

FRAGA GAB

Family Resource Agency of North Georgia

Welcome Back! - August 2009

Staff Of The Month



Lisa Payne-Rice is Center Manager at Mountain View HS/EHS/Pre-K

Staff of the Month for August is **Lisa Payne-Rice, Center Manager at Mountain View Head Start / Early Head Start / Pre-K.** Lisa's nomination was submitted by Melissa Hankins, Child Development Coordinator:

"Lisa is a tremendous asset to our Agency She always goes above and beyond expectations in whatever she is involved. During Center Manager meetings, Lisa will often be the one to bring up those "hard to ask" questions (you know, the ones everyone wants to know but is afraid to ask). She also will be the one to offer innovative solutions to problems. Lisa also takes a VERY ACTIVE role in both of the committees on which she serves. For example, Lisa has been on the Center Manager Committee since its inception four years ago and has worked diligently to streamline procedures and implement changes. Recently when I had to be out of town, Lisa facilitated the meeting and then reported on the results. She has the ability to look at challenges from all angles and provide solutions that meet those challenges with the least amount of work. Lisa also volunteers to attend trainings (even when we ask at the last minute). LISA ROCKS! Thank you, Lisa, for everything that you do!"

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- Region IV Scholarship applications are due to Debbie Cobb no later than 9/10/2009.
- If you have moved or changed your phone number during the summer, complete an Employee Info Form and turn in to Human Resources. Thanks!
- Education Transcripts are due to Becky Goins IMMEDIATELY!
- Remember the 1.84% COLA is a temporary increase for the 2009-2010 Program Year.




Caught In The Act

Karen Brown, Center Manager for Westside Head Start, is our Caught In The Act winner this month. Recently, Karen had four people who needed to come to Orientation at the Admin Office. She arranged for all of them to meet with her to carpool up to the Admin Office. This saves a LOT of gas. It also helps the staff become acquainted before they begin

working together at the Center, eases new employee concerns about finding a new building, and generally was great planning on Karen's part. Karen also arranged to conduct business while at the Admin Office, too, so her time was used wisely while waiting on the staff to complete their Orientation process. Way to go, Karen! ~Submitted by Teresa Millican, Program Coordinator



All aboard the Wellness Express!
Sign up to participate in the next round of The Biggest Winner!

Right: Cathy Rice, Exec. Assistant and James Anderson, CEO





From The Director's Desk

By Rebecca Fulham, Director

Welcome Back! We are excited about the COLA increase and the things we are doing Program-wide with the money made available to us by President Obama and Congress! Please remember to email your Senators and thank them. We look forward to a great year — implementing healthy choices and lifestyles. Here's to a GREAT year ahead!



Thank you to the Family Services Specialists for working so hard to get fully enrolled. As always, without enrolled children, there would be no Head Start. One change in FSS duties for this year involves how we provide our required parent trainings. We are hoping to have three "fairs" this year for our families where they will be able to talk with representatives of various local agencies and receive first-hand information that meets their individual needs. There will be an FSS planning meeting on August 21, 2009 to work out the details. I look forward to another great year working together to serve our children and families.
~Submitted by Eva Neil, Family Services Coordinator.

WOW! What a summer! Welcome Back! I hope you all had an enjoyable summer and are ready to "gear up" for the new school year. Before you know it, you will be finished with Pre-service and children will be in the centers ready to learn and have fun. You all are SO important to each child and family so: "Do not count the days – **MAKE the DAYS COUNT!**" Remember...

One Hundred Years From Now

One hundred years from now
It will not matter
What kind of car I drove,
What kind of house I lived in,
How much money
was in my bank account
Nor what my clothes looked like.
But the world may be a better
place because I was important
in the life of a child.

(excerpt from "Within My Power" by Forest Witcraft)



Paula's Point Of View

By Paula Bacon, Assistant Director



Welcome back to another school year in Head Start / Early Head Start / Pre-K! The summer has really flown by and it is hard to believe it is time to start up again. I hope everyone had a great summer and you are ready to jump in and get the new year off to a great start! A lot has happened over the summer in regards to funding for improving staff education levels. Here are just a few highlights:

We have funding for the following until all the allocated funds are spent:

- stipends to reward staff for being in school and for the different levels of education.
- to help pay for school if you are no longer eligible for Pell/Hope, etc.
- to help pay for school if you are going beyond the required level and it is applicable to your job (through individual Educational Assistance requests).
- to pay over-contract time to go to school in the summer.
- hiring stipend for new hires who come in with the required education levels already in place.

This is the BEST time to consider going back to school and furthering your education! The money won't last long, so take advantage of the benefits while you can.

One last note as a reminder, at Pre-service don't forget to turn in your transcripts and memo acknowledgement page regarding the new Individual Education Plan requirements if you have not already done so.

