

# USD Head Start



## Fall / Winter 2010



The University of South Dakota.

Greetings from USD Head Start! Each year our program publishes two newsletters that are distributed to our families and our community. Again, this year we would like to take the opportunity to highlight our program and our staff so that you know us a little better. The receipt of additional federal funding through an Early Head expansion grant has also allowed us to hire some new staff. In the following pages you'll find a brief profile of each of our employees and what role they play in our program. I am very proud of our staff-you'll see that we have a diverse mix of new and veteran employees, and a wide variety of job roles and responsibilities. In addition, I am very proud to say that 15 of our staff are former or current Head Start parents! Our program staff are knowledgeable, committed, caring, and dedicated, and they are what makes our program known in the state and the region as being very high quality.

Our program received the first Head Start grant in 1978 and at that time served 60 children in Elk Point and Vermillion. We have expanded since then and currently serve 170 Head Start children and 83 expectant women and children ages 0-3 in Early Head Start. We have center-based classrooms with the school districts in Beresford, Lennox Canton, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Harrisburg, Tea, Vermillion and Worthing. We offer Full Day/Full Year Head Start services and an Early Head Start combination center option in partnership with The Center for Children and Families childcare center in Vermillion and EHS combination center option in Tea. We offer home-based Early Head Start across all four counties and Head Start homebase services in Turner county and select portions of other counties where there are no centers. We have many community partnerships in place to support families and are looking forward to expanded partnership opportunities.

All families in our program participate in the Reading is Fundamental Program, which allows children to choose books for their home library and families to participate in literacy activities and program planning. Thank you for participating in the Twice Upon a Time Reading Challenge that took place in September. We also embed physical exercise, nutrition, and wellness in our program with the "I Am Moving, I Am Learning" approach. You'll be hearing more about those throughout the year.

Family involvement is a key component of our program, and I would like to thank the enrolled families for allowing us to be a part of your lives and allowing us to support you and your child's healthy growth and development. I hope there will be an opportunity for continued conversations on how we can better support male involvement in our program- keep reading this newsletter as a discussion time and date have already been scheduled to begin work on this.

We are looking forward to a great year!



*Head Start -  
Where Children Learn and Grow!*



# Directors, Fiscal, & Secretary



**Carmen Stewart**  
Director

I have worked for this program for 17 years. I became involved with Head Start during my teacher preparation courses at USD and then was hired as a classroom assistant. Over the years I moved into the positions of center-based teacher, education/disabilities coordinator, and assistant director, and this is my fifth year as the director of the program. My main duty is to ensure that our program provides high quality services that meet the needs of children and families following the Federal Head Start Performance Standards. I am married and live in Vermillion. I have three adult children (Sarah, John, and Pat), one grandson (Cameron), and a black Labrador dog (Gracie). In my spare time I enjoy attending auctions to find unique treasures. I have an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education with an Early Childhood endorsement, and I have a Master's Degree in Administrative Studies. I have taught elementary education coursework at the University of South Dakota. I currently serve as president of the South Dakota Head Start Association and get to hear all about the wonderful Head Start programs across the state. I love the Head Start program and feel very fortunate to work with the great employees who care about their work and all of the wonderful families we meet each year.



**Chris Girard**  
Assistant  
Director

I am starting my 5<sup>th</sup> year as Assistant Director for USD Head Start. I have been with the program for a total of 16 years, serving as the Accountant the previous 11 years. I graduated from USD in 1992 with a BS in Health Service Administration and received my MBA from USD in 2006. My primary responsibility is fiscal oversight for the program, which includes budgeting, monitoring expenses, and preparing financial reports. I have lots of other duties too numerous to mention, but mostly I assist Carmen, the director, in the oversight of the program and the services we provide for enrolled families. Even though we are a relatively small program in the state – we have a lot to manage and keep track of! I absolutely love my job! I get to work with dedicated, wonderful people every day, and I truly believe the work we do is so important. Who better to serve than our children, our future! I live in rural Vermillion with my husband, Mark, who farms. We have three children: Sami – age 16, Jenna – age 14, and Luke – age 10. Outside of work I keep very busy getting to all my kids' sporting events, serving on the Vermillion School Board, and riding my motorcycle.

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**Pam Ganschow**  
Senior Claims Clerk

I am in my 3rd year working with USD Head Start. My main duties include preparing payment vouchers and processing purchase order requisitions. Other job duties include answering the phone, processing staff/parent reimbursements, receiving purchase orders/distribution of supplies to staff /centers, and entering data of Head Start/Early Head Start accounts to track fiscal spending of appropriated grant money. My favorite thing about my job is working with such dedicated people. There is a great support system in place, which is why I believe our program is so successful. Everyone is willing to give their all and help where and when needed. My husband (Doug) and I live on a farm by Wakonda. We have two children, Staci and Rob. Staci and husband, Daniel, have blessed us with three granddaughters: Abby 9, Molly 5, Keeley 3, and our first grandson, Nathan, who turned 1 last July. Rob and his fiancée, Meghan, blessed us with our second grandson, Boeden who is no 10 months old.

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**Diane Larson**  
Secretary

I am currently in my 1st year working with USD Head Start. My primary duty is answering the main phone line for our program. I am usually the one directing calls and taking messages for staff throughout our four-county service area. Other job duties include hiring and scheduling babysitters for meetings, maintaining maintenance schedules on our fleet vehicles, getting supplies for our office, center classrooms, and home base staff, updating our program web site, checking our department e-mail account, handling the mail, putting together our semiannual program newsletter, and of course trying to keep track of where our program staff is at any given time! My favorite thing about my job is working with such a great bunch of people. With such a diverse group of staff members there is rarely a dull moment around the office! I live on a farm outside of Beresford with my husband (Chuck), we have 2 children Amanda & Travis, both in college. Outside of work I enjoy camping, traveling, walking and love to read.

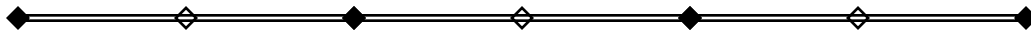
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# Education Staff



**Kathleen Nilson**  
Education/Disabilities  
Coordinator  
*Northern Areas*

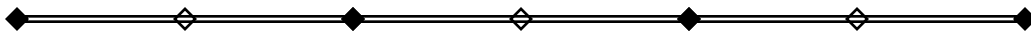
I have worked with Head Start for almost 19 years. I was a home base teacher for six years before I changed positions. As a coordinator I supervise the northern home visitors and the teachers and aides in our northern centers. I review lesson plans, Child Development Plans, and other paperwork, and observe in classrooms to be sure that we are meeting performance standards in our services to children. I ensure that developmental screens are completed for each child, review the results, and I make and track referrals when necessary. I also plan with the rest of the education team for the training needs of our education staff. My favorite part of Head Start is seeing how much children grow and develop while they are in Head Start. I particularly enjoy watching the children who started in Early Head Start as infants as they move through Head Start and go on to kindergarten. I live on a few acres in the country and enjoy gardening, camping, and nature. I have two grown children and two grandchildren. I grew up in the Philadelphia area and have lived in New York City, New Haven, and Dallas. I really appreciate the wide open spaces, variety of scenery, and peacefulness of South Dakota!



