

FRAGA GAB

Family Resource Agency of North Georgia

End of Year Edition 2010

Staff Of The Month



Tamara LeSage is the Human Resource Coordinator for Family Resource Agency of North Georgia.

Staff of the Month for June is Tamara LeSage, Human Resource Coordinator at Admin. Her team-members, Donna Blevins and Retha Aters, had this to say about Tamara in their nomination:

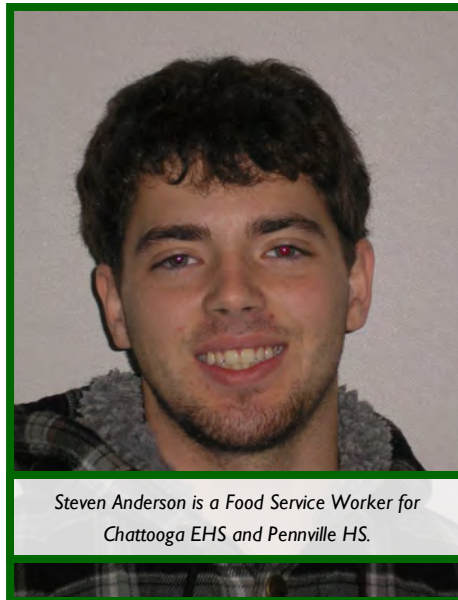
"We are all aware that we have a Federal Review coming up next year. One of the many important tasks to complete before the review is the Program Plan revision. Due to the ENORMOUS size of the Program Plan, it is a daunting task at any time, but this year, we are also changing the format. Tamara has taken on doing the revision for most of the Admin staff and has organized it in such a way that it will be easier to use and understand for all Staff."

"Thank you so much, Tamara — we thank you now, and I'm sure we'll all be thanking you as we use (and revise!) the newly formatted Program Plan in the coming years!"

Staff of the Month for July is Steven Anderson, Food Service Worker for Chattooga EHS and Pennville HS. In her nomination, Gladys Bentley had these glowing words of praise:

"Steven delivers and serves breakfast and lunch to the children at our Centers every day. He is very patient with the children and is always friendly and kind to everyone. If one of the children has a spill, he just cleans it up with a smile."

"Steven is very helpful with anything that is going on at our Centers. We are very fortunate to have him as part of our team here in Chattooga County!"



Steven Anderson is a Food Service Worker for Chattooga EHS and Pennville HS.

Also
Congratulations!
To...

Dalton Heritage HS and Westside HS: These Centers had PERFECT NO CITATIONS annual licensing study visits. Having a "perfect" visit is very difficult to accomplish (and this is Westside's first year being a licensed Center!). Sometimes you think everything is going great and you have everything in order, then near the end of the report, the consultant comes up with one of those "partially met" items, tarnishing your otherwise perfect visit. So when a "No Citations" visit is received, we need to jump up and down and shout it from the rooftops!

IN THIS ISSUE

From The Director's Desk	2
Paula's Point of View	2
Melissa's Page	2
Think Pink!	3
FSS Feathers	3
Center Stage	3
TEMP Photos & Quality Corner	4



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Education Stipends will be paid on June 18th (an off-payroll week). If you received a stipend last time, you should be eligible again. If you are unsure of your eligibility, please check with Becky Goins at (706) 419-7016.
- Please remember to check your Agency email at least three times each week. If you are not scheduled to work during the summer, you are not required to check your email until you return.



From The Director's Desk

By Rebecca Fulgham, Director

Head Start Impact Study: There has been information in the news about the release of the Head Start Impact Study (Jan. 2010) that was conducted to assess the effectiveness of Head Start in preparing children for kindergarten. The findings of the study that have been in the news are that although Head Start children's skill levels are equal to or ahead of their peers when they enter kindergarten, those skills are not maintained past the second grade. While this seems that it should reflect on K-2nd grade education, it is being used by detractors of Head Start as evidence that Head Start is not effective long term.

Georgia Head Start Association has developed a position paper written by Dr. Martha Abbott-Shim who is a nationally renowned expert in ECE. The position paper summarizes the positive effects of Head Start related to:

- **Classroom Quality:** 70% had an ECERS score of at least 5 out of 7.
- **Cognitive Development:** Head Start children demonstrated higher outcomes than other children entering kindergarten in language and literacy, and similar outcomes in math.
- **Social/Emotional Development:** No significant difference between Head Start and non-Head Start children.
- **Health Status:** Strong evidence of increased access by Head Start children to dental care and health insurance coverage.
- **Parenting:** Strong evidence of better parenting practices among Head Start families.
- **Impact Among Different Types of Children:** Children from families with special needs due to a variety of concerns related to language, income level, disabilities and other at-risk factors attained benefits which lasted into the early elementary grades.

