



Dear Friends of Montgomery County Children, Youth and Families:

The impact of the economy has affected most everyone in the community. The state, in the last six months, has reduced financial support to the Collaboration Council by 50%. That is 1,500 less children, youth and families who will be served through reduced rate child care and after-school programs in high risk areas, wrap-around services for children with intensive needs, and at-risk newborns and emergency funds to families that have a child with a severe disability. Other non-profits that serve children and families are also hurting. It is time to start, *"Putting the Pieces Together for Montgomery County Children and Families"*.

The Collaboration Council is planning a March "Puzzle-A-Thon" fundraiser to raise funds to help the causes above and other non-profits. If you know of a 501(c)(3) organization (school, church, non-profit, boys and girls club, brownies etc.) that would like to raise funds for their own organization while also supporting the county's children, youth and families, join us in this collaborative fundraiser. Together we can join and help the many in our community that need support during this difficult time. The proposal for your organization to be a part of this event can be found on the Collaboration Council website at [www.collaborationcouncil.org](http://www.collaborationcouncil.org). We invite you to help your organization and help others at the same time.

The Collaboration Council is also looking for business owners and community members to join with us to support our county families. We understand that businesses are hurting as well. If all businesses contribute a little, many more children and families will be served in our community. Any donation will be welcomed. Please send in your check to support the Puzzle-A-Thon effort or donate gifts to be used in the gift bags for participants. You can call the number below if you would like to be a sponsor for the event or to receive more information. We thank you for your support and hope that together we can *"put the pieces together"* and build a strong and healthy Montgomery County community.

With Sincere Appreciation,

*Jill Lyons*

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