Again, we are glad to have you back and look forward to an exciting year!



By Melissa Hankins, Child Development Coordinator

The Child Development Team and Center Manager Committee have worked very hard this summer by revising forms, developing procedures, and ordering classroom materials to ensure you have a successful year.

I would also like to say **Welcome!** to our newest center, **Kids Station Head Start**. This Collaborative Partnership with Kids Station will allow us to expand our program in Catoosa County to serve even more children and families.

I am looking forward to a GREAT 2009-2010 school year! Working together, we CAN have a productive and positive year.

~ **THINK POSITIVE!** ~

Family Resource Agency of North Georgia

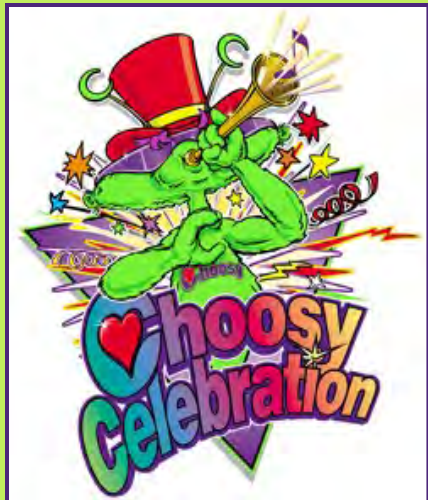
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We are so excited to be implementing the **I Am Moving, I Am Learning** program in all of our Centers this year. To further tie in with Choosy and his important message, the theme for FRAGA Gab during the 2009-2010 Program Year will be

'A Celebration of Wellness'

Upcoming monthly themes will include:

- Fruits and Veggies — More Matters
- Whole Grains for a Whole New You
- Stress Management
- Get A Move On With Exercise
- Better Breathing, Better Living
- Sleep Your Way To Good Health
- Water: Nature's Perfect Drink
- And more!

Each month, there will be a special section where you can share your Choosy success stories with other Centers. It will be called **Choosy News You Can Use** (and we hope you will)! Stay tuned and remember: **Choose Healthy Options Often to Stay Young!** (See, Choosy applies to us, too!)

Pioneer HS. Welcome back! I hope everyone had a great summer and you are ready to start the year off with a bang! I am looking forward to a wonderful year with Whitfield-Dalton Head Start and Pioneer Head Start. ~Kaye Ralston, CM

Chattooga EHS. We had a wonderful "blow-out" for the Fourth of July — the center was decorated with red, white, and blue artwork and we shared fried bananas, strawberries and blueberries. In the picture below, you can see a few Future Farmers of America — we planted pinto beans and tomatoes in our Center Garden. I hope your summer was as fun-filled and educational as ours! We are all looking forward to a wonderful year here in Chattooga County! ~Jackie Castleberry, CM.



CONGRATULATIONS to Valley Point Head Start! They received their decision report and have been reaccredited! The decision report contained several 100+'s. I am especially proud of them because they make the best of limited facility and storage space and have no real office space. Way to go, Valley Point!

CONGRATULATIONS to Westside Head Start for becoming a licensed center! Thank you to everyone at the Center for your hard work and contributions to achieve this wonderful goal! ~Debbie Cobb, Special Projects Manager.



We want to welcome back everyone as we begin a new Program Year. Remember, you make a difference!

~ Kelly Collins, CDM and Betsy Taggart, QM

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Oceana Thomas, Angela Smith
- 6 Stacy Kirby
- 7 Brenda Collins, Denise Butler
- 8 Kathie Ufford
- 10 Samantha McNabb
- 12 Jennifer McClure
- 15 Joyce Williams, Rebecca Williams
- 17 Misty White
- 20 Summer Nichols
- 21 Tomoko Shipman, Renae Duckworth
- 23 Paula Bacon
- 24 Ella Townsend
- 25 Darlene Allen
- 26 Lindsey Taylor
- 27 Hannah Thomason
- 28 Kelly Dodds
- 29 Maudell Wheeler

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Amanda Hoffman, Delma Sanders, Bobby Roberts, Nella Bell
- 5 Shayna Jones
- 6 Rachel McGinnis, Pat Wimpy
- 7 Sonia Hall
- 8 Renee Lyons
- 10 Paul Whiddon
- 11 Kimberly Cope, Wendy Stevens
- 13 Crystal Lynn, Thomasina Edwards
- 14 Sarah White, Sandra Howell
- 15 Teresa Sheram, Margie McCormick, Eddie Millican
- 18 Crystal Goforth
- 19 Star Fraterman
- 20 Jason Mitchell
- 21 Joseph Burrage
- 22 Ashley Smith, Lisa Claxton
- 24 Angie Chastain
- 26 Kayla Maher
- 28 Pamela Arnold, Ginger Williams
- 29 Karen Ledford

Welcome Back!