**Vanet Jensen**  
Education/Disabilities  
Coordinator  
*Southern Areas*

I have worked for the USD Head Start program for 23 years. I have worked as a bus driver, an aide, a home visitor, a center teacher, and now I'm an Education/Disability Coordinator. I monitor and administer developmental screenings, assist teachers and home visitors with educational activities, assessments, referrals, learning goals, and implementation of learning goals. I get to read their lesson plans and PALS plans, visit their classrooms, and I get to go to some home visits too. I make sure we have substitutes when needed or I am the substitute teacher/home visitor. I attend IFSP and IEP meetings. I assist with teacher, home visitor, and family trainings. I also provide guidance for the teachers, home visitors, and teaching assistants on Head Start Standards, Service Plans, and make sure our program's policies and procedures are understood and implemented. I love reading lesson plans. It is so much fun to read all the creative and thoughtful planning that teachers and home visitors put into their daily teaching. I enjoy administering screenings and assisting in the classrooms. But my favorite thing to do is to read stories to children and do literacy activities.

I'm a Reading Specialist and literacy is very important to me. I have been married for 40 years. We have 7 children (4 older children, 2 adopted, and one very special niece), 8 grandchildren, and 1 dog. We live in the country and enjoy vegetable gardening. I also enjoy wood restoration projects – my hands are often stained. My most frequented hobby is reading. I love to read (including research) and I'm constantly looking for something to read.



**Tammy Rusher**  
HS Teacher  
*Vermillion Austin Center*

They say change is always a good thing. For me the past year has been full of changes and they all seem to be good. During late spring last year I changed jobs within the Head Start program. I transitioned from being a teacher to being an Education Disabilities Coordinator. The new tasks and adventures this position has taken me on are wonderful. I am learning so much about our program and the different ways it touches so many people's lives. I miss the kids sometimes but I am lucky in that part of my duties is to substitute in the classroom sometimes or go observe. So I get to have my dose of children and enjoy every minute of it. The future with Head Start is very exciting and bright to me.

# Mental Health & Nutrition

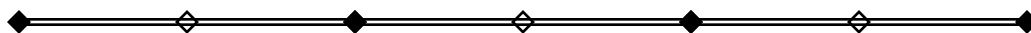


**Meghan Chapin**  
Mental Health Consultant

I am beginning my 1st year with USD Head Start. The majority of my time is spent visiting Head Start classrooms. I visit each classroom twice a school year. During the visit I make observations of the classroom, staff, and children to ensure the social and emotional needs of the children are being met and enhanced. Sometimes a staff member may ask me to observe a specific child who is exhibiting difficulties within the classroom in areas such as peer relationships and following directions. With parent permission I will observe the child and then make suggestions on changes that can be made within the classroom to help the child be more successful. Families within the home base program may request my assistance through the Home Visitor. I then contact the family to determine how to best meet their needs, whether through suggestions via the phone, a home visit with me, or a referral for counseling services. Additional duties include attending

PALS, facilitating referrals for mental health services, reviewing children's scores on social-emotional screening tools, and reviewing the scores of new mothers on postpartum screening tools. My favorite thing about my job is visiting families and classrooms.

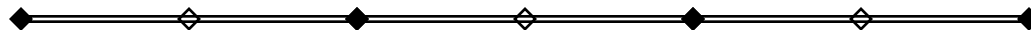
In my spare time you can usually find me studying. I am in the graduate program for School Psychology at USD. When I do find free time, I love to go to the movies, read for fun (no textbooks!) or visit my family.



**Janel Even**  
Education Assistant

This is my 8<sup>th</sup> year working for USD Head Start. This year I took on a new role as the Nutrition/Health Assistant for the whole program. I help the Nutrition Coordinator with her many duties and I assist both Health Teams with health screenings when I have time. I am learning all sorts of new things, still not very skilled at taking little ones blood pressures, but every day is different and I look forward to the time I get to spend with the children at the centers or on home visits. My favorite thing about my job is the variety that it entails and getting to work with so many wonderful families and children.

I live in Vermillion with my husband Leo, our daughter Katie, who is 3 years old, and a black cat named Boo! I love to take pictures and scrap book, walk, golf, bake, and spend time with family and friends. I am even trying to teach Preschool Sunday school this year which is an experience all in itself.



**Julie Viet**  
Nutrition Coordinator

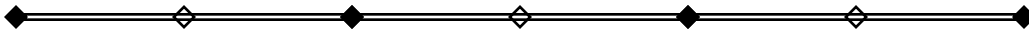
I am starting my 8th year with USD Head Start. My position covers all four counties of the program. Some of my responsibilities include providing training to staff, developing menus, making arrangements with food service providers, and making sure that our program is in compliance with the USDA regulations. I also work with the health teams at screenings. One of my favorite things about working here includes seeing all the fun activities that staff and parents use to get children excited about eating and learning about food. I believe that healthy habits start at a young age! My husband, Matt, and I live on a farm near Parker. In my spare time I enjoy exercising, cooking, and spending time outdoors.

# Health Services



**Holly Solem**  
Health Coordinator  
*Northern Areas*

I have now been employed by Head Start for 23 years and have seen many positive changes and improvements in our program services. I first became involved with Head Start in 1985 when my son was enrolled in the home base program. I was so impressed with the program and staff that I decided it was something I wanted to continue to be a part of. It is my job to make sure our children are healthy and ready to learn and grow. My health assistant, Becky, and I provide health screenings for the children in our area such as hearing and vision, anemia and lead, growth assessments, and oral health. We assist families with keeping their children up-to-date with well child checkups, dental examinations, and immunizations. Pregnant women are assisted in accessing prenatal and postpartum health care and are provided pregnancy education through home base services. We also provide health information, education, and resources for families and staff. Working for Head Start has been a very rewarding experience and I can't think of anything more exciting than being there to watch as our precious little ones grow and develop. My favorite thing about Head Start is of course the KIDS!



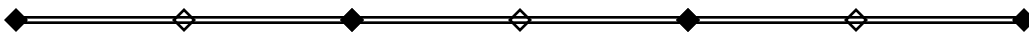
**Becky Anglin**  
Health Assistant  
*Northern Areas*

I am now in my 3<sup>rd</sup> year working for Head Start. My job duties include assisting with the health screenings for the enrolled children in the program, doing correspondence with medical and dental providers that our children visit, as well as corresponding with parents. I make sure our children are up-to-date with the necessary immunizations and medical/dental care that they need. I also complete visits to the centers and homes throughout the year. I am a former Head Start parent having had three of my children enrolled in the program. My favorite thing about my job is working with the children and families in our program and being a part of their health experience in Head Start, and of course working with all the great staff that we have on board. Tim and I live in the country with our four children: Kyle (17), Mason (11), and Taryn (5). Jeffrey my oldest son is living in Sioux Falls & going to college. I enjoy spending time with my family at our cabin and boating in the summer.



**Kathy Nelson**  
Health Coordinator  
*Southern Areas*

I have been employed with Head Start since 1986 so have witnessed A LOT of growth and changes in our program. We now have families enrolled that were some of my "Head Start Kids" so I am lucky enough to see them as "Head Start parents". My job responsibilities include screening children's growth, hearing, vision and dental needs, along with making sure immunizations are up-to-date. We also work with the child's doctor, dentist, and other health professionals so we can assist our families in making sure the children are healthy and ready to learn. Parent and staff education, classroom and playground safety, and health and safety policies/procedures are also maintained by health staff. Seeing the children gain confidence and social skills is one of my favorite things I like about my job. Those big grins and hearing "I did it!" is always wonderful to hear. I also enjoy the great hard working team members that I work with. My husband Bob teaches at Dental Hygiene. We have 3 adult children and 2 grandsons and one granddaughter.



