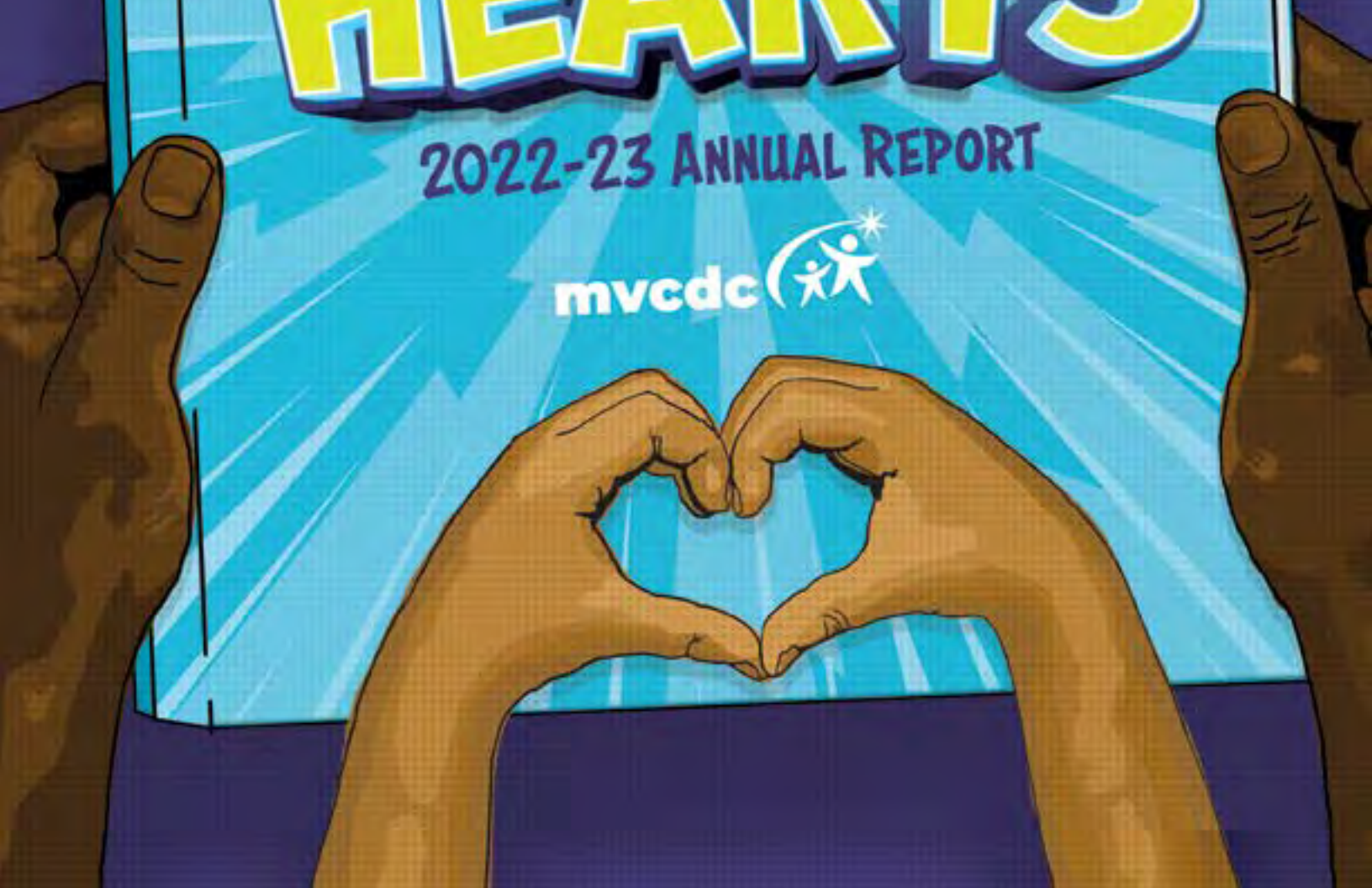


LITTLE HANDS
**BIG
HEARTS**

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT




We
ARE
DIFFERENCE
MAKERS

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Berta Velilla, President/Chief Executive Officer

Don Hoendorf, Chief Financial Officer

Steve Kandel, Chief Operating Officer

Scott Siegfried, Chief Innovation Officer

Coretta Tengesdahl, Chief People Officer
**Resigned August 2023, to pursue a position at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.*

POLICY COUNCIL OFFICERS

Ebony Hastings, President

Chataunté McLemore, Vice President

Misti Saulters, Secretary

Thank you to MVCDC's *Cyrena Adkins, Madonna Gayles, Stephenie Hilton, Malissa Patterson, Wendy Mills and Danielle Smith* who brought this report to life and give their all to MVCDC children and families every day.

OUR PURPOSE

Everyone deserves an opportunity to thrive.

