



The Ohio Federation for Children's Mental Health Annual Report Fiscal Year June, 2008 – June, 2009

We have encountered many challenges and joys in meeting the diverse needs of Ohio's families and youth living with Mental/Behavioral Health issues. We continue to promote wellness and resiliency.

The Federation's foundation and infrastructure is solid, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our Board of Directors. During the past year, they have devoted hundreds of volunteer hours in meeting our fiscal and administrative responsibilities. Much of what has been accomplished is credited to their diligence and commitment.

This has been a year of tremendous growth for the Federation. Our offices were re-located providing us with more space to accommodate more staff. The Board engaged in a strategic planning process to set goals and priorities for the next 3 years. Our primary goal is to better support and empower our members. We educate, encourage and train parents to advocate for themselves and their children.

Our advocacy on behalf of youth and families has gained us recognition as the voice of youth and families in Ohio.

Exciting projects involve resiliency, youth and young adults in transition and MacArthur mental health/ juvenile justice diversion and training.

Over the 2008 summer, we conducted six forums on resiliency for youth and families. Three hundred participants engaged in trainings in Cincinnati, Jackson, Akron, Toledo, Cleveland and Columbus.

Our website is coming "Alive", thanks to students in Findlay, Ohio who made our website a school project.

We completed our human Resiliency Ring around the Statehouse in celebration of Children's Mental Health Day, with over three hundred in attendance including several state representatives and Ohio's First Lady, Francis Strickland, who accepted our Champion of Children Award.

We hired and trained a part time Office Manager and Project Manager. We entered a contract with the University of Cincinnati to engage and employ students at minimal cost.

We have attended Public Policy & Budget Hearings, completed a Resiliency Training Video, explored new funding sources and completed an Audit for 2008.

Our outreach to constituents through newsletters, meetings/trainings, website and policy briefs/calls to action have continued to be strengthened in number and quality.

Please continue to support our efforts through membership, participation in our events and visits to our website. We continue to seek people to work with us on behalf of youth and their families. Invite your co-workers, family and friends to join us. Family memberships are always free! Together, we can make a difference. Join us on this exciting journey! Visit our website, www.OhioFederation.org for more information.

Respectfully Submitted,
on behalf of the Board of Directors
Ohio Federation for Children's Mental Health
3030 West Fork Road, Cincinnati, OH 45211
P: 513.761.6030

