Bright Beginnings, formerly Help Me Grow of Cuyahoga County, operating through the ESC of Northeast Ohio, currently provides two primary services for families with children birth to three in Cuyahoga County and also connects pregnant women and new parents to multiple home visiting services.

Parents as Teachers™ home visiting. Parents as Teachers™ (PAT) is an international, evidence-based, home visiting program that supports parents as their child's earliest and best teacher. Parent educators bring age-appropriate activities and information to parents in their homes, provide appropriate guidance, conduct developmental screenings and assessments, encourage and support parents, and connect families to needed community resources and services.

Enrolled parents may join Parents Connect, an online parenting group. In state fiscal year 2017, Bright Beginnings provided Parents as Teachers™ services to 542 families with 734 children through three contracted service provider agencies.

Early Intervention Service Coordination. In state fiscal year 2017 Bright Beginnings served more than 2,400 children with Early Intervention services in partnership with the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Bright Beginnings offers developmental evaluations and assessments, development of individualized family service plans, early intervention services, ongoing service coordination, and transition services to eligible families.

For more information, visit www.brightbeginningkids.org

Bright Beginnings: Helping Families with Children Birth to Age 3

The ESC of Northeast Ohio

We will continue to help our districts with the most important job in the world – building the future of our youth.
**SUMMER & BEYOND FAIR**

The ESC of Northeast Ohio presented the 20th Annual Summer and Beyond Fair for children and youth with disabilities last winter. Held at Woodside Event Center at St. Michael's in Broadview Heights, hundreds of people visited and talked to representatives from camps and organizations from around Ohio. There were free fingerprint ID cards, face painting, flower clown entertainment, and a wonderful performance by Dancing Wheels. The Cleveland Indians’ Slider even made a special appearance. Each year the ESC produces a “Summer and Beyond Directory” for families. Visit www.escneo.org to download a copy.

This activity is funded in whole or part by IDEA, Title VI B, and Grants to States through Ohio Department of Education grants to the ESC of Northeast Ohio, fiscal agent for State Support Team-Region 2. The 2019 event will be held on Saturday, February 16 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Woodside Event Center at St. Michael’s in Broadview Heights.

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**RICHMOND HEIGHTS STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN FINANCIAL LITERACY AND ARTS WORKSHOPS THROUGH THE ESC**

Seventh and eighth-grade students from Richmond Heights Local Schools, South Euclid-Lyndhurst City Schools, and Rocky River City Schools attended a Financial Literacy Workshop at the ESC of Northeast Ohio. The presenter was Kris Plumer, a communications coordinator in Education & Museum Outreach at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. The learning program focused on financial education and economics with hands-on, interactive activities.

Students participated in 30-minute sessions of mime, dance, clay, television production, improvisation and other types of visual and performing arts experiences with professionals from the Beck Center for the Arts. The Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood opened its doors to arts-motivated seventh-graders from not only Richmond Heights Local Schools, but Bedford, South-Euclid Lyndhurst, and Rocky River Schools. Students explored a variety of cultural arts experiences in an actual arts setting and were able to meet peers with similar interests in the arts.

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**INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS COLLABORATING ON NEW TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES**

Independence High School students are participating in 1:1 Chromebook initiatives. As technology continues to evolve and teachers embrace the free, nearly unlimited resources that are available via the Internet, it is important that schools continue to support teacher growth. A part of the district’s 1:1 Chromebook initiative is a strong belief in supporting teachers with local technology integration experts. Five Independence Local Schools’ teachers are participating in a cohort model of professional development this school year. Stephanie DeMichle, an educational consultant and instructional technology coach from the ESC of Northeast Ohio, is meeting with teachers face-to-face as well as supporting the teachers virtually as they integrate technology into their teaching.

The cohort met for a total of six half-day sessions last year. Teachers have been working to identify areas of concern with integrating technology, best practices for meaningful technology integration, and how teaching with technology empowers students while changing the dynamic of both the instructor and learner. The teachers in the cohort have been able to share successes, lean on each other through roadblocks, and gain a greater appreciation for how different courses implement technology differently.

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**EDUCATION CONSULTANT JACK BERCKEMEYER WORKS WITH LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Jack Berckemeyer, a nationally-recognized presenter, author, and humorist, has been working with both Cuyahoga Heights and Independence Local Schools on a variety of professional development opportunities over the past several years. At Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools, Berckemeyer has worked with the fourth through eighth-grade teachers on a number of topics related to teaching, differentiation, classroom management, and working with at-risk students. He also has given the opening keynote address to district staff. The district received a grant in 2015 that gave them the opportunity to bring Berckemeyer to the district to work with the teaching staff. Berckemeyer also does joint professional development workshops with both Cuyahoga Heights and Independence Local Schools, allowing teachers from both districts to collaborate and learn from each other.

