



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

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News from: **Department of Human Services**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 31, 2011

**Oakland Head Start Turns 40!**

Media Event – Friday, June 3, 2011, 11:30-12:00 p.m.

**Oakland Head Start, among the country's oldest and most successful  
Federally funded programs has served children for forty years**

**Oakland, CA** – In a time of financial cut backs and reductions, Oakland Head Start is going strong even after four decades. Each of the 1,374 children served annually learn, explore and develop at their own pace. Parents, staff and volunteers work to develop and implement curricula to serve each child.

A media and special family event, appreciating parents, entertaining children and celebrating 40 years of success will be held from **11 am-3:00pm on Friday, June 3, 2011 at Dimond Park, 3860 Hanly Road, Oakland CA.** The event features: train rides, arts and crafts provided by MOCHA, Bookie the Clown, singer/songwriter Asheeba, and Story Telling by Dimond Branch Librarian.

With \$16 million annually, Head Start's comprehensive child development program fosters social skills and school readiness in children (three to five years old) from low-income families. The City of Oakland administers the Oakland Head Start program via the Department of Human Services. Children with disabilities are integrated into Head Start's program and a variety of learning experiences cultivate intellectual, social and emotional growth. Parents and family members are supported by opportunities to be involved with Head Start activities.

"Head Start is a federally funded program that delivers," says Krishen Laetsch, Chair of the Oakland Head Start Advisory Board. For 40 years it has made a positive difference in the lives of children and their families. As the school year comes to a close, Oakland's Head Start preschool participants will be ready for Kindergarten. We are thrilled to be entering our 41<sup>st</sup> year."

To learn more about Head Start, call (510) 238-3165. Visit the website:

<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/DHS/o/ChildrenYouthServices/OAK022077> or  
the 2009/10 Annual Report at  
<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/oakca/groups/dhs/documents/marketingmaterial/oak025493.pdf>

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