OUR MISSION

We deliver exceptional early childhood education and develop compassionate partnerships with families to support them in realizing their hopes and dreams.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David Feldmiller, *Chair*, CPA, President, Feldmiller Consulting

Kathy Rearick, *Vice-Chair*, Retired

Toni Jones, *Secretary*, Director of Social Determinants of Health Integration & Partnerships, CareSource

Frank Surico, *Treasurer*, Retired

Sauna Adams, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Early Childhood and Executive Director, Center for Early Learning, University of Dayton

Steven Cone, Pastor, Dominion Church of the Living God International

Adrienne Daniels, Director of Marketing & Communications, Shook Construction

Kelly Geers, Director of Community & Client Relations, Montgomery County Educational Service Center

Tom Petrovic, Partner, Brixey & Meyer Inc.

Kevin Scroggins, Senior Pastor, Blessed Rock Church

Sandi Sumerfield, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Reading and Literacy, Central State University

Jackie Smith, Director of Education and Development, Midmark Corp.

Shaun Smith, Retired

Rachel Ward, Director of Operations & Strategic Initiatives, Omega Community Development Corporation

Ann Charles Watt, Managing Attorney, Practice with Purpose

Dear MVCDC Supporters,

We've had such an exciting and productive year! The following pages highlight just some of our accomplishments!

Our 2023 Spring Reading Challenge was a smashing success! We were thrilled to welcome nearly 200 fathers, father figures and community members into our classrooms to read to our young learners.

The children loved introducing people who are dear to them to their friends and teachers and meeting new people. The men had such fun that we're expecting many to return in Spring 2024 for an even bigger event!

Our biggest challenge continues to be hiring and keeping staff. Like virtually all Head Start agencies across the country, we've had to close classrooms because we don't have enough teachers. This is heartbreaking! **We never want to turn children and families away.** High quality early learning and child care are critical for parents and caregivers, especially the many who want to work or go to school but can't possibly afford to pay market-rate prices. As a country, we must solve this problem!

We were excited to announce the national Office of Head Start awarded us a \$9 million grant to build the Lincoln Hill Early Learning Center in East Dayton. It will serve 250 young children and be a neighborhood asset for generations to come. Thank you to our incredibly generous funders – **the national Office of Head Start, Montgomery County, the City of Dayton, Preschool Promise and The Dayton Foundation.**

Thank you for everything you do to lift up young children and families experiencing poverty!

Gratefully,

Berta Velilla
President, Chief Executive Officer



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- 3** MVCDC's achievements
- 4** Supporting new neighbors
- 5** Families' options
- 7** Promoting children's health
- 9** So many amazing early educators
- 10** Our fantastic Reading Challenge
- 17** Our investments

**WE'RE LIFTING UP
SO MANY CHILDREN, FAMILIES**

WE SERVED
2,900
YOUNG CHILDREN
2,494
FAMILIES

WE PROVIDED
160,399 BREAKFASTS
188,798 LUNCHES
161,915 SNACKS

92% OF
MVDC-OPERATED
CENTERS ARE RATED
'HIGH QUALITY'
UNDER OHIO'S *STEP UP
TO QUALITY* INITIATIVE

30%
OF STAFF
HAVE BEEN
EMPLOYED
WITH US FOR
**10 YEARS
OR MORE**

96% OF FAMILIES SAY THEY WOULD RECOMMEND MVDC

94% OF FAMILIES SAY MVDC HELPED THEM FIND RESOURCES

98% OF FAMILIES AGREE MVDC IS RESPECTFUL OF THEIR CULTURAL BELIEFS

*Based on over 250 survey responses from families

WE HELP FAMILIES – AND COMMUNITIES – SUCCEED

In the last five to six years, Springfield and Clark County have experienced an influx of Haitian immigrants – 5,000 to 10,000 new residents by some estimates. The community has been incredibly welcoming to its new neighbors, but the language barrier has created major challenges for these families and their children.



CAMILLE BUISSON + JENNIFER RODGERS

Camille Buisson has joined our team as a Translation Aide and is proving essential to helping the newcomers assimilate. In just two visits to a food pantry, Camille and MVCDC staff identified almost 60 Haitian young children whose families were interested in joining Head Start.

Originally from Haiti, Camille is fluent in Haitian Creole and can also speak some Spanish. He assists our Family Support Specialists and helps families with the enrollment process, at parent-teacher conferences, during developmental screenings and with completing documents like rental agreements. He also is connecting them to programs where they're learning English.

Jennifer Rodgers, a Child and Family Support Supervisor, says Camille's cell phone never stops ringing and that families "have totally latched on to him."

"He's their one-stop center for getting help," she says.

"Springfield has been very welcoming," says Camille. "The families are working hard to find jobs and can rent homes at more affordable prices here than in bigger cities."

Their young children are learning English quickly. Often in six months, they're amazingly conversant with their new English-speaking friends, says Camille. "They catch on very fast."



◀ WATCH CAMILLE'S INTERVIEW

WATCH JENNIFER'S INTERVIEW ▶



MVCDC PARENTS ARE TALKING!

