



# KNOX COUNTY HEAD START, INC.



2021-2022 Annual Report

*Serving Knox County since 1965.*

## From Our Director

As we celebrate the end of our 57th year of service, we continue to acknowledge our good fortune in collaborating to serve children and families in this special community. Knox County citizens and organizations show a uniquely strong spirit of collaboration, working together beyond boundaries to explore solutions and to meet the needs of children and families. I hope you will take time to consider the work of our KCHS School Family, our place in the community, and the accomplishments outlined in this Annual Report. I am thankful for Knox County and its people – our devoted employees, Board and Policy Council members who unselfishly share their time and wisdom, community members who support our work, the courageous Head Start parents who seek what is best for their children, and the beautiful children we serve who represent our best hope for the future.

I wish you well,  
Peg Tazewell, Executive Director

## Our Mission & Guiding Values

Committed to the future of Knox County and its changing and diverse needs, Knox County Head Start works in partnership with the community to provide quality preschool, child care, and family services. Our purpose is to engage children, families, and staff in reaching their full potential. Together with parents and families, KCHS employees open doors for children's success in school and in life.

### Educating Children. Empowering Families. Building Community.

- A. We value families, fathers, mothers, and primary caregivers as the first and most important teachers and advocates for their children.
- B. We strive to make a difference through the education, care, and support of our children, families, and staff by:
  - Committing to provide quality services.
  - Hiring, training, and retaining competent staff
  - Providing opportunities for personal and professional growth
  - Developing and nurturing personal and professional, trusting relationships built on honesty and open communication.
  - Acknowledging and seeking diversity through our program design
  - Creating and maintaining healthy and productive community partnerships

## Board of Directors

### **Todd Hawkins, Chairperson**

*Vice President & Trust Officer, Park National*

### **Noel Alden, Vice Chairperson\***

*Attorney, Zelkowitz, Barry & Cullers*

### **Danielle O'Brien, CPA, Treasurer**

*Vice President of Finance, Knox Community Hospital*

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*Elementary Principal, Centerburg Local Schools*

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*Assistant Director of Human Resources, Kenyon College*

