Our Thanks

Knox County Head Start, Inc.

2012-2013 Annual Report
A National Head Start Center of Excellence
www.knoxheadstart.org

Our Mission

Committed to the future of Knox County and its changing and diverse needs, Knox County Head Start works in partnership with the community to provide quality preschool, child care, and family services. Our purpose is to engage children, families, and staff in reaching their full potential.

Together with parents and families, KCHS employees open doors for children’s success in school and in life.

Guiding Values

A. We value families, fathers, mothers, and primary caregivers as the first and most important teachers and advocates for their children.

B. We strive to make a difference through the education, care, and support of our children, families, and staff by:

1. Committing to provide quality services

2. Hiring, training, and retaining competent staff

3. Providing opportunities for personal and professional growth

4. Developing and nurturing personal and professional, trusting relationships built on honesty and open communication

5. Acknowledging and seeking diversity through our program design

6. Creating and maintaining healthy and productive community partnerships

To learn more about Head Start visit "Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center" at www.ecdkc.ohio.gov and search for "Leading the Way for Families, Children and Communities" video.

Did You Know?

- Knox County Head Start was founded in 1965 as Kokosing Day Care Centers, Inc.
- We are the largest single provider of early care and education services in Knox County with 90% of children qualifying as low-income. Over 265 children were served in Head Start preschool and 105 children and 11 pregnant moms in Early Head Start in 2012-2013
- Largest child care provider since 1998 in full-day programs for 143 children in three centers (Fremdicktown, Gambier & Mount Vernon)
- Operating 8 bus routes, traveling 482 miles per day, exceeding 62,631 miles annually, transporting 160 children.
- 314 volunteers provided 1,946 hours of service

Our heartful thanks…

to the individuals, businesses, and organizations who have contributed cash, goods, and talents in support of our children and their families.

Determined to offer quality Head Start and child care programs to the community and to nearly 475 children and their families annually.

Our heartful thanks…

to Community Supporters that help Knox County Head Start strive to offer quality Head Start and child care programs to the community and to nearly 475 children and their families annually.

Our Volunteers

Knox County Head Start, Inc.
11700 Upper Gilchrist Rd—Suite B
PO Box 1225—Mt Vernon, OH 43050
740-397-1344

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Number of Children Served by KCHS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August 1, 2012 - July 31, 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Head Start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EHS Pregnant Moms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Over 118,814 breakfasts, lunches, snacks, and dinners were served to children and their families!**

Children Health Services are designed to ensure children receive age-appropriate screenings, follow up for health & dental concerns when needed, and are healthy and ready for success in school.

**Immunization Services (EHS & Preschool Age)**

- 256 (69.9%) children are categorized as up-to-date on their required immunizations.
- 110 (30.1%) children are categorized as in-progress, having received all possible shots for their age group.
- 4 children meet Ohio’s guidelines for exemption from immunization.

**Medical Screenings (Physicals)**

- 366 (100%) children (EHS & Preschool-Age) received an annual physical and all medical screenings, including hearing, vision, lead, and hemoglobin.
- 71 (19.4%) children needed medical follow-up.
- 69 (17.2%) children received medical follow-up.

**Dental Services (Infants not included)**

- 315 (92.5%) preschoolers received a dental exam.
- 41 children needed follow-up.
- 32 (78%) children received follow-up.

**Developmental Screenings**

- 366 (100%) children received developmental screenings.
- 54 children were referred for further Evaluation (41 HS & 13 in EHS).
- 42 children in Head Start preschool received disability services on an IFSP.

**Knox County Head Start and our local community benefit from federal funding to support Head Start services to 216 children and families and Early Head Start services for 66 pregnant mothers, infants, toddlers, and their families. (Funding is based on available slots; the actual number of children and pregnant moms served in these programs last year was 381). The current funding year includes a 5.27% decrease due to Federal sequestration reductions in the Federal Head Start, Early Head Start and Center of Excellence grants.**

Carryover funds from the Early Head Start ARRA program enabled completion of a renovation project at the Fredericktown Head Start and Child Care Center in the fall of 2012. This project included updating electrical, heating and cooling systems for four classrooms and offices that house interior gross motor space for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, as well as meeting, training and storage space.

