

"THE FISHERMEN FAMILY CONNECTION" NEWSLETTER



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UPCOMING EVENTS



Winter Break December 22, 2025–January 5, 2026

All sites will be closed with the exception of Cots who will be open on December 28 & 29, 2025. Sites will resume on Monday, January 5, 2026



Warm Blanket Distribution December 2025

Warm Blankets have been wonderfully crafted and donated to our children and families to ensure that they stay warm in this winter season. They will be delivered to the sites. If you have any questions, please connect with your Family Advocate for more details.



REMINDERS



Dear Parents and Guardians,

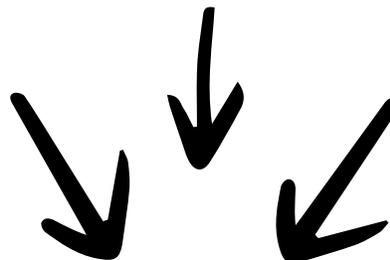
This is a friendly reminder to complete our Parent Interest Survey. Your feedback helps us plan activities, workshops, and supports that fit your needs, schedule, and interests.

We use your input to:

- Choose topics that matter to your family
- Plan events at times that work for you
- Make sure our program is truly tailored to you, as required by Head Start
- Strengthen meaningful family engagement

If you need help or would like the survey in another format, please let us know.

Thank you for sharing your voice, **we appreciate you!**



SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello Early Head Start Families and Season Greetings,

As we enter the month of December, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your continued partnership with The Order of The Fishermen Ministry Early Head Start program (TOFMHS). This time of year brings a sense of reflection, gratitude, and hope, and we are truly grateful for the trust you place in us to support your child's growth and development.

We recognize that the winter months can bring both joy and challenges. Please remember that Early Head Start is here to support your whole family. If you need assistance with warm clothing, community resources, mental-health support, or food access, reach out to your Family Advocate, we are here to help.

Refer to your sites' closure listing for holiday breaks. TOFMHS encourages families to enjoy time together, read with their child daily, and maintain familiar routines to help them feel secure during schedule changes.

Again, we are honored to be part of your child's early learning journey. Thank you for involving us in your family's life and for partnering with us to build a strong foundation for your child's future.

Wishing you a peaceful and healthy December!

Warmly,

Tameka Dwyer

Executive Director



The Order of the Fishermen Ministry Early Head Start

EDUCATION CORNER

We are currently in Child Observation Record (COR) Period 2
(Dec.1, 2025 - Feb. 27, 2026).

First Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place the first week of December, no later than December 5, 2025. During Parent-Teacher conferences, you will have the opportunity to receive awesome updates regarding your child's progress and create new learning goals with your child's teacher. This is the perfect opportunity to connect and provide updates to your child's teacher.

Last, be on the lookout for the December 2025 Infant/Toddler Activity Calendar, where you can engage in at-home learning activities that you and your child will enjoy. Once completed, submit it to your child's teacher to receive in-kind recognition.

We look forward to collaborating with you as we move forward within the
25/26 Program Year.

HEALTH, SAFETY & NUTRITION HIGHLIGHTS



Keeping Our Little Ones Healthy This Winter

As we head into the winter season, we want to make sure all of our children stay healthy. Please remember to dress your baby warmly on cold days by using hats, gloves, coats, and layers when needed.

To help reduce the spread of winter illnesses, we encourage families to:

- Wash hands often
- Clean and sanitize shared toys and surfaces
- Keep children home if they show any signs of sickness

RSV can be especially serious for infants. Look for symptoms like trouble breathing, not eating well, blue lips, or unusual tiredness, and contact a doctor right away if you notice these.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe and healthy this winter!

Community Resource Spotlight:



Team Wellness Center is a community health organization that provides on-site medical services, including physical exams, well-child visits, immunizations, and developmental screenings. They partner with programs like ours to make sure children receive the healthcare they need in a convenient, family-centered way.

We are excited to share that Team Wellness will be visiting our locations to provide on-site physical exams and well-child visits for enrolled children. This partnership makes it easy for your child to receive the health screenings and medical care required for Early Head Start and Michigan Child Care Licensing, all without needing to schedule a separate doctor's appointment.

To ensure your child can be seen, please make sure you complete and return the medical consent form. Children can only receive exams and screenings if we have a signed consent on file.

If you have any questions or need another copy of the consent form, please contact your Family Advocate.

Higher Hopes Thanksgiving Distribution A Heartfelt Thank You!

On November 24th, 60 of our families received everything needed to prepare a full Thanksgiving meal, along with a \$50 Meijer gift card to help with any additional holiday needs. We truly hope that those who participated enjoyed the support and had a wonderful holiday meal with their loved ones.

We strongly encourage families to take advantage of future Higher Hopes Food Distributions, they are an amazing resource and greatly benefit our community. A special thank you to the many volunteers who made this distribution possible. Your dedication and generosity help us ensure families feel supported during the holiday season and beyond.



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Y O U !



We still need parents from the following centers to join the Policy Council:

- Kristy's Development Center
- All Of God's Children Learning
- Angels of Essence Child Care Center
- Angel Land
- John Evans Montessori
- Cots

Joining our Policy Council is a wonderful way to meet other families, share your ideas, attend conferences and build leadership skills. If you're interested, please call or text Ms. Jones at (313)236-2845 to learn more.



We have openings at several of our locations. If you know of anyone looking for services please share the information below.

The Order of the Fishermen Ministry Head Start
Free Child Care!
ages 6 weeks to 2.5 years

enroll now!

- HighScope Curriculum
- Safe Environment
- Healthy Breakfast, Lunch, & Snack
- Parenting Resource Services
- Welcoming Children with Disabilities
- Fatherhood Engagement

Call or Visit:
(313) 933-0300
tofmhs.org

9 different locations!!!

Funded by TOFMHS through the US Department of Health and Human Services

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THE ORDER OF THE FISHERMEN MINISTRY
HELPING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES & FOSTER FAMILIES
Head Start