square One.
- **Audio-web conferencing training** provided a 1-hour distance learning alternative for early childhood leadership focused on current early childhood topics. Two (2) conferences were facilitated in January and February 2008 entitled: **“The Effects of Stress on Children and Families”** by Sandra Fabian, MEd., CHKD Parent Educator; and **“Helping Children and Families Fight Obesity”** by Kay Carey, MEd., Square One trainer and Marty LaGiglia, MEd., Square One Director. Fall 2008 audio/web conferences were entitled: **“Nutrition 101- A Look at Health Food Choices”** by Molly Brown, CHKD Parent Educator and **“Health Issues that Affect the Well-Being of Young Children”** by Amy Paulson, CINCH Director, EVMS. (Avg.=30 per conference)
- **Discounted professional development training for early childhood educators, caregivers, home visitors, parents and community leaders continued.** Square One has developed evidence-based prevention and early intervention training courses in a 6-hr. and a modified, 3-hour format to increase access to best practices in early care and education.

From July 1, 2007- June 30, 2008, a total of 268 early care professionals completed Square One's PEI training including: Healthy Families, CHIP, Resource Mothers, Department of Social Services, public health departments, Public Schools, Community Service Boards, CASA, Office of Human Affairs, local preschools, child care centers, public libraries and parks & recreation staff representing Hampton Roads' early childhood leadership. Dynamic, evidence-based curriculum focuses on topics including parent/child interaction, attachment, safety, nutrition/exercise, stress management, brain development, language development and child abuse and neglect.

- **117 participants enrolled in the Fall 2008 PEI courses.** (Avg. =13 per course)
- **Customized training was provided** to the Va. Beach Early Discoveries Program and the City of Richmond- Early Childhood Development Initiative.
- With a 20 maximum number of participants registered in PEI courses, **trainees were placed on a waiting list for the Mental Health course** which indicates the great need for this training topic.
- **Square One promotes an Electronic Prevention and Early Intervention message board**, strengthening communities by increasing opportunities for parents and providers to exchange ideas and strategies to enhance best practices in early care and education throughout our region. <http://forums.sqone.org>
- **Square One continues to update its interactive website**, strengthening early care centers and families by increasing access to information and tools that support a child's preparedness for school and life. PEI training calendars and registration information promote professional development courses to early care providers and early intervention agencies. <http://www.sqone.org>
- **ODU Programs for Continued Learning also listed the PEI training/audio-web conference calendar on their website.**
- **Square One continues to provide technical assistance for early care providers** in the region and state. Square One remains actively involved in the Norfolk Public Schools Early Childhood Initiative Committee, Ready to Learn Team in Virginia Beach, Ready to Read Coalition in Chesapeake and the Consortium on Infant and Child Health (CINCH) at EVMS, as well as strategic planning workgroups for the Smart Beginnings state initiative.
- With support from the Target Corporation in Hampton Roads, **Square One continues to manage Hampton Roads Reads!, a preschool literacy project, in Norfolk, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach.** In 2008, 235 literacy materials/books were distributed to educators and families in 12 low-literacy level preschool/childcare classrooms.
- **Mrs. Sandra Bowie, MEd., Education Consultant, joined the Square One Advisory Board.** Mrs. Bowie is a former "Virginia Teacher of the Year" and previously was an Adjunct Professor at Old Dominion University.
- Square One staff continues to seek opportunities for professional development to enrich programmatic development and statewide training and technical support.

Prepared by Marty LaGiglia, MEd., Square One Director- 2-5-09