On January 8, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared war against a ruthless enemy—Poverty.

While some escaped, most were kept prisoners and victims, generation after generation.

The enemy did not discriminate—it attacked all races, ages and genders.

It was a vicious cycle, content upon repetition, until President Johnson declared war, and sent foot soldiers into battle.

We, as SMILE Community Action Agency, were among the soldiers in those early years. We fought—and we still do—for a better world for our neighborhoods and communities. We have not given up!

Last year, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of LBJ’s declaration of the War on Poverty.

We recognized that the fight continues because we will always have the poor. Our mission is rooted in uplifting our poor, and helping them to help themselves. We do this through a myriad of programs designed to break the chains of poverty. We also do this by leveraging our resources with community partners and strategic alliances.

In April 2014, just before the close of the last fiscal year, I became part of SMILE Community Action Agency. As I took the helm as Chief Executive Officer, I set forth a vision to acknowledge and celebrate the past, and to forge a new path for the future.

I decided it was time for us to recognize the SMILE incorporators and the SMILE employees who had served ten years or more. And we did just that in May 2014 during a ceremony, which theme was “Celebrating the Past, Linking the Future!”

Our Annual Report, June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2014, is an acknowledgment and celebration of those who laid the foundation for SMILE, from our incorporators to our employees, and everyone in between. We could not be here without them.

As we forge a new path for the future, we look to create innovative sustainable local solutions to fight this war! Keep Fighting!

Sincerely,

Royal Hill, Jr., CCAP
Chief Executive Officer
About 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 – Evangeline, Evangeline and Pointe Coupee – withdrew. The remaining six parishes persevered against odds and even achieved a measure of success. The organization selected Mr. Gordin Sible 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 funds 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.

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, 2014

### Resources (Funds/Match) Received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>$16,964,038.00</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>$380,551.00</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>$2,752,248.00</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$214,794.00</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,311,631.00</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)..............$13,999,983.00
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).................................................$4,056,858.00
- Transportation (Elderly, General, STEP)...............................................................................$277,589.00
- Community Services (Rent/Mortgage, Utilities, Shelters, Food, Medication).........................$1,152,736.00
- Elderly (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program--RSVP)..........................................................$64,167.00
- Administration.........................................................................................................................$760,298.00

**TOTAL.................................................................................................................................$20,311,631.00**
## Services Provided 2013-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Source</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Household Members Benefiting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSBG Services</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMA</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIHEAP - Non-Crisis</td>
<td>14,724</td>
<td>30,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIHEAP Crisis</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>1,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toys for Tots</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Pantry (St. Martin)</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VITA Income Tax</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>1,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way of Iberia — Medication</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way of Iberia — Homelessness</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATMOS - Share the Warmth</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Referral</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Placement</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,820</strong></td>
<td><strong>35,235</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Transportation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Provided</th>
<th>Unduplicated Number Served</th>
<th>Services Provided</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation (STEP)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation (NEMT)</td>
<td>5,436</td>
<td>10,871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation (General)</td>
<td>1,477</td>
<td>4,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,920</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,356</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)*

- Number of Volunteers: 516
- 231 Volunteers Served
- 37,059 Hours Donated

## Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Provided</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Housing Services (HPRP)</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>59</strong></td>
<td><strong>180</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
**SMILE Programs**

The following are brief summaries of SMILE Community Action Agency’s programs, which cover the parishes of St. Martin, Iberia and Lafayette.

### 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 ten 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. Ten percent of enrollment is designated for children with disabling conditions. Provides training and technical assistance.

### 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.

### 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.

### FOOD BANK
Provides food distribution in St. Martin Parish.

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

### MEDICAID & LACHIP 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.

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM
Provides health and fitness, including physical and mental.

