



The Florida Head Start Association Names PNC Financial Services Corporate Award Recipient

For Immediate Release
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TALLAHASSEE, FL – September 5, 2023– The Florida Head Start Association (FHSA) is proud to announce that PNC Financial Services is this year's Corporate Award recipient. PNC Financial Services has been a fantastic partner to many Head Start and other early childhood programs nationwide. Luthern Services of Florida (LSF) Duval Head Start and Early Head Start program nominated them to receive this recognition for their Grow Up Great initiative and advocacy efforts leveraging their strength with business, policymakers, and other stakeholders to advance the Head Start voice in early childhood education.

In 2004, PNC Launched Grow Up Great, a \$500 million multi-year, bilingual initiative in which they leverage powerful partnerships at the local and national levels to develop resources that encourage children to discover, learn, and grow. Maria McNair, Director of LSF Duval, stated that what she appreciates most about PNC is their approach to making needed financial resources and workforce mobilization through volunteer opportunities impacting their community. The PNC staff volunteered to help on cleaning days as preparations for the start of a new school year, read to children, served staff breakfast, and trained them on Budget Planning during a Staff Wellness Day. PNC also provided grant funding to purchase SEEDS Reading Curriculum, designed to help improve literacy and language skills for young learners needing additional support, as well as acquired and installed an age-appropriate playground to promote outdoor learning. They have also been active in hosting school supply drives to help secure needed materials for their Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms.

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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