



## A Message from the Director

To Our Community,

This certainly has been a very challenging year for our program. I wish to thank you for taking the time to review the PEACE, Inc. Head Start / Early Head Start Annual Report.

PEACE, Inc. Head Start has been servicing families in Onondaga County since 1968 and we at PEACE, Inc. are extremely proud to be a part of this association. Our Head Start program has been providing services to pregnant women, children, and their families for over 50 years, and currently provides services to over 1,000 children and families.



PEACE, Inc. Head Start / Early Head Start mission is to inspire personal growth and empower families, children and staff to reach their maximum potential.

Head Start recognizes that parents are the primary educators of their children and provide many services to support the learning and development of the children in our care. These comprehensive services are provided at no cost to families.

We welcome all who give their time and talents so generously and encourage each parent / guardian to support the Head Start / Early Head Start program.

We hope this report informs you of the efforts we are endeavoring to accomplish to enrich our community / and to improve the quality of life for our children.

Best Wishes,

*Rebecca L. Heberle*

Director  
PEACE, Inc. Head Start / Early Head Start

### **Our Mission:**

At PEACE, Inc. Head Start/ Early Head Start, we inspire personal growth by providing an enthusiastic, diverse and supportive environment that contributes to one common goal: empower families, children and staff to reach their maximum potential.

### **Our Philosophy:**

Head Start/Early Head Start strives to promote the school readiness of low-income children by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development.

## 2021 Funded Enrollment

**Total Head Start (HS) - 829**  
**Total Early Head Start (EHS) - 214**

Atonement (HS & EHS) - 23  
Baldwinsville - 34  
Catholic Charities - 110  
Children's Consortium - 14  
Elmcrest (HS & EHS) - 18  
Genesee—69  
James Street - 34  
Jamesville - 22  
Jordan Elbridge - 15

Home Based (HS / EHS) - 97  
LaFayette - 34  
Liverpool - 63  
Lydia's Daycare - 10  
OCC (HS & EHS) - 20  
Merrick (HS & EHS) - 172  
Sumner (HS & EHS) - 131  
Syracuse City School District - 157  
The Salvation Army—Cab Horse Commons 30

## Program Eligibility

Eligibility is based on some of the following\*:

- Families living in Onondaga County
- Children ages 0-5 years old
- Household income within the Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Families receiving Public Assistance, Foster Care, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and/or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- Homeless families
- Children with special needs
- Pregnant women
- Teen mothers

*\*HS/EHS is regulated to serve at least 90% low income participants, program wide. Income eligibility is based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines.*

## Our Policy Council 2020 / 2021

Xander Hope - Policy Council Chair  
Geraldine Linares - Policy Council Vice Chair  
Janiqua Hansan - Secretary  
John Murdza - Treasurer  
Elizabeth Ross - Policy Council Representative



**A Special Thanks to Our  
Wonderful Policy Council**

## MEMBERS

Elizabeth Ross  
Kirsten Carter  
Gina Iliev  
James Simpson  
Rhonda Mott  
Fyne Ajulu  
Ashonte Harris  
Vaughn Williams  
Cherelle Worsley  
Barbar Lappano  
Jeff Lappano

If you wish to become a member of our Policy Council please contact Sam Raponi at (315) 470-3346

