

The Kids First Committee is planning the Thirteenth Annual Family Fun Festival as a kick-off to the Month of the Young Child. The Month of the Young Child is celebrated during April across the country by hundreds of local organizations working to improve opportunities for all young children.

"The Month of the Young Child is a time to recognize the importance of early learning for all young children, and to bring Garrett County together to help give these children a great start," said Barbara Unger, Garrett County Judy Center Partnership Manager and Kids First Committee member. "We have a great opportunity to do our part to help young children and their families, and to ensure that young children are receiving the high-quality early learning experiences that they need and deserve in order to better prepare them for life."

This year's Festival is scheduled in conjunction with the Garrett County Health Fair on Saturday, April 11, 2015, at Garrett College CARC from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

At the Family Fun Festival, local agencies and organizations will be providing hands-on activities and giveaways for young children (birth-8 years of age) and their families. Kids First Committee is sponsoring the Festival for the thirteenth year and promises that the day will be full of fun, games and giveaways. Each year hundreds of families participate in the event, which promotes healthy, family-oriented activities that assist families in helping their children learn and succeed in school. Information about the various services available for young children and their families will be available and staff will be on hand to answer questions.

Collaborators include: Department of Social Services; Dove Center; Family Support Network Pre-school Partners; Garrett College GED Program; Garrett County Early Childhood Professional Association; Garrett County Community Action: Asset Development, Service Coordination, Head Start, Early Head Start, Judy Center Partnership, Partners After School Program, and Wrap Around Child Care; Garrett County Health Department: Second Step, Dental Clinic, Early Care Programs, Health Education & Outreach, Nutrition and WIC; Landon's Library; Priority Partners; Ruth En-

low Library; and Garrett County Board of Education.

Families are also encouraged to take advantage of the screenings and presentation, and visit the many booths, at the Garrett County Health Fair.

Both events are free and no reservations are required. For more information contact The Garrett County Judy Center, 301-334-4211. Or, visit Garrett County Health Fair on Facebook for up to date information on the combined event.