



## A Message from the Director

To Our Community,

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—2022 Funded Enrollment

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

Atonement (HS & EHS) - 20  
Baldwinsville - 34  
Catholic Charities - 110  
Children's Consortium - 14  
Elmcrest (HS & EHS) - 7  
Genesee - 69  
James Street - 34  
Jamesville - 22  
Jordan Elbridge - 15

Home Based (HS / EHS) - 97  
LaFayette - 34  
Liverpool - 62  
Lydia's Lullaby Daycare (HS & EHS) - 14  
OCC (HS & EHS) - 20  
Merrick (HS & EHS) - 172  
Sumner (HS & EHS) - 132  
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, Food Stamps, 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 2021 / 2022

Darrell Williams - Policy Council Chair  
James Simpson - Policy Council Vice Chair  
Whitney Greene - Secretary  
Elizabeth Ross - Treasurer  
Elizabeth Hakanson - Policy Council Representative  
Syiesha Byrd - Community Representative



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



## MEMBERS

AlAli Hanadi  
Jenesis Barr  
Jacob Denney  
Quinkka Richardson  
Melina Anne Kelly  
Jazmine Lewis  
Tislum Manadou  
Jess Smith  
Siobhan Grevelding  
Raheim Newman

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



## Head Start Locations



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

### Home-based Office Location

Home-based Visitors' offices

**Genesee**  
 1125 West Genesee Street  
 Syracuse, NY 13204  
 (315) 488-0987

### Early Head Start Locations

#### Center-based Locations

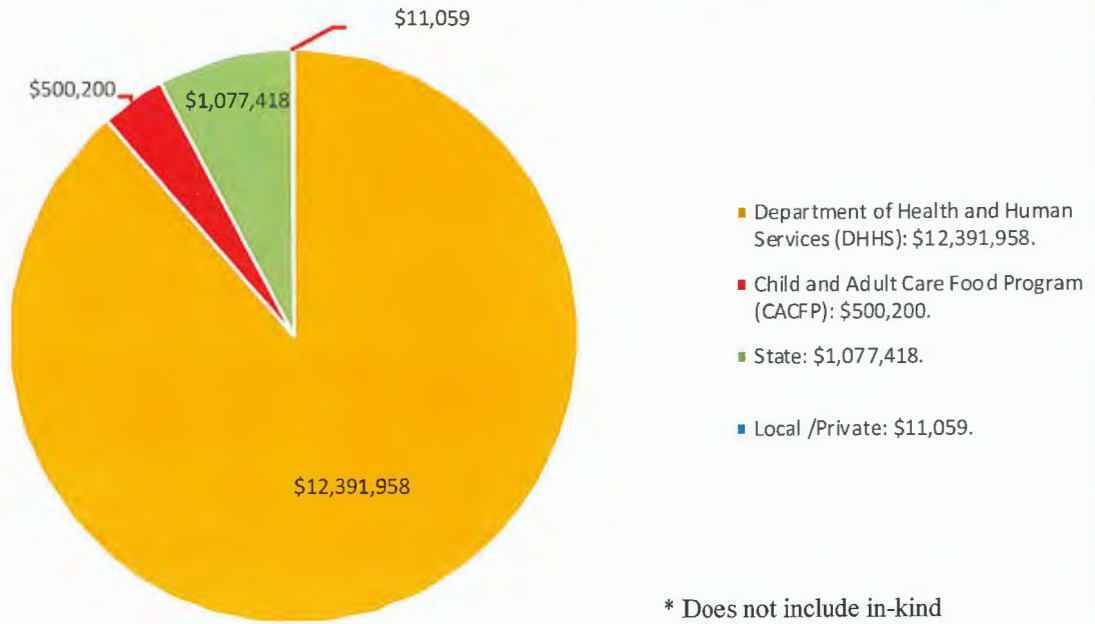
**Merrick**  
 175 Hudson Street  
 Syracuse, NY 13204  
 (315) 470-3349

