



# Head Start Happenings

## NEW LEADERSHIP FOR A NEW DIRECTION



Debrah Garcia- Acting CEO of LIHS

With a rock solid foundation, Head Start has made sharp changes within the agency to ensure a more successful future on Long Island. The majority of changes have been made within the administration department with the addition of new positions and the elimination of other positions. The most significant change to the agency is Debrah Garcia who has been selected as the Acting Chief Executive Officer of Long Island Head Start. The change came about due to the series of transitions the agency is taking as part of their re-

structuring process.

The Board of Directors selected Debrah Garcia based on her outstanding experience and dedication to Head Start as the best choice to fill the challenging role. She has served as Acting CEO since October 13, 2004. In this capacity, Ms. Garcia is responsible for providing childcare services to over 1500 families throughout Suffolk County on Long Island. The organization currently has 18 Head Start and Early Head Start centers across the county.

Debrah Garcia was born in Brooklyn and was raised in Commack, Long Island, New York. She has attained several degrees including an Associates degree in Early Childhood Education, a BS degree in Elementary Education, a Master's degree in Special Education, and is

dually certified by New York State in Elementary and Special Education. Ms. Garcia has spent her entire career with Head Start totaling 21 years. She began and served for 10 years as a Head Start teacher. Thereafter, she was promoted to several positions within administration and program services. Most recently, Ms. Garcia served as the Director of Quality Assurance and Program Services. Through the years, she has garnered several awards ranging from Outstanding Performance as an Educator to Outstanding Longevity Services. The restructuring of the agency is in its final stage. "My vision is to move this agency forward in becoming the highest quality Child and Family Services organization in Long Island," said Acting CEO Debrah Garcia.

**L. I. Child and Family Development Services, Inc.**

Volume 1, Issue 1

SUMMER 2005

### Mission Statement

"The mission of Long Island Head Start is to provide a comprehensive learning environment to children respectful of their cultures and to assist families in reaching self-sufficiency through the combined efforts of parents, community, and staff."

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## CENTER LOCATIONS

### AMITYVILLE

(631) 842-8484

### BAY AREA

(631) 395-4853

### BAY SHORE

(631) 666-4985

### BAY SHORE /SUBURBAN

(631) 968-6477

### BELLPORT

(631) 286-0579

### BRENTWOOD

(631) 951-3043

### BRIDGEHAMPTON

(631) 537-0616

### CENTRAL BROOKHAVEN

(631) 732-7100

### NORTH FORK

(631) 765-5684

### PATCHOGUE

(631) 654-5010

### RIVERSIDE

(631) 369-8232

### SOUTHAMPTON

(631) 369-7730

### WYANDANCH

(631) 643-5453

### WYANDANCH/KELLUM

(631) 884-1361

### EHS ISLIP

(631) 968-1960

### EHS CEN. BROOKHAVEN

(631) 345-2442

### EHS PATCHOGUE

(631) 207-5712

### BAYSHORE/ACLD

(631) 665-1900

## Message From the Chair of the Board

Dear Parents and Supporters,

As Chair of the Board of Directors of Long Island Head Start, it has been my pleasure to serve on a Board with experienced and knowledgeable professionals who work hard to ensure that the Head Start and Early Head Start programs have the fiscal resources to provide quality services to our children and families.

Recruitment and enrollment are important factors in ascertaining that funding is available to support our Head Start programs. To-

ward that end, I am asking you as parents, families, staff and the community-at-large to join us in ensuring we reach and maintain our funded-enrollment level for the 2005-2006 program year.

Parents...reach out into your communities and spread the word about what Head Start has to offer to income-eligible families. Staff...spread the word about Head Start through door-to-door recruitment as well as other locations where Head Start-eligible families are likely to be. Board members ...talk to the peo-

ple who work with you and the people in your community.

Hundreds of children are not being served, help us find them. Help us attain full-enrollment in our programs. *I am counting on you!*

Sincerely,

Joan B. Johnson, Chair



## SPOTLIGHT ON...

### BRIDGEHAMPTON HEAD START: BRIDGING THE GAP

On February 24, 2005, L.I. Child and Family Development Services, Inc. (LICFDS) along with Bridgehampton Child Care and Recreational Center (BCCRC) officially celebrated their new partnership. Several community, political, and staff persons were in attendance for this momentous occasion.

