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Igniting a *Spark* for Learning

**SPARK OHIO DEMONSTRATES LASTING RESULTS IN PREPARING CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL**

Graduating from the SPARK Ohio program last summer meant a backpack filled with new books and school supplies for 5-year-old Hope Bender, plus a glossy graduation certificate to prove she was ready for kindergarten. According to the *Akron Beacon Journal*, Hope is just one of hundreds of Ohio children in Hamilton, Medina, Stark, Summit and Trumbull counties who participate each year in Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK) programs.

Recent evaluation results once again prove how well SPARK Ohio works in helping parents get their children ready for kindergarten by building reading, language and social skills. For the fifth year in a row, SPARK children in both rural and urban communities significantly outperformed non-SPARK children upon entering kindergarten. Recent results also suggest that they maintain that advantage through the third grade.

On average, SPARK children scored a 19.7 on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment of Literacy (KRA-L), versus 17.8 for the non-SPARK comparison children, which is statistically significant. The KRA-L is the current Ohio Department of Education mandated assessment, graded on a 29-point scale.

Dr. Peter Leahy of the University of Akron is the third-party evaluator of the SPARK program. Leahy has been collecting evaluation data on SPARK participants since the program began in 2003. Leahy notes the magnitude of the difference in KRA-L scores between the SPARK children and the non-SPARK children is striking.

"SPARK is consistently improving parents’ ability to serve as their child’s first educator, and is effective in preparing children to enter kindergarten,” says Leahy.

The latest results also confirm what many believed—improved performance is sustained as the SPARK child progresses through elementary school. With the help of data provided by the Ohio Department of Education, Leahy and his team are now tracking SPARK and comparison children through the third grade.

This year, the team studied how the first group of SPARK and non-SPARK comparison children performed in school over the four years since they entered kindergarten. *continued on page 5*
Preliminary results show that SPARK gives children an advantage at kindergarten entry, and that they maintain that advantage as they progress through school. For example, SPARK children had statistically significant higher attendance rates at each grade through third grade and were promoted on time more often than non-SPARK children. The third grade SPARK children also had higher reading and math scores on the third grade Ohio Achievement Test.

Through SPARK, trained “parent partners” visit families in their homes or in small groups about once a month for one to two years, showing parents effective ways to build basic literacy skills based on Ohio’s Early Learning Content Standards. The families receive free books and other learning materials, plus school supplies for kindergarten. The parent partners also meet with a team of experts who screen children for developmental, behavioral or physical issues. They provide early intervention for issues that would prevent or delay school readiness.

SPARK is designed to create a seamless transition into school for children ages 3-6. It was originally funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in partnership with the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton. The program is currently sustained by a wide variety of funders.

“The most recent evaluation results are very promising and illustrate that the program really does work,” says Joni Close, president of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton.

SPARK OHIO AT A GLANCE

- Served 520 children (ages 3 and 4) in 2009 in Canton, Minerva, Alliance, Akron and Warren, Ohio
- KRA-L scores for SPARK children averaged 19.7 versus 17.8 for non-SPARK children in 2009 in the same classrooms, which is a statistically significant difference
- On the KRA-L at kindergarten entry, SPARK children have significantly outperformed comparison children for five straight years
- SPARK children who completed third grade in 2009 had higher attendance rates for each year of school compared to non-SPARK children
- Average Ohio Achievement Test math scores were 429.2 for SPARK children versus 413.2 for non-SPARK children for the first group of SPARK children to be studied through third grade, which is a statistically significant difference

Two children participating in Get Ready for School, a SPARK program that helps incoming kindergarteners get acclimated to the school environment.
With summer here, there’s always a renewed sense of optimism this time of year. Warmer weather brings blossoming trees and flowers, and this year it also brought the passage of health reform legislation. Just as the seasons change and the health care industry is changing, we as a health system also continue to evolve by implementing a number of major changes. We are opening new opportunities and renewing optimism that we are well positioned to continue our success in delivering mission-driven care that improves the quality of life of everyone we serve.

