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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



PARTNERSHIP FOR
CHILDREN
of Lincoln and Gaston Counties

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SMART START AND MORE AT FOUR MAKE A DIFFERENCE

According to Duke University Researchers

North Carolina third-graders have higher standardized reading and math scores and lower special education placement rates in those counties that had received more funding for Smart Start and More at Four when those children were younger, Duke University researchers have found.

“These findings provide the most rigorous evidence yet that investments in these early childhood initiatives generate substantial benefits for all the children in the counties that receive these funds, even children who were never enrolled in the early childhood programs,” said Helen Ladd, the Edgar T. Thompson Distinguished Professor of Public Policy and a professor of economics at Duke.

For an average third-grade child whose community had received Smart Start or More at Four funding, the expected savings in special education and instructional costs is at least equal to the cost of those programs, researchers said. “By the time the children grow up, we expect the investment will have yielded large payoffs in lower special education and remedial costs,” concluded Kenneth Dodge, the William McDougall Professor of Public Policy and director of Duke’s Center for Child and Family Policy.

Ninety-two cents of every Smart Start dollar goes directly to ensuring that children enter school healthy and prepared. Currently, there are 5,349 children enrolled in licensed child care centers in Gaston and Lincoln Counties and there are over 1,134 children enrolled in the More at Four program.



WANT TO GIVE?
Make your check payable to the Community Foundation of Gaston County, Inc. Mail it to, P.O. Box 123, Gastonia, NC 28053 with a completed donor form. Donations must be made by check, cashiers check or money order. No cash, please.

WANT TO RUN OR WALK?
There is a 5K run and a 2K walk. It is \$17 to participate in the 5K Run, \$20 after April 8, \$25 on Run Day. There is no fee for the 2K Walk.

SEE MORE INFO INSIDE

You can now find us on Twitter! Check it out twitter.com/Ready4School



inside

PAGE ONE The Power of Smart Start
PAGE TWO Run For the Money
PAGE THREE Tuesday for Tots
PAGE FOUR Staff Listings & Contact Info





RUN FOR THE MONEY 2011

Save the Date
April 16, 2011

The Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties is participating in Run for the Money 9 that will take place on April 16 from 8 a.m. to Noon at the Rotary Pavilion in Gastonia. The ninth annual fundraiser is sponsored by the Community Foundation of Gaston County for nonprofits and consists of a run/walk and a chance for donors to give to our cause! The Community Foundation will be accepting donations on behalf of the Partnership until 5 p.m. Friday, April 22. This year the Partnership will be using the funds to support the Partnership for Children's Resource library for child care providers. This may include, books, laminating materials and games.

Donor forms can be found at:

- The Community Foundation, 1201 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia or online at www.cfgaston.org
- The Partnership for Children office, 120 Roechling St., Dallas or on our website, www.pfcg.com

CELEBRATE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

Celebrate Week of the Young Child
April 10-16, 2011

Early childhood education is vital to our community. Children need a strong early learning foundation to succeed in school, and go on to succeed in life.

Join with Southern Piedmont Association for the Education of Young Children and other local agencies to celebrate the Week of the Young Child.

Here are two outdoor local activities to promote the theme "Early Years are Learning Years." The focus is on promoting literacy and providing quality childcare.



Save the Dates:

Thursday, April 14- First Baptist Church sports field in Lincoln County, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Friday, April 15 - Biggerstaff Park in Gaston County, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.



Kid's Day at the Ballpark Edenton Steamers vs. Gastonia Grizzlies
Wednesday, June 29th at 12 Noon

The 9th annual Gastonia Grizzlies Kid's Day is fast approaching. Call now to get your tickets! Tickets are \$5 and you will receive: A ticket to the game, special opportunities for lunch including bringing your own bag lunch or purchase a \$3 food voucher in advance good for a hot dog, chips and a drink. This ticket will also allow for the opportunity to meet the Grizzlies for photos and autographs! Order your tickets by June 15. This offer is not available at the gate. For more information and to reserve tickets contact Will Canfield at 704-864-9301.

SHARE YOUR NEWS AND INFORMATION IN OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER, PARTNERSHIP PRESS! CALL 704-922-0900

TUESDAYS FOR TOTS

On Tuesday, March 22, 2011, child advocates 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 and asked members to maintain investments in young children in Gaston and Lincoln counties. Last year more than 800 community leaders from across the state voted that access to quality early education and care was a top priority for young children. Tuesdays for Tots is an advocacy effort that takes place every Tuesday of the legislative session. Smart Start's 77 partnerships across the state bring constituents from a variety of backgrounds, including business leaders, health professional, military families, etc., to come to Raleigh for one-on-one meetings with lawmakers. Constituents explain the challenges facing young families and how Smart Start meets these critical needs.



Left to right: Amy Wadsworth, Public Information Coordinator with the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties, Steve Eaton, Executive Director of the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties, Representative Johnathan Rhyne, Jr. (Lincoln County), Doreen Melton, Executive Director with First Baptist Children's Ministry in Lincolnton, Amy Simmons, Director of The Grace School in Stanley and Board Member of Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.

State funding for Smart Start has been cut by \$49 million over the last decade, \$24 million of which was cut in the last 4 years, a period when families have been increasingly suffer job losses and economic hardships and more children are living in poverty. The result is fewer services that promote children's health and early education. These cuts are occurring at the same time that economists and other business leaders are advocating that investments in young children are one of the strongest investments not only for the short term but also for sustained growth and job creation. In fact, the US Chamber of Commerce released a report highlighting North Carolina's Smart Start as a national model and saying "Early childhood education has a tremendous impact on the national economic security and the viability of the American dream." The group met with the following members of the Lincoln and Gaston County legislative delegation. They included Representative William Current, Sr., Representative Johnathan Rhyne, Jr., Representative Kelly E. Hastings, and Senator Kathy Harrington.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK



National Children's Mental Health Awareness week is May 1-7. Pathways, the manager of Mental Health Services for Gaston Lincoln and Cleveland Counties will be providing curriculum and supplies to area child care centers. The program is called "My Feelings are a Work of Art," which allows children and adults to use art to discuss feelings!

If your child care center is interested in participating, please contact Stacy Bryant, Pathways LME Community Outreach Manager at 704-884-2558 or email sbryant@pathwayslme.org by April 19th. For more information about National Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, please visit <http://www.samhsa.gov/children/national.aspx> or www.nccradletocareer.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

Apple Festival
Saturday
September 17, 2011
Find us at the Kids Orchard

Partnership for Children of
Lincoln and Gaston Counties'
Family Spooktacular
Saturday
October 29, 2011