The partnership between Long Island Head Start (LIHS) and Bridgehampton did not happen overnight. It was over a year's worth of work and pre-planning on both sides of the organizations. Debrah Garcia, Acting CEO of LIHS, quickly points out that this successful merger was due to the hard work of Debbie Elcik, Sylvia Friedie, and

Diane MacCallum. With the guidance of Debrah Garcia and Ed Archibald, Executive Director of BCCRC, the two organizations were able to find common grounds in which they both could better serve the community.

The presence of the community and political figures at the event displayed their support and excitement for this partnership.

Among families

and friends was Joan B. Johnson, Town Clerk for Islip and Chair of the Board of Directors for LIHS. Also in attendance were Tim Bishop, U.S. Congressman, Fred

Thiele, Jr., NY State Assemblyman, and 2<sup>nd</sup> District Legislator, Jay H. Schneiderman.



From l-r: Joan B. Johnson- Town Clerk ( Town of Islip) and Chair of LIHS BOD, Edmund Archibald- Executive Director of BCCRC, Tim Bishop- U.S. Congressman, Debrah Garcia- Acting CEO of LIHS

Through this partnership, L.I. Child and Family Services, Inc. proposes to utilize the strengths of the Bridgehampton Child Care and Recreational Cen-

ter to augment the proposed Project, as well as bringing the expertise of the Long Island Head Start program and staff to the Project.

# PARENT PAGE

## URGENT MESSAGE!

The Parents of Long Island Head Start are excited about the new changes that are taking place within the agency to ensure our children have the best experience possible. As parents of this agency, we are committed to serving and helping to make Long Island Head Start the safest, most productive, and quality assured program Suffolk County has to offer. We know that the best beginning is a Head Start. Parents, please feel free to get involved and be a part of the parent committee at your child's respective center. There's plenty of work to be done!

### POLICY COUNCIL

#### AMITYVILLE

James Stokes  
Claudia Williams

#### BAY AREA

Hope McCormack  
Kay Rampersad

#### BAYSHORE

Dora Rancel  
Rolanda Chance  
Winston Prince

#### BELLPORT

Celia Haynes

#### CENTRAL BROOKHAVEN

Tina Hartzog- Chairperson  
Shirlena Walker

#### CENTRAL ISLIP

Olunfumiayo Ogunwale  
Stacey Fisher

#### NORTH FORK

Samantha Staples

#### PATCHOGUE

Gabriela Perez  
Penny Brown

#### SOUTHAMPTON/ RIVERSIDE

Wayne Iona  
Anthony James  
Martha Laboy

#### WYANDANCH

Frances Toliver- Co-  
Chairperson  
Robin Rosaio  
Edeedson Cine

#### PATCHOGUE EHS

Lillian Bryers  
Lisa Meade

#### CENTRAL BROOKHAVEN EHS

Terrance Ryan  
Desiree Switzer

#### ISLIP EHS

Melanie Lambert  
Christina Santiago

#### BOD LIASION

Lovetta Nixon

#### COMMUNITY REPS.

Claire Salant  
Luronne Charles

# ALUMNI NEWS

## FEATURED ALUMNI

Paula Adams  
Brentwood, NY  
District Manager  
N. Amityville Fire Co.

Giselle Cosme  
Brentwood, NY  
Family/Community Partnership Specialist  
Long Island Head Start

Norma Noce  
Central Islip, NY  
C.S.W.  
ICM at PPC

Paul M. Adams Jr.  
Brentwood, NY  
Legal Collector  
Oxford Management Service

Dr. Paul Diggs  
Northport, NY  
MD  
Dept. Veterans Affairs

Tonja-Charles Pierre  
Central Islip, NY  
Project Coordinator  
Bana Electric Corp.

Sherry Ahlberg  
Patchogue, NY  
Funeral Director  
Branch Funeral Home

Karolyn M. Faulk  
Bay Shore, NY  
Neighborhood Aide  
Town of Islip

Tashia Price  
Coram, NY  
Teacher Assistant  
Central Brookhaven

Regina L. Arvon, MD  
Philadelphia, PA  
MD, Thomas Jefferson University  
Jefferson Medical College

Terrence Goode  
Brentwood, NY  
Accountant Manager  
Liberty Maritime Corp.

