

REGION VI HEAD  
START  
ASSOCIATION  
VOLUNTEER OF  
THE YEAR

REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION  
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

AWARD

Each state's nominee will receive a plaque and a one hundred dollar gift certificate/check.

QUALIFICATIONS

Head Start parents traditionally have been Head Start's major volunteer resource. Over the past 10 years, however, an increasing number of Head Start parents have been returning to school or taking entry-level employment, which has resulted in a decline in parent time for volunteering. Many Head Start programs have had to increase their recruitment efforts for volunteers in the larger community. This activity has gone hand-in-hand with the need to promote wider recognition and a positive image of Head Start. Volunteer services have long range impact on the Head Start Program, the child, and family and the volunteer. The immediate impact of a wellplanned volunteer effort is seen in increased services to children in each section of Head Start.

Community Volunteers provide benefits to Head Start not only through the provision and expansion of services and training. They often serve as positive role models and mentors for parents who wish to improve their parenting skills, attain an educational diploma or degree, or develop career goals. For many parents, serving as a Head Start volunteer is their first formal work experience. It can be the first step on a career ladder. For this reason, Head Start provides training and support systems for parent volunteers. This is one way that the program helps families become self-sufficient, enabling them to move out of poverty.

Head Start parent volunteers who assume leadership positions acknowledge their partnership in operating the program. With this partnership comes ownership and pride extending to the larger community. Likewise, senior citizens, health professionals, nutrition consultants, students, and community leaders feel ownership and responsibility for a program in which their special skills are well utilized, valued, and recognized. These individuals, in turn, communicate a positive program image to the community as a whole, affirming the quality of the program and its benefits to children and their families. This high impact public relations strategy increases community support of and interest in the program.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

CHECKLIST/RATING CRITERIA	MAX. POINTS	TOTAL
_____1. One year or beyond involvement in Head Start	10	_____
_____2. High school diploma/or beyond high school	5	_____
_____3. Three reference letters: program, personal, community	10	_____
_____4. Community Involvement	30	_____
_____5. Impact of your volunteer service upon Head Start Program	45	_____

Total Points

100

\_\_\_\_\_

All information must be typed. Please include Region VI Head Start Association Certification Form(Page 23).

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APPLICATION (PLEASE TYPE)

NAME OF APPLICANT:

\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP CODE:

\_\_\_\_\_

HOME TELEPHONE NO:

BUSINESS TELEPHONE NO:

\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH:

SOCIAL SECURITY NO:

\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL:

\_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

\_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF LOCAL HEAD START PROGRAM ASSOCIATED WITH:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF HEAD START DIRECTOR:

\_\_\_\_\_

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HIGHEST GRADE/LEVEL COMPLETED:

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SCHOOL/COLLEGE:

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NUMBER IN FAMILY:

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SIGNATURE:

DATE:

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PLEASE DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING AND DISCUSS HOW THESE QUALITIES IMPACT ON YOUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE SERVICE:

1. YEARS ASSOCIATED WITH HEAD START: WHAT YEAR DID YOU START? WHAT POSITIONS HAVE YOU HELD, ETC. (LOCAL CENTER COMMITTEE OFFICER, POLICY COUNCIL MEMBER/OFFICER, ETC.)
  
2. PRESENT EDUCATIONAL LEVEL AND YOUR PLANS TO FURTHER YOUR EDUCATION
  
3. TRAINING SESSIONS THAT YOU HAVE ATTENDED AND WHAT IMPACT TRAINING HAS HAD ON YOUR PERFORMANCE AS A HEAD START VOLUNTEER?

