



FIRST 3 YEARS

October & November 2015 Newsletter

Dear First3Years Members,

It has certainly been an exciting couple of months!

During September we welcomed back Dr. James McHale, coparenting expert, to share his research and program applications with North Texas. Children's Health partnered with First3Years to host the 2015 Annual Meeting and Conference and shared their innovative work in the Dallas community around asthma and innovation. Our special thanks goes to the Timberlawn Psychiatric Research Foundation for sponsoring Dr. James McHale as the Julie Ann Mason Memorial lecturer. Also, special thanks to United Way of Dallas for sponsoring the conference.

In September we also welcomed Soudary Kittivong-Greenbaum to our team as the Director of Advancement. Soudary brings vast experience as a champion for social justice and equity and is excited to apply her skills to advance our mission to educate, advocate, and collaborate to support the healthy development of infants and toddlers. You can learn more about Soudary at:

<http://first3yearstx.org/staff-members>.

In October, First3Years had the opportunity to share our work with a new audience through the Property Advisers Realty golf tournament benefitting First3Years. Through sun, fun, and golf, the North Texas community showed their commitment to making Texas the place to be for infants and toddlers.

On October 16th, First3Years welcomed more than 100 stakeholders to come together and commit to improving outcomes for maltreated infants and toddlers through coparenting, coordination, and education. This pilot project is known as the Safe Babies initiative. To learn more about this project, please visit:

<http://first3yearstx.org/safe-babies-tarrant-county>

I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and want each of you to know that at First3Years, we are thankful to each of you and the work that you do. Together we are building a lasting impact for children across the state that truly does last a lifetime.

Sincerely,

Sadie Funk
First3Years Executive Director

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Coppell, TX 75019

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SAVE THE DATE

- Nov 3rd Webinar
- Nov 13th Food for Thought—Ft. Worth
- Nov 17th Webinar
- Nov 18th Baby Connections Meeting—Austin, TX
- Dec 11th Food for Thought—Ft. Worth
- Dec 15th Webinar
- Dec 16th Baby Connections Meeting—Austin, TX

Letter from the Board President, Susan Hoff

Research clearly shows the long-term and life changing impact of high quality early childhood interventions. But quality is not something we can do on the cheap. Philanthropic support is critical, but in order to meet the need, public investment is crucial.

The heightened public awareness of the importance of the first years of life and the growing alignment of corporate, government, and philanthropic efforts around the early years is encouraging. But we must continue to advocate for infants and toddlers, where investments offer the greatest return. We need to invest dollars, not dimes, in our youngest children and that can't happen without public support.

First3Years is focusing efforts on building strong public/private partnerships, helping coordinate services and investments toward support for infants and toddlers. Our Safe Babies Tarrant County Court project, funded by the Meadows Foundation, is a clear example of successful collaboration, which has the potential for far greater outcomes due to combined efforts and leveraged resources.

Identifying and capitalizing on relationships and forging partnerships is not just “nice to have”, it is the essential element for creating and sustaining a comprehensive system that supports the healthy growth and development of all children. Quality early childhood intervention and education is expensive, but we pay a far higher cost in ignoring its value.

All my best,

Susan Hoff

Congratulations to our Newest Endorsees!

Cindy Bruington – Infant Mental Health Mentor (Level IV)

Marcia Calip – Infant Family Specialist (Level II)



2015 Property Advisers Realty, Inc. Golf Tournament raises more than \$31,000 in Support of Social and Emotional Health for Texas Infants and Toddlers



PROPERTY
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REALTY,
INC.

Commercial Real Estate Services

Earlier this year, a conversation between David Miller, First3Years board member, and Jerry Reis, CEO of Property Advisers Realty, Inc. sparked an idea to bring together friends for a day of golfing, and raising awareness and funds to promote the social and emotional health of Texas' infants and toddlers. On October 5, that spark brought more than 17 teams, nearly 70 players, numerous community leaders and businesses out to the event—raising more than \$31,000 to benefit the work of First3Years.

