

# CONNECTIONS

## Jefferson County Committee For Economic Opportunity Child Development Services Division

Newsletter For and About the JCCEO Head Start-Early Head Start Program and Its Families  
Volume 9918, Issue 2 February 2019



**What's Inside...**  
**Family Engagement**  
**Cluster Chatter**  
**Education Services**  
**Better Bodies**  
**Nutrition News**  
**Disabilities Services**  
**Tidbits**

### JCCEO

### Mission

### Statement

*JCCEO seeks to reduce poverty and help low-income citizens of Jefferson County, Alabama to meet critical needs and become self-sufficient.*

*Executive Director  
DePriest Waddy*

*Associate Directors  
Kimberly Berry  
Tonya L. Jones  
Dr. Crystal Spivey*

## From the Director



**Carmelita Poindexter**  
Deputy Director  
Child Development  
Services Division

It's hard to believe 2018 has ended and we are in the second month of 2019! Quite a bit has happened in Head Start and Early Head Start since the last newsletter, and we have so much more in store!

I have been visiting centers, the children are attentive and engaged. They are working in centers, exploring, observing and learning! The teachers are working hard to achieve our goal of preparing children for Kindergarten.

Recruitment for the next program year has begun; please contact your Family Services Worker to update your information. We need you to spread the word that we are open and ready to serve children. Let your friends, family, co-workers, church

members, and neighbors know about JCCEO and all that we offer! We are the best program this side of the Mississippi!

On behalf of the staff, thanks for all you do to support your child and our JCCEO family. You are an important part of your child's educational journey. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your family. As always, thanks for allowing us to give your child the **Head Start** they so richly deserve!

Blessings,

### Congratulations to the Winners of the Head Start Scholarship Fund Give A-way!!!

1st Prize: Nylia Goude, 50" Television

2nd Prize: Martha Anthony, Air Fryer

3rd Prize: Cedric Butler, Laptop Computer

Thanks to Black and White Photography for donating the prizes. We raised more than \$5,000.00 for the Scholarship Fund!



*The Promise of Community Action*

*Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.*

# Family Engagement

## **LEADERSHIP**

### **TRAINING**

#### **FOR PARENT OFFICERS**

**ALL ELECTED PARENT OFFICERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND**

**THURSDAY,**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2019**

**JCCEO HQ**

**9:00 A.M.**

**Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries, and Assistants THIS IS FOR YOU!!**



**JCCEO Invites You to ...**

**'Step It Up'**

*Join Us for five fun-filled days themed to celebrate young learners.*

**April 8—12, 2019**

See your child's teacher for details.



***Hollis Johnson 327-7525***  
***Family Engagement***  
***Coordinator***

This time of year marks our halfway point of the program year. The amount of progress many children and families have made since the start of the year is amazing. Our program will certainly continue to promote early literacy, math, language concepts, motor skills, and social development of our children.

The enrollment cycle for program year 2019-2020 is underway, beginning with children who will be returning for a second year of Head Start services. Open enrollment begins in February for students and families new to JCCEO.

To be eligible, a child must be at least 3 years old by September 1 and not older than 5 years old to enroll in Head Start. Also, a family must have an income at or below the federal poverty line, be homeless, or be a recipient of certain forms of public assistance. Children in foster care are also eligible for services. Families seeking to enroll children must provide proof of age and income to begin the application process.

In addition to minimum eligibility requirements, Head Start evaluates the needs of each family to ensure the program is serving children and families in the greatest need of services. JCCEO enrolls at least 10 percent of its students with a diagnosed disability or special need. Limited transportation services are provided on an as-needed basis.

Families interested in applying for enrollment can contact 205-327-7571 to set up an application appointment. Parents of children returning for a second year of Head Start should speak with their Family Services Worker to reenroll for 2019-2020 program year.

## **Ask US...**

**about the Scholarships for Single Moms Project**

# We Appreciate YOU

Many, many thanks to all of the donors who love children, including Mercedes –Benz automotive supplier GeStamp, Logistics Made Simple freight courier service, 95.7 JAMZ radio, and others who donated food



Associate Director Crystal Spivey, Family Engagement Coordinator Hollis Johnson with Christmas donors.



and gifts to give JCCEO Head Start families a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas. (rt) SECRET SANTA: Executive Director Waddy, with bilingual staffer Christina Murrillo, received donations for three Head Start children and their siblings from JCCEO Board of Director Lt. Lane of the Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service and an anonymous donor.

