



Annual Report 2023



THRIVE to
FIVE &
BEYOND!

**Partnership
for Children**
of Lincoln & Gaston Counties

a partner in the
smart start network



To lead, advocate and collaborate with others to ensure the wellbeing of children, ages birth to five

Mission



a partner in the
smart start network



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

Dear Champions of Children and Families,

On behalf of the Partnership for Children of Lincoln/Gaston Counties, Inc. (Partnership) Board of Directors and staff, we are pleased to share annual highlights of our shared work in our community. Our child care and service providers continued to provide exemplary early care and education and family support in the midst of ongoing teacher and staff shortages. While there is still much work to be done, we pause to celebrate their efforts as well as those of our community partners to ensure that all young children and their families have access to the support and services that contribute to feeling competent and confident in school and in life.

As you read the next few pages, we invite you to learn more about the impact of the Partnership's Smart-Start funded activities that reflect our vision of *communities where children, ages birth to five, reach their health, development, and educational potential and grow to be thriving adults*. Celebrate the gifts and volunteer services generously given knowing that we could not do this work without them. Join us we continue to strive to live into our mission to lead, *advocate and collaborate with others to ensure the wellbeing of children, ages birth to five in our community*.

With gratitude,

Deana Murphy
Partnership Board Chair

Vision

Communities where children, ages birth to five, reach their health, developmental, and educational potential and grow to be thriving adults

Income

Smart Start Administration	\$339,930
Smart Start Services	\$1,750,526
Smart Start State Level Contracts	\$1,761,648
NC Pre-K Lincoln County	\$1,652,684
Parent Resource & Referral	\$30,119
Dolly Parton Imaginary Library Expansion	\$0
Private Grants	\$3,000
Other	\$26,274
Total Income	\$5,564,181



Expenditures

Early Care & Education

Child Care Subsidy - Gaston	\$1,039,265
Child Care Subsidy - Lincoln	\$385,000
Child Care Subsidy Admin - Gaston	\$157,056
Child Care Subsidy Admin - Lincoln	\$70,607
WAGE\$	\$109,720
Quality Early Care & Education	\$1,096,631
Individual Professional Development Program (IPDP)	\$57,475

\$2,915,754

Family Support

Triple P - Positive Parenting Program	\$90,631
Lincoln County Child Advocacy Center	\$51,436
Reach Out & Read®	\$28,909
Raise A Reader	\$2,000
Community Outreach	\$81,096
Dolly Parton Imaginary Library Expansion	\$9,238.58

\$263,310

Health

Child Care Health Consultant- Gaston	\$112,358
Child Care Health Consultant- Lincoln	\$65,905

\$178,263

Admin Functions

Administration	\$307,375
Fundraising	\$32,555
Program Coordination	\$162,092

\$502,022

Grants

NC Pre-K Lincoln County	\$1,626,833
Parent Resource & Referral	\$28,722
Private Grants	\$16,364
Increase in Net Assets	\$13,748

\$1,685,667

Total Expenditure

\$5,545,016

Early Care and Education

Child Care Subsidy & Direct Services

\$1,423,568 (1.4M) supported families' access to high quality early care and education for **909** children aged birth to five through vouchers.

100% were served in 4- & 5-star child care facilities in Lincoln and Gaston Counties.



“Subsidized Day Care helps in so many ways, but one of the best ways that it helps is for a single Mom trying to continue her education and work at the same time so that she can better her life for herself and her children. Under normal circumstances the single mother would probably not be able to go to school, maybe even not be able to work, with having young children in the home and not being able to afford the cost of childcare. The SCCA program has been a blessing to so many families making a way for single mothers to pursue their goals whether it be college, specialized training or a new career.”

— Christina Vandiver,
Lincoln County Department of Social Services

Early Care and Education


Quality Early Care and Education (QECE)

Our Technical Assistance makes an impact.



“My Technical Assistant always provides me with the most recent information on what is happening at the Partnership, new requirements, trainings, and new programs that might assist me in offering higher quality care. I just like having her here. I know that if I need her for any reason, I can call and get a quick response.”

— Child Care Provider



83 child care facilities received ongoing technical assistance, training and incentives through the Quality Early Care and Education (QECE) Program to maintain or increase program quality.

