

# HEAD START



## 2016 PROGRAM REPORT

Head Start Program Director: Melanie Harrell

### OUR YEAR

- 234 children and families served
- 108 children transitioned to kindergarten
- 100% Average Monthly Enrollment
- 86% Average Monthly Attendance
- 798 volunteers engaged
- Estimated 38% of eligible children served\*

\*Based on information collected from US Census Bureau

### JOE'S STORY: MENDING A HEART AND SAVING A LIFE

Little 4-year-old Joe is alive and healthy today because of OVO Head Start. Health is a priority in our Head Start Program, and all of our preschoolers are required to have routine physical, dental, vision, and mental health screenings while attending school. During Joe's routine dental check-up, our dentist found a severely abscessed tooth requiring immediate attention. Our Family Support Specialists worked with Joe's family to schedule his appointments and coordinate transportation for his dental operation. Since his family does not speak English, we were also able to provide a translator to guide his family through this process and help them make informed medical decisions for their child. While running tests in preparation for his dental surgery, doctors discovered Joe was in acute respiratory distress and had a heart murmur due to a hole in his heart. Joe had the necessary heart surgery to repair the hole and is doing very well. This condition could have had a devastating effect on Joe and his family, but due to the health screenings provided to him through his enrollment in OVO Head Start, doctors were able to detect and treat his condition in time and save his life. Now that Joe has received the medical attention he desperately needed, he is back to being a healthy and playful child again. He was able to return to Head Start classes and continue his journey to kindergarten readiness!

### WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT US

During the 2016 Head Start Family Survey, we received a **96% or higher** satisfaction rating for *all services* surveyed to include family, community, educational, and special needs services. **95%** of parents and guardians stated that their children were more prepared for kindergarten, and **98%** said that they had learned the process to transition their child to the next step in his or her education. **96%** percent of parents stated that they had improved their relationship with their child while enrolled in Head Start. Overall, **98%** of Head Start families agree they *would recommend this program to a friend or family member*.

*"OVO has been a part of my life for over 10 years and has helped my children, my family, and myself deal with several life changes we have had. None of my kids would be who they are today without OVO, nor would I. I feel that OVO Head Start is a very important program, and I recommend all my friends and family to send their children. OVO not only helped with my children's education, but they helped them become great people. OVO staff will always be a part of my family even after my child goes on to Kindergarten.."* -Helen, Head Start Parent

*"We have had a very good experience this year. The staff are friendly, very supportive, and caring! We were impressed by all the learning that was achieved!."* -Brandon, Head Start Parent

*"They have really helped my child. She has learned her ABC's, numbers, colors, and how to get along with other children. They are really great with our children. We are thankful to have OVO."*

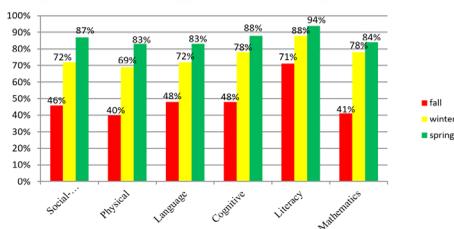
-Bill, Head Start Parent

#### OHIO VALLEY OPPORTUNITIES

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## Health Services

Here at Head Start, we understand that working to make sure children in our classrooms are healthy increases their potential for learning and development. Through participation in Head Start, 99% were determined to be up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care according to the Indiana Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) schedule for well child care. Eighteen of our students were diagnosed with a chronic condition needing medical treatment, and 100% of these children received the necessary treatment for their conditions. 97.9% percent of enrolled children were determined to be up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for their age. We were also pleased to assist 97% of our families in establishing a medical home and 91.5% in finding a dental home.



## Increase Access to Mental Health Services for Children

OVO was pleased to continue its partnership with Project LAUNCH, operated by One Community One Family, to assist in continuing to fully implement the Conscious Discipline® Program. This evidence-based, social-emotional program helps teach children to self regulate while assisting our staff in managing behavior and creating an emotionally healthy classroom environment. Project LAUNCH continued to provide materials and resources for our Head Start classrooms, onsite training for our staff, and registration and travel fees for three of our staff to participate in the national conference on Conscious Discipline this year. We'd like to extend a very special thank you to Project LAUNCH and One Community One Family for offering such amazing support and resources to our Head Start Program!

## Community Support

Each year, we are overwhelmed by the incredible support of individuals and businesses in our community. Their giving of time, talent, and treasure are integral in making our Head Start Program a success. Our program had a total of 798 volunteers throughout the year. Of our total volunteers, 46% were current or former Head Start parents or guardians, who we are so pleased to see continuing to engage in the program after their children transition on to kindergarten and beyond. With community support, we were able to match our federal Head Start grant with \$452,546 in donations, volunteer time, supplies, services, and local funds.

# CELEBRATING SUCCESS

## School Readiness

As a way to analyze the effectiveness of our curriculum, teaching strategies, and education goals, we collect data and formally analyze Child Outcomes three times throughout the year. The 2016 results are summarized in the chart at left. Child outcomes allow us to track progress throughout the school year and inform our teachers on areas on which to focus to maximize learning potential in their classrooms. All Head Start parents participated in Family Conferences to develop educational goals and learn about their child's progress in Head Start. School readiness goals were developed around the five essential domains of the Head Start framework, parent input, and recommendations from local school systems. A total of 108 children transitioned to Kindergarten in May 2016.

