



What's Inside:

▶ SHOW ME THE MONEY
PAGE.....2



▶ P.J. READING PARTIES
PAGE.....5



▶ HAZZARD HILL UPDATE
PAGE..... 7

NHSA Program of Achievement
September - October, 2010
VOLUME # 138

The AWARE

Outdoor Play Grant

Head Start Body Start National Center for Physical Development and Outdoor Play announced Concerted Services, Inc. as one of 372 recipients of a \$5,000 grant to improve the outdoor play space at Ware County Head Start/Pre-K Center, 1235 McDonald Street, Waycross. The Head Start Center will receive a value added package from one of 31 elite vendors (Preferred Providers) who were selected by a team of evaluators for the packages' developmental appropriateness, safety and both play and monetary value. The National Center was created through a federal grant to the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) and the American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation (AAPAR) from the Office of Head Start.

Bonnie Gaskins, Child Development Services Director reports, "We appreciate Head Start Body Start for helping us evaluate our play spaces and educate our children and families about the value of physical activity and playing outdoors. This grant will enable our Head Start Center to add tunnels on the playground to help develop the children's leg muscles. This grant will also allow us to add a dramatic play area and some natural elements to the playground space."

"Outdoor play is associated with greater amounts of physical activity in children, and research has shown that opportunities for whole body exercise has a long lasting influence as preschool physical activity tracks throughout childhood," said Center Director Kwame M. Brown, Ph.D. "Unfortunately children today spend less time playing outdoors than any previous generation," added Brown. "We want to help the Head Start staff discover the benefits of outdoor play across developmental domains and learn about the features of high quality outdoor play spaces that promote movement opportunities for children of all ability levels."

In addition to the play space improvement, each award-winning Head Start Centers will have access to online courses, webinars and resource materials. "We are excited to receive this grant," explains Ophelia K. Gaines, Executive Director. "Safety and development is important for our Head Start children and we are honored to participate in this national project." The planning team for this special grant project includes Letta Cox, Resource Specialist; Bonnie Gaskins, Director; Ethel Blair, Center Coordinator; Deborah Horton, Education Specialist; Donald Griffin, Facilities Specialist; Symanthia Hollmon, Teacher; Morgan Dyal, Teacher; Lenera Taylor, Nutrition Specialist, Phyllis Perry, Health Specialist; Anita Young, Parent/Community Involvement Coordinator; and Barbara Miller, Health Advisory Chairperson.

Concerted Services, Inc.
Child Development Services

Mission Statement:

to provide quality teaching and learning environments to meet the developmental needs of all children to ensure future educational success.

Vision Statement:

to be national leaders in childcare education and services.

Word of the
Month:
Confident

Self assured.



THE DREAM LIVES ON
CELEBRATING 45 Years of HEAD START

Happy 45th Birthday Head Start!!!

In honor of the 45th Birthday of Head Start, all sites participated in an Open House and Birthday celebration on October 28th. Staff, parents, elected officials and individuals from the community were invited to help celebrate the big event. Lead Teachers and Center Coordinators for each site welcomed guests as they heard from former Head Start parents and Head Start children. They spoke about how the program impacted their lives for the better.

Above right is Nick Overstreet, Alma City Manager, as he congratulates LaSonia Mitchell, Lead Teacher in Bacon County.



Top right: Ware County Open House with Danny Yarbrough, City Commissioner; Ethel Blair, Center Coordinator; Dr. Joseph Barrow, Superintendent, Ware County Board of Education; and Hon. Calvin Bennett, Ware County Probate Judge. Below left: Pierce County's event with Mayor Davis presenting Bonnie Gaskins and Jeana Mercer a proclamation. Below center: Mayor Peg Blitch from Homerville at Clinch's Open House.



Travis McKinnon, Jr. and Se'majh Turner from the Ware County Early Head Start Program are all smiles as they congratulate Stella Dial and Christina Fullard.

Show Me The Money!

