



**KNOX COUNTY
HEAD START, INC.**



2022-2023 Annual Report

Serving Knox County since 1965.

From Our Director

As we celebrate the end of our 58th 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 Bank

Noel Alden, Vice Chairperson*

Attorney, Zelkowitz, Barry & Cullers

Danielle O'Brien, CPA, Treasurer

Vice President of Finance, Knox Community Hospital

Sam Filkins

Vice President, Area Development Foundation of Knox County

Lisa Lloyd**

Program Director, Knox County Foundation

John Morgan

Elementary Principal, Centerburg Local Schools

Leah Miller

Assistant Director of Human Resources, Kenyon College

Beverly Stockberger

Retired elementary teacher

Kelly Welker*

Area Supervisor, McDonald's (Knox/Morrow)

Barbara Wortman

Retired Librarian

*former Head Start parent

**Board representative to the Policy Council

Policy Council

Centerburg Parent Representative

Andrew Hess

Danville Parent Representative

Shannon Bath

Fredericktown Parent Representative

Brittany Bowman

Gambier Parent Representative

Lora White

New Hope Parent Representative

Sarah Huffman

Northgate Parent Representatives

Johnny Cook

Caitlin Sheets

Home-Based Program Parent Representative

Timothy Ewing

Community Representatives

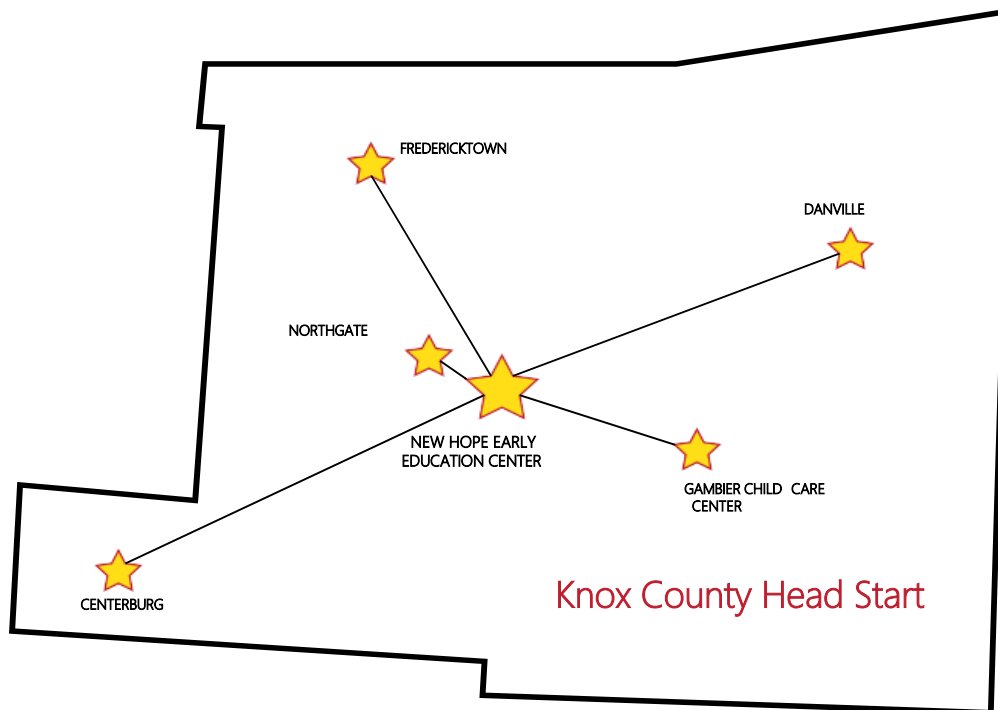
Ian Ernsberger

Debbie Ruggles

Kim Wallace

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 399 children in 2022-2023
 - 201 children served in Head Start
 - 101 children served in Early Head Start
 - 97 children served in child care, including school-age programs.
- KCHS' Community Assessment data estimates 380 eligible EHS children and 254 eligible HS children live in Knox County. Total enrollment in 2022-2023 shows KCHS serving approximately 27% of EHS eligible children and 79% 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 most infants, toddlers, and their families.