'I LOVE MVCDC. I WISH MY KIDS COULD BE THERE FOREVER.'
- MVCDC PARENT

'EXCELLENT PROGRAM, TEACHERS AND BUS DRIVERS.'
- MVCDC PARENT

'I LOVE ALL THE STAFF. MY CHILD WAKES UP HAPPY TO GO TO HER CLASSROOM.'
- MVCDC PARENT

'MVCDC IS AN AMAZING PLACE FOR MY KIDS. THEY'RE LEARNING AND PROGRESSING VERY WELL.'
- MVCDC PARENT

'LOVE THE MVCDC PROGRAM. I TELL EVERYONE ABOUT IT.'
- MVCDC PARENT

FAMILIES CHOOSE WHAT'S BEST FOR THEIR CHILD

As southwest Ohio's largest Head Start organization, MVCDC has been serving families and children experiencing poverty for nearly 60 years. We provide high quality early learning and child care to ensure children start kindergarten on track, and we help families become financially stable and self-sufficient.

We help young children meet developmental milestones, get appropriate health care and early intervention services to address delays, learn social-emotional skills, eat well and more.

Every Head Start family has a Family Support Specialist, Home Visitor or Coach who helps parents and caregivers set goals to improve their and their children's lives. Some parents may want to go back to school or find a new job. Others may need better housing or more reliable transportation.



MVDC ASSISTS

- Families earning under 100% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Children receiving SNAP benefits
- Children in foster and kinship care or who are experiencing homelessness and those with disabilities

Generally, a mother of two must have an annual income under \$24,860 to be eligible for MVCDC services.



FAMILIES HAVE CHOICES

Families may choose to enroll their child at an:

- MVCDC-operated site
- a community-based partner site, including school-based programs
- a center-based program
- family child care



PART-DAY
3½ hours/day M-Th
AM and PM sessions,
part year



SCHOOL-DAY
Up to 6 hours/day,
school year



FULL-DAY
Up to 10 hours/day,
part year



FULL-DAY
Up to 10 hours/day,
full year



HOME-BASED
90-minute/week session in family's home, monthly organized group socialization

HEAD START, EARLY HEAD START SERVE CHILDREN FROM 0-5

HEAD START

Head Start provides early learning for children from age 3 to 5. Our evidence-based curriculum focuses on getting young learners ready for kindergarten. Children also receive developmental screenings and are connected to health-care providers, including for dental and vision needs. Families get resources and coaching to teach their children at home.

MONTGOMERY

1,203 funded seats

40% of age/income eligible children served

CLARK

525 funded seats

78% of age/income eligible children served

MADISON

123 funded seats

98% of age/income eligible children served

TOTAL

1,851 funded seats

EARLY HEAD START

Early Head Start serves children from 6 weeks to age 3 and income-eligible pregnant women. Children receive developmental screenings and early intervention services if needed. Mothers-to-be get connected to prenatal care, and families learn parenting skills and how to promote their child's early brain development.

Though high quality child care is expensive and difficult to find for young children of all ages, care for infants and toddlers is even harder to find and more costly than for preschoolers. Many families can't work or attend school because they don't have child care for their infants and toddlers.

MONTGOMERY

425 funded seats

10% of age/income eligible children served

CLARK

154 funded seats

17% of age/income eligible children served

GREENE

8 funded seats

2% of age/income eligible children served

TOTAL

658 funded seats

MADISON

38 funded seats

21% of age/income eligible children served

BUTLER

33 funded seats

2% of age/income eligible children served



HEALTHY BEGINNINGS: CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE COVERAGE MATTERS

MVCDC assists families who are eligible for Medicaid to get this need-based health insurance for their children and themselves. We also encourage families to choose a medical "home" for their child to ensure quality continuity of care.

In normal times, local Head Start agencies must have an average enrollment of 97% of their funded seats. Meeting this mandate is challenging in typical years, but, first the pandemic and then the workforce crisis, have made hitting the bar tremendously difficult.

Like Head Start agencies nationally, MVCDC struggled to meet the 97% enrollment benchmark. Its enrollment in Head Start averaged 78% of funded seats; 92% for Early Head Start; and 94% at our Early Head Start Child Care Partnership programs.