Stella Dial and Christina Fullard are both \$1,200 richer! They both signed up for the Bright from the Start: Department of Early Care & Learning FIRST Program that gave them the incentive for getting their First Early Childhood Educational credential. "The program allows for any early childhood provider, that works in a licensed center, to receive these monies if they receive their first ECE credential between September 1, 2009 and July 1, 2011," explains Bonnie Gaskins, CSI Child Development Services Director.

Stella Dial is the Assistant Center Coordinator for the Ware County Head Start Center and has been with the program since 1996. Ms. Dial earned her Technical Certificate of Credit: Child Development Specialist. Christina Fullard is a Teacher in the Ware County Early Head Start Expansion program and has been with the agency since July, 2009. She earned her Early Childhood Education Diploma. Both received their credentials through Okefenokee Technical College.

"I am so proud of these ladies for continuing their education," noted Ophelia Gaines, Executive Director. "We recognize the dedication of these staff members as they balance work, home life and school."

There is still time to apply for the FIRST Incentive. If you work at a DECAL licensed site and are pursuing your first credential in early childhood education please contact Carol Clarke, Training Coordinator, for more information.

"There is no medicine like hope, no incentive so great, and no tonic so powerful as expectation of something better tomorrow."

--- Orison Swett Marden

And The Winner Is.....

CSI Child Development Services is proud to announce that Mr. Joseph Meeks is the winner of this year's Bus Road-e-o. Mr. Meeks, Maintenance Technician/Bus Driver has been with the agency since November, 2002. Mr. Meeks will compete with other bus drivers across the state at the Georgia Head Start Association's spring conference in May, 2011.



The Annual Bus Road-e-o competition has become a favorite with the staff. Bus Drivers compete against one another in a variety of exercises such as parking, backing, loading, stopping for railroad crossings, and other driving maneuvers.

“We are proud of our transportation staff,” noted Donald Griffin, Transportation Specialist. “Our program was instrumental in implementing the first Bus Road-e-o for Head Start in the nation and we assist other programs across the state in implementing the bus road-e-o for their program.”

Congratulations Joe! Pictured (l-r is Donald Griffin, Joe Meeks and Bonnie Gaskins).



Did You Go to Head Start?

Did you know that a number of staff are former Head Start children? Do you know who they are? They include: Latisha Benitez, Rollace Burton, Shakila Coffie, Shantier Coffie, Ashli Davis, LaKeisha Edwards, LaShandra Flanagan, Lavette Flowers, Maggie Frazier, Christina Fullard, Mamie Head, Hanh Huynh, LaShea Johnson, Patricia Jordan, Crystal Miller, LaSonia Mitchell, Lillie Nails, Tiffany Neloms, Melody Pace, Stephanie Pfau, Erica Rawls, Kimietta Robinson, Shatavia Scott, Debra Smithson, Tania Steedley, Cassandra Thomas and Yolanda Williams.

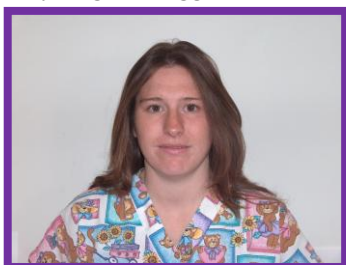


Pictured is former Head Start child, Patricia Jordan, Family Advocate.

Are You a Former Head Start Parent?

Performance Standards: 1304.52(b)(3): *Current and former Early Head Start/Head Start parents must receive preference for employment vacancies for which they are qualified.*