## Family Support

A total of 217 families received family support services during the 2015-16 school year. Family Night events brought parents, guardians, and their children together for fun activities and seminars on kindergarten transition, community resources, health services for children, and valuable parenting skills. Eighty-six percent of families worked with our Family Support Specialists to get referrals to community resources as well as to set goals that help move them toward self-sufficiency and academic success for their children. Of our families enrolled, 64% had at least one working parent. Fourteen families and 2 Community Representatives participated in Policy Council to provide input on program operations and guide program policies, while also developing their own leadership skills.



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## OUR PROGRAM

Head Start provided early childhood education, health, and family support services to 234 children and families. We operated 11 classrooms in four Centers, and a Home Based program. Seven classes provided full day services four days per week, and four part day classes operated four days per week. 39 children (16.7%) were diagnosed with a documented disability and received special education services. Transportation services were provided to 220 children. Three of the four Centers operate as Licensed Child Care Centers and were active participants in the Paths to QUALITY (PTQ) Program Rating System, which is administered by the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration. The Licensed Centers operated at PTQ Level 3. Our fourth Center was located at Southwestern Elementary School in Hanover.

## WHAT OUR STAFF ARE SAYING ABOUT US

During the 2016 Employee Satisfaction Survey, **98%** of Head Start employees were satisfied working in the Head Start department. **100%** reported satisfaction with the work of their direct supervisor and the positive work environment they foster. Additionally, **100%** were satisfied with their career progression at OVO. The most commonly cited answers for what staff stated they liked best about working in Head Start were *“working closely with the children and their families”* and *“tackling projects and problems as a team.”*

## WHAT'S NEXT IN 2017

### Improve Classroom Environment and Quality

Quality education and positive classroom environments are hallmarks of Head Start. One of the way in which we maximize our child outcomes and ensure the highest standards are achieved in our classrooms is by effectively supporting our educators and teaching staff. Moving into 2017, we will be implementing a research-based Practice-Based Coaching Model. This professional development strategy assists teachers in taking what they learn in training and implementing these best practices in their classrooms. By using this method, we will be providing the highest level of support for our teachers, which in turn will provide the best possible learning environments for our preschoolers.

### Improve Children and Family's School Readiness Skills

It is our goal at Head Start to provide comprehensive assistance to our families in developing the social, physical, emotional, and intellectual skills necessary for success in kindergarten and beyond. In 2017, we will be focusing on further strengthening tools to improve both children's and their parents' school readiness skills. We will be providing additional support and educational opportunities for parents. We will also be focusing on new ways to meet the physical and mental wellness needs of our students that will maximize their potential. By developing new community partnerships and strengthening existing ones, we will be able to provide additional resources that support our families on their journey.

### Strengthen Conscious Discipline Methods

The further development and implementation of the Conscious Discipline Program continues to be a goal for the coming year. By strengthening our staff's competency in this program, we will be supporting our students' social-emotional learning and creating the best possible learning environment. We will be providing training geared to both our new and seasoned staff to ensure they are confident in their knowledge and skills of the program. We will also continue to increase access to classroom materials and resources that support the full implementation of Conscious Discipline in our classrooms. We will be providing additional coaching and onsite monitoring in our Centers, supported by the new Practice-Based Coaching Model utilized in our program.

## MOST RECENT REVIEW BY THE ADMINISTRATION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (ACF)

The FY 2013 Onsite Monitoring Review identified one area of non-compliance related to 1304.40(a)(1); the grantee did not engage in a collaborative partnership-building process with parents to identify family goals, necessary services, and other supports. Upon ACF Follow up Review, the non-compliance was corrected. Based on CLASS Observations conducted during the December 2012 Federal Review, the grantee exceeded the minimum requirements for each Domain (Emotional Support–4, Classroom Organization–3, and Instructional Support–2). However, the grantee fell among the lowest 10% of the Emotional Support Domain and therefore, has been determined to re-compete for funding as required in the Head Start Act of 2007. In addition, the grantee ranked among the highest 10% of Instructional Support.

## RESULTS FROM CLASS™ OBSERVATIONS-DEC. 2012

Domain	Score
Emotional Support	5.4231
Classroom Organization	5.4103
Instructional Support	3.3718

OHS CLASS Descriptive Statistics, 2013  
National Distribution of Grantee-Level Domain Scores

Domain	Lowest 10%	Median (50%)	Highest 10%
Emotional Support	5.5417	5.99	6.44
Classroom Organization	5.0556	5.62	6.17
Instructional Support	2.1061	2.71	3.35

## OVO INTERNAL OBSERVATION-2015

Domain	Score
Emotional Support	6.52
Classroom Organization	5.73
Instructional Support	4.8

OHS CLASS® Descriptive Statistics, 2015  
National Distribution of Grantee-Level Domain Scores

Domain	Lowest 10%	Median (50%)	Highest 10%
Emotional Support	5.6563	6.04	6.37
Classroom Organization	5.2708	5.82	6.28
Instructional Support	2.2262	2.78	3.69