

## **The Ohio State University Intergenerational Day Care Project October 2010**

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### **The Vision**

The Ohio State University will create a unique Intergenerational Day Care Program. Research, education and training will be the foundation of the program, fostering a high quality of care and improved quality of life for the children and adults served. The Intergenerational Day Care will be operated as a University/Community partnership and be viewed as a center of excellence in child and adult care, serving children, adults and caregivers throughout Central Ohio.

### **Philosophy**

As a center of excellence, it is our belief that growth occurs throughout the lifespan with the provision of an enriched environment, where multiple choices provide opportunities for children, elders, families, staff and the community to engage in and contribute to lifelong learning. We believe that such a center thrives as a result of the interdisciplinary collaboration in the provision of services, the education of students, and the development of scholarly research. Such a holistic model of care is best served within the framework of a home-like environment in which multiple generations can engage in shared decision-making resulting in spontaneous, caring and meaningful contact with the natural world.

### **Consider**

- The OSU Child Care Program maintains a waitlist of 600-900 families, with an average wait for child care availability of 12-18 months.
- The Medical Center has limited spaces allocated at the current child care center. Candidates indicate that child care is an important amenity when considering Medical Center positions. OSUMC leadership has indicated that lack of child care negatively impacts their recruitment and retention capabilities.
- 28.6% of staff and 45.8% of faculty across the university expect to have some responsibility for caring for an elderly relative or adult in the next 3 or 5 years according to the 2008 culture survey. As this population ages, these demands will only increase.
- 23% of staff and 19.8% of faculty across the university indicated adult day care would be helpful to their care-giving responsibilities in the 2008 culture survey.
- Most long-term care is provided informally by unpaid family members and friends. Nearly six in ten (59%) caregivers are currently employed. The

total economic value of family care-giving in the US was \$350 billion in 2006: more than what was spent on all formal long-term care, including both institutional and home and community-based services. Source: AARP Public policy Institute

### **Expected Outcomes**

- Expanded child care capacity.
- Creation of adult day care as workforce benefit.\*
- Establishment of a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary clinical practice site.
- Creation of an interdisciplinary education venue for OSU students and faculty interested in lifespan education.
- Creation of opportunities to build interdisciplinary faculty teams to conduct research in aging, child development, and intergenerational discoveries.
- Creation of this best practices model would contribute to OSU's quest to be an employer of choice and recognized as such on Fortune's Top 100 employer list, would aid in recruitment and retention of top talent, would increase presenteeism and reduce absenteeism related to elder/child care concerns, would hopefully be a replicable model not only for OSU but also for outside organizations.

\*Additional workforce benefits would also be available through web-based referral and resource support for elder care through service coordination, elder advocates, nurse liaisons, and connectivity with home health care and other in-home services to support employees who are caregivers of older adults.

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