

# Join Us!



Shirley Emons and Gaye Julian

Dear Friend,

Success stories like Phoenix's make my heart smile. This child is just one example of the 1,014 children enrolled in Riverbend Head Start & Family Services last program year. I am continuously inspired to work with the agency through the Shirley's Kids Campaign in support of the critical mission to empower children and their families.

This year, Gaye Julian joins me as chairwoman of the campaign. She understands the importance of an educational foundation and is dedicated to improving our community. Gaye believes in Riverbend Head Start & Family Services' mission and wishes to further enhance its outreach and impact across Madison County.

Together, we want to ensure ALL children in our community have access to education and invite you to join us by sponsoring a Head Start child.

Sincerely,

Shirley Emons



## WHERE THE CHILDREN ARE

Children qualify for our Head Start program because they live below the federal poverty line, have a disability, or are involved with the Department of Children and Family Services.

### Essic Robinson Head Start

1802 E. Broadway, Alton, IL 62002  
195 preschoolers  
130 infants & toddlers

### Bethalto Head Start

225 James, Bethalto, IL 62010  
41 preschoolers  
29 infants & toddlers

### Collinsville Head Start

#5 Crestmont, Collinsville, IL 62234  
46 preschoolers  
34 infants & toddlers

### Edwardsville Head Start

710 N. Main, Edwardsville, IL 62025  
25 preschoolers  
19 infants & toddlers

### Granite City Head Start—South

1249 20th St., Granite City, IL 62040  
163 preschoolers  
108 infants & toddlers

### Granite City Head Start—North

2413 Corporate Center, Granite City, IL 62040  
122 preschoolers  
102 infants & toddlers



WWW.RIVERBENDFAMILIES.ORG



\*Data represents individuals who participated for a full year and those who did not attend a full year.

# Shirley's Kids

Sponsor a Head Start Child



All proceeds benefit local children through



A 501(c) 3 organization in Madison County

# MISSION MOMENT



## This is one story...

Phoenix was only 4 weeks old and her mother's first living child when she was enrolled in the Early Head Start program in August 2017. During home visits with the family, Phoenix spent a lot of time in her swing or being held by dad. Her mother, Tiffanie was afraid to hold her. As a part of a weekly family activity, mom was instructed and encouraged to hold Phoenix as much as possible. With a great concern about bonding between the two, infant massages were suggested to the family. Phoenix's mom also learned about basic care for Phoenix during home visits.

After completing the classes with our Center Nurse, the family has since flourished. Mom and Phoenix are inseparable.

With the help of Head Start Staff, Phoenix is cuddled often. There is no doubt that Phoenix is receiving all the attention and lots of love from both mom and dad.

*"I am so glad that we allowed Head Start to be a part of our lives and into our home weekly. Without them and the support, I'm not sure how my relationship would be with my baby girl, Phoenix."*  
- Tiffanie



# MAKE AN IMPACT

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

A \$360 gift will help to preserve the future of this program so thousands of impoverished infants, toddlers and preschoolers will have access to the same resources, Phoenix and her mother received.

## YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS:

- Fine and gross motor skill development
- Speech and language development
- Pre-reading, math and writing skills
- Nutrition education
- Health and dental screenings
- Parenting education
- Family crisis intervention

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT HELPS TO:

- Fund our vital education and health services for at-risk children when federal funding fluctuates
- Develop programming and meet unmet needs
- Address family risk factors early in a child's life
- Raise the \$1.9 million needed to offset costs associated with empowering families not funded under our \$9.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

## WE SERVE:

- 1,014 infants, toddlers, preschoolers and pregnant mothers
- 86% of the families live in poverty and earn less than \$24,600 per year
- 54% of the families live on less than \$10,000 a year
- All families live in Madison County

**OUR MISSION:**  
To empower children and families to develop positive skills to meet life's challenges

# YES, I WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE!

\$360  \$300  \$250  \$100  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to Riverbend Head Start & Family Services



One time for \$\_\_\_\_\_  
 Monthly for 12 months at \$\_\_\_\_ a month

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVN# \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to remain anonymous  
Name as it should appear in print \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address (Required for Credit Card) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## DOUBLE THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT

My company, \_\_\_\_\_ will match my gift (ask your human resources department for details).

*Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

**Mail form and payment to:**  
Shirley's Kids  
Riverbend Head Start & Family Services  
550 Landmarks Blvd.  
Alton, IL 62002

Questions?  
Please call Jahara Davis at (618) 463-8913