



May-June 2002
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Thank you, teachers!

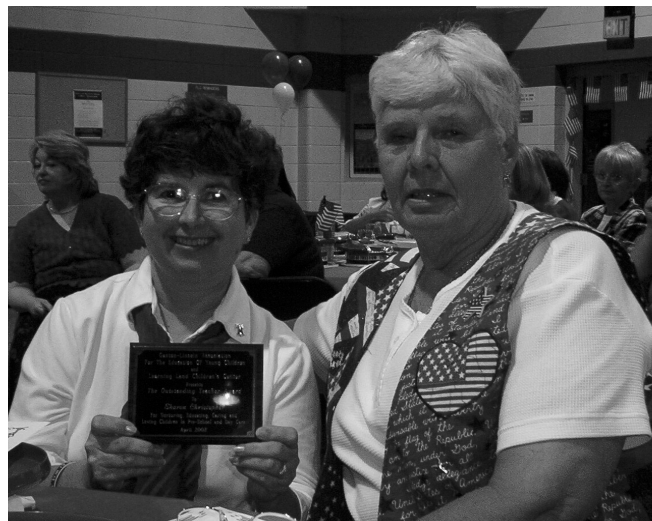
Partnership Executive Director Sherry Browning told early childhood teachers April 11 that it took special people to be able to do their jobs.

More than 350 early childhood teachers had come together for the annual Teacher Appreciation Banquet, sponsored by the Gaston-Lincoln Association for the Education of Young Children.

Browning told the group that they were specially crafted for the purpose they served in the lives of young children.

Betty Simms of Betty's Country Day Care in Dallas and Marigold Summerlin of First Baptist Daycare in Stanley were both given Director of the Year awards.

Caring Awards were presented to Teresa Connell of First Presbyterian Child Development Center in Stanley, Kim Cline of Kenlin Academy in Lincoln, and Bessie Adams of First Presbyterian in Belmont. Kennedy's Kids Kare in Gastonia, owned by Rita Kennedy, was chosen as Family Child Care Home



Sharon Christopher, Teacher of the Year at Learning Land in Lincoln, shows off her award with center director Pat Stoutland.

Partnership Executive Director Sherry Browning was the featured speaker at the awards.



of the Year.

Angela Williamson, director of Friendship Baptist Child Care and a technical assistant for the Partnership, was given the Achievement Award. Teachers were also recognized for completing

certificates and associate's degrees and for outstanding work in their centers. Child care centers with star ratings that had increased over the last year also received special recognition at the banquet.



PROVIDER CONNECTION

For child care workers, good grades can be rewarded in IPDP

More than 150 child care workers received help with the expense of their educations January 23, when checks were given to eligible participants in the Individual Professional Development Plan.

The IPDP reimburses child care workers who are in college pursuing degrees in early childhood education. Participants must have declared their major as early childhood education and must be working at least 20 hours per week in an early childhood program.

A celebration banquet was held

at Friendship Baptist Church in Gastonia. Wanda Wyont, chair of the Early Childhood Education department at Gaston College, was the keynote speaker. Certificates were given out by Sherry Browning, the Partnership's Executive Director, and Susan Durrer, the Partnership's Early Childhood Education Director.

For information on whether you qualify for IPDP or to submit an application, call Susan Durrer at the Partnership at (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008.



SuperSTARS

The following child care centers or homes in Gaston and Lincoln counties have received additional stars in 2001 or early 2002. If you would be interested in participating in Journey to the Stars, call the Partnership at (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008.



