

# Partnership for People with Disabilities

Virginia Commonwealth University

2003  
ANNUAL REPORT

*Linking people. Changing lives.*

Cover art: Robert Doval  
Age 19  
Diagnosed with Autism at age 2.  
Junior, J. R. Tucker High School  
Richmond, Virginia



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# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

“Linking people. Changing lives.” These words are the Partnership’s “tag line.” To us at the Partnership, those four words are more than a catch phrase. They represent real people, living and working in real communities, who simply want to be respected for who they are as individuals. They need and deserve supports to meet their dreams. Sometimes those supports are specialized, and sometimes they are rather basic.

One of the challenges of being a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities is that people’s needs are varied and great, and the resources available to create change are never sufficient. This report tries to capture the essence of what the Partnership does to change lives. Doing so almost always involves linking people - within agencies and organizations, or by themselves - all along the way.

We are proud of our work, and I hope you will come away having read the report with that same sense of pride.



Fred P. Orelove  
Executive Director

## MISSION

*To partner with people with disabilities and others to build communities where all people can live, learn, work and play together*

## CORE VALUES

### Individual Choice

*(Self-direction, self-determination)*

### Equality and Justice

*(Diversity, fairness, access, cultural competence)*

### Collaboration, Partnering, Shared Leadership

*(Interdisciplinary, inclusion)*

### Community Inclusion

*(Natural supports, accessible information and services)*

## CORE FUNCTIONS

- **Interdisciplinary training** and preparation of students and fellows for employment in leadership and direct service positions
- **Community services**, which include training, technical assistance and direct services to benefit individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, professionals, para-professionals, policy makers, students and volunteers
- **Research**, including basic or applied research, evaluation, and the analysis of public policy in areas that affect or could affect individuals with developmental disabilities
- **Dissemination** of information and research findings to individuals with developmental disabilities, families, professionals, para-professionals, policy makers, students and volunteers



" The time that we've spent with these well-informed and compassionate advocates for kids and families like ours has been inspirational."

- Rachel Valenti, parent

## SUPPORT ACROSS THE AGE SPAN



"The Partnership helps me by asking the state to do the right things for people with disabilities. I enjoy serving on the Consumer Advisory Council."

- Shelton Stevens

# EARLY CHILDHOOD

The Partnership for People with Disabilities is recognized throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia for its strong programs supporting families, individuals, and service providers in the early childhood arena. All children, including those with disabilities, deserve the supports they need to excel in their homes, and communities. To foster this level of success, the Partnership is working to equip family members, health care workers, preschool teachers, day care providers, and others who serve infants and young children and their families with the awareness, skills, and training needed to make a difference in their lives.

# CHILDREN & YOUTH

All children benefit from receiving early and consistent services and supports that meet their developmental needs in a welcoming, inclusive environment. The Partnership for People with Disabilities is committed to implementing projects and activities that help school-aged children, youth transitioning out of school, families, and professionals and paraprofessionals who support them. Key program areas focus particularly on issues of health, education, justice and abuse. All activities are heavily weighted toward creating environments where children and their families can learn, grow, and experience fulfilling lives in supportive communities.

# ADULTS

A strategic goal of the Partnership for People with Disabilities is to promote community acceptance and support of adults using the principles of self-determination to guide our decisions and work. Communities must have resources to support adults and aging persons with disabilities in meeting their residential, employment, recreational, life-long learning, and health care needs. The Partnership is committed to helping agencies and organizations charged with supporting adults with disabilities, to deliver person-centered and consumer-friendly services in the least restrictive environment.

# ON-GOING PROGRAMS

## ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES: A COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE

This 2-day training promotes collaboration among parents of children with disabilities, educators, child protective services workers, and law enforcement officers, to help them deal effectively with abuse and neglect of children with disabilities. The course is taught by teams of 4 trainers, representing different disciplines, who model collaboration and best practices. (Funded by Virginia Department of Education, Department of Criminal Justice Services, and Virginia Institute for Social Services Training Activities.)

