



## Significant Successes:

**Success of our Parents** - CORS is beyond proud to have three parents participating in the OHSAI Parent Ambassador program. This is a state leadership program that chooses outstanding parents to learn to become high skilled, well-spoken and confident parent advocates both locally and nationally. This leadership group will travel to Capitol Hill for the Winter Leadership Institute to meet with Senators and Representatives to discuss directly the child and family outcomes of Early Head Start and Head Start. This is the parents time to be heard!

**Success of our Children** - In this past year CORS preschool classrooms experienced the Federal Head Start CLASS Review. In CLASS the quality of the teacher/child interactions were assessed with the research based tool in three areas: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. The classrooms not only scored well above the minimum threshold in all three areas, they scored at or above the current national highest 10%. While national trends demonstrate decreasing scores in Instructional Support, CORS classrooms continue to demonstrate increases in the quality of this area.

**Enhanced Services** - During the past year CORS expanded the delivery of services in the home base program. All our home

visitors now work with children from birth to 5 years old over a full year time period; children and families now have ongoing high quality services all year long. Our family advocates have transitioned from part year to full year work schedules also. Recruitment and enrollment efforts are now in full force during the summer months for part year center based classrooms to make sure our centers are fully enrolled in the fall. This makes family advocates available with a presence in the community all year long for the program.

**Health of our Children** - Because of our evidence-based preschool vision screenings and active partnership with the Lions Club of Ohio, seventeen children received glasses for the first time and one child received a second pair.

We established a partnership with Edison College of Nursing. Their registered nursing students were able to assist the program by providing child, parent and staff education, and assisting with screenings and data entry.

A new partnership was established with the Xenia Kiwanis, they helped with the annual hearing tests by sending eight volunteers into our centers to assist with screenings and learn about our program.

# School Readiness

CORS approach to School Readiness means that children are ready for school, families are equipped to support their children's learning, and schools are prepared for our children. This requires consistent ongoing partnerships between our program, parents and schools/collaborative partners to ensure the successful transition of children into kindergarten.

Building on the three points of this approach, this year CORS sought to: 1.) increase children's retention of school readiness skills, 2.) increase parent awareness and 3.) engage in school readiness by strengthening partnerships with public schools/collaborative partners.

1. Four times a year each classroom team examines their specific data and develops classroom specific school readiness goals tailored to the developmental levels and growth, individual needs, and demographics of that classroom. This method throughout the program year has led to consistent gains towards overall school readiness.
2. Parents are acknowledged as a child's first and primary teacher. With this in mind, educational staff engage parents in developing three developmental goals for each child based on the CORS school readiness objectives, child's assessment data, and the parent's ideas for their child's success. These goals are reviewed periodically during the program year with the parent, to assess progress and revise as needed.
3. To sustain and strengthen CORS partnerships with the public schools and collaborative partners, representatives from all 9 counties along with parent, staff, and Board representatives were invited to engage in quarterly School Readiness Committee meetings.
  - Representatives reviewed year end data and shared valuable insights and feedback for more productive kindergarten transitions along with trends in education and health.
  - Collaborations for enhanced productivity of kindergarten transitions continued with Piqua City Schools and Sidney City Schools. Second year collaborations with Urbana City Schools, Riverside Schools, Bradford Schools, and Milton Union Schools were begun.

CORS data proves whole child / whole family approach, along with consistent implementation of education, parent engagement, and community/school partnerships continues to provide positive impacts for the children, families, and communities we serve.



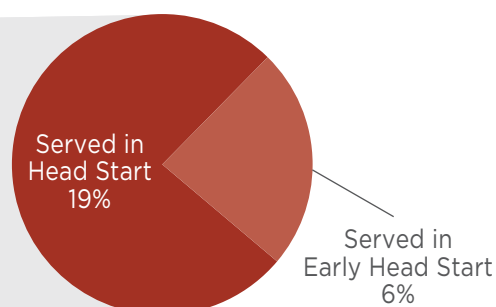
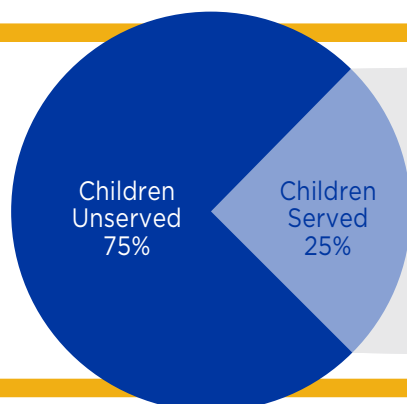
## Service Statistics

- Average monthly enrollment: EHS 101% - HS 96%
- Total children receiving physical exams: EHS 99% - HS 99%
- Total children receiving dental exams: EHS 98% - HS 99%
- Total children served with disabilities in the federal funded program slots: both programs 10%



## Children in Poverty

in our nine county services area





## Family Engagement and Involvement

The 2015-16 school year was full of opportunities for parents to be involved with their child's center. Parent meetings, events, and training opportunities were presented in all of our 9 counties. Parents were offered the four Head Start required parent meetings: Value of Play, Mental Health, Budgeting and Nutrition, and Kindergarten Readiness. Parents were also offered two "Day of Play" activities in the school year. Parents and children had the opportunity to play and create with items in the classroom that are unconventional and fun.

