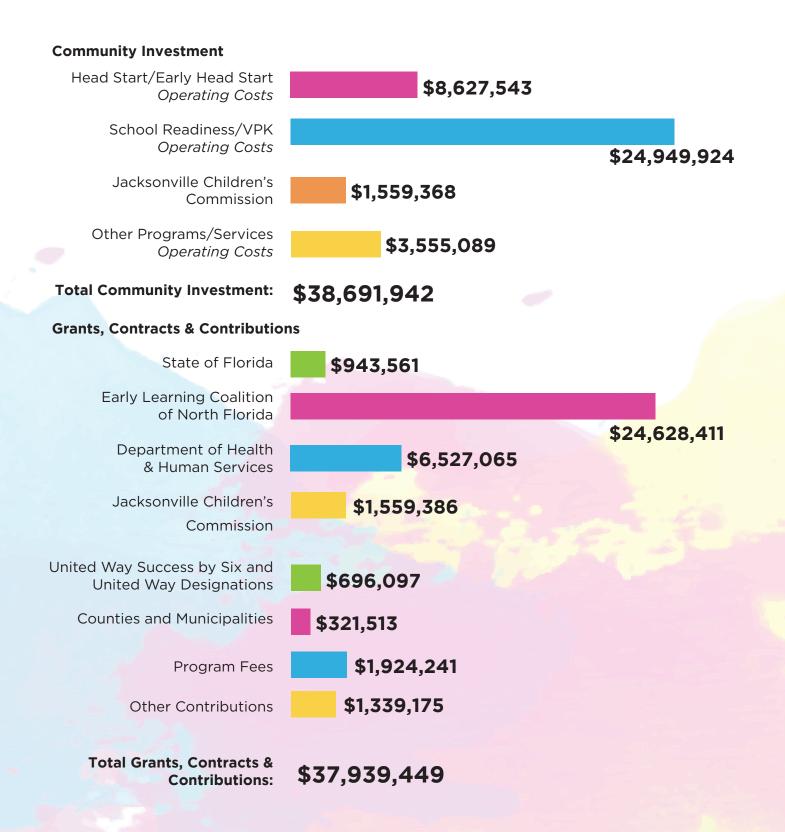


2014-15 Financial Report



Thank You to Our Donors and Sponsors

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Make a difference with our children and communities through a donation at www.ecs4kids.org











2014/2015 Annual Report



Children's Services

BELIEVE. ACHIEVE. SOAR.

Episcopal Children's Services is a recognized leader in early childhood education serving more than 50,000 children and their families in seven counties in Northeast Florida. Established in 1966, Episcopal Children's Services uses research and best practices to help families ensure their children enter school ready to learn.

We proactively work with underserved children from birth to age five to build a strong educational foundation. Our mission is to create opportunities so that every child we serve can achieve their highest and full potential.

8443 Baymeadows Road, Suite 1, Jacksonville, FL 32256 • 904.726.1500 • www.ecs4kids.org

Dear Friends and Supporters

Dear Friends,

As we look back on fiscal year 2014-2015 we are incredibly grateful for the community's continued support of our mission. At Episcopal Children's Services (ECS), we know that the first few years of a child's life are the most formative and that 90 percent of a child's cognitive brain development occurs by age six. Children who do not receive adequate learning opportunities, as well as a nurturing environment, are most at risk for entering school behind their peers. Research tells us these children rarely catch up without specific intervention. Better futures must start with better beginnings and an early educational foundation is critical to success later in life.

Through the programs at ECS, we work with children, parents, child care providers and the community to give children opportunities to learn, grow and thrive. While our capacity to serve additional at-risk children has increased, the need for our services has also continued to rise. With the help of our community partners, dedicated staff and committed board leadership, we continue to make a difference in the lives of just under 50,000 children and families

This past year ECS provided quality training and support to more than 100 private child care centers. These efforts alone helped us reach more than 11,000 local children. We directly operated 13 early learning centers, including 10 Head Start/Early Head Start centers in Northeast Florida. Our Early Learning Center at Exchange South, the Early Learning Center at Good Shepherd in Riverside and the newly established The Episcopal Early Learning Academy at San Jose also continues to grow. We are optimistic about the future of the Episcopal Early Learning Academy and will continue to look for innovative ways to fund our non-profit programs. ECS is also excited to announce the creation of the Legacy Council composed of past Children's Champion honorees and whose purpose is to support ECS in outreach and fundraising throughout the community.

We attribute our success to our continued focus on our mission, and certainly the hard work of our staff and teachers. Community support ensures that our programs continue to prosper and provide children with the high quality care they deserve. We thank you for becoming a stakeholder in the future of Jacksonville's children, and we invite you to read further in this report about how, together, we are making a difference in the lives of Northeast Florida families.