**Contact**  
Peggy O'Neill at (804) 827-0194 or [poneill@mail1.vcu.edu](mailto:poneill@mail1.vcu.edu).

## INCLUDING ALL CHILDREN-PROJECT EXCEL

The project's purpose is to address the early learning needs of children with special needs by providing training to child care center staff and family child care home providers located in five selected Richmond communities. Training on inclusive child care will be provided to approximately 45 centers and home providers. Evaluation measures will be used to determine changes in provider knowledge as a result of the training. (Funded by the United Way of Greater Richmond, Early Learning Opportunity Act)

**Contact:**  
Mary Lynn White at 804-828-6796 or [mlwhite2@vcu.edu](mailto:mlwhite2@vcu.edu)

## BUILDING INCLUSIVE CHILDCARE SERVICES

Primary purpose is to develop, implement, and evaluate a model of service delivery that supports the developmental needs of preschoolers with disabilities, their families, and their caregivers in two community childcare centers. A secondary focus of the project is the development of a public awareness campaign to educate parents, childcare providers, and other community members of the benefits of inclusive childcare experiences for all children. (Funded by Virginia Board for People with Disabilities.)

**Contact**  
Dana Yarbrough at 804-828-0352 or [PTPOFVA@aol.com](mailto:PTPOFVA@aol.com)

## EDUCATING HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ABOUT THE MALTREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES: A NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY TRAINING CONSORTIUM

In collaboration with seven University Centers for Excellence (UCEDDs) and five Protection and Advocacy (P&As) Agencies across the nation, this project of national significance addresses deficits in the knowledge, protection and skills of health professionals in responding to the maltreatment of individuals with disabilities. This three-year project is developing, field-testing, and disseminating state-of-the-art distance education materials to help prevent, identify, and report abuse and neglect of persons with disabilities. (Funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.)

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Ann Cox at (804) 828-8244 or [acox@mail2.vcu.edu](mailto:acox@mail2.vcu.edu)

## INCREASING UNDERSTANDING, USE, AND CONTROL OF CONSUMER-DIRECTED PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES IN VIRGINIA'S WAIVERS

This project builds on the initial CMS-funded grant that organized a Consumer-Directed Services Resources Network and developed materials for training and technical assistance on self direction, self determination, and consumer choice. The goals of this project are to (a) seek input directly from consumers of personal assistance services on their satisfaction with services through interviews; (b) develop educational and technical assistance materials and resources that promote awareness on the possibilities and options for personal assistance services and that strengthen the ability of individuals to maximize the use of services and support; and (c) expand the technical assistance network by increasing the number of personal assistance service recipients in the network, by providing additional information for members to share with consumers, and by providing opportunities for members to become more knowledgeable in consumer direction. (Funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.)

**Contact:**  
Tera Yoder at 804-828-3879 or [tyoder@mail1.vcu.edu](mailto:tyoder@mail1.vcu.edu)

## LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE IN NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM (VA-LEND)

This advanced level training and leadership development program targets health professionals and special educators in 12 disciplines. The goals include the development of advanced clinical skills and leadership abilities in childhood neurodevelopmental disabilities. The program is a collaboration among the Partnership, the VCU School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, and the Virginia Department of Health, Title V Program. (Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.)

**Contact**  
Janet Willis at (804) 828-0073 or [jwillis@mail2.vcu.edu](mailto:jwillis@mail2.vcu.edu)

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE... ONE CHILD AT A TIME

The mission of this program is to improve the success, in the community, of youth with educational disabilities who become involved with the juvenile justice system. Increasing the success of youth with educational disabilities while in detention and upon return to the community, contributes to a reduction in juvenile crime and recidivism. The Partnership envisions the long-term effects of this program will positively impact the quality of life for youth with educational disabilities who have become involved with the juvenile justice system. (Funded by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.)

**Contact**  
Linda W. Harris, JD 804-828-6926 or [lwharris2@vcu.edu](mailto:lwharris2@vcu.edu)

## NEW VOICES

The New Voices project brings together a small group of people to promote the desires of individuals with disabilities who have not had opportunities to express their needs. The 10 Planning Committee members have different types of disabilities, come from across the state, and many live or have lived in isolated settings. They are meeting to build relationships, share

# ON-GOING PROGRAMS

stories, discover ways to let others know about the needs of people with disabilities (particularly those who are isolated), learn self-advocacy skills, link with others in their home communities, and design an activity that will promote their values and beliefs about their lives. (Funded by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities.)

