



2019 Annual Report

**CHANGE A
CHILD'S
LIFE!**





About Us

Our Head Start parents and community sponsors continue to amaze us with their support of the program through Non-Federal Match (NFM) contributions. Last year we reported over \$3.7 million in NFM. This year, they blew that number away and provided just over \$5.0 million in contributions, exceeding our 25% community match requirements by over \$1.5 million.

Our Gateway and ACES programs continue to serve at-risk youth in Darke and Miami counties. Funding for these programs is always more uncertain year to year, and they do a remarkable job with the assistance of local school districts and generous contributions from the Darke County United Way and other local supporters.

In 2018, we collaborated with New Path to host a choice food pantry at the Bistro building on our Piqua central office property. This has been a tremendous success and recently, New Path expanded its food pantry operations to two days per week to better serve community needs.

For more than 40 years, CORS has served families with educational and social services. Read on to view the results of our various programs, and messages and amazing stories from a few of the CORS staff that make this possible each day.

Thank you,

Dan Schwanitz
Chief Executive Officer



Gateway



Message from the Gateway Support Specialist

Gateway Youth Programs (Gateway) enhances life and academic skills and empowers at-risk youth to become productive community citizens through character building and better decision making. Darke County United Way, Greenville and Tri-Village schools fund year-round programs with role models who can help motivate and inspire at-risk youth. Gateway helps students develop academic and social skills that will lead to success in school and the workplace. The principle areas emphasized are building character, developing pathways to achievement, resilience, setting goals for careers, and the belief in a positive future.

A Youth Advocate builds working relationships with students, setting goals and teaching life skills for decision-making and problem solving. Schools and other community agencies identify students in need and refer them for services. Youth Advocate's monitor grades and behaviors and work with the students to overcome any obstacles, both individually and in group settings at school.

For additional support, volunteer mentors are recruited from local churches and community organizations. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Shelby and Darke County interview, screen, and match the volunteer with an appropriate student. Local businesses collaborate to enhance work readiness and career planning with mentoring partners, necessary skills, job shadowing opportunities, factory tours, and work experience or internships.

Gateway primarily relies upon funding from Darke County United Way, Tri-Village, Greenville schools, and Wayne HealthCare Foundation for its mentoring programs. More than 200 students were served through the 2018-2019 school year and so much more can be done if additional funding can be found!

Through the Adopt a Child program, generous Darke County organizations and businesses provided Christmas presents for 64 children from economically disadvantaged families. In 2019, contributors donated around \$8,000 in gifts for the children. Their generosity and thoughtfulness made lasting memories for the families.

Thanks so very much to all of our community partners who make Gateway possible.

Sincerely,

Ruth Barga
Gateway Support Specialist



Darke County Gateway

232 Students served

1,344 Student contact hours

736 Group contact hours

Stats from July 2018 - June 2019

Message from the ACES Manager

Our Achievement Center for Educational Success (ACES) provides a structured, supportive and educational environment for Darke & Miami county students who are credit deficient, on the verge of expulsion, or dropping out. ACES offers services to address social, emotional, behavioral and substance abuse needs while receiving academic credit towards their high school diploma. Students are referred to the program by the home school principal and/or guidance counselor.

ACES offers split sessions in both Miami and Darke County classrooms and serves 25-30 students per session with accredited teachers supplied by the local Educational Service Center (ESC). Students can earn up to 8 credits per year through the program.

Services Provided:

- Smaller classroom setting
- Art education, nutrition, and financial counseling
- Substance abuse counseling and education
- Character building and social skills activities
- Work study component
- Advocacy with the schools and court
- Referrals to other agencies to address student's needs
- Transition services upon returning to their home schools

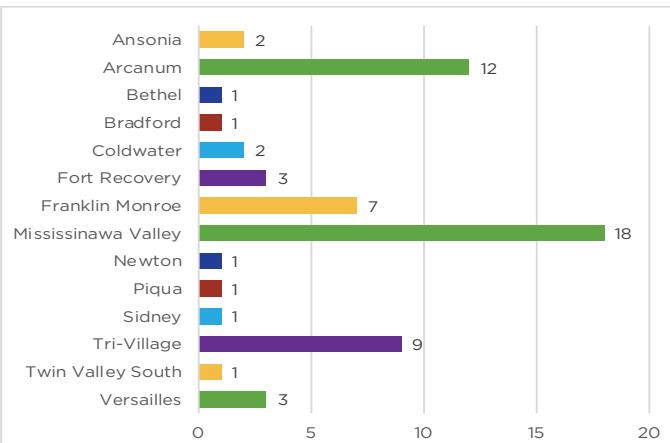
Students graduate with a diploma from their home school. Our primary funders are the local school districts and the Darke County United Way as well as numerous community providers and private citizens. We are enormously grateful to those who have shown caring and support to teenagers at this crucial time in their life.