In today’s economic environment, it’s more important than ever to be able to adapt to changing times. One of the major changes to help the Sisters of Charity Health System (SCHS) evolve has been the restructuring of ownership of our Ohio hospitals with Cleveland-based University Hospitals (UH). We finalized an agreement on December 31, 2009, to restructure two joint ventures that originated in 1999. The restructuring will help us better serve the needs of the community and provide greater effectiveness in operations for the ongoing success of our Catholic health care ministries.

The restructuring returns Mercy Medical Center in Canton, Ohio and St. Vincent Charity Medical Center in Cleveland to sole ownership by SCHS. SCHS now solely owns four hospitals—St. Vincent Charity, Mercy and two hospitals in South Carolina. Each hospital is united in one mission to continue the healing ministry of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine.

We are certain that the Sisters of Charity Health System is better positioned than ever to leverage its collective strength.

Just as important, at St. John Medical Center in Westlake, the 50-50 joint venture continues between SCHS and UH. Both health systems will continue as equal owners, with UH assuming the management responsibility of daily operations with accountability to the joint venture board. In addition, each health system appointed three members to the joint venture board, with an additional appointment of an independent board member. We are pleased to share that Ronald Dees has been appointed board chair of this joint venture and the independent board member is Ann O’Brien, a former Ernst & Young senior health care management consultancy manager. Currently, St. John Medical Center’s leadership is working to align as appropriate with UH’s centers of excellence and institutes. Both SCHS and UH will make equal investments over five years for the strategic expansion and growth of St. John Medical Center.

The two health systems will also jointly invest $30 million over three years through a newly established

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**BUILDING FOR TOMORROW**

*Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA, FACHE, president and CEO, Sisters of Charity Health System*
foundation to promote long-term philanthropic support for St. Vincent Charity Medical Center’s mission of providing high-quality patient care to Cleveland and beyond. SCHS also has plans for capital projects in excess of $80 million at Mercy Medical Center to continue its clinical excellence in medical services. With the current economic environment, we are mindful that there is significant need to manage the capital investment for demonstrated results.

**United Voices**

Across the health system, our 20 sponsored ministries are working together more closely to use our collective strengths for greater efficiencies and effectiveness. In 2007, SCHS launched a new name and identity, which conveys our commitment to being a beacon of light and hope to the communities we serve. After careful consideration, we are now extending this logo to all of our solely owned ministries. That process, which leverages the strength of the parent organization and each of our sponsored organizations so we all have a united voice, is nearly complete. But, it will only be successful if we work together to leverage our collective strength while also building awareness of our individual ministries’ tremendous work and accomplishments.

The efficiencies don’t end there. The administration and operations of our health care ministries are becoming more centralized, while respecting regional differences. We have added more skills to the SCHS executive staff to provide direction, oversight and support to our ministries, plus more system-wide initiatives and policies, including shared services, shared personnel, and other strategies to leverage our collective strength. We have also enacted regular meetings of health system counterparts to facilitate decisions being made, communication and coordination of efforts. While respecting regional differences, we are determining shared services and collaborative opportunities that provide enhanced value, from the perspective of quality, cost and efficiencies.

As we continue to transform our organization to become a stronger family of health and human service ministries, it will be important to plan for the future needs of our community. With the the passage of national health reform legislation, we recognize the many changes that will occur in the health care delivery system. We look forward to the changes, as this law will help extend quality health care coverage to 32 million Americans, make important insurance market reforms and ensure the dignity of all life from conception to natural death. We will join with other health care providers to monitor the implementation and sustainability of this plan into the future.

As a Catholic health care ministry, we are called to walk in Jesus’ footsteps, to heal as He healed, and to serve with love, compassion and care. While much remains uncertain in the health care industry, we are certain that the Sisters of Charity Health System is better positioned than ever to leverage its collective strength in the areas of health care, philanthropy, social services, advocacy and elder care to heal individuals, families and communities. ✧
With that in mind, the Sisters of Charity Health System (SCHS) successfully launched a new name and identity in 2007. The parent organization had invested in a new, more cohesive brand, but its 20 sponsored ministries spread across two states each still had their own logo and identity. Based upon the positive feedback on the new corporate identity and a few individual ministry requests, the SCHS implemented a brand audit to evaluate options for developing a “family” brand structure for all ministries.