## Contact

Dana Yarbrough at (804) 828-0352 or [PTPofVA@aol.com](mailto:PTPofVA@aol.com)

## ONE STOP ON VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE

This one-year planning project assists the Eastern Shore in designing and planning a one stop approach to family support for individuals and their families who are seeking coordinated supports and services. The project targets families who are underserved because of poverty and/or geographic isolation. A One Stop Planning Committee, comprised of family members; individuals with disabilities; key agency representatives; and other local leaders from communities on the Eastern Shore, is involved in determining the need and deciding on the approach that will best serve Eastern Shore residents. The project subcontracts with the Eastern Shore Center for Independent Living to coordinate project activities on the Eastern Shore. (Funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.)

## Contact

Tera Yoder at (804)828-3879 or [tyoder@vcu.edu](mailto:tyoder@vcu.edu)

## POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: ENRICHING LIVES IN COMMUNITY SETTINGS

The Partnership and the Virginia Autism Resource Center work as partners to develop a systematic way to increase the cadre of qualified 'behavior consultants' using positive behavioral support (PBS). The project supports a statewide Steering Committee to meet and offer guidance and direction to the development of a plan that details essential strategies to increase the number of qualified PBS providers. The plan will include policy and process recommendations, certification or endorsement recommendations, and training and mentoring requirements. (Funded by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities.)

## Contact

Tera Yoder at (804)828-3879) or [tyoder@vcu.edu](mailto:tyoder@vcu.edu)

## PROVIDING RESOURCES AND EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONALS WHO WORK WITH INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING AND THEIR FAMILIES

The PREP project provides statewide training to increase awareness and develop competencies of professionals in Virginia for working with infants and young children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. (Funded by Virginia Departments of Education; Health; Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services (Part C); and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.)

## Contact

Debbie Pfeiffer at (804) 828-1342 or [dlpfeiffer@vcu.edu](mailto:dlpfeiffer@vcu.edu)

## CONSUMER CHOICES FOR INDEPENDENCE: REAL CHOICE SYSTEMS CHANGE

The Partnership's role in this initiative is to develop training materials on consumer-directed services and to establish a statewide resource network. The network delivers training and technical assistance, thereby increasing awareness, understanding, and implementation of consumer-directed services provided through Virginia's home and community based Medicaid waivers. This initiative coordinates with other projects and activities that are building foundations for self-direction. (Funded by the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services with funding from the U. S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.)

## Contact

Eileen Hammar at 804-827-0202 or [eghammar@mail2.vcu.edu](mailto:eghammar@mail2.vcu.edu)

## RESPIRE RESOURCE PROJECT

This project serves as a statewide resource center to support respite and family support services to meet the needs of families of children (birth to 21) with disabilities and chronic or terminal illnesses. (Funded by Virginia Department of Social Services.)

## Contact

Monica Uhl at (804) 828-8587 or [muhl@mail1.vcu.edu](mailto:muhl@mail1.vcu.edu)

## RICHMOND INFANT COUNCIL (RIC)

Coordinates the City of Richmond's interagency activities for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) – early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. (Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, through the Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.)

## Contact

Deana McGuire Buck at (804) 827-0198 or [dbuck@mail2.vcu.edu](mailto:dbuck@mail2.vcu.edu)

## SCHOOL BY SCHOOL: IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR ALL STUDENTS

This initiative is a U.S. Department of Education Model Demonstration Project in Research and Innovation to improve outcomes for students, including students with disabilities, within the context of whole school reform. The initiative is a partnership between Roanoke County Schools and the Partnership for People with Disabilities. School by School seeks to develop a model process that will assist schools in improving components of their school programs in order to build their capacity to meet the learning needs of all of their students with the full range of abilities and needs. (Funded by U.S. Department of Education.)

## Contact

Melanie Sterling at (804) 827-0197 or [mrsterli@mail1.vcu.edu](mailto:mrsterli@mail1.vcu.edu)

## SCHOOL NURSE INSTITUTE PARTNERSHIP (SNIP)

The original school nurse institute has been expanded through partnerships with nine schools of nursing across Virginia. The purpose is to provide and deliver staff development training for school nurses through regional collaboration. Additionally, the preparation of future school nurses is being explored among several schools of nursing. (Funded by the Virginia Departments of Health and Education.)

