

# ECPAC

EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERSHIP  
OF ADAMS COUNTY



# ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014





## VISION

All children are valued, healthy, and thriving



## MISSION

Building a community where each young child can reach their full potential

ECPAC formed in May 2004 and through HB 07-1062, ECPAC became one of 31 local early childhood councils. The Councils were created to improve and sustain the availability, capacity, accessibility, and quality of early childhood services in the areas of Early Learning, Health, Social-Emotional -Mental Health, Family Support and Parent Education.

### who

ECPAC is a partnership of community stakeholders in the areas of early learning, health, mental health, family support and education, and parents of young children who are committed to building a community where all young children can reach their full potential.

### what

ECPAC is dedicated to improve the capacity of Adams County to improve access to available, quality supports and services for young children and their families in order to ensure children get the best start to life and enter school ready to be successful.

### why

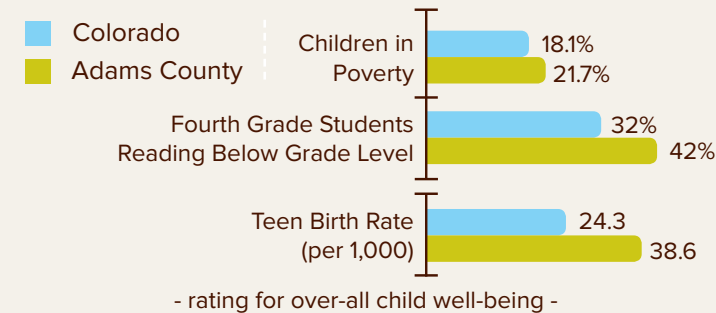
Research shows that a child's first five years are a critical time for brain development, setting the foundation for life-long success. Because children are cared for by adults in their lives, ECPAC works to ensure that the needed resources and tools are in place in Adams County for parents, teachers, service providers, and other supportive systems to help children grow and learn.

### how

Through Strategic Action Teams and other venues, ECPAC brings partners together to continually assess the strengths and gaps of the early childhood system in Adams County and agree upon strategies to implement together in order to move the community in a positive direction – leading to greater outcomes for young children.



### HOW ARE ADAMS COUNTY CHILDREN?



Because Adams County has the highest percentage of children under age 5 in Colorado and is rated 23 out of 25 rated counties for over-all child wellbeing, (Kids Count 2014), scoring lower than the Colorado average on 10 of 12 health, economic, family, and education indicators, partners are very committed to our mission to *build a community where every young child can reach their full potential.*

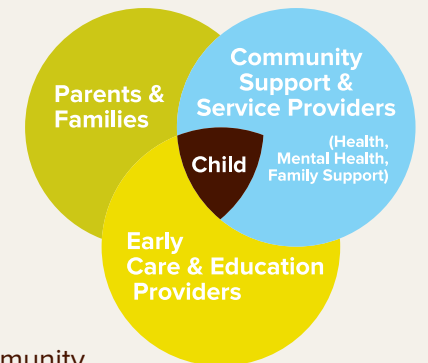
### who

**WHO BENEFITS?** ECPAC believes strongly that when children's caregivers are well informed and supported, children will thrive! Therefore ECPAC work targets 3 main types of caregivers in Adams County.

### what

**WHAT WILL THIS LOOK LIKE?**  
CONTRIBUTING COMMUNITY INDICATORS:

- Children are born healthy into well prepared families
- Children's health and early learning are supported at home and in the community
- Children reach individually appropriate developmental milestones
- Children enter kindergarten ready to succeed
- Children read with proficiency in 3rd grade



### how/why

**HOW DO WE GET THERE?**  
OUR GOALS:

**(WHY):** Partners know that when we work together, we can make a difference:

1. ECPAC is able to facilitate the Adams County early childhood system to be efficient, effective and elegant so that service providers are connected to one another and families' needs are met.

**(WHY):** We recognize that parents/families are children's first and most important relationship, life-long teacher, and advocate:

2. Early childhood families have access to available community services and supports that effectively meet their needs.

**(WHY):** Research shows that high quality early learning experiences lead to life-long positive impacts for children/youth success:

3. Expand and enhance Adams County's ability to provide high-quality education and care to at-risk children ages birth to 8 yrs.

### SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING EFFORTS AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION

ECPAC completed a 5 month sustainability/business planning process, with results indicating that ECPAC has a strong internal capacity and a solid system in place to move to a higher level of impacting services. Therefore, ECPAC partners chose a 3-5 year proof-of-concept project that will allow for dedicated work on top priorities, build off of current successes, and demonstrate impact for at risk children and families through collective action. This project (Project LAUNCH) targets southern Adams County, where child/family risk factors are high (in terms of poverty and disparities) to infuse early childhood and family services and supports – with a focus on social/emotional/mental health - where they are most needed.

## STRATEGIC PARTNERS

- JILL BONCZYNSKI**  
Tri-County Health Dept.
- BECKY HOFFMAN**  
Adams Co Youth Initiative
- CARRIE MORRIS**  
North Metro Community Services
- DEE DEE GREEN**  
Adams Co Human Services Dept.
- JACKIE KAPUSHION**  
Mapleton Public Schools
- LYNDA FREAS**  
Anythink Libraries
- CHERILYN PENISTON**  
House Representative 35
- GLORIA SANCHEZ**  
Parent Representative
- AMY BRUNNER**  
Parent Representative
- MAT AUBUCHON**  
Adams School District 50
- CHRIS SHAFFNER**  
Adams Co Housing Authority
- JILL ATKINSON**  
Community Reach Center
- CARMEN MARTINEZ**  
Child Care Innovations
- SCOTT SMITH**  
Children's Outreach Project
- MARLA DRAPER**  
Adams School District 12
- TEVA SIENICKI**  
Growing Home
- ISEBEL ARELLANO**  
Head Start
- CRISTIE JOPHLIN-MARTIN**  
Community Enterprise



**ECPAC**

EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERSHIP  
OF ADAMS COUNTY

[www.ecpac.org](http://www.ecpac.org)

## ECPAC PARTNER AGENCIES:

Adams Co. Head Start, Adams Co. Housing Authority, Adams Co. Human Services Dept., Adams School District 12, Adams School District 14, Adams School District 27J, Adams School District 14, Mapleton Public Schools, Aspen Family Services, Belleview Christian School, Boys and Girls Club, Bright Beginnings, Bundles of Babies, Child Care Innovations, Children's Outreach Project, City of Thornton, Clinica Campesina, Colorado State University Extension, Commerce City Recreation, Community Enterprise, Community Reach Center, Front Range Community College, Goddard School of Thornton, Growing Home, Invest in Kids, Little Giants Learning Center, Little Peoples Child Care, Little Village, Kaiser Permanente, Kid-die Academy of Brighton, "MY Little World Child Care," Mountainland Pediatrics, Noah's Ark, North Metro Community Health Services, North Suburban Hospital, OPENair Academy, Rocky Mountain Youth Clinic, Senior Hub-SWAT, St. Anthony's Hospital-Nurse Family Partnership, Step-by-Step Child Development Center, Sweat Pea Center for Early Learning, Tri-County Health Dept.

## DEDICATED STAFF

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## PRD ACTION TEAM

### who

Members of the **Pregnancy Related/Postpartum Depression (PRD) Action Team** include representatives from health clinics, public health, the local mental health center, as well as a parent representative.

### why

An infant needs their mother and other primary caregivers to be in the best health possible to ensure that they develop to their fullest potential.

- Approximately 80% of women have the "Baby Blues" and up to 20% of women have pregnancy/postpartum depression, making **PRD the most common complication of child birth.**
- Pregnancy and the early years of parenting can be stressful times for parents. Research shows that in some cases, high levels of stress may lead to premature births; low-birth weight infants; infant mortality; and health, development, and learning challenges in infancy and early childhood (Georgetown University).

### what

To help increase the number of women who get the help they need, the goals of this group include:

1. Increase information regarding PRD provided to women and their supports pre and postnatally
2. Increase community providers' ability to provide women and their supports with information
3. Increase women's ability to engage in evaluation and treatment

### how

HOW did we work to accomplish this over the last year?

