



Orange County Head Start, Inc.
Empowering Children and Families

An Investment In The Future

2012-2013 Annual Report



A Message to the Community



Todd Lundell
Chairman of the Board



Colleen Versteeg
Executive Director

We take great pleasure in delivering to you our Annual Report for the 2012 – 2013 program year. Each year we have the privilege of serving children and families in our county and contributing to our Nation's "Investment in the Future."

Did you know Head Start benefits last a lifetime? Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS) provides services to over 4,000 children and families each year. The program produces measurable, long-term results such as school-readiness, more positive behaviors, and fewer health problems, to name a few.

OCHS serves pregnant women, children birth to 5 and their families, whose incomes are under the federal poverty level, including children who are homeless, children in foster care and children with disabilities.

Over the past couple of years, OCHS has truly raised the bar and enhanced services in all areas. We have seen our community come together and show resilience, determination, and a shared sense of purpose working effectively as a unified voice. One notable obstacle was a reduction in our budget of 5.27% due to the enactment of federal funding cuts known as sequestration. As a result, we altered our program and operated at reduced levels, while maintaining high quality services for children and families and minimizing disruptions to program operations. What has shone through is our steadfast commitment to helping and providing comprehensive services to enrolled children, pregnant women and their families.

OCHS faced our share of challenges in 2012 - 2013, but we are pleased to report that, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Board of Directors, Policy Council parents, staff, and delegate agencies we saw many notable successes. Chief among them was a successful Federal Review by the Office of Head Start. OCHS was found to be in Full Compliance with the Head Start Act, Performance Standards, regulations and policy requirements, and was recognized as a premier agency. Additionally, our highly qualified teaching staff and thoughtful curriculum planning ensure that the development of children is the principle focus of the program and services we offer.

OCHS worked with our community partners to develop consensus around themes of mutual importance, such as parent and family engagement. With the need as great as ever, our staff continues to work tirelessly to assist parents in learning more about school readiness, family literacy, health services, nutrition at home, family engagement and goal setting, and the resources available in the community.

We are proud of what we have accomplished and, moving forward, commit to the ongoing enhancement of quality services for children and families.

Head Start...



About Orange County Head Start, Inc.	4
Financial Information.....	5
Preparing Children for Kindergarten	7
Health & Dental Services	9
Support Services	10
Nutrition Services	11
Parent, Family & Community Engagement	12
Board of Directors	13
OCHS 6th Annual Family Festival.....	14
Our Mission, Vision & Guiding Principles	15

Makes A Difference!

About Orange County Head Start, Inc.

Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS)

is a child development program which provides a comprehensive care model, including Family Services, Education, Nutrition, Health and Wellness, Disability, and Mental Health Services for children and families. Locally, OCHS, a nonprofit agency incorporated in 1979, serves preschool-aged children, infants, toddlers, pregnant mothers, and families throughout Orange County, California. OCHS strives to serve the most vulnerable and at-risk children and families in the community including those who are homeless, in foster care, diagnosed with disabilities, and born to teen parents. Our selection criteria for participation in the program ensure that children with the greatest need are served first. Services are offered through center-based and home-based programs at no cost to qualifying families.

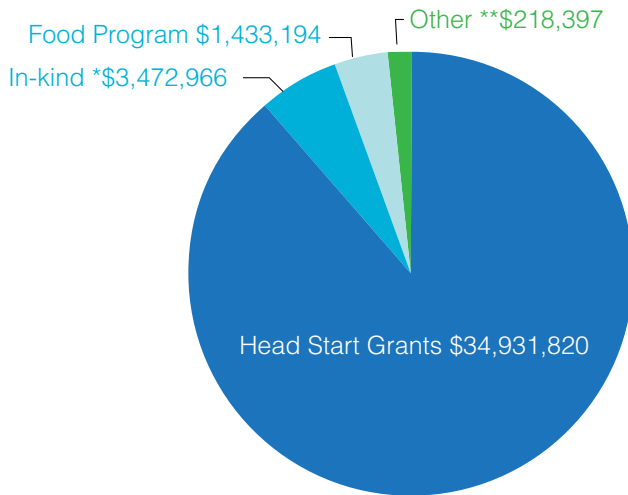
In Orange County there are 13,913 children who are income eligible for Head Start services, and 21,605 children income eligible for Early Head Start services. In 2012-2013, OCHS was funded to serve 4,139 children, of which the grantee was funded to serve 2,509. The additional funding was allocated to five local delegate agencies to serve another 1,630 children. These five delegate agencies were: Anaheim City School District, City of La Habra, Irvine Unified School District, Orange Children and Parents Together, Inc., and Santa Ana Unified School District. For 2012–2013, the average monthly enrollment (as a percentage of funded enrollment) was 100%. Although OCHS was funded to serve 4,139, due to attrition the total number of children and families served was 4,934.

