



Agency Happenings

Akron Summit Community Action Head Start Supervisor Wins Literacy Award



During the “This City Reads” 10th Annual Day of Reading Kick-off breakfast last month, Parivash Naini, site supervisor at Akron Summit Community Action’s Five Points I Head Start was awarded the *Literacy is Life Award*.

Parivash was nominated for the 2013 *Literacy is Life* award by Pam Oviatt, literacy coach from the University of Akron Center for Literacy on behalf of Akron Ready Steps (ARS).

Akron Ready Steps is a collaboration between Akron Summit Community Action and the University of Akron College of Education Center for Literacy, and serves over 300 at risk children in five Head Start sites. ARS program goals address high priority knowledge and skills children need to learn; high priority knowledge and skills teachers/teacher assistants need to teach; the design of high-quality 21st century language and literacy-rich environments; active parent engagement; and mobilizing the community around strong preschool literacy education.

“From the first introduction of the federal grant, Parivash embraced the literacy goals and has encouraged her staff as they worked to implement the new skills that they learned into their classrooms,” Ms. Oviatt stated. “She also attended all the professional development sessions with her staff so that she was more informed and better ready to support her staff and the families that they serve.”

As part of the program, an Electronic-book study was conducted at the Five Points I site comprised of staff and children in their classrooms. The results and information from that study was shared in an international presentation in Germany. Electronic books for preschoolers jazz up children’s stories with videos, animations and games that make traditional books like *Goodnight Moon* look like something chiseled in the Stone Age. Such books can help children learn the early skills they need for reading.

“Parivash deserves many thanks for her devotion and caring for the children, families, and staff at ASCA’s Five Points I Head Start site... She knows how important good literacy skills are for future success,” Pam commented.

Parivash has done an outstanding job motivating staff and families to become involved in ARS and continues to illustrate literacy as a top priority throughout the ASCA Head Start Program.

Congratulations Parivash!