BELIEVE. ACHIEVE. SOAR.

2017 Annual Report

EPISCOPAL Children's Services
Dear Friends and Supporters,

Every child deserves a strong start in life.

With a dedicated staff and Board of Directors that holds themselves to the highest standards, Episcopal Children’s Services is recognized as a national leader in early childhood education. Over the past 50 years, Episcopal Children’s Services has helped hundreds of thousands of young children build a solid foundation for success in school and life.

Our commitment to excellence has resulted in the award of two multi-million dollar grants, growing our revenues to over $62,000,000 and expanding our service area to 14 counties in Florida. This growth enables us to serve an even greater number of the most vulnerable children in our communities.

Episcopal Children’s Services delivers the highest quality of services, utilizing data-driven practices that result in demonstrable outcomes. Our young students grow in every aspect of their lives – cognitively, socially, emotionally and physically – all while learning language, literacy, mathematics and creative arts. We build strong and healthy families with our family advocacy program. Our meals are nutritious, featuring whole grains, vegetables and low sugar. Our health services ensure that children receive high quality preventive care for their physical and dental needs.

We are proud to present this report showcasing the incredible impact of our work. We are so proud of how far we have come and the amazing results of our programs. We are grateful for every friend, supporter, employee and partner of Episcopal Children’s Services. It is only with your help that we can change the lives of thousands of children every year.

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The Honorable John Peyton
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Dr. H. Warner Webb
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The Mission of Episcopal Children’s Services
is creating opportunities for the children we serve to reach their full potential.

**CREATING**
We are relentless in perfecting the art and skill of teaching young children to grow intellectually, emotionally, physically and socially.

**OPPORTUNITIES**
We build foundations for the future with strong learning environments for children, support and education for parents, and professional development for teachers and staff.

**THE CHILDREN WE SERVE**
We serve our community’s most vulnerable children and families - those living in poverty and children with disabilities - with high quality early learning as well as comprehensive health and wellness services.

**REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL**
Children who enter kindergarten ready to learn have better outcomes for their entire lives. It all begins with quality early learning.
The Children's Champion Award was established in 2006 by Episcopal Children's Services to recognize individuals and organizations who work passionately on behalf of children to elevate their welfare to the highest priority in our community.

The Children's Champion Award is one of the highest honors to be bestowed on those most dedicated and committed to improving the lives of children and their families in Northeast and Central Florida.

2017 Award Honorees

Deborah Gianoulis Heald
President & CEO
Schultz Center

Davalu “Davy” Parrish, DPA
Former President & CEO
The Bridge of Northeast Florida, Inc.

Previous Children's Champion Award Honorees

2006  The Honorable John Peyton
2007  Delores Barr Weaver
2008  Edward E. Burr
2009  Pamela Y. Paul
2010  The Jessie Ball DuPont Fund
2011  John D. Baker, II
2012  Mr. & Mrs. Russell B. Newton, Jr.
2013  Betsy Ross Lovett
2014  J.F. Bryan, IV
      Dr. H. Warner Webb
      Dr. Albert Wilkinson (Posthumously)
      Connie Hodges
      The Boselli Foundation
      Wells Fargo
2016  Michael Aubin, FACHE
      Gary Chartrand
      Helen Lane
Episcopal Children’s Services Milestones

1966
FIRST CENTER
Episcopal Children’s Services opens our first child care center serving 30 children with the leadership of Dr. Nancy Reddy, a highly recognized leader and advocate for quality early childhood education.

1985
MORE SERVICES FOR FAMILIES
With enrollment exceeding 1,400 students, Episcopal Children’s Services adds new services to better meet the needs of our students, with a nutrition program to fill critical dietary gaps that could hinder child development and subsidized child care to provide high quality child care while giving parents the ability to seek or maintain employment.

1996
FIRST HEAD START GRANT
Episcopal Children’s Services receives our first Head Start grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, leading the implementation of comprehensive childhood education and development in Northeast Florida.

2002
ENHANCING EARLY EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS
Recognizing the need for other child-serving organizations to utilize our professional expertise, Episcopal Children’s Services develops an early childhood education curriculum to raise the quality of classroom lesson plans and teaching tools. Regularly updated with the latest research, Links to Early Learning supports classrooms throughout Florida.

2006
CHILDREN’S CHAMPIONS
The Children’s Champion Award is created to recognize individuals and organizations who work passionately on behalf of children to elevate their welfare to the highest priority in our community. Children’s Champion is now one of the highest honors to be bestowed on those most dedicated and committed to improving the lives of children and their families.

2010
EARLY HEAD START EXPANSION
With continued success in Head Start as well as other Early Education programs, including School Readiness and Child Care Resource and Referral, Episcopal Children’s Services is awarded the expansion grant for Early Head Start, to serve our youngest citizens, beginning our work with parents before the baby is even born.

2016
GROWTH TO NEW COUNTIES
Episcopal Children’s Services wins competitive grant competitions to expand our Head Start and Early Head Start to a total of 14 counties in Florida, making us one of the largest providers in the country, with revenues now exceeding $60,000,000.
MAKING AN IMPACT

A Proven Approach To Learning
Gains in Students Achieving Developmental Benchmarks

Our research-based learning environment helps our Head Start and Early Head Start students excel in all areas, with significant gains in every developmental benchmark.