Our Children

Average Monthly Enrollment

Average monthly enrollment for KCHS was at 87.1% in Head Start and 80.2% 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:

- 28 preschool children received services under an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), representing 14.4% of children.
 - 24 of those children's primarily identified disability was speech or language impairment.
 - 4 children's primarily disability was non-categorical developmental delay or specific learning disability.
 - 1 child received an IEP after classes ended; however, they will now receive services in kindergarten.
- 13 infants and toddlers received services under an Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP), representing 12.9% of enrolled children.

Children Served (8/1/22-7/31/23)

Head Start	201
Early Head Start	101
EHS Pregnant Moms	0
Child Care	97
Total	399

93,384 meals/snacks served under the USDA/CACFP food program during the program year.



Child Health Services



Medical Screenings (Physicals)

- 255 (84.4%) children received an annual physical and all medical screenings, including hearing, vision, lead, and hemoglobin
- 124 (41%) children needed medical follow up
- 119 (96%) children received follow up



Immunizations

- 278 (92%) children up to date on required immunizations
- 10 children in progress (but received all shots possible)
- 10 children meet Ohio's guidelines for exemption from immunization.



Dental Services

- 143 (71%) preschool children received a dental exam
- 35 (24.5%) needed dental follow-up
- 29 (82.9%) received follow-up



Mental Health Services

- 44 children in Head Start/Early Head Start received direct services from The Village Network.
- 620 sessions of direct children intervention services were provided, totaling 393.6 hours of services.



Developmental Screenings

- 316/386 children (82%) received all developmental screenings within 45-days of enrollment (please note that school age children do not receive developmental screenings)
- 24 children were referred for further evaluation (15 Head Start, 9 Early Head Start)
- 27 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

- 93,384 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

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

Referrals

- 430 referrals for community supports were documented.
- 173/174 Head Start families received a referral for service.
- 81/84 Early Head Start families received a referral for service.

Demographics

- 8 families enrolled and were qualified for HS/EHS services due to experiencing homelessness, with 7 (87.5%) of the families acquiring housing.
- 9 children experiencing homelessness were served during the year.
- 111 families received WIC services through Knox Public Health.
- 25 children qualified for enrollment via foster care at any point during the program year.
- 176 families received SNAP benefits.

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 2022-2023, 13 parents attended Conscious Discipline education sessions and 408 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 2022-2023, 22 of 98 employees were current or former Head Start parents. Sixteen, or 73% 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 meets the requirement of the Head Start Act of 2007 with 50% of preschool teachers holding bachelor's degrees, and 30% holding an associate degree in early childhood education (ECE). Two teachers hold CDAs and teach via a waiver with the Office of Head Start while completing associate degree programs

In EHS, teachers are required to hold a CDA, but 50% of infant and toddler teachers held two or four-year degrees, with the remainder holding CDAs, and one teacher completing a CDA under a written professional development plan.

KCHS encourages continuous learning, and in 2022-2023 six teachers obtained their CDA, with one teacher receiving a two-year degree.



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 231 documented referrals to the Imagination Library program during the 2022-23 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 restricted enrollment in 2022-23 to a maximum of 16 children in preschool classrooms, to address the high needs of children and the decline in outcomes we had seen in the 2021-2022 program year. The spring assessment showed that the goal of 85% of transitioning Kindergarten children meeting or exceed widely held expectations was reached in all domains except math, with full results shown below:

TS GOLD data reported on Transitioning Kindergartners

Domain of Learning	% of children meeting or exceeding widely held expectations, Fall 2022	% of children meeting or exceeding widely held expectations, Spring 2023	Percent (%) increase
Social-Emotional	62.3%	95.7%	+33.4%
Physical	84.1%	97.1%	+13%
Language	85.5%	97.1%	+11.6%
Cognitive	62.3%	100%	+37.7%
Literacy	55.2%	91%	+35.8%
Mathematics	50.7%	84.1%	+33.4%

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 2022-2023 program year, Knox County Head Start staff logged a cumulative total of **3760.76** professional development hours.

Parent Gauge Comments

- "I learned that smaller goals lead to bigger goals. It's attainable when broken down."
- "Head Start opened my eyes to new ways to interact with my children."
- "Head Start gives great resources for me and my family to stay healthy mentally, emotionally, and physically."
- "The Mind in the Making bags give me a nightly routine with my child."
- "The program has motivated me to be more hands-on with my child."
- "I just started learning to cook. The healthy recipes are great for a beginner."
- "I feel supported and encouraged."
- "Head Start makes me as a mom do better for my children."
- "Family nights are fun and there is good interaction with staff."
- "My child likes to spend time with me now!"
- "The program has given me more patience and routine for at home."

