

PARTNERSHIP STAFF

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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.

CONTACT US

Now you can receive our newsletter by US Mail or Email.

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.

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PARTNERSHIP PRESS

News and Info about Smart Start in Lincoln & Gaston Counties



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PFCLG FAMILY SPOOKTACULAR

On Saturday, October 31, 2009 the Partnership for Children will hold a Family Spooktacular at the WoodMill Festival Grounds in Vale. The fundraiser is geared toward families with young children and will help raise awareness of the Partnership for Children's funded projects. The event will be held from Noon to 4 p.m. at the WoodMill Festival Grounds, located at 1350 WoodMill Winery Lane.



"We are excited to host the Family Spooktacular for residents of Lincoln and Gaston Counties," said Steve Eaton, Executive Director of the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties. "This event will provide us with an opportunity to educate families of the programs we offer. It will also allow us to develop close relationships with the community and inform them about the importance of children receiving a healthy start."

Each direct service provider of a Smart Start funded project will have a booth that has a children's activity. Parents will be able to learn more about the different Smart Start funded projects which include the Adolescent Parenting Program in Lincoln County, the Very Important Parents Program in Gaston County and the Family Resource Center in Lincoln County.

There will be something to do for children of all ages. Activities include a costume contest, a horse and buggy ride, a tractor hay ride, a bounce house, a petting zoo, a cup cake walk, and trunk or treat. A fire truck, police car and ambulance will be on site for the children to view. Families can also get their picture made at the event. A FREE hotdog lunch will be provided! There will also be a silent auction for adults.

The Partnership for Children is raffling off a Nintendo Wii. Tickets can be bought at the Partnership office now through Oct. 31 and at the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties Family Spooktacular event. Come to the office to purchase tickets. You do not need to be present to win! Cost is \$2 for one ticket and \$5 for three tickets.



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ONE WITH NATURE AT THE GRACE SCHOOL

When the children play outdoors they can watch butterflies at the butterfly bush, touch the soft leaves of the Lamb's ear, play in the sand box with the palm trees and sit on seats made from stumps.

"They like the different textures," said Kim Miller, a Lead teacher for More at Four. "It's good sensory interaction." Owners Amy and Mark Simmons wanted to create an outdoor learning area using natural materials. Sunflowers sprout out of tires that are used as planters, the yard is adorned with apple and fruit trees and children can enjoy the natural shade of the Weeping Willow tree.

"The children are amazed with it, and they love to help water and take care of the area," said Marsha Furr, assistant teacher for More at Four. "It is a big learning experience for them, learning about plants and the environment." In addition to learning about nature, recycling is also being taught. Milk jugs, metal cans and paper towels are all recycled each week. These materials are also used for art projects. Parents are encouraged to recycle items and bring them in for the children to use.



CHILD CARE RESOURCE CENTER COMING SOON!

The Partnership staff has created a Resource library for licensed child care providers. The library is full of lots of great resources for teachers and child care providers to use in the classroom. The library offers a variety of early childhood books, games and activities for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. There are also theme boxes and die cuts. This is still a work in progress but we expect to open it soon! Funds from the Run for the Money fundraiser on April 18, 2009 are being used to support this project. A check for \$780 was awarded to us from the Community Foundation of Gaston County.

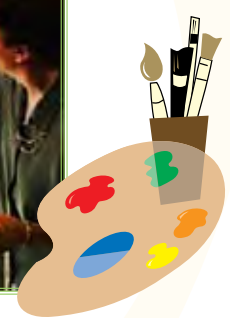


APPLE FESTIVAL 2009

The rain did not keep children away at the Apple Festival on Saturday, September 19 in Lincolnton. Children enjoyed the stamp art area and the toddler area equipped with toys to play with. Newsletters and brochures were handed out about our programs.



Vicki Timmons, Finance Coordinator for the Partnership shows off her art skills by painting the Smart Start logo on the window!



The Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties is now on Facebook!

Facebook, which allows users to connect and share information in a variety of ways is a great way for the Partnership to reach as many families as possible. Families that we reach in Lincoln and Gaston Counties can stay informed of the Partnership's programs, events and important community announcements. There are also videos, photos and articles that we post to our page. Many parents in their 20s, 30s, and 40s are turning to Facebook to learn as much about our organization as possible. Please become a fan of our page visit: http://bit.ly/PFCLG_Fan_Page

facebook



Feel free to leave us a comment on our page or send us an email!



SAVE THE DATE Early Childhood Professionals Midwinter Conference February 20, 2010

COMMUNITY EXPO



On Saturday, May 16, 2009, the Partnership for Children participated in the System of Care Community Expo at Union Road Church of God in Gastonia.

Staff enjoyed meeting parents and children who stopped by our booth. The event was an opportunity for Gaston County citizens to become aware of the services and programs offered throughout the community. The Partnership was honored to be able to educate families about Smart Start.



Board Chair Melinda Houser receives a plaque of recognition for her dedication on the Partnership's board. She stepped down as Board Chair on June 30, 2009.

TUESDAYS FOR TOTS



On May 19, 2009, child care professionals and business leaders from Lincoln and Gaston Counties traveled to the North Carolina General Assembly as part of Smart Start's statewide, "Tuesdays for Tots" initiative. The constituents met with the legislative delegation from each county to discuss important issues facing young children and working families on behalf of the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.

"While recognizing that we are experiencing unprecedented economic times in North Carolina, we had successful conversations with our local legislators that an investment in early childhood is an investment in the economic future for this wonderful state," said Steve Eaton, Executive Director of the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties. "As an industry, child care in North Carolina generates \$1.77 billion annually – more than the Panthers, Hurricanes, Bobcats and all spectator sports combined. It provides more than 47,000 jobs."

Tuesdays for Tots is Smart Start's signature advocacy effort that takes place every year during the legislative session. On Tuesdays, local Smart Start partnerships come to Raleigh for one-on-one meetings with legislators to educate lawmakers on Smart Start successes and discuss challenges facing young children and their families.

The group met with members of the Lincoln and Gaston County legislative delegation including: Representative William Current, Sr., Representative Johnathan Rhyne, Jr., Representative Pearl Burris-Floyd and Senator James Forrester.

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