Connie Stophel Chief Executive Officer Director of Head Start/ Early Head Start

Council Liaison

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Administration Staff:

Kerry Shewchuk

Derrick Smith

Leila Sundstrom

Kristi Valaer Aiello

Connie Stophel, Chief Executive Officer Director of Head Start/Early Head Start Bill Mazer

Chief Financial Officer Teresa Matheny Chief Operating Officer

Vice President of Early Learning Initiatives **Heather Hodges** Vice President of Human Resources

Jeanne Dillard



Our Programs Provide a Foundation of Early Education for the Whole Family

Early Head Start

Early Head Start provides high-quality educational, nutritional, health and social services to low-income and at-risk children from birth to age three and their families. Our goal is to provide a strong foundation for children entering Head Start or other Pre-K programs. In 2014-2015 ECS had 244 slots available for children in Duval, Clay, and Baker counties. Children were enrolled in center-based, home-based, and combination program options to serve the diverse needs of our communities.

Children Served: 244

Head Start

Our Head Start program reaches out to low-income and at-risk children ages three to five and their families. We provide them with comprehensive educational, nutritional, health and social support services, as well as tools and resources to promote their development so they enter kindergarten ready to learn. ECS had 390 slots available at centers in Baker, Clay, Nassau and Bradford. Children Served: 390

Child Care Resource & Referral (CC&R)*

ECS' Child Care Resource and Referral program provides parents with free information about local child care providers so they can make informed decisions based on their family's specific needs.

CC&R Calls Answered: 36,015

School Readiness*

Our School Readiness program helps lower-income families pay for child care so their parents can work. We also work with child care providers, to improve and maintain high-quality programs that promote children's success in school.

Children Served: 3.849

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)*

VPK is our free pre-kindergarten program open to all Florida four-year-olds. It is offered during the school year and summer at Florida public schools, child care centers and private schools.

Children served: 5,037

*These programs are sponsored in part by the Early Learning Coalition of North Florida, Florida's Office of Early Learning, Baker County BCC, St. Johns County BCC, Nassau County BCC, Clay County BCC, Bradford County BCC, St. Johns United Way, the city of Macclenny, the town of Callahan and the city of Hampton

CoachJAX!

Through our partnership with the Jacksonville Children's Commission, we send teams of certified coaches, technical staff and volunteers to non-ECS run child care facilities in Duval County. Our staff works with directors and teachers to improve the quality of their environment, teaching methods and curriculum.

Centers: 59 Children Served: 3,609

Links to Early Learning

Links to Early Learning is our new, research-based comprehensive preschool curriculum. Developed by our education department, Links is on the stateapproved School Readiness curricula list.

Early Learning Center at Exchange

Episcopal Children's Services' Early Learning Center at Exchange South is a 5 STAR nationally accredited center through Accredited Professional Preschool Learning Environment (APPLE) that offers exceptional full day child care and early education for children between the ages of six weeks to five years, including Florida's Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program for four year olds. The program also serves families with children participating in the United Way Success By Six program.

Children Served: 145

Early Learning Center at Good Shepherd

Episcopal Children's Services' Early Learning Center at Good Shepherd is our newest center that opened in the fall of October 2014 in Riverside. This center is enrolling children one-to-five-years of age. It offers small class sizes that allow for individualized plans for each child. Our programs include Foundations for Success and Links to Early Learning Curricula. Highly-qualified early childhood professionals implement a research-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum that is customized to foster children's social, cognitive, physical and language skills in a safe, nurturing and fun environment. Children Served: 32

Episcopal Early Learning Academy

Episcopal Early Learning Academy is a wholly owned subsidiary of Episcopal Children's Services, Inc. Episcopal Early Learning Academy opened in November 2013 in Southside. It is a state-of-the-art, for-profit center designed with learning in mind. We have several age-specific classrooms, which help keep class sizes small. In the classroom, we combine time-tested lessons with cutting-edge technology to give your child a solid foundation for lifelong learning. Our classroom instructors for four-year-olds use SMART Board interactive whiteboards, which bring lessons to life in a fun and interactive way. Our three and four year olds also work on complementary children's NABI tablets to build their technological literacy. And, for mom and dad, we offer secure access to live streams of our Watch Me Grow cameras so parents can log in and watch their child learn on a PC or smartphone. Episcopal Early Learning Academy accepts children from six weeks to five years including Florida's voluntary pre-kindergarten

Children Served: 106

Regional Training Institute

Our Regional Training Institute for Early Childhood Education provides professional development training for early-childhood educators, preparing caregivers for mandatory state credentialing as Child Development Associates (CDA).

CDA Graduates: 77 CDA Students Enrolled: 127 Trainings: 191 **Training Participants: 2,972**