KCHS completed the third year of the five-year National Head Start Center of Excellence grant which was funded from September 30, 2012 to September 29, 2013 for $200,000. The fourth year of the five-year grant was reduced by the 5.27% sequestration cuts for 2013-2014. This grant provides for further implementation of Conscious Discipline® in KCHS classrooms; increased partnerships with Knox County schools, social service agencies, and mental health agencies, including Head Start teacher participation in the Mount Vernon City Schools Kindergarten Camps and Conscious Discipline® teacher education opportunities; to increase Conscious Parenting trainings; and to share lessons learned with the larger Head Start and early childhood community.

The United Way grant operates on a calendar year providing support for Head Start and Early Head Start programs including partial funding for a Child Mental Health Consultant; a Health Services Specialist to support required medical, dental, vision and physical development; screenings/follow up and parent education; and funds 16 parent training sessions annually.

The support provided by of local grants is greatly appreciated and recognized as important to KCHS in providing quality services to children and families in Knox County. 2012-2013 grants included:

- The United Way of Knox County provided significant funding for Head Start and Early Head Start programs and parent trainings. This funding is an important part of the required 25% local match of federal funding.

The Energy Cooperative Operation Round Up Foundation, Inc. provided funding for entry door security controls for Fredericksville and Danville Centers.

The Ohio Children’s Trust Fund, operating through the Knox County Family and Children First Council, supported parent training for the parents of elementary school age children.

The Harcourt Parish Episcopal Church 2012 Rummage Sale provided partial funding for a spaghetti dinner for 554 children and their families at the Shawn Kelly Memorial Holiday Party hosted in Fund Commons in partnership with the Kenyon College Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity on November 28 and 29, 2012.

2013-2014 Federal Head Start Budgets Total Budgets: $3,201,224

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head Start</th>
<th>Early Head Start</th>
<th>Center of Excellence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>$980,284</td>
<td>$454,759</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fringes</td>
<td>296,683</td>
<td>167,254</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>38,761</td>
<td>23,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Space</td>
<td>76,876</td>
<td>23,782</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food</td>
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<td>Contracts</td>
<td>45,481</td>
<td>20,851</td>
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<td>Training &amp; Travel</td>
<td>14,269</td>
<td>31,204</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bus Operations</td>
<td>35,740</td>
<td>5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>43,833</td>
<td>24,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inkind Funds &amp; Match</td>
<td>386,683</td>
<td>186,195</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** $3,468,586

"Other expenses include: volunteer costs; parent services; accounting and legal services; publications/ advertising/printing; training and staff development; insurance (including college coursework); and insurance (bording, directors’ and officers’ liability, and general liability)."
KCHS observes and assesses teacher performance throughout the program year, in particular assessing the quality of teacher-child interactions. KCHS’ Center of Excellence funding has enabled the program to enhance teacher mentoring in support of creating a high-quality learning environment in which purposeful interactions with children support learning. Assessors complete the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) twice a year in each preschool classroom to illustrate growth in teacher performance. CLASS scores range from 1 to 7, with 7 being the highest possible score. The tool looks at 10 dimensions, including language modeling, positive climate, teacher support, productivity, and concept development. These dimensions are grouped into overall domains of Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. The chart on the right includes CLASS scores as assessed by the Federal Review Team in September 2013, and comparison scores in the chart below as assessed by the Federal Review Team in July 2012. KCHS’ staff make referrals, with parent permission, as soon as possible after entrance into KCHS. In 2013, KCHS teachers continue to exceed the Head Start 2007 standards for classroom quality in Knox County classrooms when possible. During the 2012-2013 school year, all KCHS preschool teachers completed professional development and testing in the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment system to achieve inter-rater reliability, ensuring that child observation and assessment reporting is reliable.