### **Ashley Rhodes\***

*SUTQ Specialist-YWCA of NW OH*

### **Ellen Robinson**

*Advisor (Knox), Central Ohio Technical College*

### **Kelly Welker\***

*Area Supervisor, McDonald's (Knox and Morrow Counties)*

**Barbara Wortman, Retired Librarian**

### **Centerburg Parent Representative**

Jane Taylor

### **Danville Parent Representative**

Emily Lang

### **Fredericktown Parent Representative**

*None currently identified*

### **Gambier Parent Representative**

Cameron Moore

### **New Hope Parent**

### **Representatives**

Amber Fields

Laura Swick

Debbie Ruggles

### **Northgate Parent Representatives**

Ashley Hill

**\*Indicates former Head Start parent**

## Policy Council

### **Home-Based Program Parent Representative**

Timothy Ewing

### **Community Representatives**

Stacy Saunders\*

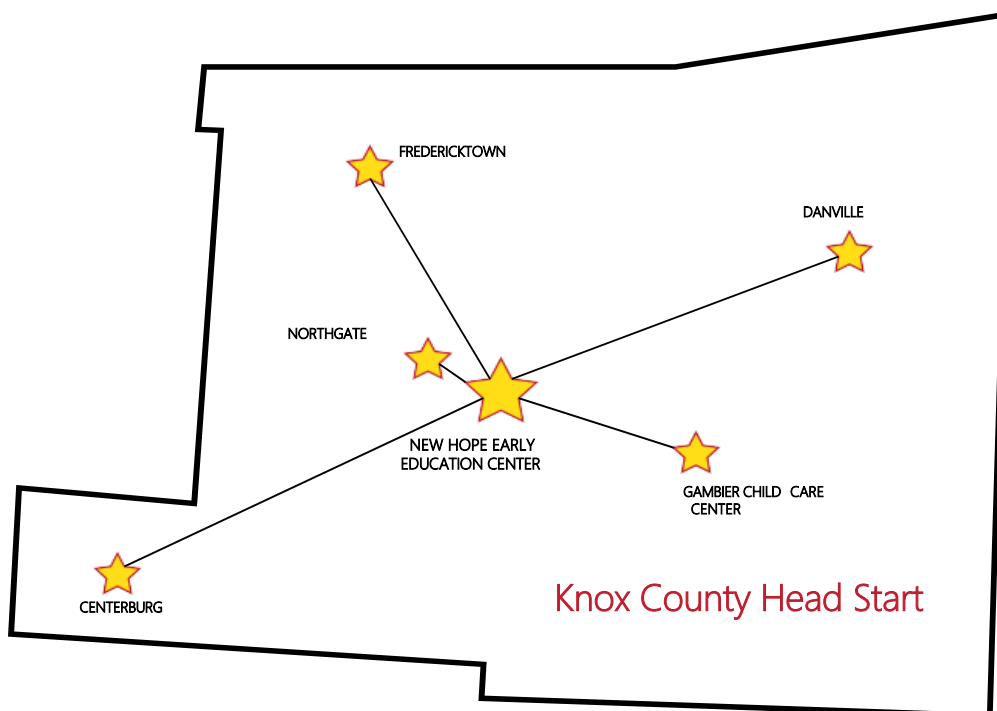
Melanie VanHouten\*

### **Board of Directors Representative**

Barbara Wortman

## About Knox County Head Start

- Founded in April 1965 as Kokosing Day Care Centers, Inc.
- Funded enrollment from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families: Head Start (HS) slots: 181 funded slots and Early Head Start (EHS): 76 funded slots
- Serving 427 children, plus three pregnant moms in 2021-2022
  - 212 children served in Head Start
  - 108 children served in Early Head Start, and three pregnant moms
  - 107 children served in child care, including school age programs
- KCHS' Community Assessment data estimates 495 eligible EHS children and 330 eligible HS children live in Knox County. Total enrollment in 2021-2022 shows KCHS serving approximately 22% of EHS eligible children and 64% of HS eligible children. Most HS eligible children not served by KCHS are served in state funded preschool programs, and some EHS eligible children are served in Early Intervention and Help Me Grow. Knox County continues to lack sufficient service options for the majority of infants, toddlers, and their families.





## Our Children

### Average Monthly Enrollment

Average monthly enrollment for KCHS was at 92% in Head Start and 86.4% in Early Head Start. Head Start enrollment was reduced due to lack of interest in the home-based program.

### Services to Children Identified with Disabilities

KCHS collaborated with the three local education agencies, Knox County Educational Service Center, Mount Vernon City Schools, and Danville Local Schools to provide special education services:

- 29 preschool children received services under an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), representing 13.7% of children.
  - 27 of those children's primarily identified disability was speech or language impairment.
  - 2 children's primarily disability was non-categorical developmental delay or specific learning disability.
- 13 infants and toddlers received services under an Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP), representing 12% of enrolled children.

### Children Served (8/1/21-7/31/22)

Head Start	212
Early Head Start	108
EHS Pregnant Moms	3
Child Care	107
<u>Total</u>	<u>430</u>

99,463 meals/snacks served under the USDA/CACFP food program during the program year.





## Medical Screenings (Physicals)

- 261 (81.6%) children received an annual physical and all medical screenings, including hearing, vision, lead, and hemoglobin
- 114 (35.6%) children needed medical follow up
- 108 (94.7%) children received follow up



## Immunizations

- 284 (88.8%) children up to date on required immunizations
- 21 children in progress (but received all shots possible)
- 11 children meet Ohio's guidelines for exemption from immunization.



## Dental Services

- 150 (70.8%) preschool children received a dental exam
- 38 (25.3%) needed dental follow-up
- 20 (52.6%) received follow-up



## Mental Health Services

- 28 children in Head Start/Early Head Start received direct services from the Trauma Support Specialist
- 120 instances of direct children intervention services were provided, totaling 73.25 hours of services.



