

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care announces the closing of a Head Start Center in Mechanic Falls

Lewiston, ME (June 29, 2010) - Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care (AHSCC) is closing its classroom in Mechanic Falls after providing pre-kindergarten services to the towns of Mechanic Falls, Poland, and Minot since 1968. Though Home Based services are still available to eligible children and families, the classroom at 14 Androscoggin Avenue will not open next fall due to reduced funds for program services.

The program was first housed at the Poland Community Church, in Poland, then at Our Lady of Ransom at 11 Elm Street, Mechanic Falls and other locations throughout the "Tri-town" area. All three towns have been wonderfully supportive over the years with donations of funding, services, and facilities. This past year a successful Pre-K Collaboration was co-sponsored by AHSCC and RSU 16 whereby 36 children at two locations benefitted from the comprehensive Pre-K services.

The decision to close the Head Start classroom serving the Tri-Town area (one of 18 classrooms throughout the County) was based on data from the Agency Community Assessment which included information that the number of income eligible families in the area was less than other towns in Androscoggin County with Head Start classrooms.

The partnership with RSU 16 to provide Home Based Head Start programming for eligible families will continue as will the wonderful support the Agency has received from the Town Managers and Councils who have supported AHSCC for 42 years.

Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care has provided quality early care and educational services to pregnant women, families, and children for over forty-four years. Program options include Full Day Head Start pre-kindergarten and child care, Half Day Head Start pre-kindergarten, Home Based, Family Child Care, Infant and Toddler Early Head Start, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Services through these programs are provided annually to over four hundred children and families throughout Androscoggin County.

Applications for all programs are accepted at any time. Please call (207) 795-4040 ext. 325 for more information. Please visit our website at www.androkids.com. Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care is a United Way funded and Lewiston and Auburn CDBG supported agency.

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