



# Stronger Together



**REPORT**  
to the Community:

2019 Annual Report

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER



During the 2019-2020 program year, our Head Start and Early Head Start program served over 800 of our community's most at-risk children and families. When we say "at-risk", we mean at-risk for failure to be prepared to enter kindergarten alongside their peers. For a family, "at-risk" refers to the threats to the nuclear family unit due to unfortunate social and financial circumstances.

If the services provided by Head Start are successful, we can mitigate these threats often found in families who live at or below the federal poverty level. In 2018, we shared that the "magic of our mission" is in the relationships we build. In 2019, as we conducted our strategic planning process, we learned that as our program leadership and staff have transitioned, we may have lost a step in our relationships.

These critical relationships include relationships with the families we serve, our communities, our donors and our staff. To re-establish these critical connections, we set goals in family engagement such that we are creating a relationship as the foundation of service delivery, not just delivering a service. In communities and with donors we have set goals around communications and user-friendly nature of our website as a place to check-in on our work or even discover opportunities to help our mission along. With staff we set goals to deepen our staff engagement so that we become the employer of choice in our industry and a place where you may recommend that a friend become an employee.

In all of these, we thank you, our clients, communities, supporters and mission partners for your dedication to being in relationship with our agency as we navigate these important relationship (re)building steps.

As you read through our annual report, I am hopeful that you will find evidence of these relationships and more importantly inspired by the change that you make possible everyday through your support for our agency!

Be safe and be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eugene A. Howell". The script is cursive and fluid.

Eugene A. Howell, MPA  
President and CEO



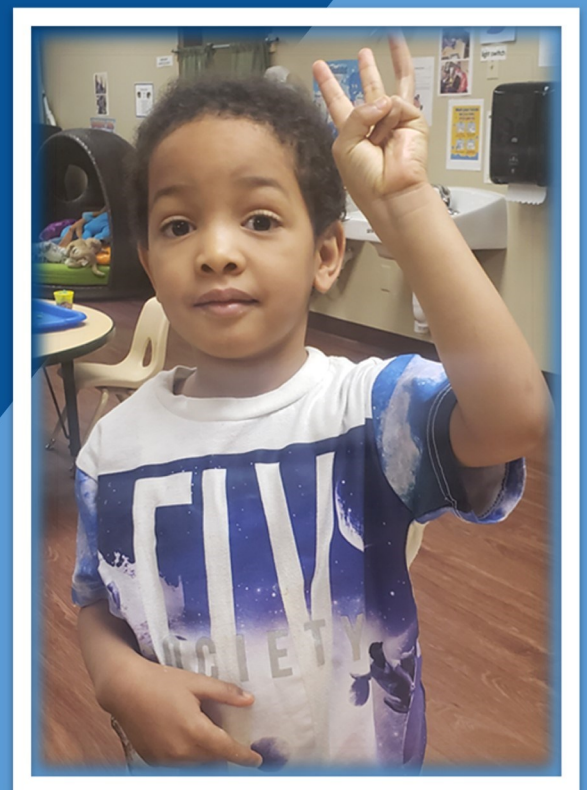
# MISSION

The mission of Riverbend Head Start and Family Services is to empower children and families to develop positive skills to meet life's challenges.

## CREATING CHANGE

When a family experiences Riverbend Head Start and Family Services program, they are equipped with necessary tools to navigate life, regardless of social, educational and economical barriers.

Our holistic approach strengthens families and their ability to succeed, mitigating the negative effects of poverty within our communities.



# Program Year Highlights

## Total Children Served: 898

*(includes 24 Pregnant Moms)*

### Head Start

Number of **children ages 3-5** = **565**

Number of **families** = **532**

Two parent families = 181

Single parent families = 351



On average 100% of our funded enrollment opportunities for children were filled at any given time



Enrolled children that completed a **medical exam** = **89% (501 of 565)**

⇒ Enrolled children that completed a **dental exam** = **81% (455 of 565)**



### Early Head Start

Number of **children ages birth to 3** = **309**

Number of **pregnant moms** served = **24**

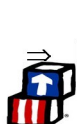
Number of **families** = **263**

2 parent families = 133

1 parent families = 130



On average 97% of our funded enrollment opportunities for children were filled at any given time



⇒ Enrolled children that completed a **medical exam** = **75% (232 of 309)**

⇒ Enrolled children, age 2 and up that completed a **dental exam** = **66% (76 of 116)**

Number of all EHS children who are **up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventative and primary oral health care** according to the relevant **state's EPSDT schedule**= **53% (165 of 309)**.

