



## Orange County Head Start Father Named Florida Head Start Association Father of the Year

For Immediate Release

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**TALLAHASSEE, FL – September 5, 2023** –The Florida Head Start Association (FHSA) has selected Mr. Darnellion Brown from Orlando as this year's Father of the Year recipient. While Mr. Brown has only been a parent at the Callahan Head Start program for one year, he has significantly contributed by serving as the Policy Council Vice-Chair, volunteering over 50 hours, as well as Fatherhood Chair and Facilitator for their 24/7 Dad@ program.

Having been raised by a single mother with eight kids, Mr. Brown understands the value of fathers to a child's well-being. That's why he made it a mission to be part of the 24/7 Dad@ program. This unique program was designed by the National Fatherhood Initiative to equip fathers with self-awareness, self-caring, and relationship skill-building exercises that ultimately enhance the connection with their children and families. This training has uplifted Mr. Brown's self-esteem, serving as a role model to other fathers, becoming a leader and an advocate, and being the first teacher in his child's life. He has led weekly sessions and has successfully supported eight fathers through this program with the assistance of Dwayne Horne, Orange County Head Start Senior Family Service Worker.

His strong work ethic lends itself to being seen around the center, helping out where needed, and providing solutions to improve the program for all children and families. Darnellion said, "he finds joy in helping people and inspiring kids to be great and strives to be better than yesterday."

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](http://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 program*

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