- Brochures for mothers and their supporters were developed in English and Spanish and are being disseminated (can be found at [www.ecpac.org](http://www.ecpac.org)) to help reduce the stigma associated with PRD. This year:
  - » 770 brochures for women and 721 brochures for supporters were distributed
- MamaTalk, a group for new and expecting mothers, is underway and is offered in English and Spanish. This year 47 women participated, 27 having attended more than one group.
- A coordinated referral and status update process has been implemented to allow for easier access for women identified with a potential need for additional support or services; 7 organizations have been trained on this referral system and a total of 75 participants.
- Additionally, ECPAC co-hosted a Pregnancy Related Depression Lunch & Learn which also included a focus on Adams County referral processes. There were a total of 64 attendees, including (but not limited to) nurses, dieticians, behavioral health providers, and human services caseworkers.

*"Within 2 weeks of delivering my baby, I developed severe postpartum depression and this experience was by far the scariest of my and my family's life. I was desperate for help, calling every possible resource I could find and unfortunately I could not get help. I needed immediate help and was beyond frightened. I needed to hear from someone who went through the darkness, to tell me it would be ok. I don't want anyone in our area to have to go through this lonely struggle. I want to be a resource to women that are starting to or in the depth of PR/PD."*

**-- ADAMS COUNTY MOTHER**

**AS A RESULT,  
REFERRALS  
ARE  
BEGINNING  
TO INCREASE!**



## HEALTH INTEGRATION ACTION TEAM

### who

The **Health Integration Action Team** consists of health clinics, school districts, early intervention, mental health, public health, parent representatives, the Department of Human Services, and others dedicated to children's health and well-being.

### why

In Adams County, only 51% of families, referred by a medical provider, follow through with a referral for a developmental evaluation (compared to 66% in Colorado); referrals made County-wide are at 58%.

- Many delays, including those related to speech, language, and social-emotional health, affect school readiness.
- According to the U.S. Department of Education, "fewer than half of children with developmental delays are identified before starting school."
- "When a potential delay is present, the earlier a referral is made, the earlier a problem can be addressed through intervention and often ameliorated all together" (Colorado ABCD Project).

### what

The three overarching goals of this group include:

1. Expand implementation of a comprehensive health/developmental screening and coordinated referral system
2. Increase communication between service providers to deliver coordinated support to families
3. Develop and implement best practices for family support to follow through with referrals and access indicated developmental evaluations and health services through increased common messaging from community partners and increased parent information

### how

HOW did we work to accomplish this over the last year?

- The Coordinated Provider Identification and Referral Roadmap has been finalized and implemented.
- Referral Roadmap training was provided to 7 organizations with a total of 75 participants having been trained. Over 80% of participants note they are "very likely" to implement this process when making referrals.
- Common messaging for families has been finalized and implemented to ensure that families have all the information they need to make the decision to follow through with an evaluation.
- Community programs and supports have been identified for those who do not qualify for traditional services.

**THE ENTIRE REFERRAL ROADMAP PROCESS AND DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.ECPAC.ORG](http://WWW.ECPAC.ORG)**

*"I was surprised with the fact there are so many resources available, and with the new information, I'm feeling capable to help even more of our patients."*

**--SERVICE PROVIDER**

## KINDERGARTEN READINESS ACTION TEAM

### who

The **Kindergarten Readiness Action Team** includes membership from 5 Adams County School Districts, the local Community College, several child care centers, Growing Home, Invest in Kids, and Head Start.

### why

Through enriching and high quality experiences, children will have the opportunity to reach their full potential and be prepared for a successful school experience. Each year, about 7,500 Adams County children enter kindergarten. It is estimated that on average at least half of children are entering kindergarten not fully prepared for school. When children start school behind, they have less of a chance of school success and are at risk of dropping out of school, abusing substances, teen pregnancy, and engaging in juvenile delinquent behaviors.

### what

A comprehensive kindergarten readiness approach includes ensuring that children are ready, families are ready, schools are ready, and the community is ready. Therefore, ECPAC strives to support all of these necessary components.

