



## Business and Education Media Alert

For Release: February 23, 2017

### Literacy focus of giveaways for Springfield Head Start families



Bold Beginning Resource Fair #2 ~ Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc.

**Springfield, Ohio** – Low income families in Springfield are lining up for much needed parenting resources.

Bold Beginning is a pilot and community engagement program created by the Ohio Department of Education.

Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc., a nonprofit entity, is managing a series of four resource fairs through March 8. This is the third event under the pilot targeted at communities shown to have the greatest need as measured by child outcomes including infant mortality, kindergarten readiness, and Third Grade Reading Guarantee Scores. Ultimately the goal is to help at-risk children attain a healthy and prepared entrance for learning in school.

Qualifying parents affiliated with MVCDC, YMCA, Springfield City Schools, and local partners are encouraged to take advantage of free resources at each event. Future giveaways include books, blankets, backpacks, smoke detectors, CO2 detectors, gift baskets, and household gift cards.

MVCDC anticipates over 100 parents at its upcoming third event:

**Thursday, February 23, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
1500 West Jefferson Street, Springfield**

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## **MVDC Literacy, health, and safety giveaways**

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According to Mary Burns, MVDC president, "ODE approached a handful of early childhood education providers late 2016 to secure interest in \$50,000 grants. We jumped on the opportunity to help deserving Springfield parents, which is part of our five county service area. Research data reflect over a 30% child poverty rate for Springfield while the State of Ohio is 16%."

The fourth and final giveaway promises to deliver a large variety of health, safety, and literacy items. It is scheduled for March 9 at Town and Country Early Childhood Center, 2430 Van Buren Avenue, Springfield. For more information on Bold Beginning or Head Start program enrollment, call 937.226.5664.

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### **ABOUT Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc.**



MVDC's Head Start programs provide quality preschool and Kindergarten readiness services to children and families at or below poverty level. Early Head Start serves children ages 0-3, while the regular Head Start program serves children 3-year-olds to Kindergarten.

In 2016 the agency served 1,243 Early Head Start children and 3,098 Head Start children. Its service area covers Butler, Clark, Greene, Madison, and Montgomery counties.

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.

Head Start's long history of comprehensive services to children and families has been shown to positively impact some of the neediest children in the nation. The program 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.

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**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 Bold Beginning Pilot**



The Ohio Family and Community Engagement pilot program is being conducted as part of a federal Early Learning Challenge Grant administered by the Ohio Department of Education. The pilot will be conducted in 12 target areas: Columbus, Crooksville, East Cleveland, East Liverpool, Latham, Lima, Lorain, Mansfield, New Miami, Springfield, Toledo and Warren. The ultimate goal is healthy children who are ready for kindergarten. The primary audience is children under age six from families with lower incomes and likely not enrolled in existing local support systems.

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