

NPHS News

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

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Grace Moore, a student at the South Wheeling Head Start, was recently awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the U.S. Army Freedom Team as recognition for her “support of soldiers fighting in the Global War on Terrorism.” Grace’s family has been personally touched by Operation Iraqi Freedom, and volunteering support to those soldiers, especially the wounded ones, is very important to them. Grace enjoys accompanying her wounded veteran to the VA hospitals and interacting with the men and women while there. She also participates and supports Boatsies Boxes with their efforts for the soldiers.

Grace’s favorite volunteer effort is “Valentines for Veterans.” For the past two years she has sent Valentines, some of which she made, to wounded and/or ailing veterans to thank them for their service, this year including the local Veterans Outreach Center.

Grace was nominated by a soldier in the U.S. Army for this recognition.



Raise the red, give blood. And that is just what 34 individuals did by supporting the community-wide blood drive sponsored by the parents of Center McMechen, Creative Learning 1 and 2 Centers. The American Red Cross,



Greater Alleghenies Blood Services Region, provided the pro-

fessional resources to support this event. Parents from the Creative Learning 2 and Simpson Centers volunteered to greet donors and serve snacks.

Thank you to each donor and local contributor for giving time and financial support to this community project. WTOV-TV9 provided media coverage as well as the local newspapers. The Red Cross staff were impressed by the outreach efforts. The parents set a modest goal of 20 units donated and surpassed that goal. It was a great success and will hopefully become an annual project.

~Sarah Hooper, Family Resource Advocate

HealthyCHILD Partnership

“Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.” ~ *Terri, age 4 years*



Your child has now completed almost a whole year of preschool! What an accomplishment-

check out with your child what he or she has been learning! In any interaction with your child, first join in what he or she is doing and then play *with them* to help them “move up in their skills.” Color with your child, play a turn taking game, read with your child- then build on what they are learning by using “open” questions - tell me about it, how did you figure it out, why did you choose those colors, why should we take turns....Your child is learning, check it out and SMILE!



~Candace Hawthorne, PhD, OTR/L, Developmental Psychologist, Coordinator HealthyCHILD/Pre-K Counts, Early Childhood Partnerships, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

A Word from the Executive Director

Every one is talking about *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*-aka-Stimulus Package that was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. How will it help me? What does this mean for us here in the Ohio Valley? I will give you my short version of the Act as it related to Head Start. Nationally, \$1 billion for Head Start programs and \$1.1 billion for Early Head Start programs. This funding will help the Head Start world provide staff with a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), maintain and retain qualified staff and replace some of the infrastructure that had eroded over time because of lack of funds. We will propose to expand Early Head Start in some counties and hire more staff to support the purpose of the stimulus package. Also, we hope this will provide us with the opportunity to enhance our collaborative efforts with child care or the school systems in various areas to serve more children by combining resources. On February 4th I wrote a letter asking our regional office to reduce the number of the children we serve by 20 (18 from Wetzell and 2 from Marshall). Because of the stimulus package, this request is now null and void! The funds that we need to operate a high quality program will come from the stimulus package, not from the backs of children. We are very thankful for this opportunity and on behalf of the Board of Directors, Policy Council and the management team, we will be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us to provide quality, early childhood programming to our local communities.

~*Sankofa, Marlene Midget, Executive Director*

Board of
Directors News!

Welcome to our
newest Board

Member
Alicia M.
Cassels,
Extension Agent
and Instructor,
WVU Extension
Office, Brooke
County.

We are pleased
to welcome
Alicia to our
Board of
Directors.

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. 14.