Sincerely,

Jeff Vaughn
ACES Manager



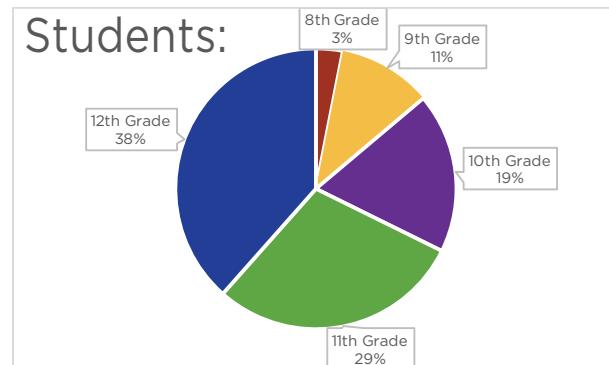
Darke County Achievement Center for Educational Success



Student Enrollment:
65 Students

Attendance:

86% attendance rate



Gender of Students:

47 Males

18 Females

Credits Earned by High School Students:

184.25

1st Semester

223.00

2nd Semester

407.25

Total earned

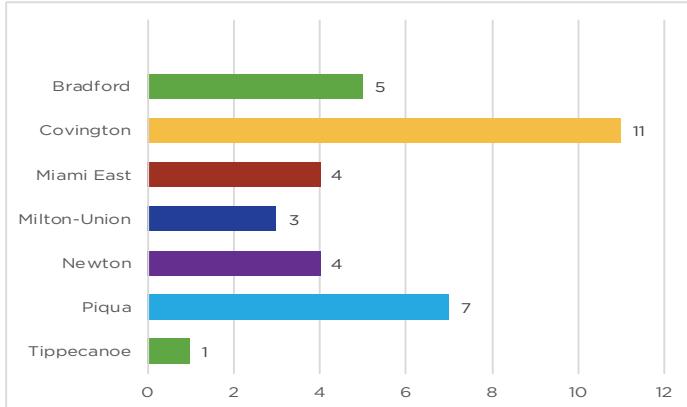
Year Overview:

- 31 students completed all credits and requirements to earn their diploma in May/June 2019.
- 16 of the 31 students that completed school are or were employed.
- 1 graduate is signed up for the U.S. Army
- 26 students were or gained employment throughout the school year.
- 6 students withdrew from ACES (2-returned to homeschool, 3-moved, 1-dropped out)

Stats from August 24, 2018- May 24, 2019



Miami County Achievement Center for Educational Success

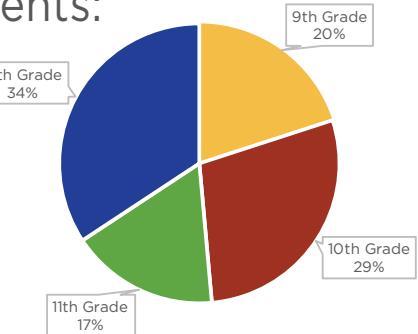


Student Enrollment:
35 Students

Attendance:

76% attendance rate

Students:



Gender of Students:

22 Males

13 Females

Miami County Achievement Center for Educational Success

Credits Earned by High School Students:

68.75

1st Semester

95.50

2nd Semester

164.25

Total earned

Year Overview:

- 10 students completed all credits and requirements to earn their diploma in May/June 2018.
- 4 of 10 graduates have employment.
- 7 students were employed.
- 5 students withdrew from ACES (1-ran away, 4-moved, 1-dropped out)

Stats from August 21, 2018- May 24, 2019



Message from the Early Childhood Director

It is with great pleasure that I share with you our Annual Report for 2018-2019. It captures our activities and accomplishments that support the comprehensive needs of each child to prepare them for learning and a lifetime of academic success. CORS Head Start and Early Head Start Programs provide children with the skills they need to have a successful transition into kindergarten and beyond. We achieve this by providing an environment where children feel safe and are encouraged to be active and creative explorers trying out their own ideas and thinking their own thoughts in areas that interest them.

Research shows that children who receive high quality early learning experiences, united with parent and family support, are far more likely to succeed in school and through their life. Above all else, we recognize that our greatest asset is embracing family engagement as the cornerstone of our success. Our staff builds positive and trusting relationships with families to facilitate their engagement in their children's development and learning by involving them in establishing school readiness goals for their children. We respect our parents' role as their child's primary nurturers, teachers, and advocates.

CORS School Readiness Goals, which continue to include the five essential domains -- Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional Development, Language and Literacy, Cognition, and Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development reflect and align with Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and Ohio's Early Learning Development Standards. Ongoing assessment, high quality teaching practices and environments, curriculum fidelity, and professional development are the foundation of this process. Program staff continuously gain new knowledge, skills, abilities, experience, and competencies to benefit children, parents, and each community.

CORS strives for excellence and proudly reports that all sites

Head Start/Early Head Start

have obtained a 5 Star rating from Step Up To Quality, the voluntary five star quality rating system administered by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). The program recognizes and promotes learning and development programs that meet benchmarks over and above minimum health and safety licensing standards to improve outcomes for children.