**Linda Hoelsing**  
Health Assistant  
*Southern Areas*

I am currently in my 7th year as a health assistant for the southern areas for Head Start. I also worked as the Early Head Start secretary for several years, and prior to that I was the Head Start secretary for nine years. My position as health assistant gives me the opportunity to work closely with parents and children. I assist Kathy with health screening of the children. This includes getting a height, weight, blood pressure, and doing a vision and hearing screen. Another part of my job is to make sure the classroom is safe and monitor safety reports for the classroom and playground for each center and PALS. First Aid kits are inventoried and restocked so the teacher is prepared for any incident that may happen to our children. Of course part of my job is all the documentation that is required (well baby checkups, prenatal visits, well child check-ups, dental exams) for each mother, baby, and child. A favorite part of my job is when we do our fall health screening of the preschool children. When working with children you have to really adapt your methods of screening. I live on a farm in

Nebraska about four miles south of Yankton with my husband, Darrell, and son, Colin (10). I also have two daughters, Bethany and Andrea, and three step-daughters, Stephanie, Theresa, and Jill.

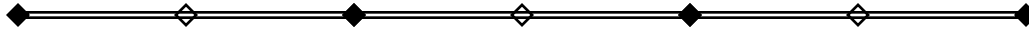
# Family Services Specialists



**Connie Birgen**  
Family Services Specialist

I have been with the program for 18 years starting as a part-time home visitor for Union County, then was a full-time home visitor for 4 years in the Lincoln County area, and then moved to the position of Family Services Specialist. I have worked in all four counties of our service area in that capacity. I was also a Head Start parent during the 1989-1990 program year. I have enjoyed the opportunities Head Start has provided me to help support families, the same way Head Start supported my family. I work to locate families for our program and I help each family locate information and services that help them reach their family and personal goals. I give families information through resource lists, newsletters, home visits, and referrals to other agencies. I attend community agency meetings to build ongoing relationships with other community agencies who provide services to families. I facilitate parent meetings, encourage parent involvement, and provide parents with training they have expressed an interest in. I work with families to document their In-Kind time and process the In-Kind as it is received. I am also the coordinator for the Reading is

Fundamental (RIF) grant that provides books and other materials to help parents increase their children's literacy development. I have served on a variety of committees that plan and implement policies and procedures to improve services to children and families. I enjoy the people I work with, both staff and families. I currently reside in Vermillion and have one cat. My adult son, Taylor, also lives in Vermillion. I used to have some fun hobbies, but I think attending graduate school is my new hobby. I am currently enrolled in USD in the Counselor Education and Advanced Counseling program with the goal of obtaining my Ph.D. in the next 3-4 years. Other interests include gardening and running.



**Rose Weiss**  
Family Services Specialist

I am in my 18th year with the USD Head Start program. I have worn several "hats" over the years with the Head Start program which include: classroom teacher, home visitor, family services assistant and family services specialist. I was also a Head Start parent with my son, Zach, during the 1991-1992 program year. Over the past 15 years I have been the family services specialist for the Vermillion area and with our expansion this year I was relocated to the Tea and northeast area. The transition to the north area has gone well and I am excited to meet so many families! I feel the biggest task of my job is the recruitment of families for our program which happens year around. Other duties of my position include the planning and implement monthly parent meetings/trainings, identify/assist families with their goals or needs, provide resources to families, participate on home visits, process In-Kind, and attend meetings with public agencies. My favorite thing about my job is meeting and getting to know all the children and families. I am married to Kevin and we have 3 children: Zach age 21, Kyle age 16, and Abby age 13. We also have one dog, Ginger, who will be 17 years old in November. I enjoy spending time with my family, motorcycle riding, puzzles, and going for walks. I grew up on a farm near LeMars, Iowa, and moved to Vermillion in 1987 to attend USD and never left. Vermillion is a great place to work and raise a family.



**Anita Nelson**  
Family Services Specialist

I have been with USD Head Start since September of 1994. I love my job and working with the children and families. After many years serving in Union County I am now in the Vermillion area at Austin. In my job I do recruiting for the program, work with families on goals and help them with concerns/crisis's that they need assistance with. I visit the classrooms so I get to see the parents and get to know the children and support the teachers. I also plan the parent education piece of the program for the families that I work with, which is done through parent activities/meetings, making resources available to the families, and requests for information from families. I work with the team of HS and EHS staff to coordinate the services for families, serve on various community boards representing our program, and tally In-Kind for my classrooms. My favorite thing about my job is working with the children and families and with some wonderful staff. I have been married to Glenn for 27 1/2 years. We live on the family farm west of Vermillion and have three children: Mary, Nicki, and Anthony. We have horses, farm cats, and Sam - Anthony's yellow lab. Hobbies and activities include quilting, spending time on the river, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

# Family Services Specialists (cont'd)



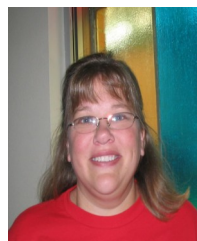
**Maria Trowbridge**  
*Family Services Specialist*

I started working with Head Start in the fall of 2010. I am also a past parent as my 17 year old daughter was enrolled in Southern HS Home Base. As a Family Services Specialist I work with families by assisting them with available resources to meet their needs, attend parent meetings, go on home visits, and help families achieve their goals. My favorite part of my job is meeting all the new families and being the one to assist them in attaining their personal goals. I live in Vermillion with my husband and three daughters.



**Shelly Bye**  
*Family Services Specialist*

I am currently in my 7<sup>th</sup> year working with USD Head Start. I have had several roles in Head Start: teacher, volunteer coordinator, and FSS. My job is to support the families in the program. I assist the families with finding resources when they are in need, and help them to set up family goals. Another colossal part of my job is recruiting and finding families for the Head Start program. My favorite thing about my job is seeing the accomplishments that the families make throughout the year, and working with an amazing bunch of individuals. I live in the country by Meckling with my husband, Brook, and my five children: Brittany 19, Jennifer 17, Elizabeth 15, Brett 12, and Emily 9. We have a hunting dog named BJ who is afraid of guns, and four cats - one which loves to go hunting. I am originally from Cherokee, Iowa.



**Bonita Manger**  
*Family Services Specialist*

I am starting my 10th year as a paid employee for Head Start. I did my work study with Head Start during my last two years of college. I am also a past parent (three of my four children were enrolled in the Vermillion Center) and was the Policy Council Chair for two years. As a Family Services Specialist I work with the families. I help the parents set goals and work at achieving those goals. I present monthly parent meetings on topics of the parents' choice. I recruit families for the program. My favorite thing about my job is watching the families grow and achieve their personal goals. I live in Vermillion with my husband Bill and our four children and our two dogs. I have one child in college, two in high school, and one in middle school.