Concerted Services, Inc. Child Development Services is proud of the number of staff who are former or current Head Start parents. Check out the impressive list: Jessica Bacon, La'Teisha Bell, Latisha Benitez, Marilyn Bennett, Christina Blanton, Henriann Bogus, Rollace Burton, Angela Carr, Mary Cassaway, Lundi Cobb, Mary L. Cobb, Shantier Coffie, Tammy Cohen, Linda Brockington, Kesha Brown, Mary Burnett, Sylvia Conaway, Ora Bell Cooper, Leanna Crosby, Ashli Davis, Katosha Davis, Louise Doomes, Barbara Ellis, Wanda Edmonson, LaKeisha Edwards, Brandi Fender, LaShandra Flanagan, Lavette Flowers, Mary Fogle, Maggie Frazier, Christina Fullard, Rebecca Hall, Beverly Harris, Bobbie Harris, LaShanda Hitson, Symanthia Hollomon, Rosa Hopkins, Mary Howard Kelly, Katherine Hunter, Hanh Huynh, Pam Ingram, April Ivey, Megan Ivey, Kathy Jones, Monica Jones, Tonya Jones, Trecinski Jones, Patricia Jordan, Amanda Lankford, Eula Littleton, Tracey Lomax, Carrie Maynor, Reba McCuller, Gloria Mishoe, LaSonia Mitchell, Joyce Moore, Lillie Nails, Tiffany Neloms, Deborah Ratliff, Carroll Roberson, Barbara Sams, Deborah Peacock, Stephanie Pfau, Nedra Porter, Deborah Ratliff, Erica Rawls, Dorothy Reed, Kimietta Robinson, Michelle Russell, Shatavia Scott, Teisha Sexton, Tania Steedley, Lenera Taylor, Cassandra Thomas, Michele Thompson, Crystal Tucker, Michelle Waldron, Jemmi Lynn Wasdin, Mary L. Williams, SheKena Williams, Yolanda Williams, Nancy Wilson, Jacqueline Winn, Stephanie Wright and Viranda Wright.



Brandi Fender, Teacher Assistant, Atkinson County is one of the many former Head Start parents on staff.

Welcome Aboard!

Ms. Ophelia K. Gaines, CSI Executive Director, is pleased to announce that Mr. Jack R. Parker has joined the agency as the Fiscal/Compliance Director. Mr. Parker is a diversified financial professional with thirty years experience in finance and administration.

Mr. Parker, a certified public accountant, has a vast background working with both the private and non-profit sectors. His past experience includes audit manager with Arthur Anderson & Company; Vice President for Finance & Administration and Chief Operation Officer with Thomas Moore College; and Vice President and Chief Financial Officer with the NS Group, Inc. He has also served on numerous non-profit boards, currently serving for the fifth year on the Board of Eldersource, a Jacksonville agency serving the needs of the elderly in Northeast Florida.

Mr. Parker and his wife, Clare, are currently relocating to the Waycross area from Palm Coast, Florida. Welcome to CSI!



Jack Parker is already hard at work!

Policy Council Orientation



Above Mrs. Ophelia Gaines, welcomes members of the Policy Council and Governing Board to the orientation training. Below, the group as they listen to Kim Rainey.

Performance Standards: 1304.52(k)(4) *Grantee agencies must provide training or orientation to Early Head Start and Head Start governing body members. Agencies must also provide orientation and ongoing training to Early Head Start and Head Start Policy Council members to enable them to carry out their program governance responsibilities effectively.*

On October 13, 2010, Policy Council Orientation was held in Baxley. All new and returning Policy Council members were invited to attend as well as members of the Governing Board Executive and Planning Committees.

Mrs. Ophelia K. Gaines, CSI Executive Director, welcomed those attending and spoke about the important part they play in the agency. Trainer, Kim Rainey of “Rainey Day Strategies” put the group through their paces and she discussed the roles each body plays with regard to the Head Start/Early Head Start program.

Those attending included Governing Board members: Rev. James Joyce, Chair; Wayne Crawford, Rose Bailey, Wanda Edwards, Carlos Nelson and Waymon Moody. Policy Council member attending: Kimberly Zipperer, Chair; Karen Brunegraff; Vian Glosson; Alberta Hall; Shanna Hall; Laura Harris; Thomastine McGill; Natorra Moody; George Nall; Lisa Rigdon; Natasha Schley; Gail Seifert; Heather Thomas; Ninja Tolder; Patricia Tompkins; Olivia Walker; Betty Williams; and Mae Wright. Staff attending: Ophelia Gaines, Executive Director; Bonnie Gaskins, Child Development Services Director; Linda Steedley; Anita Young; and Carol Clarke.