Children and families in the 9 county service area are challenged in employment, transportation, substance abuse, and scarce mental health services. CORS family engagement assists in the navigation of resources available in their community to surmount these concerns.

For the 2018-2019 year CORS achieved:

- Full program enrollment.
- Non-Federal Match exceeded 100%.
- Increases in school readiness efforts across all 5 domains compared to previous program year.
- 5 Star Step Up to Quality ratings at 100% of centers.
- A work environment promoting excellence, longevity, and a commitment to professional development.

Please take time to learn about the great work the Head Start and Early Head Start staff are doing for children and families in Auglaize, Champaign, Darke, Greene, Logan, Miami, Preble, Shelby, and Van Wert counties. You may access this annual report and other information including employment opportunities and the Head Start/Early Head Start enrollment application at www.corsp.org.

Thank you,

Karin Somers
Early Childhood Director



Head Start/Early Head Start

Number of Children Served

During the 2018-2019 program year, CORS Served 1666 children ages 0-5 throughout West Central Ohio in nine counties.

1234 Head Start
Children

432 Early Head Start
Children



Number of Families Served

During the 2018-2019 program year, CORS Served 1451 families throughout West Central Ohio in nine counties.

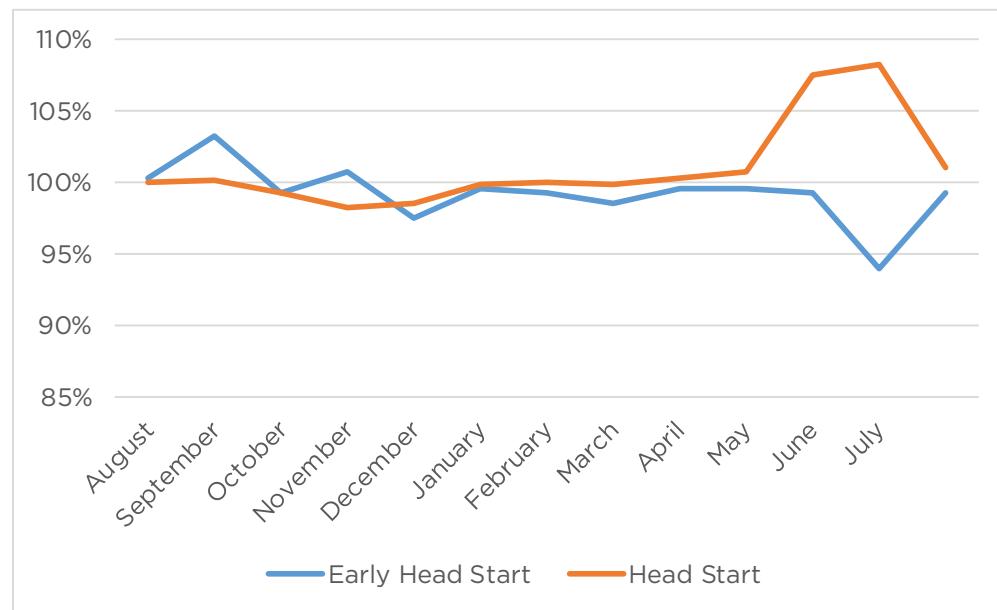
1110 Head Start
Families

341 Early Head Start
Families

Head Start/Early Head Start

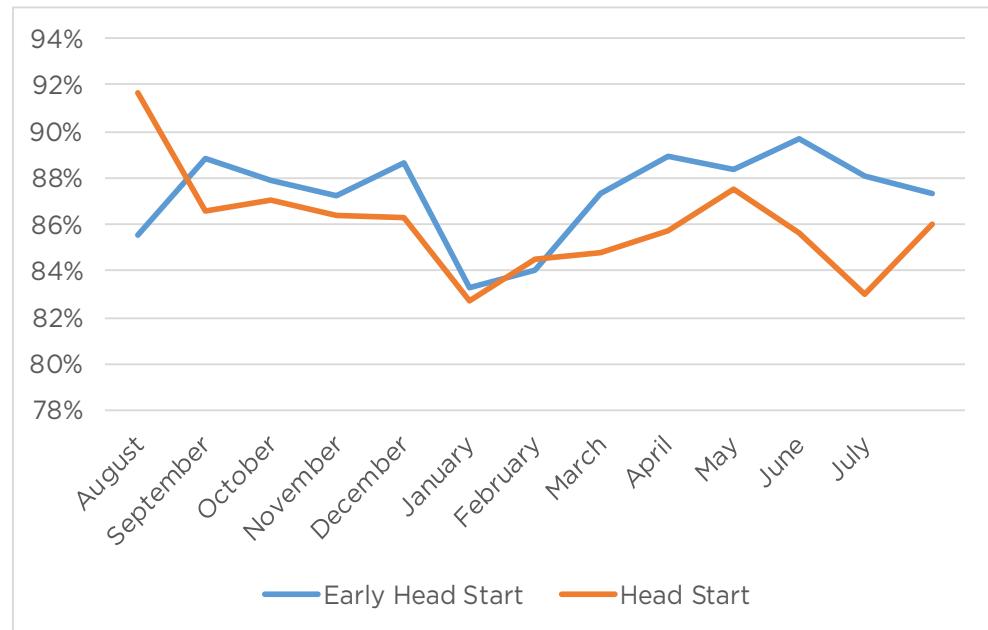
Head Start/Early Head Start Average Monthly Enrollment

Percent of funded slots during the 2018-2019 program year.