100% maintained or increased their program quality and star rating.

147 trainings were provided by Partnership staff, CCHCs and community partners for **308** early childhood professionals.

Early Care and Education

Individual Professional Development Program (IPDP)

61 child care professionals received tuition reimbursement through IPDP while earning **Associate, Bachelor's and Graduate degrees.**

"[IPDP] has helped me tremendously as a single mother, allowing me to continue school and pursue my dreams to better my life and my daughter's life." — Child Care Parent

WAGE\$

68 child care professionals serving 1,918 children earned a **WAGE\$ education-based salary supplement.**



Thank you very much for supporting us. We have a very hard job, and I see fewer and fewer people applying to work in this field. The extra bonuses from WAGE\$ definitely help. I would like to see directors and administrators fully funded as well."

— Lincoln County
Child Care Director/WAGE\$ Recipient

NC Pre-K Lincoln County

277 children participated in the NC Pre-K Lincoln Program in 18 5-star rated facilities, and

entered kindergarten ready to learn.

Facilities included:

- 11 classrooms in Lincoln County Public Schools,
- 4 classrooms in private centers, and
- 3 Head Start classrooms.

"I'm so impressed by how much Delaney has learned! With the help of her teachers and the use of "Letterland", she can write her first and last name. She's learning the alphabet, and all of her speech issues have been resolved. She is also making friends every day."

— NC Pre-K Mom



Family Support & Engagement

Lincoln County Child Advocacy Center (LCCAC)



48 young children through the age of 5, and **152** non-offending parents/guardians were served through the LCCAC in response to reported instances of abuse and neglect;

100% were referred to additional medical, mental health and advocacy supports and services.

The LCCAC's therapy dogs, **Cali and Jake**, were trained to offer comfort to children who may have suffered through unspeakable trauma.

"It's true God sends some angels with fur, not wings."

— Sherry Reinhardt, Executive Director, LCCAC

“Completing and having the privilege to be a part of Triple P has really grounded me as a person in general and has made me more confident in my direction and pathway to feeling connected to my daughter and being the best Mom I can be for her. Amazing program!”

— Gaston Triple P Parent

Family Support Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)

49 parents/guardians received intensive individual and group support through **Triple P** to learn about and apply positive parenting practices.

100% of at risk parents

served showed an increase in parent knowledge.



Child Health

Child Care Health Consultants (CCHCs)

123 child care facilities in Lincoln and Gaston Counties received CCHC services funded by Smart Start.



“I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for all the help and information our CCHC has provided for us at Giggles Galore Learning Center, LLC. Her expertise in child care health has been invaluable to us, and we are so grateful for her guidance.”

— Lincoln County Child Care Provider

CCHCs in Lincoln & Gaston Counties provided 73 trainings attended by 437 childcare staff, and participated in 66 outreach & community awareness events to promote optimal health & safety for young children.

Through our annual **Spooktacular** and **Boogie with Books** events, **3187 free books** were given to children aged birth to five.

“Never have I been able to find a book that my granddaughter loves as much as the one we found at an event from the Partnership’s table. The book was entitled I Love My Daddy Because... by Laurel Porter-Gaylord. As soon as she heard the title and saw the cover, immediately, she wanted us to read it for nothing else mattered. This is a day I will never forget, for it bought a smile across my face.”

— Proud Gaston County Grandmother

Community Outreach



Our volunteers provided **981 hours** in support of our community outreach events.



Early Literacy

Reach Out & Read®



5,559

children aged birth to five
received **4,809 books**
during scheduled well-child
visits at 6 participating
medical practices.

Reach
Out
& Read®



“Reach Out and Read (ROR) has been a transformative addition to our pediatric practice, earning high praise from both parents and children. The program capitalizes on the crucial role pediatricians have in child development, providing families with books and fostering a love for reading from a young age. Children eagerly anticipate new books, and parents report that ROR aids in establishing a reading routine at home. We firmly believe that the program positively impacts cognitive and scholastic development, making it an invaluable resource. ROR effectively transforms routine pediatric visits into opportunities for meaningful early childhood enrichment.”

