Jefferson Davis, Louisiana
HEAD START
ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020 School Year Results
Reflections from Our Director

Dear Friends,

The Save the Children Head Start Program has been serving low income children and their families in Jefferson Davis Parish since 2012. We are committed to making a difference in the lives of children and strive to serve the most vulnerable and at-risk children and their families in our community – including children who are experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and those with special needs.

In the fall of the 2019-2020 program year, we were approved by the Office of Head Start for an Early Head Start (EHS) slot conversion, through which we began serving sixteen (16) infants and toddlers birth to age three-years-old.

After much planning and development of the EHS classroom spaces at the Jennings center, we successfully opened our classrooms in November 2019. Many of the young children were siblings of our Head Start children. We continued to provide center-based Head Start services to 150 children in 9 classrooms at our Jennings and Elton centers.

In addition to our new EHS classrooms, we also re-arranged our Head Start classroom learning spaces and added Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) materials for children purchased through a $10,000 grant we received from the Walmart Foundation. We also began the year with a focus on improving the well-being of staff with training on workplace compassion and mindfulness. We subsequently set up mindfulness space in our centers to provide staff a quiet place to take breaks throughout the day, as needed. Also, we incorporated our “take 5” breaks for staff when they felt overwhelmed or just needed time to collect themselves.

Spring 2020 brought a set of challenges we had never experienced before. In mid-March, our centers were forced to close their doors and transition to distance learning in order to protect the health and safety of our children, families and staff as the COVID-19 virus spread throughout our communities. However, through the hard work of staff, we were able to maintain contact with each family and continue learning activities with children from home. As we navigate through the new and unexpected challenges brought on by this pandemic, and despite the changes we’ve had to make, we remain committed to our mission to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in children’s lives.

As we begin another year, we are taking extra precaution to ensure everyone remains safe. We are, and always have been, in this together; and it is our privilege to continue to bring Head Start and Early Head Start services to our communities. We will continue to build relationships that motivate people to create and sustain positive changes in their own lives. We are proud of our accomplishments and want to share them with you. Please take time to learn about the great work we are doing for children and families in Jefferson Davis Parish.

Sincerely,

Johnnie Belle Chavis

Johnnie Belle Chavis
Save the Children Head Start Program Director
Jefferson Davis, LA
ichavis@savechildren.org
About Louisiana Head Start

In July 2012, Save the Children was awarded $1,287,345 in base grant and technical assistance funds to serve 182 children in a Head Start center-based program in the parish of Jefferson Davis in Southwestern Louisiana. Area demographics show that there are about 802 children five years and under living at or below poverty in this parish. There are high rates of poverty, (especially child poverty) lack of education, teen births, obesity and infant mortality.

Program highlights:

- 90% of Head Start Teachers has B.S. degrees or higher
- 10% of Head Start Teachers has an Associate’s degree
- 100% of Head Start Assistant Teachers has a Child Development Associates or higher
- 90% of Early Head Start Teachers has an Infant/Toddler Child Development Associates
- 10% of Early Head Start Teachers has an Associates’ degree
- 100% of our Teachers and Teacher Assistants have the LA state ancillary teaching certificate
- 100% of our Family Services Coordinators has a Family Services Credential or higher
- An average of 290 volunteers helped achieve Non-Federal Match

Service Area Map showing both Jennings and Elton Centers within our Louisiana Jefferson Davis Head Start program

Save the Children Head Start Jefferson Davis, LA
BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Centers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Children &amp; Families Served</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with Disabilities Served</td>
<td>16/10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children who are transported by Save the Children buses</td>
<td>90/79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Eligible Children Served</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Local Head Start Staff</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Save the Children prides itself in leading Head Start programs that are two-generational, serving children and parents alike. During the 2019-20 program year, we:

- Partnered with families as they completed Family Needs Assessments, and helped families identify and access resources to meet family goals
- Held parent training opportunities using the Center for Social and Emotional Framework for Early Learning (CSEFEL) parenting curriculum in person and virtual
- Supported parents in their journey to achieve their GEDs and pursue higher education opportunities
- Families built their knowledge through attending educational/health fairs that the program conducted to link families to local resource agencies.
- Out of the 38 families that were homeless, 3 families obtained affordable housing.
- 15 families engaged in a financial literacy-learning module
PRE-KINDERGARTEN KINDERGARTEN READINESS
Save the Children Head Start Jefferson Davis Parish’s approach to School Readiness means that children are ready for kindergarten, families are ready to support their children’s learning, and the pre-kindergarten programs are ready for the children.