Head Start is an investment in our future. Studies show that society receives nearly \$9 in benefits for every \$1 invested in Head Start. These benefits include increased earnings, employment and family stability, and decreased welfare dependency, crime costs, grade repetition and the need for special education.



Financial Information

Revenues



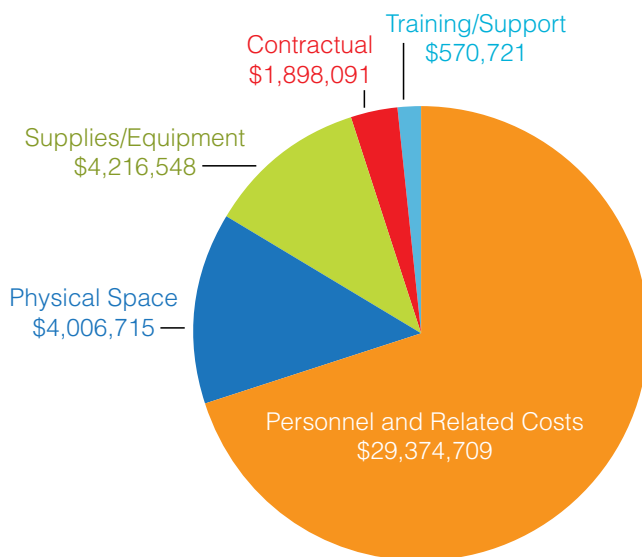
Total Revenues...\$40,056,377

In-kind: Additional in-kind contributions of \$3,613,939 for volunteer services are not included in the audited financial statements as they do not meet the criteria for recognition under FASB ASC 958. They do, however, meet the requirements for Head Start non-Federal share.

*In-kind or non-Federal share is the community's contribution to the local Head Start program. Accordingly, Head Start programs are required to generate 20% of their total budget amount through local contributions. In-kind includes: donated supplies, reduction in lease payments, and professional and parent volunteer services.

**Other revenues come from E-Rate, Reading is Fundamental and Irving Moskowitz Foundation Grants

Expenditures



Total Expenditures...\$40,066,784

Financial Audit and Federal Oversight:

An independent auditor (Rossi, Daskocil & Finkelstein) found that OCHS complied, in all material respects, with the terms of its funding, and conditions of OMB Circular A-133 of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations.

OCHS underwent a successful Federal Review by the Office of Head Start (OHS) in January 2013. A Certificate of Compliance was awarded to OCHS by OHS that acknowledged full compliance with all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.



A Head Start Success Story

My name is Egleth Padilla-Nuncci and my family began our journey with Head Start a little over



a year ago. My husband and I were busy raising our young daughter, Giulianna, while juggling our full time jobs. We were also heavily involved in helping Giulianna overcome a speech

delay. Just when we thought we had found our groove, we were thrown a couple of curve balls. Because of our circumstances, Giulianna missed many of her therapy sessions. As a result, Giulianna withdrew socially and seemed depressed. The Fullerton School District, where Giulianna was receiving her therapy, introduced us to Head Start. We were reluctant to make another change, but with the encouragement of the district staff, we applied to Head Start. We were welcomed with open arms. The support we received allowed my daughter to return to consistent speech therapy and gain the confidence she needed to make friends and enjoy play dates. My husband and I were able to focus on what we needed to do as parents and providers, and together with Head Start, we nourished our family back to life. Not only did Giulianna flourish in the Head Start program, but I became an active parent volunteer in the Health Education Liaison program (HELP), the HR

