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# KHSA Newsletter

2011-12 Winter Edition



Joe Roberts has been named director of the Head Start Collaboration Office, with his first day on the job Friday, Dec. 16. Previously Quality Assurance and Information Technology Manager for Breckinridge-Grayson Programs, he replaces the retiring Earl Trevor.

In his new position, Roberts will work to develop partnerships on a state and local level among Head Start programs and Kentucky organizations, business and families. The goal is to increase the accessibility

of low-income families and their children to Head Start.

Roberts said he “wasn’t really looking” for a new job when the collaboration office director’s slot came open, but after he reviewed the criteria he decided to apply. The position was “highly competitive,” he said, and he’s “happy and humble” he was chosen for the job.

## *Change, Challenge, Promote*

The world continues to turn and Head Start continues to change, to challenge, and to promote quality services for our most vulnerable and at risk population. Just when we think we have the answer, it seems the question changes!!!!

Here at **Gateway** we have immersed ourselves in understanding the enormous amount of data we regularly collect and then becoming adept at using the data to drive continuous program improvement. As a piece of that puzzle, we have joyfully, okay well maybe not joyfully, but **willingly** accepted the challenge of establishing indicators and benchmarks

that will allow us to better record, track, and ultimately report family outcomes. It is a laborious process but we are excited by the many possibilities this will provide. We received two additional Head Start Body Start (HSBS) grants which brings our grand total of HSBS grant awards over the last few years to \$30,000. We have enhanced the outdoor areas to include various surfac-

ing and trees for shade.

During our holiday gathering, staff enjoyed a training session on “Getting Fiscally Fit in 2012.” The training was designed with staff in mind, and provided simple tips for cutting costs and ideas for planning and saving in 2012. The staff of Gateway wishes everyone a 2012 that is filled with joy. We wish everyone the

excitement and energy to continually move onward and upward, and the peace

that comes with knowing we are giving the best we have to offer. Happy New Year to all!!!!



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### *Inside this Edition...*

- ◆ Letter from the Editor
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- ◆ Lincoln County

### **Martina Roe**

KHSA Public Relations Officer  
KHSA Newsletter Editor

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### *Points of Interest...*

- ◆ Program Challenges
- ◆ Community Partnerships
- ◆ Family Involvement
- ◆ Scholarship Winner

## Visit from Mother Goose

One activity, many purposes – a recent visit by Mother Goose, a.k.a. Lea Wooldridge, *Lincoln County* Early Childhood Early Learning Mentor Coach, to all seventeen Head Start / Preschool / Early Head Start classrooms in Lincoln County to read classic tales to the young children served several purposes. One purpose of the activity was to promote literacy as a source of enjoyment, develop listening skills and oral language and build comprehension with the students. The visit also was a demonstration of appropriate reading strategies for the teaching

staff, “modeling” to help improve instructional practices. The Program used this opportunity to increase community awareness and parent education to benefit the children outside of the classroom. An extension of the sessions also included an informative article in the local community newspaper encouraging friends and parents to read to children often. The article included tips to use while sharing simple children’s stories to help grow strong readers. It also explained the importance of investing in children’s futures and our community’s future.



*Mother Goose's visit may have served more than one purpose, but the children just called it "fun".*

## Awesome Dad

*Licking Valley Head Start*, hosts an Awesome Dad Event every year in the fall, this year marked their third year for the event. Licking Valley serves Bracken, Mason, Lewis, Fleming, and Robertson Counties. Each child in the program takes home a nomination form to complete with their parents to nominate their dad to be the “Awesome Dad” explaining why they think their Dad or other Male Role Model is Awesome. There were over 100 nominations received this year. The nominations are reviewed to pick the most “Awesome Dad”, and all nominees are invited to attend the Awesome Dad Dinner. The dinner is the program’s effort to promote awareness for the importance of male role models in the lives of children we serve. The Awesome Dad Dinner

began with a chili supper and the nominees and families enjoyed the guest speakers Deputies Arnold Dodge and Justin Merrill of the Mason County Sheriff’s Department who also stressed the importance of male role models in the lives of children. Both Deputies spoke of many ways they have been involved with children in the community as well as their own and how rewarding it is for them and their children to spend quality time together. Each father/male role model is then recognized and given a framed copy of their child’s letter explaining why they are awesome, as well as a certificate and trophy. Pictures were taken of each family together and given to them.

This year’s “Awesome Dad” winner was Nathaniel Reed of Mason County, Mr. Reed and his children were given a gift basket full of items and activities for him and his children to do together. Nathaniel also serves on Licking Valley’s Policy Council as Chairperson.

The “Awesome Dad” event at Licking Valley has increased each year in the number of dad’s and male role models and their families in attendance since it began, there were over 100 in attendance at the



## Generous Community Members

On behalf of the *Floyd County Board of Education* and all its employees, Superintendent Henry Webb would like to thank the Brothers of the Wheel and God's Ministry of Jackscreek for helping make the season brighter for many of our Head Start students.

Superintendent Webb says, "The board team and I would like to thank the Brother od the Wheel and God's Ministry of Jackscreek for their generosity and for their commitment to the kids of Floyd County. Having a strong community is an essential support that our kids need and deserve."

On December 22nd, 2011, members of the community service oriented motorcycle club and volunteers from God's Ministry, along with Santa Claus, brought gifts of shoes and toys for Head Start students and their young family members. The Brothers of the Wheel organization has been helping children in the Head Start program during Christmas for 11 years. And Debbie Hall of God's Ministry of Jackscreek has been helping Head Start students and families in the community for years as well.

Brothers of the Wheel Vice President Ballard Plummer commented, "We are committed to community service and we want to help children the most. There are a lot of families in need and knowing we can help others makes our Christmas season better."

Anna Shepherd, Director of Head Start and Preschool, presented The Brothers of the Wheel with a plaque recognizing their 11 year commitment to the kids of Floyd County.



## Region IV Scholarship Winner

Ms. Gabrielle Brooke Harmon of Columbia, KY is the proud winner of the 2012 Region IV Head Start Association Scholarship for Head Start Graduates. Ms. Harmon will attend the Awards Gala at the Region IV Head Start Association Conference in Atlanta to accept her award.

Ms. Harmon participated in both Home Base and Center Base options while a *Lake Cumberland Head Start* student. Brooke states that "Head Start pushed me to be more self-reliant by learning how to do things for myself, and not to be so dependent on others."

While attending Adair County High School, Brooke was a strong academic student taking



Advanced and Accelerated courses maintaining a strong grade point average. Brooke was also developed and enhanced her leadership skills by serving as president of the 200+ member Adair County Future Farmers of American organization as well as serving as class officer for three years.

Brooke is currently attending Lindsey Wilson College pursuing a Primary-5 Education degree specializing in learning and behavioral disorders.