



Report to the Community

LITERACY:

Learn to Read,
Read to Learn

OUR STORY

STANISLAUS COUNTY

Making a Difference

CHILDREN THRIVING

Promoting the development
and well being of children
0 through 5 in
Stanislaus County



Message To The Community

On behalf of the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission, we are pleased to share with you our Annual Report to the Community.

In the past ten years, more than \$100 million dollars have been budgeted for early childhood programs in our county. In 2014-2015 alone, the Commission allocated nearly \$7.5 million toward services for young children in Stanislaus County.

Child literacy, which is the theme of this year's Report to the Community, is a focus of the Commission. Children learn to read through the 3rd grade. After the 3rd grade, children read to learn. That is why a child's ability to read at grade level at the end of 3rd grade is a critical indicator of a child's

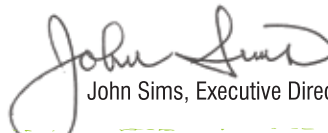
future success in school and in life. And reading at grade level is not something that just happens. Literacy builds on learning that takes place starting on the day a child is born. That is why so many of the Commission's programs promote early learning – particularly at home with the family.

This report will highlight some of the accomplishments of programs funded by the Commission in fiscal year 2014-2015. The report also serves as a reminder that the Commission and its partners are continuing to strive, as we have since the Commission was established in 1999, to provide and deliver quality, impactful services to the children of Stanislaus County.

To learn more about our work, please contact us at **209.558.6218** or visit us at **www.stanprop10.org**

Sincerely,


Mary Ann Lee, Chair


John Sims, Executive Director

Our Story

Children are our priority: Research shows that a child's brain develops more in the first five years than any other time in their life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998. The ballot measure added a 50-cent tax to each pack of cigarettes and a comparable tax on other tobacco products sold in California. It authorized the creation of the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission and made it responsible for operating and administering the program in Stanislaus County.

Our Vision: All of Stanislaus County's children will thrive in supportive, safe, nurturing, and loving environments; are healthy, eager, and ready learners; and become productive well-adjusted members of society.


About Stanislaus County

Overall Population  532,344¹

Households  167,863²

Percentage of Households that are Families  73.9%²

*The Census Bureau defines the term family as "A group of two people or more related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together."*³

 **Stanislaus County had 46,359 children 0 through 5 years of age in 2014.¹ – 9% of Stanislaus County's Population**

Births in Stanislaus County totaled 7,791 in 2014.⁴ 

Ethnicity of Children 0-5 in Stanislaus County ¹	Ethnicity	% of Children Served in Prop 10 Programs ⁵
56%	Hispanic	57%
33%	White	26%
4%	Asian	3%
4%	Multiracial	4%
2%	African American	5%
Less than 1%	Other or Unknown	4%

Sources:

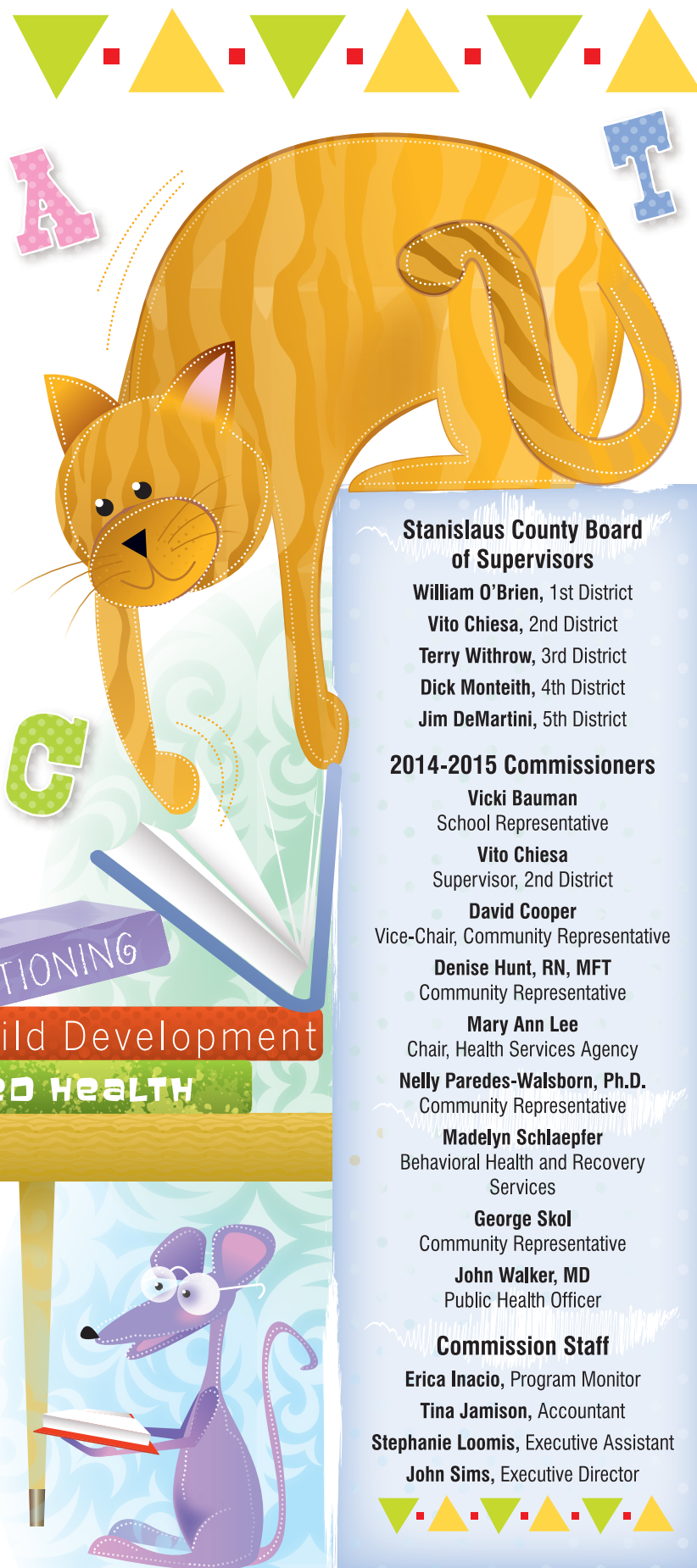
¹California Department of Finance, State and County Total Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity and Detailed Age, 2010-2060: Release Date: December 2014

²U.S. Census Bureau (2014). 2013 American Community Survey (three-year estimates)

³U.S. Census Bureau. Current Population Survey (CSP) Definitions

⁴California Department of Finance, Historical and Projected State and County Births, Table 3 State and County Births, Projected births: Demographic Research Unit

⁵Data reported by Proposition 10 funded programs in Stanislaus County



Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

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Vito Chiesa, 2nd District

Terry Withrow, 3rd District

Dick Monteith, 4th District

Jim DeMartini, 5th District

2014-2015 Commissioners

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Vito Chiesa

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Community Representative

Mary Ann Lee

Chair, Health Services Agency

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Community Representative

Madelyn Schlaepfer

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

George Skol

Community Representative

John Walker, MD

Public Health Officer

Commission Staff

Erica Inacio, Program Monitor

Tina Jamison, Accountant

Stephanie Loomis, Executive Assistant

John Sims, Executive Director

Improved Family Functioning



"I'm not afraid of storms for I'm learning how to sail my ship."

— Little Women
by Louisa May Alcott

- **Families are in a quest to find and receive support.**
The parents of 10,809 children received family support services through countywide Family Resource Centers or other programs. 2,040 received more intensive services focused on improving child abuse risk factors.
- **Parents are exploring, gaining knowledge, and improving parenting skills.**
The parents of 1,284 children attended parenting classes to increase parenting skills and knowledge.
- **Caregivers are screened for depression and linked to additional support.**
1,571 children 0-5, had caregivers screened for depression -- of which 352 children 0-5 had a caregiver referred for mental health services.
- **Children are flourishing in stable environments.**
389 children experienced improvements in their family environment after being enrolled in respite childcare.

Improved Child Development



"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose."

— Oh the Places You'll Go!
by Dr. Seuss

- **Parents are reading with their children.**
1,204 families increased the time spent reading with their children at home after receiving literacy services.
- **Children are being screened and identified for developmental delays.**
1,458 children 0-5 were screened for educational developmental issues, and 286 were reported as being referred for further assessments or services.
- **Children are preparing to enter Kindergarten and be successful.**
144 children participated in the Kindergarten Readiness Program at school sites across the county that helped prepare them for Kindergarten.

Improved Health



"Where you tend a rose, my lad, a thistle cannot grow."

— The Secret Garden
by Frances Hodgson Burnett

- **Pregnant women and children are receiving health care.**
411 children 0-5 and pregnant women who did not have access to health care received medical attention through an interim health care program.
- **A greater number of children now have health coverage.**
363 pregnant women and children 0-5 who did not have health insurance are now enrolled in a health coverage plan.
- **Infants are born healthy and are thriving.**
199 infants were born term after their mothers participated in a healthy birth program. 91% of the mothers initiated breastfeeding.

