NORTH DAKOTA
HEAD START
ANNUAL REPORT

2018-19 School Year Results
Reflections from Our Director

Dear Friends,

As a new Program Director, I am truly blessed to witness first-hand the positive influence Save the Children Head Start has for the constituent children and families we serve in northwestern North Dakota.

The quality of a child’s experiences in the first few years of life – positive or negative – helps shape how their brain develops. This development has a lasting impact on a child’s ability to learn and succeed in school and life. Caring relationships and connections with dependable, empathetic, and responsive adults are essential to a child’s healthy development to promote competence and personal well-being across the life course.

Fall of 2018 marked the expansion to two centers – we are proud to now serve two counties in North Dakota with a full-day classroom added in McKenzie County.

Community details and challenges of children we serve face includes homelessness, foster care, and some living in single parent households. Rapid growth in the oil and gas sector coupled with diverse economic development has attracted young people to ND. As a frame of reference to aid in understanding what this means for kids, families, and respective stakeholders:

• Notably, impact reflected to birth rate in 2007 was 445; birth rate reported in 2018 was nearly double at 835. The increase in the number of births has multiple ramifications as our local communities address current and future demand for childcare, youth programs and activities, and schools.

• A 64% increase in population of color in North Dakota from 2010 to 2018 as compared to a 16% increase in the U.S., by far the largest increase of any state.

• The local Public School Districts report enrollment has doubled in 10 years, and projections call for another 15 percent increase over the next five years.

• 17 families experienced homelessness that were served during the enrollment year; nine of which acquired housing during the enrollment year.

The importance of early childhood education and Head Start programs in particular thus cannot be understated. Please join me as we celebrate the contributions of the community to Head Start success in Williston & Watford City! Ongoing Head Start partnerships are critical to serve more children, reach those most at-risk, and provide comprehensive services to promote success in school and in life, and strengthen families.

Save the Children’s North Dakota Head Start programs are particularly grateful for the local community support provided by the City of Williston and Watford City respectively. Concordia Lutheran Church, Lions Club, McKenzie County Public School District, New Hope Church, ND Department of Public Instruction’s Child and Adult Care Food Program, Pioneer Museum of McKenzie County, PlayWorks Individual & Family Therapy, Sincere Smiles, Williams County Public School Districts, Williams & McKenzie County Social Services, Williston Convention & Visitor’s Bureau, Williston Public Library Bookmobile, Williston State College, and WilMac Multi-District Special Education Unit. Moreover, many thanks to our national Gifts-in-Kind sponsors to include Chobani and Scholastic Books to name a few.

A high-quality early childhood program provides a safe and nurturing environment while promoting the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of young children. An important indicator of quality is childcare provider/teacher’s level of education and continuing professional development. In addition, low staff turnover provides consistency of care for children.

Through transforming children’s lives now, we create the capacity to change the course of their future and of our communities.

With gratitude and many thanks,

Michelle D. Eslinger-Schneider
Michelle D. Eslinger-Schneider, M.B.A., Ed.D. Candidate Program Director, Save the Children Head Start – ND
About North Dakota Head Start

Save the Children has been operating the Head Start Program in Williston, ND since 2015. During the 2018-19 school year, we served a total cumulative enrollment of 82 families with critical early childhood education opportunities with a Center-based option. This was possible with the opportunity arising to add one full-day classroom in McKenzie County serving the Watford City community.

The funded enrollment for the program year was 85 with a requested reduction in enrollment to 64 available slots. There were 4 Head Start classrooms operated in total; of these, 2 operated in a double-session capacity. 34 children accessed full-day enrollment 5 days/week with 30 children in part-day enrollment 4 days/week. 22 of these children were enrolled in Head Start for the second year.

Number of locally staffed, budgeted positions equates to 17 personnel. Of the total staff, 8 are current or former Head Start parents. Professional development/training included 3 Program Aides receiving a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential in 2018-19. This highlights our ongoing commitment to retain and “grow” capabilities of all staff, strategically providing an investment to support our Teaching Teams in particular.

Our focus will now shift to highlight specific program accomplishments from the past school year.