**Karen Shade**  
*Family Services Specialist*

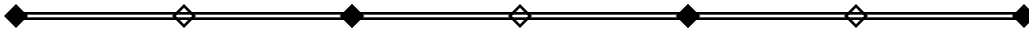
Hi, my name is Karen Shade. I have worked for Head Start for seven years. I was a home visitor for 6 ½ years and now I am a Family Services Specialist for Turner County and a portion of Lincoln County. I enjoy getting to meet a lot of great families. Recruiting new families is one of the many responsibilities of my job. I arrange parent meetings and provide educational materials. Reporting in-kind is also one of my job duties. THANK YOU in advance for remembering to write down your in-kind and turning it in. My husband, Alan, and I live on a farm near Davis. We have been married for 30 years and we have one daughter, Courtney, 24. She is a recent South Dakota State University graduate and works for St. Luke's Home Care in Sioux City, Iowa. We are happy that she doesn't live far from home so we get to see her often. I enjoy walking, bicycling, reading, photography, antiques, gardening, sightseeing, and spending time with family and friends. We also enjoy our pets. Hudson, our dog, is a springer spaniel/collie with a ton of energy. He still appears to be in the puppy stage even though he's almost two. My cat, Cashew is 13 and his brother, Thumbs is 14. They are much calmer than Hudson! I look forward to getting to know all of my Head Start families. I hope you have a great Head Start year!

# Lennox & Worthing Centers



**Carol Zingler**  
HS Teacher  
*Lennox Center*

This is my 2nd year with Head Start. I have been in the Lennox School District for 18 years as a Special Education Teacher. My job as a preschool teacher is to get children ready for kindergarten. My favorite thing about my job is working with children and seeing their smiling faces every morning. My husband, Tom, and I have 6 children. We have 3 boys and 3 girls. Two of our daughters are getting married. We live in the town of Worthing. Our favorite things to do together are camp and hike. We go to Estes Park in Colorado every year to camp and hike our favorite trails. We have 3 dogs as pets. Our new puppy is keeping us very busy. I teach Sunday School and love spending time with my children on weekends.



**Sandy DeVries**  
HS Educational Aide  
*Lennox Center*

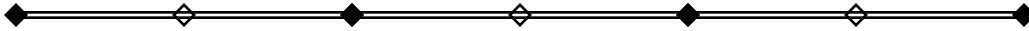
I have worked with the Head Start program for 17 years. I'm a classroom assistant in the Lennox Center. My husband, Larry, and I have been married for 39 years and both were born in the town of Lennox. We both have lived in the area all our born days. We have two

daughters, one granddaughter, and one grandson.



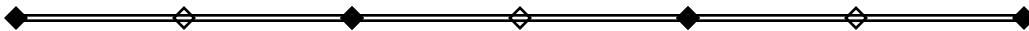
**Laura Breck**  
HS Nutrition Aide  
*Lennox Center*

This is my 4th year working with Head Start. I am the nutrition aide in the classroom. When I am not doing that, I am working in the special education room for the Lennox School District. I have been married for 16 years and have 3 children, Harlie (14), Holdyn (11) and Hattie (9). My younger two were in the Head Start program from 2003-2007, and during that time I served on the Policy Council for 3 years.



**Mary Sluneka**  
HS Teacher  
*Worthing Center*

I am currently in my 5th year of teaching with Head Start. I work with children ages 3-5. I work with the students on academics (numbers, letters, shapes, colors, etc.), but I feel the most important part of my job is to teach social skills. Learning to interact with others is a life-long skill. The most rewarding part of my job is seeing the children really connecting with their peers and other adults; to observe them sharing and using "nice" words - without the teacher telling them to do so. I live in Sioux Falls with my husband, Les. We have three children: Dana, Heather, and John. We also have a golden retriever and two black labs. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. We enjoy spending time at our cabin at Brant Lake, hunting, and traveling.



**Peggy Smidt**  
HS Educational Aide  
*Worthing Center*

I am currently in my 3rd year working with Head Start. My duties include being the teacher's assistant, helping with the students, teaching them, creating new ideas to use in the classroom, being a positive role model for the child, and making preschool a fun and educational experience for the child. My favorite thing about my job is working with the children and seeing how I make a difference in their life by seeing how much they learn. I live between Worthing and Lennox on an acreage. My husband (Brad) farms. We have three daughters (Samantha, Taylor, and Emma), a cat, and a dog.

# Beresford & Canton Centers



**Heidi Olson**  
HS Teacher  
Beresford Center

I am currently in my 18<sup>th</sup> year at Head Start. Our program in Beresford is unique in that Head Start, Special Needs and Watchpuppy are all integrated. This year we have two 4-year-old classes and one 3-year-old class. My job duties include working with children and parents, lesson planning, singing and dancing, and basically being a jack-of-all-trades. My favorite thing

about teaching is that no two days are ever the same. I live in Beresford with my husband and teenage daughter. I have a son attending USD and a daughter living in Savannah, GA.



**Kerri Rasmussen**  
HS Teacher Aide  
Beresford Center

I am in my 4th year of working for Head Start at the Beresford Center. I work as a teacher aide. I get to help in planning the weekly lesson plans, getting them ready, and help with many other things. I work with the children one-on-one to help learn to write their names, learn their colors, shapes, ABCs, and 123's. My favorite thing about my job is that I work with wonderful people,

and also get to work with the many wonderful children we have. I live in Beresford with my husband and 3 children. We are a very active family. We enjoy softball, which both of my daughters love to play, and my son would just as soon love to live on a farm.



**Dawn O'Hara**  
HS Teacher Aide  
Beresford Center

This is my 2nd year with USD Head Start. My duties include preparing breakfast for the children, getting their lunch from the elementary kitchen, preparing snacks in the afternoon, cleaning the kitchen, and doing the grocery shopping for the next week. The greatest joy in life is watching children grow and learn; that is why I chose to be in the profession I am in so that I may be able to teach and help children in becoming young adults. The staff at the Beresford Center is a great group of people to work with and interact with. My husband (Kirk) just retired after 22 years in the Air Force. During his career in the military we lived California, Alaska, and Florida. Since retiring we moved back to Beresford with our 8-year-old son, Jacob. We came home to be near family and friends.



**MaDonna Baldwin**  
HS Teacher  
Canton Center

I am currently in my 12th year working with USD Head Start. I teach at the Canton Center located at Lawrence Elementary. My classroom is an integrated site. Our partners are the Canton School District and the Southeast Area Cooperative. Currently we have 28 beautiful children enrolled. My favorite thing about my job is hearing the cute things the children say daily. I learn something new each day. I have lived in Canton all my life. I went to college at South Dakota State University and Northern State University. I live with my two sisters who also teach preschool children. We have an adorable kitten. In my spare time I like to read, garden, and do a variety of crafts.



**Shery Hawley**  
HS Teacher Aide  
Canton Center

I have been with Head Start about 2 years. My job duties include helping MaDonna wherever she needs help. My main duty is to prepare and serve breakfast, dinner, and afternoon snack to our students. I also plan food activities for the students. My favorite thing about my job is working with kids and the staff in Head Start. Everyone is full of energy and very helpful when you need help. I live in Canton with my husband and two daughters.

If you have wondered about the cute doll blankets that you may have seen your children playing with in their classrooms or PALS-Shery makes these in her spare time and donates them to our program. Thank You Shery!

