

JUNE 2025

WEST OHIO COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP



Kimberly Bruns, CEO

In recognition of the hard work and dedication of our incredible staff and the month of May designated as Community Action Month, the agency recently hosted a Staff Appreciation Event filled with laughter, team spirit, and a bit of healthy competition at the Westgate Entertainment Center

STRIKES, SMILES, AND TEAM SPIRIT: AGENCY TEAM-BUILDING & STAFF APPRECIATION



Thank You for Celebrating Community Action Month With Us! From engaging events and thoughtful donations to community outreach and uplifting stories, your support truly embodies the spirit of community action. Together, we've highlighted the importance of fighting poverty, creating opportunities, and uplifting families throughout our region. A special thanks to our dedicated staff who go above and beyond every day — your passion and commitment make a lasting difference. We're proud to be part of a network that believes in hope, opportunity, and action. Let's keep the momentum going — because when we work together, we create stronger, brighter communities for all.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Philippian Church
Shawnee Properties
Computer Data Services
Stolly Insurance
Doug Daley
Pleasant View Landscaping
Beer Barrel
Westgate Lanes
ES Evans
BIGGBY Coffee - St. Mary's & Celina

ESCON LLC
Milano's Cafe
Fat Jacks
Barb Gossard
Laura Art
Align Right Technologies
Wings and Rings
Grays Cappies Sportwear
American Billboard Advertising
Ashlea's Crafty Affair
Connie Dershem

SPiRiT WEEK

Our agency came alive with energy, laughter, and unity as we celebrated Spirit Week! Each day brought a new theme, allowing staff to show off their creativity, connect with colleagues, and most importantly, have fun while celebrating our shared mission.

MAY 19: 🎂 HEAD START BIRTHDAY BASH

Staff & Early Head Start and Head Start Classrooms enjoyed a sweet treat to celebrate the 60th birthday of Head Start



MAY 20: ❤️ HUGGY HEART DAY

Our Early Head Start & Head Start children showed their support for Community Action Month in the sweetest way – by adding their thumbprints to a special poster celebrating the power of helping others



MAY 21: 🧠 MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Mental health is essential. Staff showed their support and solidarity by wearing green as we raise awareness, uplift one another, and remind ourselves to make self-care a priority



MAY 22: 🕺 THROWBACK THURSDAY

Staff dressed from their favorite decade and joined together on a nostalgic journey through time



MAY 23: 👕 STAFF APPRECIATION DAY

Ended the week celebrating our staff – the heart of our programs

PROCLAMATION



Thank you to Mayor Sharetta Smith for issuing a proclamation in honor of Community Action Month and recognizing the important work our agency does to support individuals and families in our community!



THANK YOU

As Community Action Month comes to a close, we want to extend our heartfelt thank you to our incredible staff, partners, and community members who helped make this month so meaningful

Kindergarten Kamp 2025

Register your child today and help them get ready for Kindergarten!



**Children must be entering
Kindergarten in the Fall for
the 2025-2026 school year.**

**Free breakfast & lunch served
daily**

Heritage Elementary School:
8:30am - 1:30pm

June 30th - July 31st

Limited Transportation
available

Unity Elementary School:
9:00am - 2:00pm

Monday-Thursday

For more information
contact:

Dawn Smith at:
419-996-3685

kkamp@wocap.org





Scan for more
information



HOW TO AVOID UTILITY-RELATED SCAMS AND FRAUD

Scams targeting consumers are a widespread problem. There are hundreds of known scams, and new ones are always emerging.

Avoid being scammed

Protect personal information. Utilities will not contact you to ask for your personal or account information. Be wary about sharing or verifying sensitive information and do not show your utility bill to anyone claiming to need to check or verify charges. Always read your utility bill every month.

Be cautious. Be wary of anyone threatening disconnection and demanding immediate payment. Be cautious of calling unfamiliar numbers. Hang up on callers who ask you to press a number or dial a toll-free phone number.

Take your time. Scammers often use high-pressure tactics and want you to act fast, so you cannot verify their claims. Review your bills monthly, question unfamiliar charges, and do your research before signing a contract. Check ID and verify with your utility if someone wants access to your home.

LEARN MORE AT: www.occ.ohio.gov/factsheet/how-avoid-utility-related-scams-and-fraud



Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel
"Your Residential Utility Consumer Advocate"
www.occ.ohio.gov

May Celebrations

Celebrating Strong Women at WOCAP

Our two classrooms at Trinity United Methodist Church, had a joy hosting a special Female Role Model Day - Your Love Helps Me Grow- a heartwarming event celebrating and honoring the incredible women in our students' lives. Thank you to the mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and sisters who joined us to make the day so special and meaningful. We are raising a generation that knows the value of kindness, courage, and creativity!



