Welcome to Head Start of Shawnee Mission’s electronic newsletter! We hope you will find the information shared here to be useful and interesting. Please feel free to share this newsletter with friends and colleagues whom you think would like to know more about Head Start of Shawnee Mission and the work we do.

Partnering for Health

Head Start of Shawnee Mission is partnering with the Health Partnership Clinic (HPC) to create an innovative health care home (including on-site medical and dental care) for our enrolled children and families. This model of care will help ensure the low income children and families we serve have improved health outcomes and increased social and academic success.

The Health Partnership Clinic has been providing health care to low-income members of our community since 1992. The result of a community needs assessment, HPC was founded by a group of committed community leaders to provide care regardless of the ability to pay. HPC provides nearly 15,000 medical and dental visits annually through clinics in Overland Park and Olathe.

Head Start of Shawnee Mission and the Health Partnership Clinic has a Memorandum of Agreement in place to begin offering services that will bring Head Start of Shawnee Mission children and those on the program wait lists up to date on needed medical and dental services – such as immunizations, well child visits, dental examinations, cleanings and fluoride varnish – for improved overall health outcomes. In addition, the partnership will include TB tests at no cost to staff and volunteers, greatly increasing the turnaround time in meeting requirements for employment or volunteering.

We are pleased to be partnering with the Health Partnership Clinic to offer these critical services to our families.

Waddell and Reed Walkathon Signs

Waddell & Reed reached out to Head Start of Shawnee Mission recently. They are getting a jump start on their United Way campaign and were planning a walkathon. Hoping to inspire their participants, they asked our children to make some signs to help cheer them along.

Never missing an opportunity to use glitter, our classrooms were happy to oblige!

Did You Know?

In 2011, 25,190 children in Johnson County, KS were identified as food insecure – 18.6% of children in Johnson County do not have enough to eat.

Source: Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap

Upcoming Events

Crayon Box Tours
September 5, 8:00 a.m.
October 2, 11:30 a.m.
November 1, 8:00 a.m.
December 4, 11:30 a.m.
January 9, 8:00 a.m.
February 5, 11:30 a.m.
March 5, 8:00 a.m.
May 7, 11:30 a.m.

6th Annual Wine and Art Event
October 5, 2012
Eva Reynolds Fine Art Leawood

Like Us on Facebook!

Have you visited our Facebook page yet? Check it out for more frequent updates, news and stories, and please “Like” us! You can get there from here!

Head Start of Shawnee Mission is grateful for the support of our 2011-2012 sponsors: HUSCH BLACKWELL
June Thank You’s!

Stay Cool!

It wouldn’t be summer without Lenexa United Methodist Church Youth Group’s annual Splash Day! On June 19 they came with their enthusiasm and kept our children entertained and cool. Thank you all!

The Barn Players donated 10 complimentary tickets to a June performance of Disney’s 101 Dalmatians. Hot dog!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our June California Pizza Kitchen fundraiser!

Vineyard Church is donating food bags each Friday during the months of June and July for some of our families in need. You are such thoughtful friends. Thank you!

Kohl’s Shawnee store donated books and plush animals. The monkeys are adorable!

Unity Garden...Cultivating an End to Hunger

It is hard to believe the statistic in our “Did You Know?” this month. Unity Church of Overland Park is making a difference for hungry children in our community. They are donating produce grown in their garden in Stillwell, KS to Head Start of Shawnee Mission families weekly throughout the summer and into fall. So far they have delivered amazing freshly picked kale, chard, onions, garlic, peppers, potatoes and basil, with plans for beans, melons, cucumbers, apples, pears and tomatoes!

Thank you so much to our hard working friends who are not only helping to feed our families, but they are feeding them fresh, nutritious food.

Unity Garden’s mission is, “We work with our partners to help eliminate hunger and assist in educating the undernourished in Johnson County, Kansas.” For more information, visit their Facebook page at [http://www.facebook.com/UnityGarden](http://www.facebook.com/UnityGarden)

Kelly Sturgeon (l) and Brenda Brock (r) display bins of beautiful Swiss chard and an abundance of (fragrant!) garlic. Alysha Lewis, HSSM Family Advocate, assists.

No Slackers Here!

The Youth Volunteer Corps of Kansas City was represented by nine high school students and two team leaders as they volunteered their time at Head Start of Shawnee Mission June 11-14. These dedicated teens interacted with our children and helped teachers in the classrooms, weeded and watered the gardens, organized equipment, raked mulch, cleaned classroom floor trim and counters, and a LOT of general office work. Whew! Thank you all so much for your great help and willingness to donate some of your summer – we know it’s precious time!

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