Improved Systems Of Care



"You can't stay in your corner of the forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes."

— Winnie the Pooh
by A.A. Milne

- **Strengthen families with knowledge.**
Families of 6,790 children have increased knowledge and use of community resources.
- **Leveraging Prop 10 funds.**
Prop 10 funded programs brought in more than \$7 million from other funding sources during fiscal year '14-'15, increasing the level of services for children 0-5 and their families. Of that \$7 million, \$5 million came from funding sources outside of Stanislaus County.

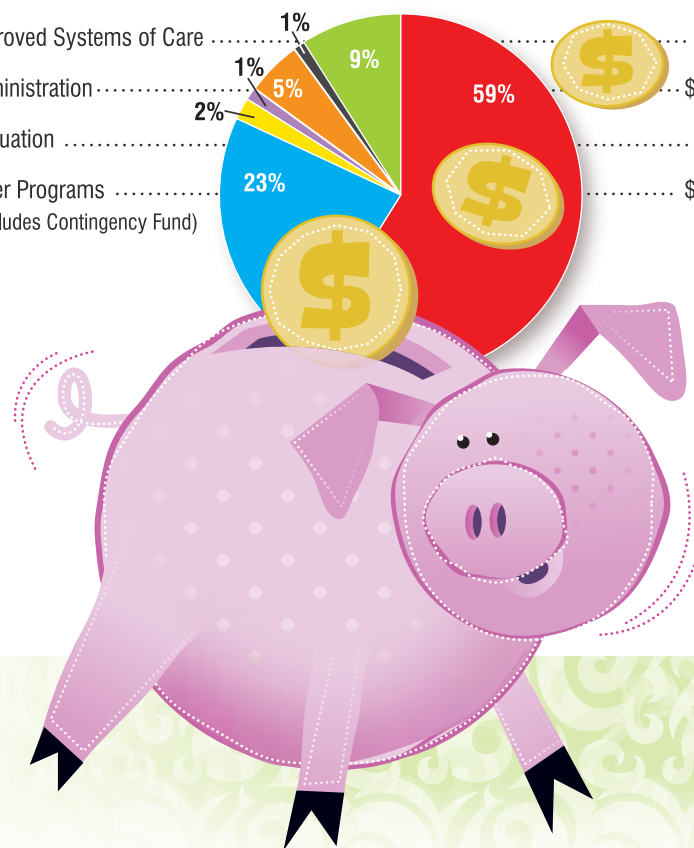
*Data reported by contractors

Our Funded Community Partners 2014-2015

Aspiranet	Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
Center for Human Services	Stanislaus County Community Services Agency
Children's Crisis Center	Stanislaus County Health Services Agency
Court Appointed Special Advocates	Stanislaus County Office of Education
El Concilio	Stanislaus Family Justice Center
Keyes Union School District	The Bridge
Parent Resource Center	United Way of Stanislaus County
Patterson Unified School District	
Riverbank Unified School District	
Sierra Vista Child and Family Services	

Fiscal Year Budget 2014-2015

Total Budget	\$7,490,083
● Improved Family Functioning (Family Support, Education, and Services)	\$4,451,386
● Improved Health (Health Education and Services)	\$1,694,160
● Improved Child Development (Child Development Services)	\$157,000
● Improved Systems of Care	\$82,378
● Administration	\$350,404
● Evaluation	\$73,762
● Other Programs (Includes Contingency Fund)	\$680,993



Equipping Children to Read and Succeed in Stanislaus County

(Stanislaus Community Foundation)

Over 60% of Stanislaus County children are not reading at grade level by the end of 3rd grade. After 3rd grade, students transition from learning to read to reading to learn and if students haven't attained grade-level proficiency as readers by this point, they will fall further behind, increasing their risk for dropping out of high school, teenage pregnancy and sadly, incarceration.

We know that literacy skills begin to develop long before children learn to read, and studies show that learning opportunities in the early years greatly prepares them for school. Yet, in our region, we face a growing achievement gap. Nearly 1 out of 3 children live in poverty and only 38% of Stanislaus County 3- and 4-year-olds attends preschool. These statistics paint a vivid illustration of what is to come for Stanislaus County if we allow the status quo to continue. The time to act is now.

Since January 2014, Stanislaus Community Foundation (SCF)—in partnership with Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE), SCOE's Head Start program, the Children and Families Commission, Stanislaus County Libraries, and five school districts has convened a broad base of stakeholders in the public, private, civic, philanthropic, and faith communities to learn more about what it takes to prepare our children for long term success.