interview panel, the nutrition program, and Policy Council. Additionally, I got involved with the Safety Assistance Program (SAM) and encouraged over 15 parents to assemble disaster supply backpacks. In 2012, I was awarded 'Parent of the Year'! It gives me great pride knowing that, with the help of Head Start, I have made a difference in my daughter's life and in the lives of other children, and that I have become

a role model in my community.

Preparing Children for Kindergarten

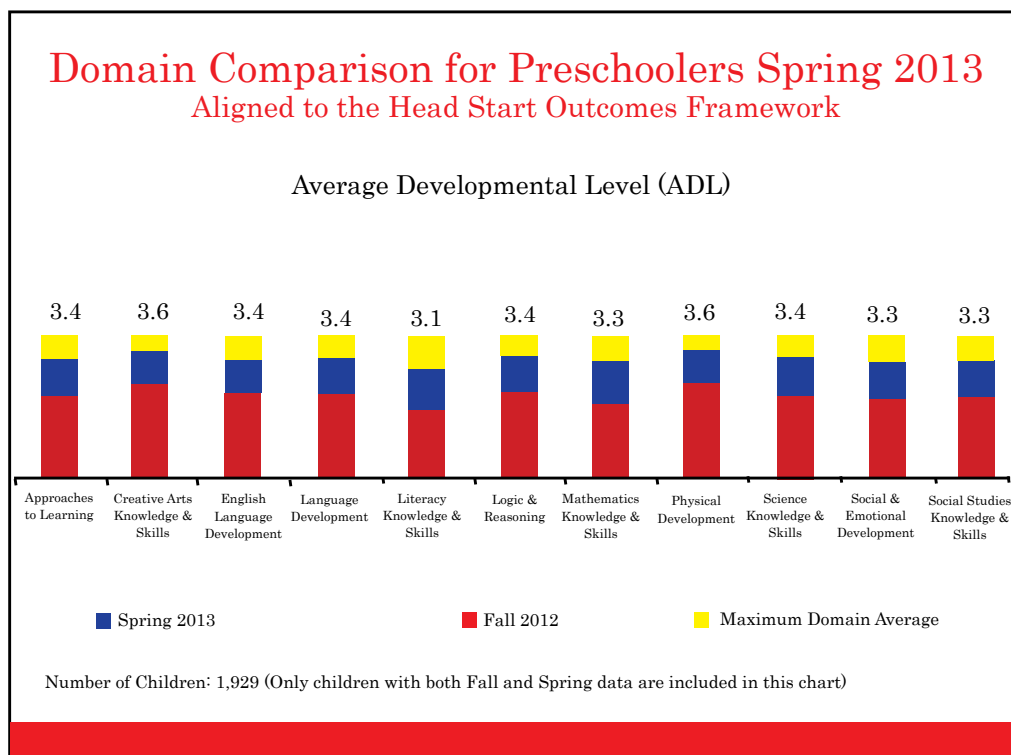
OCHS provides high quality early childhood programming for children birth to five years old in several program options: part and full-day center-based or home-based programs. Home-based services include weekly home visits and two group socialization experiences per month. Facilities are licensed and staffed by early childhood professionals.

To ensure that children who participate in OCHS are successful in kindergarten and future education, OCHS has adopted an overall School Readiness Goal: Children transitioning to kindergarten from OCHS will be able to demonstrate abilities and knowledge as stated in the expectations described in the California Department of Education Preschool Foundations at 60 months. These are aligned with the Head Start Child Development Early Learning Framework. Under this overall goal, OCHS has established domain goals in social emotional development, cognition and general knowledge, language and literacy, physical development and approaches to learning.



