

# 25 YEARS

HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START  
**ANNIVERSARY**

— July 24, 2017 —

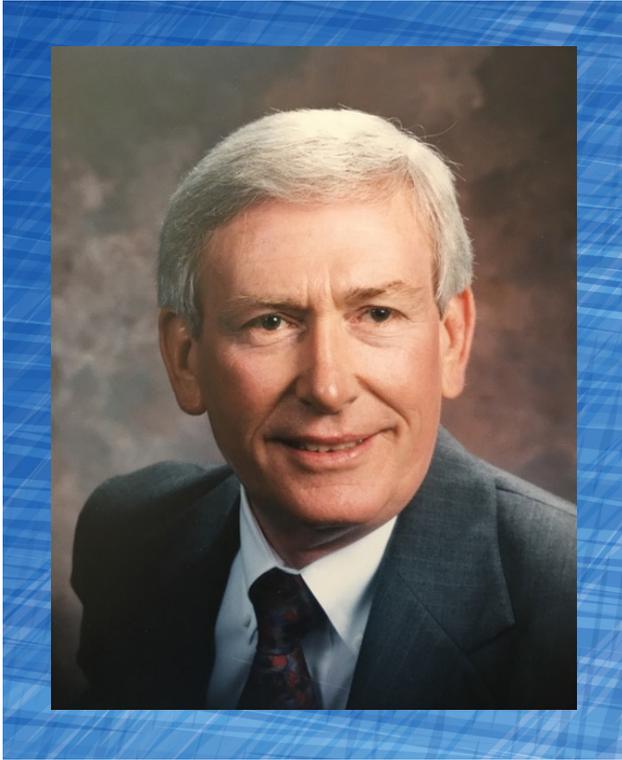


## 1991 - 2017



Region 10 ESC

THE ATRIUM • 300 N. FIFTH ST. • GARLAND, TEXAS 75040



Dedicated to the memory of

**Dr. Steve Hale**

**First Head Start Director**

# Head Start 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1991 - 2017



## We've Come A Long Way Together

The **Region 10** Education Service Center Head Start/Early Head Start Program and staff have been partnering with dedicated educators across our region to support our youngest learners for 25 years. Think about it: We've been at this important work for a quarter century!

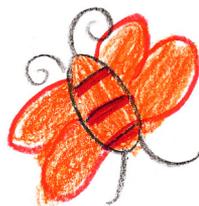
This powerful partnership with our districts is built on a passionate commitment to children and families. We believe that parents are their children's first and most important teachers, and when parents, schools and staff join participate in Head Start or Early Head Start together, magic happens!

Each year, the children in the program learn in nurturing, caring classrooms. Their parents share in the success as they see their children progressing. Together we are a learning community dedicated to providing the foundation for all future school success.

Let's take this moment to reflect on the road we've covered and the lives we've helped change as we and celebrate 25 years of partnership. **Districts + Staff + Parents = Success!**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Skwarek". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kelly Skwarek  
Director Early Childhood Services



# A Message From Our Executive Director

Counting to 10

The Alphabet

Minimum Vocabulary

Proper Interaction with Others

I take it for granted that all new kindergarteners have these seemingly simple things mastered when they start the great adventure we call school. But I know that I shouldn't take them for granted because I have seen the research that indicates many thousands of our country's youngest citizens don't have them when they turn 5 years old.

Fortunately, this is a problem we can do something about.

The tremendous work done by Head Start and Early Head Start programs with these children gives them exactly what the name implies and exactly what they need – the chance to be equal to their peers when they start school.

I am proud of my connection to those of you who strive daily in this mission. You are missionaries to our children, their families, and our future. Thank you!