The brand audit identified several goals:

- **Leverage the strength of SCHS, while preserving the individuality of ministries**
- **Connect ministries to demonstrate collective impact**
- **Build brand identity: add clarity, share equity and empower the SCHS mission**
- **Ensure the Sisters’ legacy and allow for growth and expansion**

To meet these goals and evaluate the impact a dramatic change in identity could create, external brand consultants met with leadership from each ministry. The feedback and information learned was presented to the SCHS Communications Committee of the Board, chaired by Sr. Mary Ann Andrews, CSA. The overwhelming response was a strong desire for brand clarity and the need to explore ways to build equity among the family while adding clarity to the unique work of each ministry. After careful consideration, the SCHS Communications Committee and ultimately the Board approved the extension of its corporate identity to all of its solely owned ministries. “The commitment of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine to the healing mission of Jesus is reflected in the legacy of services provided by a diverse family of ministries that meet the needs of God’s people. I believe that the family brand with the ‘beacon of hope’ conveys to all the message that Sisters of Charity Health System through so many different but related entities is truly ‘devoted to healing,’” explained Sr. Mary Ann Andrews, CSA.

“It is important to leverage the strength of the parent organization on behalf of the sponsored organizations and vice versa, so everyone is expressing a similar story,” says Heather Stoll, vice president of external affairs. “Each entity adds to the equity of the SCHS brand through the change to a similar logo and identity, as well as through organizational changes to increase collaboration on communications,” says Stoll.

Stoll points to the efficiencies to be gained with ministries working together in the areas of marketing, public relations and fundraising on a market-by-market basis as an example of organizational changes. With
a centralized calendar, regular brand communication meetings and enhanced communication between ministry leaders, this initiative will enhance our ministries’ efforts to leverage the power of uniting their voices in matters that impact the mission and health of the community.

“The goal of a unified family brand structure is to position SCHS and all its ministries as a ‘beacon of light and hope.’ In this context, it means more than exemplifying a logo to the people SCHS serves. It means presenting them with a symbol that will become intuitively connected with the idea of hope and healing,” explains Stoll. “With all ministries collaboratively projecting this visual message in unison, there is great potential for this symbol to gain incredible strength and become the emblem of an uplifting and hopeful movement.”

**NEW LOOKS, NEW NAMES**

In addition to the new identities, two SCHS hospitals underwent name changes as part of the new ownership arrangement between the Sisters of Charity Health System and University Hospitals. St. Vincent Charity Hospital in Cleveland became St. Vincent Charity Medical Center and St. John West Shore Hospital in Westlake, Ohio became St. John Medical Center.

“The ‘medical center’ name better represents the depth and breadth of the services that our hospitals provide to their respective communities and beyond,” says Sister Judith Ann Karam, CSA, president and CEO of the Sisters of Charity Health System and St. Vincent Charity Medical Center.

Additionally, St. John Medical Center has introduced a new logo to reflect the joint venture between the Sisters of Charity Health System and University Hospitals, and also our Catholic identity.

**A FAMILY OF MINISTRIES**

*Below is a list of the solely owned ministries that are uniting under one common logo/brand treatment.*

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**HEALTH CARE**
- The Augustine Group
- Cuyahoga Physician Network
- Mercy Medical Center
- Mercy Professional Care Corporation
- Providence Hospital Northeast
- Providence Hospital
- St. Vincent Charity Medical Center

**ELDER CARE**
- Regina Health Center

**OUTREACH**
- Early Childhood Resource Center
- Healthy Learners
- Joseph’s Home

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**GRANTMAKING ORGANIZATIONS**
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina
- The South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families
One in three women in the United States will undergo a hysterectomy before she turns 60. About 65 percent of the 600,000 procedures performed annually are total abdominal hysterectomies, requiring a large incision, a hospital stay of two to four days and about six weeks of recovery.

Mercy Medical Center—inspired by its century-long mission to provide quality, compassionate care—is changing all that.

The first in Stark and nearby counties to offer robotic minimally invasive surgery (MIS), Mercy is helping to revolutionize not just hysterectomies, but also a broader, more complex range of surgeries, including prostatectomies, certain heart surgeries, GYN/oncology and other specialties.