“Children do not come by their values from textbooks. They pick up most of them by observation. What are they seeing in their parents, teachers and their heroes?”

Erma Bombeck



Above: Children in Pierce County were able to use their imagination as they created a mask. Below: Children from Appling County enjoy their story with Courtney Lumpkin from the Okefenokee Regional Library System.

Pajama (P.J.) Reading Parties

Families celebrated Library Card Sign up Month as each center participated in a Pajama "P.J." Reading Party at their local library. Libraries conducted read alouds and special art activities for the children. Carol Clarke, Literacy Coordinator, presented a special program for the parents.

Children and parents had a great time. Many wore their night clothes and a large number of families signed up for library cards during the event.

A special thank you to all the libraries that assisted in making the event a success. The local libraries are great collaborative partners to the Head Start and Early Head Start program.



Above: Dana Williams, from Brantley County, signs up for a library card for her family. Below: Salenia McQuaig and her son, Aiden Mobley, from Brantley County, enjoyed making a bookmark together.



Center: Christopher Lucas, of Coffee County, proudly shows off the tricycle his parents won as a door prize.



Above: Anissa Henry, parent, from A.V. Kennedy Early Head Start reads to the children. Below: Carmen Palmers uses a flannel board as Pre-K Teacher, Daphne Booth reads "The Snowy Day."

JumpStart Read for the Record

All sites participated in JumpStart Read for the Record during October. This year's book was "The Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats. Parents, community volunteers and staff participated in the event as the book was read aloud to all the children. In addition to reading the book aloud each classroom made "magic snow" and participated in other educational activities.

"CSI Child Development Services is proud to participate in early literacy activities," said Bonnie Gaskins, Director. Jumpstart's "Read for the Record" highlights the power of reading, and helps build strong relationships between adults and children encouraging life-long learning." Letta Cox, Resource Specialist, and Carol Clarke, Literacy Coordinator, coordinated this event. "Early reading skills can set the path for future educational success and one of the best gifts a child can receive is the love of reading," reports Letta Cox. "CSI is very proud is assisting in breaking last year's record."



Above: Children in Appling County enjoyed the "snow." Below: Teacher, Morgan Dyal, had the children bundle up and make snow balls as Marilyn Ellis, parent, came to read.



Region IV Parent Conference

Parent, Shanna Hall, and grandparent, Mae Wright, recently attended the Regional IV Parent Training Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Both ladies are active volunteers for the program and serve on the Policy Council.

They really enjoyed the conference and are very appreciative of CSI Head Start for giving them this training opportunity. Also attending the conference were Anita Young, Parent Involvement Coordinator and Frances Williams, Head Start Secretary.



(l-r): Mae Wright, Wanda James, workshop presenter, and Shanna Hall.

Are You Prepared?

In honor of Emergency Preparedness Month all centers displayed information for families on how to prepare in case of an emergency evacuation. Parents were able to see items that would be needed in case of an emergency.

Suggested items included: flashlight; radio (battery operated); batteries; whistle; dust mask; pocketknife; emergency cash in denomination and quarters for phone calls; sturdy shoes; a change of clothes; a warm hat; local map; some water and food; permanent marker; paper; tape; photos of family members and pets for identification purposes; list of emergency point-of-contact phone numbers; list of allergies to any drugs or food; copy of health insurance and identification cards; extra prescription eye glasses; hearing aid; or other vital personal items; prescription medications and first aid supplies; toothbrush and toothpaste; extra keys to your house and vehicle; any special needed items for children, seniors, or people with disabilities; and don't forget to make a "go-bag" for your pets.



Ethel Blair, Center Coordinator, Ware assists parent, Tunisia Banks, as she looks over the items to have on hand for an emergency evacuation.

