



Partnership Board Honors Bob Tull for service

On Aug. 16, the Board of Directors recognized past chair Bob Tull with an award that lauds his work to better the lives of children.

The Robert E. Tull Award will go to a board member each year who demonstrates outstanding service and dedication to the Partnership. Tull's example was the inspiration for the board to establish the award.

"Bob Tull brought stability to a new organization that badly needed direction," said Barbara Voorhees, Board Chair. "He has devoted countless hours to the Partnership over the past two years. His steady presence, and the hiring of Sherry Browning as execu-

tive director in 2001, has enabled the Board to focus more effectively on our mission to promote the well-being of children under age 5 in Gaston and Lincoln counties."

A native of East Peoria, Ill., Tull is a former plant manager for the Timken Co. A Lincoln resident for more than 12 years, he is active in many community organizations, including the Lincoln Rotary Club, American Red Cross, Lincoln Cultural Center, Gaston College Foundation and Communities in Schools of Lincoln County.



Board Chair Barbara Voorhees presents a commemorative plaque to Bob Tull and wife Maureen.

Tull has been a member of the Partnership Board since the organization's inception. He served as vice chair and two terms as chair, and also served as interim executive director for several months in 2000.

New Web Site Offers Information for Parents, Providers

The Partnership has a new home on the World Wide Web.

A brand new Web site was launched in July.

There is information about the Partnership and Smart Start on the site, including the organization's mission, history and what Smart Start has accomplished for children and families in Lincoln and Gas-

ton counties.

Site visitors can also keep up with activities at the Partnership with the News and Calendar sections of the site. Electronic versions of this newsletter will also be stored online.

For groups and individuals who provide services to children, information on applying for Smart Start funding is available online.

Parents will find useful and fun information on the Links page of the site, where there is information on everything from the North Carolina Division of Child Development to sites with parent message boards.

To visit the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties' new Web site, go to www.pfclg.com.

2002-2003 Board of Directors

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Vice Chair
- Cindy Moose
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- Pat Skinner, Ph.D.
- Bob Tull
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Family Child Care Homes Celebrate Successes

On June 29, more than 50 family child care providers met at the Gaston County Citizens Resource Center in Dallas and shared their achievements in improving the level of care they offered throughout the last year.

The Quality Enhancement project recognized family child care providers who have completed North Carolina Credentials I and II, as well as providers who have begun the application process for increasing their STAR rating.

The Quality Enhance-

ment project, which is funded by Smart Start, provides assistance to child care centers and family child care homes to help improve the quality of care they offer. The assistance comes in the form of targeted bonuses and intensive technical assistance.

Technical assistance includes on-site consultation, modeling and mentoring to discuss specific issues in each center or home, among other services to providers.

There are approximately 46 family child care homes

in Lincoln and Gaston counties.

High-quality child care can lead to greater language development, mathematical ability, thinking and attention skills and fewer discipline problems in school for children in those settings.

For more information on whether your center or child care home qualifies for the Quality Enhancement project, contact Susan Durrer, the Partnership's early childhood education director, at (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008.



Partnership Technical Assistant Gina Boston (left) congratulates Shirley Jones on the accomplishments of her family child care home.

Need In-Service Training?

Child care providers needing in-service training can call the Partnership for more information on when and where classes are being held.

Currently, training is available from Developing Together LLC, Child Care Information Inc., Gaston

College, Cooperative Extension offices in Lincoln and Gaston counties and other organizations.

For more information on available training opportunities or related classes, contact the Partnership office at (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008.

Joyce Edge Joins Partnership

Joyce Edge has joined the Partnership as research assistant.

Edge's primary responsibilities are compiling data on Lincoln and Gaston child care facilities and teachers, designing databases for and reporting on the information.

Edge has been involved in database management for more than 15 years, and has used a wide variety of database software.

Edge lived in Minnesota for 20 years, where her

grown daughters, Sonia

and Alicia, still make their homes. She has four grandchildren: Nikki, 15, Justin, 12, Sam, 5 and Alex, 3.

Her favorite pastimes are golf, bridge and reading.

She and her husband, Dennis, have been married one and a half years and live in Gastonia.