Surpassing the limits of conventional laparoscopic procedures, robotic procedures:

- Reduce body trauma, blood loss, postoperative pain and discomfort, and risk of infection
- Lead to shorter hospital stays and faster recovery

Less Than One Day’s Stay

After moving last year to Chapel Hill, N.C., Danielle Benjamin briefly returned after learning she needed a hysterectomy. She wanted treatment from her physician of nine years, Albert T. Domingo, M.S., M.D., obstetrician and gynecologist at Mercy.

“I came back to Canton because I wanted a physician I was comfortable with, that I knew and trusted,” she says. Benjamin qualified for and underwent a robotic hysterectomy. She was released from the hospital within 24 hours. “I didn’t need to fill my pain medication prescription or even take Tylenol,” says Benjamin.

“With Mercy on the cutting edge of minimally invasive surgery, our patients and the communities we serve will have increased access to the highest quality medical care available.” — Thomas Cecconi, president and CEO of Mercy Medical Center.

Good Patient Outcomes

Guided by cameras and scopes, surgeons have been using MIS for two decades to perform certain procedures through tiny incisions rather than open surgery, resulting in fewer complications.

Mercy’s robotic surgery system (pictured on page 11) combines computer and robotic technologies, providing surgeons with improved dexterity, visual depth perception, camera stability and ergonomics.

Surgeons operate while seated comfortably in front of a console, viewing a 3-D image of the surgical field, while their fingers manipulate the master controls below the display, with hands and wrists naturally positioned relative to their eyes. The system seamlessly translates surgeons’ hand, wrist and finger movements into precise, real-time movements of surgical instruments inside patients.
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Steven E. Ochs, M.D., Mercy urologist, notes the advanced surgical precision with Mercy’s robotic system consistently provides good patient outcomes. He says, “Patients can normally look forward to a faster recovery, less scarring and a quicker return to normal activities.”

Aqeel Sandhu, M.D., medical director of cardiothoracic surgery at Mercy, recently performed the hospital’s first robotic minimally invasive heart surgery—a procedure that normally requires opening a patient’s chest wall and cutting through the breastbone. The procedure was very successful and is an important step in developing Mercy’s robotic surgery center of excellence, as well as continuing the positioning of Mercy Heart Center as the premier program in our region.

**Increased Access to Quality Care**

Mercy installed its first robotic system last fall and a second one this spring. Thomas Cecconi, president and CEO of Mercy, says the investments, which total more than $3 million, are notable examples of the hospital’s commitment to health care leadership and dedication to its 100-year mission. “As we begin Mercy’s second century, we continue our long standing practice of implementing forward-thinking technology wisely.”

He says, “The robotic surgery systems are the perfect complement to our new digital surgical suites. With Mercy on the cutting edge of minimally invasive surgery, our patients and the communities we serve will have increased access to the highest quality medical care available.”

**MERCY EARNs ENERGY STAR DESIGNATION**

Mercy Medical Center recently earned the ENERGY STAR designation—the national mark for excellence in energy performance—from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy’s joint program. Mercy is one of two hospitals in Ohio and 87 nationwide to be awarded this distinction. With an overall rating of 85 on energy efficiency scale of 0 to 100, the hospital is one of eight ENERGY STAR buildings in Canton. To obtain ENERGY STAR, facilities must pass a rigorous application process and an on-site review. Richard Antenuce, manager of plant engineering and facilities at Mercy, says measuring up to strict ENERGY STAR standards is challenging for any hospital because of the 24/7/365 nature of the operation.

Yet, improving Mercy’s energy efficiency has been a “labor of love” for him and a team of qualified technicians for nearly 15 years and counting. “Energy management is an attitude, and it fits well with the hospital’s mission,” he says. “We strive not only to lower energy costs, but also to increase the comfort level of patients, their families and our visitors.”

Thomas Cecconi (left) and Congressman John Boccieri (right)


**PROVIDENCE HOSPITALS**

**DESIGNATED BLUE DISTINCTION CENTER FOR KNEE AND HIP REPLACEMENT**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Carolina has designated Providence Hospitals as a Blue Distinction Center for Knee and Hip Replacement as part of its Blue Distinction® designation program. Blue Cross recognized Providence Hospitals for demonstrating an expertise in quality care that results in better overall outcomes for patients. To qualify, Providence had to meet objective clinical measures developed in collaboration with expert physicians and medical organizations. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Carolina recognized Providence Hospital for placing a high value on research and evidence-based health and medical information and achieving the clinically validated quality standards needed to be named a Blue Distinction hospital.