### 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.
46 Years of SMILE
Celebrating the Past, Linking the Future!

On May 28, 2014, SMILE CEO Royal Hill, Jr., along with then SMILE Board President Deidre Ledbetter, honored SMILE employees – from those who had served ten years or more to those who had been with the Agency for 46 years, back to 1968 when SMILE was incorporated. The countdown of honorees included:

10 - 19 Years
- Shirley Alexander
- Felicia Alexis
- Elaine Andry
- Erica Anthony
- Leannna Anthony
- Deanna Babineaux
- Kaly Barlow
- Christina Batiste
- Marsha Batiste
- Rachael Bonhomme
- Mary Brooks
- Claysha Brouchet
- Janet Broussard
- Krystal Broussard
- Keia Brown-Ledet
- Mary Castille
- Tonitza Castille
- Monique Chenevert
- Erica Cormier
- Cheila Craig
- Corina Daigle
- Lana Darby
- Goldie Davis
- Shirley Derousselle
- Ruth Dugal
- Ethel Dugas
- Rosetta Dugas
- Brenda Edmond
- Karen Eugene
- Monola Flugence
- Genevieve Fontenette

Rita McCoy
- Angella McZeal
- Yvette McZeal
- Lisa Melanson
- Lisa Miller
- Melissa Miller
- Mikula Montgomery
- Prenella Guilliam
- Dawn Halpin
- Beverley Handy
- Angela Hill
- Didi Holmes
- Carlette Jacquet
- Nany John
- Beatrice Johnson
- Alvin Jones, Sr.
- Effie Jones
- Kerri Joseph
- Mary Knatt
- Sabrina Landy
- Dorothy Lavernge
- Savannah Lawrence
- Pauline Leday
- Erica Ledet
- Laura Ledet
- Diane Lewis
- Laura Lewis
- Ernest Livingston
- Cheryl Livingston
- Ronald Louis
- Norma Louivere

Finley Williams
- Mary Williams
- Sueanna Williams

20 - 29 Years
- Monica Anthony-Wiltz
- Mary Antoine
- Cassandra Archangel
- Tonitza Archangel
- Veronica Benoit
- James Berard
- Rosalie Brannon
- Patricia Butler
- Prenella Charles
- Mary Russell Cobb
- Stella Collins
- Barbara County
- Pamela Demouchet
- Michelle Derousselle
- Barbara Dozier
- Earl Dundas
- Katrina Dural
- Sylvia Egland
- Beaulah Gilliam
- Marie Green
- Annabelle James
- Lewis Ledet
- Mary Potier
- Helen Raymond
- Ethel Senegal

30 - 39 Years
- Armantine Anthony
- Josephine Anthony
- Jacqueline Babin
- Irma Bourgeois
- Louisa DeRouen
- Hermanette George
- Brenda Jones
- Novella Jones
- Diane LaSalle
- Greta Pickney
- Rosemary Robertson
- Michael Sorrell

40 - 45 Years
- Dale Broussard
- Norma Gibson
- Ann Mitchell
- Iva Thibodeaux

46 Years
- Paulina Johnson
- Linda Ledet
- Gerald Robertson
- Iwana Thibodeaux
- Harriet Vincent
SMILE Head Start/Early Head Start Program
Annual Report

School Readiness:
Swinging High 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
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
La. Avenue 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 – 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 21, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>$6,312,399.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe Benefits</td>
<td>$802,087.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>$36,187.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>$99,858.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$229,640.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractual</td>
<td>$86,654.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$2,579,131.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect Costs</td>
<td>$569,838.00</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

Shantele Jones
Executive Secretary

Tisha Barlow
Secretary

Rita Landry
Secretary

SPECIALISTS/MENTOR*
Earl Dundas
Health/Mental Wellness Specialist

Monica Anthony-Wiltz
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/Licensing Specialist

Kerri Joseph
Early Head Start Education/Licensing Specialist

Cassandra Archangel,
Jennifer Jones and Lisa Melancon
Mentors

Claudette Lewis
Procurement Fiscal Management Specialist

*Current Staff Members

*Information from Education’s Next Horizon and Louisiana Partnership for Children & Families.
Head Start/Early Head Start Program

Components

Family & Community Partnerships
Hermanette T. George, Specialist

The SMILE Head Start/Early Head Start Program served 1,444 children, including 1,228 students in Head Start and 216 children in Early Head Start. The former included children aged 3-5, and the latter included children aged 0-3, which means infants, toddlers and pregnant women who were mostly teenagers. The program maintained its enrollment. Children fluctuated on the Head Start waiting list, but there were more than 200 children on the Early Head Start waiting list. Characteristics of the children and families included more than 95% speaking English. The remaining spoke Spanish and Vietnamese. Races included Black or African American, Asian, 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 manageable caseloads. Future strategies to decrease caseloads have been ongoing. Among services received by the families were: job training, adult education referrals (which increased due to increased high school dropout rates), 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 has resulted in the Head Start/Early Head Start personnel assisting clients in filling out food stamp applications.

