



**Business and Education Media Alert: Photo Opportunity**

**A Night at the Museum**  
Featuring Local Masterpieces from the  
National Tour for Head Start Preschool Education "Picturing America"

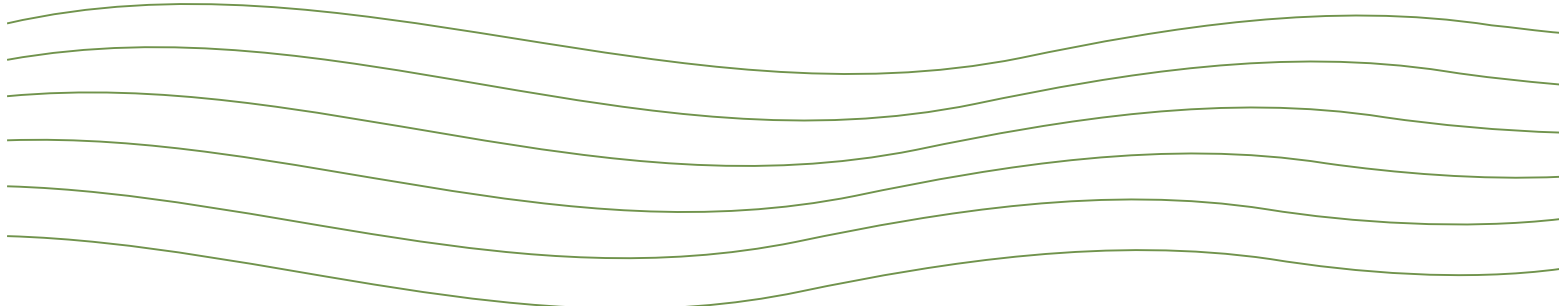
For Release: April 28, 2011

**A media and community tour will be held:**

Thursday, April 28, 2011  
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
Marilyn E. Thomas Children's Center  
2900 Shiloh Springs Road  
Trotwood, Ohio 45426 (map attached)



Tour Miami Valley's flagship early learning center and view the masterpieces of local, up and coming preschool artists. Tonight young students of the Marilyn E. Thomas Children's Center will proudly display their new creations from experiences in an innovative national program, Picturing America. The learning center is part of Miami Valley Child Development Centers, inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) agency. The Picturing America program teaches American history while providing a gateway to the broader world of the humanities. The program is composed of 40 carefully selected works of art spanning several centuries—all by American painters, sculptors,



photographers, and architects. Picturing America's resources unlock enhanced studies of American history, social studies, language arts, literature, and civics.

Over the past several weeks, the center's classroom teachers taught the students about great people, places, and moments in history using American art featured in the Picturing America program. Each child was encouraged to translate their experiences and perceptions into their own artistic masterpieces.

Mary Burns, MVCDC president/CEO, cites this program "as a unique way to blend learning and creativity with lessons in American history. The interaction between teacher, child, and parent has been inspiring. The children's works of art on display clearly reflect the learning value of this project."

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### **ABOUT A Head Start on Picturing America**

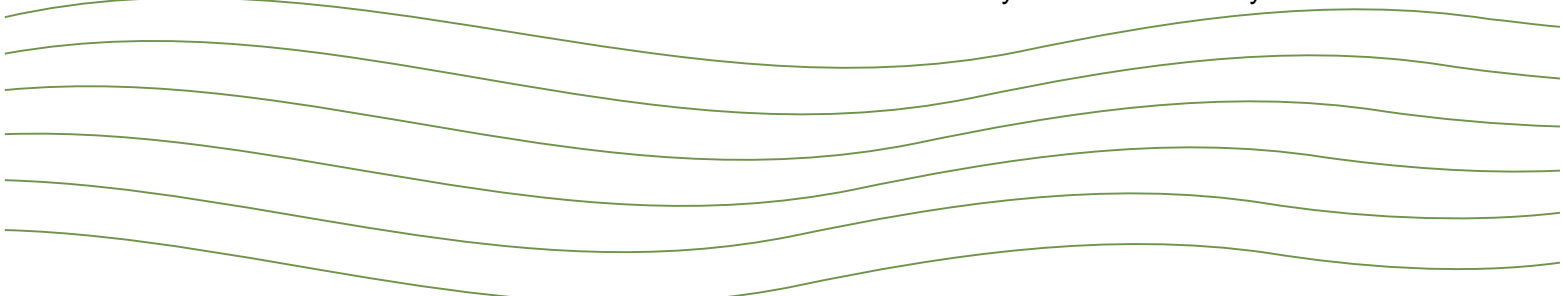
A Head Start on Picturing America, a program of the National Endowment for Humanities, was developed to assist Head Start staff and parents share the world of art with children. Picturing America offers opportunities to address children's school readiness, family literacy, and parent involvement goals. More information is available through the US Department of Health and Human Services [http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/resources/cinema/Vid/HSPA\\_Resource\\_Guide.pdf](http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/resources/cinema/Vid/HSPA_Resource_Guide.pdf) and The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Picturing America <http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/>

### **ABOUT Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc.**

Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc. was incorporated in 1964 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation. The agency began providing comprehensive Head Start services to low income children ages three to five years in 1965. Today, Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc. is funded to serve 2,522 children ages 3-5 years and 388 children ages 0-3 in Clark, Madison, and Montgomery Counties, Ohio. Funding is provided through the US Department of Health and Human Services; Administration for Children and Families; and the Ohio Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education.

The agency's program outcomes focus on school readiness for children ages birth to five. Each child is assessed at the beginning of the school year and periodically throughout the year. Results are regularly reviewed and tabulated to determine each child's progress and what is required to assist in their continued development. The program targets most of its services toward families of low income.

A primary focus of this effort is an emphasis on helping families by teaching parenting skills and life skills. We work holistically with each child and family through a balanced approach of parent involvement, health, nutrition, social competency, literacy and numeracy development. This combination is what ensures that Head Start children will be ready to learn when they enter



kindergarten.

**ABOUT Head Start**

Created in 1965, Head Start is the most successful, longest-running, national school readiness program in the United States. It provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. More than 22 million preschool aged children have benefited from Head Start.

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**Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc.**

**Wednesday, April 30, 2011, at 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
2900 Shiloh Springs Road, Trotwood, Ohio 45426**