**REGINA HEALTH CENTER and LIGHT OF HEARTS VILLA**

**RECEIVE HIGH RESIDENT SATISFACTION SCORES**

Sisters of Charity Health System’s eldercare facilities Regina Health Center and Light of Hearts Villa received high marks in the 2009 Long-term Care Resident Satisfaction Survey from the Ohio Department of Aging.

Light of Hearts Villa received an overall resident satisfaction rating of 95.4 out of 100 as an assisted living facility, compared to a statewide average of 92. The 95.4 rating places it in the top 20 percent of all assisted living facilities in Cuyahoga County. Regina Health Center received an overall nursing home satisfaction score of 89 out of 100 from residents, placing it in the top 20 percent of all nursing homes in Summit County. The average nursing home satisfaction score statewide was 85.8.

With 54 assisted living units, Regina Health Center also scored high as an assisted living facility, receiving 96.4 points out of 100 in overall resident satisfaction, well above the statewide average of 92. The survey was conducted between August 2009 and January 2010 with residents asked to rate their satisfaction with the facility’s environment, activities, administration, direct care/nursing assistants, meals and dining, social services, therapy, laundry and general satisfaction.
**Top in Quality Outcomes**

**HEALTHGRADES RATINGS SHOW SCHS OHIO HOSPITALS AMONG NATION’S BEST IN SEVERAL CATEGORIES**

When it comes to health care, Ohio consistently ranks among the states with the greatest percentage of best-performing hospitals, according to HealthGrades, the nation’s leading independent health care ratings organization. All three of the Sisters of Charity Health System’s Ohio hospitals are doing their part to ensure high-quality patient care.

**FOCUSING ON CORE ELEMENTS**

The foundation for quality initiatives at the Sisters of Charity Health System is about believing in the power of inter-disciplinary teams and believing in the knowledge of the frontline worker.

*At our system, our goal for the quality initiatives is to focus on the following core elements:*

- Patient-centered care
- Patient safety
- Effective intervention by using evidence-based medicine
- Effective care delivery by reducing waste and duplication of services
- Timely care
- Equitable care to ensure that all patients receive high-quality care

With these elements in place, the Sisters of Charity Health System has led strong quality initiatives across the system through the leadership of Dr. Adnan Tahir, former chief medical officer. This is evidenced by the recent awards on quality outcomes at our hospitals.

**St. Vincent Charity Medical Center Recognized for Quality Outcomes**

For the fifth consecutive year, HealthGrades ranked St. Vincent Charity Medical Center’s clinical quality among the top five percent in the nation. The study analyzed patient outcomes at each of the nation’s 5,000 nonfederal hospitals in 2006, 2007 and 2008, providing hospitals in the top five percent with its HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™.

St. Vincent Charity Medical Center in Cleveland is one of only 269 hospitals nationally and one of only 12 hospitals in Ohio to receive this distinction. The study found that hospitals in the top five percent demonstrated patient outcomes that far exceeded those of other hospitals. In addition, the hospital received HealthGrades Excellence Awards for its pulmonary care and is ranked within the top five hospitals in Ohio for spine surgery.

“This award is a credit to our entire St. Vincent Charity caregiving team—physicians, nurses, aides and technicians,” says Sister Judith Ann Karam, CSA, president and CEO of the Sisters of Charity Health System and St. Vincent Charity Medical Center. “We have spent the past decade driving a patient-centered model of care across all areas of our hospital. The Distinguished
Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence is a testament to our mission of providing the best possible care in a compassionate environment.”

**Mercy Medical Center Named a Heart Care Leader**

HealthGrades ratings show Mercy Medical Center in Canton, Ohio, as continuing to be a national heart care leader. Mercy received the HealthGrades 2010 Coronary Intervention Excellence Award™ for the second year in a row, ranking Mercy as one of the top five percent of U.S. hospitals for coronary intervention. Mercy ranked as one of the top 10 in Ohio for overall cardiac services, as well as receiving five-star ratings for coronary bypass surgery, coronary interventional procedures and treatment of heart attacks.