Head Start/Early Head Start Average Monthly Attendance

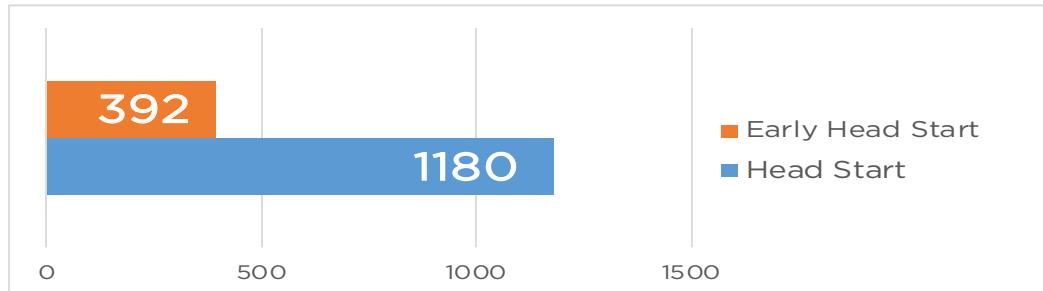
Percent of average monthly attendance during the 2018-2019 program year.



Head Start/Early Head Start

Well Child Screenings

Number of children who are up to date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care, according to the state's EPSDT schedule for well child care.

