Reflections From Our Director

Dear Friends,

Success can be defined in several ways – some use their celebrity status in society, others their wealth and still others their intellect to prove themselves successful. A person with any of these traits would be considered successful. A good-paying job can be a blessing to a new father’s success. A young child who learns that “5” follows “4” is triumphant in the eyes of his teacher and proud parents. Much of this kind of success comes not only because of hard work, but also because of a relationship with those who can help them achieve their goals. Relationships have always been an important part of Head Start. We cannot teach children letters if we do not have a connection. We cannot help the struggling mother if she does not believe that we have her best interests at heart. Relationships have netted much success this year. We look at the children who have achieved “mastery” or “almost mastery” of the age appropriate skills needed for kindergarten readiness.

enrolled ABC/HS classrooms meeting our full funded enrollment for the first time in several years. Relationships with our federal and regional administrators have brought opportunities for parents of infants and toddlers as we change our scope of services from serving only Head Start children to begin serving Early Head Start children. Beginning in the fall of 2019, infants, toddlers and pregnant women will have these needed services in the Forrest City Center, thus offering services in a previously unserved area of the Delta. It has also brought more funding to the agency in the form of Gift In-Kind as national Save the Children donors such as Chobani have donated goods and services that support our programs. Training partnerships with the Division of Child Care and Early Learning and ARcare Center for Education and Wellness have provided free training opportunities for staff. The success stories are endless. In short, Save the Children Eastern Arkansas relies on connections, associations and relationships everyday as a provider of Head Start.

Sincerely,

Jana Bays
Save the Children Head Start Program Director
Arkansas
jbays@savechildren.org

About Arkansas Head Start

We look at the homeless families who have found housing since beginning our program. We look to those parents who have participated in parent training to understand further the skills needed for future success for themselves and their families. Because our staff has built relationships with the children and their families, we are better prepared to help them in their next step.

As an agency, we have worked on relationships with local and state programs to aid families. By building a connection with local state-funded ABC programs, we have developed partnerships to enroll children in dually

Management Team

Jana Bays, Program Director
Sheri Davis, Human Resources Manager
Sarah Julian, Early Childhood Education and Disabilities Specialist
Terrilyn Mills, Health and Nutrition Specialist
Joyce Taylor, Parent, Family, Community Engagement Coordinator

Save the Children has been operating the E-AR Head Start Program in three eastern counties (St. Francis, Lee
and Woodruff) since 2011. Head Start services have been provided in two Head Start Centers, one in Forrest City in St. Francis County and the other in Patterson in Woodruff County. In August 2018, we developed a new partnership with ARcare Center for Education and Wellness in Augusta, AR located in Woodruff County. ARcare served 30 children in two dual enrolled Head Start and state-funded Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) classrooms. In December, in an effort to obtain full enrollment, we succeeded in developing a second ABC/HS partnership with the Forrest City School District in Forrest City (St. Francis County). This dual enrolled ABC/HS classroom served another 17 children, which allowed us to maintain full enrollment from December through the end of the program year in May.

Program highlights:
• 100% of children had some form of health insurance.
• 100% of children were fully immunized.
• 29.8% of children had an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and received services for their disability.

Service Area Map showing programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counties with Head Start programs served by Save the Children Head Start E-AR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Save the Children Head Start Centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save the Children partnership dual enrolled ABC/HS centers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Save the Children Administration Office</td>
</tr>
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**Average Monthly Enrollment E-AR** 90%
**Percentage of Eligible Children Served** 100%
**Children Who had a Medical Home** 100%
**Children Who had a Dental Home** 97.8%
**Number of Local Head Start Staff** 16
**Number of Local ABC/HS Partnership Staff** 9

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

Save the Children prides itself of leading Head Start programs that are two-generational, serving children and parents alike. During the 2018-19 school year, we:
• Completed family assessments with all families and helped families with resources to meet family goals.
• Held parent-training opportunities using Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) curriculum.
• 100% of families received some family support services.
• Two homeless families moved into permanent homes
• 100 volunteers helped obtain Non-Federal Match

In August 2018, three-year-old Ryder enrolled in the Patterson Head Start Center. Ryder lived with his disabled Mom, Dad and a younger sibling. When Ryder first started in Head Start, he was still in pull-ups, did not know how to use a fork, spoon or cup to feed himself and he did not have any language skills. His parents had been told he had learning disabilities, but they didn’t have a way to get help for him, in fact, they didn’t even know how to help him learn.

Soon after Ryder began attending the center, the staff at Patterson Head Start Center made sure he received a developmental screen from the local co-op. They took time to evaluate Ryder’s skills and was able to explain carefully to his parents about the special services he would need to be ready for kindergarten. Both the Head Start staff and the local therapists worked closely to include the parents in his educational learning, sending home activities for them to do with him at home. At the end of the program year, Ryder’s parents were amazed at how much he learned during the year.

**ARKANSAS HEAD START BY THE NUMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Centers</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Children &amp; Families Served</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Served by Head Start</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families Served by Head Start</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KINDERGARTEN READINESS
The transition to kindergarten is a major milestone in the lives of children and their families. In addition, when transitions are well planned, children have fewer adjustment problems and more continuous developmental success. This year, twenty-five children graduated from Head Start and are beginning their elementary school years this fall in kindergarten.

