RAPIDES PARISH
HEAD START
ANNUAL REPORT

2018-19 School Year Results
Reflections from Our Director

Dear Friends,

Save the Children has been the Head Start/Early Head Start grantee in Rapides Parish, since February 2015. I have had the pleasure of serving as the Program Director of this program, since that time. Over the past few years, we have seen our program culture shift to one that focuses specifically on child safety, kindergarten readiness and continuous quality improvement.

The community of Rapides Parish is our primary concern, as we work to educate children and their parents from pre-birth to five years of age. Our program offers center-based and home-based services, as well as services to pregnant mothers. In recent years, we have increased our focus on children with disabilities, and by reserving a minimum of 3%, of our funded enrollment, for homeless families.

We have made great investments in training our staff in child safeguarding, active supervision and the Conscious Discipline curriculum, which focuses on the emotional health of children.

Save the Children Head Start in Rapides Parish has partnered with many agencies in the community including, the Rapides Parish School System and the Department of Children and Family Services, to ensure quality educational experiences for children and families in our community.

My team and I take pleasure in serving the families of Rapides Parish and are looking forward to greater successes in the future.

Sincerely,

Nicole A. Hall

Nicole A. Hall
Save the Children Head Start Program Director
Rapides Parish, Louisiana
nhall@savetchildren.org
About Rapides Parish Head Start

Save the Children has been operating Head Start and Early Head Start Programs in Rapides Parish since February 2015. During the 2017-18 school year, we served a total of 933 children, 23 pregnant mothers and 818 families with critical early childhood education opportunities.

There were a total of 177 staff during PY 18-19. Staff were provided trainings in Recognizing Child Abuse & Neglect, Child Safeguarding, Active Supervision, Conscious Discipline, Working with Children with Challenging Behaviors, TS Gold and Creative Curriculum.

In PY 18-19, Save the Children-Rapides, met and exceeded the OHS for non-federal share. The Program was also spotlighted on “Good Day Cenla”, a local news show that highlights businesses for their service to the community.

Several facility projects that began in PY 17-18 were finalized in PY 18-19. Those were the renovation of the Lee center kitchen, the opening of The Bayou center on the England Air Base, the renovation of the Jackson Street center to include additional Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms, as well as a new Early Head Start playground. Also in PY 18-19, a facility application was submitted to and approved by the Office of Head Start, for a $550,000 addition, to the McKeithen facility, which will add an additional three Head Start and three Early Head Start classrooms to the facility. A facility application was also submitted to and approved by the Office of Head Start, for $750,000, to demolish and rebuild the Windsor center, which will provide an additional four Head Start and three Early Head Start classrooms to our service area.
**RAPIDES PARISH HEAD START BY THE NUMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Centers</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Children &amp; Families Served</td>
<td>933</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children Served by Head Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Families Served by Head Start</td>
<td>579</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children Served by Early Head Start</td>
<td>292</td>
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<tr>
<td>Families Served by Early Head Start</td>
<td>239</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Monthly Enrollment</td>
<td>97%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage of Eligible Children Served</td>
<td>98%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children Who Received Medical Exams</td>
<td>885</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children Who Received Dental Exams</td>
<td>865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Local Head Start Staff</td>
<td>177</td>
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**PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

Save the Children – Rapides prides itself of leading Head Start programs that are two-generational, serving children and parents alike. During the 2018-19 school year, we:

- Conducted the Family Needs Assessments with families and helped families with resources to meet family goals
- Adopted the Center for Social and Emotional Framework for Early Learning (CSEFEL) parenting curriculum
- Conducted educational/health fairs to link families to local resource agencies.