Save the Children Head Start created School Readiness Goals for Families to assist parents in ensuring that their children are prepared for kindergarten.

This plan focuses our efforts on ensuring children are kindergarten-ready by the end of the Head Start program year. Save the Children Head Start Jefferson Davis Parish will support children’s learning and progress toward achieving these School Readiness Goals!

The Head Start program made an effort to prepare children and their families for kindergarten by conducting transition meetings during the end of January and the beginning of February 2020. The goal of these meetings was to share with parents the necessary requirements for enrolling their child in kindergarten. Parents learned about their responsibilities for registering their child for kindergarten at the transition meetings. Children were unable to engage in the yearly Transition Day event in Jefferson Davis Parish where they spent 2.5 hours in a pre-K kindergarten/kindergarten classroom due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Health Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of children with an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children with continuous, accessible dental care provided by a dentist</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Who Received Medical Exams</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Who Received Dental Exams</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TSG Spring 2020 outcome was effected greatly due to limited families participating in the virtual classroom; therefore leaving us with Winter 2020 data.

**Year-End Summary- Birth - 4 Year Olds (As of Winter 2020) Program Wide**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Development</th>
<th>Number of Children Below Growth Range</th>
<th>Percentage of Children Below Growth Range</th>
<th>Number of Children Meeting or Above Growth Range</th>
<th>Percentage of Children Meeting or Above Growth Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social-Emotional</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**16 children received special needs services during the year.** 16 Head Start children with disabilities had an IEP and received therapy services in their center to promote learning and development. IEP goals are a part of the weekly lesson plan so individual learning occurs every day.

**Families engaged in reading to their children at home during the program year.** Every family in our program this year signed up for our Raising a Reader program. In this program each child brings a backpack home with 4 books each week. Parents sign that they read books to children and completed an activity with their child. In addition, we have a book of the month, use books for parent events, and this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic we distributed books, games, and toys to every family, which enabled each child to have an at home library of 45 books each.
LOOKING AHEAD

As we move into the new program year in 2020-2021 we will make many positive changes to our services to ensure children, families and staff stay healthy and safe as they participate in Head Start services during a pandemic. With some children being served in classrooms and some being served through virtual learning at home, we have adopted the Creative Curriculum Cloud platform to enhance learning at home and in the classroom. The Cloud allows teachers to develop learning activities for children in the classroom to promote readiness skills and the teachers can share the same activities with parents of home learners so that both classroom and home learners are completing activities that support development of readiness skills regardless of where they are learning. We are emphasizing that parents are their child’s first and most important teacher. Through the Cloud, parents will also be able to not only help their child learn, but also help support their child’s ongoing assessment by submitting observations and/or photos to the teacher to upload as part of the child’s assessment portfolio. We will partner with families to support their progress toward improved well-being and self-sufficiency. Parents will be able to participate in CSEFEL (Center on the Social Emotional Foundations of Early Learning) training during the year. Additional training will also be provided to parents based on family needs and trends learned from the Family Needs Assessment completed by families during the year.
FINANCIALS
In 2019, the Jefferson Davis Head Start program received $2,009 million, mostly in public funds and gift-in-kind donations. The majority of funds in 2019 – approximately $1.33M, or 66 percent – were used for personnel costs, with the remainder of funds used for facilities, supplies, or other program implementation costs.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

FY19 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 2019.

FY20 BUDGET
Our FY20 budget is $1.936 million, a decrease due to carrying large projects into 2019 from the previous year that will not be carried into 2020. Below is the allocation breakdown for the type of funding on the left and the cost category on the right.
Head Start Annual Report
Save the Children Head Start Jefferson Davis Parish 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/Jennings Center</td>
<td>306 South Lake Arthur Ave.</td>
<td>Jennings</td>
<td>LA</td>
<td>70546</td>
<td>(337) 616-9556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elton Center</td>
<td>209 Al Woods Street</td>
<td>Elton</td>
<td>LA</td>
<td>70532</td>
<td>(337) 584-3015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 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 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 (2), North Carolina and North Dakota.

Questions about Save the Children’s work in Jefferson Davis Parish be directed to Johnnie Belle Chavis by email at jchavis@savechildren.org or by phone at (337) 616-9556 ext. 101. Khari Garvin serves as the Executive Director of Save the Children is Head Start Programs and can be reached at kgarvin@savechildren.org.