Our local initiative, Stanislaus READS! (Ready, Engaged,

Able, Determined Students), is a multi-year effort to uncover many winning solutions to help children read – and succeed – by third grade. Although the initiative scope is county-wide, we have partnered with five pilot schools to help us test strategies that have potential for implementation at a more grand scale. Among many tactics, Stanislaus READS! has already embarked on the following strategies:

- **1. Expanded the Imagination Library** – a free book distribution program that mails an age-appropriate book monthly to a child's home. The Imagination library is now available to families with children from birth to age 5, and currently serves Turlock, Waterford, Patterson and the following zip codes in Modesto: 95355, 95351, 95350
- **2. Integrated a Common Kindergarten Readiness Assessment** – The Kindergarten Student Readiness Profile (KSEP)—is now in use at all Stanislaus County Head Starts and at five pilot schools. KSEP data will help Stanislaus READS! partners document the preparation levels of students when they enter kindergarten and follow their progress over time.



Ceres Partnership for Healthy Children

(Center for Human Services)

Meet Janet, her husband, Mario, and their 4 year old son, Joseph. They are a family from Ceres who, from an outsider looking in, seem to be a typical family who kept to themselves. Janet worked very close to Ceres Partnership for Healthy Children (CPHC, a family resource center), but had never used their services before.

One day Janet visited CPHC requesting information on domestic violence. Staff assisted Janet over a series of sessions and eventually provided her transportation to Family Law Facilitators. A restraining order was granted against her husband and staff accompanied Janet to request that the Sheriffs serve and evict her husband from their home.

Janet and her son, Joseph, were now safe from abuse in their home. During this time, a CPHC family advocate offered Janet information on positive discipline and provided books for Joseph. Janet was finally able to enroll Joseph in Head Start. (He had been isolated from other children because Janet's husband had insisted he stay home.) Janet learned how to ride the bus while learning how to be more self-sufficient and how to advocate for herself.

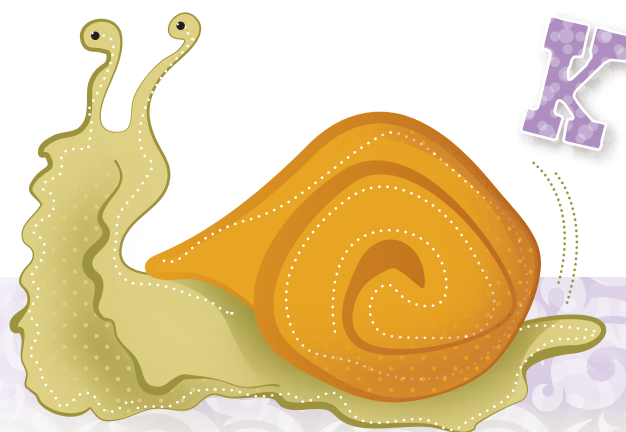
Staff assisted Janet with transportation to doctor appointments, the court house and counseling services. Janet learned about community resources that could help her, including Women's Haven Center, Family Justice Center, El Concilio, Central Valley Opportunity Center, Stanislaus County Community Services Agency, Family Law Facilitators, and Head Start. She also received food and clothing aid. After her visits with the family advocate, Janet began to realize that she was capable of doing things she never thought she would be able to do on her own.

Janet now communicates more than she used to and asks for help more openly. Joseph, who was aggressive after witnessing his father's behavior, is now calmer and is learning how to cope with negative behaviors. Janet has been working on searching for better employment to improve her financial situation. Janet has expressed that she is now happier and is determined to take more steps to self-sufficiency. Janet is thankful for Ceres Partnership for Healthy Children because she feels she would not have been able to take all these steps without the assistance of the family advocate and CPHC staff.

**Names were changed to protect the clients' identities.*

For program information, please call:

Ceres Partnership for Healthy Children at 209.541.0101



● 3. Expanded Summer Learning Opportunities –

In partnership with Gallo Winery, Stanislaus Community Foundation invested in summer programs at Burbank, Chrysler, Las Palmas, Moon, and Sylvan Schools. This funding ensured that children had access to school libraries, could check out books, and engaged in enrichment activities.

Ultimately, the collaborative will strive to help more children enter school ready to learn, build a stronger parental commitment to ensure their students' regular school attendance, and provide meaningful learning opportunities to keep children engaged and on track during the summer break.

Want to learn more?

Visit our website Stanreads.org or contact the Stanislaus Community Foundation at 209.576.1608 or ahughes@stanislauscf.org.