Mother's Day Spa-tacular

Our little learners in O'Neal B's classroom celebrated their moms by having a "Mothers Day Spa-tacular". The mothers were pampered with back massages, a new hair style, and fresh manicures. Thank you to all the moms who joined us—it was such a joy to see the special bond between you and your little ones shine. We hope you left feeling as beautiful and appreciated as you truly are.

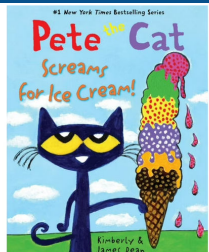


Spring Family Engagement Event

We had such a wonderful time at our Spring Family Engagement Event! Thank you to the families who joined us for a fun-filled evening. Events like these strengthen the bond between home and school, and we're so grateful for the opportunity to build memories together! Shoutout to our dedicated teachers and staff who made this event a success — and to our families for being such an important part of our Head Start community! Thank You to our resource volunteers who generously shared their time and activities with our families - CareSource, Altrusa, YWCA Child Care Resource & Referral - Lima, Lima Public Library, Allen County Public Health: CRIB Program. A special Thank You to WBGU-PBS for their donation of books and materials for our families- as well as the hit of the evening - their inflatable whale for the kids to go inside.



BOOKS



Pete The Cat: Screams For Ice Cream
The Just Chillin' ice cream truck is coming today and Pete the Cat can't wait. He runs as fast as he can to find the truck. It's getting late, but his friends need his help. Will Pete take a little time out of his day to help his friends? Follow Pete the Cat as he learns that it's always cool to be kind.



Summer Vacation, Here I Come!
It's summer time, and what better way to celebrate the season than with some poems from best-selling author D. J. Steinberg! From splashing around at the local pool to heading on a family roadtrip, these silly and heartwarming poems will have you ready for summer.

From Head Start to College Graduate

We're celebrating a full-circle moment that started with a strong foundation: Head Start

Years ago, a bright and curious child entered the Head Start program - learning to read, make friends, and dream big. With the love, support, and early education they received, he built the skills and confidence that carried through every step of his academic journey. It gave a family hope and a child an opportunity. Fast forward to today: That child has received his Master's Degree!

We are so proud of Dalonte and so grateful for the incredible educators and caregivers who believed in him from the very beginning. Head Start didn't just prepare him for school - it helped unlock a future of possibilities

"For me, Head Start was the foundation for how I learned to love learning. I got to be part of a program that created a fun, friendly, and supportive environment early on, and it was my first real exposure to how exciting learning could be. I just recently graduated with a Master's Degree in Public Administration, and I still remember the "Days of the Week" song we sang in Head Start. Head Start provided lifelong memories that I will always be grateful to have had" - Dalonte



BIRTHDAYS

6 - Penny Krouse
6 - Sabrina Downing
7 - Vicky Centers
14 - Melina Robinson
19 - Michela Hinojosa
20 - Chasity Creech
29 - Kim Crawford

ANNIVERSARIES

• Christine Magoto - 17 years
• Leora Donley - 9 years
• Lauren Link - 11 years
• Vicky Centers - 28 years
• Margaret Gwinn - 8 years

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

6th - Home Based Family Day
18th - Policy Council Meeting
18th - WOCAP Board Meeting
19th - Agency CLOSED in observance of Juneteenth
27th - Home Based Family Day

Excellent Attendance

Our goal is to prepare your child for their next stepping stone of education whether it is Head Start or Kindergarten. Regular Attendance is an important part of your child's educational, social, and emotional development. When children are absent from school they are missing out on a lot of educational and social opportunities. We would like to thank those parents who assure their child is attending school every day. In the month of April, we had 76 children with Perfect Attendance.

EHS Home Based (GG)

Za'Kius B.
Ari'el G.
Hayden L.
Willow T.
A'King W.
Robert W.

EHS Home Based (JJ)

Ace F.
Blossom F.
James K.
Harley P.

Lima Sr. II
Ashlyn S.

Kingdom Daycare

Elijah A.
Aaryan N.

Little Rascals C

Martel H. Jr.
Keenan W.

Shawnee Munchkin

Kane H.

Shawnee
Terrific 2's
Wessen C.
Drue F.
Charlotte L.

Shawnee Tiny
Toddlers
Madaline S.

Shawnee Transitional
Toddlers
Camilla C.
Westyn W.

Shawnee
Wobblers
Luxx F.
Asher L.

The Children's PL
Cameliana A.
Ka'Marion N.
Knolan W.

Trinity CCC
Harper R.

Central D
Jyaire A.
Cooper E.
Kellum I.
Envee M.
Malachi W.

Central G
Kassidy A.
Jordyn B.
Kari B.
Karliah B.
Saskia D.
Charlie G.
Harper H.
Emma J-D.
Titan M.
Alistair P.
Winchester S

Allen East
Zander M.
Bearrett R.
Kaedyn S.
Za'Raeah S.
Sophia S.
McKinley V..

