



Board of Commissioners

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**BEAVER COUNTY
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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.

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