

NYC Administration for Children's Services
12th Annual New York City Head Start
Parent Appreciation Celebration 2014



Thursday, December 18, 2014
6:00 pm - 10:30 pm

Jing Fong Restaurant - 20 Elizabeth Street - Chinatown, NYC

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Head Start Parent Appreciation Day Program

Mistress of Ceremonies	Winona Schulterbrandt, Chairperson Norela Berrio-Tejeda, Program Committee Chair
Welcome	Rose Marie Gulston, Vice Chairperson Miriam Aristy-Farer, Bylaws Committee Chair
Musical Selection	Christopher Max Ayarza, Head Start Student
Purpose of Parent Appreciation Celebration	Miranda Harrison, Director of Parent Governance
1965-1975 Head Start Reflections	Bernice Gordon, Retired Policy Council Liaison
1975 – 1985 Head Start Reflections	Jose Gonzalez, EarlyLearn Director
Words of Appreciation	Lorelei A. Vargas, Deputy Commissioner ACS Division of Early Care & Education
Musical Selection	Oluseyi Akinsanya, Policy Council member
Keynote Speaker	Joe Rogers, Jr. Founder & Facilitator, Total Equity Now Sr. Researcher & Public Engagement Specialist The Campaign for Education Equity at Teachers College, Columbia University
Certificate of Appreciation from the Policy Council	Aylen Guzman, Assistant Commissioner María Beneján, Associate Commissioner ACS Division of Early Care & Education Benita Allison, Special Activities Chair Latoya Williams, Secretary
1995 – 2005 Head Start Reflections	Barbara Utendahl, Family Worker
2005 – to Present Head Start Reflections	Rose Marie Gulston, Vice Chairperson
Closing Remarks	Eleanor Quallo, Policy Council Liaison

DANCING



“We do not learn from experience ... we learn from reflecting on experience.”

Reflections from Our ACS City Wide Head Start Policy Council Members

Winona Schulerbrandt
Policy Council Chairperson

Rose Marie Gulston
Policy Council Vice-Chairperson

Ayleen Guzman
Assistant Commissioner

Miranda Harrison
Director of Parent Governance
ACS Division of Early Care &
Education

Eleanor Quallo
Policy Council Liaison



Reflection Is the Most Important Part of the Learning Process

Winona Schulerbrandt - Chairperson

The wonders of Head Start are truly amazing. It affords our children with an incredible advantage to learning. With Head Start my son Avery advanced from Kindergarten to the second grade. Now in his teens he has maintained his honors status to present day. He has also been awarded the J.P. Morgan Chase Fellowship Initiative. And with Head Start my daughter, Nia, scored a 98% on her Gifted and Talented test. She will soar as an outstanding scholar because she was able to experience the advantages of a head start program.

As a parent, the internal growth and possibilities are endless. I was that parent that volunteered daily from start of day to finish in my child's class. Approached by the director of the school, whom told me about the DAPC, (Delegate Agency Policy Council) and its benefits and important role. And that is where my growth began – I have been elected chairperson of the DAPC for three years in a row. I became a member of the NY City Wide Head Start Policy Council. There, I participated in many workshops to help me grow as an individual and a leader. Which has all paid off for I have the elite honor of being the Chairperson of the NY City Wide Head Start Policy Council and now the Chairperson of the West Harlem Community Organization, Inc. And I'm still growing! I am forever grateful for all the opportunities that Head Start has given myself and my children and I am most grateful that I can be part of a Historical program and make sure that others benefit from Head Start as well! Trust me when I say: HEAD START WORKS.



50 YEARS of OPPORTUNITY HEAD START | 1965-2015



Rose Marie Gulston – Vice-Chairperson

I became a member of the New York City Wide Policy Council in 2012. This was a result of my personal involvement in my child Head Start Program (South Jamaica Center for Children and Family) where my daughter Jael Harris was given the opportunity to get an education after I became unemployed. Through a succession of elections from the Classroom, DASPC, DAPC, to now the co-chairperson of the Policy Council being involved in Head Start has giving me a new perspective and outlook on life. I am currently completing my Child Development Associate (CDA) and working towards completing my Bachelors in Early Childhood Development. My ultimate goal is to own a Child Care / Head Start program and give back to the community what was given to my daughter and I. Thank you Head Start for giving me a new head start in my life and Happy Anniversary.