Fresh Food & Nutrition

467,411
Healthy meals served to Head Start and Early Head Start children every year.

Well-nourished children are healthier, more attentive and have better mental performance.

Health & Wellness

1,851 Students current with vaccinations
1,617 Students received preventive dental care
1,581 Students up-to-date with primary medical well-care

When children are healthy, they achieve academically and successful students build strong communities. That’s why we focus on preventive medical and dental care for all our Head Start and Early Head Start students.
Serving More Children

1,041% Increase

We expanded our Head Start and Early Head Start to 12 counties and we are still growing!

Building Family Relationships

91% Head Start and Early Head Start Parents who read daily to their children

90% Head Start and Early Head Start Families who eat one meal together daily

Episcopal Children’s Services works with the entire family because parents are the child’s best teachers.

Training In Our Community

122 Child Development Associate Graduates

2,184 Education Professional Development Participants

We intentionally invest in teacher training and coaching for early childhood educators throughout our community because well-trained teachers help students excel.

The Most Vulnerable

97% of our Head Start and Early Head Start students live in low-income households.
85% of our students live below the Federal Poverty Level and 10% of our students have disabilities.

Improving Financial Stability

97% Head Start and Early Head Start Families who report they are better able to manage their budgets with financial literacy training.

$3,289 Average annual budget savings per child for School Readiness Families

When child care is affordable for low-income family budgets, parents are better able to build their family’s economic future.
Our Programs

Head Start & Early Head Start
Our most vulnerable children receive intensive and comprehensive child development services. Parents are supported with services for family well-being as well as tools to support their children’s success in school.

Family Advocacy
Professional Family Advocates improve family well-being with supportive services and resources. Our services are free, so families can direct their limited budgets to necessities of rent, food and health care.

Education
Highly trained teachers build on each student’s learning needs, strengths and abilities. Children grow intellectually, emotionally and socially through safe, age-appropriate play-based activities.

Nutrition & Health
Our whole child approach goes well beyond education with healthy meals and snacks to ensure proper nutrition. All children are regularly screened and connected to medical and dental preventive care.

Training and Coaching
To provide the best education for our children, teachers must be equipped with tools and knowledge to nurture child development. Ongoing coaching ensures that educators are provided with ongoing feedback on the quality of their work.

CoachJax!
In partnership with the Kids Hope Alliance, teams of certified coaches and technical staff work directly with childcare facilities in Duval County to improve children’s outcomes. Our comprehensive approach includes environmental quality, teaching effectiveness and use of quality curricula to help centers improve their Quality Rating in Guiding Stars of Duval.

Links to Early Learning
To fill the void in early learning curriculum, our education department developed a comprehensive, research-based pre-school curriculum that is approved for use throughout Florida.

Regional Training Institute
A career in early education requires professional development training. We prepare caregivers for their state credential as a Child Development Associate.
Early Learning Services

In partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of North Florida, we provide a wide array of programs to support parents to make the right child care decisions for their families.

**Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten**
Episcopal Children’s Services provides four-year-olds with free, high quality educational program using our professional curriculum and staff to prepare our young learners for success in kindergarten.

**School Readiness**
Child care can consume over 25% of a low-income family’s monthly budget. We help low-income families pay for child care so their parents can earn income with the assurance that their children are thriving in high-quality care.

**Child Care Resource & Referral**
Parents are provided with free information on local child care providers to meet their family’s specific needs.

Episcopal Early Learning Centers

To meet the shortage of high-quality child care, we operate centers that are available to all. We utilize research-based, developmentally appropriate curricula to foster children’s skills and learning.

**Early Learning Center at Good Shepherd**
With small class sizes and individual plans for each child, we are fostering childhood development in the Riverside area of Jacksonville.

**Episcopal Early Learning Academy**
Early learners in the Mandarin area of Jacksonville have quality care and specialized instruction using the latest technology, with our lab that integrates Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) with Creative Arts. Our lab is known as the STEAM lab because we put Art in the middle of STEM.
Financial Highlights

Episcopal Children’s Services is reporting our most successful year in our history.

With the hard work of a dedicated team, we were awarded new Head Start and Early Head Start grants of over $17M. This investment dramatically expands our ability to serve our most vulnerable citizens – young children and their families who deserve a chance to succeed in life.

Our Federal, State and Local Governments invested $52,649,279 in our program delivery this year alone. And we will continue to compete for additional investment.

But these investments have a price

We must prove that our local communities value this federal investment by locally raising an additional 20 cents for every federal dollar received.

That’s a small price to pay to ensure our community is preparing our youngest citizens to enter school ready to learn. When children succeed in school, they enter the workforce prepared to compete in the global economy.

To continue this desperately needed investment, we need the support of every sector – corporate, local government, foundations, service organizations, religious groups and individuals. Every donation, no matter the size, is critical.
Thank You to Our Donors and Sponsors

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