**Note:** Only children ages 2 and older are recommended to have a dental exam.



# RESULTS FROM DEVELOPING STRONG FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS



**828**

children had continuously accessible health care



**88**

families received job training



**88**

children were identified with special needs



**23**

parents advanced their education level



**646**

children had continuous access to dental care



**24**







pregnant women were served by Early Head Start



All six centers had staff helping deliver food, supplies and activities for families once the stay at home order was put into effect by local government.



# Program Data and Outcomes

-  Over 86% (261 of 304) of children going to kindergarten met widely held developmental expectations.
-  77% (591 out of 765) of all enrolled children, birth to 5 years old met or exceeded age-appropriate developmental milestones.
-  77% of them made a 45% to 77% increase, proving that our programs are effective and that every child has the potential to learn and succeed.
-  74% of the 874 enrolled children were up to date with Illinois EPSDT (early, periodic screening and diagnostic testing)
-  100% of the 795 enrolled families were linked with appropriate community services
-  100% of enrolled families gained positive parenting and co-parenting skills.

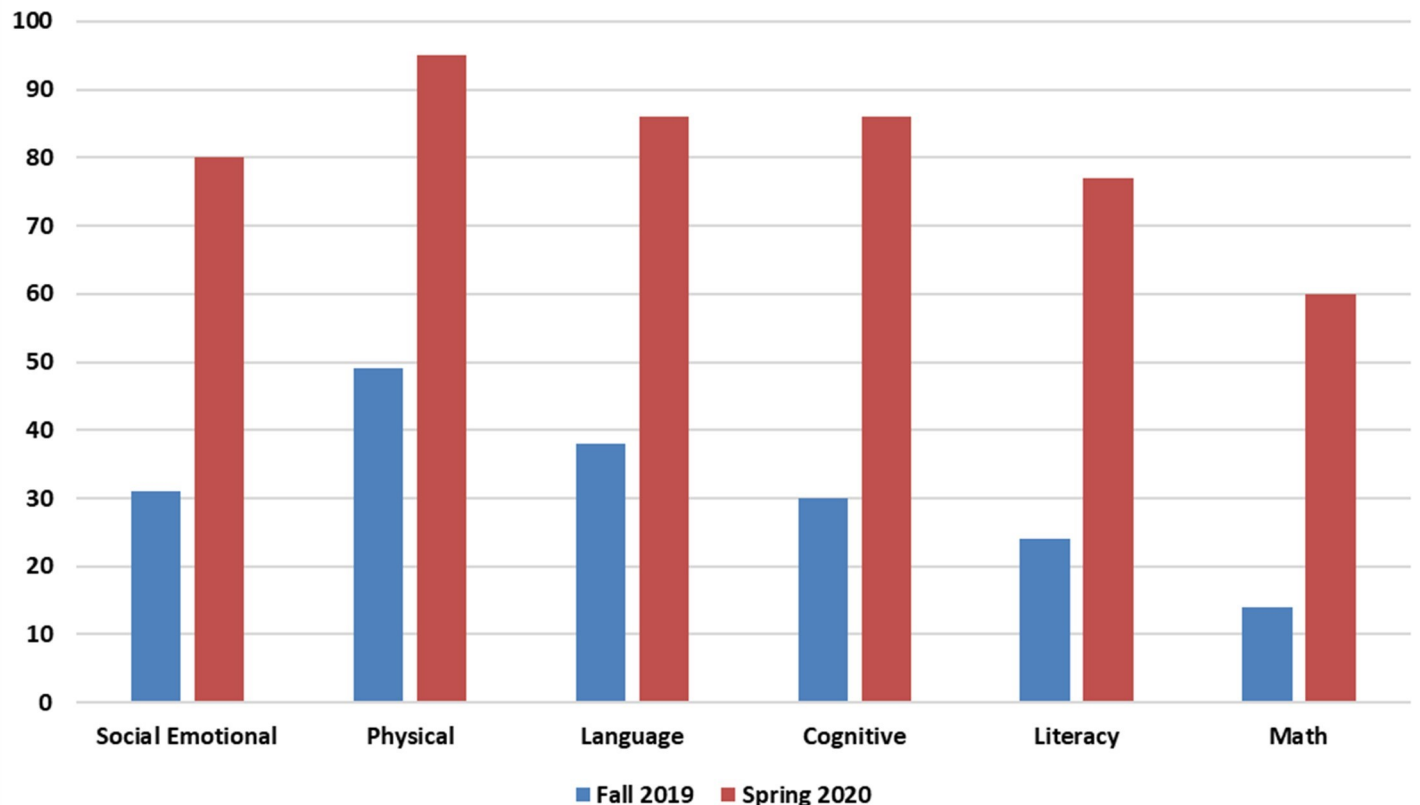




# Learning Outcomes By the Numbers

## Academic Year 2019

Gains Made by Children Going to Kindergarten



The percentage of children served that have a learning disability as represented by an:

**Individualized Education Plan (IEP)** or **Individual Family Services Plan (IFSP)**  
12% Head Start (center and home)      10% Early Head Start (all Home Based)  
28% Head Start Part Day classes  
25% Head Start Full Day Classes  
9% Head Start Home Based

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Year Ended December 31, 2019

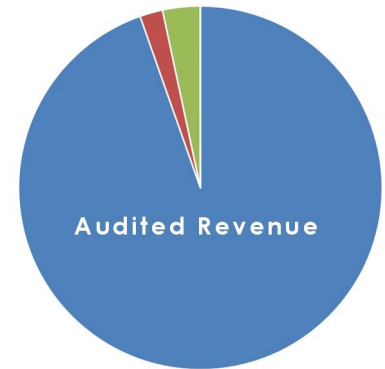
Head Start and Early Head Start are federally funded child development programs for qualifying children under age five. Created in 1965, the federal Office of Head Start awards grants to local nonprofit organizations, such as Riverbend Head Start and Family Services, to operate programs in their communities. As stewards of these federal funds, RHSFS is publishing the following in accordance with the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007.

## Head Start and Early Head Start

**FY 2019**

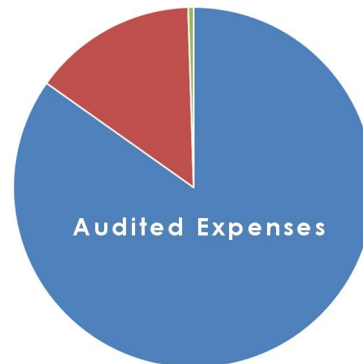
### Audited Revenue: Public and Private Funds

Federal & State (Fees & Grants)	\$ 11,152,635	94.6%
Local In-Kind (matching Funds)	\$ 239,896	2.0%
Contributions (including United Way)	\$ 392,181	3.3%
Other Income	\$ 2,367	0.0%
<b>Total = Audited Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 11,787,079</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



### Audited Expenditures

Program Expenses	\$ 9,710,994	84.8%
Administrative Expenses	\$ 1,682,331	14.7%
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 56,478	0.5%
<b>Total = Audited Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 11,449,803</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



**Income in Excess of Expenses** **\$ 337,276**

**Beginning Net Assets** **\$ 2,245,483**

**Ending Net Assets** **\$ 2,582,759**

**Total Liabilities** **\$ 739,516**

**Total Net Liabilities + Assets =** **\$ 3,322,275**

The most recent financial audit was completed by CPA firm, C.J. Schlosser & Company, LLC. In Alton, Illinois in May 26, 2020 without any questioned costs. The Board of Directors approved the financial audit on July 29, 2020.

## 2020 Proposed Budget



### Proposed Revenue: Public and Private Funds

Federal & State Gov't (Grants & Fees)	\$ 10,928,475	97.5%
Contributions (including United Way)	227,468	2.0%
Other Income	58,270	0.5%
<b>Total Proposed Revenue =</b>	<b>\$ 11,214,213</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Proposed Expenditures

Programmatic Expense	\$ 9,437,822	84.6%
Management and General Expense	1,617,774	14.5%
Fundraising Expense	95,286	0.9%
<b>Total Proposed Expenses =</b>	<b>\$ 11,150,882</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



# YOU MADE IT POSSIBLE!

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services requires a local match for our Head Start grant. Thank you for your donations, grants, discounted services and volunteerism which helped us meet our match in 2019.

**Matching Funds + Parent and Community Volunteers =  
Local Match Requirement \$239,896**



**Did you know that 85% of  
every dollar donated goes  
where the need is greatest?**

## Results of the Most Recent Review by the Office of Head Start

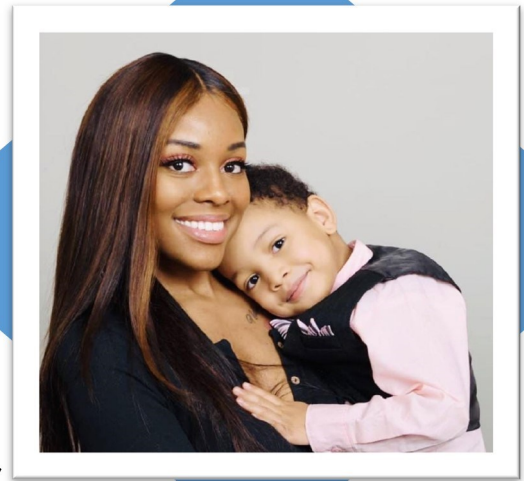
Our last federal review was in November 2018. The Overview of Findings stated that our Head Start and Early Head Start programs were found to be in compliance with all Program Performance Standards, Laws, Regulations and Policy Requirements with more than 2,000 standards to observe. And noting particular strength in the agency's staff and leadership development program.