## Contact

Bernice Allen at (804) 828-8593 or [ballen@mail2.vcu.edu](mailto:ballen@mail2.vcu.edu)

# ON-GOING PROGRAMS

## COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO SERVICE COORDINATION TRAINING IN VIRGINIA

Designed to develop and implement an integrated training process in Virginia's early intervention system. Program activities include developing curriculum, conducting training, and convening a conference for early intervention providers. (Funded by Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.)

### Contact

Deana Buck at (804) 827-0198 or [dbuck@mail2.vcu.edu](mailto:dbuck@mail2.vcu.edu)

## THE CONSORTIUM FOR HANDHELD TECHNOLOGY

This project seeks to bridge emerging computer technology to individuals with cognitive-behavioral impairment caused by brain injury or autism. The project matches individuals with appropriate handheld computer devices, trains them how to best use the devices to manage everyday tasks, and offers follow-along intervention and trouble-shooting, while tracking outcomes from functional assessment tests and satisfaction surveys. (Funded by the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative, Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services.)

### Contact

Tony Gentry at 804-828-7049 or [logentry@vcu.edu](mailto:logentry@vcu.edu)

## TOGETHER WE CAN: THE VIRGINIA DEAF-BLIND PROJECT

Provides training and technical assistance for children (birth to 22) who have dual sensory impairments (deaf blindness) in community and school settings. This project works collaboratively with many agencies across Virginia to improve outcomes for children and youth who are deaf-blind. Together We Can also has a strong family support group as well as an emerging parent-to-parent outreach program. (Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.)

### Contact

John Eisenberg at (804) 828-8252 or [jmeisenbe@mail1.vcu.edu](mailto:jmeisenbe@mail1.vcu.edu)

## TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (T/TAC) FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL SERVING CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

The T/TAC is part of a statewide network designed to provide quality training and technical assistance to schools and Local Interagency Coordinating Councils (LICCs). Its primary purpose is to improve educational opportunities and contribute to the success of children and youth with disabilities (birth-22 years) and children who have disadvantages or are at-risk for academic failure (birth-8 years). The T/TAC at VCU serves professionals and paraprofessionals in central and southside Virginia. (Funded by the Virginia Department of Education.)

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Linda Oggel at (804) 827-1400 or [lsoggel@mail1.vcu.edu](mailto:lsoggel@mail1.vcu.edu)

## UNDERSTANDING AND IMPLEMENTING EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION (EHDI) IN VIRGINIA

As of July 1, 2000, all hospitals in Virginia with newborn nurseries or with neonatal intensive care services, screen the hearing of all newborns prior to discharge and report to the Virginia Department of Health. The Partnership's role is to coordinate the four-year training effort to inform hospitals, physicians, audiologists, and early intervention professionals about Virginia's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Virginia EHDI) Program. (Funded by Virginia Department of Health.)

### Contact

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## UPLINK: URBAN PARTNERS LINKING PERSONNEL PREPARATION AND PRACTICE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN WITH LOW-INCIDENCE DISABILITIES

This model interdisciplinary education project addresses the need to (a) increase the number and quality of personnel serving young children (0-5) with low-incidence disabilities and their families in diverse settings; (b) build strong university-community partnerships for the preparation of qualified personnel in urban environments; and (c) increase the number of professionals from traditional under

represented groups to serve children with low-incidence disabilities and their families. (Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.)

### Contact

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Evelyn Reed-Victor at (804) 828-1305 or [ereedvic@vcu.edu](mailto:ereedvic@vcu.edu)

## VIRGINIA CONSORTIUM FOR TEACHER PREPARATION IN SEVERE DISABILITIES

Prepares qualified teachers to work with students who have severe disabilities in Virginia's public schools. The Consortium, currently includes teacher education programs in severe disabilities from four participating universities: George Mason University, Radford University, University of Virginia, and Virginia Commonwealth University. A common licensing curriculum, which includes 33 graduate credit hours of coursework and field experiences, has been developed across these universities. Courses are taught via multi-point distance education technology to all four sites. First preference for admission is given to school personnel who are currently working with students with severe disabilities, but who lack state endorsement in that area. (Funded by Virginia Department of Education.)