Jakob Frazier and his mom, Katasha traveled to NYC for Save the Children’s annual gala with Head Start Program Director, Nicole Hall. Jakob is a charming, four-year-old boy who attended one of our Head Start centers in Rapides Parish, LA. I have witnessed Jakob’s progress over the past year – once shy and withdrawn, now gaining confidence in school and blossoming into a leader in the classroom. He is just one of the 832 children we serve, in Rapides Parish, through Head Start and Early Head Start. Jakob did us right by stealing the show, with Jennifer Garner, on stage. The opportunity to showcase our community and programs was incredible. Jakob will begin kindergarten, this fall, and no doubt will continue to lead among his peers.

**KINDERGARTEN READINESS**

The transition to kindergarten is a major milestone in the lives of children and their families. And when that transition is well planned, children have fewer adjustment problems and more continuous developmental success. This year, 102 children graduated from Head Start and are beginning their elementary school careers this fall.

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

- **TS GOLD shows increase of children meeting or exceeding expectations across domains.** Data shows an 18% increase in physical, 20% in Social Emotional, Cognitive and Literacy and 24% in Language domains from fall to spring.

- **Fifty-eight children received special needs services during the year.** 44 Head Start children with disabilities had an IEP and 14 EHS children had an IFSP and received one-on-one therapy services in their center to promote learning and development. IEP and IFSP goals are part of the weekly lesson plan so individual learning occurs every day.

- **Parents are involved in helping develop their child’s developmental goals.** Parents begin supporting their child’s education beginning at 6 weeks old and throughout their child’s enrollment in Head Start by helping to development individual learning goals and planning activities to support learning.
LOOKING AHEAD
Building upon a successful 2018-19 school year, Save the Children Head Start – Rapides continues to make School Readiness our primary goal to ensure that children are ready for kindergarten.

Save the Children has developed a Birth to Five strategic plan to help enhance the education services of all enrolled children. The plan outlines comprehensive strategies in the form of both short and long-term goals in an effort to build capacity within education. Streamlining procedures for data collection, unifying the implementation of curriculum, improving the application of assessments, CLASS and ITERS, data and ensuring classrooms are completely supplied with materials are goals set in an effort to enhance curriculum assessment and instruction.

Promoting staff development is an essential part of successful classroom learning. Staff training and professional development plays a key role in the strategic plan for education services. STC 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.

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.
FINANCIALS
In 2018, the Rapides Head Start program received $7.145 million, mostly in public funds and gift-in-kind donations. The majority of funds in 2018—approximately $4.42M, or 62 percent—were used for Personnel costs, with the remainder of funds used for facilities, transportation, supplies, or other program implementation costs.

SOURCES OF FUNDING
Total Budget: $7.145M

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.
PROPOSED FY19 BUDGET
Our projected FY19 budget is $8.22 million, an increase from the previous year. The program received COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) funds, as well as construction funds. 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

Rapides Parish Head Start Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>ZIP</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>1335 Jackson Street</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>LA</td>
<td>71301</td>
<td>(318) 704-5686</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lakeview</td>
<td>600 Lakeview Street</td>
<td>Pineville</td>
<td>LA</td>
<td>71360</td>
<td>(318) 625-7309</td>
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<td>Lee</td>
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<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>LA</td>
<td>71301</td>
<td>(318) 619-2997</td>
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<td>McKeithen</td>
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<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>LA</td>
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<td>(318) 487-5117</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summerwood</td>
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<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>LA</td>
<td>71303</td>
<td>(318) 427-1286</td>
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<td>The Bayou</td>
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<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>LA</td>
<td>71303</td>
<td>(318) 704-5563</td>
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<td>The Pines</td>
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<td>Pineville</td>
<td>LA</td>
<td>71360</td>
<td>(318) 704-6761</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carter C. Raymond</td>
<td>2510 St. Charles Ave.</td>
<td>Lecompte</td>
<td>LA</td>
<td>71346</td>
<td>(318) 776-5489</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 nearly 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 are 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 that 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 {insert geography} may be directed to Nicole Hall, Program Director by email at nhall@savechildren.org or by phone at (318) 625-7337, ext. 209. Khari Garvin serves as the Executive Director of Save the Children’s Head Start Programs and can be reached at kgarvin@savechildren.org.