“We believe a community hospital must strive for excellence because the lives of those in our community depend on us. Every heart care initiative at Mercy is in keeping with the hospital’s mission to do what is best for our patients, and our efforts have been rewarded with some of the lowest mortality rates anywhere, as confirmed by the HealthGrades report,” says Thomas E. Cecconi, president and CEO of Mercy Medical Center.

**St. John Medical Center Awarded for its Objective Patient Outcomes**

HealthGrades also recognized St. John Medical Center in Westlake, Ohio for being one of the top 50 hospitals in the country based on objective patient outcomes over three years for 26 procedures and treatments. Their research found the 50 Best Hospitals had mortality rates that were, on average, 27 percent lower than other hospitals. St. John Medical Center received additional recognition for clinical excellence and patient safety designations, as well as excellence in stroke and pulmonary care.

**CAREGIVERS FEATURED LEFT TO RIGHT: Michelle Gaffney • RT, Pulmonary; Todd Storch • PA, Surgery; Sharella Thomas • Social Worker, Geropsychiatry; Richard Lawoyin, M.D. • Internal Medicine Resident; Jennifer Papesh • RN, Coronary Care Unit; Marijo Atkinson • Patient Advocate, ED; Glenda Perry • Environmental Services**
Midlands Fatherhood Coalition participants and their families gather for a fun day at a local golf course.
South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families *Helps Dads* Get Back on Track

**CHILDREN WHO GROW UP WITHOUT A FATHER ARE MORE LIKELY TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL, ABUSE DRUGS AND ALCOHOL, COMMIT CRIMES AND BECOME TEENAGE PARENTS. THE STATISTICS AND STUDIES DEMONSTRATE THE IMPACT FATHERS — OR THE LACK OF FATHERS — HAVE ON A CHILDREN’S LIVES.**

Pat Littlejohn just might understand that concept better than anyone. As the executive director of the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families (SCCFF), she has spent the last 10 years helping fathers become more than a name on a birth certificate.

In 1997, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina started its fatherhood initiative, “Reducing Poverty through Father Engagement.” The mission: to reduce poverty through father engagement.

In South Carolina, single female households represented the largest population of poverty, says Littlejohn. “In really taking a look at where we could make an impact, we looked at several areas and this kept coming back up.”

The SCCFF officially formed in 2002 and now has six programs serving 12 communities.

The program focuses on low-income, non-custodial fathers over the age of 18, with the average age of about 30. The center does not accept men who have a history of domestic violence or ex-felons with violent criminal histories. “We focus on the men who are willing to do the right thing and willing to take those steps to get their lives back in order,” Littlejohn says.

Since 2003, the center has served 6,400 men and impacted the lives of some 12,000 children.

When a man comes into the program, a staff member works with him to identify his issues and goals and they develop a plan that will help him build the skills and abilities he needs to be an active and engaged father. The men also participate in peer support groups, giving them a network of like-minded men with whom they can develop a positive relationship.

A majority of the men enter the program voluntarily, but recently the center began accepting men who were court ordered into the program for nonpayment of child support as an alternative to incarceration.

“In many cases, it makes no sense to lock him up,” says Littlejohn. “He will just get further behind in his child support and while he’s incarcerated, the family certainly won’t get child support. Put him in our program. We’ll make sure he addresses the issues in his life. We’ll make sure he pays his child support.”

Of the men who are court ordered to the program, 75 percent get jobs and pay their child support. Only 25 percent don’t comply and go back to jail, she says.

Yet the program isn’t without its critics.

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“There are a lot of really strong women advocates who have said we’re just taking government dollars away,” says Littlejohn. This kind of statewide, government-supported program is unique, and Littlejohn is hoping the center can become a model for other states while raising awareness of how important it is for fathers to be involved in the lives of their children.

“The center has a lot of experience and a good amount of knowledge on how to run the programs, help fathers, provide technical assistance and evaluation,” she says. “We’re trying to position the center to embark on being able to provide technical assistance, training and consultation to other organizations across the nation.”

With father absence, out-of-wedlock births and the divorce rate on the rise since the 1970s, Littlejohn says she still has a long way to go.

