

Square One 2009 Year End Report

- Municipal funding requests for 2009-10 were made to 5 South Hampton Roads municipalities. (Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach) **As of June 15, 2009, confirmations of funding were received from the cities of Norfolk and Virginia Beach. (\$100,628)** As has been the case for nine 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, 2009, **\$16,950 had been awarded** from The Virginia Beach Foundation, E. C. Wareheim Foundation, Target Corporation, Dragas Companies, The Patricia and Douglas Perry Foundation, AMERIGROUP Foundation, The Warden Foundation and the VB City Union of the King's Daughters & Sons.
- 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.
- In September-October 2009, the **Square One Director completed the State of Virginia training on the "Environment Rating Scale Assessments" and the "Classroom Assessment Scoring System"** and is now qualified to be a State "Quality Rating and Improvement System" rater for preschool programs through the Smart Beginnings SHR initiative.
- **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 February 2009 and April 2009 entitled: "The Effects of Parental Incarceration on Children and their Families" presented by Danielle Dallaire, PhD.; "What does a 'ready child' look like?" presented by Marie Masterson, PhD. A Fall 2009 audio/web conference was entitled: "Why is interacting with young children important?" presented by Hilari Devine, QRIS rater. (Avg.=29 per conference)
- **Discounted or FREE 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 1 hr. through 6 hr. formats to increase access to best practices in early care and education.
From July 1, 2008- June 30, 2009, a total of 203 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.

(Because of the downturn in the economy... many agencies were unable to pay for training and enrollment in the Square One courses decreased.)

"Training Scholarships" were awarded in many courses.

- **128 participants enrolled in the Fall 2009 PEI courses.** (Avg. =13 per course)
- **677 participants in "Customized Training" provided** to the Va. Beach Early Discoveries Program, Va. Beach Parks and Recreation preschool staff, Smart Beginnings SHR participating QRIS program preschools, SHR Professional Home Care providers, Va. Beach Ready to Learn "Fundamentals of Learning" program, Kids of Grace Preschool, ODU parents, CHIP Roanoke, and the Head Start staff in South Hampton Roads. (January-December 2009)
- Square One **developed a 2-day "Mental Health" course** for the Virginia Home Visitors Consortium/James Madison University. (Piloted on May 5-6, 2009)
- Square One **developed new courses: "Mindful of Cultural Diversity," "Building Relationships," "Providing a Quality Learning Environment/All about the ECERS," and "Parent/Child/Teacher Interaction."**
- **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>
- **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 (now called GrowSmart) in Virginia Beach, Ready to Read Coalition in Chesapeake and the Consortium on Infant and Child Health (CINCH) at EVMS, as well as Smart Beginnings SHR training for QRIS participating programs.
- 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 2009, **327** literacy materials/books were distributed to educators and families in 15 low-literacy level preschool/childcare classrooms.
- **Mrs. Marie Baker, MEd., Retired TCC Professor, and Mrs. Kecia Brothers, MA, City of Chesapeake Youth Services Director, joined the Square One Advisory Board.**
- Square One staff continues to seek opportunities for professional development to enrich programmatic development and statewide training and technical support.