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**“Our goal is to foster the growth of professional learning networks, like this technology cohort, that share a passion for education, a similar skill set, and a vision for technology integration in their classrooms. We see this as just the beginning to a new way of expanding the ways our teachers can learn and grow from each other to ultimately benefit our students.”**

- Mike Pennington, Director of Curriculum and Technology Integration

Independence Local Schools
THE ESC OF NORTHEAST OHIO HUMANITARIAN AWARD RECIPIENTS: 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

The ESC of Northeast Ohio named several students as recipients of their annual Humanitarian Awards. Recipients were nominated by administrators in their schools for showing leadership and community service as well as possessing great character during the 2017-18 school year. One student from each middle and high school in the communities of Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, and Richmond Heights Local Schools received the scholarships and awards. The awards were presented by ESC board members during their individual schools’ award assemblies during the months of May and June. In addition to a cash award, students receive a personalized plaque, starfish pin, and starfish bookmark. The starfish is the symbol of a story of the impact one person can make in a community.

Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools

Jacob Artino, 8th grade

Jacob demonstrates kindness no matter the circumstances. He treats people with respect and is mindful of the needs of those around him. Jacob always opens doors for others and his friendliness shows when he greets people with a smile and hello. He does not hesitate to reach out to any classmate when they need help or if they just seem to need a friend. While some people are kind because they want others to view them in a positive light, Jacob is kind because he genuinely cares and wants to help people. He continually makes a positive difference in the lives of so many people in so many ways; he is a true humanitarian. ESC Board Member Frank Minehart, Jr. presented the award.

Independence Local Schools

Ashleigh Porter, 8th grade

Ashleigh presents herself with grace and moral fortitude in every class, school club or athletic team in which she participates. She is caring, compassionate, and conscientious. Ashleigh also includes the values of understanding, respect, and support in her interactions with students and faculty. She is resourceful and encourage her peers. She participated in softball, basketball, choir, and student council. She participated in the Special Olympics Run and donated toys each year for Toys for Tots. Ashleigh presents herself with the emotional decorum of a mature academician and citizen. She is a humanitarian at school and in her life. ESC Vice President Christine Kiel presented the award.

Richmond Heights Local Schools

Tracy Tanner, 8th grade

Tracy was an honor roll student who always valued her learning, while also understanding the need to help her fellow classmates. She was a member of the Rise Up After School Program where she participated in tutoring and clubs take place. There, students engage in discussions surrounding social issues and learn the importance of empathy. Tracy led these discussions and looked for a copplication for engagement activities for peers. She was a driving force in organizing the student body for the National School Walkout Day protesting gun violence in March. She helped to develop slogans and took on the role of poster creator for the annual Humanitarian Award assemblies. Tracy led these discussions and looked for a copplication for engagement activities for peers. She was a driving force in organizing the student body for the National School Walkout Day protesting gun violence in March. She helped to develop slogans and took on the role of poster creator for the annual Humanitarian Award assemblies. Tracy led these discussions and looked for a copplication for engagement activities for peers. She was a driving force in organizing the student body for the National School Walkout Day protesting gun violence in March. She helped to develop slogans and took on the role of poster creator for the annual Humanitarian Award assemblies. Tracy led these discussions and looked for a copplication for engagement activities for peers.
The ESC of Northeast Ohio recognized students with disabilities, peers and educators from Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools, Independence Local Schools, and Richmond Heights Local Schools, as well as several other area districts, at the 39th annual Excellence in Education Awards. Planned by the ESC of Northeast Ohio and the State Support Team – Region 3, the event was held on May 4 at the Woodside Event Center at St. Michael’s in Broadview Heights.

The recognition brunch is an opportunity for educators, teachers, students, and community members to celebrate the great things that are happening in special education today. The Outstanding Student Achievement Award acknowledges achievements of school-age children and youth with disabilities in Northeast Ohio. The Outstanding Peer Achievement Award recognizes students without disabilities who have established positive relationships and who have assisted other students with disabilities, serving as exemplary role models. The Outstanding Educator Achievement Award honors educators who are the exemplars in designing instructional strategies and programs. Congratulations to our award recipients.

April Hedrick, was not only recognized with an Outstanding Student Achievement Award, she also received the R.A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award for a Student. This award is presented to one exemplary student receiving special education services and support from each of Ohio’s 16 State Support Team regions.