**Sumner**  
 215 Bassett Street  
 Syracuse, NY 13210  
 (315) 470-3346

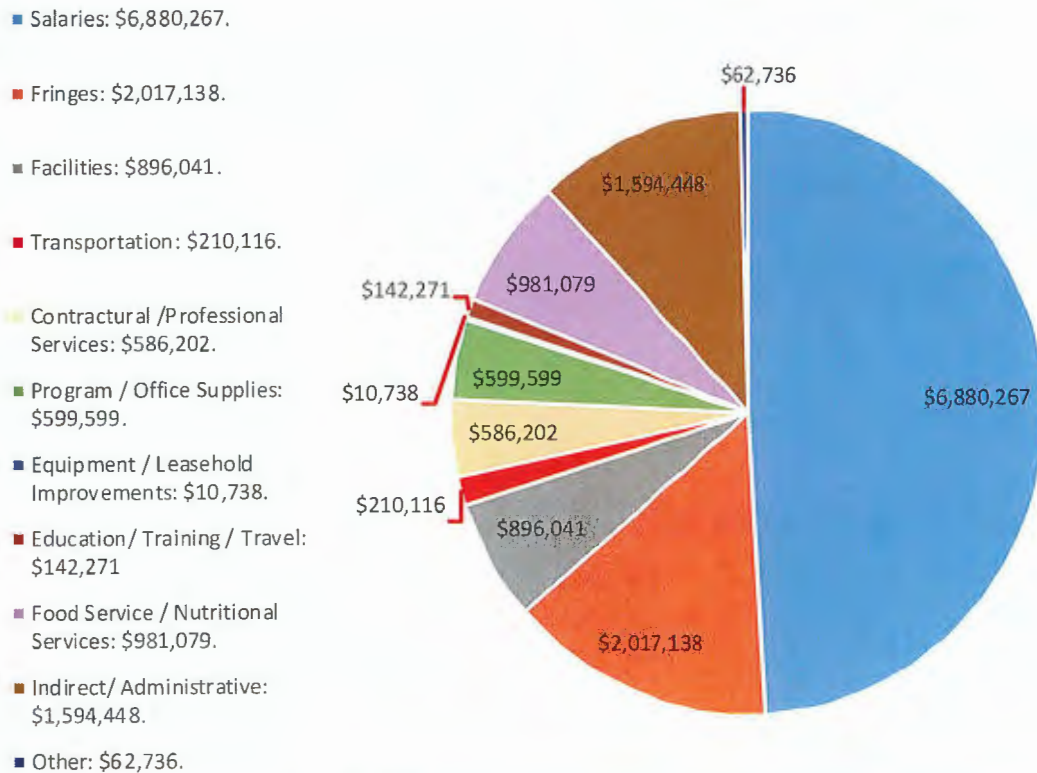
<b>Syracuse City School District</b>	<b>UPK, EPK, 3PK</b>
<b>Dr. King School</b> 416 E. Raynor Avenue Syracuse, NY 13202	<b>Dr. Weeks School</b> 710 Hawley Avenue Syracuse, NY 13207
<b>Franklin Magnet</b> 428 S. Alvord Street Syracuse, NY 13208	<b>Frazer Middle School</b> 741 Park Ave Syracuse, NY 13204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