Average Developmental Levels for Preschoolers

OCHS has also selected the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) to measure child progress as it is aligned with the California Department of Education Foundations and the curriculum. For the 2012- 2013 school year the chart below reflects the developmental progress children have made on average in each of the Head Start learning domains. As shown, child progress (dark blue) reflects that on average children are meeting or exceeding expected progress levels for kindergarten readiness in all developmental domains.



Percent of Students In the Top Two Developmental Levels

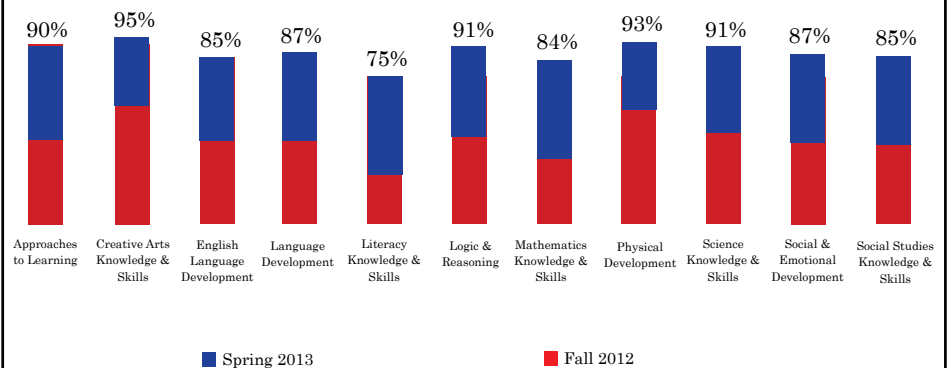
Additionally, the graph below shows the impact of the program on the child progress controlling for age.

- This graph compares assessment results from children who were four years old in the fall to children who were four years old in the spring.
- The two groups of children are all the same age, and have in common that they participated in the program.
- The biggest difference between the two groups is that the group that was four in the spring has had six months more experience in the program.
- The difference between the two groups is an indication of our program's impact on the child's development.



Domain Comparison for Preschoolers Spring 2013 Aligned to the Head Start Outcomes Framework

Percentage of Children in the Top Two Developmental Levels

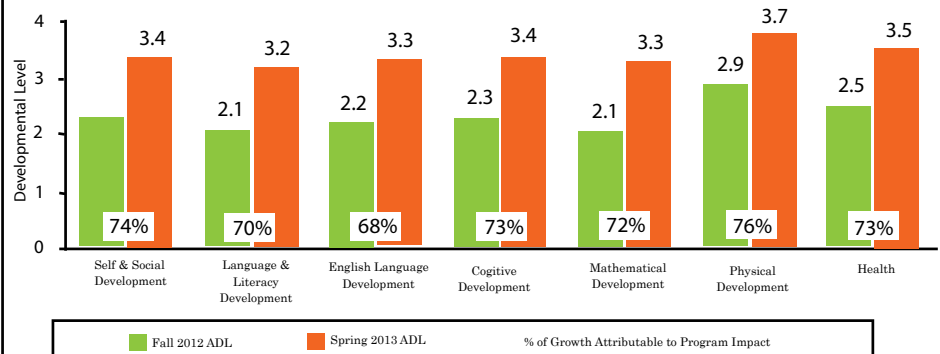


Number of Children: 1,929 (Only children with both Fall and Spring data are included in this chart)

Program Impact

NOTE: Percentages at the bottom of the bar charts represent the amount of growth seen between the fall and the spring due to our program. The rest of the growth is the result of the children getting older.

Amount of Growth Attributable to Program Impact
Average Developmental Level Fall 2012 to Spring 2013



Number of Children: 1,895 *Number of ELD Children: 1,211

Orange County Head Start, Inc. Services

Health Services

The Family Engagement Advocates (FEA) and Health Specialists work closely with families to ensure that each child is up-to-date on his/her schedule of preventive and primary health care. This process includes helping families in identifying a medical home, ensuring that each child has had a physical exam and ensuring timely follow up is received on any identified health issues. Each enrolled child also receives a vision and hearing screening performed by certified OCHS staff, and a body mass index (BMI) assessment within 45 days of enrollment. Children who are identified with BMIs at or above the 85% range or at or below the 5% range receive a second BMI assessment during the program year. The results of these screenings assist OCHS staff in identifying if a child needs further medical follow-up or a consultation with our in-house Registered Dietitian. Health Specialists work closely with an extensive network of community health agencies and clinics to provide a seamless system of care for families, linking them to on-going sources of continuous health care. OCHS also partnered with West Coast University, who provides intern nursing students to assist at the Head Start centers.



