Caregiving Youth and High School Graduation

Caregiving Youth Project (CYP)
The Economic Case®

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Trends - Caregiving

- At least 65.7 million adult family caregivers and 1.3 million child caregivers in the United States (Caregiving in the US, 2009; Young Caregivers in the US, 2005)

- Adult family caregivers contribute $450 billion each year in services – will increase as population ages (Estimating the Impact of Caregiving and Employment on Well-Being, 2010)

- Family Caregiving – National Health Priority (CDC – 2008)

- 37% of adult caregivers have children younger than 18 years of age – little is known about their role (Caregiving in the U.S. – 2009)
In the United States they provide care for

- 38% grandparent
- 34% parent
- 11% sibling
- 9% other relative
- 8% non-relative

(Young Caregivers in the US, 2005)
What Do Caregiving Youth Do?

- 50% provide personal care
  - Bathing, Dressing
  - Transferring/mobility assistance
  - Toileting, Continence care
  - Feeding
- 95% help with daily activities including
  - Administering medications
  - Translating, sibling care
  - Shopping, housework, meal preparation

(Young Caregivers in the US, 2005)
Why be Concerned?

- Caregiving Youth Incur
  - Academic Challenges
  - Physical Strain & Somatization
  - Emotional Distress
  - Socialization Impacts
  - Childhood Lost
  - Long-term Effects
Caregiving Youth Project (CYP)

Signature program of the American Association of Caregiving Youth®

Provides a myriad of needs-driven support services in school, out of school and at home for caregiving youth and family.
CYP Project Status

- Enrollment - >500 youth and their families
- Referrals for support services (>900)
  - Food, employment, financial assistance
  - School supplies, tutoring, mentoring
  - Medical, dental, vision care, counseling, respite
- Computers and Connectivity for 120 youth
- Youth from first two years (2006-08) who remain caregivers and in Palm Beach County, are still in CYP and still in school (98 of 103 = 95%)
Evaluation

- Reduced isolation – they know they are no longer alone
- Positive dyad results – student’s feedback matched with family
- Improved grades
- Increased confidence in caregiving and personally
- Skills Building/Support Groups
  - 91% of 114 students agreed or strongly agreed that they are using skills learned in group
Costs of High School Drop Out

- **Personal**
  - Making less/yr = >$225,000 in lifetime
  - Live 10 yrs less than high school graduates
  - Higher prevalence of heart disease, diabetes & obesity

- **Local**
  - Children of drop outs more likely to drop out
  - 1% reduction in drop outs = 100,000 less crimes/yr
  - Lower wages = $36 billion lost in local and state funds

- **National**
  - 80% of drop outs rely on government health assistance
  - Lower earnings = $158+ billion lost revenue/yr
  - Cost of drugs and crime control = $1.7-2.3 million/yr

Sources: Various reports from 2002-2006 – available on request
Who Makes the Money?
2009 Average Income by Educational Attainment

Average Annual Income

- High School Dropout: $19,540
- High School Diploma: $27,380
- Associate's Degree: $36,190
- Bachelor's Degree: $46,930

Source: US Department of Education, 2011
Unemployment Rates by Education Level

Who Does Not Graduate?

Source: *Education* Week 30, no. 34, 2011
Other Factors Affect Graduation

- Gender – 8% fewer males than females graduate\(^a\)
- Lower family income – 6 times greater drop out rate\(^b\)
- Lowest academically achieving quartile – 20 times more likely to drop out\(^c\)

\(^{a}\) – *Education Week* 30, no. 34, 2011
\(^{b}\) – *The Digest of Education Statistics*, 2010
\(^{c}\) – *Help wanted…College Required*, 2001

The impact of family health situations and child caregiving is yet to be recognized and quantified!
 Costs to Run the CYP

- Specialized Activities in School
  - Skills building/support groups
  - Lunch & Learn
  - Club

- Activities Out of School
  - Camp, Reunion Camp, Fun, Wellness & Workshops
  - Preparation for Future
  - Transportation
  - Bereavement Transition

- Home Visits and Follow Up
  - Respite
  - Tutoring
  - Computers and Connectivity

- Professional Staff

- Administrative Overhead - <10%

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Annual Average Investment/Student

CYP Budget for 2011/12 = $655,028

  500 Caregiving Youth - $1310/yr/student
  2100 Youth & Family - $311.92/yr/person

Maximum Years Student Enrolled = 7
Maximum Total CYP Cost/Student = $9,170
CYP Boosts our Economy!

- Florida average graduation rate = 66% \(^a\)
- Of 500 CYP students without support projected drop outs = 170 students
- Of 500 CYP students with support projected drop out = <5% = 25 students
- 1000 new grads collectively earn $10 mil in additional earnings per year (includes wages, spending, investments, home & auto sales, jobs, tax revenue & increased human capital) \(^b\)

Thus, the at least 145 new grads from existing CYP enrollees will collectively earn $1,450,000 in an average year!

\(^a\) – Average for FL 2007 - from FL (70%), US Dept. of Education (65%) & Independently Reported (62%)

\(^b\) – Analysis from Alliance for Excellent Education, March 2011
High School Graduates are More Likely To:

- Be an adult parent rather than a teen parent
- Raise educated healthy children
- Obey our laws
- Provide own insurances
- Take responsibility for providing for the needs of themselves and family
- Engage in civic activities – volunteering, voting

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5 Reasons Caregiving Youth Deserve Support

1. Unrecognized important providers in the healthcare system who are in situations through no fault of their own

2. Sacrifice their education, childhood, physical and emotional well-being often with long-term ramifications

3. Hard workers who do “double duty” – have two jobs – learning and caregiving – CYP enrollees spend at least 21 hours/week providing care

4. Tasks they must do often exceed their developmental and physical capabilities

5. Parentified and isolated from friends; may bully or be bullied
Supporting Caregiving Youth Today & Tomorrow is Important for our Children and Grandchildren, our Greater Community and our Country!

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