# Harrisburg & Tea Centers



**April Heimes**  
HS Teacher  
Tea/ Harrisburg  
Center

I have worked with the Head Start program since September of 2004. I started out as a southern home base teacher for one year in the Vermillion area, and then the following year I moved up north as a northeast home visitor for the Lincoln county service area. In Fall of 2009 I began working as both a home visitor for Lincoln county and center teacher for Harrisburg. Now, I work in both Tea and Harrisburg as a center base teacher. It has been quite an experience working for the Head Start. I have my Early Childhood Education degree from SDSU. My husband and I live in Worthing with our family. We have an 8 year old, Owen, a 3 year old, Nolan, a 1 year old Marek, and in February 2011 we will have a 4th child!!!! Busy, Busy!



**Darlene Kihne**  
EHS Teacher Aide  
Tea Center

Darlene is in her first year at USD Head Start. Darlene provides breakfast & lunch to children enrolled in our Tea Early Head Start Combination & Head Start Center classrooms. Darlene comes to us with lots of experience working with young children. Darlene resides in Tea.



## **Jessi Moeller:**

Jessi is in her first year working with USD Head Start. Jessi teaches children ages 18 Months to 3 years in our Early Head Start combination option in Tea, SD. She also makes home visits with the families of the children enrolled in that option, as well as to children on her caseload in our Early Head Start homebased program. Jessi resides in Hartford, SD.

# Vermillion Austin Centers



**Cindy Gutzman**  
HS Teacher  
*Vermillion Austin Center*

I am currently in my 10th year with USD Head Start. I teach 3, 4, and 5-year-old children in a center based setting. Our classroom is a very busy and lively place. One of my main duties is to plan and execute activities for the children. Another job that I have is to collect information about what the children know and then plan activities to help them get to the next step. Meeting with parents for home visits and conferences is also part of my job. Additional duties include attending meetings and training sessions, conducting fire and tornado drills, brushing teeth, changing diapers or Pull-Ups, typing notes, keeping records, filling out forms, and cleaning items such as toys and dishes. A teacher's job can be as varied as that of a parent. Each day is different. One of the many things that I enjoy about my job is reading to children and helping to excite them about the world of books. I love being with children when they are thoroughly enthralled by a story. I am married and have two children. We also have a dog. My husband is originally from Vermillion, which is how we ended up in this town; however, I am originally from Elkhart, Indiana.



## *Vermillion Austin Center*



**Mary Heiberger**  
HS Teacher

This is my first year working with USD Head Start. Prior to working here, I spent 6 years as a classroom teacher at Inter Lakes Head Start in Sioux Falls, and 3 years with Sioux Falls Community-based Head Start programs. I also have over 10 years experience working in various childcare centers. I graduated from SDSU with a bachelor's degree in Child Development and Family Relations with an Early Childhood option. One of my favorite parts of being a preschool teacher is creating fun-filled lesson plans that include opportunities for creating and learning. I love seeing how much each child changes and the progress they make from the first day of class until the last. My husband Greg have lived in Beresford for 4 years. We have two boys: Jackson is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, and Mason is in Kindergarten. My favorite things to do in my free time are: camping, geo-caching, biking, volleyball,



**Bobbi Hoilen**  
HS Teacher Aide  
*Vermillion Austin Center*

This is my 1st year with USD Head Start. I prepare lunches and snacks for the children to eat. I also maintain sanitary conditions in the lunch rooms and help the children serve themselves. My favorite thing about my job is talking with the kids and listening to their ideas about food and other things that may come up at the lunch table. I also help some in the classrooms, which is a great deal of fun for me as well. I live in Vermillion.

## **Do you want to learn more about Head Start? Check out these websites!**

1. Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center website: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc> This website contains information for parents and programs.
2. Legislation & Regulations, Fact sheet for notice of proposed rulemaking related to Head Start redesignation process: [www.acf.hhs.gov/index.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/index.html)

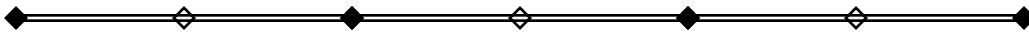
# Vermillion Austin Center (cont'd)



**Julie Peterson**  
HS Teacher  
*Vermillion Austin Center*

This is my 4th year working for USD Head Start. I graduated from Northern State University in 1999 with Bachelors degrees in Elementary Education, Special Education Birth-12th grade, and Early Childhood, Kindergarten, and Nursery Education. In my class we love to sing, paint, cut paper, and play to learn. The favorite part of my day is free time. I love the way a child's mind works. You set up a center and think you know exactly what should be done in that area and then BAM the 3-year-old mind takes over and your center becomes something completely different, but better. Kids also say the darnedest things! There are not too many jobs where you are allowed to finger-paint with shaving cream while teaching writing. It's messy, but I love it. I am married to Joel, who is a South Dakota Highway Patrolman. We celebrated 20 years this summer by taking an Alaskan cruise and it was amazing. We have three children Cody, Carly, and Cole. In April I will add the title of grandmother to my name. I stay very busy watching my children participate in dance, soccer, and wrestling.

As a family we love to camp, hunt, and fish. When I do get a little quiet time to myself I love to read and scrapbook.



**Brian Humphrey**  
HS Teacher Aide  
*Vermillion Austin Center*

This is my 5th year at Head Start. I am currently working as a teacher's aide for Miss Julie and Miss Cindy. I also organize and serve breakfast for the Austin morning Head Start class. My main job duty is keeping the kids focused and working on the project at hand. I enjoy my job because I get to see the kids grow and learn, often over the course of several years as they are enrolled in Head Start. It is entertaining to see the kids I had as 3-year-olds with their new classes now in Kindergarten and First Grade. I live in Vermillion with my wife and dog, who believes he is a 2-year-old human. My wife and I welcomed our first child, Zander, this last spring.



**Connie Holoch**  
HS Teacher Aide  
*Vermillion Austin Center*

I have worked as a teacher's aide in the Head Start program for the past 12 years. I have been located in three different center sites, and worked with different teachers, aides, and food service workers, but we all have one thing in common - the children. They are the reason I go to work each day. I would rather talk, laugh, and play with my "knee-huggers," than with anyone else. Maybe I haven't given up on my inner child yet, but I do know I am in my happy place when I can hang with "my" friends! I am an aide to the teachers and I try to help in any way I can. Although I do admit that anything to do with arts and creating is my one of my most enjoyable parts! I am a master laminator, play dough maker, story book reader, tooth brush supervisor, and toy cleaner, among many of my aide talents. I live on farm outside of Vermillion

with one husband, one dog, one cat, two birds, and many goldfish. I have a 25-year-old son and a 20-year-old daughter. My hobbies include taking photos, scrapbooking, reading, cooking, and riding our Harley with my husband.