Dental Services

The Family Engagement Advocates and Health Specialists work closely with families to ensure that each child has a dental home, and receives a dental exam and timely dental follow-up if needed. OCHS collaborates with dental care providers throughout the community to continually increase services to families. A significant barrier to getting children to the dentist is the parents' belief that preschool children do not need dental care. As a strategy to overcome this barrier, parent volunteers participating in the OCHS Health Education Liaison Program provide education to fellow parents on the importance of oral health care for children. In the classroom, the children also brush their teeth daily and participate in lessons on healthy teeth. OCHS also partnered with Healthy Smiles to send dental vans directly to the Head Start centers to conduct dental assessments and provide educational materials and workshops to the families on the importance of early dental intervention.



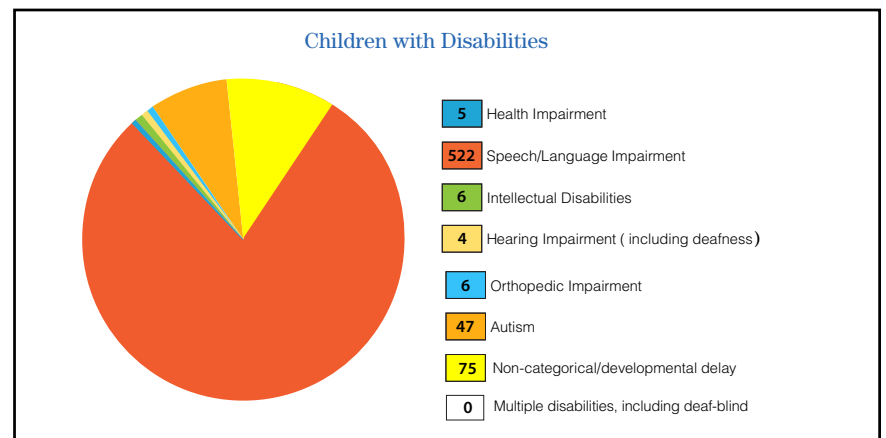
A SUCCESS STORY

Family Engagement Advocates meet with families to complete a Family Partnership Agreement. On one occasion at the Placentia Head Start Center, a parent was very emotional when discussing the parenting section of the agreement, as her eldest son had severe behavior problems. The FEA spoke with the mother and provided her resources. Because of the assistance provided, the mother was able to advocate on behalf of her son who had many headaches. Because the mother advocated for her son, he received a brain scan where they found two cysts in his brain. The child was able to receive the help he needed. The cysts were drained and the behavior concerns are a thing of the past.

Support Services

Services for Children with Disabilities

Through partnering with agencies serving children with disabilities, (e.g., Regional Center of Orange County and Orange County Department of Education), Orange County Head Start, Inc. provided inclusion opportunities for 590 children with various diagnosed disabilities. Offering inclusive educational practices continues to establish Orange County Head Start, Inc. as a model for providing quality services in the least restrictive environment for children with diverse, special needs. In addition, 75 children with disabilities were served in the Early Head Start program. During the 2012-2013 school year, 12% of the children enrolled had diagnosed disabilities.



