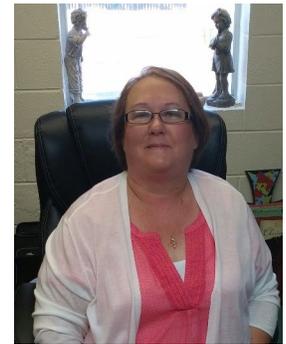




April-June 2015

## MEET OUR NEW HS/EHS DIRECTOR: TERRIE VICKNAIR

Crossroads Youth & Family Services is pleased to announce the appointment of our new Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director, Terrie Vicknair. Ms. Vicknair accepted the position on a provisional basis in April and was officially approved by the Office of Head Start in May.



Terrie Vicknair has a wealth of experience with the Head Start program. For twenty-two years, Terrie has held several roles within the program, including Assistant Teacher, Head Start Teacher, Area Supervisor and, most recently Education Coordinator for Crossroads Youth & Family Services. During her tenure, Ms. Vicknair has also served as a trainer for the Head Start curriculum, High Scope. She has an Early Childhood Education degree from Northeastern State University and understands the benefits of the Head Start program on a personal level: at one time, Ms. Vicknair's own children were enrolled in a Head Start center.

Ms. Vicknair is absolutely thrilled about this opportunity and is looking forward to maintaining the standard of excellence for which the Head Start program has been known. When asked about her future plans, Ms. Vicknair wrote: "This is my hope and prayer as I start my journey as Program Director: that through my actions, I will inspire others to continue our progress towards closing the achievement gap for children and families, helping children get ready to start kindergarten and become an amazing program."

Executive Director Lisa Winters is excited about this announcement as well: "Terrie is a wonderful example of never giving up, but instead fervently pursuing your dreams. I believe Terrie will be our Head Start/Early Head Start Director for years to come. She will bring stability and professional leadership to our program. I look forward to working closely with her."

Congratulations, Terrie! May your journey continually inspire students, families and communities!



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Are you a Head Start Graduate?

Do you have memories of learning, laughing and making great friends?

Are you willing to speak about your experiences in front of 300 enthusiastic staff members?

If you answered yes to these questions, we would like to invite you to participate in our Annual All-Staff Summit, which will be held on Monday, August 3 at Journey Church in Norman. We are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Head Start and we would like to hear from those who remember the positive impact Head Start made on their lives. If interested, please e-mail [Kayla Woodberry](mailto:Kayla.Woodberry@crossroadsyouth.org) or call (405) 292-6440 ext. 315.

## MAKING CONNECTIONS: WHITNEY PEACH



"Being a role model is who I am supposed to be."

Whitney Peach,  
Youth Specialist

If asked, Whitney Peach would tell you that volunteering with Crossroads Youth & Family Services gave her an opportunity to meet new people, provide emotional support and make a difference in the lives of those who need it most. Whitney also received an additional benefit: full-time employment.

Whitney started as a volunteer at the Emergency Youth Shelter in January; from the beginning, she thoroughly enjoyed being with the children. As a college student juggling several jobs, she still found time to go bowling with the children on Saturdays or drop off goodies on a Friday afternoon. The children bonded with her as well—they would ask

the shelter staff when Whitney was scheduled to return.

Eventually, one of the shelter employees moved on to another position, leaving a vacancy. Without hesitation, Whitney applied and was immediately hired. When asked about her new job, Whitney made it clear that her purpose is more than just a paycheck:

*I have always felt that the opportunity to feel valued gives even the most broken child the ability to persevere. Being a role model and example for these children is who I am supposed to be. This is the most rewarding position I've ever had. I LOVE my job!*

This story is not unique; in fact, a recent study by the

Corporation for National and Community Service shows that 27 percent of volunteers are more likely to find a new job than those who do not volunteer.

If you are interested in having a good time and possibly landing a new job, volunteer with us today! For more information, please e-mail [Kayla Woodberry](mailto:Kayla.Woodberry@crossroadsyouth.org), Volunteer Coordinator.



From left to right: Charlotte Perkins, Debbie Cornelius, Donna Benson, Lisa Winters, and Board members Gerald Murray (chair) and Wendy Swatek.

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF HEAD START!

A Crossroads' delegation of staff and board members recently attended the 42nd Annual Head Start Association Conference and Expo in Washington, D.C., celebrating "50 Years of Opportunity," which refers to the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Head Start.

According to **Lisa Winters** (Executive Director), it was an inspiring and uplifting event with speeches by many alumnae of Head Start who have risen to positions of great importance including the President of the NAACP and the President of the Ford Foundation. They also

heard from the man who was instrumental in setting up Head Start 50 years ago.