## Total 2021 / 2022 Revenue \$13,980,635 \*



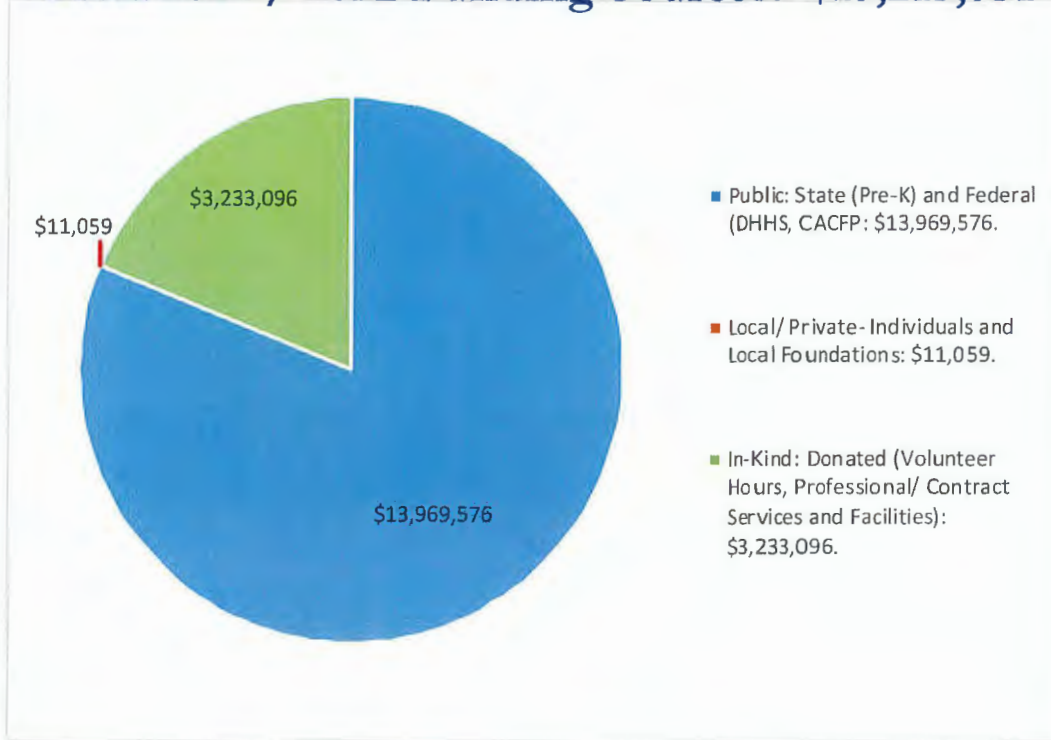
## Total 2021 / 2022 Expenditures: \$13,980,635 \*



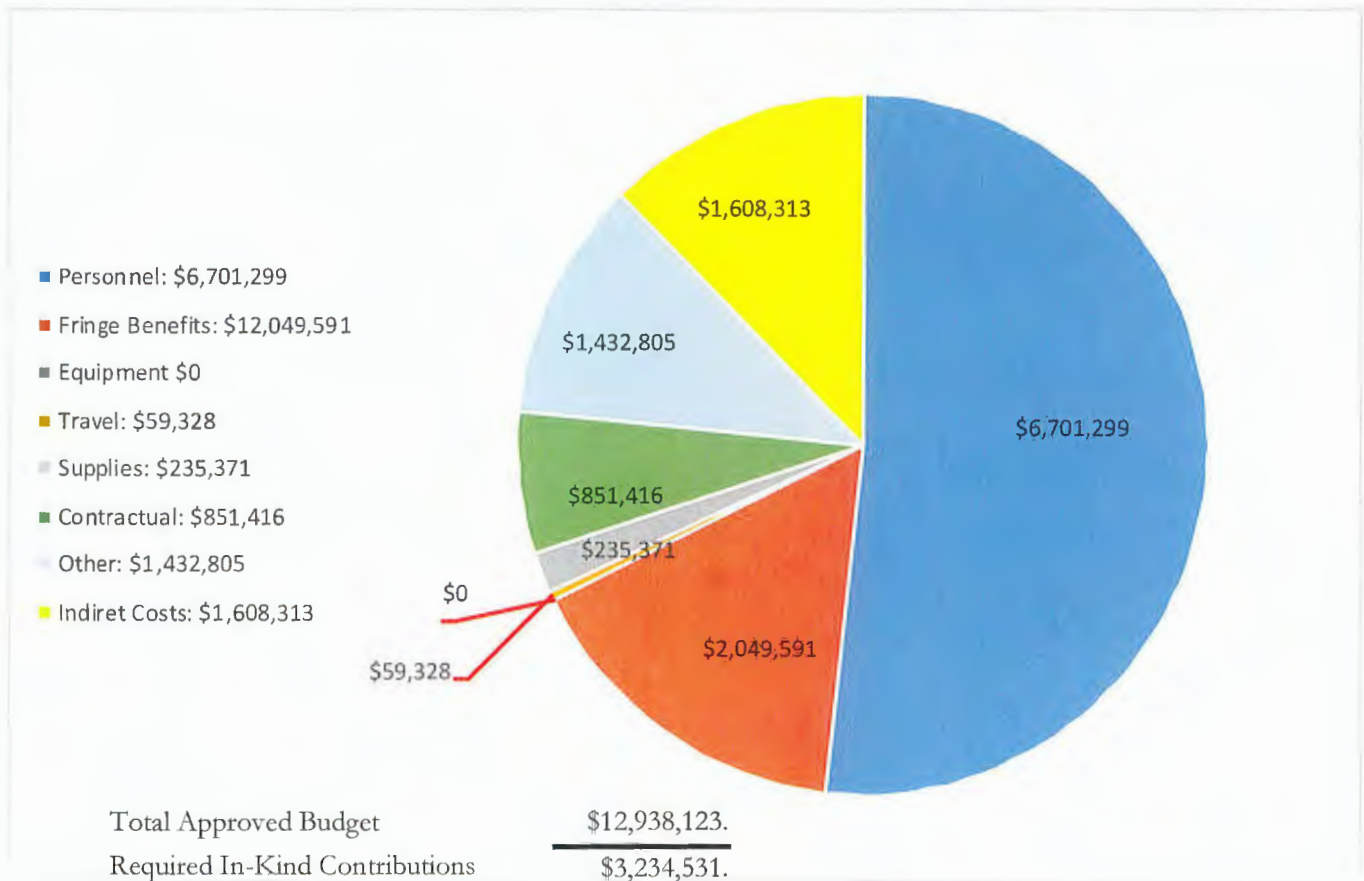
PEACE, Inc.'s Financial Statements  
are available online.  
<http://www.peace-caa.org/about-us/re/>

