



head start

Grace Hill Settlement House is a grantee of the Head Start program, serving 3–5-year-old children and their families in St. Louis City. This comprehensive school readiness program is recognized as one of the most cost-effective and successful programs in the nation for children.

We believe that the parent is the child's first educator and together we guide and nurture the child. We place a special focus on academics, social and emotional development, health, and family support. This federally funded program provides education, support, and leadership opportunities for many of St. Louis' most vulnerable families.

1,730

2014–2015
total cumulative
enrollment
of children

policy council

Executive Officers

Kendra Schneider, Chair
 Rosetta Jackson, Vice Chair
 Jennifer Crowder, Secretary
 Cassandra Woolfork, Treasurer
 Leslie Evans, Parliamentarian

Parent Representatives

Monzel Brooks
 Anastesia Ashley
 Jasmine Brown
 Ricky Cooper
 Mary Ivy
 Aundrea Wooldridge
 Nakia Benford
 Faye Combs

Community Representatives

Kimberly Brasher
 Rebecca Glenn
 Dorothy Martin

Our attendance achievements during the 2014/2015 program year include:

1,577

families received Head Start services

class observations

The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 requires that all grantees conduct classroom assessments. These observations must be conducted with a valid and reliable research-based instrument that assesses classroom quality, including an assessment of multiple dimensions of teacher-child interactions that are linked to positive child outcomes and later achievement. Grace Hill contracts with a CLASS qualified consultant to conduct observations in classrooms. The following chart shows the scores for 2014 and 2015. For all three domains, the “standard of excellence” is a 6. The minimum threshold is 4 for Emotional Support, 3 for Classroom Organization, and 2 for Instructional Support. The aggregate scores for Grace Hill exceed the national average in all domain areas.

Domain	National Grantees	Grace Hill 2014	Grace Hill 2015	Lowest 10%
Emotional Support	6.10	6.13	6.60	5.7
Classroom Organization	5.84	5.61	5.93	5.4
Instructional Support	2.90	3.90	3.96	2.2

2015 FINANCIAL REPORT*

Governmental Grants	\$ 8,702,496
Public Support & Contributions	\$ 108,234
Total Income	\$ 8,810,730
Personnel Costs	\$ 2,979,012
Program Expenses	\$ 4,777,170
Indirect Allocation	\$ 1,054,548
Total Costs	\$ 8,810,730

*unaudited

Note: This data is presented in a Modified Accrual Basis of Accounting.

healthy children

In order for children to be fully prepared to learn, children need to be physically healthy. Through referrals and resources provided by Head Start staff, 99% of children received physical exams, 92% received dental exams, and 93% were up-to-date on immunizations.

Total In-Kind Contributions:

\$5,496,559

In order to operate, the Head Start program is required to generate 20% of its annual funding from non-federal in-kind contributions. In-kind is an allowable donation of materials, space, services, and/or time that a Head Start program needs to deliver the full range of Head Start services.

985 parents **25,657** hours
 volunteered for

Parent Involvement: There are many ways for parents to be involved in the Head Start program. We offer parent meetings, classroom activities, Policy Council, field trips, and activities to do at home to extend the classroom learning.

99%

Percentage of slots filled each month

93%

of children served were income eligible (living at/below the poverty level)

kindergarten readiness

Early childhood professionals, parents, and stakeholders selected the following school readiness goals as part of a national initiative to measure the impact of Head Start on preparing children for kindergarten. Parents were taught specific activities they can perform with their child that will support progress toward these school readiness goals.

Targets

Physical Health, Well-Being and Motor Development

90% of children will demonstrate the ability to manage their own personal needs, such as toileting, washing/drying hands and using eating utensils.

85% of children will demonstrate the ability to use a variety of writing tools and materials.

Cognitive and General Knowledge

80% of children will demonstrate the ability to count to 10.

80% of children will identify and name some shapes.

75% of children will gather information, evaluate and experiment to problem solve.

Language and Literacy Knowledge and Skills

85% of children will name six or more letters.

85% of children will use language to pretend, participate in conversations and ask questions.

