“We meet at a college noted for knowledge, in a city noted for progress, in a state noted for strength, and we stand in need of all three, for we meet in an hour of change and challenge, in a decade of hope and fear, in an age of both knowledge and ignorance. The greater our knowledge increases, the greater our ignorance unfolds.”

– John F. Kennedy, Rice University, 1962

Like so many non-profit organizations nationwide, SMILE has embarked on a future unknown – one with more proposed budget cuts and less revenue-generating resources. Yet we must continue to assist those less fortunate and those in need in an uncertain economy, which has been compounded by a steady outpour of dropouts, homeless and unemployed. But for 44 years and counting, SMILE has always faced challenges. It is how we respond that defines us: do we see the challenges as steps or as obstacles?

We have chosen to accept the challenges as steps toward opportunities that we encounter along the way. The steps are opportunities for us to put into action – ready, set, go!

We – at SMILE – are ready to redefine our vision, our staff diversity, and our staff development as stepping stones and not as obstacles. The changes we seek have always required great struggles and great sacrifices.

Yet today, we stand proud and ready for the opportunities that change brings.

We ask you – the community and the stakeholders – to join us in rededicating ourselves as we redefine SMILE’s motto of “People Helping People” to “People Helping People to Help Themselves.” We will draw on tried and tested experiences and hold onto what works. At the same time, we will introduce new thinking and new approaches where feasible.

SMILE looks forward to the day when this vision becomes reality. We are excited about our vision-driven mission that brings forth excellence, innovation, honor, integrity, and outstanding quality and service.

Are you ready?
We’re ready! We’re set!
Together, let’s go!

Sincerely,

Brenda Foulcard
Interim Executive Director
About SMILE

The St. Martin, Iberia, Lafayette Community Action Agency, or SMILE (as it is widely known by its popular acronym), serves as the primary provider of social services in a tri-parish region. Chartered as a 501 (c)(3), tax-exempt corporation in 1968, the Agency is headquartered in Lafayette. This fiscal year – June 1, 2011 - May 31, 2012 – marked 44 years of service by SMILE.

The Agency’s motto, “People Helping People,” stems from the Economic Opportunity Act’s goal to uplift the nation’s disadvantaged, and to assist them in obtaining self-sufficiency.

SMILE’s programs included Head Start/Early Head Start, comprehensive housing counseling, emergency assistance, life skills, computer technology, family transitional shelters, utility and rent/mortgage assistance, prescription assistance, health and wellness, senior volunteers/expo, youth mentoring/tutoring, weatherization, tax assistance, parenting education, job placement/referrals, and the distribution of clothing, food and hygiene products.

AGENCY MANAGEMENT

SMILE operates under the administration of Interim Executive Director Brenda Foucard. She oversees a managerial staff that includes the Director of Field Operations, Acting Director of Finance, Director of Human Resources, Director of Head Start/Early Head Start, Director of Grants/Communications and Equal Opportunity Officer. Most of these supervisors, in turn, have staff members who oversee their various departments.

In-service training is a vital part of the Agency’s operations. The Agency also has an accounting system in place, and conducts an annual audit. It also practices non-discrimination.

SMILE is governed by an 18-member Board of Directors, representing a cross-section of the public, private and low-income sectors of St. Martin, Iberia and Lafayette Parishes. The volunteer Board serves as the legal entity of the organization, and is committed to its success.

NETWORKING WITH AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS

Collaboration has always been an integral part of the Agency. Not only does the Agency collaborate, but it has also been instrumental in the development of important programs in the region, including the Council on Aging and Meals-on-Wheels. SMILE has also assisted agencies in their start-up efforts, including 232-HELP. The Agency was also instrumental in the creation of ARCH (Acadiana Regional Coalition on Homelessness and Housing), and served as a founding member. The Agency also collaborates with the La. Workforce Commission.

History of SMILE

People Helping People is a noble phrase, one that almost assumes a spiritual connotation by an American public influenced by Judeo-Christian principles and practices. But without a concerted effort of vital resources and funding, the concept lacks the means to significantly change the lives of poor people. The federal government acknowledged this fact with the enactment of the Economic Opportunity Act in August 1964.

