



Board of Commissioners

Tony Amadio, Chairman
Joe Spanik
Dennis E. Nichols

Chief Clerk

Tracey L. Patton

**BEAVER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

810 Third Street
Beaver, PA 15009
(724) 770-4405
(724) 728-0725 Fax

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BEAVER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ISSUE A
PROCLAMATION NAMING OCTOBER 14, 2015
AS “HEAD START NATIONAL 50th ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION DAY IN BEAVER COUNTY” AT
GATHERING OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL HEAD
START ADVOCATES**

(October 14, 2015-Monaca, PA)

Flanked by Beaver County families, long-time supporters of Head Start and community partners of the landmark program for children, the Beaver County Commissioners issued a Proclamation designating Wednesday, October 14th as “**Head Start National 50th Anniversary Celebration Day**” in Beaver County.

Today’s celebration, hosted by Head Start of Beaver County, which is a division of the Private Industry Council, united the community in recognition of the accomplishments of Head Start operations in Beaver County and honored past and present children, families and staff who have made the program a success.

“We should all reflect upon how important the Head Start program has been for Beaver County children and families. The first Head Start operation in Beaver County was administered by Griffith Heights Social Service Association as a pilot program in 1965. It was a 6-8 week summer program with 6 classrooms which served 15 children each. From such a humble but critical beginning, Head Start has grown to a major program that has expanded service to many young students and their families in Beaver County” reflected Chairman Tony Amadio.

Today’s program, conducted at the Beaver Valley Mall, included a 5:30 pm National Message on the Head Start Anniversary (broadcast from the national Head Start Office), the Proclamation from the Board of Commissioners, games and activities for families and children, an Art Show featuring work created by students in each Head Start of Beaver County Classroom, and additional activities as part of today’s “Community Block Party

Celebrating Head Start's 50th Anniversary". "Head Start of Beaver County is one of the Private Industry Council's programs that I'm most proud of. In the 2013-2014 program year, we were awarded the grant to administer the program in Beaver County with a federal budget of \$ 3,809,189 serving 478 children. In the 2015-2016 program year, federal funding increased to \$ 4,069,411 and the number of children served increased to 497. In this new program year, Head Start State Supplemental Assistance Program funding allowed us to serve even more children. We now serve 533 children in 23 classrooms and 3 home-based areas in Beaver County" said Tim Yurcisin, President & CEO of the Private Industry Council.

"The Head Start program in Beaver County is a great operation, both for children and their families. It is set up to empower parents to meet the needs of and serve as advocates for their children in all phases of development and the transition into elementary school. In this day and age, preparing our children and their families for life-long learning is not only important, it is a critical part of development and I am proud to support such an operation in Beaver County" said Commissioner Joe Spanik.

The Head Start "Community Block Party" is a celebration of decades of service to children, both locally and throughout the nation. "We focus quite a bit on economic development and planning for the future of Beaver County and its communities. We should never forget that future accomplishments will rely upon a skilled workforce with the educational background to learn and adapt in the future. The Head Start program offers such a foundation for our youngest citizens. With the help of early childhood education projects like Head Start, and the support of their families, the children of Head Start will be well-positioned to develop as future leaders in Beaver County. I applaud the Head Start operation, and congratulate the entire Head Start family in Beaver County as we celebrate the Program's past and its continued service to children and families of our area" said Commissioner Dennis Nichols.

Head Start in Beaver County educates parents to better understand the physical, emotional, social, nutritional and, in some cases, the special needs of their children. It connects families with the resources they need to achieve self-sufficiency and to properly care for their children. It also equips students with the foundation needed to succeed in school and in life. The Head Start program in Beaver County is based at 205 Beaver Valley Mall in Monaca.

*** END ***



County Commissioners PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF BEAVER
IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 14, 2015, AS
**"HEAD START NATIONAL 50TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DAY"**
IN BEAVER COUNTY.

WHEREAS, supporting our children in their earliest years with high-quality care and education is one of the best investments we can make as a Nation. For 50 years Head Start has helped lift up millions of America's children and their families in communities across our country; and

WHEREAS, by investing in Head Start our Nation invests in the future of our children, strengthening our economy, bolstering our communities, and giving every young person the chance to build a better life by providing a strong, healthy, and safe head start for all children; and

WHEREAS, in the last half-century Head Start has served 32 million children, supporting them in every aspect of their development, from early learning and health and nutrition to social and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, in small towns and large cities, in America's immigrant communities and with migrant and seasonal families, faith-based communities, and tribal leaders, Head Start programs and providers empower children and their families to foster

positive parent-child relationships, to reach for economic and family stability, and to make important connections to their peers and their communities; and

WHEREAS, Head Start began in Beaver County as a pilot program administered by Griffith Heights Social Service Association in 1965, and has grown from a 6-8 week summer program with 6 classrooms serving 15 children each, to 23 classrooms and 3 home-based areas serving 533 children today; and

WHEREAS, Beaver County is committed to the health and well-being of all young people through opportunities that will enable children to begin kindergarten ready to learn.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Beaver, a fourth class county under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, AND IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED:

That the Board of Commissioners of the County of Beaver does hereby call upon the people of Beaver County and upon all patriotic, civic, and educational organizations to observe:

October 14, 2015, as

"HEAD START NATIONAL 50TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DAY"
in Beaver County.

In witness thereof, we have hereunto set our hand and caused the seal of the Commissioners of Beaver County to be affixed this 8th day of Oct., 2015

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tony Amadio
Chairman

Joe Shur
Commissioner

Dennis E. Nichols
Commissioner

Nancy Patton
Attest

