



Special points of interest:

- NINOS Needs your In-Kind!
- NINOS, Inc.'s New Administrative/Training Facility
- 2015-2016 Summer Perfect Attendance Winners
- Get a Head Start with NINOS, Inc. Head Start!
- Mental Health - Early Recognition and Intervention
- 2016 Walk for Women at South Padre Island

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NEIGHBORS IN NEED OF SERVICES, INC.

NINOS EXPRESS

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Welcome Parents to the 2016-2017 Head Start School Year

I'm hoping that your child has adjusted to his/her new environment by now. Normally by the second or third week you can see and feel and hear the difference in your child's demeanor.

Please take time to visit your child's Head Start Center to observe the interaction that takes place during the day. Developing in a setting with children their own age is also motivational for children. They enjoy learning with each other. A meal tastes so much better when they are eating family style and learning about new foods that are introduced to them. Small group activities and large group activities help children listen, and follow directions. Children also develop their so-

cial skills when they share their lessons, hopes, and dreams with each other and teachers. The teachers cannot replace you as a parent, but they eventually gain the trust and love of your child. When you have any questions or concerns about your child, about the activities at the center or you want to make any recommendations please contact the center's area manager. If you do not get answers to your concerns/questions please feel free to contact the Family Services Department in the main office at (956) 399-9944. Your input is very valuable to us. I again encourage you to visit your local Head Start Center and take advantage of the local training opportunities that NINOS, Inc. offers. I share

with you that we are 580 employees, and 44% (255 employees) are former/present Head Start/EHS parents. Vacancies are posted at the centers and I encourage you to apply for vacant positions. Please remember that parent participation in any program activity is voluntary including consent for data sharing and is required as a condition of your child's enrollment. Have a good year and this will not be the last time you hear from me.

Sinceramente

Head Start Policy and Regulations. (n.d.), from https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-15-enrollment?language_content_entity=en

NINOS Needs your In-Kind!

Please be reminded that in order for continued funding, all Head Start/Early Head Start programs are mandated to match 20% of their grant with non-federal monies (in-kind). The agency requires every center to collect in-kind according to its enrollment. There are many ways parents can help the agency meet the 20% match. Parents are encouraged to volunteer, but first parents must meet the volunteer guidelines to be in the classroom. Any non-classroom activity such as homework assignments, donations for use at the center, cut-

ting the grass, painting the center, attending center committee meetings, attending HSPC meetings and other activities which are allowable can be documented as in-kind. Please check with the area manager for guidance. It is very important that all parents volunteer and help the agency reach this goal in order to keep Head Start/Early Head Start in existence. The community also contributes by not charging rent at several sites or charging a minimal amount so the agency can document some of the monetary value of the rental fee. Also, presenters

that give their time at meetings or trainings are also considered as in-kind. The amount that must be reached this year for Head Start is \$4,675,000 and for Early is \$555,000 for a total of \$5,230,000.

The agency must reach this goal by the end of the fiscal year March 31, 2017. Please check at your child's center to view the amount that has been collected.



NINOS, Inc.'s New Administrative/Training Facility

NINOS, Inc. hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for its future administration and training center site. More than 100 people were at the groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the start of the organization's new building project. The administrative/training facility is 17,000-square-foot and is being built on a 20-acre tract of land located in Rio Hondo near the local high school.

The organization received a \$3 million loan from the United States Department of Agriculture

Rural Development to fund the construction project. NINOS, Inc. raised \$500,000 to help add to the investment with years of fundraising efforts and donations. The facility is expected to be ready for a ribbon cutting in May of 2017. The new facility will have the meeting space capacity of over 300 employees and a professional kitchen where staff can train. NINOS, Inc. has been operating in San Benito for 26 years. It has 51 head start locations throughout Cameron and Willacy County that it serves with education

and nutrition services. The NINOS, Inc.'s Board Officers are: Henry López-President, Mary F. Sosa-Vice-President, Esperanza Vera- Secretary/Parliamentarian, and Roberto López- Treasurer/Sergeant at Arms. The board members are: Roque Rodriguez, Antonio Ortiz, Claudio Ortiz, Juanita Ortiz, Juan Moreno, Jr., Amador H. Martinez, and Maria F. De Ford. The organization's Executive/Head Start Director is Ms. Manuela Rendon.



2015-2016 Summer Session Perfect Attendance Winners

To boost the attendance during the summer, NINOS Inc., held a drawing among the children that had perfect attendance during the summer program from June 8, through August 12, 2016. We are proud to announce the winners of brand new bicycles.



Harlingen HS Zavala HS TSTC HS



La Feria HS



Los Indios HS



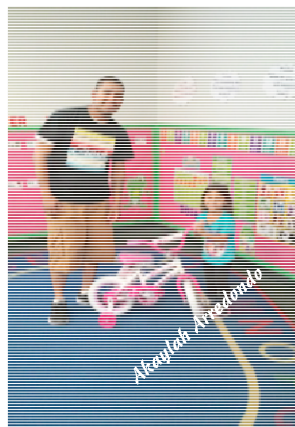
Beacon Bay HS



Leon Gardens HS Lena Bennett HS Browne HS



Santa Rosa HS



San Benito HS



Rio Hondo HS



Get a Head Start with NINOS, Inc. Head Start!

If you are age 18 or above, and want to work for a progressive service agency with excellent benefits, we might have a job for you. Work opportunities are almost always available. For more infor-

mation visit us on-line at www.ninosinc.org or contact the personnel department at (956)399-9944.

NINOS, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national

origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.



Mental Health - Early Recognition and Intervention

The earlier a child's mental health needs are recognized, the sooner he/she can receive help. Early recognition and intervention can prevent years of disability and help children and families thrive. All parents should learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health problems in early childhood. Challenging behaviors may include hitting, scratching, screaming, taking toys away from others, and failing to make eye contact. Finding the right

strategies to support the extremely shy child who does not know how to enter a group and play or who elects not to speak to anyone at all can also be a challenge. Staff and parents must be aware of these behaviors and find ways to help children successfully interact with peers and adults. If you would like more information on the mental health of your child, talk to your area manager.

HSA (n.d.) from <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA12-4700/SMA12-4700.pdf>



Identifying Mental Health and Substance Use Problems of Children and Adolescents. SAM-

2016 Walk for Women at South Padre Island

This year NINOS' staff rallied together by participating in the 13th Annual Walk for Women. The event is hosted by a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to helping women who are

fighting breast cancer. The Awareness Walk was held at South Padre Island on October 9, 2016.

