



Business and Education Media Alert
(interview and photo op)

For Release: June 23, 2017

MVCDC hosts three-county father engagement and training day



Dayton, Ohio – There is a father absence crisis in America. According to the U.S. census bureau, 24 million children, 1 out of 3, live without their biological father in the home. Consequently, there is a father factor in nearly all social ills facing America today.

Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc., a 50 year veteran in the field of early childhood education, continues to promote its parent engagement programs. The nonprofit serves to enhance early childhood learning and development not only for child birth to age five, but parents as well. Of particular focus is the importance of engaging fathers and significant other males in the lives of MVCDC's preschool age students.

On Friday, June 23, the agency will host father training sessions from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.. The goal is to provide crucial information to help fathers and father figures understand the importance of social-emotional connections with their child. The event is aligned with Responsible Fatherhood Month established by the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood.

Trainers include John Kinsel, early childhood mental health specialist, and Sean Walton, community youth leader and volunteer. Invitations were extended to the agency's **service areas in Clark, Madison, and Montgomery counties. MVCDC expects 50 to 150 fathers/significant males for the session. Senator Bill Beagle** expressed interest in the event and is expected to attend.

Friday, June 23, 2017

Marilyn E. Thomas Center, 2900 Shiloh Springs Road, Dayton, Ohio

10 a.m. to 12 p.m. – fathers & significant males training by Kinsel and Walton

12 p.m. to 1 p.m. – family cookout

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. – resource room tours & networking

2 p.m. to 3 p.m. – father & significant males debriefing

3 p.m. - closing remarks from Urban Light Ministries

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John Kinsel stresses that "research shows children benefit directly from their father's parenting contributions. Positive bonding and attachment issues are paramount to healthy growth in children. Early involvement equates to strong brain development. Children with an actively involved father figure are more likely to enter adulthood with a better chance of educational achievement, job success, and strong family relationships."

Partners and service providers with onsite booths during the event include:

Montgomery County Child Support
Urban Light Ministries
Goodwill Re-entry
Dayton Cooks
Dayton Metro Libraries
Five Rivers Metro Parks
WIC
Public Health
Planned Parenthood
CareSource
Buckeye Health
CareSource Life Stages
Miami Valley CTC
ZIKS Pharmacy

Funding for this initiative is co-sponsored by the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood. For more information on Head Start program enrollment, call 937.226.5664.

ABOUT Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc.



MV CDC'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

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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.

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 Ohio Commission on Fatherhood



The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood is a state agency housed within the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services. Its mission is to enhance the well-being of Ohio's children by providing opportunities for fathers to become better parents, partners and providers

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