Myra Ruiz  
Bay Shore, NY  
Center Manager  
Bay Shore Head Start

Patricia Bartik  
Shoreham, NY  
Project Sparc Advocate  
Pediatric Aides Ctr @Stony Brook

Jalen Jeter  
Central Islip, NY  
Student  
Cordelo School

Theresa Sanders  
Central Islip, NY  
President/CEO  
Urban League L.I.

Jennifer (Ahlerberg)  
Long Beach, NY  
Computer Graphics  
Moltenlava

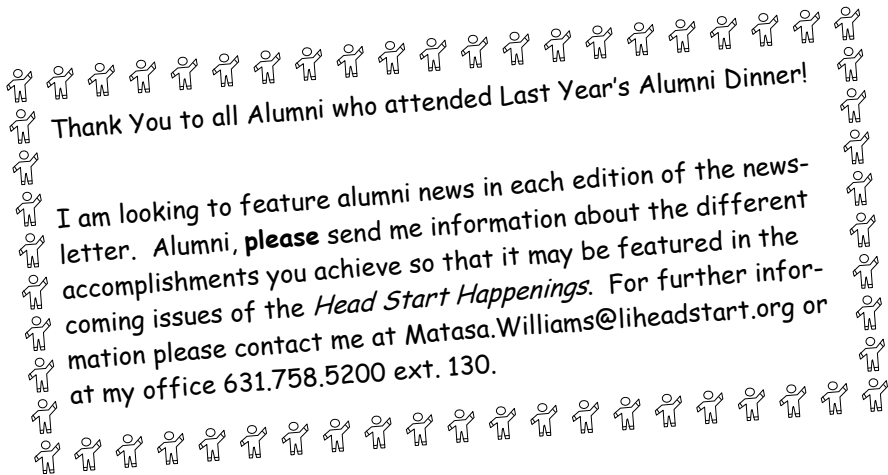
Shelly A. Jeter  
Central Islip, NY  
Case Worker  
Town of Islip

Carol Waldron  
Lake Grove, NY  
Claim Manager  
State Farm

Joyce Young  
Coram, NY  
Family Advocate  
Long Island Head Start

Tiffany N. Adams  
Washington, D.C.  
Vice- President  
National Association of Manufacturers

'Every Child  
Deserves a  
Head Start'

 Thank You to all Alumni who attended Last Year's Alumni Dinner!  
I am looking to feature alumni news in each edition of the newsletter. Alumni, **please** send me information about the different accomplishments you achieve so that it may be featured in the coming issues of the *Head Start Happenings*. For further information please contact me at [Matasa.Williams@liheadstart.org](mailto:Matasa.Williams@liheadstart.org) or at my office 631.758.5200 ext. 130.

# HEAD START HIGHLIGHTS

## Early Head Start Receives Baby Big Bucks From Babies "R" Us

Early Head Start Centers receive a monetary gift from Babies "R" Us of Patchogue. The baby oriented corporation has targeted Early Head Start as their recipient of the *Time for Smiles Grant*, a \$500 donation. The presentation of funds took place on December 16, 2004 at the Early Head Start Center in Patchogue, N.Y.



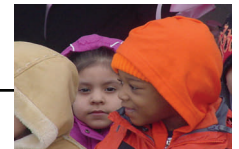
From l-r standing Patricia Ang- Babies R Us Supervisor, Kim Giglio- Dept. Store Manager, Joyce Brown- new infant specialist, Sitting l-r Gina Parrinello-HS specialist, Diane Mac Callum- HS Director Of Quality Assurance and Program Services, Debrah Garcia- HS Acting CEO, Laura Arrington- HS specialist, the little people are HS babies.

There are three Early Head Start Centers located in central Suffolk County serving 172 infants and toddlers from birth to age three. The grant money will be utilized to provide toys needed for hands-on,

active learning experiences for infants and toddlers. Toys purchased will be geared to help children explore and make discoveries, as well as develop their fine and gross sensory

motor-skills. "It's nice to reach out to community organizations who really need it," said Kim Giglio, Assistant Manager for Babies "R" Us. She was accompanied by Patricia Ang, Department Supervisor for Babies "R" Us.