Honoring our Parent Volunteers: Thank you to Betty Davis – Highest Volunteer Hours to Date - 514 hours. We have many volunteers who spend a great deal of their time riding the buses each day before and after class. Parents are encouraged to participate in the classroom and other areas of their child's early development. A special thank you to those parents who have had Perfect Attendance at Policy Council Meetings: Diane Grooms, Brooke

1, Keturah Keyser CLC2/Simpson, and Michele Harriman YWCA FVPP-Community Representative. These ladies have not missed a policy council meeting this year. Thank you for your dedication. Only 6,000 hours away from beating last years volunteer hours' total. In order to push for the increase, April has been designated as "April Showers for Volunteer Hours" month. The top parent group and classroom with the highest volunteer hours will receive a special incentive. We have collected 978 points for Campbell's Labels for Education – thank you! 275 parent surveys have been returned – we appreciate your comments and concern for the

future of our program. Congratulations to Jamie and Ryan Johnston, CLC 1 Center, winners of the drawing (from the submitted surveys). Upcoming events: The Outdoor Connection – Dad's Event at Cabella's, Saturday April 18th, 2nd Annual Dad's Day – Moundsville Barn, Friday June 19th, Policy Council & Advisory Meeting, April 22nd, Corporation Meeting and Joint Meeting of the Board and Policy Council, May 13th, and Parent Banquets, May 15th.

~David Deagel, Family/Father Involvement

Coordinator, 233-3290, ext. 41

Early Head Start (prenatal to 3 years old)

Chelsey's first baby was born stillborn (boy) approximately 2 years ago. In July 2008 Chelsey was enrolled as a prenatal mother in Early Head Start. Chelsey was an expectant mother that read everything that was offered to her and would have questions for the PE/Nurse on the next scheduled visit. Ms. Weekly's delivery date was 1/26/2009 and had been on bed rest for most of her pregnancy.

On 11/7/2008 Chelsey's mother spoke to me during a socialization explaining that her daughter was borderline diabetic. I counseled Mom briefly on gestational diabetes and was explained that Laura, Parent Educator, has been working with Mom about this. (PE has personal experience with Diabetes.) I sent information about gestational diabetes to Laura to give to Mom and offered my services if it was needed. Before I could do a second prenatal home visit, Laura had called explaining Chelsey was in the hospital due to preeclampsia which led to toxemia. On 11-19-2008 Chelsey gave birth to a baby girl weighing 2 lb 5oz by Emergency C-section.

Baby Emma was in the hospital until 1/6/2009. Laura called me and explained that Chelsey needed a baby thermometer and was concerned with the baby's weight. I got permission to take a thermometer for Chelsey to keep and took EHS baby scales for Chelsey to borrow on my home visit. The day of the home visit Laura and I almost had to do the visit at the hospital in Wetzel County. Emma had lost so much heat that her temperature registered 92 degree's. (Normal for an infant is 98.8-100 degree's) At 1:00 pm we arrived at the apartment to find Chelsey and Emma had returned.

Emma was asleep in the baby swing with the apnea monitor hooked up to her and the apartment set at 84 degree's (per doctor's orders). During this time I asked Mom a few questions about how she and Emma were doing. It was time for Mom to wake the baby and this is when Laura and I took the opportunity to do our assessments. Afterwards Emma was hungry and Mom fed her. Emma did very well on the bottle and when mom changed the infants diaper the baby was clean with no signs of diaper rash. Chelsey was very appreciative when I stated I had a thermometer for her to keep and that she was able to borrow the baby scales until they were needed elsewhere. Chelsey

thanked Laura and me for the diaper bag and momma bag supplies.

I trained Chelsey how to use the thermometer and she demonstrated how to use it. Laura and I trained her on how to use the scales and how to get an accurate weight. The information was documented on a form I had for her and had an extra form should it be needed. I told Chelsey if there was anything else I could do for her or if she needed any other information to call Laura or to call me. I gave her my home number to assure she could contact me if it were an emergency.

I have to give a lot of credit to Laura for her professionalism and knowledge of the development of infants when premature. Laura and I have always been able to enhance each others work ethics and thus able to get the respect from the families and information to the families as a result. Laura has kept me up to date on this family and always asked if she needed assistance with information or request me to visit.