2,510

**CHILDREN HAVE
HEALTH INSURANCE**

2,207

**CHILDREN RECEIVED
IMMUNIZATIONS**

1,945

**CHILDREN HAVE
A MEDICAL 'HOME'**

1,868

**CHILDREN RECEIVED
A PHYSICAL**

1,632

**CHILDREN HAVE
A DENTAL 'HOME'**

1,490

**CHILDREN RECEIVED
A DENTAL EXAM**

**93% OF FAMILIES SAY THE MEDICAL/DENTAL SERVICES
THEY RECEIVED, THANKS TO MVCDC, WERE 'HIGH QUALITY'**

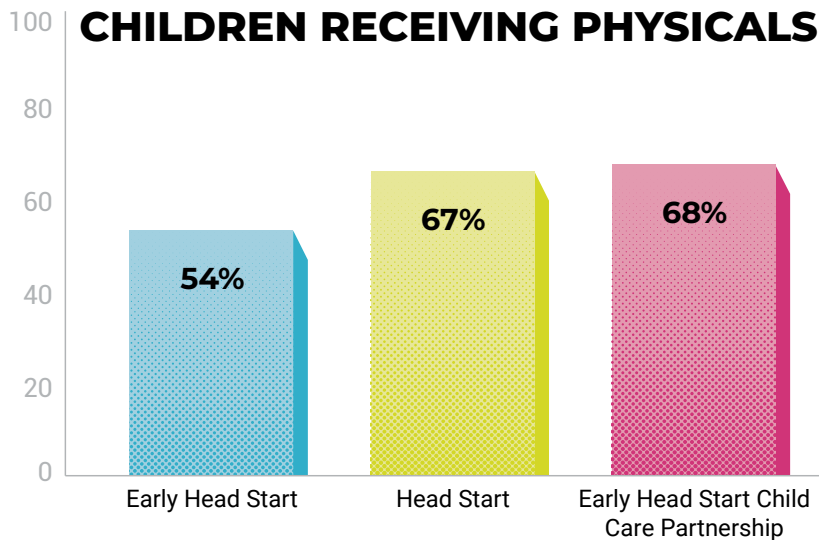
**94% OF FAMILIES COMPLETED THE AGES & STAGES
QUESTIONNAIRES, AN IMPORTANT CHILD DEVELOPMENT
SCREENING TOOL**

*These numbers in some cases exceed funded seats because new enrollees replace children and families who unenroll.





CHILDREN RECEIVING PHYSICALS



55%
of Head Start
Children
received
dental exams

Because of their young age, children in Early Head Start do not receive dental exams.

Head Start	% of enrollees	# of children
% with up-to-date immunizations	82%	1,582
% with health insurance	88%	1,694
% with a medical 'home'	71%	1,371
% with a dental 'home'	63%	1,208

Early Head Start	% of enrollees	# of children
% with up-to-date immunizations	64%	625
% with health insurance	84%	816
% with a medical 'home'	59%	574
% with a dental 'home'	44%	424

OUR TEACHERS PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING

All of MVCDC's 26 self-operated centers are rated "high quality" under Ohio's *Step Up to Quality* initiative, meaning they significantly exceed minimum licensing rules and have earned 3-Star to 5-Star distinctions.



52% OF MVCDC TEACHERS HAVE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

54% OF ASSISTANT TEACHERS HAVE EARNED A MINIMUM OF A CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE CREDENTIAL

63% OF TEACHERS AT OUR EARLY HEAD START CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIPS HAVE EARNED A MINIMUM OF A CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE CREDENTIAL



NAEYC ACCREDITATION

5 MVCDC programs have maintained the highly demanding accreditation by the **National Association for the Education of Young Children**. This coveted distinction is a high honor and takes immense effort on the part of teachers and staff.

MVCDC London
MVCDC Moraine Meadows
MVCDC Miami View

MVCDC Springfield
Children's Center
MVCDC Twin Towers

READY, SET, READ

MVDC is always looking for meaningful ways to involve fathers and father figures in the classroom. That was the impetus behind the **Spring 2023 Reading Challenge**, says Cyrena Adkins, who spearheaded the initiative across centers in Montgomery, Clark and Madison counties.

Cyrena remembers Madonna Gayles, a Child and Family Supervisor, asking, What if we invited classrooms to compete to see which could bring in the greatest number of fathers, grandfathers, brothers, uncles and other male role models to read?

The initiative succeeded beyond anyone's expectations.

Over an eight-week long contest, nearly 200 men read over 250 different books to children. Numerous men also took part in a free training in "dialogic reading," a strategy that promotes early literacy through open-ended questions and serve-and-return conversation.

"We had one gentleman who is raising his granddaughter, and, after the training, he said he never realized how important it is to ask children questions when you're reading to them," Cyrena says. "Their back-and-forth allowed him to experience stories through his granddaughter's eyes, enriching the time for both of them."

Cyrena, a regional coordinator whose son attended Head Start, collected donations to give away as prizes, even enlisting her parents, Dave and Pat Harris, to create classroom prize baskets. The couple donated books and stuffed animals, and Pat made pillows with a book tucked into a special pocket. To thank the men who read, Cyrena solicited gift cards for fun events to do with children.

"The classrooms were super competitive," says Cyrena, an 11-year veteran at MVDC. The children enjoyed the challenge so much, it's going to be an annual event.



CYRENA ADKINS

"The kids loved having the men read to them," Cyrena says. "They were so proud of their family members and people who are important to them coming to class. We're going to make the event even bigger next year."



◀ **DIALOGIC READING FROM MADONNA**

WATCH CYRENA'S INTERVIEW ▶



THANK YOU FOR DONATING TO OUR READING CHALLENGE

Boonshoft Museum of Discovery
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens

Dayton Dragons
Dayton Live
Englewood Fun Center
Get Air Trampoline Park

PNC Bank
RollHouse Dayton
Pat and Dave Harris

ASK AND THE MEN WILL BE THERE

Sean Walton, Sr., directs MVDC's Fatherhood Champions initiative and is an enthusiastic promoter of MVDC's Reading Challenge.