Federal Monitoring

Results of KCHS' most recent federal monitoring, from the Office of Head Start, March 29, 2023:

From March 6, 2023, to March 10, 2023, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted an onsite Focus Area Two (FA2) 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.

Through the FA2, performance is evaluated in two ways:

- Determining whether a grant recipient is compliant with the Head Start Act and the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS).
- Understanding strong practices that the grant recipient may be implementing to further promote quality services for children and families.

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

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



BARNES DENNIG
Accounting • Tax • Business Insight

Results of most recent Financial Audit

In a letter dated February 24, 2024 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, 2023. 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 2022-23, all 6 centers maintained their 5-star rating.

Summer Camp

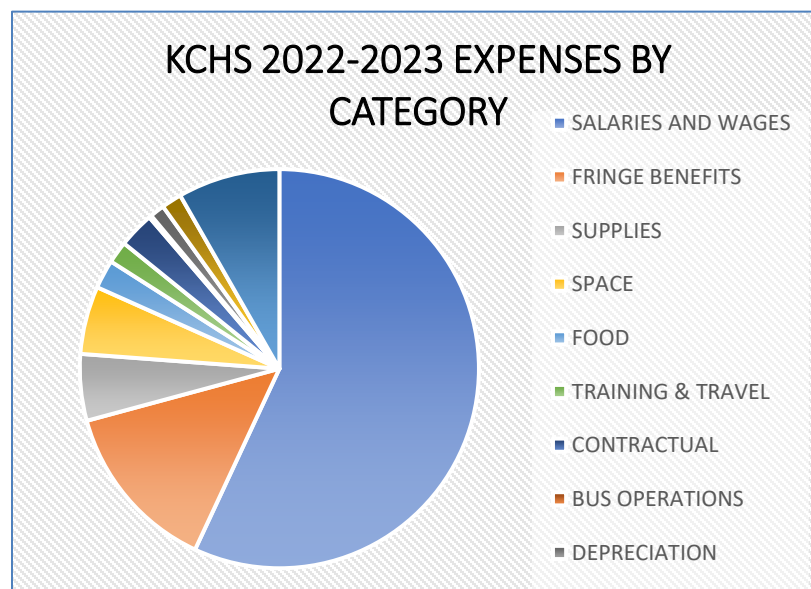
School agers enjoyed 10 weeks of summer camp at the Gambier Child Care Center with 33 children participating in 885 units of camp. The camp schedule included a variety of weekly themes such as "Into the Unknown" which focused on nature, "Colors of the Wind" which focused on art and "Be Our Guest", which was cooking week! Field trips were taken to COSI, Lego Land, Ninja Citi, U-Paint Pottery, The Alcove, and many parks! The camp focused on physical activity, health, and wellness, as well as literacy.

Our Financials

2022-2023 Funding by Revenue Source: \$6,633,547

FEDERAL HEAD START & EHS	\$3,308,538.
STATE AND LOCAL GRANTS	\$947,156
FEDERAL ARP CARES ACT	\$208,590
FEDERAL TANF	\$19,172
FEDERAL USDA	\$183,963
CHILD CARE REVENUE	\$1,207,155
UNITED WAY OF KNOX COUNTY	\$138,468
LOCAL FUNDING/REVENUE	
IN-KIND	\$533,742
MISC REVENUE	86,763
TOTAL FUNDING	\$6,633,547

KCHS 2022-2023 EXPENSES BY CATEGORY	
SALARIES AND WAGES	\$3,673,934
FRINGE BENEFITS	\$893,718
SUPPLIES	\$347,767
SPACE	\$355,072
FOOD	\$150,472
TRAINING & TRAVEL	\$115,216
CONTRACTUAL	\$186,722
BUS OPERATIONS	\$13,151
DEPRECIATION	\$76,501
OTHER	\$105,521
IN-KIND (Local match funds)	<u>\$533,742</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$6,451,816</u>



Federal Budget Explanation for 2023-2024 Program Year

Knox County Head Start and our local community benefit from federal funds to support Head Start (HS) preschool services to 149 children and families, and Early Head Start (EHS) services for 64 pregnant moms, infants, toddlers, and their families. KCHS is funded for 213 Head Start and Early Head Start 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. With the end of COVID-era funding, KCHS has dedicated all funding increases from the Office of Head Start to employee salaries and benefits, including the award of two retention awards, for the purpose of increasing staff hiring, retention, well-being, and the quality of services in our program.