Norela Berrio-Tejeda - Program Committee Chair

There is incredible value in being of service to others, work for a cause, not for applause, live life to express not to impress.

When you volunteer, you are not paid in money or recognition, you are paid in love. People may forget what you said, and people may forget what you did, but they will never forget how it made them feel.

50 YEARS of OPPORTUNITY HEAD START | 1965-2015



Moses Seuram – Treasurer Chair

Head Start was a new chapter in my life when my daughter and son attended school in 2011, while my wife and I focused on finishing up our education and employment opportunities. Head Start has personally grown me to be a better parent with all the parent enrichment platform it had to offer. I obtained a nutrition & food handling certificate. I was able to become a West Side Campaign against Hunger Chef Graduate and last but not least, I received a Father of Distinction certificate.

I have volunteered on many different levels of leadership at the program and discovered how many resources were available to our children and community at large. I would like to encourage the new policy council members to commit to the leadership and your life will forever change for the betterment of yourself and your fellow parents.

My children have now moved on to public school and it's a joy to see my 5 year old faithfully attend the salad bar in his lunch cafeteria, thanks to Head Start. My daughter is three levels above her grade level reading and is the definition of a bookworm.

Thank you Head Start.



Benita Allison - Special Activities Chair



I've gained a new found respect for Head Start. My new insight into parenting began with High School where I was a Parent Coordinator and now as a City-Wide Policy Council Member for Head Start, I have a better understanding of the needs of today's parents. My parents did not have the luxury of community support in the form of Head Start. If there were no family members, friends or neighbors, many times as in my families situation we were left alone, with a thermos of soup and peanut butter sandwiches and alarm clock set for noon, and our elderly neighbor who didn't speak English but was kind enough to keep an ear open for the mischief of two very imaginative children. We had our Mothers prayers, love, and silent tears to keep us from harm. Wouldn't it have been nice to have Head Start to ease Mothers fears and end her silent tears.

Thank you Head Start on behalf of all the Mothers who utilize your services and support you. HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

50 YEARS of OPPORTUNITY HEAD START | 1965-2015



Kimberly Clinton - Grievance Chair

My head start experience started in 1986. I didn't participate in the daily activities at the school because I had just started working. However, I was there for every event they had at the school that was in the evening, because I had a permanent job. I had another set of girls that started Head Start in 1995. During this chapter of my life I was very involved. I went to every parent class, meeting the school had. I learned so much about parents' rights, and the things they go through to get their children through school. I am still a part of Head Start with my grandson who graduated last year. I learned how the rules are made for the majority, where and how the centers get money to stay open, and the politics behind it all. I was, and still am, a proud Head Start parent fighting and cheering for those to come.



Latoya Williams - Secretary

My name is Latoya Williams and when I heard about Policy Council I just went just because. As I became more involved that is when I realized how serious Policy Council is. I have meet some superb friends through the Policy Council not only friends but future leaders. I now know what it is to sit on the Policy Council and understand what it feels like to make a difference in the world. I would like to thank my Chairperson Winona Schulerbrandt and Rose Marie Gulston who both for pushing me to take a lead position on the Executive Board because now I have a better understanding for it all.

50 YEARS of OPPORTUNITY

HEAD START | 1965-2015



Angie Welfare - Personnel Practices Chair

I am a member of THE NEW YORK CITY-WIDE HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL as the community representative. I am currently serving on the Executive Committee as the Personnel Practices Committee Chairperson. I believe in the proverb, "it takes a village to raise a child." My reason for volunteering for Head Start at the city level is simple; I desire to be an active member in the village. I admit that being an active member of the policy council is a big commitment with great responsibilities but, the benefits are greater than the sacrifice. I received a rewarding, fulfilling, educational and a delightful experience as a "PARENT". I have taken advantage of the many workshops and training classes that the Policy Council provides for all its members. I believe that these teachings have enable me to be, not only, a committed and effective member of the policy council but a person of character that continuously take movements to benefit children, unity in the community and self.