"As a friend of Jerry's for almost 40 years, I knew about his passion for children's issues. After introducing him to Sadie, he jumped in to support First3Years with this golf tournament, and brought along many new friends to help. We are so lucky to have him on our team," shares Miller.

A cool, crisp late morning sun welcomed players at registration at the Timarron Club in Southlake. The format of the tournament held on the Byron Nelson-designed course was scramble, shotgun start, PAR scoring, with two mulligans (tops)



The first place golfers!



Jerry Reis and Sadie Funk

offered for purchase, per player. Competition was high, and nearly all the players opted to purchase mulligans. "Oh, I won't be needing those," was heard once or twice, presumably by players who were confident they'd win the tournament—or the fact that what really drew them out to the event was the cause itself, the game second. Judging from the sportsmanship on the course among amateur, weekend, and veteran players, spirits were high in support of the cause.

Continued on pg. 4...

2015 Property Advisers Realty, Inc. Golf Tournament raises more than \$31,000 in Support of Social and Emotional Health for Texas Infants and Toddlers (*continued...*)

“Whether you came in 1st or second-to-last place—it will be a win for all of Texas’ infants and toddlers,” shared Sadie Funk, First3Years executive director during her remarks as the last players headed in from an afternoon out on the course.

Ms. Funk also shared with the crowd during the evening reception how daunting the numbers are when comparing the state minimum requirements set for various professions, and those for childcare professionals. In Texas, a hairdresser needs 1500 hours (two months) of training to become licensed; and a nail technician needs 700 hours (one month). For a childcare worker caring for a 6-week old infant in a licensed facility? 24 hours. Yes, just one day.

“By the time a child is three, 80% of his or her brain has been developed, predicting outcomes later in life. At Property Advisers Realty, Inc. we believe in investing in the future of our community. We selected First3Years as our beneficiary because of the tremendous impact of their work,” says Reis.

“We’re so grateful to Jerry for organizing this event, and to everyone at PAR, Inc.—a strong partner in helping us spread our message that everyone can make a difference in a small child’s life,” says Funk.

First3Years thanks underwriter Property Advisers Realty, Inc. and Cocktail and Corporate Sponsors Joe Funk Construction, Marinas International, A Child of Grace Foundation, and TEAK Midstream, and the many sponsors and players who participated—without whom this event would not have been possible.

For a full listing of sponsors visit: <http://first3yearstx.org/2015-golf-tournament>



SVP's Anne Calhoun Duffy with First3Years Staff (Jes Fyall, Sadie Funk, Soudary Kittivong-Greenbaum, and Isabel Tanco)

Funder Focus

Gaston Episcopal Hospital Foundation Awards \$15,000 to First3Years for Just Beginnings, a Parenting Program for At-Risk Teen Fathers in Dallas County, One of Just a Few Initiatives

First3Years' newest program, *Just Beginnings*, launched this month, is one of only a few initiatives in Texas focusing on teen dads at-risk of incarceration and their children, birth to age three.

Just Beginnings gives teen fathers at risk of incarceration the knowledge, tools, and mentoring in creating meaningful relationships with their child, with the hopes for that relationship to become transformative—both for father and child.

In Dallas County, local detention centers of the juvenile justice system report that 30% of teens in their programs are fathers and are currently receiving no parenting support for this role. At First3Years, we believe in ensuring strong relationships between babies and their parents—especially the significance of a father's role in a child's formative years.

Providing the opportunity for teen fathers to emotionally bond with their child results in protective factors for the child later in life. *Just Beginnings* uses Sesame Street videos, curriculum, discussion, and play sessions. The program is broken into five modules: attachment theory, following the child's lead, talking to your baby, praise, and bringing it all together. *Just Beginnings* aims to reach a minimum of 30 teen fathers who have committed to beginning and completing the program with their children.

The \$15,000 grant from Gaston Episcopal Hospital Foundation qualifies First3Years to receive an additional \$15,000 from a challenge grant of The Rainwater Charitable Trust, which matches any new funding secured by the organization, up to \$25,000.

The Dallas-based Gaston Episcopal Hospital Foundation has awarded \$7 million in grants over its lifetime to support medical care, education, and research.





