

MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact Information:

Teresa Rupp, Executive Director

Office: (316) 682-1853

E-mail: trupp@childstart.org

Anne Maack, Director of Public Affairs

Office: (316) 682-1853

E-mail: amaack@childstart.org

Child Start Announces Early Head Start Updates

Child Start announces updates in its implementation of the Harper County Early Head Start program, a Federally-funded early childhood program to be located on Nine Iron Drive at Anthony City Lake. The program announces its initial hiring decisions including:

Trisha Moritz—Early Childhood Site Manager

Wanda Smith—ERSEA Clerk/Risk Management

Emily Drouhard—Family Educator

Kasha Moritz—Family Educator (part time)

Jackie Keim – Cook (part time)

Pam Fredrick – Nurse (part time)

Staff will attend training on Early Head Start performance standards in Wichita during the week of May 3rd; and, will begin working out of the Harper County EHS office during the week of May 10th.

The program is still recruiting four early childhood teachers. Interested persons may inquire or apply for positions by contacting Human Resources at Child Start, Inc., 1069 S. Glendale, Wichita, 67218; by calling (toll-free) 877-632-4968; or, by logging onto www.childstart.org.

Among the staff's first tasks will be recruiting children (ages birth to 3) and families for the program, slated to begin operations June 1st.

The free program will serve low income families of normally developing children and children with special needs; and, families of children who are involved in foster care, living with teen parents or homeless. Services that will be provided include: child care and early education as well as prenatal, health, dental, parenting, nutrition and social services. Interested families may call Child Start (877-632-4968 <toll-free> or 620-842-3999) for more information or to see if they qualify.

Renovation work at the facility (which formerly housed Cynthia's Pizzeria) has begun under contractor Jerom Reeves of JR Construction Company with completion slated for late May. On Saturday, April 24th,

six (6) members from the Fire Department of Harper and two (2) members each from the Fire Departments of Attica and Anthony helped move restaurant equipment and furniture out of the building to make room for staff office furniture and classroom furniture and equipment. Once licensed by the Harper County Health Department, the building will house two (2) early childhood classrooms serving eight (8) children each along with all of the Harper County EHS staff.

Child Start, Inc. is a nonprofit, charitable organization headquartered in Wichita providing early childhood development services that prepare children for lifelong success. Administering Early Head Start, Head Start and the Child Care Aware program, Child Start works with parents, child care providers, early educators and caregivers providing a wide range of services to ensure that children enter school ready to learn. For more information about Child Start, please visit www.childstart.org on the Internet or contact the agency at 316-682-1853. Child Start is located at 1069 S. Glendale in Wichita.

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