

Annual Report 2011

The Leave No Child Inside Central Ohio Collaborative

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Year In Review 2011

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The Leave No Child Inside Central Ohio Collaborative (LNCI-COC) works to educate and inspire collaboration on issues involving children and nature. We work to build a growing collaboration of organizational and individual members (across a myriad of disciplines) so we can work together to reverse the growing indoor, sedentary lifestyle that is ill-affecting our children. We do this by educating parents, teachers, doctors and the general public about the critical importance of outdoor, unstructured, nature play for children's overall healthy development. 2011 was another productive year for The Leave No Child Inside Central Ohio Collaborative. Following is a review of the accomplishments of the Collaborative in 2011.

Educational/Awareness:

- Worked on the LNCI Awareness and Educational campaign to:
 - a. Continue distributing "Did Your Child Play Outside Today?" posters and buttons
 - b. Continue distributing LNCI informational brochures
 - c. Showcase YouTube interview with teachers who are engaging in outdoor teaching and learning
 - d. Display Jack Hannah YouTube on the LNCI site
- Attended various conferences and community gatherings with the LNCI informational booth:
 - a. Family Day at the Inauguration of Governor John Kasich
 - b. The Metropolitan Library Summer Reading Program kick-off
 - c. Nationwide Children's Hospital: During former Surgeon General David Satcher's visit
 - d. Dr. Wendy Anderson's speech at Grand Rounds to other Nationwide Children's physicians
 - e. FamJam event at the Columbus Commons
 - f. Ohio Action for Healthy Kids conference
 - g. Participated in a roundtable for Buckeye Healthy Schools Alliance at Cherry Valley Lodge
- Spoke to the Worthington Kiwanis Club



PHOTO FROM BRIGHTPATH ACTIVE LEARNING



- On September 30, at the Hoover Y-Park, 11 speakers presented in a Pecha Kucha format at the LNCI 2011 Summit, presenting on subjects ranging from natural playscapes to the new Ohio Environmental Literacy Plan, to the status of current children and nature legislation. Speakers included: Jenny Morgan and Alice Hohl, The Leave No Child Inside Central Ohio Collaborative; John O'Meara, Executive Director Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks; Barb Seckler, Director of the Active Living Institute, an initiative of Columbus Public Health; Carolyn Watkins, Ohio Environmental Education Fund, Ohio EPA and Brenda Metcalf, Executive Director of the Environmental Education Council of Ohio; Mark Young, legislative liaison for the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association; Josh Flory, Eighth Grade Science Teacher, New Albany;

Jillian Davis, local artist and Art Teacher in the Program for Young Children at Columbus School for Girls; Amy Dutt, Owner of Urban Wild Sustainable Outdoor Planning and Design & Jamy Zambito, Administrator of the Mary Evans Child Development Center; Kristen Santel, Licensed Social Worker, Cornerstone of Hope

Collaborations:

- Held top level meetings with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Transportation: In March, met with the leaders from these various state departments to discuss the *Report on Ohio's Initiative to Reconnect Children with Nature*. In 2010, the Ohio Leave No Child Inside Collaboratives spearheaded the creation of this report. Collaborative partners on the report included Governor Ted Strickland's office and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Ohio Leave No Child Inside collected information from a wide range of national, state and community based organizations to produce the report. It is an effort to document existing initiatives focused on outdoor play and education, as well as providing a supportive guide for areas of improvement in reconnecting people with nature. LNCI-COC has worked to share the report and this information with the heads of these state departments.
- Continued meetings on the Ohio Environmental Literacy Plan: Momentum is gaining across the country for a greater focus on increasing the environmental literacy and connections to the outdoors of today's youth. Federal legislation (the No Child Left Inside Act) has been introduced which would strengthen environmental education in America's classrooms and reconnect children with the outdoors. Many states, including Ohio, are positioning themselves to be responsive to this legislation and any funding that might be



included. The Environmental Education Council of Ohio (EECO) provided leadership for the development of an Environmental Literacy Plan for Ohio by convening an Advisory Group to begin drafting the Plan. The group includes representatives from Ohio Department of Education (ODE), Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), Ohio Leave No Child Inside Collaboratives, and the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association.

The Ohio Leave No Child Inside Collaboratives' Report on Ohio's Initiative to Reconnect Children with Nature, national environmental education guidelines (NAAEE,

PARTICIPANTS GATHER AT HOOVER Y-PARK FOR SUMMIT

2004) and Ohio's Best Environmental Education Practices are among the resources used to develop the Environmental Literacy Plan.

The goals of Ohio's Environmental Literacy Plan are: to prepare formal and non-formal pre-service educators to incorporate EE into their teaching throughout their career; to support formal and non-formal in-service educators to enhance and



expand their use of environmental education in their teaching; to provide a variety of PreK-12 experiences that increase student environmental literacy and contribute to healthy lifestyles; to encourage youth and adults to participate in outdoor environmental activities and gain an understanding of conservation, recreation, and preservation; to gather evidence that documents increases in environmental literacy and environmentally friendly behavior change. The Ohio ELP will be complete in July of 2012.