FIRST 3 YEARS

our impact lasts a lifetime.

2015 First3Years Annual Meeting & Conference

Coparenting and the Community: A Fresh Look at Working With Young Children

On September 18th, 2015 over 140 professionals gathered for First3Years' Annual Meeting and Conference held in Dallas, TX. The conference was made possible with the generous support from community partners the Timberlawn Psychiatric Research Foundation, Children's Health, and United Way of Metropolitan Dallas.

Professionals from all over the state came to hear the line-up of speakers beginning with Ms. Elizabeth Sobel-Blum from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and Mr. Joseph McMahan from ReadyNation, who discussed the impact of social change on community economy.

The Julie Ann Mason Memorial Lecturer, Dr. James McHale, began with a thorough overview on the history of coparenting research. Using stories from his own programs, Dr. McHale encouraged the audience to think beyond the traditional mother-child dyad and begin looking for ways to support the entire family unit within the programs they currently run.



Dr. James McHale and Executive Director Sadie Funk



Children's Health Community Presentation:
Michelle Anguiano and Dr. Angela Moemeka

To round out the program, Dr. Angela Moemeka and Michelle Anguiano, with Children's Health shared their personal passion for promoting community health initiatives in Dallas and their work that is currently underway in our community.

98.7% of attendees reported the conference provided new information, specifically the introduction of opportunities to expand community involvement. Furthermore, participants reported they will apply what was learned in their work with young children and their relationships.

"The presentation exceeded my expectations on how this applies to every child & every situation, not just the traditional family!"
– Early Childhood Interventionist

Now Available - 10 Online Training Courses!

First3Years in conjunction with the Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension System is offering the Digital Learning Initiative in a 10 part series online for professionals who want to obtain continuing education specific to infant mental health and early childhood development. The online courses are self-paced and meet state licensing requirements for continuing education training.

Create an account and start learning today!

<http://first3years.tamu.edu/>



Free Monthly Webinar Trainings

Beginning November 2015, webinar trainings will only be free for First3Years members. Others may participate in the live webinar and receive CEUs for a fee. Continuing education credits are available for attendees who fully participate during the live broadcast.

Check out our line-up for the remaining webinars in 2015!

The Principles of Fatherhood - Featuring Mike Hall of Strong Fathers, Strong Families!

OCTOBER 29TH (11:00 – Noon)

Sensory Integration

NOVEMBER 3RD (10:00 – 11:00 AM) AND NOVEMBER 17TH (3:00 – 4:00PM)

Big Body Play for Toddlers & Safe Risks for 2's & 3's

DECEMBER 15TH (10:00 – 11:00 AM)

See more information for online trainings & register to reserve your spot today!

www.first3yearstx.org/online-training

For more information on training opportunities for you and/or your staff (either in person or online), please contact Jes Fyall : jfyall@first3yearstx.org



A series of infant mental health topics designed to provide you with new information and practical applications for working with young children and families.

Registration starts at 8:30am

Training begins promptly at 9:00am and ends at 10:30am

November 13, 2015

Using Community Level Data in Child Abuse Prevention
Dr. Dyann Daley

December 11, 2015

North Texas Area Community Health Centers - Meeting the Health Needs and Access of the Tarrant County Community
Dr. Liz Treviño

Purchase Your Tickets Online Today!

www.first3yearstx.org/food-for-thought-ft-worth-2015

Houston and Dallas

***Food for Thought Series to begin
January 2016!***

Fall 2015 Fort Worth Food For Thought

LOCATION

**Tarrant County Public Health
1101 S. Main Street, Ft. Worth, TX 76104**

BREAKFAST & CEUS PROVIDED

Credits Offered:

SW, LPC, CPE, ECI

TICKET PRICES

Member Season Pass:
\$40

Non-member Season
Pass: **\$50**

Member / Student:
\$10 per session

Non-Member:
\$15 per session



Endorsement Update



New Endorsees Pictured: Jennifer Turner, Isabel Tanco, LaShonda Elliott, Lee Johnson III, Rosario Arriaga

Endorsement Pinning Ceremony

The Annual Meeting on September 18 was a time for First3Years to come together to gain knowledge, share our work, connect with each other, and celebrate those who have earned Infant Mental Health Endorsement. During the lunch hour of the conference, we held a pinning ceremony to recognize every new endorsee from the last year. There was a total of 38 new endorsees, 5 of which were present at the event (pictured above). It was truly a special time to commend these professionals for their specialized expertise and demonstrate a higher standard of excellence in the birth to 3 field.

