

Vote For The Children

Despite the inroads made by the Children's Services Council and its many partners in supporting the needs of children and families, thousands in our community continue to need our help. Working poor families without child care can not work, school-age children who go home to an empty house are greatly at risk of committing crimes, using drugs, getting pregnant and failing in school. Parents without family around to provide guidance and support as they try to raise happy, healthy and productive children become more likely to abuse their children and fail at providing the safe, nurturing environment their children need to grow into resilient, successful adults.

What remains to be done?

- It is estimated that 11,245 children of working poor families in Palm Beach County require child care. A total of 5,772 of those are currently being served, leaving 5,473 unserved.
- It is estimated that there are 11,160 school-age children of working poor families needing out-of-school care. Of those, 5,908 currently receive care, leaving 5,252 unserved.
- In 1999, there were 7,246 calls to the child abuse hotline for Palm Beach County. Of those, 2,876 children required some type of prevention and/or early intervention service.

When you vote in November, you will again have the opportunity to make our children our top priority. Because of the many unmet needs of our children and families, the Children's Services Council is asking our county's voters to allow us to increase our millage cap from half a mill to one mill. This means that for every \$1,000 of taxable property value we can have up to one dollar, rather than the current 50 cents. On a home valued at \$125,000 with a \$25,000 homestead exemption, this would translate to about \$50 per year. The Council is just now approaching the half mill cap after nearly 15 years and we will be equally as responsible with the additional funds.

The face of Palm Beach County has changed since the Council was created in 1986 the number of children has grown greatly from 188,605 to 241,167 the needs have become more complex.

Help us make Palm Beach County the best place in Florida for families and children.

Make Kids Count!

Vote yes for children in November!

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL

PALM BEACH COUNTY

CSC Investments Result in Savings Of:

- **\$18,653 per child per year for special education services**
- **\$611,010 for special developmental services for a severely or profoundly disabled child for 20 years.**
- **\$25,000-50,000 per child per year for residential substance abuse treatment**
- **\$100 per day per child in a juvenile detention center, that is \$36,500 per year per child.**
- **81% of families receiving subsidized child care in Florida earn less than the federal poverty level. With a subsidy, a family of two at the poverty level (\$10,030) would pay 10% of its income for child care; without the subsidy, the family pays more than one-third of its income for child care.**
- **Quality early childhood programs have proven cost-savings effects. The 27-year study of the Perry Preschool project showed that for every \$1 invested, the savings was more than \$7 by increasing the likelihood that children would be literate, employed and enrolled in secondary education.**
- **A Florida report showed that 18% of the mothers surveyed admitted that they were forced to leave their children home alone because they lacked child care.**

20 Key Facts About America's Children

- 1 in 2** preschoolers has a mother in the labor force.
- 1 in 2** will live with a single parent at some point in childhood.
- 1 in 2** never completes a single year of college.
- 1 in 3** is born to unmarried parents.
- 1 in 4** is born poor.
- 1 in 4** is born to a mother who did not graduate from high school.
- 1 in 5** is born to a mother who did not receive prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy.
- 1 in 5** is poor today.
- 1 in 6** has a foreign-born mother.
- 1 in 7** has no health insurance.
- 1 in 7** has a worker in the family but is still poor.
- 1 in 8** is born to a teen mother
- 1 in 8** never graduates from high school.
- 1 in 9** is born into a family living at less than half the poverty level (\$6,079 for a family of three in 1996).
- 1 in 12** has a disability
- 1 in 14** was born at low birthweight
- 1 in 21** is born to a mother who received late or no prenatal care.
- 1 in 25** lives with neither parent.
- 1 in 610** will be killed by a gun before age 20

Source: *The State of America's Children Yearbook 2000*