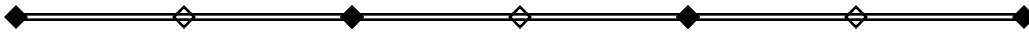
# Dakota Valley & Elk Point-Jefferson Centers



**Rosemary Suing**  
HS Teacher  
*Dakota Valley*

Hi! my name is Rosemary Suing and right now I am a Center Teacher at Dakota Valley. My Family and husband, John, have been a part of Head Start for 26 years. Our children, Amy (married to Dave have 3 kiddos-Mariah, Mitchell, and Mason)-she used to be a babysitter for meetings and many of the families; Tony (married to Laura have 4 kiddos-Will, Aidan, Charlie, and Baby Emmy)-he always got in on the heavy work; Missy (Mommy to Maddie and Parker, also was a needed sitter); and Michael, he's the Head Start kid--he grew wings and works at The Museum of Fine Art in Boston. We live just far enough out of Elk Point to be town and country--the whole town can hear my rooster crowing!! We have a 'hobby' farm but it sure keeps us busy and any of the grandkids who come around. We have a pot-bellied pig; 2 spoiled horses; 2 naughty steers (they like to knock down the electric fence & go on adventures!) and a cute little heifer; too many chickens; 2 ducks (looking for a winter home); 2 bunnies, that love apples; not as many cats as we used to have, and a GREAT BIG DOG--no, not Clifford, Koda, he's a Newfoundland! I have too many things that I like to do so not everything gets finished and I'm always trying

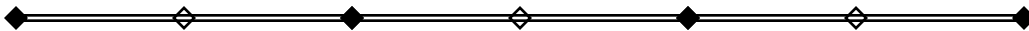
to repurpose recycled stuff (this drives Hubby over the edge!). So needless to say, my Head Start kiddos do get to experience a 'bit of country/farm' life--just ask them about that baby toad. Hope ALL have a Great Rest of the YEAR!



**Becki Knepper**  
HS Teacher Aide  
*Dakota Valley Center*

This is my 3rd year working as a Teacher's Aide in USD Head Start. My first job out of high school was a teacher's aide in Head Start in Utah in 1972. I worked for 3 years in Head Start the first time, then left to join the Army and see the world! After 27 years I retired, married Monte Knepper, and moved to Saint Louis. When he retired we moved to Dakota Dunes, SD. I assist Rosemary with the supervision, education, and play of the children we have in our class. I have been working with the children on following the rules in the hallways of the school when we are going to and from lunch, snack, and recess. They are getting to hang of walking in a straight line, being quiet, and not running. We have been pretending to be butterflies, caterpillars, marshmallows, clouds, and anything else I can think of that is quiet! I love teaching the children new songs and watching them learn and grow. At lunch time I try to get the children to taste different food with me. I have gagged down more canned peas than I care to remember, but I am trying to be a good example for

your children. I have five children: Heather who is 38 and married with 5 children, Corrina who is 36 and married with two children, Sarah who is 33, Robin who is 29 and my only boy, and Gretchen who is 27 and has two children. This summer I completed three of the four classes I need to get my Child Development Assistant Certificate. I will take the fourth class the coming spring. I will be starting an American Sign Language II class this month. Rosemary and I have been teaching your children some sign. Ask them about it! My hobbies are cooking, sewing, card making, reading, admiring my nine grandchildren, and golf (if I can get time for a round). My grandchildren are Bailey (11), Janie (10), Sam (7), Abbigail (7), Justin (6), Katie (5), Jordyn (5), William (3), and Joseph (10 days old).



**Rebekah Fehr**  
HS Teacher  
*Elk Point Center*

This is my 2nd year working with the USD Head Start. I have ten busy students from ages 3 to 5. At the beginning of the year the parents and I work at setting learning goals for their child. My main job is to plan lessons that pertain to the goals set by the parents, and also to plan lessons that focus on the literacy, cognitive, gross motor, fine motor, health/nutrition, and social/emotional aspects in order to prepare the children for the school/learning environment. Throughout a given day as a Head Start teacher I have many great adventures with the children. Some of my day highlights are eating lunch together, pushing children on the swings, and putting together our book projects. Witnessing the learning development of these children is probably my favorite part of my job. I get the opportunity to see children learn basic academic skills for the first time. This motivates me to enrich the basics of learning with child-centered activities. When I am not working with children or lesson plans, I find time to run,

paint, read, cook, and spend time with my family. So far I have enjoyed the time with the children, parents, and staff involved in the Head Start Program. They have all been helpful and welcoming. Thank you all!

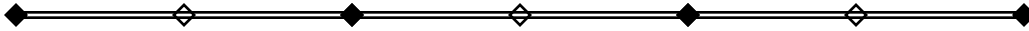
# Home Visitors



**Janet Buseman**  
HS Home Visitor

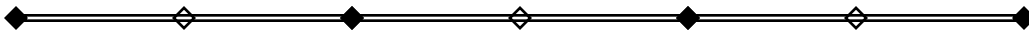
I have been working for Head Start for several years. It is an enjoyable job because of the great families I get to meet! Some of the things that I do in my job include setting up home visits with families to best accommodate their schedules, and then going to the home and doing preschool activities with the parent and child. The parent and I come up with goals for their child to work on to get ready for kindergarten. We try to do activities that are fun for their child, but also they are learning too! Twice a month we have socializations for the whole group, called PALS, to provide social experiences for them. I also hand out information to the families from the health, education, nutrition, and family services staff. I have three children: Kristie, Lonnie, and Jennifer. They are all grown, and Jennifer's wedding was this summer and we had a great time. No pets anymore, at least at this time. I love to have a garden and can the vegetables. Another hobby I like is

reading and being outside. I like to spend time with my grandchildren. I attended and graduated from Sioux Falls College. My degree is in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. I also continue taking classes to keep up my teaching certificate.



**Shawna Huls**  
EHS Home Visitor

I see families in both Turner County and Lincoln County. I have been with the EHS program since the beginning - it has been 9 years already. I have the pleasure of going into my families' homes and visiting with the child and their parents. My duties include monitoring the child's developmental progress with the family. To work on these goals, I bring in a variety of activities for the child and parent to work on. I am also partly in charge of PALS (Play and Learn Sessions). These encounters give children and their parents an opportunity to come together and socialize in a developmentally appropriate setting. We host these events twice a month. I have been married for 15 years to my husband, Alan. We have two children, Landon (9) and Brody (3). My pastime activities include camping with our friends, hanging out at home, and running to all of the boys' extracurricular activities (football, hockey, baseball, basketball, and t-ball). I also enjoy shopping and playing sports.



**Eva Hanson**  
EHS Home Visitor

I moved to be with my husband, an engineer who is assigned to the Lewis and Clark Regional Water Systems and has been residing in Vermillion since last August. I began working for Head Start the end of May. My prior employment was within the South Dakota public school system where I wore many hats, starting as an Early Childhood SPED teacher, then as a Kindergarten teacher and lastly as a K-12 SPED Teacher. My degree is in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education and Special Education. My Head Start position gives me the opportunity to work with parents and children in the comforts of their own home. The age range of children is ages 0-3. My responsibilities include planning weekly home visits, helping track developmental milestones, providing resources and information to the families, and organizing two PALS (Play And Learn Sessions) each month. It is a time for our families to come together for a meal, to socialize and to play. I truly believe parents are their child's first teachers and the most important teacher a child will have in their life. I am so thankful to my families for graciously inviting me into their homes each week, for the

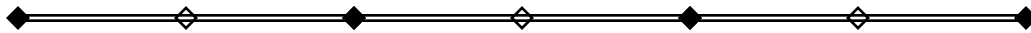
life lessons that they teach me, and allowing me to share in their child's education and development. Together we will build a brighter future for children. In my spare time I enjoy working out at the gym, scrap-booking, and shopping. My favorite activity is playing with our yellow lab Gunner Sue.