First3Years, The Texas Association for Infant Mental Health, has been endorsing professionals since 2004.

Total endorsed to date: 155

Level I: 77

Level II: 44

Level III: 5

Level IV: 29



FIRST 3 YEARS

Infant Mental Health Advocacy and Award Conference 2016 Call for Nominations

Deadline: December 5, 2015



Infant Mental Health Advocacy Award

The Infant Mental Health Advocacy Council was formed in 1989 and established the **T. Berry Brazelton, M.D., Infant Mental Health Advocacy Award** in 1990. This award is in honor of Dr. Brazelton, a Texas native and well known national and international pediatrician, researcher, author, and advocate for parents, infants and toddlers. The award has already been given to ten individuals at the biennial Infant Mental Health Advocacy Conference. Each award winner has made significant contributions to the improvement of mental health in the lives of infants, toddlers, and their families in Texas.

The objective of **First3Years' Infant Mental Health Advocacy Council** is to bring together a diverse group of Texas professional organizations to collaborate in the process of seeking nominations for and selecting, when there is a nominee who meets the objective criteria, the Biennial T. Berry Brazelton, M.D., Infant Mental Health Advocacy Award Winner. The award will be presented at the May 2016 conference.

Criteria for the Award

- Participation in advocacy efforts, above and beyond the regular scope of one's job, profession, or professional organization responsibilities on behalf of the mental health of infants and their families in Texas. The advocacy efforts will have resulted in positive changes in areas such as public policy, healthcare, educational, child care settings, or agency practices.
- The results or impact of the advocacy efforts should be evident prior to September 2015.
- Occasionally the award will be given to someone for life time advocacy efforts or a special recognition award will be given to someone who has contributed significantly to their community or a particular program.

To complete an intent to nominate form, click [HERE!](#)

Please contact Jes Fyall with any questions: jfyall@first3yearstx.org

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Special Thanks To Our Funders!

To Contact Your Local Chapter: Alamo Alliance (San Antonio):

President Adam Dusenbury
adusenbury@voicessa.org

Baby Connections (Austin):

President Stacy Ramirez
StacyR@anybabycan.org

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HollyG@anybabycan.org

Greater Houston:

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Secretary Aaron Carrara
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South Texas (Corpus Christi):

President Claire Merkl
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Vice-Chair Janis Feldman
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prosenlund@easterseals-rgv.org

Secretary Letty Aleman
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West Texas (Lubbock):

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Treasurer Sherry Sancibrian
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Secretary Michael Ratheal
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A Child of Grace Foundation

Adam Prewett

Anne Calhoun Duffy

Barry and Lesly Guinn

Barry Rothschild

Callie Rogers Emery

Carol Duncan

Cathy Nathan

David and Patty Miller

David Lake

Deborah Schwartz

Ed and Carol Maier

Eleanor Butt Crook

Freedom Foundation

Gardere, Wynne, Sewell, LLP

The Horace C. Caba Foundation

Ira and Barbara Einsohn

Jennifer King

The Khan Education Founda-
tion

Mark Sinatra

Marshall and Michelle Funk

Martha Blair

Melanie Walter-Mahoney

Merinda Condra

Mr. and Mrs. Rombs

Robert and Ann Wood

Sandra Lamm



Austin
Community
Foundation



THE MILES
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Foundation



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HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

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FIRST3 YEARS



1199 S Belt Line Rd #100
Coppell, TX 75019

SAVE THE DATE!

May 6, 2016

(9:00am – 3:00pm)

First3Years Regional Conference – AUSTIN, TX

Register Online to Reserve Your Seat Today!

<http://first3yearstx.org/onsite-training>