



For Immediate Release  
December 11, 2013

### **PSFC Opens New Head Start Classroom at Clear Run Elementary Center**

*Tobyhanna*— Pocono Services for Families and Children opened its seventh Head Start location in Monroe County this week, with the addition of a new classroom at Clear Run Elementary Center.

An open house for the class was held on Wednesday, Dec. 11, and was attended by parents, children, and staff/administrators from PSFC and Clear Run. Also present were PSFC board members and personnel from Pocono Mountain School District. The first official day of preschool for the youngsters will be on Dec. 12.

“We were able to get this class ready in just three weeks,” said PSFC Executive Director Tim Lee, noting that this process usually can take a month or two. “It was a true team effort.” Eighteen students will be served at this site, he said.

PSFC was able to open another location due to additional funding through the state’s Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program. The agency now serves 222 three to five year olds throughout the county, with classrooms in the East Stroudsburg area, the West End and on the mountain.

Although PSFC has been educating children in the Pocono Mountain School District for many years, this is the first setting within a school district building. PSFC also has a center in the Coolbaugh Township municipal building complex.

“We are grateful that we can accommodate more children in the area, unlike many Head Start programs nationwide that have been severely affected by sequestration cuts,” Lee said.

Pocono Mountain School District personnel also acknowledged the importance of establishing the class and the benefits for the youngsters.

Natalia Rose of Effort has been hired as the head teacher for the Head Start children at Clear Run Elementary. She has a B.A. in education, pre-K through eighth grade, from Western Governors University. Besides early childhood education, she is certified in special education, elementary

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education, biology and English. Rose has taught for several years in both private and public schools. She will be helped by assistant teachers Donna Jackson of Kunkletown and Karen Snyder of Tobyhanna. Jackson has been an intern, volunteer and substitute for PSFC and is finishing her associate's degree at Northampton Community College. Snyder is completing her bachelor's degree in education at College Misericordia and has worked for Head Start in Carbon County.

“We welcome our new staff and their commitment to high quality early learning and our children's success,” said PSFC Education Director Sandy Shay. “Besides their proven experience, they bring enthusiasm and a passion for learning to their positions.”

PSFC is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and has earned a Keystone Star 4 rating, the highest level in Pennsylvania. The agency provides comprehensive services for young children and their families to promote success in school and life.

For more information about PSFC, or to register a child in Head Start or the agency's other preschool programs, visit [www.psfc.org](http://www.psfc.org) or call 570-421-2711, x230 or x250.

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