



The Children's Community  
Head Start & Early Head Start



## Annual Report: 2013 - 2014 HEAD START WORKS... 50 YEARS PLUS!!!

In the words of Vanessa Rich, Board Chair of the National Head Start Association, on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Head Start: "For me, that Summer of '65 was about hope. We created for those children a place (Head Start) to start making things better. We were planting seeds of hope in their minds, and, you know, that experience planted a seed of hope in mine too."

For more than 30 of those 50 years, the Children's Community Head Start and Early Head Start - now Long Island's first "Birth to Five" program - continues that tradition. And this edition of our Annual Report is to say loud and clear: **HEAD START WORKS!**

We would like to tell that story in the words of some of those who actually experienced the benefits of a "Head Start." The stories span the years of our program's operations from the 80's to the present. Here in their own words are their stories:

**Maureen Rosen, Office Manager for the Birth-to-Five program** in Port Jefferson recalls that she started working for the program when her daughter Bethany began Head Start; that was 20 years ago! Here is her story:



"I heard that a Head Start program opened up in Ronkonkoma. I got the number for you." I didn't know it at the time but these words opened a world of wonderful opportunities for my daughters.

It was my older daughter Karly's speech therapist who passed this information along. She knew how I had gone to my school district to get services for Karly. Having gone through this process before with my second son (who was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome), I felt that Karly would need some services before she started kindergarten. Due to the fact that Asperger (autistic) children are highly intelligent, the school district felt that "something was going on" but they could not offer any services at that time. They recommended that I put her in a regular classroom setting to be observed. They did, however, offer speech therapy and the speech therapist told us about the opportunities at Head Start. I took the phone number from the therapist but felt I had little hope of getting in. I had no idea what a Head Start program was, but it was worth a try.

In fact, Karly was accepted and placed in a half day program. It wasn't easy watching my "square peg" trying to fit herself into a round hole, but her Teacher was with us every step of the way. With her help and the support of my Head Start Family Advocate and the Special Needs Coordinator, the next year I was able to have Karly placed in a 12-1-1 kindergarten class.

Twenty years later, Karly not only graduated from High School as an honor society student and Valedictorian, but went on to receive her Bachelor Degree in Graphic Arts. Now she is looking into getting her Masters and would like to start her own business.

I was also fortunate enough to be able to enroll my daughter Bethany the year after Karly went to Kindergarten. Bethany flourished. Being able to explore and learn "hands-on" in a stress free environment was truly the best learning experience for her. Having older siblings with special needs can be overwhelming at times. It was wonderful for Bethany to have a place "just for her" with teachers who encouraged her to be the best that she could be.



Bethany also excelled in school. She graduated with her Bachelor Degree in Psychology from Pace University (Manhattan) Magna Cum Laude and has just completed her first year in the Master's program at Columbia University. She wants to be a clinical psychologist working with people who have experienced domestic violence and those who have PTSD.

While Bethany pursues her Master's degree, I'm also proud to say that she was recently hired to work as a Family Advocate in our HS/EHS Birth-to-Five program. Our family was lucky to find out about Head Start and when I welcome parents to our Port Jefferson program I'm happy to see them getting the same opportunity today.



**Mary Ellen Butcher, a current Family Development Manager sees it this way:** When families feel empowered, children feel empowered. When families see value in education, children see value in education. The Head Start program, my daughter and myself working together made a difference in our lives.

In 1994 I heard through the friend of a friend about a free pre-school program. I applied to enroll my 3 year old in The Children’s Community Head Start program. From the start, the program embraced my family and we in turn embraced their philosophy about learning. My daughter went on to be successful in elementary school, high school and college; I never left Head Start.

I was voted onto the Policy Council that first year, then later became Treasurer of the Council. I volunteered in the classroom and went to workshops.

My voice was heard. As a parent, my thoughts, suggestions, opinions and energy were a part of the success of my child and of the program. I made friends with parents much like myself. I returned to college with the goal of finishing my Associates degree.

The second year of our enrollment my Family Advocate suggested I apply for the vacant Family Advocate position. I had no degree and no experience but I had good people skills, I was an engaged parent in the program, I was a member in good standing on the Policy Council and I had enthusiasm for the Head Start Program; thankfully Head Start believes in their families. I got the job and have spent the last 20 years learning and growing and hopefully making a difference in someone else’s life. I did earn my Associates degree and now supervise the Family Advocates and facilitate Policy Council.

### ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

(All Information based on Program Information Reports submitted August 2014)

	HS	EHS
<b>Enrollment &amp; Diversity</b>		
<b>Enrollment by Race</b>		
White	85%	72%
Bi-Racial/Multi-Racial	9%	10%
Asian	1%	3%
African American	5%	15%
<b>Enrollment by Ethnicity</b>		
Non Hispanic or Non-Latino Origin	53%	46%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	47%	54%
<b>Enrollment by Language Spoken at Home</b>		
English	64%	70%
Spanish	34%	28%
Middle Eastern/South Asian	2%	2%
<b>Other Statistics</b>		
Children with a Diagnosed Disability with an IEP or IFSP	11%	6%
Pregnant women Enrolled	n/a	21%
EHS Children Enrolled under Age 1	n/a	31%
EHS Children Enrolled at Age 1	n/a	25%
EHS Children Enrolled at Age 2	n/a	44%
HS Children Enrolled at Age 3	40%	n/a
HS Children Enrolled at Age 4	60%	n/a
Referrals to Mental Health Consultants and/or Organizations	15%	3%
Families in Partnership Agreements	80%	85%
Fatherhood Initiative Participation	28%	24%
Teachers with Degrees in Early Childhood Education	100%	50%
Assistant Teachers with CDA Credential or Associate’s Degree	90%	n/a
Home Visitors with AA,BA or MA Degrees	n/a	75%
Average Monthly Enrollment	100%	100%
Children with Completed Physical Exams	92%	100%
Children with Completed Dental Exams	97%	100%
Percentage of Income Eligible Children Served by HS and EHS	32%	

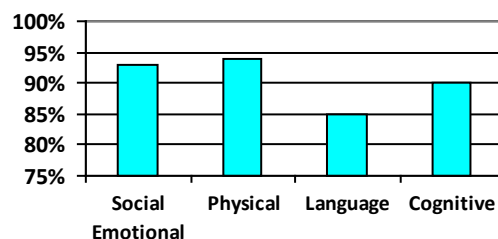
### SCHOOL READINESS

Chrissy Beatty, Assistant Director noted that there was a significant increase in scores in the Language domain, as compared to last year. There were several modifications that may have led to this increase. The Home Visitors had revised their “Home Learning Log” to encourage parents to track the number of books they were reading to their children at home during the week. Similarly, the center based teachers provided families with “At Home Learning” activities that focused on language development in the home. As parent-teacher collaborations continue to improve we can only expect that our children will continue to make gains in all learning domains.

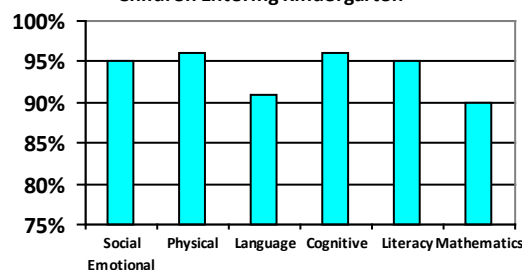
The charts below illustrate the progress our children are making as measured through on-going observations and the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment system. This system allows teachers to plan for individual learning and success of every child across all developmental domains.

The first chart illustrates the progress of children moving from the Early Head Start Infant/Toddler program to Head Start Pre-School; the second chart illustrates the progress of our Head Start children as they transition to Kindergarten.

Transitioning EHS Children



Children Entering Kindergarten



The Children’s Community Birth to Five program is committed to preparing our children for their future. For young children the focus is on socialization, problem solving, exploration, and nurturing their curiosity. Throughout the day the children experience a variety of structured play activities and free choice. Their exposure to the arts and music encourages creativity and self-expression. This balanced routine incorporates objectives that are aligned with the NY State Early Learning Standards and the Pre-K Foundation for the Common Core.



## Revenue and Expenses

### Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS)

Revenue Report		
	12/1/13-11/30/14	12/1/14-11/30/15
	Actual	Budget
	Total HS/EHS	Total HS/EHS
	Grant	Grant
Revenue Source	02CH0245 & 02CH3063	02CH0245 & 02CH3063
Federal Grant	\$ 2,838,317	\$ 2,879,638
Children & Adult Care Food Program	\$ 160,572	\$ 159,572
Universal Pre-Kindergarten Contracts	\$ 95,302	\$ 158,375
Community Café Grant	\$ -	\$ 765
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,094,191</b>	<b>\$ 3,198,350</b>
	HS/EHS: Donated in kind goods and services resulting in cost savings to the programs of \$436,523 HS and \$273,057 EHS = \$709,580	HS/EHS: Projected donated in kind goods and services = \$400,780 HS and \$319,130 EHS = 719,910.

Expenses Report		
	12/1/13-11/30/14	12/1/14-11/30/15
	Actual	Budget
	Total HS/EHS	Total HS/EHS
	Grant	Grant
Expenses Report	02CH0245 & 02CH3063	02CH0245 & 02CH3063
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 1,637,244	\$ 1,862,458
Administration	\$ 460,558	\$ 439,628
Food	\$ 145,867	\$ 189,491
Other	\$ 160,883	\$ 214,693
Bond Interest	\$ 209,031	\$ 206,414
Building Repair	\$ 169,377	\$ 81,685
Contractors	\$ 46,042	\$ 53,552
Supplies	\$ 111,054	\$ 31,658
Fuel/Utilities	\$ 53,899	\$ 72,138
Training	\$ 48,766	\$ 46,633
Equipment	\$ 51,471	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,094,191</b>	<b>\$ 3,198,350</b>
Other expenses include advertising, recruitment, insurance, travel, amortization, and miscellaneous expenses.		