## Developmental Screenings

- 356/378 children (94%) received developmental screenings. The remaining 22 children did not have developmental screenings completed due to multiple factors, including parent refusal, withdrawing prior to the 45-day deadline, and family circumstances prior to withdrawal.
- 47 children were referred for further evaluation (42 Head Start, 5 Early Head Start)
- 29 preschool aged children received services under an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- 13 infants and toddlers received services under an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)



## Nutrition

- 99,463 meals and snacks were served under the USDA/CACFP food program.
- Several publications focused on nutrition/physical activity are sent home with all families monthly: "Nubites," "Color Me Healthy News," "Get Moving" calendar.

*Child Health Services are designed to ensure children receive age-appropriate screenings, follow up for health and dental concerns when needed, and are healthy and ready for success in school.*

# Working With Our Families

***Knox County Head Start believes that parents are the first and most important teachers of their children~ we are here to support children, parents, and families in achieving goals!***

## Family Partnerships

- 248 families were served in Head Start and Early Head Start programs
- 269 families participated in the family goal setting process which results in an individualized family partnership agreement.

## Referral

- 447 referrals for community supports were documented.
- 178 Head Start families received a referral service
- 86 Early Head Start families received a referral service for an average of 3 services

## Demographics

- 9 families enrolled and were qualified for HS/EHS services due to experiencing homelessness, with 7 (77.8%) of the families acquiring housing.
- 12 children experiencing homelessness were served during the year
- 124 families received WIC services through the Knox County Health Department
- 33 children qualified for enrollment via foster care at any point during the program year

## Family Involvement and Parent Education Opportunities

Parents are encouraged to serve on Policy Council, participate in School Family Roundtable (parent center committee) meetings and events, and family fun nights. Typically, events include the Fall Harvest, Shawn Kelly Holiday Event in collaboration with Kenyon College, Winter Fun Fest, the Annual Art Show and the End of the Year Family Picnics.

KCHS leads the Parent Support Initiative (PSI), coordinating parent education open to Knox County caregivers of children birth to 18. Supported by generous funding from the Ariel Foundation and the United Way of Knox County, education includes Conscious Discipline® for Parents and Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) with multi-level interventions delivered one-on-one, in small and large groups. During 2021-2022, 37 parents attended Conscious Discipline education sessions and 234 parents participated in Triple P.

### ***Two Generational Approach= Hidden Success***

Head Start works closely with parents in developing goals and encouraging parents to identify strengths and opportunities for self-reliance, for themselves and their families. In 2021-2022, 25 of 97 employees were current or former Head Start parents. Sixteen, or 64% of those parents, attained a degree or certification while employed or were in the process of doing so.

***Knox County Head Start's two generational approach opens doors for child and family successes - concurrently supporting children's school readiness and providing opportunities for family stability and success.***



## Our Staff

KCHS exceeds the requirement of the Head Start Act of 2007 that 50% of preschool teachers have bachelor's degrees. In 2021-2022, 80% of Head Start preschool teachers had a bachelor's degree and 20% had an associate degree in early childhood education (ECE).

IN EHS, teachers are required to hold a CDA, but 45% of infant and toddler teachers held two-or four-year degrees, with the remainder holding CDAs.

KCHS encourages continuous learning, and in 2021-22 three teachers obtained their CDA, with one teacher receiving a two-year degree. Mary Martin, Recruitment Health Specialist, obtained a Health Services Credential from the National Head Start Association. This certification provides health service staff the opportunity to demonstrate competency of the essential skills that support children's health and wellbeing in a developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate manner.



## Encouraging Literacy



### Partnering with United Way of Knox County's Imagination Library

The United Way of Knox County, in partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Foundation, continues to provide a literacy program wherein each child in Knox County up to age five is eligible to receive a FREE age-appropriate book delivered to his/her home each month (up to 60 books over 5 years).

KCHS' staff make referrals, with parent permission, beginning as early as recruitment and through enrollment. Knox County Head Start has 212 documented referrals to the Imagination Library program during the 2021-22 school year.