## Head Start Locations



| Center-based Locations  |  | Collaborations   |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p><b>Baldwinsville</b><br/>Grace Episcopal Church<br/>110 Oswego Road<br/>Baldwinsville, NY 13027<br/>(315) 638-2295</p> | <p><b>Liverpool</b><br/>911 Old Liverpool Road<br/>Suite 5<br/>Liverpool, NY 13088<br/>(315) 451-9377</p>        | <p><b>Atonement Day Care Center</b><br/>116 West Glen Avenue<br/>Syracuse, NY 13205<br/>(315) 701-1867</p>                           | <p><b>Catholic Charities Diocese of Syracuse</b><br/>240 E. Onondaga Street<br/>Syracuse, New York<br/>(315) 470-1415</p> |
| <p><b>Genesee</b><br/>1125 West Genesee Street<br/>Syracuse, NY 13204<br/>(315) 488-0987</p>                              | <p><b>Merrick</b><br/>175 Hudson Street<br/>Syracuse, NY 13204<br/>(315) 470-3349</p>                            | <p><b>Children's Consortium</b><br/>1010 James Street<br/>Syracuse, NY 13203<br/>(315) 471-8331</p>                                  | <p><b>Lydia's Lullaby Daycare</b><br/>213 Canton Street<br/>Syracuse, NY 13205<br/>(315) 471-4750</p>                     |
| <p><b>James Street</b><br/>1507 James Street<br/>Syracuse, NY 13203<br/>(315) 299-4390</p>                                | <p><b>Jordan-Elbridge</b><br/>Christ Church<br/>25 North Main Street<br/>Jordan, NY 13080<br/>(315) 689-0079</p> | <p><b>Northside Early Education Center (Elmcrest)</b><br/>516 Prospect Avenue<br/>Syracuse, NY 13208<br/>(315) 477-0780</p>          |   |
| <p><b>LaFayette</b><br/>2777 Route 11 North<br/>LaFayette, NY 13084<br/>(315) 677-7814</p>                                | <p><b>Sumner</b><br/>215 Bassett Street<br/>Syracuse, NY 13210<br/>(315) 470-3346</p>                            | <p><b>Onondaga Correctional Facility (Jamesville)</b><br/>6660 E. Seneca Tpk.<br/>Jamesville, NY 13078<br/>(315) 435-5581 x 1152</p> |   |
| <p><b>Home-based Office Location</b><br/>Home-based Visitors' offices</p>   |  | <p><b>Onondaga Community College</b><br/>4585 West Seneca Turnpike<br/>Syracuse, NY 13215<br/>(315) 498-2547</p>                     |   |
| <p><b>Genesee</b><br/>1125 West Genesee Street<br/>Syracuse, NY 13204<br/>(315) 488-0987</p>                              |  | <p><b>The Salvation Army: Cab Horse Commons</b><br/>677 South Salina Street<br/>Syracuse, NY 13202<br/>(315) 479-1112</p>            |   |

## Early Head Start Locations

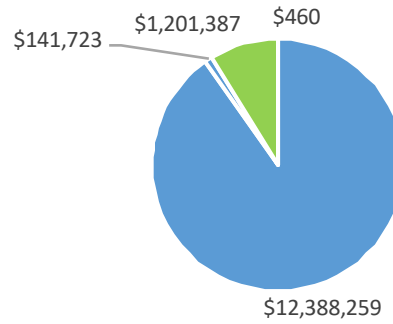
| Center-based Locations  |
|---|
| <p><b>Merrick</b><br/>175 Hudson Street<br/>Syracuse, NY 13204<br/>(315) 470-3349</p> |
| <p><b>Sumner</b><br/>215 Bassett Street<br/>Syracuse, NY 13210<br/>(315) 470-3346</p> |

| Syracuse City School District   | UPK, EPK, 3PK   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Dr. King School</b><br/>416 E. Raynor Avenue<br/>Syracuse, NY 13202</p> | <p><b>Dr. Weeks School</b><br/>710 Hawley Avenue<br/>Syracuse, NY 13207</p> |
| <p><b>Franklin Magnet</b><br/>428 S. Alvord Street<br/>Syracuse, NY 13208</p> | <p><b>Frazer Middle School</b><br/>741 Park Ave<br/>Syracuse, NY 13204</p>  |
| <p><b>Van Duyn</b><br/>401 Loomis Ave<br/>Syracuse, NY 13207</p>              |   |



## 2020 / 2021 Revenue

**Total Revenue: \$13,731,829 \***



- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS): \$12,388,259
  - Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP): \$141,723
  - State: \$1,201,387
  - Local/Private: \$460
- \* Does not include in-kind