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

## Total 2021 / 2022 Funding Sources: \$17,213,731



## Department of Health and Human Services 2/1/22 - 1/31/2023 HS/ EHS Budget





## Program Opportunities

The Head Start / Early Head Start parent engagement opportunities stretch beyond Parent Committees and Policy Council.

There are many ways we support each child and family beyond the classroom. We analyze the information we collect at intake and on the parent interest surveys to provide opportunities for the whole family.

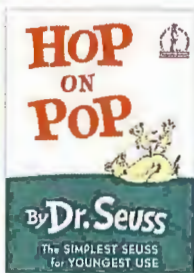
Head Start paired with other programs to provide free workshops that cover financial wellbeing, parenting skills, eating healthy on a budget and many more.

Family activities such as zoom cooking activities support the comprehensive goals of our program. Parents and children cook together as topics such as child development, kindergarten readiness and meal planning are discussed. In the photos here families were guided in the “sweet potato try me activity.” Families received supplies and a special recipe to follow. They made sweet potato pancakes!



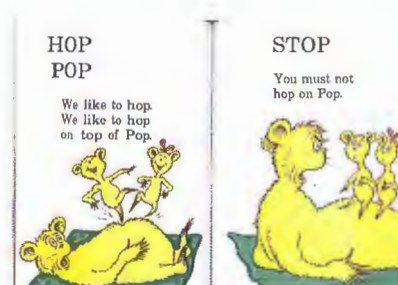
## Program Activities

### *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.



## Our Program Health Staff:

Our program provides Chompers Dental Clinics in partnership with Syracuse Community Health Center. The program resumed dental clinics for 2021-2022 year, providing exam, cleaning and fluoride varnish. 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 throughout the year. The program plans to resume tooth brushing in classrooms fall of 2022 with a dry tooth-brushing model.

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 five years of our partnership, approximately 1200 children have been screened, with over 119 children needing glasses. They also cover the cost of lenses and frames for families without insurance; and 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. Our program resumed vision clinics with The Lion's Club 2021-2022 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. The program resumed hearing clinics 2021-2022. Dr. Kristin Kennedy, Licensed Audiologist from The Gebbie Speech and Language Clinic through Syracuse University, and her audiology students perform hearing screening at selected location each fall. The medical students screened 70 children this year between the two sites. Planning for fall of 2022 to add three collaboration sites at Catholic Charities for these clinics.

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 have emergency epinephrine stations with Auvi-Q auto-injectors. The Auvi-Q auto-injector comes in three different milligram doses based on weight. The program is equipped with all three doses of the epinephrine for use on children, each classroom has a chart that lists the children's weight. In the event of an anaphylactic reaction emergency, teachers look at the weight chart to find which dose to use. Each dose has a second auto-injector if needed. This training and stocking of non-patient specific epinephrine is in compliance of Elijah's Law. The emergency epinephrine stations are kept with the AED and Stop the Bleed kits in proximity to classrooms/ lobbies of each PEACE Head Start center.