The Act provided for the establishment and funding of Community Action agencies and programs. Its purpose was to focus all available local, state, private and federal resources so that low-income individuals and families could attain the skills, knowledge, motivation and opportunities needed to become self-sufficient. Its primary mission was to make the entire community more responsive to the needs and interests of the poor.

Although the undertaking of such a mission was monumental, concerned local citizens were determined to set into place the mechanism to assist the area’s poor. In 1965, a non-profit organization called Acadiana Neuf was founded to serve the needs of the poor; it was the forerunner of SMILE Community Action Agency. The consortium of nine parishes included St. Martin, Iberia and Lafayette, as well as Acadia, Avoyelles, Evangeline, Pointe Coupee, St. Landry and Vermilion.

While representatives struggled to define the organization, three of the parishes – Avoyelles, Evangeline and Pointe Coupee – withdrew. The remaining six parishes persevered against odds and even achieved a measure of success. The organization selected Mr. Gordain Sibille as its first executive director, and was awarded an initial grant of slightly over $40,000 to serve the needs of school dropouts through education, training and counseling. This was later followed by grants for Head Start, remedial reading and other projects that were consistent with the organization’s mission.

In as much as the Economic Opportunity Act made provisions for the delegation of activities, Acadiana Neuf entered into contractual arrangements for many of its services. Organizations as the St. Martin Parish School Board, St. Landry Parish School Board and the Southern Consumer Education Foundation were engaged to administer pilot programs such as Head Start. Acadiana Neuf was also successful in securing funding for programs such as Medicare Alert, Neighborhood Referral Workers Program and Neighborhood Service Centers.

Even while achieving moderate success in these initial endeavors, the young organization still did not have the internal stability required to be truly effective. Instead, sectionalism and personality clashes eventually led to Acadiana Neuf being phased out in April 1967.

In its aftermath, individual parishes opted for autonomy, having become disillusioned by the consortium concept. Iberia Parish formed a single-parish agency; Lafayette attempted a limited agency for sponsoring Head Start, which had emerged as a highly effective vehicle for realizing social competency among mostly lower income families. While acknowledging that these single-parish organizations were serving a useful purpose, the general consensus was that they were much too limited in scope to truly serve the needs of the area’s disadvantaged populations.

Movement toward a multi-parish agency was started by such visionaries as the Rev. Stovall and State Sen. Edgar Mouton. The concept of a tri-parish agency – serving St. Martin, Iberia and Lafayette Parishes – was developed through the efforts of pioneers such as Dr. James Oliver, Mr. Dennis David and Mr. Carlton James, who were formerly associated with Acadiana Neuf as well as newcomers such as Mr. Charles Finley, Mr. L.L. Broussard, Mr. William Prade and Mrs. Jessie Taylor. These concerned citizens became the principal architects of what is now known as the St. Martin, Iberia, Lafayette Community Action Agency – SMILE.

As the Agency looks to the future, painstaking efforts are taken to ensure that SMILE remains true to its primary mission – serving the needs of the impoverished. The founding fathers would indeed be pleased to know that the torch has been passed without cessation or deviation these many years. While challenges are ahead, the concept of People Helping People remains the guiding force – interwoven in SMILE’s history.
Financial Report
for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2012

Resources (Funds/Match) Received

- Federal Funding
- State Funding
- Local Funding
- Unrestricted Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>$18,351,690.00</td>
<td>85.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>$148,997.00</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>$2,826,102.00</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$39,255.00</td>
<td>.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$21,366,044.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources Allocated by Major Units

- Early Childhood Development Programs (Head Start/Early Head Start/USDA)..............$12,674,856.00
- Low-Income Home Assistance Program (LIHEAP).............................................................$2,789,654.00
- Transportation (Elderly, General, STEP)...............................................................................$655,860.00
- Community Services (Rent/Mortgage, Utilities, Shelters, Food, Medication).........................$3,554,420.00
- Weatherization........................................................................................................................$806,884.00
- Elderly (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program--RSVP)..........................................................$43,790.00
- Administration.........................................................................................................................$840,580.00