Parents contributed 8,185 hours of volunteer service in the program.

### Federal Review/Audit Report

During the period December 2013 through November 2014 our program did not have a Federal Review. Rather, as a result of re-competition, our agency was awarded a five year contract. The audit performed by Grant Thornton, Certified Public Accountants, for the period ending December 31, 2013 was found to meet federal audit requirements and there were no findings.



*“There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in.” – Graham Greene*

THE COMMUNITY PROGRAM CENTERS OF LONG ISLAND, INC.					
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES		
As of December 31, 2014 and 2013			For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013		
ASSETS	2014	2013	REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT	2014	2013
Total current assets	\$ 1,215,174	\$ 974,804	Fees from govt. agencies and third parties	\$ 5,070,271	\$ 4,961,319
Total non-current assets	\$ 2,639,068	\$ 2,744,388	Contributions & other income	\$ 55,570	\$ 78,167
Total assets	\$ 3,854,242	\$ 3,719,192	Total revenues and other support	\$ 5,125,841	\$ 5,039,486
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)			EXPENSES		
Total current liabilities	\$ 569,639	\$ 545,990	Head Start	\$ 3,148,897	\$ 2,913,568
Total non-current liabilities	\$ 3,190,762	\$ 3,163,841	Child care services	\$ 920,005	\$ 1,053,114
Total Liabilities	\$ 3,760,401	\$ 3,709,831	Adult day services	\$ 769,253	\$ 730,893
Net deficit - unrestricted	\$ 93,841	\$ 9,361	Management and general	\$ 203,206	\$ 210,589
Total liabilities and net assets (deficit)	\$ 3,854,242	\$ 3,719,192	Total expenses	\$ 5,041,361	\$ 4,908,164
			Change in net assets	\$ 84,480	\$ 131,322
Audited Financials by Grant Thornton LLP; no findings reported			Net deficit - unrestricted, beginning of year	\$ 9,361	\$ (121,961)
			Net deficit - unrestricted, end of year	\$ 93,841	\$ 9,361



December 21, 2014

To Whom It May Concern;

Today I write this letter in order to thank The Children's Community Head Start & Early Head Start, in Ronkonkoma and Port Jefferson, for everything that the program has done for our family. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 our home was flooded out during Super Storm Sandy. Due to these conditions, we found ourselves homeless for a period of time. We were notified of this program through the Connetquot School District and we were informed that our youngest daughter Jessica (3 at the time) would be able to attend the Head Start program, full time, five days a week.



This program worked wonders for our family, and for Jessica. We saw our shy little girl blossom into an outgoing and friendly child. She flourished in school and was able to keep up with her older sister who was already a student in the Connetquot School District. Jessica was able to have two meals and snacks, as well as time to socialize. My husband and I found the supportive staff and family advocates were able to provide us with assistance and incredibly good information for us in our time of need.

After a year and a half in the program, Jessica graduated and is now in full day Kindergarten...she has done remarkably well and still speaks fondly of her teachers and classmates. We, as a family, would not be where we are today without the help of the Head Start program. Their support and care was remarkable and we still don't know how we will ever be able to repay their services. I am such a firm believer in what they do that I became part of the parent council, in order to be able to help and remain informed of what is going on with the program.

This program's work is so important for families who would otherwise not be able to provide their child with an education that can prepare them for kindergarten in both learning and socialization. We are so grateful for everything the program did for us and our daughter. The staff is supportive and amazing and I only hope that they are able to continue their wonderful and selfless work.

Thank you so much,  
The Bast Family



**The Children's Community  
Head Start & Early Head Start**

Visit us online: [www.childrenscommunityHS.org](http://www.childrenscommunityHS.org)

Email us at: [info@cpclongisland.org](mailto:info@cpclongisland.org)

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**2013-2014**

Board of Directors President - Thomas C. Lowenberg, CPA  
Policy Council Chair - Debra Austin



**Our Management Team:**

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Denice Karotseris, Director of  
Head Start /Early Head Start  
Christine Beatty, Assistant Director/  
Education Manager  
Melanie Melendez, CPC Fiscal Manager  
Ed Uy, EHS Fiscal Manager  
Deborah Sweet, Education/Disabilities  
Manager  
MaryEllen Butcher, Family Development  
Manager  
Donna Callan, Family Development Manager  
Linda Del Pesce, Registered Nurse  
Kerry Hosek, Home Based Manager  
Eileen Grennan, Administrative Services  
Manager  
Helen Johnson, Health and Nutrition Manager  
Marybeth Lafferty, Family Services Specialist  
Krista Galante-Meyer – Disabilities/Mental  
Health Supervisor

**About our Head Start Program:**

The Children's Community Head Start/Early Head Start is a program of the Community Program Centers of Long Island, Inc. (CPC), a 501 ©(3), not-for-profit organization. CPC is an affiliate program of United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Suffolk, Inc.