## 2020 / 2021 Expenditures

**Total Expenditures: \$13,731,829**

■ Salaries: \$6,868,120

■ Fringes: \$1,904,186

■ Facilities: \$831,130

■ Transportation: \$180,563

■ Contractural /Professional Services: \$604,937

■ Program / Office Supplies: \$862,126

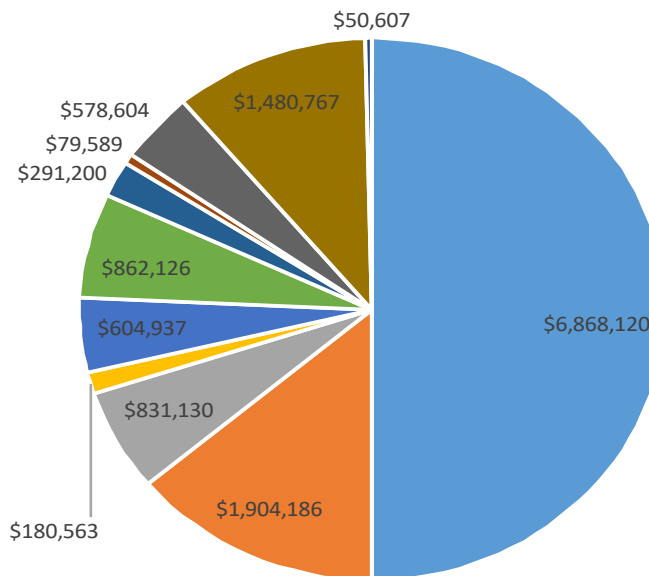
■ Equipment / Leasehold Improvements: \$291,200

■ Education/ Training / Travel: \$79,589

■ Food Service / Nutritional Services: \$578,604

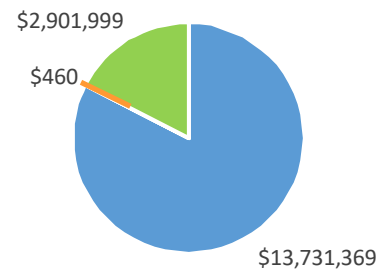
■ Indirect/ Administrative: \$1,480,767

■ Other: \$50,607



**Funding Sources: \$16,633,828**

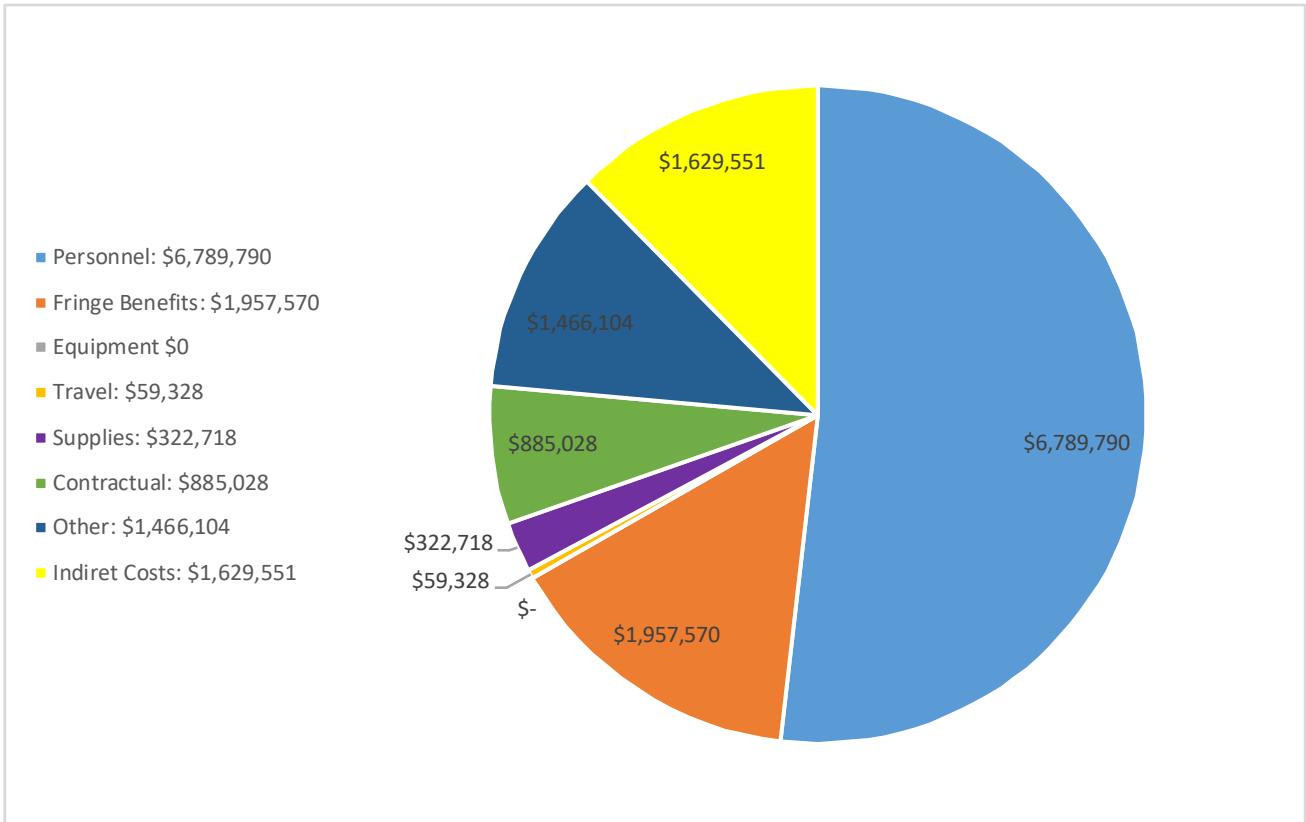
PEACE, Inc.'s Financial Statements are available online.  
<http://www.peace-caa.org/about-us/re/>



