C4K Summary

As we begin 2022, Ashland-Greenwood Area Communities for Kids (C4K) takes stock of our progress.

Funding: We received $10,000 funding from Nebraska Children and Families Foundation for three grant years, for a total of $30,000. Ashland-Greenwood School Foundation agreed to provide support as fiscal agent and Mike King has filed monthly reports and fulfills that role. The major expenditure of the grant has been to hire the outstanding Janet Rolofson, retired AGPS early childhood coordinator, for 5 hours a week to coordinate activities of the grant. Expenses have also included survey, advertising, support for providers and parents. The second grant year will begin in June 2022.

**2022 Funding/Fiscal Goals:**

* **We have received some on-line cash contributions (through the web site donate mechanism) as well as donated books for parents and donated games through the library. In 2022, we seek more contributions to support provider and parent activities. Contact Mike King.**
* **Sometime in 2022 our fiscal fundraising may increase and require new fiscal structure. Contact Marti Beard.**

Organization/Activities: We have formed a good working structure with Parent Support (formed Parents of Preschoolers (POPS) support group which meets at Riverview Community Church around key topics, provides childcare and gives books/games to parents), Provider Support (Gallery Walk, gifts for year beginning, and support in receiving COVID-CARES funds) and Community (with 3 Subcommittees—Communication (Completed Survey, Webpage, Facebook Group, Posters), Capacity (exploring expanded capacity for Ashland-Greenwood area) and Community-School Relations (exploring school-age support and in-town bussing when labor force allows). Each group has excellent participation and progress as indicated in parentheses. As well, there is a Leadership group and CORE Group that is comprised of committee chairs. All meet monthly or near monthly. So many great persons have been working hard and well to achieve our goals—now almost too many persons to name!

We provide a name with each area below so you can see who to contact if you want more information but, trust us, there are many more involved in each successful effort!

**2022 Organization/Activities Goals:**

* **Parents-- POPS with a consistent attendance group—meeting monthly. Potential Parent Advisory Group—Meeting quarterly. Contact Erin Rathe, Tanya McVay**
* **Providers—continue to meet with providers regularly and support them with meeting topics that help them, continue to look for funding or economies for the family providers as businesses, expand training opportunities, library usage, develop connections with the NE ECE Collaborative, provide info on how to get a family childcare license. Contact Karen Kasuske, Darcy Carey.**
* **Community-Communication—increase following on Facebook—weekly posts, link Facebook and web; consistent feedback to C4K participants in quarterly report; advertise events; speak to neighboring communities as requested; continue to inform the community about C4K and needs of young children and their providers in the area, display case at AGPS, be a presence at Stirrup Days. Contact Leslie Gerdes, Caleb Fjone, Janet Rolofson, Laura Capp.**
* **Community-Capacity—support for community efforts to increase capacity. Contact Caleb Fjone.**
* **Community-Community School Relations—assistance with B/A school programs and summer, bussing, potential coordinator. Contact Teresa Bray, Jason Libal, Karen Stille.**
* **CORE—Establish 2022 Goals and continue as a very effective sounding board. Contact Janet Rolofson.**
* **Leadership—Contact Karen Stille, Helen Raikes.**

**Infrastructure--Mission Statement and Survey:**

During 2021, a survey of nearly 500 Ashland-Greenwood residents was completed. The final “take aways” from the survey are attached. The survey gives a mandate for the goals of the project. Also, during the 2021 year, Kelly Medwick from NCFF provided very helpful debriefing sessions. From that discussion, a Mission Statement was adopted. The Mission Statement links us to the Ashland Area Economic Development Corporation mission as well. The Mission Statement is as follows:

            “The mission of the AGAC4K is to support, promote, and expand quality early

                        care and education in our community so that children, families, providers, and

                        businesses can thrive, work, and play.”

**2022 Infrastructure Goals:**

* **Complete Vision Statement**
* **Form a Board of Directors**
* **Strategic Plan**
* **501 C3**
* **Advisory Committees as needed for projects – i.e., YMCA**
* **Potential review of branding**