# Center for Children & Families



**Dawna Andersen**  
EHS Teacher

I have been with USD Head Start for 6 years. I am an Early Head Start Center Teacher on Monday through Thursday mornings. At the center I work with mainly with 2- to 3-year-olds. We eat breakfast and lunch, play, sing, dance, do art activities, get messy, and complete learning activities appropriate for this age group. In the afternoons I do home visits with my center kids twice a month, and also do a weekly home visit with an Early Head Start child. I visit the children's homes where we play, read, complete learning activities, do art, make messes, and work on parent education. My favorite part of the job is seeing the amazement in children when they are learning or experiencing new things. I also enjoy the giggles and watching the personalities develop! I live in Vermillion with my husband, my 3-year-old, my 7-year-old, my 9-year-old, and our fish. I also have a 21-year-old who attends the University of South Dakota. I spend a lot of time as a taxi driver getting my children from



## Newly Hired

We are pleased to announce that Sarah Sherlock has been hired as the Head Start center teacher at the Center for Children & Families. She will begin teaching at the center on November 22nd. Sarah resides in Vermillion with her family and has been a substitute teacher for our program. Welcome Sarah!



## Male Involvement Meeting Set Nov. 30

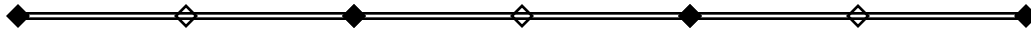
Are you wondering how we can better support male role models (fathers, grandfathers, uncles, boyfriends, foster parents) in Head Start? If so, come and engage in a discussion with program director Carmen Stewart on **Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 p.m. at the Vermillion Public Library in Vermillion, SD. Research shows that "when fathers become more involved in parenting - and in working with mothers as co-parents and partners - you get healthier families and healthier children." USD Head Start received a 2 Year grant award in 2002 to support male involvement activities. Although we no longer have that source of funding - come and hear what we continue to do as a program, and share your ideas on what we might do better. All families of enrolled Early Head Start and Head Start children welcome to attend. Childcare and light snack provided.

# Home Visitors



**Jenn Van Kirk**  
EHS Home Visitor

I am just starting my 3rd year as an Early Head Start Home Visitor. I actually completed my Social Work internship at Head Start a couple years ago and then came back to work here full time. I work with children, ages 0-3, and their parents in their homes. My responsibilities include planning weekly home visits, helping track developmental milestones, and providing resources and information to families. I also plan two PALS (play and learn sessions) each month where all my families are invited to come together for a meal and an opportunity to socialize and play. I have been told that I have a great job, and I would have to agree. I get to play with kids all day! Of course there is some work involved, but it sure does make my day to see all those little smiling faces each week. When I am not at work I can usually be found spending time with my family. I am married and have two daughters: Hannah (8) and Lilly (5). The girls would insist that I mention our dogs, Cookie and Coconut, and our fish, Ashley and Johnny Cash (this is what happens when the kids get to name the pets). Like many of you, I am a busy mom, so I often find myself at soccer games, dance recitals, Girl Scout meetings, etc. When I get a chance I like to read and spend time outdoors, especially going for walks with the girls.



I was one of the original Early Head Start Home Visitors. I guess that makes it almost 9 years since I started working here. As a home visitor my primary responsibility is to provide support and guidance to the parents. Our program believes that the parents are a child's best teacher, they know their child better than anyone else and I really enjoy learning from the parents I work with. While home visiting, I do child development screenings and assessments too. I am responsible for scheduling, planning, and conducting PALS. I have also served on many different committees for our program and I am currently on the Expectant Family Committee. As with any job, there is also lots of paperwork to fill out. I love so many things about my job. Of course, I love working with the children. As adults we lose some of our excitement and joy for learning new things. Children clap for themselves and get these great big smiles when they accomplish a new skill. It is impossible not to feel some of their joy too. I also feel very lucky to be able to work with the children's parents. As a home visitor you become very close to the families you work with, and I am so grateful for them allowing me into their lives. In addition, I have great coworkers who provide me with the support and encouragement I need. I live in Jefferson with my daughter, Jalissa. She is involved in choir and a variety of sports at her school, so she keeps me busy. I am currently working on my master's degree too. I try to make time for myself when I can and enjoy going for walks and to the movies with friends and with my sisters. I have also been known to stay up late when reading a really good book.



**Tricia Connors**  
EHS Home Visitor

I live in Jefferson with my daughter, Jalissa. She is involved in choir and a variety of sports at her school, so she keeps me busy. I am currently working on my master's degree too. I try to make time for myself when I can and enjoy going for walks and to the movies with friends and with my sisters. I have also been known to stay up late when reading a really good book.



**Jessica Hess**  
EHS Home Visitor

This is my first year as an Early Head Start Home Visitor for Lincoln County. It has been fun getting to know all the families I see each week. I am responsible for bringing various activities into the home for the parent and child to do together. I also provide educational resources for parents and monitor the developmental progress of the child. We have Play and Learn Sessions (PALS) twice a month that I plan with other Home Visitors. My husband, Carl, and I have been married for about a year and a half and are hoping to start a family soon! We love doing things outdoors like camping, hiking, biking, and going to the beach for snorkeling and boating. I also like staying in to read, watch movies, and play games, especially during the winter months!

## Newly Hired Home Visitor

I am pleased to announce that Shelly Donahue will begin November 15, 2010 as an Early Head Start/ Head Start home visitor. Shelly resides in Baltic SD. We welcome her to our program.

## Community Partnerships & Integrated Sites

In addition to the staff listed in this edition, our program is supported by several staff employed by other agencies in our community partnership and school district locations. They deserve recognition and thanks for learning all about the Head Start Performance Standards and following them in our classrooms. Shelley Nelson is the early childhood teacher for the Southeast Area Cooperative and team teaches in both the Beresford and Elk Point-Jefferson classrooms with Head Start staff. The teaching assistants in those centers are Jean McLaury (EPJ) and Lorna Peterson (BC). Lela Hall is the early childhood teacher from the SE Area Co-op and team teaches in the Canton classroom with the classroom assistant, Melissa Baker. In Vermillion, Lynne Bye supports the Head Start classrooms as the district early childhood teacher. Sharon Rasmussen is the cook at the Center for Children and Families and provides delicious home-cooked meals to our EHS and HS children that attend there. Tara Bohlman and Melissa Irwin also work with the Head Start children at that site. There are also other classroom aides that work with children on an individual basis that support our program - THANK YOU to all!

## Policy Council

It is the time of year when Policy Council elections are being held at local parent group meetings. The following Policy Council members were recognized at the October Policy Council meeting for their years of service:

Jennifer Chatwell—3 Years on Policy Council—(last 2 years as Policy Council President)

Suzi Wickerd—3 Years on Policy Council—(last 2 years as Community Representative)

Maria Love—2 Years on Policy Council

Nick Zachariesen, Jennifer Dobney, Brian Wieck, Hilary Wieck, Nicole Necklace, Sara Schollerman, Amanda Singleton, —1 Year on Policy Council

Nick Zachariesen, Jennifer Dobney and Sara Schollerman have been re-elected to serve another year on Policy Council. New members elected to date include: Janyce Kroupa, Nicole Whipple, Sharon Thompson, Stephanie Munkvold, Laura Meyer, Amy Bauer, Julia Wessell, Danielle Nichols, Aaron Kerkhove (alternate) and Jessica Cramer (alternate).