Cline Learning Center, Belmont; Kenlin Academy, Lincolnton; The Learning Express, Inc., Denver



A Place to Grow, Lincolnton; Cherryville Head Start, Cherryville; Cline Learning Center, Dallas; Deaton Avenue Head Start, Lincolnton; First Baptist Childcare Ministries, Gastonia; First Presbyterian Child Development Center, Stanley; First Presbyterian Day School, Belmont; Gaston Comprehensive Day Center, Dallas; Gingerbread House Child Care, Gastonia; Highland Head Start, Gastonia; Learning Unlimited, Gastonia; Lincoln Park Head Start, Lincolnton; Lingerfeldt Head Start, Gastonia; Mountain View Head Start, Gastonia; Mrs. Cat's Day Care, Belmont; Rankin I Head Start, Gastonia; Rankin II Head Start, Gastonia; Weldon Head Start, Gastonia



Carolina Kids Club, Gastonia; Cora's Tiny Tots, Gastonia; Friendship Baptist, Gastonia; Great Beginnings No. 3, McAdenville; Happy Baby Day Care, Lincolnton; Kids Unlimited Preschool, Lincolnton; Kindercare Learning Center, Gastonia; Learning Unlimited, Inc., Gastonia; Love 'n Learn Day Care, Gastonia; Ms. Em's Child Care Development Center, Denver; P.J.'s Child Care Center, Gastonia; Toddler Tech University, Gastonia



Advantage Child Care, Gastonia

PARENT PLACE

Gaston County children can now get 'More at Four'

Gaston County opened its two "More at Four" classrooms March 25, allowing up to 36 local children to attend a pre-school program that is designed to promote school success.

More at Four is a statewide education initiative designed to ready four-year-olds to enter kindergarten the next school year. In February, Gov. Michael Easley granted money for the program to 34 counties in North Carolina, including Gaston.

Priority is given to children who are not currently being served in a licensed child care setting. Participa-

pation is voluntary. The two classrooms that are now open are located at Forest Heights Elementary School in Gastonia and Cline Learning Center in Dallas.

Factors for determining whether a child can be admitted to the More at Four program, which is fully funded by state and local resources, include family income, the child's health, special needs of the child, housing stability, English proficiency and family composition. These factors may directly affect whether a child can begin kindergarten healthy and ready to learn.

Gaston County Schools, Cline

Learning Center and the Partnership are working together on the More at Four program. Other participating agencies include Child Care Information, Gaston Comprehensive Day Center, Gaston Community Action, Gingerbread House Child Care, Parents and Children Together, Success by Six, Gaston College, Gaston County Health Department and the Gaston County Department of Social Services.

If you would like to know whether your child is eligible for More at Four, contact Linda McConnell at (704) 866-6124 or Scott or Jayle Cline at (704) 922-9799.



LOG ON...

Check out these Web sites for useful information about your kids:

www.zerotothree.org
www.parentsoup.com
www.ncdaycare.net
www.connectforkids.org

Gaston County manager to join Partnership board

Jan Winters, who was recently hired as Gaston County manager, is the newest member of the Partnership's Board of Directors.

Mr. Winters began his duties as Gaston County manager March 5. Prior to that, he served as county administrator in Charlotte County, Florida, for seven years.

He has also served as county administrator in Palm Beach County, Florida, city manager of Loveland, Colorado and chief planning and zoning administrator of Santa Cruz County, California.

He also spent three years working for the U.S. State Department in Krakow, Poland.

Winters and his wife, Kay, have five children and one grandchild. They are currently in the process of relocating to Gastonia.

Those wishing to welcome him to the board can reach him at County Manager's Office, P.O. Box 1578, Gastonia 28053; (704) 866-3100 or e-mail at jwinters@co.gaston.nc.us.

The Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties

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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

May 17 — Partnership Board of Directors
Annual Meeting, 12 p.m., Partnership office
June 17 — IPDP Banquet, 6:30 p.m., Gaston
County Public Library, 1555 E. Garrison
Blvd., Gastonia. (Grades due by 5 p.m. May
29)

June 21 — Partnership Board of Directors
meeting, 12 p.m., Partnership office

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

Jan Morgan, Administrative Assistant

Rebecca Powell, Research Coordinator

Dawn Rippy, Contracts Manager

Elizabeth Sisk, Office Assistant

Vicki Timmons, Finance Coordinator

Bobbie Weatherly, Purchasing Assistant

Partnership for Children of Lincoln and Gaston Counties

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