“We are not at the point where we can sit under the shade of our trees,” she says. “We don’t know yet how this will impact children for generations to come. We may never fully understand the impact, but we get testimonials from mothers of the children who say, ‘Thank you for getting this man back on track and in our lives. I know my child needed him, but not the way he was.’”

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Family Assistance recently named the SCCFF as a Promising Practice, defined as programmatic functions, activities and processes for which an evidence base does not yet exist, but for which staff programmatic experience, experts in the fields and experienced technical advisers agree are beneficial to overall program functioning.

The process began in September 2008 with more than 100 sites initially nominated as a potential Promising Practice. Through a series of reviews and critiques, the field was narrowed to 21 grantees with 16 featured in the report.

The report, “Emerging Findings from the Office of Family Assistance Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Grant Programs: A Review of Select Grantee Profiles and Promising Results,” will be used to inform White House Administration, Congress and practitioners in the field about promising practices of the Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood programs and outcomes.

By Holly Fisher, a freelance writer based in Charleston, South Carolina
Community of Ministries

Sisters of Charity Health System
2351 E. 22nd Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
P. 216 696 5560
sistersofcharityhealth.org

HEALTH CARE MINISTRY
The Augustine Group
Providence Women’s Health
Providence Northeast Family Care
Providence Northeast Family Care at Lake Carolina
Providence Internal Medicine
114 Gateway Corporate Blvd. Suite 425
Columbia, SC 29203
P. 803 865 4780
providencehospitals.com

Cuyahoga Physician Network
2351 E. 22nd St., Suite 501
Cleveland, OH 44115
P. 216 241 6505
cpnmd.com

Mercy Medical Center
1320 Mercy Dr., NW
Canton, OH 44708
P. 330 489 1000
cantonmercy.org

Mercy Professional Care Corporation
1330 Mercy Dr., NW, Suite 506
Canton, OH 44708
P. 330 588 4575

Providence Hospital Northeast
120 Gateway Corporate Blvd.
Columbia, SC 29203
P. 803 865 4500
providencehospitals.com

Providence Hospital
Providence Heart Institute
2435 Forest Dr.
Columbia, SC 29204
P. 803 256 5300
providencehospitals.com

St. John Medical Center **
29000 Center Ridge Rd.
Westlake, OH 44145
P. 440 835 8000
stjohnmedicalcenter.net

St. Vincent Charity Medical Center
2351 East 22nd St.
Cleveland, OH 44115
P. 216 861 6200
stvincentcharity.com

Westshore Primary Care **
26908 Detroit Rd., Suite 301
Westlake, OH 44145
P. 440 617 1800
westshoreprimarycare.com

FOUNDATION MINISTRY
Sisters of Charity
Foundation of Canton
400 Market Ave. N., Suite 300
Canton, OH 44702
P. 330 454 5800
scfcedar.org

Sisters of Charity
Foundation of Cleveland
Halle Building, Suite 330
1228 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115
P. 216 241 9300
socfcleveland.org

Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina
2711 Middleburg Dr., Suite 115
Columbia, SC 29204
P. 803 254 0230
sistersofcharitysc.com

ELDER CARE MINISTRY
Light of Hearts Villa *
283 Union St.
Bedford, OH 44146
P. 440 232 1991
lightofheartsvilla.org

Regina Health Center
5232 Broadview Rd.
Richfield, OH 44286
P. 330 659 4161
reginahealthcenter.org

OUTREACH MINISTRY
Catholic Community Connection ***
2351 East 22nd St.
Cleveland, OH 44115
P. 216 377 4358
catholiccommunityconnection.org

Early Childhood Resource Center
3114 Cleveland Ave., NW
Canton, OH 44709
P. 330 491 3272
ecresourcecenter.org

Healthy Learners
2711 Middleburg Dr., Suite 206
Columbia, SC 29204
P. 803 454 0350
healthylearners.com

Joseph’s Home
2412 Community College Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44115
P. 216 685 1551
josephshome.com

The South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families
2711 Middleburg Dr., Suite 115
Columbia, SC 29204
P. 803 254 0230
scfathersandfamilies.com

* Shared sponsorship with Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
** Owned jointly with University Hospitals
*** Shared sponsorship with Catholic Charities Health and Human Services

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