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Winter 2013

# PARTNERSHIP PRESS



## PFCLG 2013 FIFTH ANNUAL SPOOKTACULAR A SUCCESS

The Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties fifth annual Family Spooktacular was held on Saturday, October 26, 2013 and had an attendance of approximately 1,500 children and family members. Patrons came to enjoy the day's festivities at the WoodMill Festival Grounds in Vale, which included trunk or treat, face painting and fitness trail. The local ambulance, fire truck and Inmate Transport Van were also at the grounds to educate children.

The event was geared toward families with young children and helped raise awareness of the Partnership's services. Parents were able to learn more about the different Smart Start funded projects which include our Child Care Health Consultants, the Assuring Better Child Health & Development Program and the Very Important Parents Program.

"The fifth annual Family Spooktacular was a huge success and we are thrilled with the amount of support that we received from the community," said Mike Linker, Executive Director of the Partnership. "It was great to see all the children and family members who came out to enjoy the day."

Various activities returned this year including the Tumblebus and Seamore, a fun-tastic inflatable provided by Twist and Tuck in Lincolnton. New activities included an exhibit from the Catawba Science Center and fun activities for school age children. Patrons also enjoyed the fitness trail with a treat of fresh fruit at the end! A free hotdog lunch was provided again.

## PARTNERSHIP STAFF

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## OUR MISSION

Serving as a leading advocate and collaborative resource to provide access to high quality services for young children.

## OUR VISION

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

## CONTACT US

Receive our newsletter twice a year by US Mail. If you want to receive our newsletter, please contact:

Amy Wadsworth at 704-736-9008 or 704-922-0900, or send an email to [publicinfo@pfclg.com](mailto:publicinfo@pfclg.com).

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## We would like to thank our Sponsors that helped make our Spooktacular event a success!



This years Sponsors include:  
 5 star/event sponsor: Röchling Engineering Plastics  
 4 star: WoodMill Winery  
 2 star: The Michelsen Group, Inc.; Watson Insurance  
 1 star : Abbott Building Service, Inc.; Dallas Optimist Club; Early Childhood Professionals; Lincoln County Parks & Recreation; Mast, Evans & Isenhour, L.L.P.; Park Sterling Bank; In Honor of Partnership Staff; Pepsi Bottling Group; Truliant Federal Credit Union

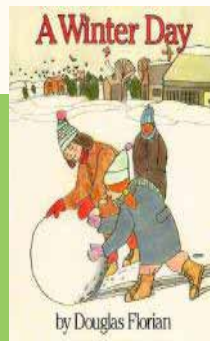


In addition, Thanks to our other contributors:  
 Aaron's Sales & Lease; Carolina Federal Credit Union; Chiquita; Dr. W. David White, D.D.S., P.A.; GiGi Sampson, Send Out Cards; Jamco Beauty Supplies; Rhyne Financial; Snyder's-Lance, Inc.



Thank you to our volunteers, some which include:  
 Our direct service providers; Board members; Gaston County Public Library; Child care centers and homes, Emergency services (Lincoln County Sherriff's Department, Union Fire Department, Lincoln County EMS, etc.), Explorers, community businesses and others for helping to make this year's event a resounding success.

## Apple Festival 2013



### Winter Book Recommendations

Winter: Signs of the Season Around North America  
 By Mary Pat Finnegan

Snowy, Blowy Winter  
 By Bob Raczka

Crafts to make in the Winter  
 By Kathy Ross

The Shortest Day  
 By Wendy Pfeffer

A Winter Day  
 By Douglas Florian

Winter Visitors  
 By Elizabeth Lee O'Donnell

One Winter's Day  
 by Christina M. Butler

Chaucer's First Winter  
 by Stephen Krensky

## Save the Date: Run for the Money 2014

Run for the Money 12 will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2014

### There are only 2,000 Days...

Did you know there are only 2,000 days between the time a baby is born and when that child begins kindergarten? The foundation for all future learning is built during early childhood. The brain is the only organ not fully developed at birth. Experiences during this time have a lasting impact on later learning, health and success. A child's earliest experiences determine how their brains are wired and lay the groundwork for future health and form the foundation of the social and emotional skills needed for academic and workplace success. In fact 90 percent of critical brain development happens in the first five years of life.

These are just some of the reasons why quality early childhood education is critical. High quality early childhood programs produce results.

Early Childhood Investments are a matter of:

- National Security-75 percent of Americans 17 to 24 cannot meet the military's eligibility requirements (that is nearly 775,000 young North Carolinians unable to join the Military.)
- Economic Prosperity-80-90 million adults (nearly half the US workforce) do not have the basic education and communications skills required to acquire and advance in jobs. NC Employers report poor communication skills. Six out of 10 surveyed North Carolina employers reported communications skill gaps among job applicants.
- Crime prevention-In FY 2012-13, the General Assembly appropriated in state general funds-\$1.38 billion to the Division of Corrections and \$266 million to the Division of Child Development. At-risk children that didn't attend quality pre-kindergarten were 5 times more likely to become chronic criminal offenders by age 27.

### High Quality Early Childhood Programs Produce Results!

- By 3rd grade, about one-third of the achievement gap can be closed by early education
- NC 3rd graders have higher standardized reading and math scores and lower special education placement rates in counties that received more funding for Smart Start and NCPReK when those children were younger
- High quality early childhood programs increase graduation rates by as much as 44 percent; NC's graduation rate exceeded 80 percent for the first time in 2012. It is 82 percent in 2013.
- A 5 percent increase in male high school graduation rates is estimated to save NC \$152 million in annual incarceration rates
- Participants in high quality early childhood programs have higher earnings, pay more taxes and are less likely to rely on government assistance
- Every dollar invested in early education produces a 10 percent return through increased personal achievement and social productivity

For more information visit [www.first2000days.org](http://www.first2000days.org).

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