

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide a high quality, comprehensive and family-focused, infant/toddler and early childhood program uniquely designed to prepare each child for tomorrow's opportunities and challenges through community partnerships.

VISION STATEMENT

"Building foundations for life-long growth and development"

Up and Coming

December 2010

13 - Winter Dinner Distribution Scheduled
15 - Policy Council
24 - Christmas Eve **Holiday**
27 thru 30 - Winter Break
31 - New Year's Eve **Holiday**

January 2011

4 - Children Return
7 - Staff Development Day
(includes CDA and ALL parents)
11 - FAN Brooke, Marshall, Wetzel
12 - FAN Hancock, Ohio
17 - Martin Luther King Jr. **Holiday**
19 - Policy Council and Advisory
20 - Administrative Planning
21 - Administrative Planning

February 2011

16 - Policy Council
21 - President's Day-Closed

March 2011

8 - FAN Brooke, Marshall, Wetzel
9 - FAN Hancock, Ohio
14 thru 17 - Ohio, Spring Break
21 thru 24 - Marshall, Spring Break
23 - Policy Council

Note to Parents—Please confer with your center staff regarding any program date changes – *thank you*

NPHS Website

What an exciting time for our Head Start and Early Head Start programs! The web site is under construction and in the final phase of roll out. The site is tailored to provide so much more information than before and will provide the agency's stakeholders with real time information. This resource will bring our agency to a new level of communication among so many groups, not just within our local communities but with a broader base of those who may seek information about our program or want to reconnect with our program. Visit us at www.npheadstart.org. Sign up for the email updates. Give us your feedback. Share the link with others. We look forward to this new and enhanced area of communication with you!

Volunteers Needed

Northern Panhandle Head Start is always looking for folks that can lend a helping hand. Current projects include but are not limited to the new Jacksonburg facility where we will need help with designing and organizing, and as always your skills could be utilized in the classroom by assisting with daily preparation. If interested please contact Cathy Knox, Family and Community Partnership Manager at 304-233-3290 or cknox@npheadstart.org

NPHS Wish list

- ◇ **Donated office space**
- ◇ **Monetary donations for our Head Start Families Winter Dinner**
- ◇ **Children's classroom space in the Newell-Chester area to accommodate 40**

For **Enrollment Opportunities** in Head Start or Early Head Start, please contact Michele Lee, Enrollment/Recruitment Coord, 233-3290

"A special note to families—Regular attendance is very important to your child's learning experience and developmental growth. Thank you for sending your children to our centers, trusting us and being involved. We appreciate you!"
Thank you from the Staff of NPHS Inc.

USDA

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Northern Panhandle Head Start Inc.
serving Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel Counties In West Virginia

NPHS News

Fall 2010

Volume 15, Issue 1

Another Year Under Way

We pulled through yet another year

which saw among other things a Federal Review, a site move for Central Office, Self Assessment, an Expansion for Early Head Start Program via the American Recovery Reinvestment Act and more. Now we're back in the swing of things and are looking to move forward with a revised monitoring process to ensure that we are in compliance with Head Start Performance Standards.

While we're on the subject of change NPHS held it's first Policy Council of the new program year which serves as an opportunity for parents to be involved in the Program Governance Process at NPHS. We saw many familiar faces as well as new ones. We have elections for new officers during the October 20th Policy Council meeting. Anyone interested in attending should contact their Family Resource Advocate or Sam Green (Family Involvement Coordinator) at the North Park Office 304-232-4590.

For those attending Policy Council Meetings you can play a vital role by serving on the Committees which aid in the decision making process by discussing the very policies and procedures that shape our program and thus your child's future, which would include the Program Committee, Personnel Committee and the Budget/Finance Committee. All of which are a critical link in the chain of our success.

Over the summer NPHS held various events including the final Parent Banquets of the year which were especially interesting and fun to the newer staff, we had our first ever Dad's Game

Night held at El Tor Grotto in Fulton where our "new" Family Involvement Coordinator (Sam Green) presented valuable resources and information to Head Start Fathers as well as an opportunity to simply hang out, play video games, chess, cards and just be one of the guys. Watch for many new opportunities in the coming year for dads/father figures to get involved!

Staff Appreciation

Our Staff Appreciation Banquet was held in June where turnout was great. In addition to the good food we also saw the unveiling of several awards among which was the Rhonda L. Moore Award which is presented to past Head Start Parents that become employees and for going above and beyond the scope of their duties within our organization. This year's recipient was Amanda Hall for her hard work and dedication. It is aptly named after Rhonda L. Moore who was an employee here at NPHS who's desire to become a bus driver was so strong she put herself through training to achieve her goal. Rhonda tragically lost her life a short while after afterward. It is through this award that her memory lives on.



-Submitted by: Brian Stomatos, MCC



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Northern Panhandle Head Start Inc.
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HealthyCHILD Partnership



Happy, mad, angry, frustrated, loved, sad, relaxed... These are words that we use daily to talk about how we are feeling, these words make up our emotional vocabulary. Having the words to label and talk about our feelings is a big step in learning how to deal with feelings in an

appropriate way. Parents, teachers and friends of young children can help them learn a healthy emotional vocabulary by doing these simple strategies.

