

ANNUAL REPORT

2010

inform

advocate

educate

support

empower



The Rhode Island Parent

Rhode Island's Parent



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Information Network

Involvement Specialists

Founded in 1991, the Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) is a statewide, 501c3, charitable, nonprofit organization with a collective programmatic reach that extends to every Rhode Island community, the state's major family-serving systems, schools, health facilities, associations, and agencies.

Our mission is to inform, educate, support, and empower all families to be equal partners in advocacy for the education, health, and socio-economic well being of their children and families; and to achieve family centered systems changes, which are culturally competent and community based.

RIPIN's vision is to serve and support all families in Rhode Island utilizing the principles of family centered care by: focusing on the strengths of the child and family; supporting relationship building and community membership; fostering mutual trust and respect between families and program staff and/or administration; promoting family choice and control; offering families good information and access to information; and including families in policy decisions and program planning.

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Letter from the Executive Director

Matthew Cox



Dear friends and supporters of RIPIN,

For RIPIN, the past year was a time for growth, change, and new opportunities! In November we moved to our new administrative offices in Cranston. The new

location offers easy access from all parts of Rhode Island as well as expanded meeting and training space, and additional offices for our growing staff of more than 100!

Under the leadership of our team of program directors we launched new initiatives like the Family Leadership Development Institute (FLDI), a 30 hour training opportunity for parents, families and individuals who want to learn about, or hone their skills at, leadership opportunities in schools, health/medical settings, and advisory committees and boards. Nearly 300 supporters turned out in May to hear about this new initiative.

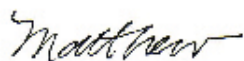
In partnership with the RI Department of Education, we launched a new workshop series for parents of young children, Fun Family Activities for Pre-Schoolers. This six-session series helps parents understand the RI Early Learning Standards and how to best prepare for kindergarten.

We also hosted our annual Partnerships Conference at the Rhode Island Convention Center, welcoming more than 250 parents, young adults, and

professionals who joined us to learn about programs, supports, and opportunities for children and youth with special health care needs.

Our Board of Directors, under the leadership of Max Arias, Chair and Kathleen DiChiara, Vice Chair embarked on drafting our strategic management planning for 2010 through 2012. The planning committee included members of our board, all levels of staff, and a variety of collaborative partners. The result included updates to our Mission, Vision, and Organizational Values statements and an updated strategic plan that will help guide our work to provide information, support, and empowering experiences so that all Rhode Islanders can be effective advocates for themselves, their families, and communities.

As always, we remain thankful for the generous support of our funders, collaborative partners, our highly skilled staff, and most especially our Board of Directors for their commitment, leadership, and continued focus on our mission.



Matthew Cox
Executive Director

Letter from the Executive Director

The Year in Review

This past year has been a busy one ... filled with new partnerships, events and activities for professionals, families and staff members alike!



Deb Meiklejohn, RIPIN and Channavy Chhay, United Way enjoy RIPIN's Open House.

At RIPIN, we recently opened our doors to the community with a **RIPIN-style Open House**. It was wonderful to see so many of our old friends and to meet new people in the community. Everyone enjoyed tours of the new RIPIN office as well as food, drink and conversation

about all the happenings at RIPIN including summer workshops, parent involvement programs and new sites.



Guests enjoy refreshments in RIPIN's Cranston office conference room.



LeDerick Horne,
Dare to Dream
Keynote Speaker

Rhode Island young people were inspired, informed and empowered at the 2nd Annual Rhode Island *Dare to Dream* Student Leadership Conference in May at the University of Rhode Island.

Nationally renowned keynote speaker, LeDerick Horne of New Jersey, summed up the day when he told students, "You can be anything you want to be – just believe in yourself." LeDerick challenged the more than 300 students, educators and professionals to not be afraid and to fight for change ... that it can be done!

More than 250 people came out to the Rhode Island Convention Center on March 18, 2010 for the annual **Partnerships Conference** devoted to families of children, youth and individuals with special health care needs.



Mark Hugo Nasjleti,
Partnerships Conference
Keynote Speaker



Lisa Schaffran and RIPIN staff unveil the Family Leadership Development Institute.

On May 19th, Dr. David Gifford, Director of the RI Department of Health, addressed a crowd of over 280 people in celebration of RI's success in cultivating and supporting family leaders throughout the education, health and human services systems.