## Preparing Children for Success in Kindergarten

KCHS classrooms implement *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* and *The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers and Twos*, along with a variety of supplemental curricula. Teachers use the Creative Curriculum's Objectives for Development and Learning to track individual child progress and to plan lessons for large and small groups as well as individualized activities specific to the child's developmental level. Children are assessed quarterly. KCHS returned to typical classrooms sizes in the 2021-2022 program year and saw a subsequent decline in child outcomes, that was compounded by unusually high turnover of educators in classrooms. The spring assessment showed that the goal of 85% of transitioning Kindergarten children meeting or exceed widely held expectations was reached only in the physical domain (90.9%), with full results shown below:

*TS GOLD data reported on Transitioning Kindergartners*

Domain of Learning	% of children meeting or exceeding widely held expectations, Fall 2021	% of children meeting or exceeding widely held expectations, Spring 2022	Percent (%) increase
Social-Emotional	46.9%	84.3%	+37.4%
Physical	71.2%	90.9%	+19.7%
Language	71.2%	80.3%	+9.1%
Cognitive	56%	84.8%	+28.8%
Literacy	56%	80.3%	+24.3%
Mathematics	27.3%	71.3%	+44%

## Promoting Excellence

Professional development can help to bolster employees' confidence in their work. Greater confidence can, in turn, translate into higher overall job satisfaction, employee performance, productivity, and overall morale. Throughout the 2021-22 program year, Knox County Head Start staff logged a cumulative total of **2330.82** professional development hours.

## Parent Gauge Comments

- "It has been nothing but helpful, saved my daughter's life when I was struggling with addiction, and she needed protection. I'm forever grateful for that."
- "The staff provide health reminders and I have daily conversations with teachers and staff. Staff helped when I lost my job, they provided resources and checked on us daily."
- "I love the program, I like Conscious Discipline as well, it's super helpful at home and at work. The staff are super kind and understanding in any situation."
- "It has helped me feel confident about asking questions concerning my children so when I notice they need help, I'm able to ask for it."
- "It has changed my outlook 360 degrees. The routine has helped with transitions in our family, and I am learning to keep boundaries."



# Federal Monitoring

Results of KCHS' most recent federal monitoring, from the Office of Head Start:

*From April 5, 2021 to April 9, 2021, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a Focus Area One (FA1) monitoring review of the Knox County Head Start, Inc. Head Start and Early Head Start programs.*

*This report contains information about the grantee's performance and compliance with the requirements of the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) or Public Law 110-134, Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007. The Office of Head Start (OHS) would like to thank your governing body, policy council, parents, and staff for their engagement in the review process.*

*The FA1 review allows the OHS to understand how programs are progressing in providing services in the 5-year grant cycle. The report includes the performance measures used to understand grantee progress towards program goals.*

KCHS was found to meet program expectations in all areas monitoring:

- Program Design, Management and Quality Improvement
- Designing Quality Education and Child Development Program Services
- Designing Quality Health Program Services
- Designing Quality Family and Community Engagement Services
- Developing Effective Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment and Attendance (ERSEA) Strategies and Fiscal Infrastructure



**BARNES DENNIG**  
Accounting • Tax • Business Insight

## Results of most recent Financial Audit

In a letter dated February 24, 2023 to the KCHS Board of Directors, Barnes Dennig Independent Auditors wrote that they had audited the financial position of Knox County Head Start as of July 31, 2022. The audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements of KCHS taken as a whole. This included identifying any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards), along with identifying any material weakness conditions at the financial statement level, any material reported noncompliance at the financial statement level, significant deficiencies in internal control for any major federal programs, or material weaknesses reported for major federal programs.

Barnes Dennig reported no findings or reportable matters and returned an unmodified opinion related to financial statements and major programs' compliance. There were no findings related to internal control over major programs, nor were material weaknesses identified, nor significant deficiencies identified or reported.

### Step Up to Quality

Since 2009-10, Knox County Head Start Centers have been annually recognized with Step Up To Quality awards by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services – Bureau of Child Care and Development for exceeding state licensing standards and providing high-quality early childhood services. During 2021-22, all 6 centers maintained their 5-star rating.