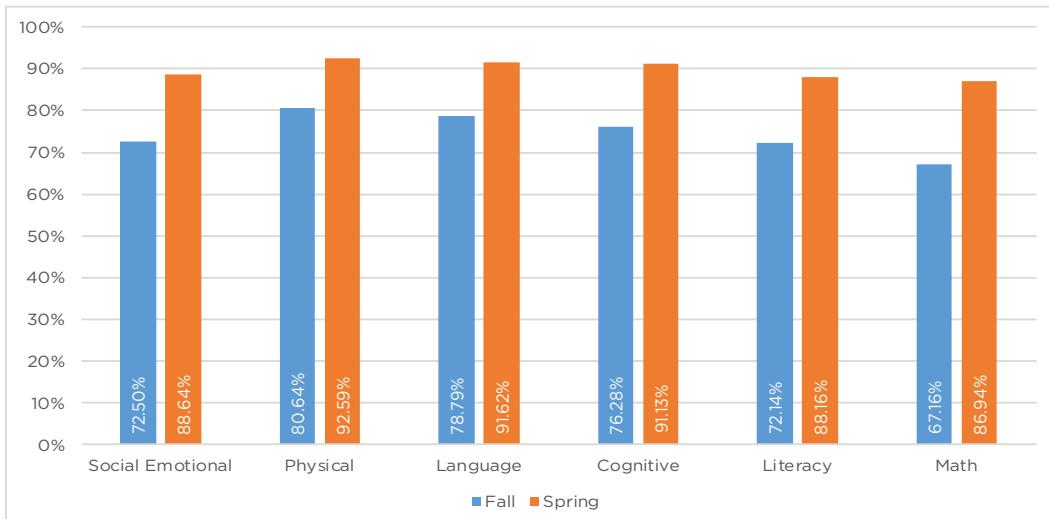


Dental

Completed professional dental examinations

973 Head Start Children

Children Meeting or Exceeding Expectations/CORS School Readiness Efforts



Head Start/Early Head Start



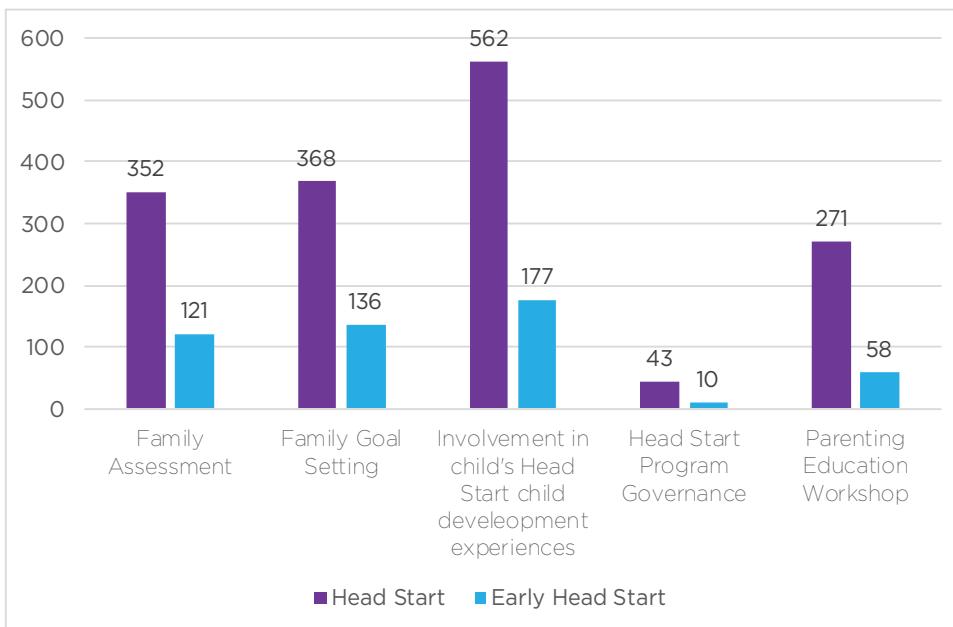
Disabilities

A total of 169 children received services for disabilities, exceeding the 10% requirement.

128 Head Start children have an IEP

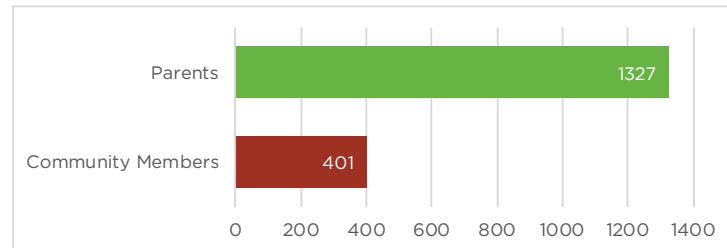
41 Early Head Start children have an IFSP

Father Engagement Activities

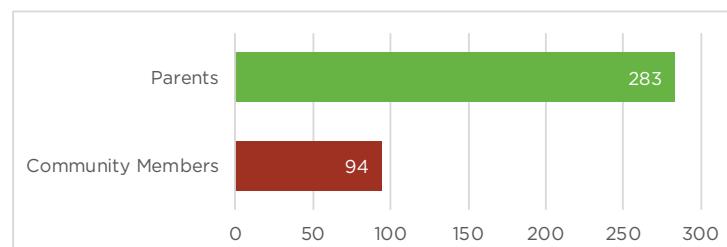


Head Start/Early Head Start

Volunteer Count



Head
Start



Early
Head
Start

Specific Services

(top 3 services utilized by families)

Head Start

542 Health Education

378 Parent Education

239 Emergency or Crisis Intervention

Early Head Start

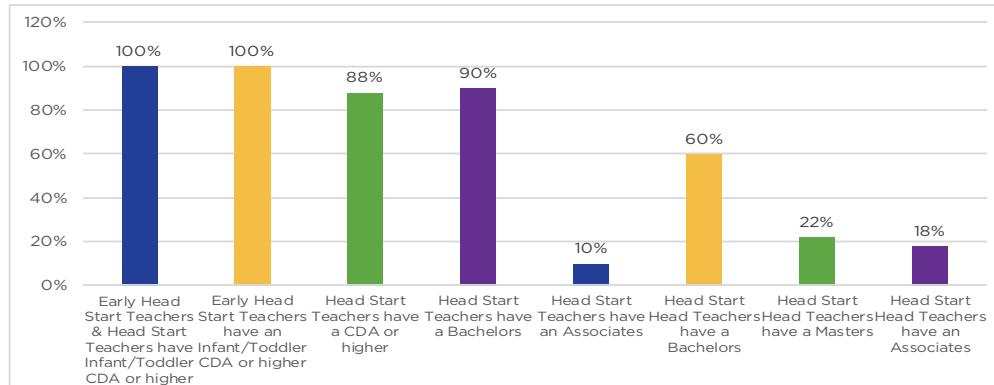
150 Parent Education

126 Health Education

108 Emergency or Crisis Intervention

Staff Education

100% of Teachers meeting Head Start & Early Head Start Program Performance Standards for education requirements



Head Start/Early Head Start



Head Start/Early Head Start

Parent/Staff Story

My journey with CORS began in 1999. Both of my daughters, Ashley & Caitlyn, attended the CORS Head Start program in Troy from 1999-2002. I was encouraged to be a part of the parent group. I really enjoyed participating and was inspired by what I saw the teachers doing for the children in the classroom. This experience had a strong influence on where our family's future would go. I had great family advocates that always offered me encouragement.

I was a teenage mother. I had my daughter Ashley when I was 16 years old. Caitlyn came along when I was 18. I married their father, Jason, when I was 20 and we had our third child, Nathan, when I was 21. Needless to say, my path was a little backwards compared to "the norm". The support that our family received during our CORS Head Start experience significantly influenced the path that our lives would take.

There were many tough times. We received public assistance to get by early on. Luckily, we had a supportive family and great community resources, including CORS Head Start, to help us rise above.

