



FY 2009

# ANNUAL REPORT

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The Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties is a nonprofit organization that provides services for local families and children through Smart Start, North Carolina's award-winning early childhood initiative.

# A Year of Achievements

## Dear Champions of our Children and Families

It is with great pride that we present to you the successes and accomplishments achieved by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties over the past year. The Partnership strives to ensure that every child in Lincoln & Gaston counties enters school healthy and prepared for success. While all will agree that 2008 – 2009 was a challenging year economically for businesses, non-profits and families, the Partnership chose to view the year through the lens of opportunity. The Partnership sought new collaborations and relationships and worked very hard to provide innovative new resources to the community including a comprehensive lending library for child care providers in our area.

The Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties celebrates the fact that our counties are filled with many strengths and assets including a diverse community that prides itself on its youngest citizens – our future leaders. The Partnership's role within our community has been to build upon these community strengths in order to bring about the best outcomes for our children and to help build our local early childhood system. The Partnership worked to achieve this in 2008-2009 by being comprehensive in its approach to services in both counties and designing its supports to the local needs of the community. All control of these services is maintained at the local level and families are included in every aspect.

As we reflect on the last year, everything achieved would not have taken place without the direction, insight and knowledge of all involved. These individuals include a committed staff, a highly dedicated board of directors, a team of direct service providers, and a community of devoted early childhood professionals.

We thank you for caring about our children and families and we look forward to reaching new heights of excellence in the coming year.



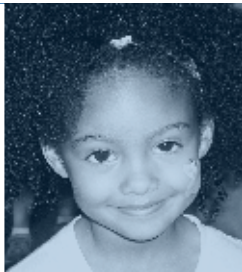
*Steve Eaton*

Steve Eaton  
PFCLG Executive Director



*Robert B. Weeks Jr.*

Robert Weeks  
PFCLG Board Chair



# 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.

# OUR VISION

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

# More at Four

pre-kindergarten program



"The reason I enjoy the More at Four program is because it lets the children explore and experience the world, it gets them ready for kindergarten. They learn the basics like letters, shapes and colors."

~ Melanie Tuft, More at Four teacher

## WHAT IS MORE AT FOUR?

More at Four is a state funded, community-based pre-kindergarten program. The purpose of More at Four is to provide high-quality educational experiences in order to enhance school readiness for at risk four-year olds. The Partnership for Children serves as the More at Four administrator for Lincoln County and is responsible for the More at Four site's compliance with program guidelines and the verification of the child's eligibility. The Partnership provides supplemental funding to all child care centers and elementary schools providing More at Four in Lincoln and Gaston Counties.

## WHAT DO CHILDREN LEARN IN MORE AT FOUR?

The program curriculum may include:

- \* Math, Science, Art and Music
- \* Learning about colors, shapes, letters and numbers
- \* Expanding language skills
- \* Developing an enthusiasm for learning

## MORE AT FOUR SITES-LINCOLN

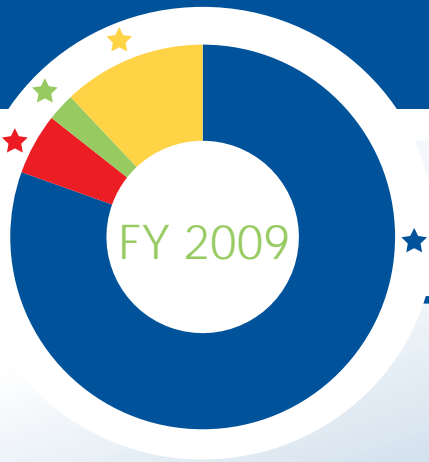
Catawba Springs Elementary  
The Mini Academy @ Denver  
Ms. Em's Child Development Center  
St. James Elementary Pre-Kindergarten Program  
A Place to Grow  
Battleground Elementary Pre-Kindergarten Program  
G.E. Massey Elementary Pre-Kindergarten Program  
Lincoln Park Head Start  
Norris Childers Elementary Pre-Kindergarten Program  
North Brook Elementary Pre-Kindergarten Program  
Union Elementary Pre-Kindergarten Program

## MORE AT FOUR SITES-GASTON

There are 50 classrooms in Gaston County.  
The newest sites are:

Bright Futures Learning Center  
Gina's KidsFirst Child Development Center  
New Horizons Child Development Center  
Preschool Connection, Inc.  
Robinson Elementary School





EXPENDITURES

★ **EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION**

**Total \$3,760,262.61**

Child Care Subsidy-Gaston Gaston County DSS	\$629,877.45
Child Care Subsidy-Lincoln Lincoln County DSS	\$279,986.45
Child Care Subsidy Administration-Gaston Gaston County DSS	\$100,000
Child Care Subsidy Administration-Lincoln Lincoln County DSS	\$70,000
More at Four: Gaston PFCLG	\$461,597.11
Parent Resource and Referral PFCLG	\$30,982.00
Child Care Health Consultant-Gaston County Gaston County Health Department	\$48,810.59
Child Care Health Consultant-Lincoln County Lincoln County Health Department	\$54,535.19
Quality Enhancement PFCLG	\$201,165.26
Quality Sustainability PFCLG	\$1,423,401.00
WAGE\$ Child Care Services Association	\$356,500.00
Individual Professional Development Program PFCLG	\$103,407.56