I am a passionate advocate for better quality treatment overall but, when it comes to the children it's a calling on my life to be the eyes, ears and the mouth piece of the silent, blameless and vulnerable children. Being on the Policy Council has enabled me to step into my comfort-zone to act as an advocate for the New York City-Wide Head Start families and to seek opportunities for Head Start parents and staff. Head Start has empowered me to obtain life experience, educational and career advancement, and maximize program services in various communities.

Happy "50th" Anniversary. Thank you Head Start for your quality services and for being a pillar in the community.



Miriam Farer - Bylaws Chair

"I am grateful for the Head Start my son has gotten. He has a very real speech delay and without early intervention and being in a class I'm since age 3, he would not be as socially adjusted as he is today. In very short time he went from having emotional tantrums hourly to being a very social and articulate little boy. No doubt for me Head Start works !"

50 YEARS of OPPORTUNITY

HEAD START | 1965-2015



Sara Kitson - Alternate - Harlem Children Zone

It has been a great honor to be a part of this wonderful team that is the City-Wide Head Start Policy Council (2014-2015). I have made great friends with varied skill and amazing personalities. Attending the PC meetings to network and connect with these unique individuals has made the adventure of influencing policies that impact so many little lives all the more worthwhile, and I wouldn't trade it for anything.



Amy L. Casanova - Area Representative - Mott Haven

My time on the City Wide Head Start Policy Council has been one of great importance to me. It helped me find my voice and role in both my children's lives and education. Between training, meetings and just meeting staff and fellow parents, I found the confidence to ask important

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YEARS
of **OPPORTUNITY**
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Patricia Miller - Area Representative - Highbridge Morrisania

Hello my name is Patricia Miller. Volunteering with the Head Start family has been an amazing journey. I will continue to volunteer until I can't. I love what Head Start stands for and who it stands for. Congratulations to Head Start for 50 Years of services! Let's do another 50 Years! Go Smart Head Start.



Pascuala Natalia Leal - Area Representative - Upper East Side/East Harlem

My experience as a Policy Council member has been really rewarding because I have met good people like Miranda and EQ, that have been guiding my understanding and knowledge of the system around Head Start and Child Care. I have learned that as a parent you have the power to help change things in our schools for the best. As a team works together we can provide our children, and other children, the best learning environment possible. While working with Head Start, I've discovered that I want to become a teacher. The Policy Council family is helping me in my path. Thank You to each and every one of you, Love you guys.

50 YEARS of OPPORTUNITY

HEAD START | 1965-2015



Judy Clerville-Agbai - Area Representative - Northwest Queens

I too have a story. In this day and age everything I do is relevant. As the world turns, and energy of the forces of nature aligns itself; the ones that believe are the ones that achieve. Children are gifts from God, I'm thankful I have two.

It's true what they say, that before you know it, your life will make a full circle.

Starting at Kings Borough Community College, I studied Liberal arts with a concentration in Psychology and Education. By the time I graduated that changed. I received my Degree in Public Administration, which was centered on what I wanted to do in a child/educational capacity. Ironically, I started my career in Healthcare Management, under the guidance of 1199 National Service Employees Union which fueled my desire for facilitation and advocacy. Now as I go halfway around my circle of life, I have found my Life's desire through the opportunities I have been afforded by the New York City-Wide Head Start Policy Council.

Although I am a new Area Representative, I am most certainly committed, excited, and eager to give my all.



Yvonne Daniels - Alternate - Mott Haven

I now realized how much time and commitment goes into making decisions to better serve parents, like myself and the children of our communities. Being a part of the City Wide Head Start Policy Council has improved my communication and leadership skills. What intrigued me most is how a group of strangers came together and became an extended family. Working for and focusing on the same goals to improve the quality of life and education for children and families

Special Thank You to The Brownstone Book Fund

The Administration for Children's Services Division of Early Care and Education would like to thank Diane Brownstone for her generous donation of books to the parents of children in Early Learn agencies. Parents are looking forward to sharing these books with their children as they continue to enhance their children's literacy.





