

KHSA Newsletter

Spring Edition, 2011

“Growing the Future World Together”



Wow, another great conference under our collective belts! There is no way an event like that can take place without the hard work of lots of people, including the conference committee, Lake Cumberland for working registration, all the presenters, the parents and especially Bob who really pulled the whole thing together! There was only one bad thing about the conference as far as I am concerned - we are having to say goodbye to three Directors. Aleece Jones, the Director at LKLP, and Ann Stewart, the Director of Bourbon County, are retiring from their positions. Aubrey Nehring, the Director of Audubon, has taken the position of Executive Director with that Agency. I can remember when I was a new Director coming into my first meeting and not really being comfortable in my role. Each of these people demonstrated a kindness and professionalism that I will never forget. I was amazed at their breadth of knowledge and insight, and continue to be. Your agencies will have large shoes to fill in hiring your replacement! We as the Head Start community thank you for your years of dedication, your guidance and your hearts. Our lives, as well as the lives of your staff and the children and families in your program, have been greatly enriched by your service. Good luck in all you do and God Bless!

Inside this Edition...

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Martina Roe

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KHSA Annual Conference

KHSA Family,

The 500+ photos from the 2011 KHSA Annual Conference are now online and ready for viewing and downloading. You can also order prints directly from the photo site. Here's the link to the Conference photos:

<http://khsa.shutterfly.com/>

Enjoy!

Bob Wilcher



The Executive Committee and Head Start Directors would like to send a special “Thank You” to Bob Wilcher for his hard work and dedication to the KHSA.



Points of Interest...

- ◆ Partnerships
- ◆ Prenatal Program
- ◆ Triennial Review
- ◆ Conference Highlights

Murray Head Start Values Partnerships

Murray Head Start began in 1965 by serving 23 preschool children during a summer program in Murray, Kentucky. The program was designed to provide a “Head Start” to low-income children as preparation for their entrance to Kindergarten. Over the years, the program has expanded to provide preschool services in the 8-county area of Western Kentucky. Our program serves the children and families of our region through partnerships with 11 local school districts, 2 universities, 2 local housing authorities, and a not-for-profit child care facility. These partnerships have enabled our program to provide many years of proven quality and innovative services to this area. Two Head Start classrooms and two Early Head Start classrooms are located on Murray State University's campus. These classrooms serve as a lab school setting for MSU students from a variety of departments. Nursing students, developmental psychology students, and interdisciplinary education students, among others, visit the classrooms for the purpose of observations, case studies, and hands-on activities with individual children as well as with small groups of children. Murray Head Start's partnership with MSU began in the early 1970's when Head Start classrooms moved from the Douglas School Building to the TRIO Building on campus. Two very visionary leaders, Dr. Betty Blodget, MSU Chair of the Department of Special Education, and the late Judy Whitten, former Head Start Director, forged a partnership that would lay the groundwork for many positive relationships to come. Murray Head Start not only contracted with the university for space but also to provide speech services. This successful model is still in place today. MSU Clinic supervisors serve as the Speech-Language Pathologists for those requiring speech services on their Individualized Education Plan. MSU Speech Pathology graduate students work one-one-one and in small groups with children in the classroom with minimal pull-out. Their supervisors, present for each session, provide feedback and guided reflection. This partnership, with the Division of Communication Disorders, eventually lead to participation from other university departments. By the mid 1970's, MSU broke ground on the new Special Education Building that included classrooms designed for preschoolers. This space, state of the art for its time, included observation booths adjacent to the classrooms. Murray Head Start located its first Wave 1 Early Head Start classroom in this building in the early 1990's. When the building was renovated and became known as Alexander Hall, additional improvements were made to the Early Head Start rooms to create more home-like environments and promote positive relationships between children and adults. The Ruby Simpson Center has been operated by Murray Head Start since the fall of 1999. It was built in 1965 and was specifically designed to be a



child development center from its inception. However, it was operated by the Child Development division of the department of Home Economics. When the department merged into the Education Department, Murray Head Start was asked to assume the operation of the center as a blended program option. Today, the Ruby Simpson Center is also a placement for student workers. Both sites, Alexander Hall and Ruby Simpson, are NAC accredited and achieved a 3 STAR rating with the STARS for KIDS NOW rating system. What started out as a common goal among two very visionary leaders in our community, has served all of those involved in the program well. It is hard to say who benefits the most from the partnerships that have evolved over the years. Murray Head Start's children and families receive services of the highest quality due in part by the pooling of resources. Murray State University students observe and participate in a quality program in order to further their own learning and development. And all who pause to read the Murray Head Start mission statement, "Through innovation and partnerships, qualified staff are committed to providing, for each child and family, comprehensive services of the highest quality" are reminded of the importance of such an innovative partnership that began over three decades ago.

Year Gone By!

It is amazing how fast this year has passed at **Northeast Head Start**. We at Northeast are happy to report that the triennial review conducted the second week of December was successful and there were no findings. Needless to say, the



report made our holidays even more enjoyable and stress free. We are grateful for the support, good thoughts and generosity of our Head Start friends. This was evident when a couple who wants to remain anonymous donated Five Hundred dollars to purchase warm clothing for our Head Start children in the Olive Hill center. Staff went on a shopping spree and purchased coats, shoes, hats, gloves, and other item needed for the children to stay warm during the cold winter months. We have been awarded a \$1160.00 from

first Books for Carter County.

This money will be used to purchase books to go

home with the children/families in an effort to support family literacy. Our children and staff are eagerly awaiting the warm summer months and the opportunity to explore the outdoor learning centers. Until then, they are busy indoors with many activities as you see.



Early Head Start Prenatal Program

The **OVEC** Early Head Start Prenatal Program serves expecting moms in Bullitt County, Eminence, Henry County, Gallatin County, Shelby County and Spencer County. We use the *Partners for a Healthy Baby* Home Visiting Curriculum for Expectant Families developed by the Florida State University Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy. Topics are organized around 4 major areas: Family Development, Mother's Needs, Caring for Baby and Baby's Development. Highlighted below are 2 events that took place recently within our prenatal program that had a lasting effect on both the Early Head Start staff and families involved. In her own words, Susan Diaz, Eminence Prenatal Family Advocate, describes a day in the life of a Head Start Family Advocate. "Aileen Lopez-Mendez was born on January 15, 2010 at 10:27 a.m. at University Hospital in Louisville, KY. Her mom, Imelda,

speaks little English, so I had to take her to the hospital and translate for her doctor while he did the cesarean section. I suited up in scrubs and stood at the head of the operating table to translate and answer any questions the doctor had. As a bonus, I was the first one to hold the baby. I also was at the



hospital when her other daughter, Crystal was born in 2007. In the picture below is Imelda, Aileen, Crystal and dad Aurelio." The Spencer County Teen Parent Group is a collaborative effort between the Youth Services Center and OVEC Spencer County Early Head Start Prenatal Program which

which meets on a weekly basis during the school year. Various topics are discussed throughout the year. Bonding and building attachment with your child while using appropriate and safe toys was the featured topic in the event shown below. The girls were very engaged in making hand-made sock dolls and hand puppets for their kids. Each hand puppet included a picture of a monkey on each finger of the glove. The teen moms were also taught the story and accompanying song "Five Little Monkeys Jumping on a Bed" and shown how their hand puppet could be used to tell the story and bring the song to life.

