

Business and Education Media Alert**School bells ring-in five decades for
early childhood learning agency****Community-based 50th anniversary planned**

Dayton, Ohio – September 14, 2015 – As more than 100 early childhood education teachers opened the doors to welcome eager new learners into pristine centers this month, little did these children know they entered a special era in history. These children are part of Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc.'s 50th school year.



MVCDC, a federally funded nonprofit that provides Head Start education and comprehensive programming to families of low-income, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Known as a leader in its field, the agency has garnered a great deal of wisdom having experienced a half century of mounding and stringent mandates with fluctuating funding levels from Capitol Hill.



MVCDC was incorporated in 1965 as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s national summer learning program. By 1977 the agency served 465 children in Montgomery County. In 1978 that number grew to 680 children with the addition of Clark County. In 1980 Madison County was added with another 30 children served.

Earlier this year MVCDC received notification from the Administration for Children and Families of an annual expansion grant of \$4.1 million for Early Head Start education and family services. The Dayton-headquartered agency landed Ohio’s largest competitive award. An additional 300 infants and toddlers, ages birth to 36 months, and 300 three to five year olds are being served through the grant. Business partnership opportunities were contracted to 18 private child care centers and 15 family-based child care providers. Another 20 local jobs were created and filled as part of the grant.

MVCDC’s expanded service area includes Early Head Start and Head Start programming in Butler, Clark, Greene, Madison, and Montgomery counties. Early Head Start serves youth ages birth to 3, while the traditional Head Start program serves children 3-years-old through Kindergarten. It receives \$18.5 million annually, part of a \$500 million national school preparedness initiative for underserved families.

In addition to providing education through the research-based High Scope Curriculum, MVCDC’s Head Start focus is on the well-being of the child. Its family-focused programs provide health, mental health, nutrition, and social services. Stimulating indoor and outdoor environments motivate children to learn, socialize, solve problems, and gain self-confidence.

All centers operate with a high teacher to student ratio that exceeds Ohio’s minimum requirements. Each classroom is staffed with a degreed early childhood education teacher and certified teaching assistant.



Angela Reeves, a family-based provider says the additional funding has improved the quality of materials and assessment tools for the six Early Head Start students she teaches in her home. Reeves added, "I have been a sole proprietor since 2006 and worked with Head Start the past four years. My center is open Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. MVCDC's coaches are very helpful to an enhanced daily student academia, quality of life offerings to the families, and my own woman-owned business success."

To be eligible for program enrollment, parents are required to be employed or attending school. They are encouraged to volunteer, participate in meetings, and become members of the policy council, parent engagement and/or male involvement programs. MVCDC's early childhood education center locations allow parents to choose the learning environment that works best for their family. Full day/part day, full year/part year, home-based, and family-based options are offered. The program is offered at low or no cost to qualifying families.



"As we commemorate 50 years in business, the 2015 grant is allowing us to provide Early Head Start services to 688 Miami Valley children—a 600% increase over the past five years. It is a proud moment when we look back at our history. More than 100,000 children have gained school preparedness and life skills through MVCDC," said Mary Burns, MVCDC President.

A community-based 50th anniversary gala/fundraiser is planned for Saturday, September 26, 2015, 6:30 p.m. at Sinclair Conference Center. The keynote address will be delivered by the national Office of Head Start's newly appointed director, Dr. Blanca E. Enriquez. Ticket and event information are available at www.mvcdc.org.

MVCDC's enrollment line and waiting list is open year round. For more information, call 937.2.ENROLL. For information on the 50th Anniversary Gala, call 937.545.9654.

ABOUT Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc.

Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc. was incorporated in 1964 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation. The agency began providing comprehensive Head Start services to low income children ages three to five years in 1965. Today, Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc. is funded to serve 2,421 children ages 3-5 years and 688 children ages 0-3 in Butler, Clark, Greene, Madison, and Montgomery counties, Ohio. Funding is provided through the US Department of Health and Human Services; Administration for Children and Families; and the Ohio Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education.

The program positively impacts some of the neediest children in the nation. It prepares children ages zero to five for success in Kindergarten and beyond.

Each child is assessed at the beginning of the school year and periodically throughout the year. Results are regularly reviewed and tabulated to determine each child's progress and what is required to assist in their continued development. The program targets most of its services toward families of low income.

ABOUT Head Start

Created in 1965, Head Start is the most successful, longest-running, national school readiness program in the United States. It provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. More than 22 million preschool aged children have benefited from Head Start.

ABOUT Administration for Children and Families and Early Childhood Development Grant

The Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary and Interdepartmental Liaison for Early Childhood Development (ECD) promotes a joint approach at the federal level to improving the availability of high quality early learning and development programs. We are made up of the [Office of Child Care](#), the [Office of Head Start](#), and the Interagency Team.

ACF works with federal agencies, state and tribal councils and administrators, and a wide range of national organizations and nonprofit partners. Its interagency, collaborative programs and communications help ensure a complete and integrated approach to improving the nation's childhood learning and development.

ACF is supporting states and communities as they expand high quality early learning opportunities to infants and toddlers through EHS-CC Partnerships. The partnerships will support working families by providing a full-day, full-year program so that low-income children have the healthy and enriching early experiences they need to realize their full potential.

Early Head Start programs also provide comprehensive services that benefit children, families, and teachers, including:

- Health, developmental and behavioral screenings
- Higher health, safety and nutrition standards
- Increased professional development opportunities for teachers
- Increased parent engagement opportunities

Media contact:

Mary Burns, CEO

937.226.5664

mburns@mvcdc.org

Tina Marker, MVCDC Marketing Strategist/Advisor

937.545.9654

marketing@mvcdc.org