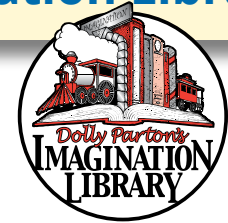
— Ghulam Hussain MD. FAAP



Early Literacy

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

59,993 free books were delivered to **5,083** children aged birth to five in Lincoln and Gaston Counties through the **Imagination Library**



“My daughter has been in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program since she was a baby. Every month we wait for the books to come. We go to the mailbox together to check it, and she’s so excited when she gets her own package! It warms your heart when you see your child get a package with their own name on it, and how it makes them feel so special. She wants to rip the plastic off and look at the pages as soon as it comes.”

— Lincoln County Parent

Our Partners



Key Funders

North Carolina Partnership for Children
(Smart Start)
Division of Child Development and Early
Education (NC Pre-K)
Child Care Connections (Child Care
Resources and Referral)

Early Care and Education

Child Care Services Association
Gaston Community Action, Inc.
Gaston County Department of Health
and Human Services
Gaston County Public Schools
Lincoln County Department of
Social Services
Lincoln and Gaston County licensed child
care facilities
Lincoln County Public Schools

Health

Gaston County Department of Health
and Human Services
Lincoln County Health Department

Family Support

Child Care Connections
Gaston County Department of Health and
Human Services
Lincoln County Coalition Against Child
Abuse & Child Advocacy Center
Lincoln County Department of
Social Services
NC State Cooperative Extension, Gaston
County Center

Community Outreach &

Early Literacy

The Birthplace at CaroMont Health
The Dollywood Foundation
Gaston Community Action
Gaston County Community Foundation
Gaston County Public Library
Kintegra Adult & Pediatrics Medicine Assoc.
Kintegra Pediatrics Services
Lincoln County Community Foundation
Lincoln County Public Library
Piedmont Adult & Pediatric Medical
Associates
Reach Out & Read®

Board Officers - FY 2022-23

Deana Murphy, Chair
Gaston County Schools
Gina Carter, Vice Chair
Child Care Connections of Cleveland County
Sherry Reinhardt, Secretary
Lincoln County Coalition Against Child
Abuse & Child Advocacy Center
Randall Chambers, Treasurer
First Federal Bank
Dr. Eileen Yantz, Past Chair
Gaston Community College

Board Members

Erin Brassell
Gaston College
Ross Bulla
The Treadstone Group
Kimberly Davis
Lincoln County Schools
Matthew Hillman
Lincoln County Department of Social Services
Lena Jones
Lincoln County Department of Health
Tammy Kane
Community at Large
Lakisha McCorkle
NC Pre-K Teacher
Doreen Melton
First Baptist Children's Ministry
Sarah Miller
Gaston County Public Library
Abigail Newton
Gaston County Health and Human Services
Maranda Phillips
It's All About Me Childcare Home
Joseph Ramey
Gaston County Police Department
Kristin Thomas
Gaston Community Action

Staff- FY 2022-23

- Karen Anzola, Executive Director
- Jessica Gibbs, Information/Technical Specialist
- Chrystal Hoyle, NC Pre-K Specialist
- Cindy Martin, Program Assistant
- Essence Ingram-May,
Child Care Health Consultant-Lincoln County
- Monica McCarthy-Aton, Program Manager
- Tarsha Jefferson, Executive Assistant
- Rosalind Richardson,
Community Outreach Coordinator/
Early Literacy Specialist
- Sherri Robinson,
Contracts & Compliance Manager
- Delta Sanders,
Resource Development Coordinator
- Carol Stephenson,
Technical Assistant
- Deirdre Sykes, Technical Assistant
- U Yin Tan / Freddie Grant,
Finance Coordinator
- Kimberly Ward, Technical Assistant
- Wanda Whetstine /
Monica McCarthy-Aton,
Program Evaluator



Stay Connected
and help children thrive!



tear off and return in a #10 envelope to:
Partnership for Children 120 Roechling Street Dallas, NC 28034

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone _____ email: _____

Please accept my donation of: \$100 \$250 Other _____

I'd like more information on: Sponsorship Volunteer Opportunities



120 Roechling Street
Dallas, NC 28034

www.pfclg.org

p: 704.922.0900 | f: 704.922.0996

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



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