Leadership Waycross

The Leadership Waycross (LW) Class of 2010 visited the Ware County Head Start Center as part of their Education Day activities. Welcomed by Bonnie Gaskins, CSI Child Development Services Director, and Linda Steedley, CSI Administrative Services Director, the group saw a powerpoint as they heard an overview of the program.

They toured the Early Head Start Expansion classrooms and then spent time volunteering in Head Start classrooms. Members of the Leadership Waycross Class had the opportunity to interact with the children and participate in hands-on activities. Before leaving the class they ate breakfast with the children. LW members enjoyed their time at the center and look forward to volunteering in the future.

Leadership Waycross Alumni is a supporter of the program as they regularly volunteer at the center to read to the children and donate gifts during the holidays. This year's Leadership Waycross included: Dale Clark, Sara Coggin, Marilyn Craft, Cori Crews, Derek Harrison, Raphel Maddox, Gina Hart, Keith Hawthorne, Susan Hohenstein, Sharon Komanecky, Johnny Mitcham, Dr. Betty Morris, Dr. Jennifer Pritchett, Barry Rudd, Shanna Sexton, Joyce Sharper, Paul Smith, Paul Thein, Matt Thompson and Danny Yarbrough.

Above right: Children show how well they know their letters to Cori Crews, Dr. Jennifer Pritchett and Matt Thompson. Center: Sara Coggin and Paul Thein assist with an art project. Below right: Raphel Maddox, Human Resources Director for the City of Waycross. Raphel is a former Head Start child!



The Early Edition

Birth Announcements

The Ware County Early Head Start Expansion program has had two expectant families to give birth recently. Ms. Ariana Fonville had a baby girl, Ashlynn Renaye Fonville on October 3rd. Ashlynn will be starting in November. Her mom is a high school graduate who is working part time.

Ms. Alexis Porter has given birth to Randiontre' J. Bolds on September 12th. Randiontre' entered the classroom on October 28th and his mom has returned to high school.

Both mothers and babies are doing well and thriving in the Early Head Start program.



Hazzard Hill Update

The City of Waycross turned over the keys to the Hazzard Hill building on October 29th with a ribbon cutting ceremony that was attended by parents, staff, community and elected officials. The building is part of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project which will house five Early Head Start classrooms and the McKinney Community Health Services Outreach Office. The CDBG Grant was part of a collaborative project with the City of Waycross.

“We are honored to be a part of this project,” stated Ophelia K. Gaines, Executive Director, during the ribbon cutting ceremony. Also on hand was CSI Board member Carlos Nelson. Final preparations are in progress to install playground equipment and a few minor alterations as we get ready for the infants and toddlers to move into the new building.



Above left: the official ribbon cutting ceremony. Below left: Early Head Start staff as they look over their new rooms. Above: Mrs. Ophelia Gaines, CSI Executive Director, hands over the keys to the building to Bonnie Gaskins, Child Development Services Director.

“Democracy is based upon the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people.”

~Harry Emerson

Red Ribbon Week Activities!

All centers participated in Red Ribbon activities as the children learned the importance of being drug free.

Activities such as “We’re Too Cool for Drugs”, “Crazy Sock Day”, “Just Say No”, and “Wear Red Day” made for fun events at the centers. As a reminder: **ALL** Head Start campuses are smoke free to staff, parents and guests.

Thanks to all the staff for making Red Ribbon Week so special!



Staff from Clinch County dressed up as part of “Costume Day.”

RIF Dream Give Away

Ware County Head Start Center participated in “Scoring with RIF Books!” as the recipient of the *Dream RIF Giveaway* national contest. The contest was sponsored by Oriental Trading Company and awarded a \$500 gift certificate to each of the winners.

Staff, children and parents dressed up in their favorite team colors and each classroom presented their cheer in front of the other children, volunteers and guests on hand. Members of the Ware County High School Gator Cheerleading Squad were on hand to judge the cheers. Although every classroom had a great cheer, Ms. Booth and Ms. Wasdin’s Pre-K Classroom was named 1st place winner by the cheerleaders. Children also chose and received their first RIF book of the program year. Below are pictures of the great event including the winning classroom with members of the cheering squad!