## PRIME TIME KICK-OFF

March 19, 2019

Antonieta Cristobal,

Lead Bilingual Family Services

Hola, padres de familia de JCCEO, qué maravilloso año escolar estamos teniendo y muchas más actividades maravillosas por venir. Comenzaremos nuestro programa de lectura de Prime Time de primavera en marzo, si no sabe qué es Prime Time, venga y vea de qué se trata y diviértase con nosotros. Esperamos ver a nuevas familias divertirse mientras aprenden y compartimos

un amor por la lectura.

Hello JCCEO parents! What a wonderful



school year we are having and many more wonderful activities to come. We will kick off our spring Prime Time reading program in March. If you do not know what PrimeTime is, please come out and see what it's all about and have fun with us. We are looking forward to seeing new families having fun while learning and sharing a love of reading.

## Toyz In the Hood

95.7 JAMZ radio personalities spread holiday cheer with JCCEO families.



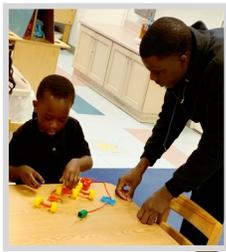
## Thanksgiving Feast

GeStamp, Logistics Made Simple, and JCCEO sponsored dinner for 50 families.



JCCEO offers the scouting experience to age-eligible Head Start children through a unique partnership with the Girl Scouts of North Central Alabama. Thanks to all of our staff volunteer leaders for making this wonderful opportunity available to our girls. Meetings have begun. Parents are welcome to attend. Look for meeting schedules on your parent bulletin boards and come join in the fun!

Mr. McKinney helps son Amari with toy project.



*In Head Start We Believe*

# It Starts

With our new approach to curriculum, it is more important than ever that parents participate and are engaged in their children's learning...

**C**  
**I**  
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**T**  
**E**  
**R**



**Outdoor Movies:** Ms. Bradley and Woodruff's class at **Erwin Center** created a drive-in movie theatre out of the vehicles parents and children created at home. This take-home project reinforced the classroom study on Recycling. Families reused materials at home to create the projects. The movie screen was made with two white poster boards. There was even a concession stand!

**Fluffy Cloth:** Ms. Hill's class at **Erwin Center** is creating a laundromat for the dramatic play area using the washers and dryers parents made with their children at home. "The recycled boxes parents used to make the appliances are a perfect transition from our study on Recycling to our new study on Clothes," said Ms. Hill. Children learned how to fold clothes and the boys won the contest for the best folds!



**Under Construction:** During January, children in Ms. Burroughs and Smith's class at **Ar-rington Center** made houses and boats from popsicle sticks and drinking straws during their study of Buildings.



**Gimme Shelter:** Parents and children at **West Center Street Center** created different kinds of shelters during their studies on Buildings.



# At Home



Moms to be attend Home-Based Socialization meeting.

...and JCCEO's parents have stepped up to the plate **BIG TIME!!!**

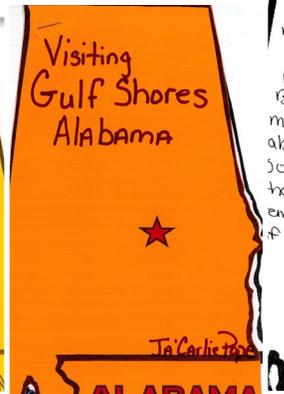
**Wonder World: Fairmont Center** teachers and parents joined forces to create a Winter Wonderland for the children at Christmas.



Chatter

We visited Botanical Gardens located near the Birmingham Zoo. Our visiting purpose was to take family portraits. While visiting this beautiful place, we saw more than just gardens of beautiful flowers. While there we saw butterflies and couples getting married.  
My family will always have memories of our visit to the Botanical Gardens. We will visit more often to learn more about the gardens. We also took some beautiful family portraits that we see everyday, they remind us of our memories of that day.  
Tahiry Yadao

**Travel Books:** During the JCCEO Alabama Bicentennial Salute to Authors, children and parents in Ms. Bolden's class at **Center Point Center** created books about their visits to places in Alabama.



