

Partnership Staff

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Cristina Lozano, Parent Information Assistant
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Erin Patterson, Research Assistant
Rebecca Powell, Parent Information Assistant
Dawn Rippy, Contract Manager
Vicki Timmons, Finance Manager
Amy Wadsworth, Public Information Coordinator

Our Vision:

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

Stay in the loop! Join the Partnership's Mailing List

You can receive the newsletter two ways--by US Mail or email. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter, please contact Amy Wadsworth at 704-736-9008 or 704-922-9008, or drop an email to publicinfo@pfclg.com.

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.

Non-Profit Organization
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**3146 Dallas-High Shoals Hwy.
Dallas NC 28034**

Check us out on the web-www.pfclg.com



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Partnership Press



News and Info about Smart Start in Lincoln & Gaston Counties

Spring 2008

Partnership for Children Participates in "Run for the Money"

On Saturday, April 19, the Community Foundation of Gaston County presented the sixth annual "Run for the Money".

There was a large turnout with 109 organizations participating in this year's event, which enables non-profit organizations to raise funds for their needs.

David Rakatansky represented the Partnership in the 5K run and staff from the Partnership for Children educated the public at their booth about Smart Start and the Partnership's programs.

A stamp art area was set up for children to design their own artwork and a slide was used by toddlers.

The Partnership will be at the Apple Festival on September 20.



Community Support Continues to Grow for Young Children

The Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties represents an ever growing collaboration of individuals and organizations dedicated to helping young children reach their full potential.

The partners include: parents, child care professionals, licensed child care centers, licensed family child care homes, the Gaston County Public Schools Pre-Kindergarten Program, the Lincoln County Public Schools Pre-Kindergarten Program, the Gaston County Department of Social Services, the Lincoln County Department of Social Services, the Gaston County Health Department, the Lincoln County Health Department, Child Care Connections of Cleveland County, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service-Gaston County, Communities in Schools of Lincoln County, Community Health Partners, Child Care Services Administration and the North Carolina Partnership for Children.



Hundreds of people worked to provide a better life for over 14,000 preschool children in Lincoln and Gaston Counties in fiscal year 2006-2007. Leadership was provided by the dedicated Partnership Board of Directors chaired by Cindy Moose.

None of the accomplishments would have been possible without the support of the North Carolina General Assembly that funds Smart Start. We also express our appreciation to the Community Foundation of Gaston County for their sixth consecutive year of support. Smart Start provided \$3,405,824. Other sources of

funding were More at Four (\$723,920), and Child Care Resource and Referral (\$70,000). Miscellaneous sources provided \$42,916. In addition, to the cash resources, there were many in-kind contributions of time and resources.

We invested \$4,233,593 in our children by improving child care and education (\$1,633,030), supporting and informing families (\$310,424), improving health and safety (\$173,641), helping More at Four classrooms in Gaston County (\$808,325), providing More at Four services in Lincoln County (\$716,017). We educated the community, improved community collaboration, monitored the activities, and administered the services (\$592,156).

All assets, income, and expenditures were audited by Tichenor & Associates, LLP, under contract with the Office at the State Auditor.

Proposed 2008-2009 Partnership Programs

Adolescent Parenting Program (APP): APP provides services and support to young Lincoln County parents who have a child or children between birth and five years, or are expecting a child. This activity is operated by Lincoln County Department of Social Services.

Very Important Parents (VIP): VIP serves as a centralized source of support for parents of children birth through five years. Staff provides parents or other primary caregivers with workshops, seminars, newsletters, lending library and referral to other local resources. This activity is operated by Gaston County Cooperative Extension.

Parent Resource and Referral: This activity provides child care information to parents of young children and maintains a computerized database on child care supply and demand for spaces in Lincoln and Gaston Counties. This program is operated by the Partnership for Children.

Family Resource Center: The Family Resource Center provides free programs to all Lincoln County residents who are parents or guardians of children ages birth through five. Activities include parenting classes, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and child and adult literacy opportunities. This activity is operated by Communities In Schools of Lincoln County, Inc.

Early Intervention and Awareness: A Child Development Awareness Specialist provides information regarding the importance and availability of early intervention services in Gaston and Lincoln Counties to area agencies and organizations that impact families, physicians and pediatric therapists. This program is operated by Community Health Partners.

Health Check Coordination: The Health Check Coordination Program supports two Health Check Coordinators to identify children ages birth to five who are eligible for Medicaid, and educate their parents/

guardians on the importance of regular preventive care. This program is operated by Community Health Partners.

The Incredible Years: This activity provides a series of workshops geared toward parenting skill-building techniques and is administered by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.

Child Care Health Consultants: Two full-time North Carolina-certified Child Care Health Consultants work to improve the health, safety, and nutrition of children ages birth through five attending licensed child care centers and family care homes in Lincoln and Gaston counties. This activity is administered by the Health Departments serving their respective counties.

Child Care Subsidy: This subsidy program purchases child care for children whose families meet local, state and federal requirements. It is administered by the Department of Social Services office in each county.

Individual Professional Development Program (IPDP): Through this program, child care professionals are able to receive professional development planning assistance, financial incentives for completing college courses, and other professional support opportunities. This activity is operated by the Partnership for Children.

Quality Enhancement: This project provides on-site technical assistance, training opportunities, and incentives to child care providers to improve quality in child care centers and family child care homes rated four stars or below in Lincoln and Gaston Counties. This activity is administered by the Partnership for Children.

Quality Sustainability: This activity provides financial and technical support to qualified high quality four and five star facilities that serve children ages birth through five years that meet specific

goals and high-quality indicators. This activity also requires participants to meet specific program and education point levels as identified in their state license. This program is operated by the Partnership for Children.

Gaston County More at Four Pre-kindergarten Program Subsidy: The local Partnership for Children provides supplemental funding to child care centers providing More at Four services in Gaston County.

Lincoln County More at Four Pre-kindergarten Program Administration: The local Partnership for Children serves as the More at Four administrator for Lincoln County, and is responsible for verification of the child's eligibility and the More at Four site's compliance with More at Four program guidelines.

WAGE\$: WAGE\$ is designed to provide incentives to early childhood professionals to increase teacher education levels and decrease turnover. WAGE\$ is administered by the Child Care Services Association.

Program Coordination and Collaboration: This activity, operated by the Partnership for Children, provides a variety of tools to help other Smart Start funded programs work efficiently. Staff bring together community organizations to work toward common goals, improve the service delivery system, evaluate service effectiveness, identify needs and remedies, maximize the use of resources, and identify underserved populations.

Community Outreach Services: Citizens are connected to Smart Start services through a variety of methods, including participation at community fairs, publications, and informing the public through the Partnership's website, www.pfclg.com. This activity is operated by the Partnership for Children.