SuperSTARS

The following child care centers or homes in Gaston and Lincoln counties have recently increased their STAR ratings:

★★★★★

Wanda's Little Treasures, Gastonia

★★★★★

Brown's Little Shepherds, Kings Mountain; Gaston College Child Care, Dallas; Memaw's, Kings Mountain; Nanna's House Child Care, Gastonia

★★★

Angie's Special Child Care, Bessemer City; Country Club Children's Academy, Lincoln; Gaston Learning Academy No. 1, Gastonia; Just Blessed Child Care, Gastonia; Mary's Little Lambs Child Care, Gastonia; Mrs. Peg's Care, Lincoln; Perfected Praise Child Care, Bessemer City; Precious Moments Home Child Care, Gastonia; Sharon's Little Joy and Blessings, Gastonia; Step by Step Development, Kings Mountain

★★

Christie's ChildCare Center, Cherryville; Mama Gwen's, Gastonia

★

Ms. Becky's Busy Bees, Bessemer City

JUST FOR PARENTS

Celebrate Fall: Make a Leaf Collage!

Here's what you'll need:

- The best and most beautiful fall leaves your child can find...the more the merrier!
- A heavy book
- Cardboard to serve as the back piece of the collage (cut to the size you wish)
- Glue stick
- Clear self-adhesive plastic
- Scissors
- Newspaper



Directions:

Help your child hunt for enough leaves to make the collage, which will vary depending on the size of your cardboard.



Take any leaves that

aren't flat and place them between two pieces of newspaper. Put the newspaper in the book and press the leaves flat overnight or for a few days.

Once the leaves are flat and dry, remove

them carefully from the book. Allow your child to arrange them on the cardboard, and hold them in place with a glue stick.



board on each side. Cover the leaves with the adhesive plastic, smoothing out the wrinkles and folding the ends under the cardboard.

Cut the adhesive plastic an inch larger than the card-

Then, select a place with your child to display his or her newest masterpiece!

Help Boost the Partnership Through Bi-Lo Boosters Fund-raising Program

If you'd like to give the Partnership a boost, there's an easy way to do it.

The Partnership is participating in Bi-Lo Boosters, a fund-raising program sponsored by Bi-Lo supermarkets.

Here's how it works: Bi-Lo will give the Partnership a percentage of the purchases of all Bonuscard holders who have designated the Partnership as their organization of choice in the Bi-Lo Boosters program. Specially marked items in the store will garner even more donations for the Partnership, and customers still receive the same savings on their purchase by using the Bonus-

card.

To participate, Bonuscard holders can designate the Partnership on their Bonuscard by phone or on the Web.

To sign up, Bonuscard holders will need the 12-digit number on the back of their Bonuscards, the last name under which the card is registered, and the Partnership's Booster number, which is 8197.

The toll-free number is 1-877-426-6783. To sign up online, go to www.bi-lo.com.

If you do not have a Bi-Lo Bonuscard, you can get one free at the customer service desk of any Bi-Lo store.

Children... a wise investment.

The Partnership for Children of Lincoln and Gaston Counties is working every day to make a difference in the lives of local children. Your support makes that difference possible. If you want to invest in the future of children in Lincoln and Gaston counties, please volunteer or make a tax-deductible donation.

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime phone _(____) _____

Amount enclosed: \$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 Other

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities with the Partnership.

Please make checks payable to Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties. Return with this form in person or via U.S. Mail to Partnership for Children, 1012 Philadelphia Church Road, Dallas, NC 28034.

The Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties

1012 Philadelphia Church Road
Dallas, NC 28034
phone: (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008
fax: (704) 922-0996
On the Web: www.pfclg.com
E-mail: pfclg@pfclg.com

Our vision: A community where young children will reach their full health and educational potential.

Our mission: To serve as a leading advocate and financial resource, in collaboration with other community agencies, to provide affordable access to high quality services for young children.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Oct. 18 — Partnership Board of Directors meeting, noon, Partnership office.

The community is invited to attend any board meeting. Please call ahead at (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008.

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER?

If you would like to receive the Partnership's new newsletter by mail, call Shannon Clubb at (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008 or e-mail her at publicinfo@pfclg.com.

Be sure to include the following information:
Name

Organization, if applicable

Complete preferred mailing address (*Note whether address is home or work.*)

Daytime phone number (*if we have any questions*)

STAFF

- Sherry L. Browning, Executive Director
- Tory L. Borne, Program Manager
- Shannon Clubb, Public Information Coordinator
- Susan P. Durrer, Early Childhood Education Director
- Joyce Edge, Research Assistant
- Jan Morgan, Administrative Assistant
- Rebecca Powell, Parent Information Assistant
- Dawn Rippy, Contracts Manager
- Elizabeth Sisk, Office Assistant
- Vicki Timmons, Finance Coordinator
- Bobbie Weatherly, Purchasing Assistant

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