Artists Gallery

Children of the High Street Neighborhood Center
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The High Street Neighborhood Center is located on the edge of downtown Lexington, Kentucky and was founded in 1969 by the Calvary Baptist and First United Methodist churches to provide low-income families with educational resources. Volunteers from the two sponsoring churches started the Neighborhood Center. Presently there are two staff persons in administration, one cook, eight teachers, and the executive director, Rita Lawson. The Child and Adult Food Program and the Child Care Assistance Program provide the Neighborhood Center with additional funding. The Neighborhood Center is licensed by the state and accountable to other regulating agencies such as the State Fire Marshal's Office and the Fayette County Health Department.

The Neighborhood Center is open between 6.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. Monday through Friday. In 1969, the children were transported to the center by bus from small communities closest to the center. Today parents who reside in and outside the Lexington area bring their children to the Neighborhood Center. The enrolled children are between one and five years old and originally come from places such as China, Iraq, Russia, Africa, Mexico, Bosnia, Nepal, India, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Columbia. "Through this diversity, the children can learn at an early age to interact with people from all different backgrounds and cultures," says Rita Lawson. Many of these children cannot speak English so the staff provides a variety of appropriate learning experiences for the children. Rita Lawson also believes that the children feel more secure when they have a well-known routine. The teachers display artwork completed by the children both in the rooms and in the hallways for parents and visitors to see. The older children attend various field trips to places such as the zoo, horse farms, and the local library. The Neighborhood Center continues to pursue the mission of providing educational resources to poor children and also aims to expose the children to experiences that without the Neighborhood Center they might otherwise miss.
Danmei

Nicholas

Adam

Manny

Sabrina
After it rains, if the sun comes out, there will be a rainbow.

Brittany down on her farm.

Darius down on his farm.