

THE POINT

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM **STARTING POINT**
FALL-WINTER 2019-2020 VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

NEWS BRIEFS

UPDATE: STEP UP TO QUALITY

We're happy to report that **79 percent** of child care programs in our service delivery area of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga and Lake counties **are now quality-rated**. Of these, **40 percent have achieved the highest quality ratings** or three, four or five stars! Great work!



For programs that are not yet rated, the deadline is fast-approaching. By **June 20, 2020**, ALL child care programs wishing to provide publicly funded child care **MUST** be Step Up to Quality rated.



WE'LL MISS YOU, 2019 RETIREES!

Four of our longtime Starting Point employees have retired: **Cynthia Fareed, Quality Enhancement Director**; **Bill Goodrich, Family Child Care Home (FCH) Systems Manager** and **Cathy Zeller, Outreach Coordinator for Lake County** and **Mary Giles, Consumer Education & Referral Specialist**. Their contributions over so many years have been instrumental in Starting Point's growth and success. We wish them the best in their retirement.

While it will be hard to fill their shoes, we are confident that their replacements will carry on their good work. **Karla Martin** will move up to the role of Quality Enhancement Manager; **Zeppora Roberts McClain** will be FCH Systems Manager and **Teresa Reid** will become the Outreach Coordinator for Lake County.



PRE4CLE

PRE4CLE CELEBRATES 5TH ANNIVERSARY

On September 25th, PRE4CLE celebrated its 5th anniversary with a Birthday Bash at the Studios at 78th Street. The event featured preschool learning centers for grown-ups including a Dramatic Play center, an Art Center, a Literacy Center, a Blocks Center and a Science Center. Funds raised from the Birthday Bash will be used to equip high-quality PRE4CLE classrooms with new toys, books, equipment, and other early learning supplies.

ENHANCING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Conscious Leadership: Change Your Mindset was the theme of our annual **Leadership Conference**, held on October 4 at Corporate College East. The keynote was **Abbi Kraus, Executive Director, The Playing Field, and a Conscious Discipline Certified Instructor**. The jam-packed event offered opportunities for attendees to gain skills from business workshops, empowerment speakers, team trainings and much more.

"EQUITY" SYMPOSIUM

On October 18, MyCom and Starting Point's Out-Of-School Time Program addressed the important topic, **Equity: A Zip Code is not a Destiny** in its Annual Professional Development Symposium. Nationally-renowned youth development expert **Karen Pittman, Co-Founder, President and CEO of the Forum for Youth Development**, was the keynote speaker. Breakout sessions covered a variety of issues critical to helping youth overcome obstacles and achieve a fair and just future.



CELEBRATING OUR HOME PROVIDERS!

On November 9, family child care home providers gathered for the **Taking Care of Business** event at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Cleveland. They were recognized for their dedicated work with young children, but that wasn't all. Special recognition was given for educational achievement and Step Up to Quality Star ratings. Entertainment, "table talk" with Starting Point staff and fun completed the festivities.

CDA RECOGNITION

Earning the **Child Development Associate (CDA) credential** is a big accomplishment, and we were proud to recognize our CDA candidates and the work of the CDA Institute on **Saturday, June 15** at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Cleveland. **Cheers!**

THE 2020 CENSUS MATTERS!

The 2020 Census is right around the corner! Support for programs like childcare, food assistance, early childhood development, health insurance, hospitals, and schools depend on every child being counted.

Start spreading the word to families now. Stay tuned for more information in coming months. <https://2020census.gov/>

CONGRATULATIONS, BILLIE!

Recently our Executive Director **Billie Osborne-Fears** received two well-deserved awards for her outstanding contributions to our field.

At its fifth anniversary celebration on September 25th, PRE4CLE honored Billie with a **PreSchool Champion Award** for her leadership and "transformational" work in early education in Northeast Ohio as well as throughout the nation. On November 21st, she received the **MyCom Lifetime Legacy Award** for her outstanding leadership and work in creating, supporting and advocating for high quality youth programming. The award was presented at the MyCom Youth Voice Awards Dinner.



We're sending best wishes to our Starting Point family for a healthy, happy and fulfilling New Year.

With our thanks for your help in 2019.



Looking for Quality Child Care, Preschool, Early Learning, Out-of-School Time Programs?

Contact **Starting Point** at 216-575-0061. For more information on Starting Point, go to www.starting-point.org.