Many of the centers had several parent activity nights including, science night, language and literacy night and various speakers from the community.

Along with the events for the required parent trainings, our parents were offered an opportunity to take a Grocery Store Tour in their area to promote knowledge of cost effective and nutritious foods. Ninety-five parents took this opportunity to learn about their local grocery store, take a tour and take a challenge. At the end of the tour parents were asked to fill out a questionnaire and they received a \$10 gift card for participating. This grant was funded by Share Our Strengths, Cooking Matters.org.

Some of the local centers had an opportunity to volunteer at the Dayton Dollar Book Swap. The parents volunteered their time for the community and received free books for themselves, their children and for their center.

One county offered a parenting class called ACT, Adults and Children Together Raising Safe Kids which instructs families to use nonviolent parenting skills and reduce children's aggression and behavior problems. Eleven parents completed this 6-week program. The response from the participating parents was "great program". It will be repeated again this year.

Lastly for the 2015-16 school year CORS had a very active and well-rounded Policy Council. Policy Council is a group which is an advisory board for the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs. Policy Council had anywhere from 15-19 parents participate at each meeting. Out of Policy Council we had three Parent Ambassadors chosen to participate with the state program. Our parents will be able to represent Head Start on Capitol Hill in January during the Winter Leadership Institute.

# About Us

Council on Rural Services is a nine-county non-profit organization that has provided holistic education and service programs to children and youth in west central Ohio for 44 years. Although this newsletter focuses on the annual report for our Head Start program, we are also the grantee for other programming that supports citizen of all ages in the communities.

Kids Learning Place is Council on Rural Services outstanding early childhood program that includes Head Start, Early Head Start and child care services. Kids Learning Place serves children ages 6 weeks through five years in both part and full-day classroom education environments, pregnant mothers and children through 5 years in a home base option and children through 12 years of age in the child care which includes before/after school programs. During the last year we served 2135 children in our nine counties.

Our seamless services also extend to Gateway Youth, Achievement Center for Education Success (ACES) and Community Connectors; they focus on positive youth development beyond the early childhood years. These programs build healthy relationships and innovative approaches to support the youth of our communities in the process of transition from dependent child to independent adult. Last year we supported over 362 youth and their families, as they moved towards a higher sense of self and achievement.

I invite you to explore our websites and our Facebook sites to learn more about us. Thank you for your continued interest and support of children, youth, adults and families in our communities.

Dan Schwanitz - Chief Executive Officer



## Financial Information (Full Agency)

### Federal Monitoring Review

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted three onsite Federal reviews at CORS during 2015-2016.

- Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) review was conducted in December 2015, there were no findings and our scores were above the National CLASS score averages.
- Environmental Health and Safety review was conducted in March 2016, there were two non-compliance issues cited in the Standards of Conduct area. CORS has corrected the findings and ACF has closed the previously identified findings file.
- Comprehensive Services School Readiness review was conducted in April 2016 with no outstanding issues of non-compliance.

Source of Funds	Budget	Actual
Federal	\$13,106,645	\$12,451,852
State	\$1,477,223	\$1,403,423
Local	\$966,461	\$918,178
Local In-Kind	\$237,045	\$225,202
	<b>\$15,787,374</b>	<b>\$14,998,655</b>

Expense Breakdown	Budget	Actual
Salaries and Wages	\$9,046,165	\$8,549,675
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	\$2,605,504	\$2,448,924
Contracted Services	\$444,032	\$421,848
Direct Program Expenses	\$1,700,748	\$1,615,781
Building Expenses	\$1,280,716	\$1,216,733
Travel and Training	\$395,777	\$376,004
Miscellaneous	\$77,388	\$73,522
Value of Donated Facilities	\$237,044	\$225,202
Supplies & Services		
	<b>\$15,787,374</b>	<b>\$14,927,689</b>

Change in Unrestricted Net Assets \$ 70,966

### Audit

The final audit report for Fiscal year 2015 was completed and submitted with the following statement from the auditing firm: The results of our tests disclosed no instances on non-compliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

The 2015 Child and Adult Care Food Program audit was completed with no findings.

### Strategic Planning

The Board of Trustees along with the agency management team are continuing the process of strategic planning towards a positive, purposeful, and thriving future for CORS. We continue to define and adjust the organizational direction, set priorities and focus, and strengthen our operations. CORS goal is that everyone works towards a common objective that produces fundamental decisions that will guide the organization to adjust for changing environments.

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