### Summer Camp

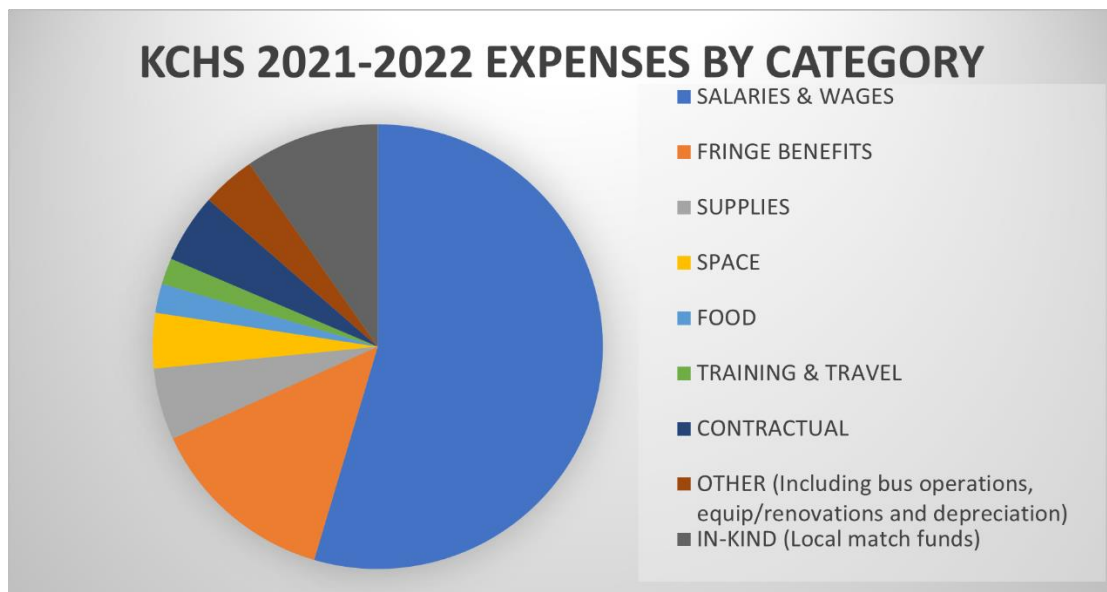
School agers enjoyed 10 weeks of summer camp at the Gambier Child Care Center with 34 children participating in 832 units of camp. The camp schedule included a variety of weekly themes such as "Team Building", "Animal Week", "Art Week" and "Science Week". Field trips were taken to the Columbus Zoo, Franklin Park Conservatory Other World, and more! The camp focused on physical activity, health and wellness, as well as literacy.

# Our Financials

## 2021-2022 Funding by Revenue Source: \$5,644,346

FEDERAL HEAD START & EHS	\$3,203,857.
STATE AND LOCAL GRANTS	\$342,358
FEDERAL CRRSA CARES ACT	\$1,754
FEDERAL ARP CARES ACT	\$96,494
FEDERAL TANF	\$4,475
FEDERAL USDA	\$134,483
CHILD CARE REVENUE	\$1,129,589
UNITED WAY OF KNOX COUNTY	\$132,610
INTEREST INCOME	\$723
LOCAL FUNDING/REVENUE	
IN-KIND	\$547,273
MISC REVENUE	\$50,730.
TOTAL FUNDING	\$5,644,346

KCHS 2021-2022 EXPENSES BY CATEGORY	
	\$3,090,174
FRINGE BENEFITS	\$773,027
SUPPLIES	\$295,295
SPACE	\$227,777
FOOD	\$119,893
TRAINING & TRAVEL	\$107,877
CONTRACTUAL	\$283,809
BUS OPERATIONS	\$16,966
EQUIP/RENOVATIONS	\$489
DEPRECIATION	\$79,942
OTHER	\$121,197
IN-KIND (Local match funds)	\$547,273
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,663,719



## Federal Budget Explanation for 2022-2023 Program Year

Knox County Head Start and our local community benefit from federal funds to support Head Start (HS) preschool services to 181 children and families, and Early Head Start (EHS) services for 76 pregnant moms, infants, toddlers and their families. Funding is based on 257 funded slots; the actual number of children and pregnant moms served will be higher.