North Dakota’s Save the Children Head Start teams work with parents and caregivers to provide a wide variety of experiences designed to enable each child to reach his or her full potential. To determine individual levels of each child’s development, all enrolled children are screened using a Brigance Developmental Screening tool. If necessary, with the family’s permission, further screenings are conducted to determine the need for special services. CLASS is the observation tool used by the program in support of teacher-child interactions. Teaching Strategies Gold is used by the programs to support on-going child assessment. Lesson planning incorporates language and literacy, social emotional, creative representation, movement and music, mathematics and science using the research proven Creative Curriculum, based on each child’s developmental level, interests and culture.

Second Steps, our social-emotional learning curriculum, supports an early childhood learning environment and uniquely equips children to function effectively with self-regulation techniques.
NORTH DAKOTA HEAD START
BY THE NUMBERS 2018-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Centers</th>
<th>2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Children &amp; Families Served</td>
<td>82</td>
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Average Monthly Enrollment
Total of 64 enrolled children, 47 in Williston & 17 in Watford City

Percentage of Eligible Children Served: 100.00%

Children Who Received Dental Exams: 79%

Children up-to-date on Immunizations: 96%

Mental Health professional consult with program staff about child's behavior/mental health: 89%

Number of Local Head Start Staff: 14

Number of children enrolled who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP): 13 children; 16%

PARENT INVOLVEMENT
Save the Children prides itself of leading Head Start programs that are two-generational, serving children and parents alike. Activities at our Williston & Watford City Head Start Centers included:

- Held a Pre-Enrollment Open House & Health Fair
- Hosted Monthly Parent Committee Meetings
- Family Service Coordinators launched and subsequently hosted Monthly CSEFEL (Center on the Social & Emotional Foundations for Early Learning) Parent Curriculum Sessions
- Monthly Policy Council Meetings
- Volunteering Opportunities in and out of the Classrooms and alongside Community Partners
- Parent Teacher Conferences and Home Visits
- Health & Nutrition Education
- Kindergarten Readiness for Preschoolers
- Fatherhood Involvement
- The Week of the Young Child Events
- Raising A Reader
- Family Days & Family Fun Nights
- Supported parents in their journey to achieve GEDs and pursue higher education opportunities

KINDERGARTEN READINESS
The transition to kindergarten is a major milestone in the lives of children and their families. Moreover, when this transition is streamlined, children have fewer adjustment problems and enjoy a higher rate of continuous developmental success. This year, 29 children transitioned from North Dakota Head Start programs and started elementary school in the fall.

LOOKING AHEAD
Building upon a successful 2018-19 school year top Head Start priorities focus on continual quality improvement:

- Child Safeguarding continues to be a top priority
- Successfully Recruit & Retain Qualified Staff
- Sustain above Average Daily Attendance of 85%
- Maintain 100% of Funded Enrollment
- Continue to Align Self-Monitoring Protocols
FINANCIALS
In 2018, the North Dakota Head Start program received $833K, mostly in public funds. This is an increase from 2017 due to the program receiving Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) funding. Approximately $558K – or 67% of funding – was used for Personnel costs, with 17% used for facilities and 16% for supplies and other program implementation costs.

SOURCES OF FUNDING
Total Budget: $833,853

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 $855K, an increase due to COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) funds being awarded for a third year in a row. Below is the allocation breakdown for the type of funding on the left and the cost category on the right.

SOURCES OF FUNDING
Total Budget: $855,664

FY19 PROJECTED EXPENDITURES
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, Mississippi and North Dakota.

Education is the road that children follow to reach their full potential in life, yet many children in need around the world do not get a quality education where they can learn and develop. Save the Children Head Start supports education programs for children both in the classroom and at home.

Questions about Save the Children’s work in northwestern North Dakota, serving Williams & McKenzie Counties, may be directed to Michelle D. Eslinger-Schneider, Program Director by email at mischneider@savechildren.org or by phone at 701-214-4053. Khari Garvin serves as the Executive Director of Save the Children’s Head Start Programs and can be reached at kgarvin@savechildren.org.