

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WAL-MART, KELLER WILLIAMS, KIWANIS CLUB DONATIONS PURCHASE AUDIOMETER FOR HEAD START

Lewiston, ME (July 2, 2007) - Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care is pleased to announce the purchase of a Maico Pilot Speech Recognition Screening Audiometer, to be used for screening the hearing of children ages 3 to 5 in Head Start's programs. This purchase was made possible by generous donations from Wal-Mart, Keller Williams Realty Mid Maine, and the Lewiston/Auburn Kiwanis Club.

"By using pictures of every day items, a child can complete the hearing screening in a matter of minutes," said Dorothy Crowley-Noel, R.N., Program Manager for Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care. "A child puts on the ear phones and a voice asks, in different tones, for the child to point to a specific picture, like a rainbow or fire truck. It is child friendly and the screening results are more accurate. Because of the high risk of ear infections in many of Head Start's children, providing hearing screenings is extremely important. If a child can not hear properly, they will not be able to learn properly."

Estelle Rubinstein, Executive Director of Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care, said "Costing approximately \$2000, the audiometer could not have been purchased without the support of Wal-Mart, Lewiston/Auburn Kiwanis, and Keller Williams. We are mandated to provide hearing screenings for all of our children within forty-five days of enrollment. Having a new audiometer will assist us in providing these screenings. Early screenings and early referrals to physicians does make a difference in the lives of children with hearing problems. These three wonderful donors have shown their support for Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care and we are extremely grateful."

Androscoggin Head Start & Child Care has provided quality child development services to pregnant women, families, and children, newborn to age five, for over forty-one years. Program options include Full Day, Half Day, Home Based, Family Childcare, and Infant and Toddler Early Head Start. Services through these programs are provided annually to over four hundred children and families throughout Androscoggin County. Centers are located in Lewiston, Auburn, Lisbon Falls, Livermore Falls, Mechanic Falls and Turner.

Applications for all Head Start programs are accepted at any time. Most Head Start programs are free to eligible children. Full day childcare services are available on a sliding fee scale for parents who are working, continuing their education, or participating in job training. Please call (207) 795-4040 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.

Kaura L., age 3, reacts to Home Based Visitor Linda Grondin during her hearing exam. Kaura's parents are both hearing impaired, making hearing screenings, as well as socialization with other children, especially important for her speech development.



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