A diverse group of parent leaders,

educators, state policy makers, and health care providers attended the Family Leadership Luncheon to learn more about this new initiative. The goal of the **Family Leadership Development Institute (FLDI)** is to develop a network of family leaders in Rhode Island to make a positive impact on schools, communities and in the health care arena. FLDI will offer workshops, training, support, and networking opportunities for anyone who wants to become a leader and make a difference in Rhode Island.



RIPIN educators have been reaching out to parents of young children with a pilot workshop series developed by the RI Department of Education called **Fun Family Activities for Preschoolers**.

During six sessions, we help parents understand the early learning standards and learn what their preschool child should know and be able to do as they enter kindergarten. As always, RIPIN educators stress that parent involvement is the key to student success!



RIPIN educators introduced parents to RIDE's Fun Family Activity cards based on RI's Early Learning Standards at Drum Rock Early Childhood Center in Warwick.

The Year in Review



Revenue and Expenses

through June 30, 2009

Revenue

Government Grants and Contracts	3,087,186
Other Contributions and Grants	185,160
Program Income - Workshops	132,914
Fundraising Income	18,702
Interest Income	437
Total Revenue	\$ 3,424,399

Expenses

Personnel	2,383,805
Consultants	191,839
Occupancy	131,251
Office / Program	316,444
Miscellaneous	8,643
Sub-Grant	229,225
Total Expenses	\$3,261,207

through June 30, 2010

Revenue

Government Grants and Contracts	3,021,662
Other Contributions and Grants	389,018
Program Income - Workshops	85,881
Fundraising Income	18,668
Interest Income	86
Total Revenue	\$ 3,515,315

Expenses

Program Services	3,002,032
Management and General	521,689
Total Expenses	\$3,523,721

Revenue
and
Expenses



Board and Team Members

Board of Directors

2009 -2010

Maximo Arias, MSW, Chair
Christine Barrington, Esq.
Kathleen DiChiara, Vice Chair
Stephen A. Furtado, Treasurer
Jose Gonzales, EdD
David Hamel
William H. Hollinshead, MD, MPH
Rebecca Kislak, Esq., Secretary
Dale Longworth
Lisa Lunt, MA
Louis J. Simon, CPA, MST
John D. Varlaro, MBA

Team Members

Mario Aldana	Christopher DeGrave
Anne Babineau	Valeri Delaney
Joseph Barbato	Luisa DePina
Sarah Bates	Michelle Deschenes
Monica Bayer	Susan Donovan
Susan Baylis	Victoria Duarte
William Beauvais	Steven Dulude
Deborah Belanger	Crismilda Faxas
Virginia Bevilaqqua	Elizabeth Friedman
Alan Birch	Jeffrey Goggin
Amy Black	Deborah Golding
Shannon Blackmon	Johanna Gomes
Carmen Boucher	Nicole Gotovich
Denise Bouley	Amy Gray
Elaine Burdett	Glenda Guglielmo
Kristin Campbell	Laura Harris
Deleimy Castillo	Mary Ann Heran
Alexandra Checo	Diane Hernandez
Amy Collins	Donna Houle
Michael Cournoyer	Laura Jones
Matthew Cox	Peter Jones
Joeanna Cruz	Cynthia Kaplan
Kelsey Davenport	Kathleen Kenney
Lory DeConte	Diana Kriner

Team Members

Kathleen Kuiper
Susan Lamendola
Carla Laroche-Harris
Lisa Letang
Wilburn Logan
Crescentia Magiera
Carol Manglass
Nathan Markley
Evelyn Martin
Deborah Masland
Jerry McCole
Marilyn McCullough
Linda McMullen
Geraldine McPhee
Deborah Meiklejohn
Rosalie Morretti
Susan Naysnerski
Nancy Otero
Akshar Patel
Mayra Paulino

Xiomara Paulino
Lourdes Pichardo
Paula Reid
Sandra Rivera
Victoria Rodriguez
Paula Romasco
Tammy Russo
Lisa Schaffran
Nancy Silva
Shavon Smith
Deborah Spaziano
Tina Spears
Suzanne Tobin
Barbara Torres
Jessica Vandal
Susan Vandal
Nenita Vinalon
Linda Vollaro
Dawn Wardyga



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of our new Cranston Office

Board
and
Team
Members

Rhode Island Parent Information Network

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RIPIN is a proud member of the Fund For Community Progress.

www.fundcp.org