### Contact

Fred Orelove, 804-828-3908 or [forelove@mail1.vcu.edu](mailto:forelove@mail1.vcu.edu)

## WOMEN, DISABILITY, AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM: TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE COURTS

The Partnership, in collaboration with the groups Virginians Against Domestic Violence and Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault, seek to minimize barriers to justice for women with disabilities by training law enforcement (police) and court personnel (judges, magistrates, prosecutors) to increase access for women with disabilities who are victims of violent crimes. (Funded by U.S. Department of Justice.)

### Contact

Linda Harris at 804-828-6926 or [lwharris2@vcu.edu](mailto:lwharris2@vcu.edu)

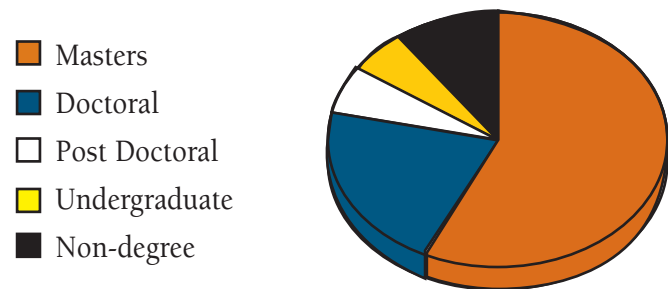
# TRAINING & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

## I. CLASSROOM RELATED INTERDISCIPLINARY TRAINING

The faculty and staff of the Partnership actively train and educate the next generation of professionals in disability related service, training, research and policy. In 2002-2003, the interdisciplinary training program trained 48 students in 9 disciplines which are described in the charts that follow:

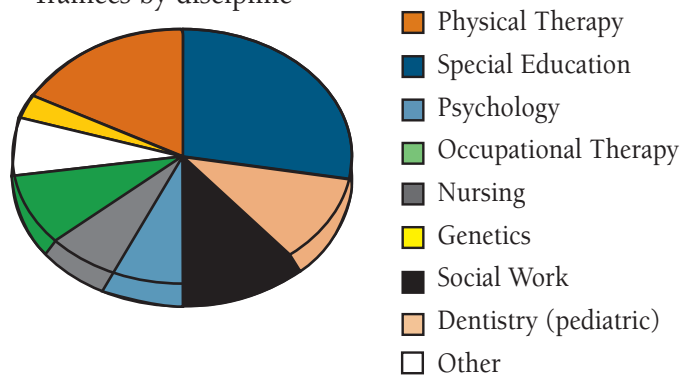
**FIG.1.**

Trainees by academic level



**FIG.2.**

Trainees by discipline

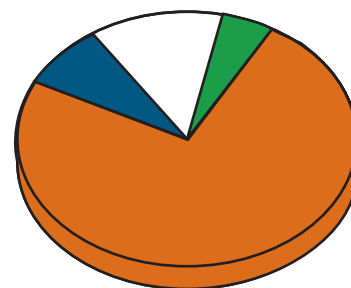
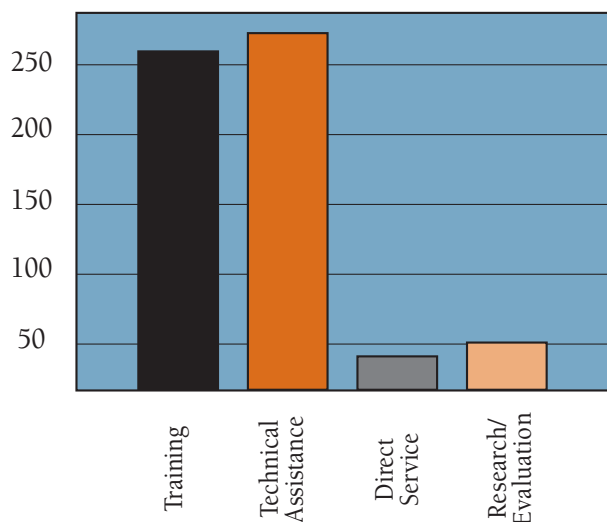