The planning group for the event, he says, wanted to engage fathers and father figures in ways that would have a lasting impact. "Then we wanted to fire up our troops. We had an overwhelming response."

Some volunteers initially were nervous reading to the children. "They wondered, 'Am I good enough,'" Sean says. But once they were actually with the children, "They loved the experience."

It's critical, Sean says, for young children to have frequent interaction with men in early learning settings. "Women are wonderful, but children have a heavy dose of women throughout their school years," Sean says. "Something happens when a man comes into the classroom. The children were so excited when I arrived. They couldn't sit close enough to me."

Sean says men want to be involved in classrooms, but they need something specific to do. Otherwise, the experience "can be just too terrifying."

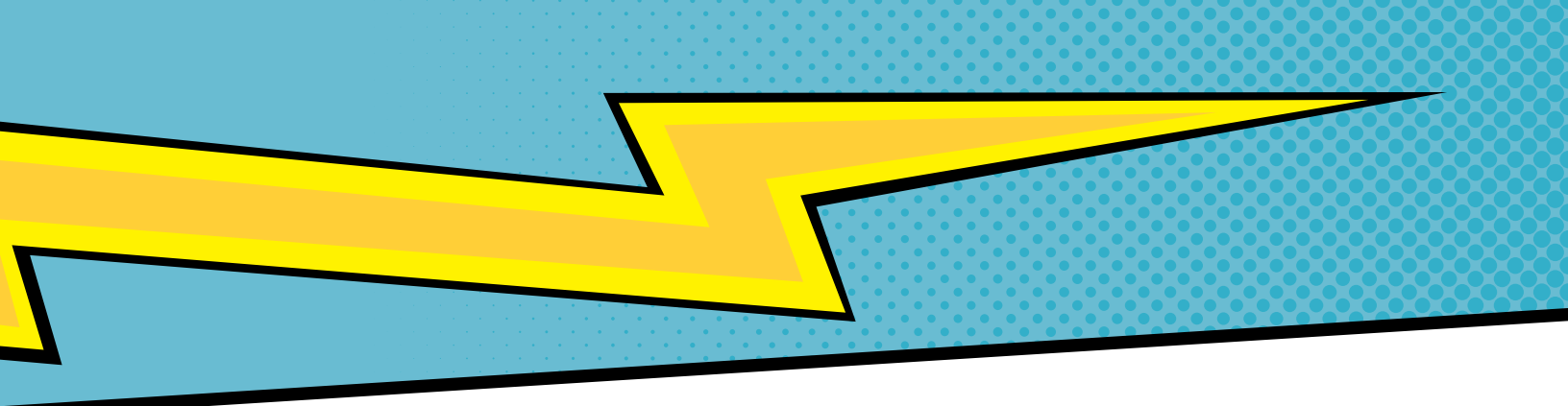
Sean used the principles of "dialogic reading" when he was reading, asking children what they thought about events and characters in the book.

"It was magical," he said. "They were raising their hands so high and waving so hard to answer questions, I thought their arms were going to detach from their little shoulders."



'Men are looking for opportunities to connect with their children and to be in the classroom. When they talked about participating in the Reading Challenge, they said it made them feel valued.'

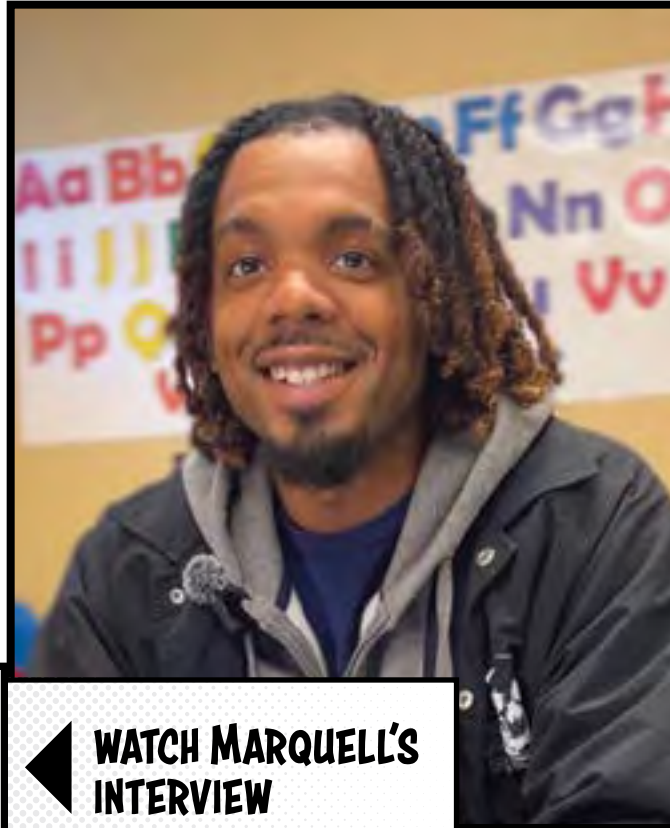
— Sean Walton, Sr.