We look forward to more celebrations as we acknowledge five decades of this great program. Thank you for representing Crossroads Youth & Family Services!

### WORKING AT THE (YOUTH SERVICES) CAR WASH!

On Easter weekend, the Youth Services staff—and a few able-bodied volunteers—met at the Main Street office to host a car wash for the Emergency Youth Shelter.

For more than three hours, everyone kept a smile on their faces and played their part. Some kept a watchful eye on the lockbox; some stood out on the sidewalk and ushered patrons into the parking lot. Some volunteers scraped road trip residue from bumpers while others washed windows until they sparkled.

Of course, everyone sang “Car Wash” at least once.

Because of everyone’s hard work, the car wash raised an *astounding* \$412.10!

This would not have been possible without the Car Wash Crew:

#### Counseling Services

- Terran Manning
- Christabel Suthers
- Mary Lynn Willard
- Jennifer Foster
- Ashley Muns
- Madonna Fox
- Mandy Thompson (Intern)

#### Shelter

- Ursula Walker
- Brenda Bribiesca
- Chauncey Murch
- Esther Lee (Shelter Volunteer)

#### Main Street

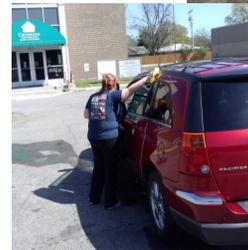
- Mike Templeton
- Kayla Woodberry

All proceeds from this event will help defray the costs of summer outings for the children at our Emergency Youth Shelter.

Plans are underway for another car wash, but you don’t have to wait until then to make a donation! If you would like to contribute, please visit the Donation page on our [website](#) or mail contributions to:

Crossroads Youth & Family Services  
1333 W. Main Street  
Norman, OK 73069

Thank you for your continued support!



Margaret Alderson, giving her farewell speech at the HS/EHS End of the Year Conference.

### IN APPRECIATION OF MS. MARGARET

After 36 years of dedicated service to the Head Start program, Margaret Alderson recently made the decision to retire at the end of the school year.

Ms. Margaret has had a significant impact on the children and staff at Union Street and she has been an inspiration to all of us here at Crossroads. In her remarks at the Head Start/Early Head Start End of the Year Conference, Ms. Margaret reminded us to always show kindness and love to the children; because in this world, they are the ones who need it most.

One might surmise that Ms. Margaret is going to take some time to relax—and you are probably right. However, Ms. Margaret also told us that she would be back at her beloved center next year in a slightly different capacity: she is now ready to volunteer, reading books and sharing memories with even more generations to come.

Ms. Margaret, thank you for everything you have done for Crossroads Youth & Family Services. We are grateful for your commitment and we wish you the very best in all your future endeavors!

## Parental Gratitude: Thank You Notes From Head Start Parents

*Thank you for taking such great care of my son and thank you so much for all you do for the kids! The whole center goes above and beyond! I couldn't ask for a better experience with Head Start. We will miss all of you next year!*

*Thank you so very much for all that you have done to teach, love and foster an atmosphere of learning for my children. I appreciate our mom talks and friendship! You all have forever left a mark on all of us! We love you!*

***Teachers write on the heart of their students things the world will never erase!***

*I would like to thank each one of you for the difference you have made in my child's life. You not only helped her grow in knowledge, but you also helped her to develop physically and emotionally. You are truly the unsung heroes in a child's life. I could never tell you how much I appreciate you.*

*Thank you for everything.*

*Head Start has helped my son learn and develop great skills. I have nothing but positive thoughts about this Head Start center. The teacher has been great working with my son on his speech delay. He has learned a lot. I have lots of gratitude for all the teachers do for my son. When my son is at school, I know he is safe, happy and well cared for. You all are dedicated professionals. The teachers provided support and understanding, sometimes beyond their call of duty. It was also easy to talk to the Center Director as well as the teachers. They are wonderful with my son and me.*

*I am always thankful.*

*Thank you doesn't cover the last year and a half you have spent with my children! You have always gone above and beyond to make sure all of their needs were being met. Even when I had surgery and was away from home unexpectedly, you made sure they were loved just the same as if mommy was home. You helped fill in the gaps when they needed you and when I was away!*

*All of you were my fellow "mom shoulders" to cry on when my husband went on a trip and I couldn't see him off. The list could go on forever! I will cherish our friendship always and what you all mean to my children. I don't really even have words! You all are gifted and called according to God's ultimate plan and purpose for your life, teaching! Thank you for nurturing my loves and for loving them as your own.*

THANK YOU



## *In Memoriam*

Crossroads Youth & Family Services would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to David and Ann Swank for their recent contribution in honor of Michael Johnson, Esq., an attorney with the Johnson Law Firm, and our deepest sympathies to Mr. Johnson's family.