All Head Start nurses are 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 natural disasters. New this spring all staff that take CPR/FA/AED are now trained on Stop the Bleed, the American Red Cross has added Stop the Bleed into its training curriculum.

Our program has been transitioning back to our regular programming this year, while learning to live with the COVID-19 pandemic as it moves to an endemic. We continue to watch our local community levels and follow the NYSDOH and OCFS in order to make changes safely for children and staff.



## School Readiness

The term school readiness per the Office of Head Start (OHS) refers to the skills, behaviors, and concepts that children need to be successful in school.

OHS has outlined research-based birth to five years of age milestones for readiness in their Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF). Our program implements the child outcomes assessment tool, Teaching Strategies GOLD, to measure our enrolled children's progress toward reaching these milestones. The chart below reflects our Spring 2022 Teaching Strategies GOLD aggregate assessment of children's skills and knowledge in essential ELOF school readiness domains. These results indicate that the majority of children's skills and knowledge assessments were in the meeting or exceeding expectations ranges in all domains. The aggregate results also showed the percentages of children's skills meeting or exceeding expectations increased in all domains from our Winter GOLD to our Spring GOLD assessment periods. In comparing Spring 2021 aggregate results to Spring 2022 data, the percentages of children's skills meeting or exceeding expectations had slightly increased in all domains from one year to the next. It is hypothesized that one plausible explanation for some of the increase between the two years may have been due to COVID-19 pandemic having less of an impact on providing in-person learning in the 2021-2022 school year.

### Spring 2022 Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment Results

Developmental Domain	Percentages 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 2022 summer program provided an opportunity for several of our children to receive additional learning experiences in these domains. Focused attention was given to supporting the school readiness of our children transitioning to kindergarten and to supporting children with IEPs (Individualized Educational Plans).

The Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) require programs to implement a research-based, coordinated coaching strategy for education staff. The goal is to support staff as they implement effective teaching and home visiting practices that lead to positive outcomes for children. To meet this HSPPS standard, our program has chosen the Practice Based Coaching (PBC) model. Four child development coaches and our home-based supervisor have been trained in the PBC model. PBC occurs within the context of a collaborative process between a coach and a teacher or home-based visitor. Cyclical in nature, PBC has the following components:

1. Planning goals and action steps
2. Engaging in focused observation
3. Reflecting on and sharing feedback about teaching and home visiting practices.

Sixteen education staff and home-based visitors received this intensive coaching through our PBC program during 2021-2022. Staff not receiving intensive coaching through the PBC model received the benefit of other professional development training opportunities and technical assistance. In May 2022, the Child Development Coaches surveyed education and home-based visitor staff for their feedback on topics they would like more information on to enhance their professional development. Based on the results of this survey, several topics for our August 2022 pre-service training days have been identified and trainings have been planned to address them. Additional trainings will be offered throughout the new school year.



## Nutrition Initiatives

Throughout 2021-2022, PEACE INC Nutrition Staff focused on best practices, policies and procedures in provision of food services that meet or exceed nutrition requirements for all EHS/HS program participants, including special diets for individuals with a food allergy, intolerance, medical condition, developmental challenge or cultural preference to implement NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) regulations and Elijah's Law to prevent and treat potential life threatening food reactions. Ongoing staff education, training and testing through Belay Foundation and OCFS support our effort to keep children safe. OCFS has videoed our special diet management methods for teaching other programs.