Approaches to Learning

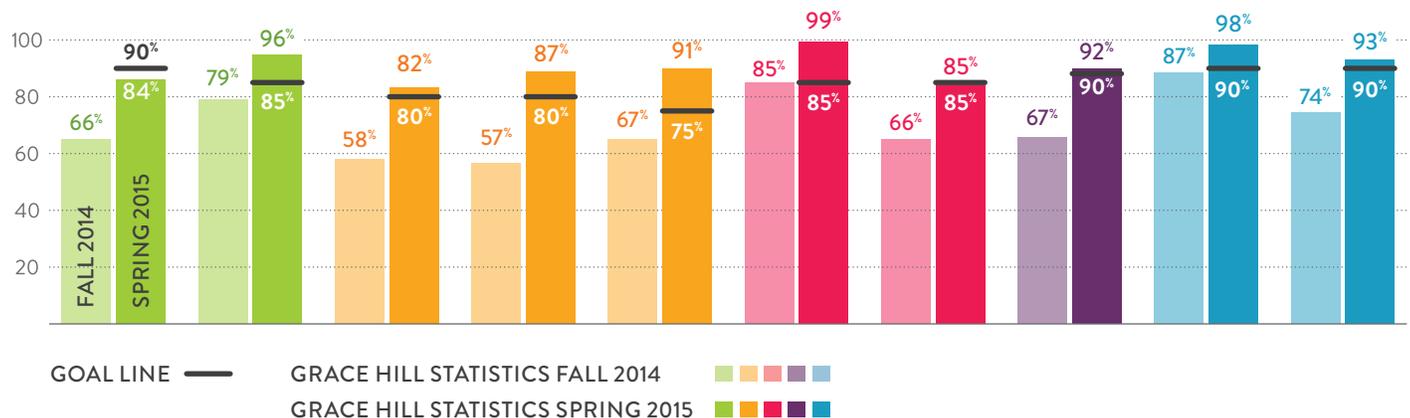
90% of children will participate successfully in a group.

Social and Emotional Development

90% of children will express feelings, needs, and ideas appropriately through interactions, play, and routines.

90% of children will follow simple rules and express feelings through appropriate gestures and language.

Results



an Upward Journey

Rhonda Holmes keeps it positive as she guides her family and community's future

You can find Rhonda Holmes every day at the front desk of Grace Hill's Water Tower Hub, warmly greeting each visitor who walks in the door. She directs them down the hall to banking services at St. Louis Community Credit Union, job training at Connections to Success, upstairs to Head Start, or across the street to Affinia Healthcare. Rhonda is the perfect person to help guests find their way — she's engaged all of these services herself on the path to a better life.

"My involvement with Grace Hill has been an upward journey," Rhonda said. "I took advantage of the resources they offered to get back on my feet."

Five years ago, Rhonda owned her own hair styling business and a home in North St. Louis City. After the best news of her life — she was pregnant with her now 5-year-old daughter Peyton — she found herself at her lowest point. Medical barriers and bills from the pregnancy caused her to lose her home and her business. Savings disappeared.

Rhonda found herself with a newborn and on the edge of homelessness.

"I was in a very desolate place, mentally, trying to figure out the next step to take."

Rhonda held her head high and kept pushing forward. A few years ago, she enrolled Peyton in Grace Hill Head Start and became an active volunteer, even becoming Vice President of the Policy Council. She found an apartment in Grace Hill's housing around the corner from the Water Tower Hub, her first stable home in a long time. She took financial empowerment classes, joined health and wellness programs, and became a central part of the College Hill community.

Rhonda describes reconnecting to a next-door neighbor, who went to school with Rhonda when they were kids, as well as some of the challenges they face in "keeping it positive" as the community rebuilds. She would love a playground in the neighborhood and a better way to tackle the surrounding problems of drugs and vacant buildings.

"St. Louis can be a better place for me and my family by really listening to the community on the issues that are going on," Rhonda said. "We need to stop sweeping issues under the rug as if they are going to go away on their own, because they're not."

Rhonda is committed to using her voice to help move St. Louis forward, particularly when it affects Peyton — who is now a kindergartner at Bryan Hill Elementary School, a five minute walk from Rhonda's home. Peyton is her top priority, though Rhonda's starting to think about her own next steps, even reinvigorating her interest in entrepreneurship and working with Grace Hill's Women's Business Center.

"I see myself furthering my quest to help others, and possibly becoming a business owner again," Rhonda said. "I'm passionate about working with children and reaching out to those that may have been in a similar situation as I was."

Rhonda would love to open a hair salon for young girls, creating a positive place to help those who have self-esteem issues. Her work with Grace Hill has also sparked an interest in early childhood education. For now, however, Rhonda loves helping others at the front desk — making connections with people who encounter Grace Hill and assuring them that there's a path forward.



Rhonda and her daughter, Peyton.