The majority of budgeted funds support salary and fringe costs for direct services, as KCHS works to increase wages and provide full benefits to employees and their families. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the budgets in multiple ways. KCHS benefits from two supplemental grants, with funding under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). These grants operate on a unique two-year timeline, from April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2023. Federal budgets reflected show the portion of ARPA remaining to be spent in the 2022-23 fiscal year, as a portion of ARPA funds (\$96,494) and all CRRSA funds (\$77,350) were spent by the end of the previous fiscal year, as of 7/31/2022). Financial statements at the end of 2022-2023 will show the funds spent in the fiscal year.

KCHS will utilize additional federal funds as well as federal pass thru funds from the State of Ohio and distributed by the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (OCCRRA) to support increases in staff salaries and one-time retention and referral awards. KCHS has also expanded hours in two locations, the Centerburg Head Start and Danville Head Start Centers, with COVID-relief funds, and has added additional family advocates to support children and families.

KCHS has provided additional equipment and supplies for sanitation and safety and continues to support expanded programming incorporating technology to provide continued services, even in times of disruption due to pandemic quarantines. Pandemic flexibilities also provided the opportunity for programs to seek waivers from federal match requirements. KCHS benefits from generous cash match support from the United Way of Knox County and their donors, as well as the Ariel Foundation in support of the Imagination Library and Parent Support Initiative projects. KCHS accessed a partial waiver that provided a reduction in the local match requirements for the current budget year due to concerns around identified match related to volunteer hours under pandemic safety restrictions.

The 2022-23 budget year's local match requirement is \$497,495.

<b>Federal Budgets 2022-2023</b>	<b>Head Start</b>	<b>Early Head Start</b>	<b>American Rescue Plan (COVID-19 funds)*</b>
Salaries and Wages	\$1,331, 550	\$767, 398	\$78, 630
Fringe Benefits	\$371, 965	\$223, 093	\$37, 393
Equipment	\$0	\$5, 000	\$57, 434
Supplies	\$65, 002	\$60, 540	\$14, 000
Travel	\$3,797	\$5, 238	\$3, 000
Contractual	\$71, 191	\$116, 355	\$0
Occupancy	\$116, 540	\$48, 346	\$24, 000
Other	\$65, 413	\$47, 110	\$0
<b>Total Approved Budget</b>	<b>\$2, 035, 458</b>	<b>\$1,273, 080</b>	<b>\$214, 457</b>

# Our Thanks!

...to the individuals, businesses, and organizations who have contributed cash, goods, and talents, enabling KCHS to offer quality child care programs to the community and to the nearly 500 children and families we serve annually.



Wendy Aune  
Dean Backiewicz, DDS  
Kelly Bailey, RD, LD NPI  
Krista Bankes  
Lyn Blahovec  
Dr. Jim Brown  
Bonny Buffington  
Keith Burley  
Tanner Cooper-Risser  
Olivia Cowan  
Hannah Drumm  
Laura Fawcett  
Lorraine Ferre, LISW  
Gordon & Luisa Gantt  
Doug & Susan Givens  
Ann Guinsler, BSN, RN  
Linda Hartford  
Paul Helser  
Jerry Kelly  
Darren Kessler  
Anna Marie Magers, RDH  
Pamela Martin-Diaz  
Katelyn McMurtry  
Dr. D'Anna Mullins  
Nancy Omahan  
KCHS Board Members  
KCHS Parents  
KCHS Policy Council Members  
KCHS Staff  
Dr. Dan Salle  
Erin Salva

John Schillinger  
Scott Swingle  
Lori Totman  
Mika Wagner  
Grant Wallace  
Kim Wayne  
Lora White  
Natalie Wright  
Shandalier Younker  
Ashleigh Zarley

*"The broadest, and maybe the most meaningful definition of volunteering: Doing more than you have to because you want to, in a cause you consider good."  
-Ivan Scheier*