Nutrition Services

Nutrition education workshops were offered at centers where all families were invited to attend. In addition, the nutrition staff provided numerous nutrition and physical activity lessons in the classroom. The Head Start Registered Dietitians completed numerous consultations assisting families of children presenting nutrition concerns such as unhealthy weight concerns, picky eaters, anemia and more. The OCHS obesity rate in 2012-2013, was at 21.6%. At the end of the 2012-2013 program year, 25.16% of children presenting a BMI equal to or greater than the 95th percentile saw a decrease in weight. This is a significant improvement from the 2011-2012 program year as we observed a reduction of 2.5%. The two OCHS central kitchens offer a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as whole wheat bread and grain products to broaden each child's food experience and help meet each child's nutritional needs. Head Start children have the opportunity to participate in family style meals. OCHS assists families in meeting each child's nutritional needs while promoting the development of good eating habits and a healthy lifestyle.



A SUCCESS STORY

LIA SANTOS is the mother of two children who attended Head Start in the year 2012-2013. When she enrolled in the Parent Nutrition Assistant (PNA) program, she and her girls were living with family members and dealing with the recent loss of her father. Lia approached the registered dietitian to request more information on working in the field of nutrition since it was a subject she felt a draw toward. Lia was extremely proactive as the PNA representative for her center and completed over 50 volunteer hours between the classroom and parent meetings. She even received the award for Most Creative Center Activity for her wall-sized bulletin board displaying pictures and information on healthy eating and nutrition. Lia was also nominated as a Champion for Change for Orange County. By the time she was officially accepted in the Champions for Change organization at the end of the summer, Lia had moved her family into their own apartment had found a part time job and had enrolled in a college nutrition program to pursue a career in either health or nutrition. We are so proud of Lia for her perseverance and success!

Parent, Family & Community Engagement

Each Head Start family is given the opportunity to participate in the Family Partnership agreement process with the Family Engagement Advocates (FEA), who will work closely with each family during the program year to offer resources, referrals and support to meet the needs of each individual family. The FEAs build strong relationships with the families, which enables them to help parents articulate their strengths and needs, identify their interests, and develop and accomplish goals. Through this process, the FEAs assist families in acquiring skills and education, and connect families to resources and systems of support in the community to empower them to succeed beyond their tenure with the agency. OCHS uses a Family Outcomes Rating Scale to measure each family's progress in the three domains of Family Health and Wellness, School Readiness and Self-Sufficiency. Families are encouraged to set goals in areas where they may be most vulnerable, to make progress towards stability in these areas. This tool is also used to measure the agency's progress in meeting program goals. Family Engagement Advocates connect with local community agencies to offer workshops and classes for parents at their centers to meet their needs and interests. Successful outcomes help to ensure that the entire family is prepared for the transition to kindergarten and families are empowered to continue to learn, grow, advocate for their children, and succeed in life.

Parent Nutrition Assistant (PNA) – Parent volunteers participating in this program are trained to provide education on healthy eating and physical activity for both children in the classrooms and parents through workshops and food demonstrations. Parent Nutrition Assistants are enrolled in a college course, Feeding the Young Child, and receive one college unit for completing the course.

Health Education Liaison Program (H.E.L.P.) – The Health Education Liaison Program provides parent volunteers with education and training which enables them to provide health and dental health education for both children in the classrooms and parents during parent meetings. Together parents and their children learn the importance of good physical and dental health.

Human Resources Interview Panels – Parents participate on interview panels to help OCHS hire the most qualified staff. They also acquire skills to help them become great interviewers.

Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) – The HSAC helps OCHS establish ongoing collaborative partnerships with community organizations to make it easier for children and families to access health services.



Policy Council Representative – The Policy Council meets monthly and is responsible for the direction of OCHS, including program design, operation, and long and short-term planning goals and objectives. Policy Council members serve as a link to the center Parent Committees and the community.

Dads Matter – The Dads Matter program promotes and supports the importance of fathers in our families and communities. Dads share feelings and experiences, which encourages them to be more involved in the lives of their children. The Dads Matter curriculum includes: effective parenting strategies, co-parenting, individual asset development, education and many facets of health and human services.

Safety Assistant Monitor (SAM) – Safety Assistant Monitors, in collaboration with staff, monitor safety practices at OCHS centers. Parents review classrooms and outdoor areas to ensure that OCHS health and safety practices are in place.

It gives me great pride knowing that, with the help of Head Start, I have made a difference in my daughter's life and in the lives of other children.