1. Provide common messaging to early learning professionals about components of kindergarten readiness and provide needed support in delivering quality early childhood learning services
2. Develop and implement culturally relevant activities to help parents understand Developmental Milestones/School Readiness and feel supported during times of transition
3. Identify Family-Friend-Neighbor (FFN) networks and provide information and support to promote the components of kindergarten readiness

### how

HOW did we work to accomplish this over the last year?

- 30 people received training in the Strengthening Families approach
- A "Preparing for Kindergarten: A Transition Guide for Families" was developed and distributed to families (699 English, 347 Spanish) with activities, developmental guidelines, and various resources and 370 additional parent resources were distributed
- Several Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) providers have been contacted and provided with initial information; process for identification, contact and support continues, as well as conjunct work with the Learning Collaborative community in efforts to approach key community leaders
- Numerous Early Care and Education Quality Improvement Efforts: see next page

*"I was so happy to see this Guide. I feel like I now have a better sense of what my child needs to get ready for kindergarten." -- KG TRANSITION GUIDE FAMILY*



# EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

**who** Those providing early learning experiences for young children (Centers and Family Childcare Homes and other professionals).

**why** Children who live in poverty are at a higher risk of not being ready for kindergarten, yet attending high-quality preschool programs leads to better school achievement, social skills and behavior than children who do not attend high quality preschool <sup>1</sup>. Children who attended quality preschools: scored higher on aptitude measures through 4th grade; were less likely to be placed in special education; had significantly higher grade point averages; were more likely to graduate from high school; had less criminal behavior at age 14, and were 5 times less likely to be incarcerated as an adult; and had higher monthly earnings at age 27. With these results, economists estimate that an investment in quality preschool returns an average public benefit of 7-10% every year thereafter <sup>2</sup>.

**how** HOW did we work to accomplish this over the last year?

ECPAC offers programs, quality improvement coaching, mental health consultation, funding for classroom learning materials, a quality rating, and up-to-date resources and information on state plans for enhancing quality of the early learning experiences for the children and families enrolled.

Of the programs involved in the Quality Improvement Project: **2** have a 4 star rating, **4** have a 3 star rating, **6** have a 2 star rating, and **3** have a 1 star rating.

ECPAC offers Professional Development opportunities to those providing care for young children.

- ✓ This year, 61 Adams County early childhood professionals were awarded 79 scholarship awards. In addition, approximately 25 child care directors gained exceptional leadership skills through the Directors' Roundtable, and 87 individuals attended various professional development opportunities. This includes the Expanding Quality in Infant Toddler class.
- ✓ ECPAC supported 41 School District preschool teachers to be trained in the Incredible Years program
- ✓ Weekly newsletter sent to 117 child care providers/stakeholders with ~ 42% open rate

**ECPAC IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE COLORADO EFFORTS AROUND RACE-TO-THE-TOP TO BRING A NEW RATING AND LICENSING SYSTEM, NEW PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM, AND VARIOUS OTHER PROJECTS TO ADAMS COUNTY PROVIDERS.**

*"[We work with one family that we have been] unsuccessful in our attempts to engage. The day after receiving the classroom materials from ECPAC, one child was especially, engrossed. That afternoon, upon his mother's arrival, the child was asked to tell his mom about what he was playing with that day. This one prompt led to the longest, most meaningful conversation the teacher had ever had with this mother. Thank you for providing such a fun, interactive learning material that not only led to more engagement with the children in our care, but also with our families." -- ECE PROGRAM*

*"...I needed the class to renew my director license, and couldn't afford to pay on my own anymore. I cannot thank ECPAC enough for taking a chance on me in my time of need. I wanted to be sure you know you do make a difference! Thank you for your hard work to benefit children and families in your community, I love what I do..."*  
-- SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

# HOME VISITATION COLLABORATIVE

**who** The **Home Visitation Collaborative** includes members from three of Adams County's home visitation programs which are Nurse Family Partnership (NFP), Parents as Teachers (PAT), and Head Start – using the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters program (HIPPY).