- Label your feeling in front of the child whenever appropriate. Example: "I love sunny days! They make me happy" or "Wow I am having a hard time with this puzzle, I am really frustrated."
- Help the child label their feelings whenever possible. Example: "It looks like you are having a difficult time tying your shoes, it looks like you are frustrated." or "You have a big smile on your face, it looks like you are happy. Are you happy?"
- Talk about how characters in a book might feel. Example: "When baby bear finds that his chair is broken, how do you think he felt about that? How would you feel if it was your chair?"
- Help children recognize emotions in others. Example: "Sara is crying, I think that she is sad. Is there anything we could do to make her feel better?"
- Value all feelings. It is important that children know that all feelings are ok! It is ok to be angry, happy, frustrated, sad, relaxed, lonely, etc."
- Encourage children to talk about their feelings by asking simple questions, "How do you feel about that?", "How does that make you feel?" then sincerely listen to what they have to say.

Children in NPHS Classroom's work with their teachers and HealthyCHILD staff to develop a strong emotional vocabulary. Ask your child's teacher for more helpful strategies!



Submitted by Audra Redick

Message From the Executive Director

Angels of Home Visiting:

There is something very magical about a person who decides to become a Teacher or Home Visitor. Everyone knows what a teacher does in the classroom and the wonderful work they do. But little is known about the Home Visitor. I will try to describe and explain who this magical person is.

Home Visiting is a service delivery strategy: The purpose is to provide a range of supports to families plus provide health, school readiness and a host of other services in the home. Wherever the home may be, in domestic shelters, with incarcerated parents, at the library, on the back porch or in homeless shelters the home visitor is there.

To have a successful home visiting program you must have gifted, well rounded and upbeat positive staff as home visitors. Staff has to possess some of the personal characteristics and attributes such as being flexible, supportive, attentive, perceptive, compassionate, nonjudgmental and reliable just to name a few when delivering this model of service. Parents have expressed their love for this model many times over the years. They look forward to the visit and social outlet it provides for them.

Here at Northern Panhandle Head Start, Inc. we have had a Home Base program since 1972. At one time we had 12 home base groups in 5 counties. These groups focused on helping the parent teach their children in the least restrictive and natural environment. The home is /was used as the learning environment. Most of the visits are on a regular schedule to meet the needs of the family and last up to 90 minutes. The parents assist with the lesson for the visit, and as part of this visit, the home visitors share resources with the family. But as families went back to work and Universal Pre-k came into existence the want of this option is in demise. Currently we have 8 home base programs. 7 serving pregnant women and children 0 to age 3 and 1 serving children 3-5 years.

There are two home base programs that I'm very familiar with, in my professional opinion they are the best comprehensive early child development/early intervention in -home programs. One is the Ohio County Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker (MIHOW) program and the second is NPHS home base options. The MIHOW program is a well kept secret serving 40 families in Ohio County and no income guidelines are required to be eligible. NPHS received the funding (State) for MIHOW in August of 1999 the same time we received federal funding for our Home Base Early Head Start program.

At that time we served 48 families. Now with the ARRA-expansion we have 18 more families of children ages 0-3. In Wetzel County we also still serve 10 children in the 3-5 preschool home base option. These programs offer bi-weekly socialization for the children at our centers, as well as weekly home visits. This is an opportunity for families to come together as a group and share parenting stories, learn about child development, the importance of being an advocate for your child and healthy relationships.

Research demonstrates that high quality home visiting programs can be effective methods of delivering family support and child development services and depending upon the model implemented can: increase children's school readiness, improve child health and development, reduce child abuse and neglect and enhance parents abilities to support their children's health, cognitive, language, social -emotional and physical development (ZEROTOTHREE.ORG).

When we say it takes a village to raise a family, I agree whole heartedly and home visiting is a very special piece of the village!

Sankofa, Marlene Midget- Executive Director,

Board of Directors

2010-2011
(governing body)

- Becky Yesenczki, President
- Steve Woodburn, Vice President
- Carol Smith, Treasurer
- Marguerite Wilson, Secretary
- Alicia Cassels, Parliamentarian
- Jan Futey
- Melissa Reed
- Jennifer Staley
- Libby Slater
- Lisa Slie
- Diane Grooms, Policy Council Chairperson
- Melanie Griffith, Policy Council Vice-Chairperson

We are seeking community professionals from the northern panhandle to serve on the Board of Directors. If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested, please contact Marlene Midget, Executive Director, 233-3290, ext. 5014.