- Public: State (Pre-K) and Federal (DHHS, CACFP): \$13,731,369
- Local/ Private- Individuals and Local Foundations: \$460
- In-Kind: Donated (Volunteer Hours, Professional/ Contract Services and Facilities): \$2,901,999

# 2021 / 2022 Budget

## Department of Health and Human Services 2/1/21 - 1/31/2022 Budget



|                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total Approved Budget          | <u>\$13,110,089</u> |
| Required In-Kind Contributions | \$3,161,743         |

### Department of Health and Human Services 4/1/21—3/31/23 Budget

Funding will be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

One-time American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding of \$1,247,950.00.

One-time Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) funding of \$313,911.00.

◇ Included in this number is COVID-19 Carryover One Time Funding of \$137,340.00

PEACE, Inc. is proud that our agency has received no audit findings or significant deficiencies for the last fifteen financial audits. In addition, PEACE, Inc. has qualified as a low-risk auditee for the last thirteen years.

### Establishing During COVID-19

When COVID-19 stuck communities, everything was at a standstill, leaving many children, families and Staff in a very vulnerable spot.

In Sept. 2020 PEACE Inc. Head Start successfully implemented CDC recommendations guidance allowing children and families the opportunity to resume classroom and services. These approaches were documented, and reviewed weekly as we implemented strategies allowing us to keep doors open with in person learning. Virtual learning became a new piece to our service delivery menu. Together staff and family members navigated this alternative learning style and made it part of daily at home activities.

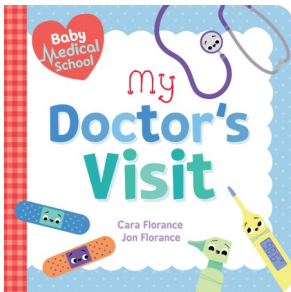
One would think that mask wearing and social distancing would be difficult for young children however, the reality is our children engaged in mask wearing, new classroom rules and it soon all became part of our routine here at Head Start. Providing a safe environment for children and families to learn was a vital piece to our community development during this time.

Flexibility to implement in school and virtual learning was the key factor to our success. From morning family greeting that looked very out of the ordinary, to supportive staff suiting up when entering a classrooms. Our HS/EHS made it happen...with many hiccups along the way, nevertheless our community could count on us.

Let's keep in mind, our ability to remain open and help families, children, and staff navigate this most difficult time was not easy. So it goes without saying the Head Start Program federal funding, allowed us to keep doors open and secure the resources necessary to provide our community with the care needed. Federal funds are a fundamental piece to keeping good Early Childhood Programming going during times of trouble.

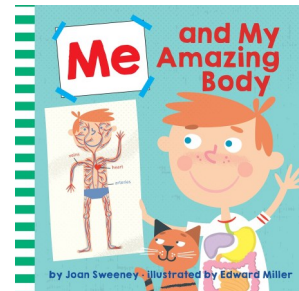
## Program Activities

### *The "Same Book" Program:*



This program is part of the Head Start/ Early Head Start Literacy Plan which is designed to implement an effective classroom and literacy program which, in turn, intentionally promotes and facilitates the growth and development of child and family literacy. The belief is that "Same Book" can also increase the reading experience in the community. Each year a book is chosen and sent home with each child in our program. The idea is to interconnect the "Same Book" concept at home and at school to increase and support family connections around literacy and reading.

