

Partnership Press

News and Information about Smart Start in Lincoln & Gaston Counties

Spring 2007

Mark Your Calendars! State of the Young Child to be Held June 4, 2007

Local leaders and the early childhood community are invited to the Partnership for Children's annual State of the Young Child event on Monday, June 4 at the Citizens Resource Center in Dallas, NC. The event will begin at 6:30.

This year's event will highlight the services provided by Smart Start in the previous year and honor the Partnership's direct service providers and area child care facilities. Additionally, recipients of the Individual Professional Development Payment (IPDP) will be recognized. Clark Plexico, vice-chair of the North Carolina Partnership for Children board of directors, will deliver the keynote address.

If you are interested in attending the State of the Young Child event, please RSVP to the Partnership for Children at 704-922-0900 no later than May 30.

Partnership for Children Raises almost \$ 1,200 with Run for the Money !!

Saturday, March 31 was a great day to be in Downtown Gastonia for the fifth annual "Run for The Money" sponsored by the Community Foundation of Gaston County. The event, which enables non-profit organizations to raise funds for their needs, was a great success. Through the generous donations of our supporters and a 64% match of those donations from the Community Foundation, the Partnership raised **\$1,197.20**. Funds will be used to purchase an automated phone dialer for use in notifying area child care facilities of emergency situations and environmental alerts.



Holland (left) and Walker Perryman enjoyed playing in the sand at the Partnership's booth at "Run for the Money." Holland and Walker are the children of Sissy and Patrick Perryman of Gastonia.

Over 100 organizations participated in this year's Run for the Money. Board member Billy Marsh represented the Partnership in the 5K run, and staff from the Partnership for Children were on hand with their own "Beach Party", complete with sun and sand for children. During the event, the Partnership connected with over 200 people to educate them of Smart Start and the Partnership's Child Care Resource and Referral services.

Thanks to all who supported the Partnership for Children, whether through a donation or volunteering your time. Your support is greatly appreciated!



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SUPER STARS

The following child care centers and family child care homes received their three, four or five level star rating in July-December 2006.

Three Stars

Bay's Child Development, Gastonia
 Catawba Heights Baptist Learning Center, Belmont
 Country Acres-Pumpkin Center
 Dawn Fraley's Home Day Care, Mt. Holly
 Evangel Day Care Center and Annex, Gastonia
 Gina's Kidsfirst Child Development Center, Gastonia
 It's All About Me Home Daycare, Gastonia
 Linda Skipper Family Child Care Home, Lincolnton
 Lynn's Lil' Angels, Kings Mountain
 Meek Child Development, Belmont
 Precious Angels Family Day Care Home, Mt. Holly

Four Stars

Cora's Tiny Tots, Gastonia
 Country Club Children's Academy, Lincolnton
 Ms. Brenda's Child Care Services, Gastonia
 New Horizons Child Development Center, Gastonia

Five Stars

Carolina Kids Club, Gastonia
 GE Massey Elementary Pre-K, Lincolnton
 Iron Station Elementary Pre-K, Iron Station
 Mrs. Cat's Day Care, Belmont
 Nana's House Child Care, Gastonia
 North Belmont Elementary Pre-K, Belmont
 North Brook Elementary Pre-K, Vale
 Precious Moments Home Child Care, Gastonia
 Rankin II Head Start, Gastonia
 S. Ray Lowder Elementary Pre-K, Lincolnton

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Are You Eligible for IPDP?

If you are a child care employee taking college-level courses and majoring in early childhood development, you may be eligible for the Partnership for Children's Individual Professional Development Payment (IPDP). IPDP provides financial incentives and recognition for child care professionals who complete colleges courses.

Applications and course work documentation for the Spring 2007 semester is now being accepted. To view the eligibility requirements and to download an application, visit the Partnership's website at www.pfclg.com *Applications and needed documentation are due to the Partnership for Children by noon on Thursday, May 24, 2007.*

Make a Difference in a Child's Life...

The Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties, along with our partners and direct service providers, work hard to make a difference in the lives of local children. If you are interested in investing in the future of our youngest citizens, either by volunteering with an organization or making a tax-deductible donation, please contact us at 704-922-0900 or 704-736-9008.



Gaston & Lincoln More At Four Programs Now Accepting Applications

More at Four, North Carolina's community-based pre-Kindergarten program, is now accepting applications for enrollment in the 2007-08 school year.

More at Four is designed to provide a high-quality preschool education to four-year-olds in our community. For most of the children who participate, More at Four is their first exposure to a preschool setting and readies them for success in school. Involvement in More at Four provides children with both the education and social skills they need to begin their school careers ready to learn.



More at Four programs are located in both Gaston and Lincoln County at designated elementary schools and child care centers. The program is limited to serving children who will be four years old on or before October 16, 2007 and targets children that have not been exposed to a preschool education

or are developmentally-challenged. Eligibility for More at Four is determined by a number of criteria, including family size and gross income.

To learn more about the program, please contact the designated provider in your county. For Gaston County, please call Gaston County Schools at 704-866-6124, and for Lincoln, you may contact the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties at 704-736-9008 or 704-922-0900.

Looking for child care?

If you, or someone you know is looking for child care in Gaston or Lincoln Counties, tell them to call the Partnership for Children!

The Partnership's Child Care Resource and Referral Service provides free and confidential information for families looking for child care services for children ages six weeks to 12. One of our Parent Information Assistants can help you determine your child care needs, such as location, time and days of the week; provide a list of licensed child care options that fit your needs; and provide an easy-to-use checklist of quality indicators. You can then visit the locations to find the center that is best for you and your family.

To learn more or to use this service, please contact the Partnership at 704-922-0900 or 704-736-9008. All services are free and confidential.

Local Professionals Visit Raleigh to Advocate for Smart Start

Local child care professionals and Partnership staff traveled to Raleigh recently to remind our legislatures of the importance of Smart Start in our community, and what needs still persist. On March 11, Terri Meeks of Parkview School and Chrystal Hoyle, a technical assistant, along with Partnership staff members participated in "Keep the Promise Day" and visited Representatives Debbie Clary (Gaston/Cleveland), William Current (Gaston) and Joe Kiser (Lincoln). On April 24, Tonya Helms of A to Z Child Care and Amy Simmons of The Grace School joined staff members and met with Senator David Hoyle (Gaston), Representative Will Neumann (Gaston) and Representatives Clary and Current.

The Partnership would like to extend a special "thank you" to these individuals for taking time out to advocate for the young children in Gaston and Lincoln Counties.

Parent Wins \$100 Gift Card for Participating in Partnership Survey



Stephanie Kuhn of Lincolnton was the lucky winner of a \$100 Wal-Mart gift card for her participation in the Partnership for Children's Winter survey. The survey, distributed to child care centers in the two counties, gave parents the opportunity to participate in a needs and services assessment of Smart Start services. Over 160 parents representing a wide geographical spread in the two counties participated and were entered into a drawing for the gift card donated by Scopeview.

Partnership Staff

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Stacy I. Bryant, Public Information Coordinator
Elizabeth S. Carroll, Administrative Assistant
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Sherri Heffner, Contracts Assistant
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Cristina Lozano, Parent Information Assistant
(Gaston Department of Social Services)
Rebecca Powell, Parent Information Assistant
Dawn Rippy, Contract Manager
Vicki Timmons, Finance Manager

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 Stacy Bryant at 704-736-9008 or 704-922-9008, or drop an email to publicinfo@pfcfg.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.



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