Welcome to Our New Staff

To learn about the employment opportunities at NPHS, please contact Debbie Hercules, Human Resources Assistant, 304-233-3290, ext. 5007.

dbercules@npheadstart.org

We are currently seeking positions for:

- **Bus Driver - Hancock Co.**
- **Parent Educator - Brooke Co.**
- **Part-time Teacher Assistant – OP Early Head Start**
- **Teacher Assistant Marshall or Ohio County**
- **Early Head Start - Family Resource Advocate**
- **Sub Bus drivers, Teachers, and Teacher Assistants**

- Leslie Dulaney - PE 10/2/09 (transfer)
- Reed Bizzari - Infant Toddler Teacher 12/3/09 (transfer)
- Nicole Majewski - Teacher 12/11/09
- Alma Cunningham - Health Coor. 1/15/10
- Kim Fruner - Parent Educator 1/15/10
- Brittany Hocker - Infant Toddler Teacher 1/25/10
- Kim Welshans - Infant Toddler Teacher 1/25/10
- Sam Green - Family Involvement Coor. 2/1/10
- Betty Miller - Fiscal Clerk 2/8/10
- Denise Riggle - Teacher Asst. 2/8/10
- Alisha Bippus - Teacher 2/12/10
- Brian Stromatos - Monitoring Compliance Coor. 2/16/10
- Michelle Cawthon - Teacher Asst 3/1/10
- Autumn James - FRA 3/1/10
- Melanie McFarland - Data Management / QA Clerk 3/1/10

- Mary Blake - Teacher Asst. 4/5/10
- David Beaver - Bus Driver 5/7/10
- Lynn Campbell - Bus Driver 8/10/10
- Christy Cianelli - Teacher 8/10/10
- Sarah Dunfee - Teacher Asst. 8/10/10
- Elizabeth Fair - Kitchen Aide 8/10/10
- Dawn Meyer - EHS Nurse 8/10/10
- Kayla Potts - Kitchen Aide 8/10/10
- Lacy Ray - FRA 8/10/10
- Ashley Taylor - Teacher Asst. 8/10/10
- Laura Weigel - Health & Nutrition Specialist 8/10/10
- Brea Curto - Teacher Asst. 8/24/10
- Tiffany Miller - Teacher 8/24/10
- Erin Stoddard - Ed. Training Asst. 8/24/10
- Letty Coast - Parent Educator (NRJ) 9/10

Early Head Start (prenatal to 3 years old)

Welcome to an exciting new year with Northern Panhandle Head Start, Inc. We are looking forward to our first full school year with our expansion. Our existing Early Head Start program serves 50 pre-natal women to 3 year old children in the home-based setting. We have five Parent Educators in 3 counties who make 90 minute home visits to the family weekly. The Parent Educators in Brooke County are Melissa Robison and Marcie Morris; Marshall County, Theresa "Jo" Kennedy and Beth Ott; and Wetzel County, Kim Frunner. We also have an EHS Assistant, Joyce Charlton, and an Early Head Start Health Nurse, Dawn Meyer. EHS has Socializations twice a month as well as field trips, parent meetings, parent trainings, and FAN.

Last November, NPHS received an expansion grant through ARRA funding. We increased our EHS program by 48. We have a collaboration with Weirton Heights Day Care Center in Hancock County serving 8 infants and toddlers. In Ohio County, we have a center base at Orchard Park serving 24 children, ages 3 months -3 year old children. We collaborate with the YWCA Family Violence Prevention Program offering 5 of the 24 slots to the children of women in the shelter. We also have a collaboration with the Northern Regional Jail in Marshall County serving 8 prenatal-age 3 children of incarcerated parents. We have a home base program in Jacksonburg in Wetzel County serving 8 prenatal-3 year old children. In this center, we focus on the teen population. Through ARRA funding, we have created several new positions at NPHS. Our EHS Supervi-

sor is Laura Hayhurst, EHS Father Advocate is Timothy Midget. The Orchard Park Infant Toddler teachers are Jessica Wright, Reed Bizzari, Brittany Hocker, Melissa Barnett, Kim Frunner, Tammy Lowe, and Renee Sivert. We have a new Parent Educator, Letty Coast, who will be working in the Regional Jail as well as a Family Resource Advocate. Leslie Dulaney is the Parent Educator in Jacksonburg.

Early Head Start Expansion and Northern Regional Jail are in collaboration implementing a program called Inside Out Dad. With this program we hope to uplift incarcerated fathers and have them involved or get involved in their child's life. This program is through the National Fatherhood Initiative designed to build up fathers and their resources so upon their release they can become a better boyfriend, husband, parent most of all Dad. If you would like more information regarding this program please contact Tim Midget at our North Park office at 304-232-4590.

We are proud to have expanded our program and we wish our families a happy and educational year.

Throughout the year, I will discuss topics that deal with young children. If you have a topic and/or would like information, call me at Central Office 304-233-3290 and I will get the information to you.

- Janice Barnett,
Early Head Start Manager
jbarnett@npheadstart.org

Head Start and Early Head Start Federal Base Funding Information

Head Start.....	\$4,088,101
T&TA.....	\$46,732
Early Head Start	\$442,139
T&TA.....	\$10,860

ARRA Early Head Start Expansion Fiscal Year September 30, 2010-September 29,2011 \$600,000 (Federal Match \$150,000). Fiscal Year November 1, 2009 – September 29, 2010 we received \$751,895 (this amount included startup costs \$250,000 and T&TA funding of \$51,895, we requested a waiver of the full match, we only had to get \$67,974).

We are required to match each grant listed with a non-federal share match. We are grateful for the generous support of our community collaborations and parental involvement.