Health/Mental Wellness
Earl A. Dundas, Jr., LPN, Specialist

The Health/Mental Wellness content area emphasized the importance of early identification of health and mental health concerns. Each child received comprehensive health care, which included medical, dental, mental health and nutrition services. Parents were assisted with followup services as necessary. The Lions Club assisted with vision screening, utilizing the latest screening technology.

The component completed 100% of the health and dental screenings. All children maintained up-to-date immunizations. Screenings identified the following: 314 children as obese, 207 children as overweight, 95 children as underweight, 27 children as asthmatic, 4 children as anemic, and 1 child with high lead blood level. The component also referred 17 children for further vision testing, and 21 children for further hearing assessment.

Overall, some 1,524 children were covered by insurance, including 52 with private health insurance, 2 children with military insurance, and 89 children had no insurance.

Nutrition Services
Monica Anthony-Wiltz, Specialist

Annual report figures reflect the months of August 2013-May 2014 of the USDA Food Reimbursement Program, which the SMILE Head Start/Early Head Start Program participates in. During that time period, Nutrition Services provided 193,353 breakfasts, 193,249 lunches, and 189,821 snacks. The meals were provided for a 182-day period.

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. Meal demonstrations were provided at parent meetings during National Nutrition Month and upon request.

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.

Staff received special training in food preparation, health & sanitation, my plate, gluten free diets, and record keeping. The trainings were conducted by Connie Clark, RD, LDN; Jane Conley, RD; and Lanah Brennan, RD, CDE.

As required by USDA, mandatory monitoring was also conducted at all centers twice during the program year. Nutrition Services fulfilled the “Cooking Matters at the Store” grant, which entailed taking parents to the grocery store, teaching them comparison shopping, purchasing healthier food on a budget, etc.

The component also collaborated with a program through the LSU Ag Center in St. Martin Parish, called Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). It provided training in Nutrition, Cooking, Food Safety, Meal Planning and Exercise.

The George Washington Carver Head Start Center in Breaux Bridge’s adoption by Cargill meant 5 lbs. of fruits or vegetables from Second Harvest for the children to take home every Wednesday.

Education/Licensing Services
Katrina Dural, Keri Joseph, Specialists

The SMILE Head Start/Early Head Start Program leads the early childhood field with a strong, clear, and comprehensive focus on healthy child development. This includes physical, cognitive, social and emotional development, all of which are essential to children getting ready for school.

School Readiness remained front and center when it came to the Education Services component. School Readiness goals were issued and reviewed with the parents during the parent meetings. The parents asked many questions regarding the School Readiness goals and the well-being of their children. Many parents gave testimonies of the amazing things they have witnessed their children do. Success in school depends on the children’s and families positive attitudes toward learning and school.

Parent, Family and Community engagement were encouraged to assist with the mental wellness and health of the children. The program was dedicated to providing quality services to the whole child.

The School Readiness Team met quarterly to review the data from the children’s ongoing assessment, Teaching Strategies Gold, the team also discussed issues with the teaching staff, parents and community representatives.
The Transition process had three phases: Before Entry, After Entry, and Before Leaving Head Start/Early Head Start. The first phase, which is considered the Before Entry phase, involved students and parents attending a pre-socialization activity in which students met their new teacher and future classmates, and parents met their child’s teacher, other parents and school staff who will assist them and their child.

The second phase, After Entry, included parents attending mini-training sessions each month prior to or after the Parent Center Committee Meeting was conducted. These trainings taught parents how to ready themselves, as well as their child, for the next phase of learning. The Before Leaving phase involved opportunities for students and parents to visit the next learning institution their child would attend before entry into Kindergarten. Additionally, parents were given literature, and attended in-service trainings, workshops and other activities that enhanced their knowledge on assisting their child and family in being lifelong learners. A total of 550 students transitioned from SMILE Head Start to Kindergarten in the tri-parish area.

The component met its 10% disability mandate. This was accomplished by all staff working together to serve our children and families. Everyone in Head Start and Early Head Start participated in recruiting special needs children. The program accepted mild, moderate, and severe special needs children. All were aware that students were serviced in the least restrictive environment. The LEA and other Community Partners also assisted by referring and recruiting special needs children.