Although it would seem logical that leaders would look to the elementary schools in regards to this concern, a great deal of pressure is being directed towards Head Start and questioning the effectiveness of the program. The Head Start community is looking for ways to address this issue and continue to demonstrate the effectiveness of Head Start.

End of the Year: Have a wonderful summer - whether you are working or taking a couple of months off. We will serve 1,014 children next year with our EHS Expansion classrooms. We look forward to a new year of making a difference in the lives of more children and families!



Paula's Point Of View

By Paula Bacon, Assistant Director

I remember being told that summer in Head Start was the slow time, but somehow, I've never seen that! We will have a busy summer ahead with the EHS expansion, CDA classes, new collaborations, and new locations for some centers. Thanks to the teachers who are working through the summer for the EHS summer program. We know you will have a great time. If you are one of the lucky few to have some time off, enjoy your summer and we will see you in August!



By Melissa Hankins, Child Development Coordinator

Center Visits:

I really enjoyed visiting the Centers in April. Spring has certainly sprung in our area and it was nice seeing the spring crafts and décor. We have such great looking Centers!

Travel and Training:

I am looking forward to the upcoming PITC Module 3 and 4 training I will be attending the week of May 23-28. You might remember me mentioning attending the first two modules earlier this year. I also had the pleasure of conducting a training with FRAGA's Trainer, Becky Goins, at the recent GHSA Spring Conference in St. Simons. We shared information about Caring and Teaching During Infant and Toddler Routines with many other Head Start parents and staff in the state of Georgia.

Full Speed Ahead for Summer:

This summer, we will be updating and revising forms in preparation for the 2010-11 Program Year. In addition to all our normal duties, we are elbow-deep in the EHS expansion and bringing our six new classrooms onboard. Start-up supplies are being ordered, staff is being hired, a modular for the new Westside EHS is under construction... it's another busy summer at Head Start, for sure! I am looking forward to another successful EHS Summer Program. Thank you to all the staff who will be working with the infants and toddlers over the summer!

I hope all of you have a FUN and SAFE summer, and I look forward to a GREAT 2010-11 school year as we head into our Federal Review year. August will be here before you know it! See you then!





Think Pink!

By Teresa Millican, Program Coordinator

Thank you to Blue Ridge Staff for your courageous work with all the children in your class this year, and especially the "above and beyond" work you did. Thank you also to Pennville and Pioneer Staff for your hard work with the children with IEP's. Great Job!

Congratulations to all the Pre-K classes for your dedication to Head Start and Pre-K. The new Pre-K classes at South Walker and Mountain View will not be new any more, and you will be a great example of the collaborative efforts that can work. Great job teachers, assistant teachers, LaRhonda Martin, Lisa Payne Rice and Kathy Brock for all you did with these classes.

Thank you to Whitfield Head Start and Early Head Start for maintaining your enrollment of 10% children with disabilities all year. You all do an excellent job working with Babies Can't Wait and the school systems. Stephenie Mitchell worked very hard with all the students with IEP's or in RTI at Valley Point, Whitfield HS/EHS and Dalton High. Whitfield Early Head Start ended the year with 23% enrolled children with diagnosis! **OUTSTANDING!**

Thank you to all the centers who were willing to learn American Sign Language this past year, and incorporated it into your daily routines. ALL children in your classes benefited from this skill. A special thanks to Dalton Heritage for your efforts with this challenge, and your loving attitude to children with IEP's. A special recognition is given to Paula London for her shining example of love in action.

Thank you to the Catoosa staff for welcoming the new inclusion classroom at Ringgold Primary, and to the Cloud Springs staff for your open arms to children with disabilities. Congratulations Cloud Springs on your new inclusion classroom. You will do an excellent job next year, as you did this year, ending with 15% of your children with diagnosis. Thank you to Angie Smith, Amanda Leverrett and Lisa Locke for working diligently to get the new students enrolled! We appreciate Catoosa County for all they have done for us, and all of you will be great liaisons for our collaborative efforts with them. Thank you Sherree Lovain for your willingness to expand your territory and to Debbie McKissick for your untiring effort to help us with licensing at RGP!

Thank you to Mountain View staff for all the work you did with the children in RTI. Renee Lyons is so willing to help in any area the therapists, children and families need her.

Westside staff did a great job with notifying the media when special events were occurring at their center this year. This center has an outstanding relationship with the citizens and businesses in their community and Head Start is admired and welcomed there because of their cooperation and friendliness. You will have another shining light to share with the new EHS children and families next year too! *(continued on page 4)*

FSS Feathers!

By Eva Neil, Family Services Coordinator



Thanks to all the FSS staff for the wonderful job they have done this year. They recruited enough children to get us fully enrolled by the first day and kept us fully enrolled all year. In addition, their attention to detail helped us pass another yearly audit with a clean record. The FSS's are all feathers in our Agency cap!