**TOTAL..................................................................................................................................**$21,366,044.00
## Services Provided 2011-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Source</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Household Members Benefiting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSBG Services</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMA</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIHEAP - Non-Crisis</td>
<td>25,120</td>
<td>56,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIHEAP - Crisis</td>
<td>3,695</td>
<td>9,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toys for Tots</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Pantry (St. Martin)</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VITA Income Tax</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>1,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way of Iberia - Medication</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way of Iberia - Homelessness</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATMOS - Share the Warmth</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>29,824</strong></td>
<td><strong>69,376</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Transportation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Provided</th>
<th>Unduplicated Number Served</th>
<th>Services Provided</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation (STEP)</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>2,677</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation (NEMT)</td>
<td>745</td>
<td>34,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation (General)</td>
<td>752</td>
<td>3,674</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,690</strong></td>
<td><strong>40,376</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## RSVP*

| Number of Volunteers | 566 Volunteers Enrolled | 120,759 Hours Donated |

## Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services Provided</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Housing Services (HPRP)</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weatherization (ARRA)</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>144</strong></td>
<td><strong>282</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
HEAD START
Provides comprehensive child development and family support services to families with children, ages 3-5, to enhance children’s physical, social, emotional and intellectual development. Supports parents’ efforts to fulfill their parental roles and to achieve more self-sufficiency. Some 10 percent of enrollment is designated for children with disabling conditions. Also provides training and technical assistance, including workshops and post-secondary education, to staff and parents to better prepare them to achieve program goals and objectives.

EARLY HEAD START
Provides comprehensive child development and family support services to families with children, under age three, and pregnant women in order to enhance children’s physical, social, emotional and intellectual development. Supports parents’ efforts to fulfill their parental roles and to achieve more self-sufficiency. Some 10 percent of enrollment is designated for children with disabling conditions. Also provides training and technical assistance, including workshops and post-secondary education, to staff and parents to better prepare them to achieve program goals and objectives.

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)
Provides funding for food service costs for the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CSBG)
Provides support services for community-based programs and projects, including job readiness, emergency assistance, education, transportation, housing and health and wellness.

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)
Provides utility assistance payments to home energy suppliers on behalf of eligible households, particularly the elderly, handicapped and families with young children.

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION
Provides transportation.

EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM – FEMA
Provides emergency food and shelter, including assistance with rent or mortgage payments.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Provides a one-time emergency assistance of food, clothes, shelter and/or prescriptions.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS
Provides supplementary assistance/matching requirements for programs.

COUNSELING AND REFERRALS
Provides alternative and additional services that may be available to clients. Also provides services to clients who have been referred by other social agencies.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Provides social and maintenance assistance to transition homeless into independent living.

HUD COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING COUNSELING
Provides housing counseling assistance, including mortgage default, pre-purchase activities, consumer education, preoccupancy rental, rental delinquency, home ownership and relocation assistance.

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP)
Provides retired and senior volunteers for community service.

STEP – TRANSPORTATION
Provides transportation for persons participating in STEP (formerly known as FIND Works).

5311 RURAL TRANSIT – TRANSPORTATION
Provides transportation, including operations and capital equipment, in Iberia Parish.

5310 ELDERLY & DISABLED TRANSPORTATION
Provides capital equipment.

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM
Provides transitional housing and/or support for homeless families, as well as families at risk of becoming homeless.

MEDICAID & CHIP APPLICATION CENTERS
Accepts applications for persons wishing to enroll in the Medicaid Program and CHIP. Actual eligibility determinations made by the state.

FAMILY RESOURCE/PARENTING CENTER
Provides community education for parents and families in St. Martin Parish.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
Provides computer technology/job readiness skills.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM
Provides health and fitness screenings and nutrition/fitness education.

TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Provides free electronic filing services for federal income tax.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SERVICES
Provides equal opportunity information and support for the public. Also assists the public in filing discrimination complaints with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and other federal entities.
With 200+ Participants

Computer Technology Program A Success

SMILE’s Computer Technology Program, which kicked off in June 2011, provided workshops for 202 participants in the tri-parish region. Even though participants included duplicates (persons taking more than one workshop), the figure represented an 100% increase of what the Agency had estimated in its grant application.

Funded by the Pugh Family Fund, through the Community Foundation of Acadiana, the SMILE program focused on teaching life skills education by providing computer technology workshops and a resource center.