## II. NON-CLASSROOM TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Partnership sponsored events, including conferences, workshops, meetings, webcasts, and summer institutes, target a wide range of participants. During FY 2003, the Partnership conducted 533 events that reached over 21,000 people. The Partnership's technical assistance activities are interdisciplinary and focused on providing solutions to disability issues. A summary of activities by event and type of participant follows:

**FIG.3.** Summary of events

Total Events = 533

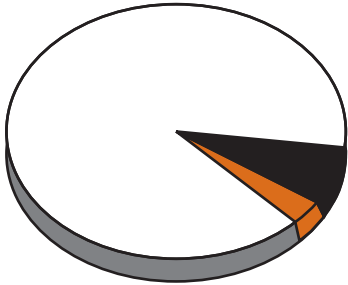


**FIG.4.**

FY 2003 Contacts by participant type

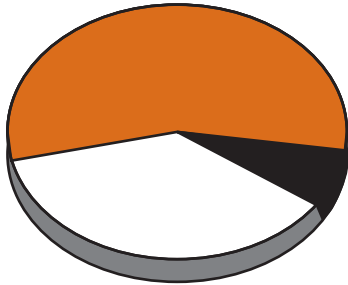
# FUNDING SOURCES

**Total Income**  
\$6,052,964



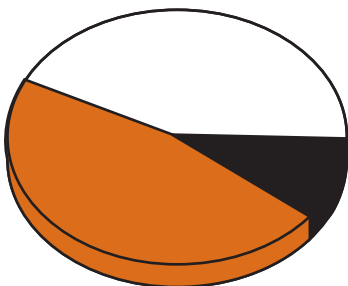
- Grants & Contracts  
\$5,490,339
- In-Kind Contributions  
\$448,822
- Fees/Other  
\$113,803

**Grants & Contracts**  
\$5,490,339



- State Funds  
\$3,691,583
- Federal Funds  
\$1,733,756
- Local Funds  
\$65,000

**In-Kind Contributions**  
\$448,822



- University Personnel  
\$175,942
- Administrative/Facilities Cost  
\$189,079
- Community Support  
\$83,801



“25 years of service”

Kay Brough  
Business Manager

## OUR STAFF



"Serving people with disabilities through the Partnership and the T/TAC is work that inspires me everyday."

-Phyllis Haynes, Program Specialist

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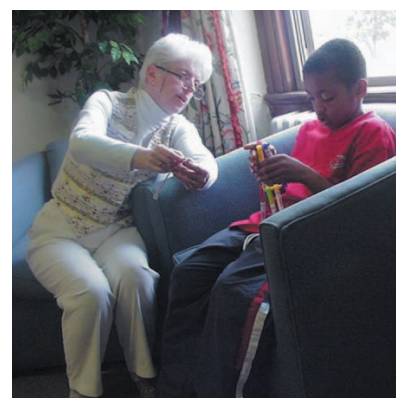
\* As of March 1, 2004



"As a staff member of the Partnership, I have experienced first-hand the organization's commitment to equality and inclusion."

- Valerie Luther, staff

## CHANGING LIVES



"The Va-LEND program brings together an interdisciplinary team to provide information and insight so that children such as Ralph have more choices."

- Joann Bodurtha, Director, Va-LEND



"It's a wonderful thing to see early intervention working for a child. What a sense of gratification when a child reaches a developmental milestone after working so hard to get there."

-Mary Bohrer, Early Childhood Teacher

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



"My mom works for the Partnership. Sometimes I do things with my IEP team. It helps me to see what my life will look like when I'm grown up."

-Kit Hammar

### EARLY CHILDHOOD:

- Developed a draft Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) Handbook. Once finalized, the IFSP Handbook will serve as a companion document for the Partnership's Individualized Education Program (IEP) Handbook. Members of the team prepared sections of the book, and anticipate using it with students and in other training settings.

- Collaborated in the development, implementation, and analysis of a statewide deaf-blind needs assessment for children with dual sensory impairments. Facilitated a stakeholder group that resulted in the development of a 5-year plan for technical assistance to deaf-blind constituents.

- The Partnership, working collaboratively with the Virginia Department of Education's Training and Technical Assistance Center at VCU, provided leadership for a new initiative – the Early Intervention Interest Group. This group, made up of providers of early intervention services in the metro Richmond area, sponsors training events related to supporting infants and toddlers in natural environments.