Families are encouraged to participate in "Same Book" activities in the classroom and center with their child. Children are also sent home with a corresponding Parent Guide which contains developmentally appropriate recommendations and activities for families to use along with the book which establishes the importance of parents as their child's first teacher.



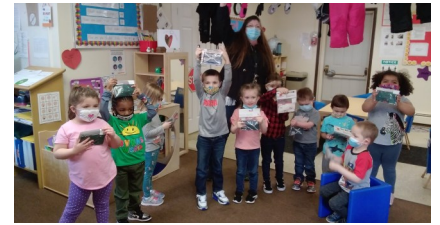
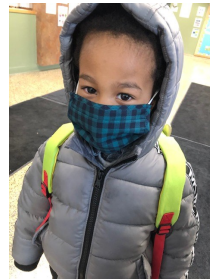


Thank You

To the Boys & Girls Club of Syracuse for their most generous donation of masks for our children



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA



Thank You!

Special Recognition to Rollin Mincher, Oscar Vergara and Gerri Regan for their dedication and hard work in overseeing “Operation Warm” in the distribution of those many pallets of clothing to our families. It was a huge undertaking that this team made seem so effortless. Our families truly enjoyed receiving the many new outfits.



## Program Activities

### *Nutrition Initiatives*



Over the past year, Nutrition Staff collaborated with Syracuse University to research food insecurity issues that impact Head Start families. We knew that numerous resources in the community are available that can provide free meals to Onondaga County families. Hence, we developed a survey to assess and address food accessibility among our program participants. We learned our Head Start families were generally not utilizing the resources to access food. As a result, we sent home information to the families on how to access food resources in the community. We also connected them to the CNY Food Bank that provided education with some families about accessing food and provided recipes based upon these foods. In addition, our program provided some foods, such as fresh fruits, that we delivered to families periodically. Our program also worked with professors in the Department of Nutrition and Food Studies at Syracuse University on a “Sugary Drink and Snack Food Behaviors of Head Start Families” survey that participants were able to complete on their phones. One of the survey results indicated further exploration into whether our children are drinking enough milk. In addition, we collaborated with the dietitian at Onondaga County Health Department (OCHD) to develop a school-to-home Head Start Gardening Cookbook for classroom teachers and parents to share food ideas and recipes. Also, we continued and completed the Sodium Reduction grant project with OCHD that we have been working on with them for the past five years. As a result we have modified some of our menu recipes to contain less sodium. Finally, we assisted and participated with our Health Service Nursing Coordinators on collaborating with the Belay Foundation to develop an allergy staff training program. Belay is an agency that has developed a program to prevent and treat food allergies and intolerances to prevent harm to children. The Belay training is a culmination of the hard work and attention we dedicate to managing food allergies and intolerances in our program daily. We continue to commit to the safety and well-being of all children in our Head Start program.

## **Our Program**    **Health Staff:**

### **Health is the foundation of learning and school readiness**

Our program provides Chompers Dental Clinics in partnership with Syracuse Community Health Center. Due to COVID-19, we could not provide dental clinics for 2020-2021. All children received tooth-brushing kits along with a weekly tooth brushing chart to check off AM and PM brushing. Tooth brushing kits were sent home every three months. Our program plans to resume dental clinics for the upcoming program year. The dentist will do an exam and fluoride varnish.

We continue to collaborate with the Syracuse Lion's Club to provide vision screening to the children. They assist our program in screening the children within the first 45 days of enrollment. In the three years of our partnership, 1100 children have been screened, with over 90 children needing glasses. Lion's Club also covers the cost of lenses and frames for families without insurance; they will also replace a child's glasses if they are broken. When a child is fitted for glasses, and returns to school, the nurse rescreens the child with their glasses on, if the child still does not pass they are referred back to their eye doctor for another evaluation. The SPOT Vision screener is able to detect a potential problem with the child's prescription so it can be corrected. Due to COVID-19 the children who attended virtually were given a subjective vision screening which was completed with either the nurse, home visitor or family advocate with the parent/guardian. Our program plans to resume vision clinics with The Lion's Club for the upcoming program year.