Marjorie Francois – Area Representative – Bedford Stuyvesant/Crown Heights

I am a member of St. Mark’s DAPC and the Area Representative for Bedford Stuyvesant/Crown Heights which consist of the following delegates: Community Parents, Friends of Crown Heights, Hawthorne Corners and ACE Hospital Clinic.

Susan Zetina – Area Alternate – Bedford Stuyvesant/Crown Heights

I am a member of Community Parents DAPC and the Alternate Representative for Bedford Stuyvesant/Crown Heights which consist of the following delegates: Community Parents, Friends of Crown Heights, Hawthorne Corners and ACE Hospital Clinic.

Oluseyi Akinsanya – Area Representative – Brownsville/East New York/Canarsie

I am a member of Breukelen Rec. Room DAPC and the Area Representative for Brownsville/East New York/Canarsie which consist of the following delegates; Breukelen Rec. Rooms, Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service, Inner Force Tots, Labor & Industry, SCO Family Services and Urban Strategies.

Abiola Babarinde – Area Alternate Representative – Brownsville/East New York/Canarsie

I am a member of Labor and Industry DAPC and the Alternate Representative for Brownsville/East New York/Canarsie which consists of the following delegates: Breukelen Rec. Rooms, Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service, Inner Force Tots, Labor & Industry, SCO Family Services and Urban Strategies.

Omotola Havercome – Area Representative - Central Brooklyn/Sunset Park

I am a member of St. Mark’s DAPC and the Area Representative for Central Brooklyn/Sunset Park which consist of the following delegates: Action Nursery, Brooklyn Chinese American, St. Marks and Zion.

Shameka Hinton – Area Representative - Coney Island

I am a member of Police Athletic League (PAL) DAPC and the Area Representative for Coney Island which consist of the following delegate agencies: National Association, Police Athletic League and YWCA.

Theresa Johnson – Area Representative – Staten Island

I am a member of Staten Island DAPC and the Area Representative for Staten Island which only consist of Staten Island delegate.



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Reflection from ACS



María Beneján
Associate Commissioner

Thank you so much for the time and commitment you have made toward the well-being of children! I congratulate all the parent volunteers for the many hours and sacrifices you made this past year. Remember...be a lamp, a lifeboat or a ladder to someone else. Continue the great work and volunteerism as your child moves along to the "big school".



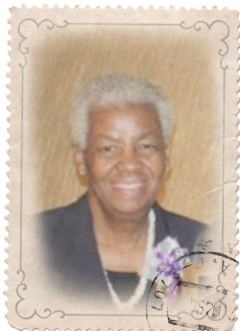
Ayleen Guzman
Assistant Commissioner

Working with members of the Policy Council and getting to know them individually is a favorite part of my job! I am encouraged by the commitment Policy Council members show to develop their leadership skills and to help other parents in their Head Start program. I've had the pleasure of meeting exceptional men and women every year.



Miranda Harrison
Director of Parent Governance

We take this time to recognize the parent's dedication and commitment to our children. We congratulate all parent volunteers for being active partners in their child's education. The Policy Council serves as an excellent role model for all the Delegate Agency Policy Committees. Their love for education is filled with enthusiasm and overflows to the plans they have for their children. The Policy Council is a major opportunity for professional growth and development while allowing parents to have an active part in the decision making process. It has been a rewarding experience for me to have an active role in this transformational process, which is life changing. I truly believe ACS Early Learn has one of the best Policy Council in the country.



Eleanor Quallo
Policy Council Liaison

As we celebrate parents for their outstanding volunteer efforts; I will also like to take this opportunity to thank and salute the members and alternates of the New York City Policy Council for doing an outstanding job. Their impressive commitment to program governance and to the children and families of NYC is awesome.