When Nathan started kindergarten in 2006 I decided to begin my higher education journey. It should come as no surprise that I majored in Early Childhood Education. My goal was to return to CORS Head Start not as a parent, but as a teacher. I was eager to provide the positive experiences that I had as a parent with others in the community that could benefit.

While completing my student teaching hours at the CORS Head Start program in Troy, I was offered a teaching position in an EHS classroom. I gladly accepted and graduated with my associate degree in ECE from Edison Community College in 2008. I continued on my educational path with the support of CORS Head Start and obtained my bachelor's degree from University of Cincinnati in 2012.

Through my employment with CORS Head Start I have been a Teacher Assistant, Head Teacher, Support Services Specialist and now an Early Childhood Services Specialist. Through each of these roles I have been blessed with the ability to have a positive impact on children, families and fellow staff. I have experienced the great opportunity to learn and grow with our agency and for this I will be forever grateful!

I continue to serve as an Early Childhood Services Specialist at our Fairborn Head Start program. I oversee daily operations at the center that provides services to over 100 children and operates with over 20 staff. The program is a Step Up To Quality 5-Star rated program.

Jason owns and operates a local automotive repair shop. He is an ASE certified mechanic and has been in the industry for nearly two decades. Jason and I will celebrate our twentieth wedding anniversary this summer.

Ashley graduated high school one year early in 2014. She pursued her bachelor degree in finance at Ohio University and graduated in 2018. Ashley is the current Finance Officer at The Troy Foundation. She assists in providing grants to local community members and programs through this position. Ashley's Head Start experience played a great role in her educational and professional accomplishments.

Caitlyn graduated high school in 2016 with a Teacher Academy certificate from the Upper Valley Career Center. She married her high school sweetheart who serves in the Navy. They are stationed in Virginia. Caitlyn enjoys working with young children and has several years of center-based experience. Caitlyn's love of learned was greatly influenced by her early learning experiences that she received from Head Start.

Nathan graduated high school in 2018 with a Landscape Management certificate from the Upper Valley Career Center. He currently works in the food service industry and is still exploring his future career path opportunities.



Heather Littrell | Early Childhood Services Coordinator
Greene County - Fairborn Head Start

Head Start Child Story

I'm a firm believer in every decision causing a chain reaction. I think people are a product of their experiences. When we're young, our caregivers control our experiences. When we eat, what we wear, where we go.

My first memories are from Head Start. I remember hopping around the playground, riding a three wheeler in the gym, making holiday decorations covered in glue and glitter and my scribbled letters.

I remember the teacher that taught me how to tie my shoes. She showed me on my left foot, then I tried with my right. Two bunny ears wrapped around one another.

Head Start is where I began to love learning. That love blossomed into a deep curiosity. I was ahead of the other kindergarteners. I always wanted to know more. That stayed with me as I grew up.

I went on to college to continue learning. There I received a business degree in finance. Now, I am the Finance Officer of a multi-million dollar community foundation that serves my hometown. I'm so grateful for my Head Start experience; from my teachers, to the learning tools I received at an early age, to the combination of fun and learning. My sense of curiosity and the desire to learn more is still with me today.



Ashley Littrell | Former Head Start Child

Miami County - Troy Head Start



Head Start/Early Head Start

Parent/Staff Story

Head Start has been a blessing to my family in many ways. I have three amazing children that have participated in the program, from the Home Base option, Early Head Start, and the full-day Head Start Preschool classroom. We also used the daycare and school-age programs when we had those available. We have been involved with this program for 10+ years. My daughter started high school and my sons are in first and second grade this year. Through my Family Partnership Goal, I finished my Bachelor's Degree in 2017. My youngest was able to be referred and screened for a speech delay, was placed on an IEP, and started therapy that followed him to public school, all thanks to the comprehensive services approach. My middle child was diagnosed with ADHD during the last year, and because of my training here, advocating for him was easier and I was able to get him the extra help that he needs to be successful. Head Start has been a wonderful experience that has truly changed our lives! I wouldn't be who I am today had it not been for my Head Start family and friendships I have made along the way.

Head Start is like a family to us. My experience as a parent was that they gave me a voice in the community, by being involved in numerous roles, including: Secretary then President of the Policy Council for two terms, a Parent Ambassador representing Head Start in Washington D.C., a Governing Board Member for several years, and an OHSAI Governing Board Member. I encourage all parents to get involved and use this program as a stepping stone in their child's education, and their family's lives. They encouraged me to keep striving for more, and helped me stay on the path that led to my success of becoming an employee as a Home Visitor!

As a staff member for the last 3 years, I am able to give back to other families, the values and ambition to be better for my children and myself. Head Start gave me that confidence when my children were younger. I now help set S.M.A.R.T. goals and provide resources to assist along the way, some of which I still use myself. I enjoy forming partnerships with community members, and transporting families to them for services. It is gratifying seeing others reach their child and family goals too. I also appreciate the staff at our center even more now that I am one. They have huge roles to fill, never-ending documentation, a care for children and their family's health and welfare, and I am grateful to be a part of it all. I truly feel that I am making a small difference in the families and community that we serve, and that we are giving them a great head start for their public education.



