



COMMONWEALTH CORPORATION

SEPT/OCT 2003

## NUCLI Partnership Brings More Nurses to Pediatric Care

**C**ommCorp received a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to begin to address the growing shortage of nurses in Massachusetts in December 2001. The Nursing Career Ladder Initiative (NUCLI), seeks to offer training and other services to bring more people into the nursing profession. While the shortage affects many aspects of healthcare services across the Commonwealth, the need for pediatric home care nurses has reached a crisis point.

Today in Massachusetts 40% of the children eligible for home-based professional nursing cannot receive the qualified care they need because of this nursing shortage.

A portion of the grant funds will be allocated to recruit, train and retain pediatric home care nurses, through partnerships with the healthcare industry, professional organizations, organized labor, higher education institutions, and local workforce development practitioners, such as Workforce Boards and One-Stop Career Centers.

As a first step, CommCorp partnered with the UMass Medical School Graduate School of Nursing to establish a three-month training program for nurses. Fifteen registered nurses began the program this September,

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## Project Launch: Stakeholder Learning Collaborative

**C**ommonwealth Corporation's Center for Youth Development and Education (CYDE) has been working for the last two years with David Jacobson, former professor of New York University, to develop a new kind of educational partnership among families, schools, colleges, employers and social service agencies.

This past June, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation announced the award of a \$200,000 grant to enable Jacobson, CYDE, and two pilot partnerships to develop a complete implementation plan. Known as "Stakeholder Learning

Collaboratives," these new partnerships will improve learning outcomes for students, enhance the skills of teachers and employees, and develop stronger, more effective education and work organizations.

The Stakeholder Learning Collaboratives Project is made up of three initiatives:

- Helping elementary and middle schools create small learning communities, the **Youth and Family Initiative** will provide technical assistance, peer-to-peer profes-

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## CommCorp Announces *StaffSkills for Youth Workers Training*

The Center for Workforce Innovation (CWI) and the Center for Youth Development and Education (CYDE) at CommCorp are launching a new series of staff training for workforce development professionals. This three-day series is designed for front-line and supervisory staff of One-Stop Career Centers, Community-Based Organizations, and Faith-Based Organizations.

Over the past year, CommCorp project leader Gregg McCutcheon has been developing the curriculum for these training sessions with the help of a working group that represents the state's local youth councils. The youth councils will continue to play a critical role in identifying staff members to participate in training and brokering

with training vendors in their area to ensure that staff are getting the maximum benefit from this *StaffSkills* series.

"A major focus of *StaffSkills* is helping participants identify and then build responses that enable youths to increase their employability skills," explains McCutcheon. "We're all aiming to assist youth in building competencies and moving toward self-sufficiency and success in the workplace".

The six-part *StaffSkills for Youth Workers* series is expected to serve over 130 participants over the next nine months. One of the six will specifically target those working with the BEST Older Youth program. Other training sessions in the series will be more broadly focused.

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### Pediatric Nurses

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which will allow them to specialize in caring for this under-served population.

"The NUCLI grant for a pediatric home care certificate program will help address the most severe nursing shortage we've experienced in a specialty area in quite some time," said Julie Deschenes, Director of Government Affairs for the Home & Health Care Association, the trade organization representing home health agencies in Massachusetts." Moreover, Deschenes noted, "We are very pleased that Dr. Lois Howland, Associate Professor, and Dorothy Page, MSN, FNP, both of the University of Massachusetts Medical School Graduate School of Nursing...understood the dire need for trained pediatric home care nurses, and created a program that will give nurses the extra skills required to care for some of the Commonwealth's 563 medically complex, technology-dependent children in the comfort of their own homes."

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### Stakeholder Learning Collaborative

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sional development opportunities, and connections to after-school programs and to families through family resource centers.

- The **College and Career Initiative** develops strong learning communities in high schools and colleges, brings them together for team-based professional development, and improves program linkages between high schools, colleges, employers, and community organizations.
- Supporting the implementation of high-performance workplace practices in participating companies, the **Adult and Organizational Learning Initiative** works with employers and local colleges to create team-based education and training for incumbent employees.

Two pilot sites—one in Hampden County, Massachusetts, the other in Providence, Rhode Island—are now working actively with Jacobson and CYDE staff with the goal of fully implementing the project in June 2004.

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