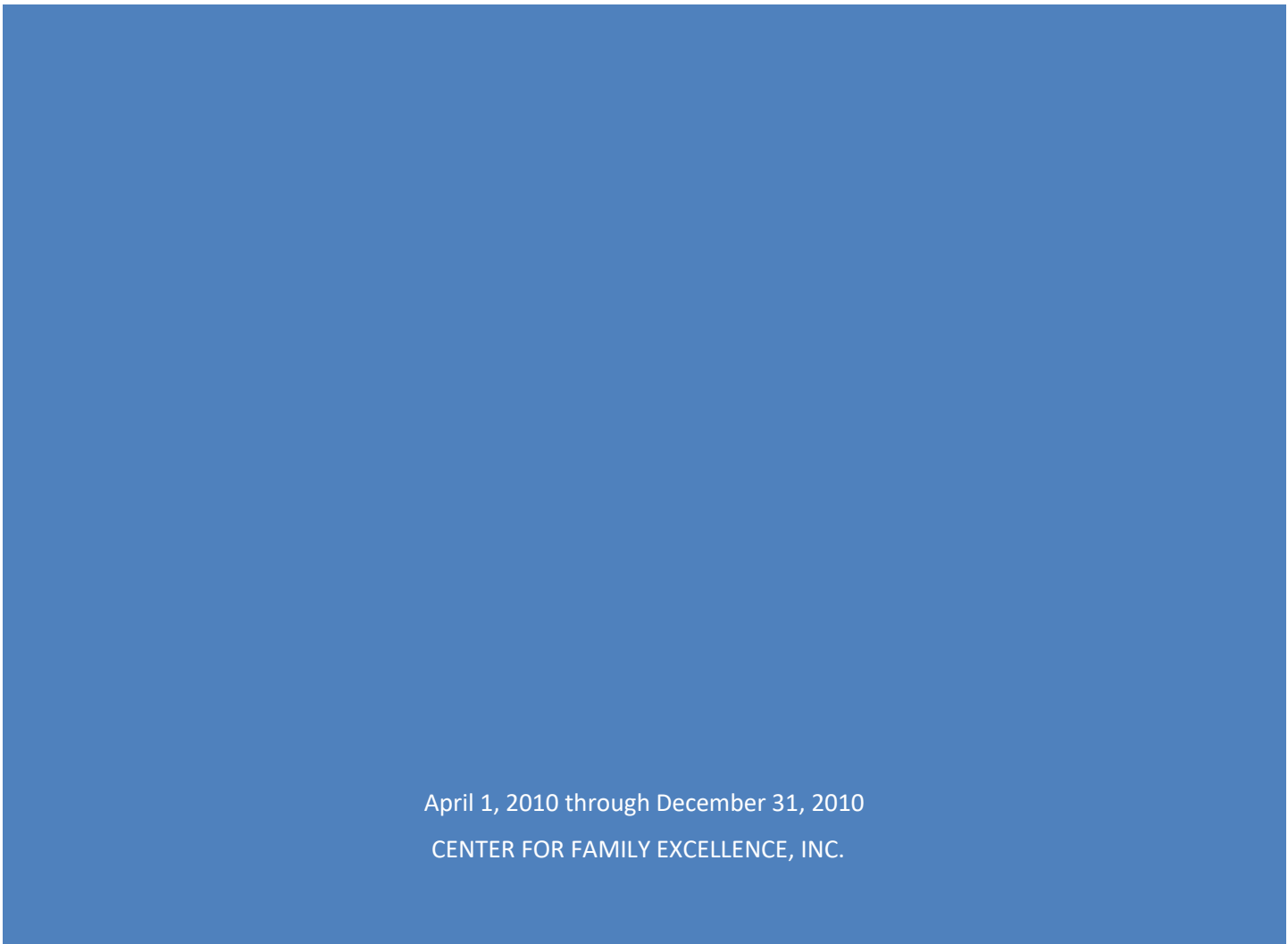




EVALUATION OF INUA UBUNTU:
REDUCING RISKS OF CHILD MALTREATMENT
IN BLACK FAMILIES



April 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010
CENTER FOR FAMILY EXCELLENCE, INC.

Background

THIS DOCUMENT PROVIDES INFORMATION about the implementation of Inua Ubuntu—an African Zulu expression meaning *I am because you are*—which underlies our approach to reducing child abuse and neglect in African-American families served by the Allegheny County Office of Children Youth and Families (ACOCYF).

To evaluate our model, data were generated, collected, and evaluated under collaborative arrangements agreed to by the ACOCYF and a consortium of predominately black funded agencies funded by this agency in the Central Region (Center for Family Excellence, Inc.), the North Region (Project Destiny) and the East Region (Small Seeds, Inc.). Under agreement with ACOCYF, the Center for Family Excellence, Inc., which has worked with children and families for more than 40 years, provided the leadership in training and certifying all collaborating units in our Values for Life model.

Values for Life—Love and Respect, Learning Orientation, Interpersonal Skills, Self-Esteem, Self-Persistence, Self-Confidence, and Self-Reliance—we use to satisfy published federal standards which call for the promotion of healthy behaviors that reduce risks of child maltreatment and delinquency behaviors. Providers are introduced to Values for Life, developed by the Center for Family Excellence Inc., which have been shown to protect children from negative life experiences (safety), and to promote social, cultural, and academic excellence and to interrupt cycles of destructive behavior which influence how individuals relate to their children, families, and communities. We expect that (a) parents who are proficient in promoting these values are less likely to maltreat their children, and (b) children who exhibit these values are less likely to be maltreated by parents. These expectations accord with the overall goal of Inua Ubuntu which is

to prevent out-of-home placements of African American males from birth to 8 years of age.