- Egleth Padilla-Nuncci



Board of Directors

Susan V. R. Drummy
Turner Real Estate Investments

Candace Hadnot-Dawkins
OCHS Policy Council Representative

Rebecca Hernandez, MSE
Help Me Grow Orange County

Sean Jacobs
OCHS Policy Council Representative

Maggie Julian
Consultant

Todd E. Lundell
Snell & Wilmer L.L.P. Law Offices

Maggie Macari-Hinson, RN, MSN, CCM
University of California, Irvine Medical Center

Paula K. Mathis
Community Advocate

Patricia A. McAuley, MSHRD
Human Resources Consultant

Dennis Nguyen
Cox Communications

Tu-Quyen Pham
Newport Trial Group

Magally Pule
OCHS Policy Council Representative

Stephanie Reich
University of California, Irvine

Susanne Valdez, M.A.
One Great Town, Inc.

Matthew VanEck
FMV Opinions, Inc.

Paul Dennis Westberg, AIA
Westberg & White
Architects and Planners

Miriam White
Community Advocate

Dr. Cathleen E. Wietstock, Ed.D
Orange County Department of Education

Joseph Yi
OCHS Policy Council Representative

OCHS 6th Annual Family Festival



Each year, OCHS brings together increasing numbers of children and families to celebrate The Week of the Young Child at the OCHS Annual Family Festival. In April 2013, more than 75 community agencies joined together for the agency's 6th Annual Family Festival, held at the Santa Ana Zoo, to bring an abundance of resource information and fun educational activities to over 2,500 of our county's most vulnerable children and families. One of the highlights of the festival was a literacy area where families and volunteers gathered together to read children's books and encourage family literacy. Through the generous support of community businesses and organizations, children were even given the opportunity to select a book to take home with them! Other festival activities included health screenings and healthy cooking demonstrations. The Orange County Association for the Education of Young Children (OCAEYC) and Beginner Blocks joined OCHS as collaborative partners in hosting the festival. From year to year, OCHS looks forward to continuing existing partnerships and developing new ones through this exciting event. Please consider joining us next year!

A SUCCESS STORY



My name is Candace Hadnot. In 2006, I was happily married with two kids ages 7 and 11. By 2008, my world turned upside down. My husband relapsed into drug addiction and we separated. I began living in a shelter with my children. Soon after, I learned I was pregnant. I was working full time. My husband and I were in treatment to understand how to manage his addiction. In August 2008, my husband succumbed to his addiction just 6 weeks before Evan was born. I was suddenly the sole provider. Having no money and a deep sadness seemed more than I could bear, but I knew I had to get my life on track. I decided to earn my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. In pursuit of my degree, I could see that Evan needed to be in a better educational setting. I learned about Head Start and enrolled 3 year old Evan. Head Start has exceeded my expectations and I can't be more grateful for how it has helped mold my son into a smart, happy, and active little boy. One thing many people might not realize is that Head Start is a family centric organization that has great compassion for the parents as well as kids. Having Evan in Head Start has given me the freedom to not only finish my BA, but complete my MA in Forensic Science. I am very thankful for my experiences with Head Start. I know that one day, my kids will be able to look back and also feel the same gratitude for the invaluable services Head Start afforded my kids and me.



Our Mission & Vision

Our Mission: We provide children and their families with quality childhood development programs and integrated support services.

Our Vision: Orange County Head Start, Inc. is the catalyst that launches children and their families to a brighter future.

Guiding Principles

Advocacy - We *advocate* on behalf of the children we serve by providing access to resources and protection of their rights and interests.

Empowerment - We provide the tools and environment to *empower* children and their families.

Learning - We are an organization dedicated to *learning* at all levels, especially for the early childhood years.

Partnerships - We deliver services through *partnerships* and collaboration.

Quality - We ensure the *quality* of our programs through continuous improvement and outcomes-based practices.

Respect - We *respect* diversity and acknowledge the value it brings to our community.

Wellness - We are committed to the emotional and physical *well-being* of our staff, children, and families.