WATCH SEAN'S INTERVIEW ▶ 



VOLUNTEERS LOVED THE READING CHALLENGE



◀ **WATCH MARQUELL'S
INTERVIEW**

At first, Marquell Wilson's daughter, Ivy, 4, wasn't happy to be sharing her father with her classmates when he came for the Reading Challenge.

"She didn't like it for the first 5 minutes," Marquell says. "But after that, she loved me being there."

Marquell read two books and then stayed for the remainder of the school day.

"First, I introduced myself, learned everyone's names, and had them show me around. Then we did a name game," he says. "They chose one book, and I chose the second. I was super nervous, but the teachers made it easy for me. I had a blast."

Marquell proudly displays his certificate of appreciation for participating in the Challenge at work.

Before Ivy attended Head Start, Marquell was frustrated with her child care program. He didn't think she was being challenged. He appreciates how her Head Start teachers talk with families to set goals and provide progress reports.

"They also let me know if she's had a good or bad day," he says. At home, her family has created a spot modeled after the classroom area where children can go to calm down and work through their feelings if they're struggling with their emotions.

Looking back on coming into the classroom, Marquell says "I don't get a lot of opportunities to volunteer. The Reading Challenge helped me feel more involved."



**WATCH JESSE'S
INTERVIEW** ▶



Jesse Ramirez says he absolutely will be back for the next Reading Challenge.

His 4-year-old son, Andre, loved having him come to school and read.

"There was a lot laughing," Jesse says. "Then they started asking questions. I wanted to make the book vivid. They really got into it."

Andre, who attends MVCDC's part-time program, is the fourth child of Jesse's to attend Head Start. The eldest two MVCDC graduates are now in the military; the third is a physical therapist.

Jesse, who was born in California and identifies as Hispanic, frequently translates for MVCDC staff and families. He's assisted multiple Spanish-speaking families who needed help enrolling their child.

He loves Head Start, he says, because children are engaged in high quality early learning, and it offers a schedule that allows him to work. Teachers also are respectful of children's heritages and work hard to be culturally sensitive.

"They're always eager to help, to solve any problem, and they love the children," Jesse says.

**READY, SET,
READ**



VOLUNTEERS LOVED THE READING CHALLENGE



**WATCH NICK'S
INTERVIEW** ▶



Lead Teacher Melissa Warner's son, Nick, is the reason her Blueberry Room won the Reading Challenge in her region.

The 18-year-old came to her classroom every Wednesday during the 8-week Challenge. A former Head Start student, Nick doesn't drive, so he walked a mile to read with the young learners.

"He has a heart for children," says Melissa, who has worked for MVCDC for over 14 years. "He usually stayed for lunch with the children, most of whom were boys. It was a proud moment for me to have my son reading with my kids."

The children's favorite book was *Another Monster* at the End of the Book, featuring Sesame Street's Grover and Elmo. Nick was incredibly animated when he read, Melissa says, and one little boy insisted on always sitting next to Nick.

Assistant Teacher Kayleigh-Ann Johnson, a graduate of Springfield-Clark Career Technology Center's early childhood program, says that, for the next Challenge, she's going to recruit CTC males to come to class.

"The great thing about having people come into the classroom," Melissa says, "is the kids get to see that there are lots of people who care about them. We teachers read to them all the time, but for someone else to come in, that just leaves an impression."

Melissa, who began her career at MVCDC as a substitute teacher, says that when people tell her they don't know how she works all day with young children, she explains, "I may have a trying job, but I also have one of the most rewarding. The children laugh with me. They hug me. They ask to play with me. They let me know that I'm doing something right."



◀ **WATCH MELISSA'S
INTERVIEW**



Lexi Bayless says having men visit her classroom to read was exciting for her young learners.

“They loved getting to know new people,” she says. “Some of the children asked the men if they would come back the next day.”

Ten males responded to a sign-up sheet she shared with families, and one father even came twice. London (Ohio) Mayor Patrick Closser read at a gathering of all eight MVDCDC classes at the Madison County program.

Each reader chose a book they wanted to share, and the children picked a second one. “They were super into animals at that moment, so they always wanted a book with animal characters,” Lexi says.

In an effort to engage male figures in other ways, teachers also organized a Touch-a-Truck event where MVDCDC’s Male Engagement Coordinator Sean Walton, Sr., offered two 30-minute training opportunities about the importance of men being present in children’s lives.

For next year’s Reading Challenge, Lexi says, she’s going to explicitly encourage males other than fathers to visit. “The opportunity isn’t just for dads,” she says. “We want to include grandfathers, uncles, friends – any male who is important to our children.”