To provide a baseline of kindergarten readiness for kindergarten teachers, a kindergarten readiness checklist was completed in May 2013, for 124 KCHS children transitioning to kindergarten and forwarded to each child’s elementary school.
Since 2009-2010, all Knox County Head Start Centers have been annually recognized with Step Up To Quality awards by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services – Bureau of Child Care and Development for exceeding state licensing standards and providing high-quality early childhood services. During 2012-2013, six of seven centers achieved or maintained two stars.

Three Star Centers:
- Centerburg Center, Danville Legion Center, Fredericktown Head Start and Child Care Center, Gambier Community Center
- New Hope Early Education Center, Northgate Center

Two Star Center:
- Gambier Child Care Center

### Summer Camp Program
School ages enjoyed 10 weeks of summer camp at the Gambier Child Care Center with 46 children participating in 1,380 units of camp. Programs included Art, Science, Cooking, Spy, Movie, Nature, Wild West, Team Building/Sportsmanship, and Recycling Weeks. Field trips included Honey Run Water Falls, Kenyon Science Lab, Velvet Ice Cream, and Columbus Clippers.

### 2012-2013 Financial Statements
From 9/8/2012 to 12/14/2012, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted an on-site monitoring review of the Knox County Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The Director, Office of Head Start, wrote, “Based on the information gathered during the review, it was determined that your Head Start and Early Head Start programs are in compliance with all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements. Accordingly, no corrective action is required at this time.” The CLASS Domain Areas were assessed by the Federal Review Team and those scores are included in this Annual Report. The following Areas of Strength were identified by the Federal Review Team:
- “Management Systems in the area of community partnerships, which directly benefit children and families, as well as in the implementation of the Conscious Discipline philosophy, for which the program was awarded a Center of Excellence designation in 2012.”
- “The grantee’s use of Conscious Discipline improved Human Resources management; promoted a positive approach to employee training, performance management, and discipline; and ultimately reduced employee turnover.”

The Agency was commended as a Center of Excellence by the Federal Head Start Review Team in their January 22, 2013, letter citing KCHS for the implementation of Conscious Discipline® philosophy, which provided a thorough, holistic approach to child and family mental health and improved classroom management.

### Nurturing Potential through Conscious Discipline®
KCHS’ implementation of the Conscious Discipline® (CD®) philosophy provides a comprehensive and holistic approach to child and family mental health, improves classroom management, and gives staff and parents tools to promote healthy behaviors.

KCHS’ approach to CD® begins at the leadership and service-area levels. It is incorporated into classrooms and transportation operations and guides mental health services and parenting trainings.

KCHS embraced CD® in response to the repeated results of community assessments, self assessments, and employee and parent surveys identifying a critical need for supports for behavioral and classroom management.

A central tenet of the CD® philosophy revolves around adults taking responsibility for their own behavior — learning to discipline themselves first and their children second. This helps adults to best model appropriate behavior for children and to be the person they want the child to be.

Teachers and support staff are trained to intentionally create classroom safety, to develop rituals and structures for creating a school family, and to increase the use of movement and music to encourage healthy brain development in young children.

The common language used in CD® and its consistent use is one of the strongest methods of implementing the practices and a significant reason why CD® improves quality at every level. When collaborators work within classrooms, when children transition between centers due to family changes, and when substitute employees move between centers, this common language creates cohesiveness and safety. Everywhere, employees remind each other and students to breathe, to be a STAR (Smile, Take A Deep Breath, and Relax), to recognize that “It is what it is” in assuming responsibility when dealing with difficult situations, and to approach conflicts as opportunities to teach.

KCHS conducts at least two six-week Conscious Parenting trainings annually, three two-hour, single-topic trainings for expectant parents and parents of infants/toddlers, and one six-hour “Conscious Couples” training. The chart below details statistics for the trainings in 2012-2013. KCHS also provided a six-week Active Parenting Now training for parents of elementary school age children.

### Community Impact
- 220 Head Start fathers participated in a series of courses
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We know that fathers are important in the lives of children. This year, 220 Head Start fathers or father figures participated in classroom or family events.