



February 2014

Topic of the Month

What type of support do you receive from your area businesses and/or civic groups?

Our public library allowed us space for our learning kits which are part of our parent resource center. The library also took responsibility for checking the learning kits in and out. Our *Lions Club* allowed us to borrow vision machines during our children's health fair. Our *Imagination Library* assists in funding us with promotional materials -- cups, notepads, etc. Our elementary parent teacher organization assisted us with funding for our Excelebration children's concert. - **Elisa Mayo, Central Clarke County Coalition**

Rotary had us as a guest speaker last fall and offered joint support in future efforts. *Bright Beginnings* provides books for our Mother's bags which are given out at the hospital for all new moms. *Delta Kappa Gamma* provides funds annually to be used for books and materials for the new mom bags, also. Staff members from *Bolivar Medical Center* dispense the bags for us after we deliver them. *DSU* partners with us on many events with activities and information for young children and their parents such as the annual Spring Fling, celebrating the Week of the Young Child. - **Brenda Ellis, Cleveland Coalition**

We have private donations that we use for the diapers for the Teen Mother program, and *Chevron* gives us awesome support. We also benefit from the support of agencies such as *United Way*. Our *Kiwanis Club* hosted our Community Conversation. -**Connie Jo Williams, Pascagoula Coalition**

Our city hospital is a source of great support. They provide tremendous support during our children's health fairs and all community-wide events. The hospital also provides opportunities for our coalition to interact and share information with their staff through their Employee Appreciation Days. We also have volunteer readers from the hospital. They are allowed to leave work to read to classes-no more than an hour. This release time hopefully can be a model for other businesses. -**Monique Gilmore and Carol Rawlings, McComb Coalition**

William Carey supplies books for Christmas activities. Volunteers of *Forrest General Hospital* help with events. *United Way* assists with promotional items. Our *Area Development Partnership* is of huge assistance with event venues and publicity. *Hattiesburg Clinic* promotes Excel By 5 through their pediatric center. *USM* helps us by providing conscious discipline training and help through their childhood institute. *Rotary* is a promotion/community awareness partner and sponsor for *Dolly Parton Imagination Library*. -**Dan Kibodeaux, Hattiesburg Coalition**

We have an active coalition member from *United Way* who invites us to participate in their events, and is present at all of our events. We have a *Rotary Club* member on the coalition. *Kiwanis Club* and *SOAR (Starkville Oktibbeha Achieving Results)* provide funding. *Volunteer Starkville*, *Community Counseling Services*, and *Holmes Cultural Diversity Center at MSU* provide members on the coalition and assist us with volunteers for our events, as does *Starkville School District Family Centered Programs*, who also provide in-kind services. *Oktibbeha County Regional Hospital* contacts us to be a part of their health and maternity fairs. *LeLeche League* provides a member on the coalition and participates in our health fair and child birth classes. -**Ellen Goodman, Oktibbeha County Coalition**

We have been blessed with the support of so many in our community. *Magnolia Regional Hospital* supports us with money, volunteers and in-kind services. They designated a team to completely handle the Health Fair and they invite Excel By 5 to every family event they have in the community. The *Kiwanis* club decided to own the newborn bags with a donation to purchase, print and fill the bags with information and goodies to be delivered to parents of at our hospital. The *Rotary Club* donated money to outfit our mobile resource center. *Crosswinds* ministry has been very involved helping us reach out to the at-risk communities. *The Daily Corinthian* publisher is on our coalition and donated the printing of our resource guides. Our local *Coca-Cola* distributor has been extremely supportive monetarily and with refreshments. Our local *Modern Woodman* chapter has agreed to organize fundraisers specifically for Excel By 5 and they match the funds raised. We could not have done anything without the incredible support from our local community foundation *C.A.R.E.* and the *Alliance*. Both of our school districts embrace Excel By 5 by inviting the child care centers to staff training events specific to pre-school which include contact hours. -**Susan O'Connell, Corinth/Alcorn County Coalition**