Long Island Head Start strives to help families break the cycle of poverty by providing comprehensive child development and family support services that will assist families as they move towards self-sufficiency and empowerment. "On behalf of EHS babies, staff, families, and administration, we are so grateful for the generosity of Babies "R" Us in making this donation" said Debrah Garcia, Acting CEO of Long Island Head Start.



## Amityville Makes Changes You Can See

In 1999, former center manager, Mattie Angus created a wish list for Amityville Head Start. That wish list was answered with a promise of a facelift from the Town of Babylon, the building's owner. However, due to unfortunate situations the renovations were postponed... until December 2003. With the supervisor of the Town of Babylon, Steve Bellone's okay, Amityville Head Start underwent major internal and external beautification measures. The Town of Babylon



From l-r: Belinda Whitehead- Amityville HS Center Manager, Angela Brooks- Project Coordinator (Town of Babylon), Janice Colbert- Town Clerk (Town of Babylon), Mattie Angus-Team Leader LIHS, Steve Bellone- Supervisor of Town of Babylon, Joan Grant- EOC Suffolk, Sarah Seely- EOC Suffolk, Peter Casserly- Commissioner of Planning, HS Children

hired the services of Dosanjh Construction Company to execute the planned layout of changes. The new and improved Amityville Head Start

is fully equipped with brand new upgraded safety windows including brand new blinds, two beautiful foyers, an enlarged and remodeled kitchen with new equipment, safety floor mats at each entrance, and a paint job for the entire building. The new changes are just the beginning of what the Town of Babylon is going to do for the center. They have already planned to install a new air conditioning unit into the building within the next two months. Belinda Whitehead, Center Manager of Amityville Head Start said "The new changes are greatly appreciated. It gives the building more appeal. It also creates a fun atmosphere for the children."

# RECRUITMENT/ ENROLLMENT

We are currently recruiting for the 2005-2006 school year at all of our centers. For more information about contacting a center near you or to see how you can help Long Island Head Start, please call (631) 758.5200. You can also e-mail us at [info@liheadstart.org](mailto:info@liheadstart.org) or log on to [www.liheadstart.org](http://www.liheadstart.org). We are located at 98 Austin Street Patchogue, NY 11772.



Wyandanch HS Child



Wyandanch HS Child

Henrietta



Says...

## **HEALTH ALERT:** **SHAKE A LEG NOT YOUR BABY!**

The American Academy of Ophthalmology warns that shaking a baby vigorously can cause serious, permanent eye and brain damage. Babies have weak neck muscles and cannot hold their heads stable during shaking.

## **CONGRATULATIONS !**

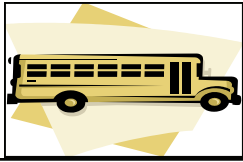
TO THE WYANDANCH HS CENTER FOR SHOWING VAST IMPROVEMENT FROM LAST YEAR TO NOW DURING THE INSPECTION PERIOD.

## THOUGHT OF THE MONTH:

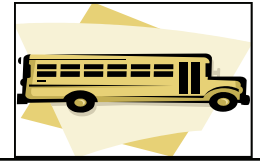
"THINGS TURN OUT THE BEST FOR THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE BEST OF THE WAY THINGS TURN OUT."— John Wooden



Wyandanch HS Child



# CENTER NEWS



JUNE 2005

## AMITYVILLE

6/17 Adventureland TRIP!  
6/24 END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

## BAY AREA

6/15 Bowling TRIP!  
6/24 END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

## BAY SHORE

6/15 Father's Day Activity!  
6/24 END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

## BAYSHORE/SUBURBAN

6/15 Father's Day Activity!  
6/24 END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

## BELLPORT

6/20-23 FUN WEEK!!!  
6/24 END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

## BRENTWOOD

6/20 Benner's Farm TRIP!  
6/24 END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

## CENTRAL BROOKHAVEN

6/21 Holtsville Ecology Center TRIP!  
6/24 END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

## CENTRAL ISLIP

6/17 Father's Day Breakfast!  
6/24 END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