**WATCH LEXI’S
INTERVIEW**

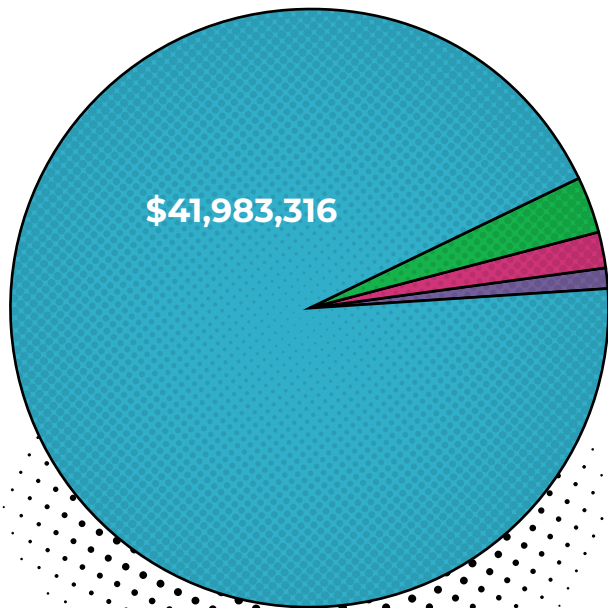


**READY, SET,
READ**



OUR FUNDING IS AN INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN, FAMILIES

2022 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES



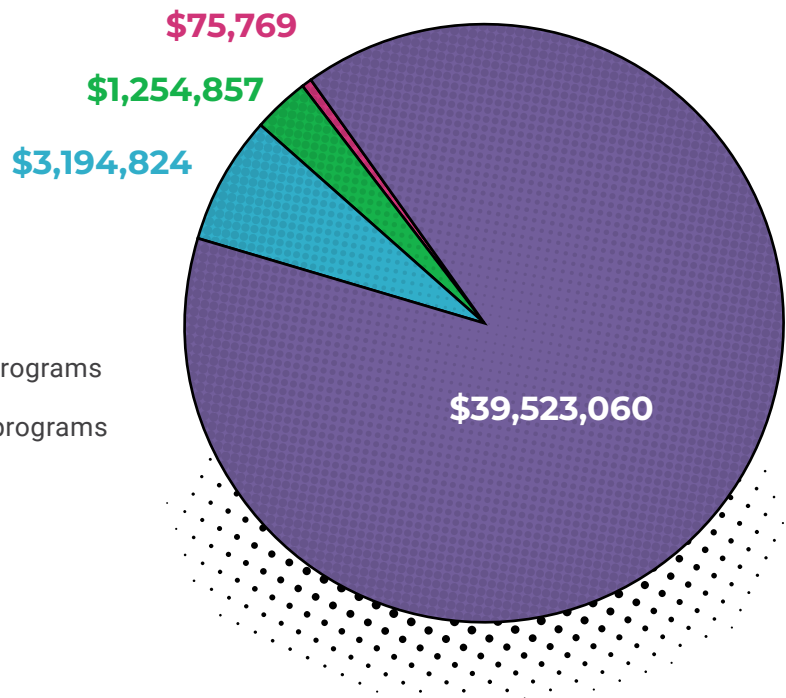
Support & Revenue
Total **\$44,478,804**

- Federal Head Start funding & other grants
- In-kind
- Other income
- Child care fees

