

**THE COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES  
in Greater Cleveland  
HISTORY SNAPSHOT**

**1964**

Unconditional War on Poverty is declared by President Johnson in his State of the Union address.

Ralph M. Besse, President of the Cleveland Illuminating Company, elected the first President of the Board of Trustees.

CEOGC is incorporated as a private, non-profit corporation to apply for federal grants under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964; and is authorized as prime contractor and coordinating agency in Cuyahoga County.

**1965**

Ralph S. Locher, former Mayor of Cleveland, is elected President of CEOGC Board of Trustees, Ralph W. Findley is appointed Executive Director of the Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland.

Project Head Start, an eight week summer program, is announced.

CEOGC Board of Trustees receives notice that the Head Start Program is funded for \$815,000. Carver Park and Dare become the first Head Start sites to open in Cleveland.

CEOGC Board approves \$120,000 grant to the Council of Churches for a pre-school nursery program on Cleveland's West Side.

CEOGC announces that funding is available for the Reading Improvement Program (\$487,606) and work study (\$159,855); both programs to be sub-contracted for operation to the Cleveland Board of Education.

CEOGC Board approves general and open election procedures to seat five new members on the board, representing low-income persons in five social planning target areas.

**1966**

CEOGC receives a \$1.1 million federal letter of credit for Adult Education, Reading Improvement and Work Study in Cleveland.

CEOGC approves \$18,600 Head Start Grant for East Cleveland Schools and a \$502,000 Head Start Grant for Cleveland Public Schools.

Steven Minter introduced to CEOGC Board of Trustees as the new Director for the Work Experience Program under Title V.

CEOGC Executive Director, Ralph W. Findley, reports approval for the Police Athletic League Youth Citizen Center proposal.

**1967**

CEOGC assumes responsibility for the Foster Grandparents Program.

CEOGC becomes prime contractor for a \$1.8 million grant for a Comprehensive Neighborhood Family Health Care Center.

CEOGC announces its approval as prime contractor for Project Action in Manpower (AIM JOBS).

**1968**

Carl B. Stokes, Mayor of Cleveland, is elected President of the CEOGC Board of Trustees.

Neighborhood Opportunity Centers remain open all night following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. CEOGC Outreach Workers spread the spirit and teachings of non-violence.

CEOGC Board approves \$2.7 million continuation grant of federal funds for Hough Norwood Family Health Care Center.

CEOGC announces \$40,000 grant for the Greater Cleveland Associated Foundation and \$40,000 from OEC for Project CARE, a program for senior citizen involvement.

**1979**

Ralph W. Findley retires as Executive Director of CEOGC. Melvin Crouther is named the new Executive Director. Edwardina Riggins becomes the first woman President of the CEOGC Board of Trustees.

**1984**

The Ralph W. Findley Education Fund is created; this fund will help the clients and their children further their education with a grant of \$250.

Cuyahoga County Commissioners declare today - September 22 - "Ralph W. Findley Day."

CEOGC celebrates the 20th anniversary of the agency.

**1986**

Volume I of the Ohio Poverty Indicator is published. Head Start is funded to serve 3,677 children. Fannie M. Lewis, Councilwoman in Cleveland Ward 7, is elected President of the Board of Trustees.

**1993**

Jacqueline A. Middleton is selected as Executive Director, becoming the first woman in the history of CEOGC to hold this position.

**1994**

CEOGC staff assumes direct operations of Head Start services for 722 children.

**1995**

Board of Trustees and Executive Director negotiate for four new facilities for program expansion.

**1996**

A newly constructed Head Start facility with 14 classrooms, G.E.D. literacy programs, will be completed in 1997. Head Start / CEOGC's Board of Trustees approved naming the site The Louis Stokes Head Start Center.

**1997**

The Louis Stokes Head Start facility opens in the Lee-Harvard Community. The facility is the first of its kind in the nation - a Head Start building built with 100% federal funds.

**1999**

CEOGC holds their first annual fundraiser, "Can You Put A Value On It", at the Cleveland Browns Stadium raising nearly \$100,000 for CEOGC programs. Christie Alomar, Sharon Hargrove and Brad Bacon from TOPS Friendly Markets serve as the Honorary Chairpersons.

**2001**

CEOGC begins construction on the Windermere Head Start Center in East Cleveland. The facility is a unique collaboration between CEOGC, The US Department of Transportation, RTA and the Greater Cleveland Port Authority. The center is scheduled to open in June 2002.

**2002**

In November, CEOGC officially opens the CEOGC Head Start Center in East Cleveland. The site is a partnership between CEOGC, the Rapid Transit Administration, the US Department of Transportation and the Department of Health and Human Services.

**2003**

CEOGC formally opens the Puritas Head Start Center on the west side of Cleveland in March.

**2004**

CEOGC awards Senator George Voinovich with the inaugural Ralph W. Findley Award for Excellence in Community Action at an awards breakfast held at the Cleveland Intercontinental Hotel and Conference Center in May

**2007**

Senator Sherrod Brown visits the CEOGC Head Start Center. The Senator speaks with CEOGC administrative staff, tours the facility and visits with students in the classroom.

**2008**

CEOGC Head Start begins the Charles Barr Music program, bringing classical music experiences to the students at CEOGC Head Start Centers.

**2009**

CEOGC designs and implements programs funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). These programs include Future Routes to Employment, Homelessness Prevention and Living Independently for Tomorrow, all designed to help local residents during the economic downturn.

**2010**

Congresswoman Marcia Fudge visits and reads with Head Start students through the Reach Out and Read program.

**2011**

CEOGC expands its partnership with the PNC Bank Grow Up Great program to include programming with the Teaching Artists from the Wolf Trap Institute and performances at Playhouse Square.

**2013**

CEOGC dedicates the George L. Forbes Early Learning Center (formerly the CEOGC Head Start Center) in East Cleveland. The Cleveland Clinic, Kaiser Permanente, Forest City Enterprises and Texcel/Xerox are generous supporters of the event.

CEOGC opens its new Green Road Head Start Center in Highland Hills.

May - CEOGC receives a new five-year grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Head Start to operate Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Cuyahoga County to begin July 1st.

**2014**

CEOGC opens the Outhwaite, Earl B. Turner, Buckeye, Lakeview Terrance, Pearl Road, Horizon, Bellaire and Grovewood Head Start centers.

**2015**

Dr. Jacklyn Chisholm is named President/CEO. Reverend Dr. Charles P. Lucas is Chairman of the Board.