Alfred Nickles Bakery  
Amazing Eyes  
Amazon Smile  
American Electric Power  
Bank Sanitation  
CES Credit Union  
ChildPlus  
Conway Pharmacy  
Country Tarp Shop  
Craftsmen for Kids  
Creno's Pizza  
Danville Family Dental  
Danville Feed and Supply, Inc.  
Directec Corporation  
Domino's Pizza of Mt. Vernon  
Enviropure Cleaning  
Fisher Painting  
Fredericktown Recreation  
G.R. Smith Hardware  
Gordon Food Services  
Hometown Market of Centerburg  
Hometown Market of Danville  
Kauffman Lawn Furniture  
Knox Pages  
Kroger  
Lanning's Foods  
Liberty Lawn Care  
Lonsinger Pharmacy  
Mid-Ohio Food Bank  
Park National Bank  
Prescription Turf Care

Ron's Pizza  
Taste of Country  
The Gallagher Centre  
The Village Market  
Total Turf and Dirt  
Walmart

## Partner Agencies

American Legion of Danville  
Behavioral Healthcare Partners of Central Ohio, Inc.  
Bottoms Up Diaper Bank  
Centerburg Church of Christ  
Centerburg Fire Department  
Centerburg Local Schools  
Centerburg Pointe  
Central Ohio Technical College  
Community Mental Health and Recovery Board of Licking and Knox Counties  
Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development  
Danville Local Schools  
Diversity Coalition of Knox County  
Dolly Parton Imagination Library  
East Knox Local Schools  
Eastern Knox County Joint Fire District  
Energy Cooperative  
Fredericktown Community Fire District  
Fredericktown Local Schools  
Harcourt Parish  
Help Me Grow  
Interchurch Social Services  
Kenyon College  
Kenyon College-Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity  
Kenyon College-Environmental Studies Department

Kenyon College Men's Basketball Team  
Kenyon College Men's Football Team  
Kenyon College-Men's Lacrosse Team  
Kenyon College-Owl Creeks  
Kiwanis Club of Mt. Vernon  
Knox Area Transit  
Knox Community Hospital  
Knox County Career Center  
Knox County Chamber of Commerce  
Knox County Dept. of Job and Family Services  
Knox County Family and Children First Council  
Knox County Foundation  
Knox County Juvenile Courts  
Knox County Properties, Inc.  
Knox Public Health  
Lakeholm Church of the Nazarene  
Mount Vernon Fire Department  
Mount Vernon City Schools  
Mount Vernon Nazarene University  
Mt. Vernon Shade Tree and Beautification Commission  
National Head Start Association  
New Directions  
New Life Church of the Nazarene

Ohio Department of Education  
Ohio Head Start Association, Inc.  
Parent Support Initiative of Knox County, Ohio  
Pathways of Central Ohio  
Place 4 Grace  
Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County  
Riverside Recovery Services, LLC  
Salvation Army of Mount Vernon  
St. Vincent de Paul School  
The Ariel Foundation  
The Freedom Center  
The Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association  
The OSU Extension Office of Knox County  
The Sanctuary (Danville)  
The Winter Sanctuary Emergency Homeless Shelter  
TouchPointe Marriage and Family Resources  
United Way of Knox County  
Village of Gambier  
YMCA of Mount Vernon



## Volunteer Services

A total of 60 Kenyon students operated the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Shawn Kelly Memorial Holiday Party, which was organized and fundraised by the Theta Alpha Kappa sorority and the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. This event was held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and was attended by 370 KCHS children and adults.

## Bottoms Up Diaper Drive

KCHS participated in the annual Bottoms Up Diaper Drive, collecting packs of diapers to be distributed to KCHS families. In the 2021-2022 program year we distributed a total of 392 packages of diapers to enrolled families.



**Knox County Head Start, Inc**  
A National Head Start Center of Excellence



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KNOX COUNTY  
FOUNDATION



United Way  
of Knox County



Bottoms Up  
DIAPER DRIVE

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[www.knoxheadstart.org](http://www.knoxheadstart.org)

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