Chattooga HS, Chattooga EHS, Pennville HS. Thanks to all the staff in Chattooga county for all the good things you have done this school year. From your thankful supervisor:
~ Jackie Castleberry, CM.

Whitfield HS/EHS, Valley Point HS, Dalton High EHS. I would like to thank all of my staff at Whitfield, Valley Point, and Dalton High Early for all of

their hard work this year. They have such good relationships with the children and families and do everything they can to make every day a GREAT day. I appreciate your hard work and everything you do. The staff at Whitfield would like to thank Greg Cargile for doing such a TERRIFIC job with the Fatherhood meeting — it went really well and the parents really enjoyed it. I hope that everyone has a GREAT summer!
~ Stephenie Mitchell, CM.

Pioneer HS, Whitfield-Dalton HS, Blue Ridge HS. I want to thank all the staff from PI, WD, and BR for a great year! You all have worked so hard and have no idea how much I appreciate each and every one of you! I hope you all have a wonderful summer and come back in the Fall completely refreshed and ready to start again for the new Program Year!
~ Kaye Ralston, CM.

Battlewood HS, Cloud Springs HS, Lakeview HS/Pre-K. This year has flown by and no one is happier to see it go than the Catoosa County staff. This will be a year we will remember for a long time. I would like to tell my staff who have been here for a while that you ladies did a great job this year. I would not have wanted to do this past year with any other group. You ladies ROCK! I would like to welcome, also, two new staff members. Amanda Leverrett is the new FSS at LVHS and Christina Morrow is our new Floater. Thanks to both of you for joining our staff. I hope my staff have a wonderful and safe summer. If any of you are interested, I have two new positions open starting in June for the new classroom at Battlewood. Thanks to all my CM co-workers who helped out with their time or just an ear. You are all greatly appreciated. I hope all of you have a GREAT SUMMER! See everyone in the Fall. ~ Kathy Brock, CM.



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WWW.FRAGAHS.COM

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 01 Pat Williams | 18 Crystal Crabtree |
| 02 Jacqueline Shropshire | 19 Linda Blevins |
| 02 Joann Welch | 20 Kristy Reynolds |
| 03 Ann Flegal | 21 Cherelle Etchison |
| 05 Wendy Lloyd | 24 Karla Suttle |
| 08 Morgan Ware | 24 Karen Burse |
| 14 Debbie Goodrum | 27 Lilly Tipton |
| 15 Mirela Kozarcacan | 28 Traci Rogers |
| 16 Laura Hughes | 28 Terrie Higdon |
| 17 Tifani Keith | 30 Julie Cothren |
| 17 Angela Mathis | |



Think Pink (continued)

Thank you Murray staff for working with parents to see that they obtain their GED when they want it. Kelly Farris and Lynda Williams did a lot of work to insure parents were given this opportunity and I admire this effort. Quantrell Coffey did an excellent job insuring her center obtained and then exceeded the 10% of enrolled children with diagnosis. The end of the year 12% is fantastic.

The Whitfield Dalton, Dade, Battlewood and Westside staff worked very hard this past year with children and families with social, emotional and behavioral issues. Kudos to all of you for your willingness to try to help with these challenging issues. Charlotte, Kathy, Kaye and Karen, FSS and teaching staff faced these challenges with professionalism and kindness. Thank you Chattooga county staff for your willingness to learn new ideas about how this can be successfully implemented in your classrooms.

Battlewood and Dade ended the year with 18% of children with diagnosis - great job!

Thank you also for your terrific transition activities this year. Your lesson plans were excellent. As we transition from this school year and anticipate the next year by "thinking pink", may God bless you and keep you safe this summer!



SW



WS



PI / BR / WD



WH / VP



MU



CH / CE / PN



RE



DA



MV



Teachers Exemplifying Magnificent Performance (TEMP)

In our May Newsletter, we announced the names of those who received the top TEMP ratings (98% score or higher) for the 2009-2010 Program Year. The photos above were sent in from some of the Center Managers of their "best of the best" (not all TEMP winners are pictured). A picture may be worth a thousand words, but even a thousand words doesn't begin to explain the difference a good Head Start teacher makes in the life of a child and that child's family. Congratulations!

Here a few ideas for SUMMER FUN in Chattanooga! Wishing you all a safe & happy summer!

June 10: 5:30-8:00pm

FREE Family Fun Night at the Creative Discovery Museum.

June 19: 10:00am-3:00pm

Hank's Day at the Warner Park Zoo.

Wednesdays at the Chattanooga Lookouts games: \$6.00 gets your ticket, a soda and a hotdog!

Thursdays are Kiddie Day at Lake Winnie! 11 years and under get free admission along with unlimited rides for \$18.00!



By Kelly Collins,
Education Coordinator
-and-
Betsy Taggart & Michelle Howard,
Quality Monitors