



## On My Way Pre-K family expands

### Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning enacts recent changes and gears up for program expansion

Indiana's first state-funded prekindergarten program, On My Way Pre-K, is beginning its third year of operations in its five pilot counties (Allen, Jackson, Lake, Marion and Vanderburgh) in the 2017-18 school year. Managed by FSSA's Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning (OECOSL), On My Way Pre-K continues to serve as a way to ensure that Hoosier children get a good start on their education and have available to them the proper tools to help them succeed.

"We're knee-deep in enrollment for the 2017-18 school year," said Beth Barrett, pre-K program manager. "In the five pilot counties we have been working really hard with those families to get them enrolled."

This past June, Governor Eric Holcomb announced that 15 more counties will now participate in the On My Way Pre-K program. Those 15 counties are Bartholomew, DeKalb, Delaware, Elkhart, Floyd, Grant, Harrison, Howard, Kosciusko, Madison, Marshall, Monroe, St. Joseph, Tippecanoe and Vigo.

Once that was announced, Barrett and OECOSL Director Nicole Norvell embarked on three kick-off meetings in July in Warsaw, Kokomo and Seymour to discuss with the various counties how to implement On My Way Pre-K.

"They were day-long meetings where we went over all the ins and outs of the program, what it meant for them to participate and what needed to happen within their counties," said Barrett. "We are also working with those counties to see if they would like to participate in a small cohort of On My Way Pre-K starting in January (2018)."

Barrett said the cohort would be a half-year program in those counties from January to either May or August to provide a trial run for the counties' programs and to test some of the new systems.

"We're working a lot on updating our technology," said Barrett. "(We're) building the infrastructure for the program. Now that it's married with CCDF (Child Care and Development Fund), it makes sense for everything to be in the same database, so we're trying to update that database to now create these On My Way Pre-K grants."

For the future, OECOSL plans an announcement in January of a process to provide grants to help build early education capacity in counties outside of the 20 who will have On My Way Pre-K programs.

OECOSL is also going to begin looking at proposals for online prekindergarten programs, as it was directed to by the Indiana General Assembly.

"We're excited about the future of On My Way Pre-K," Barrett added.



# Golden Hoosier Awards



Yonda Snyder, Director of the Division of Aging, honored recipients of the 2017 Golden Hoosier Award at the Indiana Statehouse.

The award, which began in 2008, annually honors a group of outstanding Hoosier senior citizens for their lifetime of service and commitment to their communities. The award is considered one of the highest honors given by the state of Indiana to senior citizens.

Eligibility criteria for the Golden Hoosier Award includes being a current Indiana resident, aged 65 or older and a volunteer in the community for at least the past three years.

**Above, left to right:** Yonda Snyder welcomed the award winners and their guests; a beautiful display of fruits and desserts; the 2017 Golden Hoosier Award winners. **Below:** The awards were presented by Marie Davis from the Lt. Governor's office.



**Above:** Ramps to Freedom, the recipients of the inaugural Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers award.

**Right:** Special thanks to the staff who worked hard to make the event a great success!



This year a new group award, the Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers Award, was presented to [Ramps to Freedom](#), a dedicated team of volunteers from Columbus who build access ramps for homebound individuals with physical limitations who need safe access into and out of their homes.

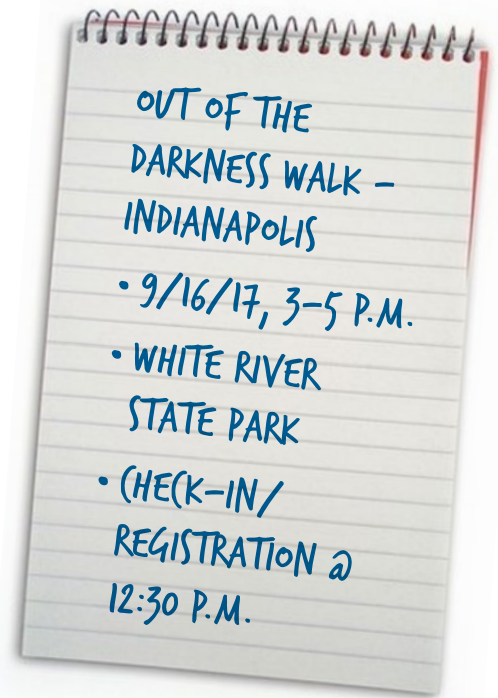
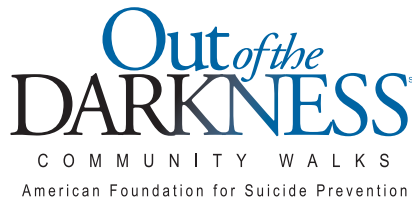
[Click here](#) for the full list of 2017 Golden Hoosier Award recipients.



# Join Team FSSA as we walk to fight suicide in the Out of the Darkness Indianapolis Walk

Team FSSA is joining the community of nearly 250,000 people walking in hundreds of cities across the country in support of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's mission to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide.

You can also support us by registering to walk with our team in Indianapolis [by clicking here](#) or sign up for a walk in your area [by clicking here](#).



## Work or volunteer outside of the office?

The Indiana Office of Inspector General has released a brochure regarding outside employment and professional activities for state employees. It is available on The Hub in the [Human Resources](#) section. If you have any questions, please contact Latosha N. Higgins, Office of General Counsel Interim Ethics Officer, at [FSSA.Ethics@fssa.in.gov](mailto:FSSA.Ethics@fssa.in.gov).

# SECC IS COMING



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# What's Happening around FSSA



Indiana Black Expo volunteers from the Division of Aging



Marion County Central DFR staff donate to the needy.



Floyd County DFR staff got their steps in!



Big First Steps meeting was well attended.



Allison Taylor & the Nat'l Institute of Medicaid Directors



BDDS staff speaking at the INARF meeting



Construction at the Neuro Diagnostic Institute site





# Five Questions



**Name:** Lisa Graham

**Title:** Executive Assistant to the Secretary & Deputy Secretary

**Education:** Brownsburg High School

**Career Highlights:** Began my career at FSSA 34 years ago starting out as a data entry operator for the Disability Determination Bureau. Held numerous administrative support positions before landing in the executive office.

**1 What attracted you to a career here at FSSA?**  
I pursued state employment upon graduating from high school. At that time a typing test was required on an electric typewriter prior to getting an interview (now I'm telling my age). I passed the test, received a call for an interview and was hired a couple weeks later. Working for FSSA has been rewarding as there are a lot of opportunities for career growth.

**2 What gives you a sense of accomplishment professionally?**  
I enjoy working with a wonderful group of people who are compassionate about providing a healing, safe, recovery-oriented environment for all Hoosiers.

I also feel a sense of accomplishment knowing that the Secretary and Deputy Secretary are having a day that is flowing smoothly.

**3 What do you want FSSA workers to know about the work you're doing?**  
As a seasoned FSSA employee, I have many employees come to me for guidance. I'm always available to help others beyond my duties of assisting the Secretary's office.

**4 What is the best advice you can offer, based on your years of experience?**  
Never underestimate yourself, we are made different for a reason, make that reason the best reason by giving "your" best in life!!

**5 What about your background might your co-workers find surprising?**  
In addition to working full-time at FSSA, I have my own craft business and I am a Mary Kay Consultant.