## NORTH FORK

6/23 Family Fun Day!  
6/24 END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

## RIVERSIDE

6/14 Flag Day Celebration!  
6/24 END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

## SOUTHAMPTON

6/20-23 FUN WEEK!!!  
6/24 END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

## WYANDANCH

6/14 Long Island Game Farm TRIP!  
6/24 END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

## PATCHOGUE

6/21 CARNIVAL!  
6/24 END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

## EHS PATCHOGUE

6/15 Mercy Meeting  
6/24 END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

## EHS CENTRAL BROOKHAVEN

6/24 Infant/ Parent & Expectant Parent  
Socialization Day  
6/24 END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

## EHS ISLIP

6/17 Donuts for Daddies & PM Picnic  
6/24 END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION



# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Local Blood Donors Needed

Blood donors must be at least age 17, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good health. All donors receive free mini physicals and health information regarding their temperature, pulse rate, blood pressure and hemoglobin level. Anyone interested in scheduling a donation appointment or blood drive in New York City, Long Island, New Jersey or the Hudson Valley is urged to call 1-800-933-BLOOD or go to <http://www.nybloodcenter.org>

## Suffolk Community Council's Job Fair

June 16, 2005

9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Sheraton Hotel, Hauppauge

Looking for a job that you love?  
Do you want to help people?  
Let us help you! Come to the Job Fair; bring your resume and have on-the-spot interviews. Non-profit agencies will be there with available jobs.

## 4th ANNUAL LONG ISLAND FESTIVAL & WALK FOR MENTAL HEALTH

In Huntington Village

September 25, 2005

Participants will gather **RAIN or SHINE** at Gerard Street (opposite the Huntington Post Office) at **12 Noon**. The Walk will start at 1PM and proceed east on 25A to Heckshcer Park. **Any Agency interested in having a (free) informational table at the event, call (631) 434-9277 ext. 337.** Sponsorship and vendors welcome.

**L. I. Child and Family  
Development Services, Inc.**

98 Austin Street  
Patchogue, NY 11772

Phone: 631-758-5200  
Fax: 631-758-3512  
E-mail: [info@liheadstart.org](mailto:info@liheadstart.org)/  
[Matasa.Williams@liheadstart.org](mailto:Matasa.Williams@liheadstart.org)



## A Brief History of Long Island Head Start

The first Head Start program in Suffolk County began in 1966 as part of the federal "War on Poverty." Funding was appropriated to provide children from low income families with a preschool experience to give them an equal opportunity for success in the public school system. Head Start was designed to be a comprehensive child development program which also involved parents in educational, training and job skills programs, as well as in the decision-making process of the program.

Today, the agency serves over 1500 pre-school children and families in western, central, and the east-end of Suffolk County, NY. Long Island Head Start offers comprehensive child and family development services in the areas of early childhood development and disabilities services; health services to include medical, dental, nutrition, and mental health; social services through family/community development, and parent involvement which recognizes the importance of parents, including fathers, as the primary and most important educators of their child (ren).

Long Island Head Start strives to help families break the cycle of poverty by providing comprehensive child development and family support services that will assist families as they move towards self-sufficiency and empowerment.

## About The Editor

Head Start has announced their selection of a Public Relations Administrator. A recent addition to the Long Island Head Start Administration team is Matasa Williams. Her position was effective on November 29, 2004. In this capacity, she will aid the organization in broadening the public's awareness of Head Start visions, goals, and programs.

Miss Williams is a native of Miami, Florida and a recent college graduate of Howard University's School of Commu-

nications. While at Howard, she immersed herself in the public relations of her student government as she has served as Vice-President of the School of Communications. She received accolades as the public administrator for the critically acclaimed Black Face Awards, which in the past have honored legendary African American leaders including, Spike Lee, Debbie Allen, and Russell Simmons. Other credits include starting Entertainment Power Players, an organi-

zation geared towards helping students get experience in the entertainment industry. Most recently, Miss Williams has worked for MTV's production department and helped create a documentary for the Rockefeller Drug Laws. "I am very excited to be apart of an organization that focuses on one of the top priorities in life, early childhood development. It's easy to promote something that is so essential to our future," said Matasa Williams.