



The Florida Head Start Association Announces Jacksonville Parent as State Award Recipient

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Wanda Minick, Executive Director
(850) 694-6477
Wanda@FLHeadStart.org

TALLAHASSEE, FL – September 11, 2019 – Sharlene Singleton, a Head Start parent with Episcopal Children's Services in Jacksonville, FL has been selected as the Florida Head Start Association's (FHSA) Beating the Odds award recipient for her ability to overcome significant challenges on a journey to self-sufficiency.

"Sharlene's commitment to self-sufficiency is best demonstrated by her tremendous courage and determination to overcome obstacles and hardships faced by a young mother with two children finding herself in an abusive relationship. Sharlene is a woman of great courage and determined not to be a statistic. She left the abusive relationship to make a life for her children and herself," said Susan Hannan, Family Advocate, Episcopal Children's Services.

Ms. Singleton is a single parent of a twelve-year-old daughter and a three-year-old son and has been a Head Start Parent for three years. During this time, Ms. Singleton has been one of the most active volunteers serving as Policy Council President and devoting 441.5 hours of service. She was selected by the agency to represent Head Start Parents during a trip to Washington D.C. While in Washington, D.C. Ms. Singleton informed Congressional members about the benefits of Head Start and the services provided to her and her family so they could begin a better life. Ms. Singleton is presently attending college to obtain her bachelor's degree in religious studies and taking courses to become certified in childcare. She enjoys tutoring the neighborhood children and is a firm believer that education is a gateway to a better life.

The Head Start Grantee selects nominees, reviewed by a panel of peers and chosen by the FHSA awards committee. Recipients will be honored during the FHSA annual awards luncheon in Daytona Beach, FL. Full details about the event can be found at www.FLHeadStart.org.

The Florida Head Start Association is a nonprofit organization working on behalf of the 43,000 children and families Head Start Programs serve in Florida. 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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Florida Head Start Association
111 N. Gadsden Street, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32301
www.FLHeadStart.org