The 202 figure included 81 participants in Computer Basics, 59 participants in Internet Basics, 47 participants in MS Word Basics, and 15 participants in Excel Basics. Partnerships were formed with Acadiana Technical College, utilizing four students as interns, an adult day care center, and a shelter for women who were victims of domestic violence. These collaborations empowered participants to become computer literate, and enhance their job readiness opportunities and personal horizons.

Of the participants served, 112 were from Lafayette Parish, 52 were from Iberia Parish, and 38 were from St. Martin Parish.

Jimmie Williams served as instructor. The project was coordinated by Quality Control/Special Projects Manager Joe Gregory, and supervised by Grants/Communications Director Ruth Foote.
SMILE Head Start/Early Head Start Program
Annual Report

School Readiness: Racing into the Future!

Alexander Head Start Center
George Washington Carver Head Start Center
Holy Family Head Start Center
Holy Rosary Head Start Center
Huron Head Start/Early Head Start Center
Jeanerette Head Start/Early Head Start Center
Lafayette Early Head Start Center
La. Avenue Early Head Start Center
Livingston Memorial Head Start Center
New Iberia Head Start/Early Head Start Center
St. Christopher A Head Start Center
St. Christopher B Head Start Center
St. Joseph Head Start Center
St. Martinville Early Head Start Center
St. Martinville Head Start Center
Second Street Head Start/Early Head Start Center
The Louisiana Early Childhood Education Act – Act 3*
To create a comprehensive and integrated delivery system for early childhood care and education to ensure that every child enters kindergarten healthy and ready to learn.

Please Note: SMILE Community Action Agency has been working diligently at national, regional, state and local levels to ensure a positive voice in the future of early childhood development education. The Agency’s Head Start/Early Head Start administration – including Director Alvin Jones and Assistant Director Mary Russell Cobb, as well as former Policy Council Chairman Ervin Mitchell – has been active on boards and coalitions to ensure that Act 3 will benefit children and families in Louisiana. The Agency supports the following planks of the legislation:

Components of the Act

• Establish a definition of kindergarten readiness aligned with state content standards for elementary and secondary schools.

• Establish performance targets for children under the age of three and academic standards for kindergarten readiness for three- and four-year-old children to be used in publicly-funded early childhood education programs.

• Coordinate with the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Health and Hospitals to align the standards for the licensing of child care facilities, including the requirements for participation in the Louisiana Quality Start Child Care Rating System, with the standards established for early childhood education programs.

• Establish a timeline for the creation and implementation of the early childhood care and education network that shall be fully implemented by the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year.

*Information from Education’s Next Horizon and Louisiana Partnership for Children & Families.

SMILE Head Start/Early Head Start Budget for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fringe Benefits</td>
<td>$949,859.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$408,070.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contractual</td>
<td>$596,143.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$1,652,716.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indirect Costs</td>
<td>$469,431.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Alvin Jones
Director of Head Start/Early Head Start

Mary Russell Cobb
Assistant Director of Head Start/Early Head Start

Shantelle Jones
Executive Secretary

Alma George
Secretary

Rita Landry
Secretary

SPECIALISTS/MENTOR

Earl Dundas
Health/Mental Wellness Specialist

Monica Anthony
Nutrition Services Specialist

Ruth Dugal
Parent Involvement Specialist

Effie Jones
Transition Specialist/Disability Services Specialist

Hermanette George
Family & Community Partnership Specialist

Savannah Lawrence
Transportation/Property Management Specialist

Katrina Dural
Head Start Education Services/Licensing Specialist

Kerri Joseph
Early Head Start Education/Licensing Specialist

Lisa Melancon
Mentor

Claudette Lewis
Procurement Fiscal Management Associate
**Components**

### Family & Community Partnerships

**Hermanette T. George, Specialist**

The SMILE Head Start/Early Head Start Program served 1,584 children, including 1,368 students in Head Start and 216 children in Early Head Start. The former included children ages 3-5, and the latter included children ages 0-3, which means infants, toddlers and list, but there were more than 200 children on the Early Head Start waiting list. Characteristics of the children and families included White, Hispanic and Biracial.

Families were encouraged to enter into a Family Partnership Agreement based upon their needs, goals and timelines for utilizing community resources. Family workers were assigned maximum caseloads of 67 families. Future strategies to decrease caseloads have been ongoing. Among services received by the families were: job training, GED referrals (which increased due to increased high school directory), parenting education, housing assistance and emergency/crisis intervention. Families also received an updated resource directory.