Emma weighs over 7 lbs now and is maintaining a healthy body temperature. The apnea monitor is only needed at night instead of around the clock.

Chelsey did not receive much support from the baby's father until after the baby was born and now they are seeking counseling to make their relationship work in which will allow them to work as a couple to give Emma the care, love and guidance as she matures.

I would like to acknowledge Laura for her hard work and dedication to assist this family to become a positive success in Early Head Start. I have to honor Chelsey for the hunger of knowledge she craves in order to provide her baby with the best possible care and utilizing this knowledge to parent. Thus far she has kept all doctors' appointments, notifies medical professionals when she has a concern and follows the doctor's requests the best she can. Chelsey is grateful for all of the support of Early Head Start. Above all, Chelsey would like to thank her mother, Connie, for her everlasting love, support, and guidance. Chelsey and Connie prove the importance of family in the life of a child.

~Gina Ferrebee, LPN, Health/Nutrition Specialist



For Enrollment Opportunities in

Head Start or Early Head Start, please contact Michele Lee, Enrollment/Recruitment Coordinator, 233-3290

Annual Meeting

Notice:

May 13, 2009, Elm Grove United Methodist Church, 10-10:30 a.m.

Committees (Agency compliance with CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act) will be discussed during the Program Committee Meeting)

10:30-11:30 a.m. Joint Board & Policy Council Meeting

11:30 a.m. – 12 noon Corporation Meeting (Becky Yesenczki, President of the Board of Directors, presiding)

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 / Welcome to New Staff

April 2009

- 13 Recruitment Day
- 15 Board of Directors Meeting
- 17 Professional Development Day
- 22 Policy Council and Advisory Committees

May 2009

- 13 Corporation Meeting (Joint Board and Policy Council Meeting)
- 15 Parent Banquets
- 25 Memorial Day Holiday (closed)

June 2009

- 5 Celebrating Staff
- 4-16 Last Day for Children (see individual center notices)

New Staff

Welcome to our newest staff member:

- ◇ Andrea Dines, Teacher, Brooke 3
- ◇ Nicole Kaminski, Sub. Teacher Asst
- ◇ Bill Rodgers, Bus Driver, Simpson and McNinch Pre-K Centers
- ◇ Colleen Howard, FRA, Wetzel Cty
- ◇ Ardell Mayhugh, Fiscal Clerk

Exciting News to Share!

I would like to share the wonderful, fun-filled day that Brooke 1 experienced during our "Breakfast with Dads' Day". We had 10 children attend with 10 dads and paps. We had a menu that was fit for a king! Fruit salad, pancakes, sausage, blueberry muffins, milk and juice. The dads ate and ate and ate. They helped their child with a spill, pouring and cutting. They enjoyed talking with each other about their individual hobbies...fishing, walking and riding bikes. They discussed how good the food was and en-



couraged the children to try the fruit salad. After we were finished eating, everyone helped clean up and put tables back in order. The dads/paps helped the children to make and paint their very own wooden car or bird house. They enjoyed the learning centers throughout the classroom while reading stories, building and drawing pirate ships, engineering ramps and constructing homes. The dads/paps had such a good time that they would like to do another Dads' Day, maybe at a park or bowling with their child. "We need to do more of these activities with our children while we can, it's hard to get a one-on-one day when other children are home", stated one dad. We will do our best to hold events throughout the year to bring children and dads/paps together again for their very own special day! Lots of hugs and a little rough housing made for a perfect day.

~Thanks for letting us share, Valerie & Amy
Brooke 1 Center Teaching Team



Please Gather all your saved *Campbell's* labels and send those in with your January end of the month paperwork. In order to get credit for your classroom – place the labels in an envelope with the name of your classroom.

We will also collect the labels for a final time at the end of April. Remember the classroom with the most points wins a special end-of-the-year party!! Contact David Deagel, Father and Family Involvement Coordinator for more details—ddeagel@npheadstart.org or 233-3290, ext. 41.