

## *How are scholarship students chosen?*

Applicants come to Promethean Foundation most often by recommendation from one of the Community Consultants, although, some have applied after hearing about the program from friends and family. When an application requests arrives in the office, a contact is made by phone or mail and an application is forwarded to the parent.

The application is completed by the parent at home and includes information about the child, parents, home and family situation, income, and health. After completing the application, the parent arranges for a home visit conducted by the Foundation Administrator. It has several purposes including verification of residence, observation of environment, and confidential discussion with a parent or guardian concerning the child's needs and the parent or guardians ability to provide for those needs.

A score is computed based on information obtained during the home visit. The scoring system was researched and developed after studying the methods used by several prominent agencies developing scoring mechanism for their purposes during the past thirty years. It measures risk factors for preschool children. Consistency is achieved because only one person scores all home visits. Consistency is tested periodically by having the visits monitored and scored independently by outside social work professionals.

Parents/ guardian is educated about the purpose of the foundation and the part the child's data will have in research. If a scholarship is awarded, the importance of regular attendance is stressed. If a scholarship is not awarded, the parent is told their child will still be included in the research, and we appreciate their participation.

After the home visit is complete, an applicant profile report is developed. It includes pertinent information about the child and parents, the home score, and a short narrative to explain extenuating circumstances that have placed the child at risk of not getting a good education start before kindergarten. The narrative reflects the conversation between the administrator and the applicant family and research done to validate the information given by the family. What the profile does not include is identifying information about the family. Each applicant is given a number for identification purposes.

The next step in the application process is the vote by the board of directors. The applicant profile is delivered to the board of directors by e-mail. Each of the seven members studies the same information and makes an independent decision about the profile in question. The votes are reported back to the administrator for tabulation. A simple majority vote decides the fate of the applicant in question. The administrator notifies each applicant with the results of the vote.

The last step in the process involves the parent of the scholarship recipient choosing a childcare setting for the child. The foundation contracts with nine privately owned and operated childcare agencies. The options are varied, some being faith based, some large, some small, some are for profit, some are non-profit. The common denominator for all of the centers is their agreement with Promethean to teach our academic curriculum and character development. The centers are monitored by Promethean to insure high quality. If the parent decides to use the scholarship, all expenses are paid to the daycare by the foundation until the child enters kindergarten unless the child leaves Obion County, leaves the daycare system early, or fails to maintain an average of 90% attendance.