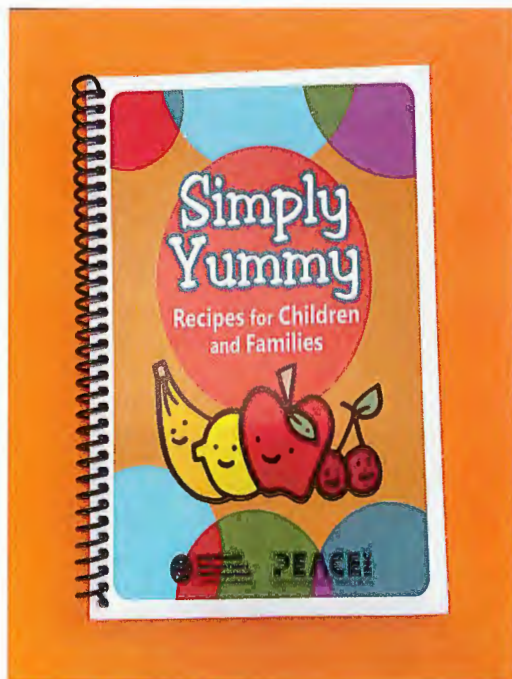
Nutrition staff collaborated with Syracuse University (SU) Department of Nutrition and Food Studies faculty to provide dietetic intern opportunities and to engage in nutrition related projects to explore variables that may impact our population food habits and access to community food resources. The Nutrition Coordinator also serves on the SU advisory board.

We also supported our Transition Coordinator in a program ZOOM project to assist parents in their child's transition to a school cafeteria where children may be challenged with opening their food packages or adjusting to self-managing meals.



**ongovhealth**  
**Onondaga County**  
**Health Department**  
ongov.net/health · facebook.com/ongovhealth

We continued to partner with Onondaga County Health Department (OCHD) to deliver a School-To-Home Head Start Gardening Cookbook for teachers and parents to use in creating and sharing family recipes. Over this past year, parents and children engaged in ZOOM shows to share their family food ideas and culinary experiences.



We will continue to dedicate our time to best practice management of systems to protect and enhance the safety and well-being of our program population.

# The Children

## remain our highest priority





## Dedication

### Joseph E. O'Hara

On 21 June 2022, former colleagues, friends, and families joined Joseph "Joe" E. O'Hara at Merrick Head Start to dedicate a tree in his honor. From 2001 to 2021, Joe served as PEACE, Inc.'s Executive Director.

He left a profound legacy of program expansion, service innovation, and community responsiveness. Joe was especially proud of the agency's stewardship of its many federal, state, and philanthropic funds.

At the dedication, PEACE, Inc. Board of Directors President David A. Scharoun shared, "If not for Joe, PEACE, Inc. would not be the place it is today... We certainly couldn't have done it without you, and you have left your mark on the organization."

In describing Joe's selfless attitude and its effect on the community, current PEACE, Inc. Executive Director Carolyn D. Brown shared the thoughts of Nelson Henderson, "The true meaning of life is to plant a tree under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

A modest man, Joe passionately combated poverty and sought to help individuals and families escape it. These values defined his work prior to PEACE, Inc. at Onondaga County's Social Services and Probation Departments, the New York State Fair as its Director, and Catholic Charities of Central New York. Joe also served as a Common Councilor for the City of Syracuse and participated in countless coalitions, including the Education and Human Development Committee of the City of Syracuse, the Providence College Board of Governors, and the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

In honor of Joe, a plaque lies below the tree that reads, PEACE, Inc. plants this tree to honor Joseph "Joe" E. O'Hara for his 20 years leadership as the agency's Executive Director and lifelong commitment toward improving the lives of all Syracuse and Central New York residents.



### PEACE, Inc. mourned the passing of a beloved colleague, mentor, and friend, Leah Paige.

Her unexpected passing on July 17, 2022 was sudden and shocking. An employee of PEACE, Inc. since April 1995, Ms. Leah was preparing meals for the children of Head Start / Early Head Start as the Head Cook of the Merrick Head Start Site.

Her friends and family, agency staff, and former Head Start youth and their families shared stories of a loved woman that mixed sadness and respect. Ms. Leah's legacy was great. She will be remembered as a model employee; a woman who worked hard and showed dedication and commitment to her job. She'll also be remembered for her outgoing personality, her infectious laughter, and her ability to raise one's spirits through her warm smile.





# Our Head Start Family



PEACE, Inc.  
Head Start / Early Head Start  
Administrative Office  
217 South Salina Street, 2nd Floor  
Syracuse, New York 13202  
(315) 470-3300  
[www.peace-caa.org](http://www.peace-caa.org)

