

ONE PAGE DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

CIRCLE OF SUCCESS ® 2010

CATHOLIC FAMILY & CHILD SERVICE

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Circle of Success provides an early education program for parents in Yakima Valley, Kittitas Valley and Ephrata, Washington in order to improve the school readiness of their preschool children. The demographics for Circle of Success show that 78% of the enrolled children are economically subsidized. English is preferred by 60% of families while Spanish is preferred by 40%.

HISTORY

In 1997, United Way of America introduced Success By 6® as an initiative to help all children succeed for life. Circle of Success was inspired by Success by 6® and in 2002 became an early education program that provides services to help parents improve the school readiness of their children. In 2010 Circle of Success became a part of Catholic Family & Child Service which is a nonprofit, 501-c-3 organization based in Yakima, Washington.

LET'S READ SERVICES

Circle of Success introduced the Let's Read program in 2005. The three services include: 1) Dolly Parton's *Imagination Library*; 2) the *Let's Read* quarterly newsletter; and 3) the *Resource Guide to Services*. The services are open to all children age zero to five in our service area. The expense per child per year is \$60, however, scholarships are provided so that there is no cost to families for these education services.

FUNDING

Circle of Success activities and the Let's Read program are funded through a variety of sources including contributions from generous philanthropists and grants. Advisory Board members contribute their time and support on a voluntary basis.

CIRCLE OF SUCCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nick Temple, Businessman
Ed Ferguson, Businessman
Kathi Mercy, Yakima Theatres, Inc.,
Ken Messer, KYVE/KCTS TV – PBS, General Manager
Guy Auld, Prosser & Sunnyside Businessman
Nancy Leahy, Program Director

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

John Young, President and CEO, Catholic Charities of Yakima

CATHOLIC FAMILY & CHILD SERVICE

Darlene Darnell, Vice President & Director
Doug Rich, Chair, Catholic Family & Child Service Advisory Board

STAFF

Nancy Leahy, Program Director
Elaine Drewniak, Registrar
Monica Rodriguez, Spanish Assistance

LOCATION

5103 Tieton Dr. Suite C
Yakima, WA 98908
509.965.7100

WEBSITE

www.circleofsuccessinc.org
www.cfcyakima.org

IMPACT AND ACHIEVEMENT

Let's Read started with 115 children in July 2005 and we currently have 3,400 children enrolled. There are 15% of the preschool children in Yakima County enrolled in Let's Read. Over the past three years, there are notable steps of impact and achievement toward school readiness.

- 3,405 children are currently enrolled in Imagination Library. 2,036 children have graduated.
- 7,100 children have been enrolled in Let's Read since July 2005 and these children have opened up their mailboxes to the gift of books! We now serve children in Yakima Valley, Kittitas Valley and Ephrata.
- Waiting-List - We currently have a waiting-list of 450 children on the waiting list.
- **Universal Access** - The program is available to all children in the region age zero to five.
- 128,400 books have been distributed by Circle of Success through Imagination Library.
- 55 enrollments are home based child care facilities that average 6-8 children a week.
- Let's Read delivers books to 57 cities, ten counties and three states. .
- 55,750 *Let's Read* newsletters have been mailed to families.
- Over \$4,000,000 has been invested by Circle of Success contributors into early learning in the Yakima Valley region over the past six years. These are all private dollars with no government money.
- **No Cost** - There is no cost to families for the education services. Children are enrolled as community scholarship dollars arrive.
- Over 95 businesses and 180 individuals have provided support for the Let's Read program during the first 4 1/2 years of operation.
- Imagination Library Story Hour reading hours are held on the second Wednesday of every month to help parents learn how to read to their child.
- *The "Read Early ~ Read Often"* education project was introduced in 2008 to encourage families to read to their child from birth and to read every day so the child will be ready for school by age 5.
- Cinema Circle – Circle of Success partners with Yakima Theatre's to provide two movies showings every month especially for parents with their infant and preschool children. Children receive a literacy bag at the movies.
- Circle of Success sponsors the Let's Read Fireside, "The Brain & Early Learning" and other educational events for the community.
- Book Recycling is a part of the Circle of Success yearly business plan. The project pays a cash dividend back to the program and recycles children's books in the Valley.
- 100% Parent Support - 100% of the participating parents report that they are glad to be a part of the *Imagination Library* program, they feel the books fit the age of their child, and they recommend the Imagination Library program to their friends.
- Staff Training – Staff members have received training from the *Creative Curriculum* and follow the curriculum.

Welcome to the fifth year of **Let's Read!** This is a golden opportunity to help children be competitive in education and prepared for their life ahead!