Fall of 2019, we collaborated with The Gebbie Speech and Language Hearing Clinic through Syracuse University to perform hearing screening on children at our two largest Head Start sites. Due to COVID-19, we were unable to provide hearing clinics. Dr. Kristin Kennedy, Licensed Audiologist from The Gebbie Speech and Language Clinic through Syracuse University, created a subjective hearing screening for Early Head Start and Head Start children who were virtual learners this program year. Nurses, home visitors or family advocates completed the screening with parent/guardian. Our program plans to resume the hearing clinics for the upcoming program year. The medical students screened 150 children between the two sites. Planning for fall of 2020 to add two more sites for this clinic.

Our program worked with Central NY Regional Emergency Medical Services to create an AED program. Each center is now equipped with adult/child AED's. A Pediatrician on the Health Services Advisory Committee is our provider and oversees the AED program. Each center has many staff members who are trained in CPR/FA/AED and prepared to use the AED in an emergency. Our program is working with Belay- a food allergy-training and preparedness program to provide allergy and anaphylaxis training to all Head Start staff.. In addition, all PEACE, Inc. centers will have emergency epinephrine stations with Auvi-Q auto-injectors for the fall of 2021. This training and stocking of non-patient specific epinephrine is in compliance of Elijah's Law. The emergency epinephrine stations will be kept with the AED and Stop the Bleed kits.

All Head Start nurses were trained in the National Stop the Bleed campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to build national resilience by better preparing the public to save lives by raising awareness of basic actions to stop life threatening bleeding following everyday emergencies and man-made and natural disasters. All PEACE, Inc. Head Start centers have a Stop the Bleed kit located next to the AED. Due to COVID training of all staff was limited to those that attended CPR/FA/AED training. All staff will eventually be trained in Stop the Bleed.



## School Readiness

School readiness continued as the foundation of our HS/EHS program during this past program year. As defined by Head Start, school readiness means children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children’s learning, and schools are ready for children. We were successful in providing comprehensive school readiness services to our families even as we navigated necessary adjustments to our service delivery model(s) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We implemented the most up-to-date health and safety guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local health departments throughout the year as part of our commitment to the health and safety of our children, families and staff. The chart below reflects our Spring 2021 Teaching Strategies GOLD aggregate assessment of children’s skills and knowledge in essential school readiness domains. The aggregate GOLD assessment results indicate that the majority of children’s skills and knowledge were in the meeting or exceeding expectations ranges in all domains. All aggregate percentages had increased between our Winter 2020 and Spring 2021 GOLD assessment periods.

### Spring 2021 Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment Results

#### Developmental Domain

#### Percentage of Children’s Skills and Knowledge Assessed In the Meeting or Exceeding Ranges

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Social Emotional | 87% |
| Physical         | 81% |
| Language         | 84% |
| Cognitive        | 84% |
| Literacy         | 74% |
| Mathematics      | 78% |

Our summer program delivered an opportunity for many of our children to receive additional learning experiences in these domains. There was a specific emphasis on literacy and mathematics in lesson planning to enhance the school readiness of our children, particularly those transitioning to kindergarten.

The Child Development and Health Services Component added a new staff position this past program year. The Child Behavior Specialist (CBS) is a mental health consultant for staff support of children who have been exposed to adverse childhood experiences. In addition, the CBS role is to support enhancement of trauma-informed best practices throughout our program. Efforts are being made to help staff identify signs and symptoms of trauma and to integrate supports and services to assist in healing. One of the pre-service trainings for 2021-2022 is designed specifically to assist staff in understanding the principles of Conscious Discipline, our research-based social-emotional learning program, through a trauma informed lens.

The Child Development and Health Services training and technical assistance team throughout the upcoming school year will offer additional professional development opportunities to staff. Included among the intended topics and domains they address are nutrition activities in the classroom (mathematics, literacy, and science); planned language approach (language and literacy); and active supervision (safety practices/social emotional). In addition, several education staff will receive intensive coaching through our Practice Based Coaching (PBC) program. PBC is a collaborative process between a coach and a teacher or home-based visitor which supports teachers’ and home-based visitors’ use of effective teaching practices/home visiting practices that lead to positive outcomes for children.

# The Children remain our highest priority



**PEACE INC**  
EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO THRIVE | est. 1988



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