★ **FAMILY SUPPORT**

**Total \$240,775.54**

Adolescent Parenting Program Lincoln County DSS	\$83,026
Family Resource Center-Lincoln County Communities in Schools	\$61,921.47
Very Important Parenting Program-Gaston NC Cooperative Extension-Gaston	\$95,828.07

★ **HEALTH**

**Total \$109,553.64**

Early Intervention Awareness Community Health Partners	\$39,809.00
Health Check Coordination Community Health Partners	\$69,744.64

★ **ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS**

**Total \$562,338.14**

Administration PFCLG	\$390,845.63
Program Coordination/Collaboration PFCLG	\$107,137.97
Community Outreach Services PFCLG	\$64,354.54

**2008-09 PFCLG Total Funding by FYE June 30, 2009**

**Total \$5,732,613.00**

Smart Start	\$4,701,077.00
More at Four	\$962,636.00
Division of Child Development	\$68,900.00

**2008-2009 Cash and In-Kind**

**Total \$510,977.49**

(As of July 1, 2008)

#### OFFICERS

Melinda Houser, Chair,  
Lincoln Co. Cooperative Extension Service

Robert Weeks, Vice-Chair,  
Gaston Family Health Services

Cathy Davis, Secretary,  
Lincoln Co. Coalition Against Child Abuse

Erma Deen Hoyle, Treasurer,  
Lincoln Co. Parks & Recreation Dept.

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Javier Atilano, Parent Representative  
Joann Barber, Missionary Baptist Church  
Lou Burgess, Lincoln Co. Health Department  
Nelson Connor, Pathways, Inc.  
Elizabeth Dampier, Gaston Co. Museum  
Maggie Dollar, Lincoln Co. Health Department  
Pearl Burris Floyd, Gaston Co. Commissioner  
David Fogarty, Gaston Co. Cooperative Extension Service  
Annie Geerken, Kenlin Academy  
Linda Greer, Gaston College  
William Gross, Gaston Co. Health Department  
Cindy Hammer, Early Beginnings Child Development Center  
Carolyn Harbinson, Gaston Community Action  
Tonya Helms, Tonya Helms A to Z Childcare  
Cindy Holman, Gaston Co. Department of Social Services  
Tina Hurdtt, City of Lincoln  
Sandy Johnson, Retired Educator  
Cathy Kenzig, Alliance for Children and Youth  
Paul Locke, Timken Lincoln Bearing Plant  
Charlotte Lynch, Community Health Partners, Inc.  
Billy Marsh, Communities In Schools of Lincoln Co.  
Dr. David Martin, Lincoln Co. Schools  
Susan McCracken, Lincoln Co. Department of Social Services  
Reeves McGlohon, Gaston Co. Schools  
Cindy Moose, Gaston-Lincoln Regional Library  
Ellen Robertson, Parent Representative  
Laura Slack, United Way of Lincoln County, Inc.

#### PARTNERSHIP STAFF

Steve Eaton, Executive Director  
Tory L. Borne, Program Manager  
Elizabeth S. Carroll, Administrative Assistant  
Marnita Causby, Office Assistant  
Sherri Heffner, Contracts Assistant  
Diane Hines, Early Childhood Education Director  
Chrystal Hoyle, Technical Assistant  
Cristina Lozano, Parent Information Assistant  
Erin Patterson, Research Assistant  
Rebecca Powell, Parent Information Assistant  
Rosalind Richardson, Technical Assistant  
Dawn Rippy, Contracts Manager  
Carol Stephenson, Technical Assistant  
Deirdre Sykes, Technical Assistant  
Vicki Timmons, Finance Coordinator  
Amy Wadsworth, Public Information Coordinator  
Kimberly Ward, Technical Assistant



*"Seek the wisdom of the ages, but look  
at the world through the eyes of a child."*

*~ Ron Wild*

#### PFCLG 2008-2009 AT A GLANCE...

##### How many children?

- \* There are an estimated 21,595 children aged 0-5 in Lincoln and Gaston Counties.
- \* An estimated 5,138 children aged 0-5 attend licensed child care in Lincoln and Gaston Counties.

##### HOW DID WE HELP?

##### We helped families find and afford quality licensed child care

- \* An average of 284 children per month attended high quality licensed child care with assistance of subsidy vouchers.
- \* Assistance to find licensed child care among approximately 200 child care facilities was provided to 759 families.

##### We helped child care facilities achieve higher standard of care

- \* Technical Assistance targeting health, nutrition, sanitation and safety was provided to 69 child care facilities.
- \* Targeted intensive technical assistance and material and equipment grants were provided to 4 child care facilities.

##### We helped improve the compensation and education of providers

- \* 91% of facilities employing staff with below quality rating scores in education had staff earn college credit.
- \* Financial incentive awards were given to 177 full-time providers working in 74 child care facilities for earning college credit towards degrees in early childhood education or a related field.

##### We helped families improve their parenting skills

- \* Parenting classes ranging from one-time workshops to intensive court-ordered parenting classes helped 208 families improve parenting skills.

##### We helped improve awareness and enrollment in health services

- \* 3,483 families were offered assistance in enrolling in free/low cost health care.
- \* Training on the use of screening tools to identify children with special needs at the earliest age possible was offered to staff of 35 medical practices.



*"The brighter our outlook, the broader our horizons."*

*~ Author Unknown*



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