

PRESS RELEASE
February 1, 2024

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



WNCSOURCE OFFERS DEVELOPMENTAL DAY PROGRAM

Radio Copy:

- February 5th will mark a new chapter for local nonprofit WNCSource as they begin offering a Developmental Day program for special needs preschool children and their families.
- This comes after Helping Hand Developmental Center announced it was closing its doors after 55 years of serving Henderson County due to funding shortfalls.
- WNCSource was able to hire several former Helping Hand staff and will contract with Henderson County Public Schools to provide the year-round Developmental Day program at the Tebeau Children's Center in Hendersonville.
- The first classroom will open Monday, February 5 and serve up to 18 children between the ages of 3 and 5 years old with a focus on social development, early learning and kindergarten readiness.
- WNCSource is seeking additional early childhood educators with a Bachelor's degree in Education and Birth to Kindergarten Certification to fill teaching positions and open additional classrooms. More information is posted on their website: WNCSource.org

Newspaper Copy:

WNCSource, a leading provider of Head Start, Early Head Start and NC Pre-K programs will soon add a Developmental Day program to its list of services in Henderson County. The Hendersonville-based nonprofit worked closely with Henderson County Public Schools to sustain early childhood education programs for special needs and typically developing children. The Helping Hand Developmental Center had provided those services for over 55 years for the school system. However, ongoing funding shortfalls, together with difficulty in finding qualified staff had put the agency into deep financial stress forcing it to close.

Although WNCSource has suffered similar staffing challenges and financial strain during and after the pandemic, it agreed to take over the program and has worked closely with Henderson County Public Schools and Helping Hand to transition its children, families and staff. WNCSource Head Start and NC Pre-K Program Manager Amy Smith exclaimed "This is a very dedicated group of educators and staff who genuinely love and care about these children. We are very fortunate to have them join our staff and continue this important work!"

WNCSource will open one Developmental Day classroom on February 5, 2024 at the Tebeau Children's Center in Hendersonville. The class of 18 will consist of 9 special needs and 9 typically developing students between the ages of 3 to 5 years old. The curriculum will focus on social development, early learning and kindergarten readiness and operate year round.

As the only child care provider of Developmental Day services in Henderson County, WNCSource will work to expand its services to meet the needs of other families previously served by Helping Hand, as well as new generations of special needs children. For now, WNCSource will assess and integrate the children and families into existing Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms throughout the county to meet their needs. However, the agency plans to add additional Developmental Day classrooms as qualified staff become available.

WNCSource is urgently looking for early childhood educators with a Bachelors degree in Education and Birth to Kindergarten Certification with a NC Teachers License. The agency is offering relocation assistance and sign-on bonuses as high as \$4,500 with an annual salary of \$38,600 to \$51,600. Details and applications can be found at WNCSource.org.

Picture Attached to email.



WNCSource is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit based in Hendersonville, NC that assists low income and underserved people in Western North Carolina. Our programs include Children's Services, Transportation, Housing and Older Adult Services. Working together with our communities and partners, WNCSource improves people's lives by creating pathways to self-reliance and healthier living. For more information, please contact: Terri Bowman, TBowman@WNCSource.org or call (828) 693-1711.

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