

McDowell County Schools Head Start is a federally funded program, which means we receive a grant each year to cover a *portion* of our expenses.

As part of the rules of the grant, we are also required to “match” those federal funds with at least a 20% “non-federal” share. In other words, for every \$100 we receive from the government, we have to match it with \$20. Most Head Start programs accomplish this by receiving cash donations, utilizing volunteers, and receiving Gifts-In-Kind. We would like to familiarize you with the ways you can partner with us in each of those categories:

#### Cash Donations:

All cash gifts are tax deductible as provided by law. Cash can be defined as currency, personal checks, business checks, money orders, etc. You may specify what you want your gift to be used for. For example, you may want the funds to be spent on books, art supplies, playground equipment, medical or dental services, etc. or “as needed”.

#### Volunteer opportunities:

Volunteers play a significant role in helping Head Start meet it’s match goal. Volunteers can help out on a regular basis or just occasionally. Opportunities can be found in these areas:

- Helping in classrooms
- Guest readers/storytellers
- Office work
- Classroom projects
- Presentations in classrooms
- Providing meals/refreshments for Parent Committee Meetings
- Preparing materials for classroom teachers
- Rocking babies
- Landscaping services
- Medical/Dental services
- Life skills/enhancement training for parents (Budgeting, Home Maintenance Tips, Vehicle Maintenance Tips, Health/Safety Seminars, Skincare/Body Image Tips, Marriage/Parenting Enrichment Seminars, Job Search Skills (resume writing, interview training, etc.), Nutrition/menu planning/gardening/home canning Tips, etc., Fitness Seminars

#### Gifts-In-Kind:

Gifts-In-Kind are non-financial donations. This means you or your company can contribute a product that is needed rather than donating the money to purchase it. We have created a “Wish List” of items that would be helpful to our program:

- Gift Cards or Gift Certificates
- Diapers and Baby Wipes
- Baby Food/Formula (Must be new, unopened)
- Paper Supplies
- Office Supplies
- Pre-K level Books (new)
- Copy Paper (white or color)
- Computers
- First Aid Supplies
- Plants, trees, mulch
- Benches/Picnic Tables
- Bird Houses/Bird Feeders
- Pre-K Appropriate Active Toys (Balls, riding toys, etc)

We cannot accept food (except as specified above) or clothing; if you would like to donate in these areas, please consider a cash or gift card donation.

McDowell County Schools Head Start Program operates in several different facilities; most of which have earned a 5-star rating, the highest awarded by the State. We are currently serving 227 low-income children, ages 6 weeks through 4 years, and their families with free, quality pre-school services at our Early Head Start and Head Start centers. We begin our services before birth by serving low-income expectant mothers.

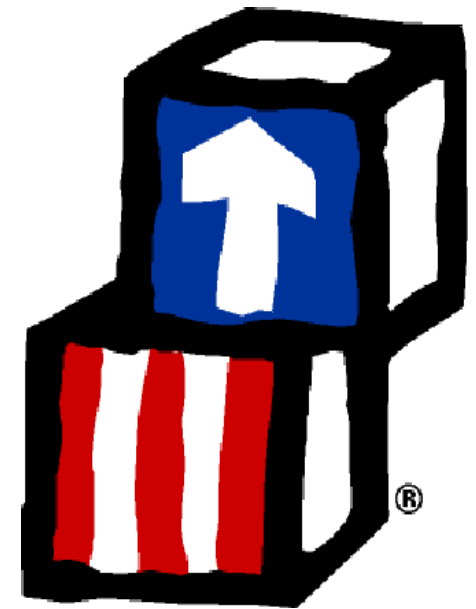
We strive not only to give these children a "Head Start" on their education, but also to cultivate the growth of strong, healthy families.

Strengthening families strengthens communities. We believe we truly make a difference in the lives of these children, because research has shown that children who receive Head Start services have a greater chance of success in school and in life.

We also provide these same quality services to a number of Paid Day Care children and More at Four children. All of these children are incorporated in the same classrooms by appropriate age, which allows for broadened horizons and better social skills.

We are required by our federal grant rules to provide our Head Start children with necessary medical, dental, and vision services. Of course, we provide two warm, nutritious meals each day, and were recently advised by the government that we must also provide diapers and wipes for our Early Head Start children. We have always strived to provide top-notch services and products for our children; this is becoming an increasing burden with inflated prices and stricter guidelines.

Thank you  
for investing in our  
most valuable asset:  
*our children!*



## McDowell County Schools **Head Start** Program

Our office is located at  
2111 Sugar Hill Road, Marion  
We have centers in  
Marion (2), Old Fort, Nebo,  
North Cove, and at Eastfield.

Contact us by calling  
(828)652-3229

*Making a  
Difference,  
One Child at  
a Time*