

Child Start News: Grand Openings

Child Start is growing!

A pair of grand openings were the highlight of this past summer for Child Start. And they were “grand” thanks to an outpouring of support from the community. Two newly renovated facilities house expansion made possible through grants from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The stimulus dollars allow Child Start to serve 132 additional disadvantaged children through our Head Start 0-5 Program. The program serves parents, pregnant and parenting teens, and their children from birth until kindergarten-entry with services including prenatal support, parenting classes, home visits and preschool.

First was the opening of 2nd Street Head Start in late June. The Greater Wichita Chamber of Commerce helped us celebrate and many members were present to tour our remarkably colorful facility. **Jon Rolph**, Executive Vice President of SASNAK Management and Chair of Visioneering Wichita, addressed the crowd to voice his approval for how the project fulfills Visioneering Wichita goals.



Jon Rolph, Chair of Visioneering Wichita



Larry Stranathan, County Commissioner, and Bob Reber, Economic Development Council

The opening of Harper County Early Head Start took place in early August. The celebration highlighted the many partners who contributed to opening the center. **Kathy Clark**, the chair of Child Start’s board of directors reminded those assembled, “our Head Start grant stipulates that we receive 25 cents in contributions from the community for every federal dollar received.” In fact, the new center in Harper County was only possible because of generous contributions from the Harper County Commission and the Economic Development Council and both were represented in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The ceremonies allowed Child Start to thank all of the partners who “had a hand” in opening the two new sites. Child Start’s logo is in the shape of a hand-print. It’s a symbol, not only of the activities Child Start children enjoy, but of the mark the children leave on their community because they were prepared for lifelong success. Partners in opening the two new sites joined us in the hand-print imagery by dipping their hands in tempera paint and “leaving their mark” on a canvass commemorating their contributions.

[Click here to see more images from the two Grand Opening celebrations on our Facebook page.](#) Be sure to “like” Child Start!



Craig Nelson, President of Conco Construction and owner of the 2nd Street building, holds up the Child Start emblem.