Among the community partnerships was one with La. Department of Children and Families’ SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) in St. Martin Parish. It was formed due to state budget cuts to the food stamp program, and resulted in the Head Start/Parishes.

### Health/Mental Wellness

**Earl Dundas, Specialist**

The Health/Mental Wellness component ensured that every child receives comprehensive health care, including medical, dental, mental health and nutrition services. The component also assisted parents with follow up services when necessary. During the program year, SMILE partnered with Our Lady of Lourdes Foundation to provide follow up dental treatment, and with the Lions Club to provide vision screenings.

The component was also responsible for completing 100% health screenings and nearly 100% dental screenings. It ensured all children were up-to-date with immunizations.

Screenings identified 254 children as obese, 152 children as overweight, 32 children as asthmatic, 2 children as anemic, and 1 child as having a high lead blood level. The component also referred 65 children for further hearing assessment, and 10 children for further vision testing.

Some 4 children were discussed with the mental health consultant, and 5 newborn baby visits were conducted.

Overall, some 1,490 children were covered by insurance, including 26 with private health insurance. Some 52 children had no insurance.

### Nutrition Services

**Monica Anthony, Specialist**

Annual report figures reflect the months of August 2011-May 2012 of the USDA Food Reimbursement Program, which the SMILE Head Start/Early Head Start Program participates in. During that time period, Nutrition Services provided 210,907 breakfasts, 211,606 lunches, and 208,804 afternoon snacks. The meals were provided for 187 days.

On a monthly basis, the program served 1,611 participants. This figure included children dropped, added, transferred, or reinstituted in the program.

The Nutrition Services provided meals based upon menus provided by the USDA program, which is administered through the La. Department of Education. Meal modifications were provided for children with special dietary needs whose conditions were diagnosed and confirmed by a health care provider.

The program included introducing all children to multicultural meals and activities.

Letters of concern were sent to parents of children who were underweight, overweight and/or had a hematocrit concern after being tested by staff. The parents were instructed to follow up with their family health care provider for a second opinion.

The component’s staff received ServSafe Certification, which is valid for five years, from the National Restaurant Association. Staff also received special training in food preparation, health & sanitation, my plate, fitness, and record keeping. The training was conducted by Dr. Jack Digangi, RD, LEN, FADA, BCGN, ACE/PT, SFA/PT; Connie Clark, RD, LDN; Jane Conley, RD; and Vanessa Williams, SMILE Health & Wellness Coordinator.

As required by USDA, mandatory monitoring was also conducted at all centers.
**Parent Involvement**

*Ruth Dugal, Specialist*

Since parents play a crucial role in preparing their children for academic success, they are encouraged to participate in the program in a variety of ways, including volunteering at the center, participating in field trips and literacy activities, attending monthly parent meetings, participating in training opportunities, participating in parent/teacher conferences and home visits, and serving on the Policy Council and Health Advisory Committees. Nighttime and weekend activities were available for working parents.

Special activities were geared for fathers/male role models, including “Carving Pumpkins with Dad,” “How Father-Love is Different from Mother-Love, and Why it Matters,” “Dads Along with Law Enforcement Literacy Day,” “Why Do We Overlook Dad?” “Math Night with Dad,” Six Stages of becoming a Father-Friendly Program,” “A Day in the Park with Dad,” “Being Aware of the Mother/Father Relationship,” “Fathers Talent Show” and “Father’s Retreat.”

The component takes into consideration that families have changed from traditional to blended families, and today include foster parents, grandparents, single parents, teen parents, homeless families and other combinations.

As part of the United Way of Acadiana Financial Literacy Partnership, staff received special training on Money Smart, and will in turn, use the module to train parents on money management and financial education.

**Transportation Services/Property Management**

*Savannah Lawrence, Specialist*

The Transportation Services/Property Management component ensured that 32 buses operated in the tri-parish region. Transportation, a challenging process, was also a unique process because the program served both municipal and rural areas. During the program year, rural transportation played an integral part for the program’s families.

