



Children First Disabilities Coordinator Selected as State Association Achievement Award Recipient

For Immediate Release

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TALLAHASSEE, FL – September 5, 2023 – The Florida Head Start Association (FHSA) has selected Ms. Jane Shaw to receive this year's Achievement Award, which is bestowed upon a Head Start/Early Head Start program's Disabilities Services Coordinator for their incomparable work guaranteeing the delivery of services to children with disabilities all while empowering parents in their role as advocates for their children. This year's recipient is passionate about creating environments to ensure children continue to thrive regardless of their circumstances.

Ms. Jane Shaw has worked with Children First, Inc. for over nine years, serving children with disabilities and providing them with high-quality programming that supports them developmentally, culturally, and linguistically. She holds two Bachelor of Arts degrees in Elementary Education and Teaching and Speech Science and Elementary Education. She also has her Master of Science in Speech and Language Pathology with a minor in Audiology from the University of Rhode Island, where she practiced Speech/Language Pathology for over 40 years.

Ms. Shaw has been instrumental in connecting Children First with community partners to provide needed therapeutic services to the 1,059 individuals Children First serves daily year-round at their 13 campuses across Sarasota County. Diane Cummings, Child Find Specialist with The School Board of Sarasota County, said, "She has stepped up and forged numerous community partnerships to provide therapies, services, training, and so much more. Ms. Shaw will always find a way to get it done! She is dedicated and compassionate and able to listen responsively and be a team player, which contributes to the respect she is granted by those who work with her. I greatly admire that she can accomplish this with what seems like minimal effort."

The Head Start Grantee Recipient selects nominees and is evaluated by a panel of peers and chosen by the FHSA awards committee. Recipients will be honored during the FHSA annual awards luncheon at the Westin Cape Coral Resort at Marina Village in Cape Coral, Florida, on October 27. Complete details are available on our website, www.FLHeadStart.org.

About FHSA

The Florida Head Start Association is a nonprofit organization working on behalf of the 42,014 children and families in Florida. Head Start is an innovative federal-to-local program delivering services from school readiness, comprehensive health, and family support services. The Head Start Program Performance Standards drive programs to strengthen and improve the quality to ensure that all children start school ready to succeed. FHSA has been the voice for Florida's most vulnerable children and families since 1999 and is committed to enhancing and supporting the capability of local Head Start programs in the delivery of high-quality services for our children and families.

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