**why** When parents of young children are supported, their children are more likely to have healthy development. These three evidence-based programs provide a strong support for families who participate, to receive guidance and support from health and child development professionals.

**what** This group is working to ensure families have access to these available home visitation programs by integrating home visitation into the larger early childhood system of supports and services for families of young children in Adams County.

**how** HOW did we work to accomplish this over the last year?

- A common referral for all 3 programs was developed and 139 professionals from 18 organizations received training on how to make a referral
- 5 teen parents received information on the home visitation options
- A Home Visitation poster was developed for display in community programs. To date, 25 English and 25 Spanish posters have been displayed around Adams County.
- 2 trainings in Bright Beginnings program were provided with 7 agencies participating with a total of 18 attendees; as a result of these trainings, 10 families have received a Bright Beginning visit.

HOME VISITATION HAS BEEN FOUND TO:

- **Improve**
  - » maternal and prenatal health
  - » infant and child health and development
- **Increase** children's school readiness and school success in academic and social-emotional areas
- **Help** in the **prevention** of child abuse and neglect
- **Improve** family socio-economic **status**
- **Decrease** parental **stress**
- **Improve coordination** of referrals to community resources and supports
- **Reduce** crime and domestic violence

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**THANKS TO ECPAC'S COORDINATED EFFORTS, BOTH PROGRAMS ARE HAVING USEFUL CONVERSATIONS TO ASSIST FAMILIES WHEN TRANSITIONING FROM ONE PROGRAM TO THE OTHER. THE EFFICIENT WAY THESE MEETINGS ARE HELD WITHIN THE TIME FRAME GIVEN, SUPPORTS A BETTER DEVELOPMENT OF IDEAS AND SERVES THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH BOTH PROGRAMS MEET: TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF SERVICES FOR FAMILIES.**





# 3RD GRADE READING ACTION TEAM



## who

The **3rd Grade Reading Action Team** has membership from the Boys and Girls Club, Anythink Libraries, Senior Hub, the Adams County Youth Initiative, and Growing Home.

## why

Children who are unable to read with proficiency in 3rd grade are at greater risk for not graduating from high school. Therefore this Action Team is dedicated to help parents and children (kindergarten – 3rd grade) have access to literacy opportunities during out of school time. In Adams County, two in five 3rd grade students (over 2,300 students) are not reading at grade level according to the Colorado Department of Education in 2011. This is 10% lower than the state average. The American Education Research Association has found that a student who is not reading at 3rd grade level and living in poverty is 13 times less likely to graduate on time than her/his proficient wealthier peer.

## what

1. Increase the number of Kindergarten - 3rd graders, within one school and one afterschool program, that receive a literacy-based program at a library.
2. Increase the number of families who receive information around community-based programming that promotes school literacy activities for Kindergarten - 3rd grade.
3. Increase number books distributed to students for home libraries.

## how

HOW did we work to accomplish this over the last year?

- Promotion of the Summer Library Reading Program
- Use of data to target outreach and strategic partnerships to increase available supports
- 2nd Annual Book drive with 6,343 books donated (up from 1740 last year) with 18 businesses serving as collection sites (up from 11 last year)

ECPAC would like to thank the following businesses for supporting the 2nd Annual Book Drive:

Adams County Youth Initiative/Adams 12 Star Schools, Barnes and Noble Book Store, Boys and Girls Club, City of Commerce City, City of Westminster, Community Reach Center, ConocoPhillips, Google, Horizons North Credit Union, Hope Montessori Academy, Kaiser Permanente, Metro North Chamber of Commerce, Senior Hub, Step-by-Step Child Development Center, Sweet Pea Center for Early Learning, Target, Thornton Police Department, United Power, and 17th Judicial District Attorney's Office.

