

Monongalia County Starting Points Family Resource Center

The mission of the Monongalia County Starting Points Family Resource Center is to bring together comprehensive services and support focused on strengthening and supporting families, children and youth who live in communities west of the Monongahela River. Services are primarily offered at Mylan Park Elementary School and the Shack Neighborhood House. The Shack was established in 1928 and offers an inclusive, safe, and fun environment for learning and recreation. A supplemental food pantry operates from the Arnettsville Community Center and a developmental appropriate afterschool program will begin operating at Stepping Stones.

The primary goals are to meet the developmental needs of families, children, and youth, to offer families appropriate educational opportunities, to promote responsible parenting, to help parents and children make informed choices, to ensure the delivery of services by linking families to appropriate resources, and to develop a father friendly environment.

Family Resource staff focuses on nurturing children and youth, improving parent-child interactions and strengthening family relationships. Developmental screenings, referrals to community resources, weekly playgroups, and monthly parent group activities are included in the Starting Points programs for children under five. We also offer Happy Start Preschool, Newborn Baby Outreach, Parents as Teachers Home Visiting and respite services.

Our school age services include:

- AmeriCorps tutoring at Mylan Park Elementary
- after school/summer enrichment at the Shack
- middle school and junior volunteer opportunities at the Shack
- parent and community education programs
- family/community events
- programs/activities for fathers/children
- a supplemental food pantry
- provide families with information and resources

The Monongalia County Starting Points Family Resource Center has a unique connection to the schools that facilitates communication and supports our after school program , a referral process for children with special needs to after school care, and helps our recruitment efforts to children and families with limited English proficiency.