- Partnered with Action for Children, Mary Evans Childhood Development Center, Urban Wild and Franklin County Board of Developmental Disability on creating natural playscape curriculum: In Fall, 2010 Action for Children (AfC) convened a *Nature Team* of five individuals from the above mentioned organizations. This team attended the World Forum-Nature in Nebraska. Jenny Morgan represented Central Ohio Leave No Child Inside on this team. One of the goals for attending this forum was to gain knowledge on how to design and create nature-based outdoor spaces for young children so that together we could develop a curriculum for early childhood educators on this topic. The curriculum will provide not only guidance in developing natural outdoor play spaces and gardens, but will also incorporate best teaching practices for early childhood educators. Too often, the outdoors are not understood as a rich learning environment for children's holistic growth and development.

The curriculum will focus to the benefits of unstructured outdoor play, the role of the teacher and the unique opportunities that nature provides for the establishment of a life-long love for learning and a life-long love for the environment.

Though the primary purpose is to enrich children's lives; the lessons of the curriculum is certain to impact an adult's perspective of the values of outdoor experiences as well. The curriculum is currently in draft form and should be available to the public by summer 2012. Note: During the World Nature Forum, this same team started brainstorming ideas for a new central Ohio initiative. The initiative would be known as CONPI (the Central Ohio Natural Playscape Initiative) and would bring together organizations and individuals



interested in growing natural playscapes throughout central Ohio. CONPI is currently in development.

- Continuing LNCI-COC's partnership with Dr. Wendy Anderson
- Attended the Ohio Department of Education's Safe and Supportive Learning Regional Meeting: The Ohio Department of Education held regional meetings in 16 areas of the state for principals, administrators and community support personnel. The Meeting focused on a comprehensive system of learning supports, centered in creating positive climates for students, families and communities. Local support providers discussed community based services and participated in activities to foster collaboration with school leaders.
- National Wildlife Federation: Continuing talks with the National Wildlife Federation to work towards collaboration
- Buckeye Healthy Schools Alliance: Developed a partnership with Buckeye Healthy Schools Alliance. In August, attended

the Buckeye Healthy School's Alliance Webinar on Setting Health Education Standards

- Pioneering Healthy Communities: Joined the Pioneering Healthy Communities effort in Central Ohio, an organization spearheaded by the Ohio Alliance of YMCA's and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This collaborative meets regularly, briefs elected officials and strategizes in working groups to advance the cause of healthy Ohio children. From healthy vending in schools and hospitals to physical education standards in Ohio schools, the group advocates on health issues for children.
- Franklin County Physical Activity Plan: Continued work at Columbus Public Health for the Franklin County Physical Activity Plan
- Met with the President of YMCA in July. First contact meeting.
- BrightPath Active Learning: Met with Erica Wares, a founder of an upcoming outdoor kindergarten enrichment school, in February. Erica received advice from our early education expert, as well as input and encouragement from LNCI in general. BrightPath later used a video produced by LNCI to educate parents about the vision of the school. BrightPath also used LNCI connections to recruit quality staff and produce marketing materials. BrightPath opened its doors in August in Westerville.
- Wrote letters of support to: The Wilds for their "Real Science Happens Here" teacher workshop and BrightPath Active Learning for their efforts to integrate outdoor play and learning into their kindergarten curriculum



VIEW FROM THE BALCONY AT SUMMIT

- Waldorf Education Columbus: Crista Hein from the Waldorf Education Columbus requested a meeting and asked us to share our story and any helpful advice on organizational development.



KRISTEN SANTEL, CORNERSTONE OF HOPE, PRESENTS AT THE SUMMIT

Organizational Development

- Facilitated the Ohio Leave No Child Inside Collaboratives' statewide Leader's meeting
- Renewed LNCI-COC fiscal partnership with Simply Living
- Worked with other Children & Nature Network Grassroots Leaders to develop better internal communications
- Established Monthly Ohio LNCI and monthly LNCI-COC conference calls
- Received a \$5,000 grant from Columbus Public Health's Institute for Active Living

Membership Development:

We added in 2011:

13 individuals

These organizations:

- Nationwide Children's Hospital
- Muskingum Valley Hunt Club
- Buckeye Healthy Schools Alliance
- The Mary Evans Child Development Center
- The Mustard Seed Retreat
- Jane's Montessori Academy
- Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland
- Green Matter, Limited
- Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Inc.
- Integrity Sustainable Planning and Design
- The Dawes Arboretum
- Convened Membership Information Sessions at public libraries around Central Ohio to update membership work.

JOSH FLORY, NEW ALBANY MIDDLE SCHOOL, SPEAKS TO THE GROUP



A list of all our members is available online at: http://kidsandnature.org/blog/?page_id=2