Expenses
Total **\$44,048,510**

- Child education
- Food programs
- Management/general
- Other programs

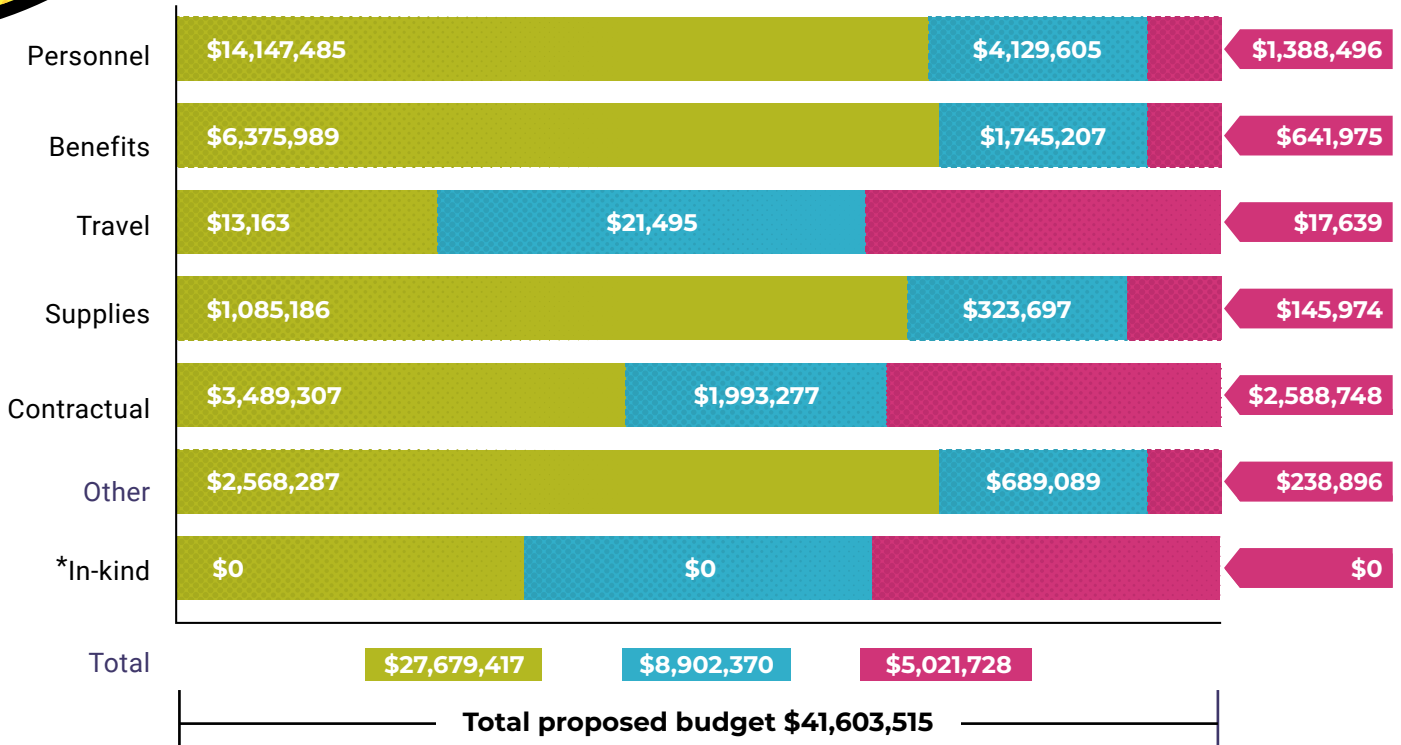
Unrestricted Net assets
as of 12/31/22 **\$7,682,751**



\$2.6 million in federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) received in 2021 remains available until 3/31/2024.

MVDC's independent audit resulted in an unmodified opinion with no findings.

PROPOSED BUDGET 2023



*In-kind requirement waived due to COVID-19



■ Head Start
 ■ Early Head Start
 ■ Early Head Start Child Care Partnership

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO DONATE THEIR TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE TO MVCDC

- Chick-fil-A
- Miami University
- Clearlink Partners
- PNC Bank
- Dayton Art Solutions
- Springfield Museum of Art
- Five Rivers MetroParks
- US Foods
- Graphics by Savannah
- KB Educational Staffing Services



All MVCDC centers and partners participate in Ohio's *Step Up to Quality* initiative. Programs go above and beyond minimum licensing standards and earn 1-Star to 5-Stars ratings.

MVCDC MONTGOMERY COUNTY

★★★★★

- Aullwood
- Blairwood
- Brookville
- Dayton View
- Dixie
- East Dayton ELC
- Kings Highway
- Marilyn E Thomas Center (MET)
- Miamisburg
- Miami View
- Moraine Meadows
- Rosa Parks
- Stuart Patterson
- Twin Towers
- Valley View
- ★★★★
- Findlay

Child Care Partnership Programs (HS & EHS)

★★★★★

- Creative World/Huber Heights
- Creative World/Kettering
- Creative World/Union
- Dayton Christian
- On Purpose Academy
- Rainbow Years
- Stepping Stones
- Tiny Scholars University
- United Rehabilitation Services
- ★★★★
- Wenzler Learning Center
- YMCA Preschool at Studebaker

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Family Child Care Providers

★★★★★

- Cynthia Douglas
- Angela Reeves
- Kisha Tyree
- Lisa Fletcher
- Patricia Bechstein
- Debra Clark
- MeKeea Hanson Pierce
- ★★★★
- Andrea Wilkerson
- Jameka Parker
- Nekeesha Foreman
- ★★★
- Peggy Miller
- Ronnye Gilkey
- ★★
- Taylor Simpson

School-based Partners

★★★★★

- Trotwood-Madison Early Learning Center

MVCDC MADISON COUNTY

★★★★★

- London
- Madison Plains

School-based Partners

★★★★★

- Monroe
- Plain City

NEW CENTERS without Star Ratings :

- Our Lady of Rosary
- Hope Therapeutic Intervention Preschool

GREENE COUNTY

Child Care Partnership Programs (HS & EHS)

★★★★★

- Creative World/Fairborn

MVCDC CLARK COUNTY

★★★★★

- Clark
- Fulton
- Medway
- Springfield Children's Center
- St. Joseph
- Town and Country
- ★★★
- Clark ECEC

Child Care Partnership Programs (HS & EHS)

★★★★★

- Creative World/Springfield

BUTLER COUNTY

Family Child Care Providers

★★★★★

- Teyaunna Calhoun
- Alesia Brown
- Isis Murray
- ★★★★
- Rebecca Taylor
- Amanda Gushurst
- ★
- Taylor Jones
- Rocinda Cain
- Jahlyn Simons
- Tiffany Hunter