*Gordon D. Taylor*

Dr. Gordon Taylor  
Executive Director



**Head Start 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1991 - 2017**

# Head Start 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1991 - 2017



## PROGRAM

Welcome

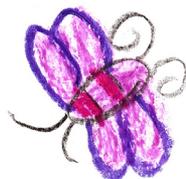
Kelly Skwarek

Congratulations

Dr. Gordon Taylor

Acknowledgements

Alana Parsons



---

## Lunch

---

Video Presentation

R10 Communications Services

Panel Discussion

Current & Former Parents / Staff /  
Administrators - (narrated by Kelly Skwarek)

Special Recognitions

Ernestine Townsend &  
LeAnn Kite Hampton

Spark Video

Olayinka Ojo

Closing Remarks

Kelly Skwarek

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to the planning committee for your time, creative ideas and dedication. Without you this project would not have been a success.

**Ernestine Townsend**

**LeAnn Kite Hampton**

**Olayinka Ojo**

**Alana Parsons**

**Grant Rampy**

# Head Start Time Line



## CELEBRATING THE PAST, FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE

**Region 10** has a rich heritage of serving children and families in partnership with schools and communities. From the beginning, the program has been known for the high quality services provided by our staff and district partners. We've been blessed to work as a team with supportive families and excellent community partners.

**Region 10** became a grantee for Head Start in late 1990 after we saw an announcement in the Federal Register about funds being available to provide Head Start services to unserved areas in our region. Dr. Steve Hale, the assistant director of our Special Education Department at the time, jumped on the opportunity. The first proposal didn't fly, but he was persistent.

After acquiring some technical assistance, his second proposal won funding from the Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families/Head Start. The design for service was modeled after the Region 16 ESC Head Start program in Amarillo. Its very unique service model for the time is the same model used for our current program, one that focuses not only on our young students' educational needs, but also on their health, social services, nutrition and mental health.

Our program also focuses on parents being involved in decision-making and governance through involvement in local parent committees and the regional policy council. We have always required Head Start teachers to be degreed and certified by the state, a standard in place long before it was a national requirement.

The blending of Pre-K funds and Head Start funds, the vision that school districts and **Region 10** share for high quality preschool education and parental involvement, and the passion of our staff, families and community partners for excellence have all contributed to our success over these past 25 years.

# Head Start 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1991 - 2017



## 1991 - 1997

Head Start began in the Fall of 1991 in three school districts with 80 children enrolled in classes – in Denison (2 classes) and Sherman (2 classes) in Grayson County, and Rockwall in Rockwall County (1 class). Zynda Patton, Liller Hall, and Dr. Hale were the only **Region 10** Head Start staff members at the time. Somehow they found a way to meet all of the program requirements.



Because Dr. Hale had responsibilities in the Special Education Department, his time was divided; Patton and Hall were left to manage learning and the implementation of the performance standards. The two of them worked tirelessly to make Dr. Hale's proposal a reality.

By the time of the first monitoring visit in 1994, the program had grown to serve nearly 470 children in the expanded service area that included Collin, Grayson, Kaufman, and Rockwall Counties. New staffing patterns emerged and additional staff members were hired. Marcie Martin became the first health consultant, and LeAnn Kite, who was already at the ESC as a PPCD Consultant, became Assistant Director. Site Facilitators were added along with Family Services Specialists and Health Services Specialists. Additional consultants and contractors also joined the Head Start family. By the time of the second monitoring visit in 1997, the program had grown to serve 600 children.



# Head Start Time Line

## 1999 - 2002

At the time of the third monitoring visit in 2000, the program was delivering start-up activities for 40 infants, toddlers, and pregnant women in Early Head Start. The Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program in McKinney initially contacted **Region 10** ESC and requested that the program consider applying for Early Head Start (EHS) funding because of the clear community need. Soon McKinney ISD's pregnant and parenting teen program joined the request, and the decision was made to apply for the funding.

The Head Start program staff wrote the grant proposal during the evening and weekend hours since the days were busy with keeping the program running. Thankfully, the Department of Health and Human Services provided **Region 10** ESC funds during the second round of awards, and Ronda Deso became the first Early Head Start coordinator in 2000. Space for center-based programming was challenging so the program began by providing home-based services only. The EHS program soon expanded to include services in McKinney, Rockwall and Sherman, first with the home-based option, and then as space became available, communities were able to offer both center-based and home-based options.