To ensure the program’s success, bus maintenance was a necessity, and dependability of bus drivers a must. When needed, the Specialist fulfilled a driver’s route to ensure that the children reached their destiny.

The dual component, which also included Property Management, employed 6 full-time maintenance persons to upkeep the program’s 16 facilities. Their duties – included carpentry, flooring, roofing, welding and mechanics – help to maintain a nice, clean and safe environment for the program’s families. Work has included installing fencing, walkways, playground equipment, a storage building and ramps.

**Transition Services/Disability Services**

*Effie Jones, Specialist*

The Transition Services component began with a pre-socialization activity, entitled “From Home to Head Start/Early Head Start.” It included: parents meeting with their Family & Community Partnership associate, parents completing paperwork, children meeting with their new teacher and classmates, parents undergoing orientation, parents meeting Center staff, and then joining their children and meeting their children’s teachers.

Every month at the Parent Committee meetings, parents received mini trainings on how to prepare themselves and their children for kindergarten. Transition culminated when the parents and children visited their future kindergarten school.

Some 563 of 565 Head Start students transitioned to public schools. Of the remaining two, one transitioned to a Catholic School, and the other opted for home schooling. A parish breakdown of those transitioning to public school included 143 in St. Martin Parish, 208 in Iberia Parish, and 232 in Lafayette Parish. In addition, some 103 SMILE Early Head Start students transitioned into the Agency’s Head Start Program.

The dual component, which also includes Disability Services, served 190 students during the program year. Of that figure, some 159 were diagnosed with various exceptionalities, and 31 completed services. Those with various exceptionalities included 119 children with speech and/or language impairment, 20 children with developmental delays, 3 children with autism, 3 children with vision impaired, 3 children with hearing impaired, 2 children with down syndrome, 2 children with orthopedic impaired, and 7 children with multiple exceptionalities. The Local Education Agency (LEA), which means the parish school systems of which SMILE has interagency agreements with, as well as the Early Childhood Support Services, and Early Steps work with these children in the program’s classrooms.

The Specialist attributes the program’s “outstanding relationship” between staff and its community partners for exceeding the required 10% enrollment of disabled children.
**SMILE Board of Directors***

**Deidre Ledbetter**, President  
*Iberia Parish, Private Sector*

**Kendall Wiltz**, Vice-President  
*Lafayette Parish, Low-Income Sector*

**Pernell Livingston**, Secretary  
*Lafayette Parish, Low-Income Sector*

**Patricia Douglass**, Treasurer  
*Iberia Parish, Public Sector*

**Zachary Landry**, Parliamentarian  
*St. Martin Parish, Private Sector*

**Thomas Guidry**, Chaplain  
*St. Martin Parish, Private Sector*

**Ex-Officio Members of the Board**

Frederick Wiltz, *Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council Chairperson*  
Stacy Stewart Matthews, *Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council Parliamentarian*

**St. Martin Parish**  
*Low-Income Sector*

James Charles  
Vacant

*Public Sector*

Vonda LeBlanc  
Richard Potier

**Iberia Parish**  
*Low-Income Sector*

Arnold Green  
Roszella Viltz

*Public Sector*

Dina Pellerin

*Private Sector*

Bronel Hebert

**Lafayette Parish**  
*Public Sector*

Margaret Guidry  
Vacant

*Private Sector*

Eldridge Simon  
Vacant

**SMILE Central Office**  
501 St. John Street  
Lafayette, LA 70501

(337) 234-3272 • www.smilecaaa.org • (337) 234-3274/Fax • TDD 711

*www.facebook.com/smilecommunityactionagency*

**St. Martin Community Action Center**  
2097 Terrace Rd.  
St. Martinville, LA 70582  
(337) 394-6013

**Iberia Community Action Center**  
722 Walton St.  
New Iberia, LA 70560  
(337) 365-8151

**Lafayette Community Action Center**  
501 St. John St.  
Lafayette, LA 70501  
(337) 232-6810

**Head Start Central Office**  
306 S. Theater St.  
St. Martinville, LA 70582  
(337) 394-6071

**RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program)**  
501 St. John St.  
Lafayette, LA 70501  
(337) 234-3272, Ext. 252

**Transportation**  
722 Walton St.  
New Iberia, LA 70560  
(337) 369-9387

*Current Board of Directors*