Jodi Helmandollar | Home Visitor

Miami County - Piqua Head Start

Parent/Staff Story

I am very proud to be a former Head Start parent of a child that attended and completed the L.B.J. &C. Head Start program located in Cookeville, Tennessee. I remember watching my daughter running to the door when she would hear the roar of the bus engine and waiting for the bus to stop. It would pass our house and the disappointment on her little face was heartbreaking. At that time she was only two and a half years old, too young to attend the program. I noticed fliers posted at various stores out in the community about the L.B.J. & C. Head Start program and it provided information on enrollment, so I wrote the number down and called to make an appointment since she would soon be three years old. When I met the Family Service Advocate to enroll my daughter, I learned their philosophy: "L.B.J. & C. Head Start believes that all children and their families share certain needs and can benefit from a comprehensive child development program. High quality services will enable children to achieve school readiness and success in life. We will succeed with involvement and commitment on the part of everyone: parents, employees, concerned citizens, local education agencies, and organizations in the community."

Continued on page 13

Parent/Staff Story *(Continued from page 12)*

I knew at that moment I wanted my child to be involved in the program. I believed Head Start involved the whole family understood the underlying foundational support that would build strong and healthy family units. This was a model program to me because my daughter's education was my number one priority. I believe education happened in three phases. The first phase of learning was in our home, the second phase she received through her Head Start program experience. The program also built upon what she was already being taught at home like lifelong everyday knowledge essential to surviving in today's society such as: manners, importance of good hygiene, health, feelings, and compassion. In addition, this program assured that the teachers were well informed via trainings on local and state levels. Even though the training required the program to close every Friday, I felt this was a necessary requirement for the program to assure that all updates and trainings were completed. In addition to assuring that my child was fully prepared to start her education, L.B.J. & C. Head Start also encouraged me as a parent to go back and finish my college degree. Through various family/activity and parent events, I had the opportunity to be a volunteer in the classroom, doing quarterly meeting/discussions with my child's teacher on her progress. It also facilitated a bond with other parents in her class.

Looking back on my daughters overall experience as well as my experience I am happy that I chose L.B.J.&C. Head Start program for my child's learning and have and continue to refer other parents to this successful program.

As an educator for over 30 years, there is no greater reward than watching children learn and is the most amazing aspect of my job. I love watching children's eyes light up with excitement when they realize they accomplished something they had been working on for a long time such as recognizing their colors or the letters in their name. I love my job. No day is the same and every day is rewarding and challenging. I love seeing the children progress throughout the year. One recent memorable moment was when I overheard two children talking; one child was upset and the other child said "be a "STAR" and initiated breathing techniques until the other child joined in. I was in awe they were exercising Conscious Discipline. Children give me energy that makes me feel so much more alive. I hope every child in our class is positively affected by what we do. I enjoy the challenge of meeting and exceeding each child's daily needs and watching the children complete their goals. The social services and parental involvement components of the Head Start program are so vitally important. I am glad to be a part of a team that believes it benefits the whole family.

In 2018, I moved to the great state of Ohio. I am honored to have joined the wonderful and knowledgeable staff at CORS Head Start located in Fairborn, Ohio. Working in this position allows me the opportunity to work alongside highly educated teachers making a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve in the Ohio area. The core values of Head Start is still the same today as it was 30 years ago. Being a CORS Head Start teacher is one of the most important and influential parts of our program. When a child enrolls in Head Start and Early Head Start programs, the whole family benefits.

Head Start is about more than preschool and early education. We know that the first few years are critical for brain development. That's why the social services and parental involvement components of the Head Start program are critical. In our program, families are different; depending on the individual needs. Parents and other family members may also be referred to medical, social welfare or employment specialists for services. As a former Head Start parent I know that parents who are involved in the program are more likely to offer a stimulating environment at home than parents not involved. Parents read more with their child, use less physical punishment and show higher levels of self-sufficiency. Parents who work with us through the program invest more time in learning through hands on In-kind activities with their children, and they are more likely to increase their own educational levels during their children's early years. Knowing that I am helping in the education of our future cannot be overstated enough. These programs have a lasting, more positive impact on children and families in our communities who are most at-risk and I am grateful to be part of a program that measurably improves school readiness skills in our children and strengthen our family units.

