

Press Release



THE BUFFORD FAMILY FOUNDATION DONATES \$5,000 FOR NORTH-CENTRAL KENTUCKY OVEC HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START CHILDREN.

The donation will be used to supply coats for families in need this winter season.

Shelbyville, KY (November 21, 2023) - The Bufford Family Foundation generously gifted a total of \$5,000 to the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC) Head Start program. Their gift will help to provide coats to children in the Head Start/Early Head Start program.

Every year, the Head Start program aims to give coats and other seasonal items to enrolled students whose families cannot provide these items. This initiative helps to contribute to the program's mission to support children's growth from birth to age 5 through services centered around early learning and development, health, and family well-being. The Bufford Family Foundation's donation has significantly lessened the need for coats this year.

The donation aligns with the Bufford Family Foundation's mission – Helping Others is Always the Right Thing To Do.

"The need was a bit higher than expected this year, so we are incredibly thankful to the Bufford Family Foundation for stepping in to help. Their generous gift will help provide coats, hats, and gloves for 200 children in need. What a blessing this has been to our Head Start community!" said Erika Nygard, Director of OVEC Head Start.

All families with enrolled children in the program qualify based upon needs such as having household income at or below the federal poverty guidelines or participating in programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Security Income, or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program public assistance services. Other eligible participants include children who are in the foster care system or experiencing homelessness.

The Bufford Family Foundation Founder, Susan Bufford says, "We appreciate the amazing work OVEC does for early childhood education. We are honored to help them donate

coats to Head Start attendees. It is a great way to support the investments OVEC is making in the future for the children and their families served."

OVEC is currently serving 670 children and families at multiple Head Start/Early Head Start sites in a ten-county region in North Central Kentucky. Support from the Office of Head Start meets 80% of the funding needs for the program. Contributions from supporters like the Bufford Family Foundation help meet the remaining funding needs.

"When the weather gets colder, a coat makes a child's entire day better and safer. Whether they are waiting for a bus or playing on the playground, every child deserves to be warm," said Jason Adkins, OVEC's Chief Executive Officer.

Contributions to the OVEC's nonprofit entity, the Ohio Valley Educational Foundation, will extend the impact of the Bufford Family Foundation's gift and provide coats for additional Head Start children. To learn more and support this cause visit <https://www.ovec.org/ovef>.