# FY 2013-2014 FINANCIAL REPORT

## CDHS-ELCG:

CO Dept. Human Services – Early Learning Challenge Grant (Race to the Top)

## CDHS-MIECHV:

CO Dept. Human Services -- Home Visitation Systems

## CDHS-SB:

CO Dept. Human Services – Systems Building

## CDHS-SRQIP:

CO Dept. Human Services -- School Readiness Project

## CDE-EQIT:

CO Dept. Education – Expanding Quality in Infant Toddler Care -- Professional Development

## CDPHE – MIECHV:

CO Dept. of Public Health/ Environment – Home Visitation Systems – moved to CDHS in Jan 2014

## MHUW:

Mile High United Way

## CO TRUST:

Health Integration

## THB:

Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation -- Family Initiatives Coordinator and College ECE Scholarships

## IY:

Incredible Years – Materials

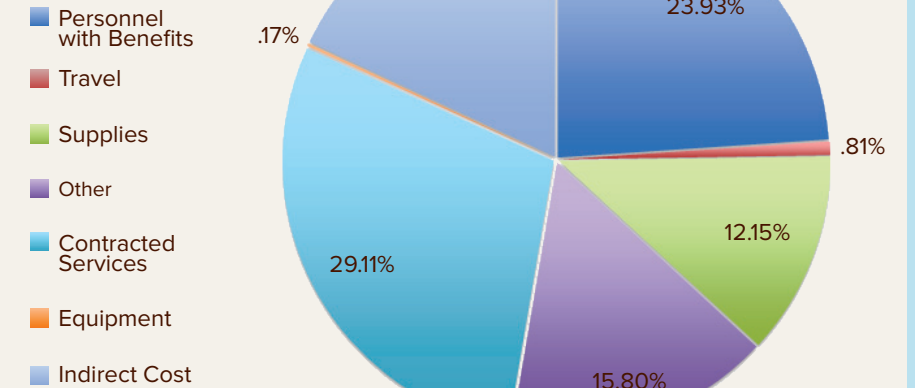
## TR:

Annual Teacher Recognition Event (Donations)

## OTHER:

Donations, Class Registration Fees

## PERCENT SPENT PER FUNDING CATEGORY



## FUNDING SOURCE:

FY13-14

<b>COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - Systems Building Grant</b>	13%
<b>COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - School Readiness Quality Improvement Program</b>	32%
<b>COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - Early Learning Challenge Grant (Race to the Top)</b>	4%
<b>CDPHE / CDHS - Maternal Infant Home Visitation Project</b>	4%
<b>COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - Expanding Quality in Infant and Toddler Care</b>	3%
<b>MILE HIGH UNITED WAY</b>	11%
<b>COLORADO TRUST</b>	20%
<b>TEMPLE HOYNE BUELL</b>	9%
<b>AMERICA'S PROMISE</b>	1%
<b>OTHER FUNDS (includes specific funds less than 1% and unrestricted funds from fees and donations)</b>	3%

ECPAC FUNDERS

FINANCIALS



**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THOSE WHO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT  
ADAMS COUNTY THROUGH FUNDING OR OTHER DONATIONS.**

## FUNDERS

- » Colorado Department of Human Services
  - » Mile High United Way
  - » The Colorado Trust
- » Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation
  - » America's Promise
- » Colorado Department of Education

## DONORS

- » Lakeshore Learning
- » Kaplan Early Learning Company
- » John R Green Company
- » Margaret Carpenter Recreation Center
- » Constructive Playthings
- » Martin/Martin Engineering
- » Jansen Strawn Consulting Engineering
- » Service by Air
- » Duane Jansen
- » Lynda Freas
- » Ronda Ronczka
- » Westminster Presbyterian Church
- » Stukey Elementary
- » Anonymous

**THANK YOU TO INDIVIDUALS FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS OF  
RESOURCES OR YOUR TIME.**

## VOLUNTEERS

- » Michelle Dalbotten
- » Jennie Garner
- » Traci Chamberlain
- » Cindy Vigessa
- » Lisa Lambrecht
- » Rhonda Ronczka
- » Susana Ramirez
- » 5 teens  
Boys & Girls Club
- » Americorp Volunteers  
(CRC, D12 ReadingCorp, and  
Goodwill Industries)
- » Ellen Duran
- » Marla Draper
- » Gloria Sanchez
- » Phil Corn
- » Suzie Holper

**Thank you to Mapleton Public Schools for their generous  
support as ECPAC's Employer and Fiscal Sponsor.**



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THANK YOU