What greater joy can a teacher feel than to witness a child's success? - Michelle L. Graham



Marsha Sanders | Teacher
Greene County - Fairborn Head Start

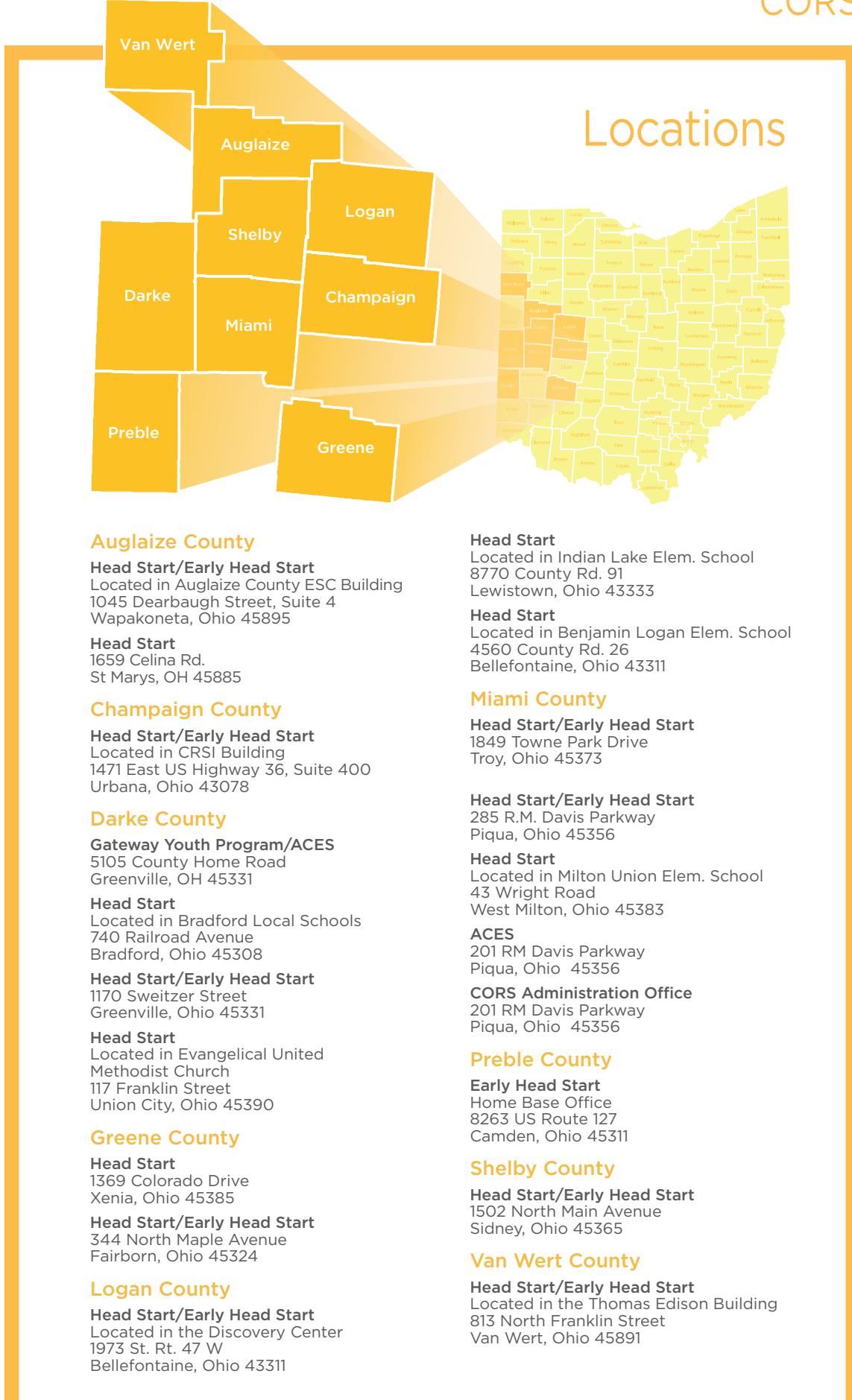
Financial Information (Full Agency)

Source of Funds	Budget	Actual	Percent
Federal	\$14,521,690	\$14,147,856	91.4%
State	\$50,882	\$49,572	0.3%
Local	\$649,101	\$632,391	4.1%
Local In-Kind	\$674,779	\$657,408	4.2%
	\$15,896,452	\$15,487,227	100.0%

Expense Breakdown	Budget	Actual	Percent
Salaries and Wages	\$8,707,482	\$8,483,382	54.8%
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	\$2,753,452	\$2,682,569	17.3%
Contracted Services	\$389,468	\$379,442	2.5%
Direct Program Expenses	\$1,849,172	\$1,801,568	11.6%
Building Expenses	\$1,134,227	\$1,105,028	7.1%
Travel and Training	\$445,119	\$433,660	2.8%
Interest	\$58,163	\$56,666	0.4%
Miscellaneous	\$105,542	\$102,825	0.7%
Value of Donated Facilities Supplies & Services	\$674,779	\$657,408	4.2%
	\$16,117,404	\$15,702,548	101.4%
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$(220,952)	\$(215,321)	

Audit Statement

The final audit report of Fiscal Year 2018 was completed with the following statement: In our opinion Council On Rural Service Programs, Inc. complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2018.





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Tel. 937.778.5220 • www.corsp.org

Providing services in Auglaize,
Champaign, Darke, Greene,
Logan, Miami, Preble, Shelby,
and Van Wert counties.