The program’s special needs children and parents received equipment and services as required by the IEP/IFSP. Disability Services purchased items to enhance services for the children and families. Some parents took advantage of attending various Autism and Special Needs Workshops conducted in the area, and underwritten by the Disability Services.

Parent Involvement
Ruth Dugal, Specialist

The Parent Involvement component ensured that all Head Start/Early Head Start parents received orientation prior to their child’s entry into the program by hosting a Parent Orientation Workshop at every center. Orientation included classroom visitations, pre-socialization activities, various mandated screenings, as well as, distribution of vital information regarding licensing requirements and center rules/regulations.

At the first parent center meeting in September, parents elected officers and policy council representatives. All were trained in October at the “How to Conduct a Meeting” Workshop. Mini-training workshops were held at the monthly meetings thereafter, including presentations by each content area specialist.

Since parents play a crucial role in preparing their children for academic success, they were encouraged to participate during the school year in a variety of ways, including volunteerism, literacy activities, training opportunities, serving on governing boards and health advisory committees, and attending conferences. Special activities were conducted at the centers geared toward fathers and males role models, such as Donuts for Dads, Carving Pumpkins with Dad, and Dad’s Read to Me Day.

Tuition assistance was made available to parents in need. Six parents were assisted with tuition, as well as books and supplies. One parent who completed the CDA credential was hired as a teacher associate in the program.

Families participated in the online communication with Teaching Strategies GOLD, which enabled them to access their child’s ongoing development. Those without email access were assisted in setting up accounts.

By incorporating the Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework into our program, SMILE was able to offer parents new opportunities and experiences, as well as engage them in new and different ways. Interaction with families supported family well-being and strong parent-child relationships.

In addition, the Parent Involvement Specialist successfully completed the Parenting Training for Parent Educators Certification from the LSU School of Social Work.

Transportation Services/Property Management
Savannah Lawrence, Specialist

Due to the uniqueness of the SMILE Head Start Program serving both rural and urban areas, transportation has been a challenging process. It becomes necessary for the component to be prepared at all times. The program operated 25 buses in the tri-parish area. During the program year, an as-needed transportation system was installed, which enabled more drivers to become available. This ensured full services for everyone.

In the property management section, SMILE employed six maintenance workers who maintained the program’s facilities. During the program year, they assisted in the Jeanerette Head Start relocating into a new building with more classes.

The maintenance workers served as full-time employees. With a wealth of experience, they were able to handle work orders, including carpentry, flooring, roofing, welding and mechanical needs. Other maintenance has included installing fencing, walkways, playground equipment, storage building, ramps, etc. Their action resulted in clean and safe environments for the many families served.

Community Representatives
Roger Hamilton
LaTasha Lee
Raymond Q. Lewis
Evans Von Ozen
Zachary Landry

Parents
Patrick Adams
Sandy Calais
Kasia Charles
Wanda Johnson
Melissa Pedini
Lakechie Robertson
Tameka Washington
Charles Williams, Sr.

*Current Policy Council Members
SMILE Board of Directors*

Kendall Wiltz, President
Lafayette Parish, Low-Income Sector

Vonda LeBlanc, Treasurer
St. Martin Parish, Public Sector

Roszella Viltz, Vice-President
Iberia Parish, Low-Income Sector

Thomas Guidry, Parliamentarian
St. Martin Parish, Private Sector

Geri Brown, Secretary
Iberia Parish, Private Sector

Lester Bias, Chaplain
Lafayette Parish, Public Sector

Ex-Officio Members of the Board

Lise Romero, Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council Chairperson
Cherrelle Wiltz, Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council Treasurer

St. Martin Parish
Low-Income Sector
Christopher Bourda
Lorita Jean-Baptiste

Public Sector
Richard Potier

Private Sector
Zachary Landry

Iberia Parish
Low-Income Sector
Wallace Ozenne

Public Sector
Dina Mayard
Vacant

Private Sector
Deidre Ledbetter

Lafayette Parish
Public Sector
Margaret Guidry

Private Sector
Marcus Allen
Ken Judice

Low-Income Sector
Grace Mayfield

SMILE Central Office
501 St. John Street
Lafayette, LA 70501
(337) 234-3272 • www.smilecaa.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

Designed/Edited by Department of Grants/Communications - Ruth Foote, Director;
Joe Gregory, Quality Control/Special Projects Manager
Proofread by Equal Opportunity Officer RoxAnne Chaisson-Pitre

*Current Board of Directors