## 2002 - 2003

In the spring of 2002, school districts in Ellis County approached **Region 10** ESC to request Head Start services. After several community meetings, the program submitted the funding application in the late spring. On the first day of school in August 2002, a phone call came from the Region VI Office of Head Start announcing the selection of **Region 10** ESC as the county's new grantee. The program was given six months for start-up of the classes in Ellis County, which involved staffing the program, developing an inventory of existing supplies from the previous grantee, finalizing partnerships with districts, ordering additional supplies, recruiting children, setting up classrooms, and hiring and training staff.

When the monitoring team arrived in February 2003, the funded enrollment had grown again to 898 in Head Start and 120 in Early Head Start.

**Head Start 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1991 - 2017**

# Head Start 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1991 - 2017

## 2005 - 2006

Due to Hurricane Katrina evacuees who settled in the North Texas area, the Office of Head Start required classroom enrollment be expanded to accommodate displaced children. Actual enrollment exceeded the funded enrollment by approximately 50 children.

- **Region 10's** Early Head Start program became one of 24 programs in the nation selected to take part in a three-year national Enhanced Home Visiting demonstration project. The grant allowed Early Head Start to serve "kith and kin providers" (i.e., other family members or caregivers along with parents of the child in a home-based option), with data collection in place to analyze the effectiveness of this approach.
- Head Start teachers in Allen, Ennis, Sherman, and Wylie ISDs took part in the state-funded Ready to Read competitive grant. The **Region 10** grant was administered by Texas Education Agency and the Center for Improving the Readiness of Children for Learning and Education (CIRCLE) from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. The Ready to Read grant was a two-year grant that worked with Head Start and Pre Kindergarten teachers to provide quality literacy and numeracy instruction. Participating teachers were mandated to



attend a 2-hour online training session every other week. Consultants worked with grant participants to consider classroom management, phonological awareness, developmentally appropriate activities, and assessment. "Personal Digital Assistants" (PDAs) were used for assessment purposes, thus allowing teachers more time to teach and interact with students.

- The program gained a Reading is Fundamental/Family of Readers grant that provided for book distribution and parent workshops each year. In addition, funds allowed for the expansion and enhancement of the Head Start and Early Head Start lending libraries on each campus.
- **Region 10** partnered with Collin County Community College to provide courses through its videoconferencing network for CDA courses. Early Head Start teachers and some Head Start Instructional Assistants were involved in these courses along with students from the community.

# Head Start Time Line

## 2006 - 2010

The program applied for and was granted expansion for both the Head Start and Early Head Start programs in 2009, bringing funded enrollment to 1,120. The program was awarded the Early Learning Mentor Coach grant, enhancing support and mentoring for the Early Head Start teachers.

## 2011 - the present

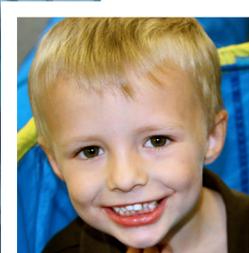
- Due to the sequestration of federal funds, classes were cut in late 2012 and vacant staff positions went unfilled..
- In 2014, long-time director LeAnn Kite Hampton retired, and Kelly Skwarek took her place.
- Funding was restored in 2014, allowing the program to return to serving 1,120 children and their families. New team members added energy, excitement, fresh ideas, and innovation.
- Reorganization at **Region 10** ESC prompted a name change. Preschool Services became Early Childhood Services.
- Monitoring visits over two school years resulted in a few areas of non-compliance, and the program plans for corrective actions were approved by the Office of Head Start.
- New Performance Standards were released, and the program continued to grow as the standards took hold.



**Region 10's** Head Start and Early Head Start programs and its dedicated staff members have a rich history of serving children and families. The future is full of promise as well as our shared visions of success for children, families, staff, school districts, and their communities.

**Head Start 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1991 - 2017**

# Our Future



# Thank You

---

## GOLD

---



---

## SILVER

---



Judge David L. Bridges

*FT AUTO*

---

## BRONZE

---



Judge David W. & Diane Evans



Head Start 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1991 - 2017