In 2023-24, KCHS continues to access pandemic flexibilities allowing 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, and the Knox County Foundation in support of outdoor learning. KCHS accessed a partial waiver that provided a reduction in the local match requirements for the current budget year due to continuing concerns around the ability to access full match requirements with increases in operational costs and reduction in volunteer hours. The 2023-24 budget year's local match requirement is \$564,432.

<i>Federal Budgets 2023-2024</i>	<i>Head Start</i>	<i>Early Head Start</i>	<i>Total Head Start/ Early Head Start Budgets</i>
Salaries and Wages	\$1,447,516	\$909,920	\$2,357,436
Fringe Benefits	\$405,908	\$252,952	\$658,860
Equipment	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
Supplies	\$62,996	\$59,796	\$122,792
Travel	\$3,750	\$7,986	\$11,736
Contractual	\$57,560	\$28,612	\$86,172
Occupancy	\$151,368	\$62,280	\$213,648
Other*	\$70,298	\$48,247	\$118,725
Total Approved Budget	\$2,199,396	\$1,374,973	\$3,574,369

**The Other category includes staff training; local mileage reimbursement; and expenses related to volunteers; parent meetings costs; legal, accounting and audits; publications, printing and advertising; payroll fees; insurances (directors' and officers' liability, bonding and general liability) and subscriptions, dues and membership fees.*



KCHS staff at the Ohio Early Childhood Conference in April 2023.

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.

thank you

Individuals

Wendy Aune	KCHS Policy Council Members
Dean Backiewicz, DDS	KCHS Staff
Kelly Bailey, RD, LD NPI	Dr. Dan Salle
Krista Bankes	Erin Salva
Lyn Blahovec	John Schillinger
Dr. Jim Brown	Scott Swingle
Bonny Buffington	Lori Totman
Keith Burley	Mika Wagner
Tanner Cooper-Risser	Grant Wallace
Olivia Cowan	Kim Wayne
Hannah Drumm	Lora White
Laura Fawcett	Natalie Wright
Lorraine Ferre, LISW	Shandalier Younker
Gordon & Luisa Gantt	Ashleigh Zarley
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	

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

-Ivan Scheier

Educational & Partner Agencies/Businesses

Amazing Eyes
Amazon Smile
American Electric Power
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
Conway Pharmacy
Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development
Craftsmen for Kids
Danville American Legion
Danville Family Dental
Danville Local Schools
Directec Corporation
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-Epsilon Delta Mu Sorority
Kenyon College-Kokosingers
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 Board of Developmental Disabilities
Knox County Career Center
Knox County Chamber of Commerce
Knox County Dept. of Job and Family Services
Knox County Educational Service Center
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
Mid-Ohio Food Bank
Mt. Vernon Fire Department
Mt. Vernon City Schools
Mt. Vernon Nazarene University
Mt. Vernon Shade Tree and Beautification Commission
National Head Start Association
New Directions
New Life Church of the Nazarene
Ohio Association of Child Care Providers
Ohio Children's Trust Fund

Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Head Start Association, Inc.
Park National Bank
Parent Support Initiative of Knox County, Ohio
Pathways of Central Ohio
Place 4 Grace
Prescription Turf Care
Public Library of Mt. Vernon and Knox County
Riverside Recovery Services, LLC
Salvation Army of Mt. Vernon
St. Vincent de Paul School
The Ariel Foundation
The Freedom Center
The Gallagher Centre
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 Mt. Vernon

Volunteer Services

A total of 45 Kenyon students operated the 32nd 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 8th and was attended by 315 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 2022-2023 program year we distributed a total of 509 packages of diapers, 65 packages of wipes, and 23 changing pads to enrolled families.



790 Fairgrounds Road, Suite 200
Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050
(740) 397-1344

www.knoxheadstart.org

Follow us on social media!