**When Dinosaurs Ruled:** During December, the children in Ms. Rozell and Steger's class at **Festival Center** were all actively engaged in the study theme of the month, Dinosaurs. The children even built their own dinosaur village to keep their dinosaurs safe. (pictured left) Kason and Christian show off their work.



Ms. Abrams and Jackson's class did a number of activities to support science, technology, engineering, and math concepts including:  
making dinosaur eggs with vinegar, coke, lemon juice and water;  
making dinosaur tracks with the children's feet; and experimenting with frozen baby dinosaur counters in balloons to see which dinosaur would melt (hatch) first.

Check out homemade dinosaurs and other parent-child creations in the JCCEO Alabama Bicentennial EXPOsition located in the JCCEO Headquarters Auditorium - now through December 14, 2019!

# Education Services



Field trips are always fun. Especially when children visit the JCCEO Resource Center to do STEM-based activities. Here, center assistant Madlyn Bland (center) joins Ms. Cope and her children from St. Joseph's Center for a funny picture.

## My First Year

By Charlotte Bynam  
Teacher Aide

My first year at the Festival Center has been fantastic! I enjoyed meeting my supervisor, Mr. Williams; he is superlative. I am so grateful to have an overjoyed and compassionate co-teacher Evangeline Jackson. I was very zealous to meet my students on the first day of school. My parents have been very supportive this year... and I appreciate all that they do. The students are enjoying exploring the different theme boxes of learning. Their favorite studies (so far) were Recycling and Reptiles. The students brought in recycled materials that were contributed to the Recycling Foundation. We collected aluminum, plastic, and paper products. The children are learning about the different kinds of reptiles (dinosaurs, snakes, alligators, turtles). They are also discovering the two different breeds of alligators (brown and dark green) and what the alligators like to eat (turtles, frogs, and meat). We are really enjoying the different studies as we further our students' education.

*Ms Bynam is also a parent of Chrisette, a Head Start child at St. Francis Center.*

## Disabilities



**Renee Fox**  
Disabilities Coordinator  
327-7506

Learning Knows No Bounds

### How Does My Child Learn?

All preschoolers have individual learning styles. None of them learn or develop the same in how they receive, understand, and follow directions. Some enjoy and require directions to be broken down into small parts step-by-step. These are our more analytical children. There are also global learners who need to see and understand the whole picture. We have others, who are visual learners that say, "Mom, let me see;" while others are auditory learners that say, "Tell me how to do it." And let's not forget our tactile learners, "Let me do it," they say. It's important to listen and watch our children to learn and understand how to teach them.

It is so important when giving directions that it's given related to their learning style for best results. As they grow use open-ended questions and two-way conversation. Children must be taught *how* to think and not always *what* to think.

**Blood Drive Success:** *The St. Joseph's Center staff would like to say "thank you" to the American Red Cross for heading our Blood Drive, directed by Center Manager Linda Ford. And thanks to all who came out to give blood which helped to make the day a success!*

# Nutrition News

By Christina Bates  
Nutrition Coordinator,  
327-7500

**We** are plan-

ning to go to each

JCCEO center and do a nutrition activity of our choice, and making sure every child and adult is filled with knowledge about nutrition. So, get ready for an exciting JCCEO National Nutrition Month and catch the Nutrition Team at any one of the locations during the month of March. We also plan to host a Zumba class and a line dance class at Headquarters- and of course we are bringing back our staircase challenge at Headquarters; let's see who the WINNER will be. Also, our Smoothie Bar the J-Way, will be at Headquarters, and dates will be posted when you can come get a sample of a smoothie we make. We are asking all the centers to decorate for national nutrition so we can show our community that we take our health seriously. JCCEO Nutrition Team wants everyone to be a part of National Nutrition Month, and we want you to remember to "Eat Right, Live Right, and Feel Right." I can't wait to see what everyone comes up with for their centers' decorations. See you in March! Remember—"Eat Right, Live Right, Feel Right!"