Howard A
Maysenders P.
Zanyla G.

O'Neal A
Zarian G. Jr.
Amelia L.
Emmett L.
Nova'Rose S.
Ruth V-V

O'Neal B
Dallas F.

HS Home Based (KC)

Axis J.
Emberly K.
Abel M.
Ky'Leil T.

Market St. I
King M.
Elena W.

Philippian
Chanze B.
Desiree B.
Kae'Lon F.
Landon L.
Rilynn L.

St. Matthew's
Reace J.
Justus P.

Head Start strengthens families — and Ohio's economy

Protecting and expanding Head Start overall is not a narrow programmatic choice but a foundational investment in Ohio's workforce stability, educational equity, and community resilience.

Julie Stone, Ohio Head Start Association



Published in the Ohio Capital Journal, OHSAI Executive Director, Julie Stone makes the case for Head Start as an economic engine as much as an educational and family empowerment one.

For nearly 60 years, Head Start has quietly done what so many government programs promise but few deliver: strengthen families, support work, and invest in children without expanding bureaucracy. In every Ohio county, from our most rural hills to our busiest cities, Head Start helps families chart a better course. It ensures young children have a strong start in life and gives working parents the peace of mind they need to stay on the job, pursue education, and build economic security.

In today's economy, where 72% of Ohio children under age six live in homes where all parents work, access to safe, reliable child care isn't just a convenience — it's a necessity.

And for many low-income families, Head Start is the only option. Head Start accounts for one-third of publicly funded care in Ohio, and in rural counties, that increases to well over half of all publicly funded care.

Any reduction or disruption would create child care deserts where working parents would face impossible choices: leaving the workforce, relying on unreliable care, or falling into deeper financial hardship.

Protecting and expanding Head Start overall is thus not a narrow programmatic choice but a foundational investment in Ohio's workforce stability, educational equity, and community resilience.

During the 2023–2024 program year, more than 31,000 Ohio children, including over 8,000 infants and toddlers, relied on Head Start. And behind those numbers are tens of thousands of working parents who were able to earn a paycheck, contribute to their communities, and set a stronger foundation for their families.

That's what Head Start really is: an economic engine as much as an educational and family empowerment one. The program's design reflects many of the values we hold dear in Ohio. Funding flows directly to local organizations, not federal agencies, so decisions are made by people who know their communities best. Local leaders assess needs, direct resources, and are held accountable for results. It's government at its most responsive and efficient.

And the results speak for themselves. Children who participate in Head Start are more likely to graduate, more likely to avoid the criminal justice system, and less likely to rely on public assistance down the line, and the benefits carry on to the children of former Head Start students.

That's not just good for families — it's good for taxpayers. For every \$1 invested in Head Start, we see up to \$9 in long-term returns. That's not frivolous spending — it's smart, conservative investing in Ohio's future.

What's at stake now isn't just early education. It's the stability of thousands of families and the workforce participation of parents across Ohio. Policy changes, regional office closures, and continued funding uncertainty threaten to destabilize the very systems that keep working families afloat, especially in communities where child care options are already limited.

We need Ohio's congressional delegation to stand strong for Head Start, not as a partisan issue, but as a pro-family, pro-work investment that delivers real returns. This program is helping Ohioans do what they're already trying to do: raise their children, work hard, and build a better life.

Our children and our economy deserve nothing less.



EARLY HEAD START/ HEAD START

ENROLL NOW

AGES BIRTH - 5 YEARS



419-227-2586

www.wocap.org

West Ohio CAP
540 S. Central Avenue
Lima, OH 45804



Parents are involved in decision making and in carrying out the program's activities. Parents serve on Parent Policy Council, parenting groups, and work as volunteers in the classroom. They also help to develop educational and social activities for their children.

FREE program that offers social, emotional and intellectual growth to prepare children for success in life

Head Start is a comprehensive program for children and their families. We offer Home-Based and Center-Based options to best meet your needs. The Home-Based option consist of a home based teacher, child, and family work together to provide activities and experiences designed to meet the child's needs in the home environment for 1.5 hours.

What Services Are Provided?

Developmental screenings, hearing, vision, dental exam and treatment, lead testing, hemoglobin testing, parenting classes, and various training opportunities. Transportation to the center may be provided for eligible children and each child receives a free snack, breakfast and/or hot lunch daily. Field trips and family days are scheduled throughout the year.

What Are The Requirements?

- Families income must be at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- Families/children experiencing homelessness or who are in foster care are also eligible.
- Children with a disability may also qualify.
- Services available for children age birth - five years of age
- Service are available to families/children that live or work in Allen County

Board of Trustees - 2025

Representatives must be One Third Private Business, One Third Public Entity, and One Third Low-Income

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C.A.L.L. Pantry

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