



Action Opportunities, Inc. — MAINE

Families travel from Florida, Texas, California, the Indian reserves in Canada, and other far reaching places to participate in the blueberry harvest in Washington County, Maine. During their stay, these families reside in isolated, scattered camps, tents or even cars on vast blueberry “barrens” with few amenities. In 1989, East Coast Migrant Head Start Project (ECMHSP) identified a need here for Migrant Head Start services to support these families. Action Opportunities, Inc. (AOI) contracted with ECMHSP to develop an appropriate program to meet these identified needs.

During the summer and fall of 1990, Action Opportunities, Inc., began the search for a program site. The discovery of a white farmhouse situated in the middle of twelve rolling acres of grassy fields ended the search. Renovations began in early 1991 with funding from ECMHSP to create three classrooms. Harrington Migrant Head Start opened its doors in August of that year to serve fifty migrant children and their families. The program has steadily gained in recognition and trust.

In the summer of 1993 full enrollment with a waiting list was reached within the first three days. Sixty-seven children received Migrant Head Start services that year. With continued support and guidance from ECMHSP, our program site, Harrington Migrant Head Start, has refined its physical space with a new kitchen and toddler bathroom.

Action Opportunities, Inc., moves into its fifth year in partnership with East Coast Migrant Head Start Project in continuing quality care and support to migrant children and their families.