Here are just some of the ways we helped both children and families prepare for kindergarten:

• **TS GOLD shows children meeting or exceeding expectations across domains.** Data showed that at the end of the year children met expectations in the following areas:
  - 94% in Social & Emotional Development
  - 94% in Physical Development
  - 83% in Cognitive Development
  - 97% in Literacy Development
  - 87% in Mathematics

• **Twenty-eight children received special needs services during the year.** The local LEA staff screened children within 45-days of enrollment and then provided one-on-one therapy services in each center to promote learning and development. Teachers helped to continue learning throughout the week in the classroom and sent activities to parents to do at home to support their child’s learning.

• **Parents are involved in helping develop their child’s developmental goals.** Head Start teachers worked closely with parents to develop individual learning goals and planning activities to support learning both in the classroom and at home.

• **Head Start children had over 80,000 books read to them at home and in their classroom during the program year through reading one-on-one.**

LOOKING AHEAD
Building upon a successful 2018-19 school year, Save the Children Head Start in Arkansas continues to make School Readiness our primary goal to ensure that children are ready for kindergarten.

Another important goal is to maximize each child’s learning potential to become life-long learners. This involves not only helping each child love to learn, but also helping every child to be physically, emotionally and socially ready to learn and this begins at birth. In order for our teachers to be successful in helping children love to learn, we have to empower parents to be their child’s “first” teacher. This involves helping parents understand and learn how to be an advocate for their child, be a partner with their child’s teacher and be willing to promote and encourage their child to learn. Children have a higher potential to become life-long learners when their parents support and promote learning at home and school. Changes made to our Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) policies and procedures will make it easier for Head Start staff to empower parents in taking the lead role in assessing their family needs and using those outcomes to develop family goals to move themselves and their family toward positive change.

Promoting staff development continues to be an essential part of successful classroom learning. Staff training and professional development plays a key role in the strategic plan for education services. Save the Children ensures that staff training needs are identified and addressed throughout the year. In addition to professional development, appropriate monitoring practices including classroom observation of education staff provide opportunities for coaching. This offers opportunities to guide and support teachers to become more proficient classroom teachers. Two staff completed the Head Start Family Service Credential this year and two staff completed Pre-School Conscious Discipline training. Two of the leadership staff are continuing their education, the Education Specialist is enrolled in a Master’s level Early Childhood Special Education course of study and the PFCE Coordinator is completing her degree in Family Studies.
FINANCIALS
In 2018, the Eastern Arkansas Head Start program received $682K, mostly in public funds and gift-in-kind donations. This is a decrease from 2017 due to the program seeing some enrollment challenges. The program is now back to full enrollment for 2019. The majority of funds in 2018 – approximately $485K, or 71 percent – were used for Personnel costs, with the remainder of funds used for facilities, supplies, or other program implementation costs.

SOURCES OF FUNDING
Total Budget: $682,026

FY18 BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES

SECRETARY REVIEW & FINANCIAL AUDIT RESULTS
Save the Children’s Head Start programs are included in the annual Save the Children A-133 Audit. There were no findings related to Head Start in the audit for fiscal year ending 2017 and 2018. Save the Children Head Start AR had no Office of Head Start reviews during the 2018-2019 program year.

PROPOSED FY19 BUDGET
Our projected FY19 budget is $883 thousand, an increase due to COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) funds being awarded and the program achieving full enrollment. Below is the allocation breakdown for the type of funding on the left and the cost category on the right.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

FY19 PROJECTED EXPENDITURES

- Gifts In Kind
- Public
- Undesignated
# Arkansas Head Start Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>ZIP</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration Office</td>
<td>2022 E Broadway Avenue</td>
<td>Forrest City</td>
<td>AR</td>
<td>72335</td>
<td>(870) 494-4010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCare Center For Education &amp; Wellness (ABC)</td>
<td>800 Main Street</td>
<td>Augusta</td>
<td>AR</td>
<td>72006</td>
<td>(870) 347-3400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forrest City Head Start</td>
<td>954 Rice Street</td>
<td>Forrest City</td>
<td>AR</td>
<td>72335</td>
<td>(870) 633-2821</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patterson Head Start</td>
<td>113 N Main</td>
<td>Patterson</td>
<td>AR</td>
<td>72123</td>
<td>(870) 731-2005</td>
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Save the Children’s Commitment to Head Start

Every child deserves the best chance for a bright future. That is why, for 100 years, Save the Children has been working in the United States and around the world to keep children healthy, educated and safe. We deliver lasting results for millions of children, including those hardest to reach. Here at home, that means focusing our efforts on serving children in rural America. From our earliest days in Appalachia to the present, Save the Children is committed to meeting children’s needs, going where others cannot, filling critical gaps in services and delivering scalable solutions to the challenges children face.

In 2011, Save the Children identified a failing Head Start program in eastern Arkansas with no viable local providers. In the absence, Save the Children applied for and was awarded our first Head Start grant. Since then, we have been awarded additional grants and currently operate Head Start and Early Head Start programs in rural communities in four states: Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina and North Dakota.

Questions about Save the Children’s work in Arkansas may be directed to Jana Bays by email at jbays@savechildren.org or by phone at (479) 970-6136. Khari Garvin serves as the Executive Director of Save the Children is Head Start Programs and can be reached at kgarvin@savechildren.org.