Winning Cheer!

Come on Pre-K
If you want to succeed,
Come on Pre-K
Come on let’s read!

If you want to have
fun,
Join us today
Pick out a RIF book
And be on your way!

We’re scoring with
books
Cause books are our
friends
We’ll be learning
'Til the very end!

Top to bottom
And left to right
We’re so mighty
We’re out of sight!



Breakfast with Dad

All centers participated in “Breakfast With Dad” as part of the Fatherhood Initiative. Dads, grand-dads, step-dads, uncles, and whoever is the significant male in the child’s life was invited to join the children for breakfast. Many of those attending stayed and volunteered at the center during classroom and outdoor activities.

There are a number of other special events scheduled for the dads including “Teach Me Daddy”, which is scheduled for all Head Start classrooms on December 10th. “Let’s Play Together” and a “Nature Walk” are scheduled for the spring. Keep a lookout for more information on upcoming events.

Above Anilah Boyd from A.V. Kennedy Early Head Start looks at her dad, Allen Chatman. Casey Miller from Jeff Davis County Head Start is all smiles with her dad, Jeffrey Miller.



Anna Ammons from Brantley County Head Start was excited to have her grandmother, Maybelle Ammons, on hand for “Grits for Grands.”

Grits for Grands

Grandchildren have a special relationship with their grandparents. In honor of National Grandparents Day, grandparents joined their grandchildren for “Grits for Grands.” There were large smiles and lots of hugs and kisses as the children introduced these special people in their lives to their friends.

“Grandparents play a unique role in the lives of their grandchildren,” noted Letta Cox, Resource Specialist. Many grandparents today are playing a more significant role in their grandchild’s life as they are assisting with care giving and other duties.

Grand.NET

The Grand.NET Program will begin its third and final year. The project, funded by a special grant from the Office of Head Start, works with grandparents who either have custody or play a significant role in their grandchild’s life. “Lunch and Learn” sessions will begin for the northern sites in December and will be held at the Appling County Head Start Center. The southern sites “Lunch and Learn” sessions will be scheduled for the spring.

“What children need most are the essentials that grandparents provide in abundance. They give unconditional love, kindness, patience, humor, comfort, lessons in life. And, most importantly, cookies.”

~Rudolph Giuliani

Resource Information

Professional Development Registry

REMINDER: If you are receiving scholarships or incentives through Bright from the Start Incentives/Scholarship or will receive the FIRST Incentive after January 1, 2010, you are required to be registered in the Professional Development Registry (PDR). The PDR is a state-of-the-art, research-based professional development system that will be offered to all of Georgia's early childhood educators. To learn more about the PDR or to begin the application process, please visit <https://pdr.dec.state.ga.us/> or call 404-492-5853.

Loan Forgiveness

Information was sent to all center managers on August 2, 2010 to share with staff on the Student Loan Forgiveness Program. The website to learn more about the program is: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov> Please note that our program is registered with the loan forgiveness program and you must note it as: Concerted Services Inc (no commas or period).

All staff that are attending school are reminded that they are **REQUIRED** to provide documentation of what program/classes they are currently taking as well as copies of their final grades to Carol Clarke, Training Coordinator.

Concerted Services, Inc. Mission:

To empower people to become self-sufficient by instilling hope through advocacy, partnerships, and services that promote economic and family stability.

Concerted Services, Inc. Vision:

Concerted Services, Inc. will become Southeast Georgia's leader in helping people achieve self sufficiency.

Concerted Services, Inc.
***A Part of your Community at the
Heart of your Community***



Ophelia K. Gaines, Executive Director
Bonnie Gaskins, Child Development Services Director
Editors: Letta Cox, Resource Specialist &
Carol Clarke, Training/Literacy Coordinator
P.O. Box 1965/2100 Riverside Avenue
Waycross, Georgia 31502
(912) 285-6083 or 1-800-477-8275