JCCEO Nutrition Component is getting ready to celebrate **National Nutrition Month** in the month of March and the message we want everyone to get out of National Nutrition Month is simply "Eat Right, Live Right, and Feel Right."



*Above: Children in Ms. Nance and Poole's class at Festival Center earned a pizza party for selling the most classroom pictures during the school year.*

## **Better Bodies** By Wyteria Trimble, Health Coordinator 327-7575

**Is Your Child Riding in a Car Safety Seat?** According to the Alabama Department of Public Health, thirty-five percent of children under the age of 13 were killed in car crashes in 2015 because they were not riding in a car seat, booster seat, or seat belts. Children are more likely than adults to be injured because they have softer bones, weaker neck muscles, and fragile bones. In most instances, during a car crash, most injuries to children are the result of being thrown into a windshield or dashboard, crushed by an adult, or thrown from the vehicle. Child safety seats are extremely important because they help to prevent deaths and injuries in the case of a crash. In fact, according to the Alabama Department of Public Health, 248 children under 5 were saved by car seats in 2015.

Safe Kids Alabama just recently provided our parents with valuable educational sessions on the importance of making sure children are properly secured in car seats, booster seats or seat belts. Safe Kids Alabama informed parents that children should not transition to a booster seat until they are at least 4 years old and weighing 40 pounds or more. They also informed parents that children should remain in a booster seat until the age of 13 and that the back is the safest place for children 12 and under. At the conclusion of the educational session, 100 booster seats were donated to eligible children who are enrolled at our Festival and St. Joseph's Centers.



If you are in need of a car seat or booster seat for your child/children and you currently receive SNAP benefits or Medicaid, please call 1-800-504-9728 to make an appointment with Safe Kids Alabama.

# Head Start Tidbits

## Options



In the middle of the longest government shutdown in U. S. history, JCCEO hosted an event to spotlight food and food-related resources available to low-income Alabamians. Surrounded by family fun, wonderful examples of Alabama cuisine, and talented local chefs, the event filled some real needs. Free groceries were given away to the first 50 families. Gardening demonstrations by Alabama Cooperative Extension opened the door to home-grown winter veggies, and there were nutrition education materials aplenty, along with blood pressure monitoring. “We are so happy to work with JCCEO to help serve our neighbors in need,” said Elizabeth Wix, Director of Partnerships at the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama. The food insecurity rate in Jefferson County is 19% overall and 22% for our children...” She provided information about local food distribution services that are especially critical because the shutdown has triggered a SNAP Gap. “Some folks will have to wait up to 50 days to receive their March benefits, when normally they only wait 30 days. This will mean that many families will have to turn to Food Banks, like us, and our Partner Agencies for assistance with food and basic needs,” she said. Thanks to Director Wix and all of the participants and donors for making our ‘Taste ‘A Alabama’ a great MLK Day of Service experience. Check out all the pictures, a list of vendors and caterers, and links to their services on our website at [www.jcceo.org](http://www.jcceo.org).



*Pictures include entertainment by Wenonah High School choir ensemble; Girls from Gap Strong earned volunteer hours decorating Alabama sugar cookies. Caterers included Bon App Ti; Exhibitors included VISTA AMERICORP volunteers from Alabama Possible Org. and Dietetic interns from UAB.*



JCCEO takes pride in supporting high quality programming through the NAEYC accreditation process. Sixteen centers served by JCCEO are accredited, and two of our newest centers in the Cooper Green and Elyton public housing communities are in the process for first-time accreditation. Programs undergo a rigorous period of evaluation to earn accreditation, and must commit to continuous quality improvement to maintain accreditation over a 5-year period. Accreditation is the stamp of approval and watermark of high quality in early childhood education. Visit [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org) to learn more about best practices for children in childcare. There is even a section just for parents!

## Something Special

**Black Migrations:** A Different World, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute; February 15, 20 and 27. visit [www.bcri.org](http://www.bcri.org) for more details.

**Calling All Dads:** Family Guidance Center of Alabama is hosting Fatherhood and Me Workshops... free for any father of a child under age 18. There will be interactive topics; discussion about child support; free lunch: February 15, March 22. Contact Ruby Felton for more information 945-6000.