- The Building Inclusive Child Care project refined a training curriculum for child care providers to include children with significant disabilities. The training materials were used in two child care centers in Richmond.

- The EC team collaborated in the development of several grant applications, including a federal grant to expand the Kaleidoscope Service Coordination training model to other states. This is a commitment to collect needs assessment data on an ongoing

basis to document the priority needs of young children and their families in Virginia.

- Convened several training conferences, including the "Creating Connections" Early Intervention conference. The first of its kind in Virginia, it attracted 250 participants and speakers and featured presentations by members of the Partnership's early childhood team.

- UPLink: Prepared 27 graduate students in early childhood special education, occupational and physical therapy, and social work for careers in early childhood.

- The Infant and Toddler Connection of Richmond coordinated early intervention services for 250 children and families in the city of Richmond.

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

- Completed a 13-module web course entitled: Abuse and Neglect of Children and Adults with Disabilities: A Project of National Significance.

- Child abuse/disabilities: Completed 5 training sessions of the 2-day interdisciplinary training, Abuse and Neglect of Children with Disabilities: A Collaborative Response.

- The School By School (SBS) initiative is working in collaboration with Roanoke County Schools to pilot a merger of their school accreditation program, RCAP, and the SBS school improvement model.

- The Virginia Department of Education has contracted with the Partnership to provide regional train-the-trainer sessions, Creating Collaborative IEPs: A Training for Parents and Educators, to prepare parent-educator teams from

Training and Technical Assistance Centers and Parent Resource Centers around the state. These parent-professional teams will be prepared to train IEP teams in schools throughout Virginia.

- A total of 165 individuals, representing staffs of 30 different detention facilities or court service personnel, participated in the two day ROCK (Reaching Out to Community Kids) training.
- The PREP Project of Virginia conducted five three-day intermediate level training sessions and 15 four-hour awareness level training sessions for "Working with Infants and Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and Their Families." Five of these trainings were targeted at day care providers through a contract with the Virginia

Department of Social Services. In addition, this training was conducted at three annual statewide professional conferences. Approximately 400 professionals increased their competencies through participation in PREP training sessions over this one-year period.

- Va-LEND: Completed leadership training for 21 graduate and advanced degree students in nine disciplines.

### ADULTS:

- Successfully began implementation of the "Commonwealth Consortium on Hand-Held Technology" grant funded by the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative. This project will work with 50 individuals with brain injuries or autism over a 3 year period, introducing them to personal digital

assistants, electronic organizers, paging systems, and combinations of these and other low technology applications.

- Completed a Virginia is for Families project that improved the supports, services, and the quality of life for people with disabilities and their families throughout the state. Significant milestones include: 1) expanded the size and the goals of the Policy and Legislative Council; 2) developed a microboard model for use by families in Southwest Virginia; 3) developed a proposal for a self-directed waiver based on the Independence Plus Waiver template; 4) sponsored three statewide forums on self-direction and Medicaid Waivers; and 5) developed and disseminated a booklet on self-determination titled: *My Choice, My Control, My Community*



LINKING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.

### TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (T/TAC):

- Provided Long Term Technical Assistance (LTTA) to nine schools in the following research based areas: school-wide positive behavior support, inclusion, parent involvement, instructional strategies, and quality early childhood practices
- Developed a supplemental way of delivering LTTA via Interest Groups. Groups in progress include Autism, Virginia Alternate Assessment Program, Positive Behavior Supports and Early Intervention. Each group meets up to six times per year
- Expanded the use and frequency of online training using T/TAC online. Visitors to the T/TAC Web site reached a one-month high of 7,392 in December 2002
- Increased the number of people who attended workshops and training events by one-third in Regions 1 and 8 to 1,394
- Conducted extensive preparation of staff and team members for implementation of Virginia's accountability system and No Child Left Behind mandates from the federal government
- Conducted a state wide assistive technology conference to promote the use of technology to assist persons with disabilities



"The Partnership offers me hope and strength as I witness the many dedicated individuals helping serve families similar to mine."

- Kristen Stahr, parent

## PUBLICATIONS



"As the parent of four boys, three of whom have a disability, the Partnership has been an important source of information and networking for me."

- Erma Hill, parent

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