Published data indicate that Values for Life interventions reduce risks of child abuse and neglect, promote healthy relationships within families, reduce negative behaviors such as juvenile delinquency and teenage pregnancy, and accelerate academic achievement in reading and math. Values for Life interventions are designed to interrupt cycles of destructive behavior which sometimes influence how minority parents relate to their children, families, and communities. Parents who are proficient in promoting these values have been shown to have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs, access appropriate services to meet their children's educational needs, and access adequate services to meet their children's physical, social, mental, and educational needs.

This initiative was launched by ACDHS in April 2010. Initial training was for the period facilitated by the Deputy Director Dr. Marcia Sturdivant of ACOCYF. During weekly training sessions, training staff from The Center for Family Excellence provided ongoing training and mentorship to Project Destiny, Small Seeds, and Center implementation staff. In April 2010 the first referral was made to Project Destiny. Referrals have continued to all Providers and over 240 children have been directly impacted by this initiative.

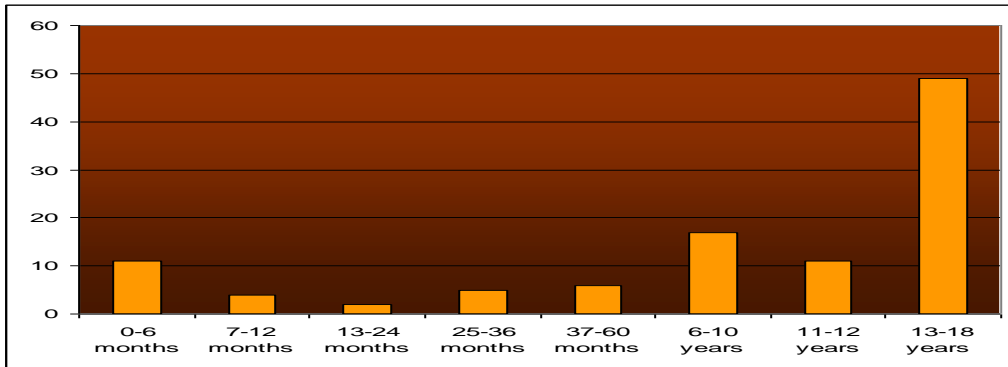
We now profile what we found.

Findings

April 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 (N = 127)

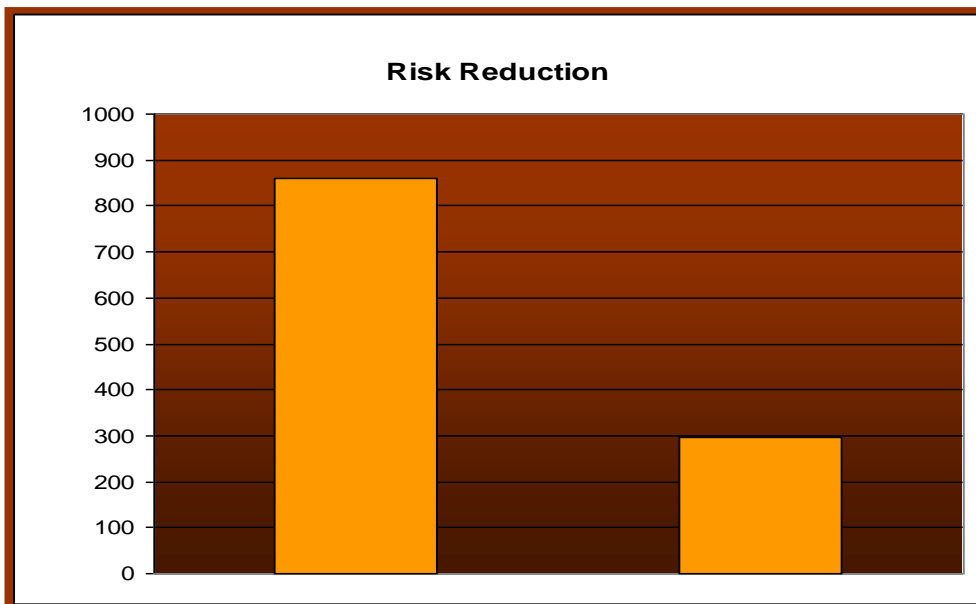
Ages of Children Served

Children referred ages 0 – 6 months.....	11 which is 0.08% of total
Children referred ages 7-12 months.....	4 which is 0.03% of total
Children referred ages 13-24 months.....	2 which is 0.01% of total
Children referred ages 25-36 months.....	5 which is 0.03% of total
Children referred ages 37-60 months.....	6 which is 0.04% of total
Children referred ages 6-10 years of age.....	17 which is 0.013% of total
Children referred ages 11-12 years of age.....	11 which is 0.08% of total
Children referred ages 13-18 years of age.....	49 which is 0.38% of total



Changes in Child Safety

Child Risk and Safety Assessments are completed in joint consultation by service providers and ACDHS caseworker before and after the family intervention.



Decisional Profile following 60-Day Intervention Cycle

- 79 children remaining with parents and case was closed
- 33 children remaining with parents with continued service
- 4 children referred to Day Program at Mel Blount Youth Home
- 3 children referred to 30-day Respite Kinship Care
- 4 children referred to non-Kinship 30-day Respite Care
- 15 children referred for longer term placement

Placement Profile following 60 Day Intervention Cycle