Riverbend Head Start and Family services is not scheduled for another review until after our fiscal year 2021—2025 grant cycle.

# Partnering with Parents Lead to Bright Futures

By Amy Cornell

Being a parent is a difficult role. There are a lot of unique challenges that come along with raising a child. Often times parents are faced with these challenges alone or with little or no support. Enrolling in Riverbend Head Start has a unique advantage over other school readiness options. Each family is assigned a Family Advocate. The Family Advocate (FA) provides ongoing supportive contact through weekly or monthly home visits. The FA supports parents with resources, health needs, nutrition, child development activities, parent education, and goal setting.



I would like to share the story of one parent who has really embodied the mission of Riverbend Head Start. Her story should be an inspiration to any parent wanting to take a step in a new direction to build a brighter future for themselves and their children.

Meet Kasia, single mom of Kayden. She moved to the Alton area and heard about the Head Start Program from fliers she received in the mail. Kayden has been in Head Start for two years. While Kayden was in school, Kasia set a goal to become a nurse. She recently graduated from Lewis and Clark Community College with her nursing degree, while working two jobs. When asked why she chose the field of nursing she responded, "My sister became a nurse, and I learned more about it. While giving birth to Kayden, I saw how compassionate the nurses were. It made me feel so good, so I knew I wanted to make others feel that way too." Kasia feared failure and the time it would take away from her spending with Kayden. Kasia credits her parents for teaching her the importance of education and strong work ethic. She also is grateful for her Family Advocate, Shani Warren, for unconditional support. She knew she wanted a brighter future for her and her son. She said, "We won't have to struggle. I will be financially secure, and my son won't have to worry about where his next meal will come from, or want for anything."

When asked what advice she would give to other parents who are wanting to set a goal for change she said, "The hardest part is starting. Don't think about it, just start. Kids are our biggest motivator, make a list of goals and work through that list. Take it day by day."

Kasia is already seeing how her accomplishment is inspiring her son. "When he sees me with my stethoscope on, he says, 'Mommy I want to be a doctor!' It is teaching him good values, and the importance of going to school and work."

Kasia's next goal is to pass her nursing boards. She has already received two job offers.



# VOLUNTEERISM

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15,572 Hours



579 Head Start Parents Volunteered

91,669 Hours



415 Early Head Start Parents Volunteered

4,611 Hours



192 Community Members Volunteered

111,852 Hours



964 Total Volunteers

## Social Media Keeps Us Connected

To instantly share more about what we're doing, we continue to post photos, videos and information on the social media networks below.



[www.facebook.com/RiverbendHeadStartandFamilyServices](http://www.facebook.com/RiverbendHeadStartandFamilyServices)



[www.twitter.com/RiverbendHSFS](http://www.twitter.com/RiverbendHSFS)



[www.youtube.com/RiverbendHeadStartandFamilyServices](http://www.youtube.com/RiverbendHeadStartandFamilyServices)



[www.instagram.com/RiverbendHeadStart](http://www.instagram.com/RiverbendHeadStart)



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Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation  
The Gori Law Firm  
Mr. and Mrs. John Barry Julian  
United Way of Greater St. Louis

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Ms. Shirley Roderfeld and Mr. Roger Motley  
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Mr. Stephen Zwolak

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ADWB LLC  
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Mr. and Mrs. Ben Allen  
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Alton Community Unit School District #11  
Alton Wednesday Night AA Group  
Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club  
American Water Company  
Amsted Rail  
Amsted Rail Foundation



**\$1-\$999**

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## \$1-\$999 *continued*

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Ms. Natalie Howell  
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Howell  
Judge David Hylla  
IBEW Local Union 649  
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Co.  
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Ms. Kim Youngberg



Our kiddos worked hard as they were faced with so many challenges. To acknowledge their accomplishments, we planted yard signs in every child's yard who transitioned to kindergarten in August 2020. We thank you for your helping create bright futures for these amazing children. Because of your generous support, we continue to educate, empower and enhance lives.

Teach...   
Strengthen...  
Enhance... 



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