## Grantee Board

Our program continues to have the strong support of an active Grantee Board. Members of the board and their beginning year of service on the board include: Gloria Barnes (1985), Gera Jacobs (1994), Solveig Korte (1998), Jeannie Caraway (1999), Lorall Karpuk (2001), Lisa Newland (2003), Louise Papka (2006), and Patrice Kunesh (2008).

## USD Head Start thanks Don Scheidel

USD Head Start would like to thank long-time Grantee Board member Don Scheidel for his years of service to our program. Don was a professor in the Dental Hygiene department on campus and joined the Grantee Board in 1996. Throughout his years at USD, Don was involved with the dental hygiene department as they provided services to Head Start children and their families, and participated in community outreach events. Our program benefitted from Don's involvement through Grantee Board on our budget committee and the self-assessment process, as well as his guidance through regular attendance at monthly Grantee Board meetings. We wish Don well in his new venture at Creighton University.

## USD Head Start Grantee Board Chair on National NAEYC

We are proud to announce that Dr. Gera Jacobs, Chair of our USD Head Start Grantee Board, has been asked to run on the slate of candidates for the President of the National Association for the Education of Young Children

NAEYC is a membership organization designed to advocate for quality services for children and families- it is quite an honor to be asked to run for such a prestigious position. Gera has worked tirelessly for children on a local, state and regional level and has served on the NAEYC Board as a member-at-large. Through her work at USD, Gera has taught many of our current teaching staff at USD Head Start, chaired the work group to develop the South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines and was involved in the pilot preschool program in Sioux Falls. For more information, please see [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org).

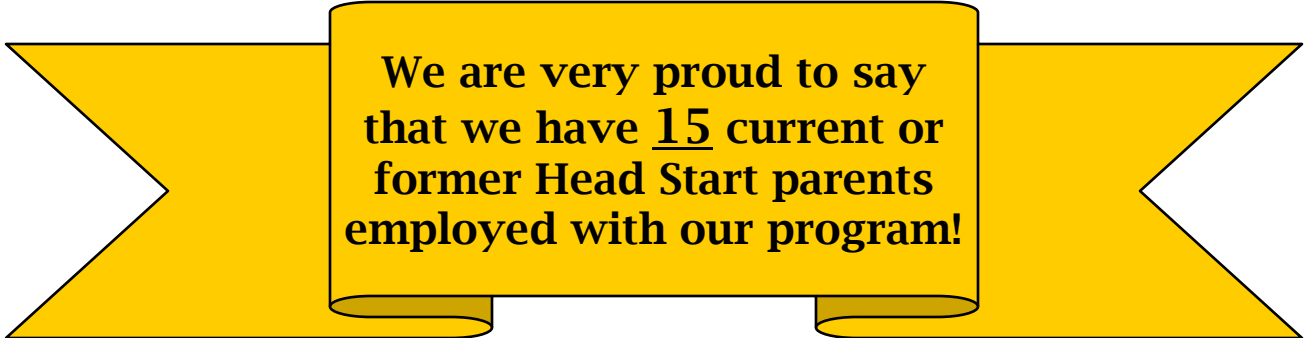
## USD Head Start Receives Early Learning Mentor Coach Grant Award

USD Head Start has received a grant to provide support to education staff to refine strategies and techniques that they use in their teaching. This will be done through the enhancing our mentoring project, with plans to outreach to other Head Start programs in the state near the conclusion of this grant project.

## National Head Start Award Nominees

USD Head Start is proud to announce that two of our local members are being considered at the national level for Head Start awards. **Jennifer Dobney** applied for the Beating the Odds award and has already won at the local, state and regional level. Her application will be considered at the National Head Start Association Conference in Virginia Beach, VA in December. Jennifer plans on attending the conference. In addition, **Jennifer Bye** (past Head Start student) applied for the Dr. Scott Harkley Memorial Scholarship. Jennifer's application won at the local, state and regional level and will also be considered at the National Level. We are proud of both for taking the time to complete the scholarship and award applications and wish them the best of luck at the national level.

If you are interested in completing an application for an award, please contact your family service specialist and they can provide you with more information.



**We are very proud to say  
that we have 15 current or  
former Head Start parents  
employed with our program!**



USD Head Start  
at the University of South Dakota  
414 East Clark St  
Julian Hall Room 326  
Vermillion SD 57069  
(605) 677-5235  
1-800-813-8132  
[www.usd.edu/headstart](http://www.usd.edu/headstart)

## Head Start Pre-Birth through Five Staff

### Office

Carmen Stewart, Director  
Chris Girard, Assistant Director  
Vanet Jensen, Education/Disabilities Coordinator  
Kathleen Nilson, Education/Disabilities Coordinator  
Tammy Rusher, Education Disabilities Coordinator  
Janel Even, Nutrition/Health Assistant  
Julie Viet, Nutrition Coordinator  
Connie Birgen, Family Services Specialist  
Shelly Bye, Family Services Specialist  
Bonita Manger, Family Services Specialist  
Maria Trowbridge, Family Services Specialist  
Anita Nelson, Family Services Specialist  
Rose Weiss, Family Services Specialist  
Karen Shade, Family Services Specialist  
Becky Anglin, Health Assistant  
Linda Hoelsing, Health Assistant  
Kathy Nelson, Health Services Coordinator  
Holly Solem, Health Services Coordinator  
Meghan Chapin, Mental Health Consultant  
Diane Larson, Secretary  
Pam Ganschow, Senior Claims Clerk

### Beresford Watchpuppy Depot Center

Heidi Olson, Center Teacher  
Kerri Rasmussen, Teacher Aide  
Dawn O'Hara, Teacher Aide

### Canton Early Learning Center

MaDonna Baldwin, Center Teacher  
Shery Hawley, Teacher Aide

### Dakota Valley Center

Rosemary Suing, Center Teacher  
Becki Knepper, Teacher Aide

### Elk Point-Jefferson Center

Rebekah Fehr, Center Teacher

### Harrisburg Center

April Heimes, Center Teacher

### Tea Center

Jessi Moeller-Center Teacher  
Darlene Kihne-Teacher Aide

### Lennox Early Learning Center

Carol Zingler, Center Teacher  
Sandy DeVries, Educational Aide  
Laura Breck, Teacher Aide

### Worthing Center

Mary Slunecka, Center Teacher  
Peggy Smidt, Educational Aide

### Vermillion Austin Center

Cindy Gutzman, Center Teacher  
Julie Peterson, Center Teacher  
Connie Holoch, Teacher Aide  
Brian Humphrey, Teacher Aide  
Bobbi Hoilen, Teacher Aide

### Center for Children & Families

#### Full Day/Full Year Program

Sarah Sherlock

#### Early Head Start Center

Dawna Andersen, Center Teacher

### Home Base

Janet Buseman, Northwest HS Home Visitor  
Tricia Connors, Southeast EHS Home Visitor  
Jessica Hess, Northeast EHS Home Visitor  
Shawna Huls, Northwest EHS Home Visitor  
Eva Hanson, Southern EHS Expansion Home Visitor  
Jenn VanKirk, Southwest EHS Home Visitor  
Shelly Donahue, EHS/HS Expansion Home Visitor