

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR OUR CHILDREN

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016



a partner in the
smart start network 

WELCOME

On behalf of the board of directors and staff, thank you for your engagement with Partnership for Children of the Foothills. We hope you find this annual report informative. I'd like to take a few moments to tell you about who we are and what we do at the *Partnership for Children*. We are a private, not-for-profit agency that provides early care and education programs and services for preschool children and their families in McDowell, Polk and Rutherford counties. In a nutshell, we work with children who are between the ages of birth to five years of age, offering programs and services for these children, and their family members. We also work closely with licensed child care centers, and family child care homes to make sure they are the best they can be.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

The earliest years of childhood are critical. Experiences during this time literally shape the structure of the brain. Because today's children are tomorrow's leaders, parents and workers, everyone has a stake in making sure that all children have the experiences they need to thrive. The Partnership for Children brings together all the people involved in a young child's life-families, teachers, doctors, caregivers, social workers and many others- to ensure every child has all they need for healthy growth and development.

HOW WE ARE FUNDED

The bulk of our funding is provided through North Carolina's nationally recognized Smart Start initiative. Smart Start was created in 1993 as an innovative solution to a problem: Children were coming to school unprepared to learn. Policymakers recognized that progress would require tapping into the same innovative spirit that inspired private sector advances, and therefore, established Smart Start as a public/private partnership. Independent, private organizations work in all 100 North Carolina counties through The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., and 75 Local Partnerships, including the Partnership for Children of the Foothills. We also receive private funding through grants from Foundations, the Federal Government and through private donations from businesses and individuals.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Educating yourselves about our program is a great start! You will find a complete program section with program descriptions and highlights beginning on page 4. Spreading the word through your friend, work and family networks is an important effort to helping parents find the resources they need for our youth to excel.

Thank you for partnering with us to make an impact on our children!
Barry



Barry Gold, Executive Director

ABOUT PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF THE FOOTHILLS

The Partnership for Children of the Foothills builds and sustains partnerships with community agencies and service providers. By partnering together to provide creative and unique programs for preschool children and their families, as well as licensed child care centers and family child care homes, our partnership improves the quality of child care, makes child care more affordable and more accessible, provides health education and provides family support services.

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Community Volunteer

Early learning investments have a profound impact on children and the communities in which they live. This broader societal impact is so significant that military leaders, business executives, and law enforcement officers are calling on greater investments to ensure our national security, our global competitive edge, and our safety.

2,000 DAYS

High quality early education yields:

- Higher graduation rates
- Reduced crime
- Higher earnings
- Less reliance on social services
- Better jobs

Experiences and opportunities children have during the First 2,000 Days of life are key predictors of future well-being and academic success. Positive, nurturing interactions with parents and caregivers, high-quality early care and education and good nutrition and health care are keys to success.

Partnership for Children of the Foothills invests in young children, families and early educators in Polk, Rutherford and McDowell counties to strengthen families, the early education system and our communities while building a strong foundation for school and life success.

The Partnership's successes and accomplishments are rooted in our support of child care teachers, improving the quality of care our young children receive, our investments in early literacy and our commitment to strengthening families of young children.

We know that reading proficiency by the third grade is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success. And, we know it starts before birth. Those children who read well, go on to graduate, but those who aren't reading well by the end of third grade, are four times more likely to drop out of high school.

This year, the Partnership continued to expand our early childhood literacy initiative, The Dolly Parton Imagination Library. This program provides children, ages 0-5, living in Polk, Rutherford and McDowell Counties a free age appropriate book each month. Our goal is to reach every child in each of our counties and engage them, and their families, in building the foundation for success through early literacy.

WHAT IS SMART START?

High quality early education yields:

- Support of Teachers
- Support of Quality Child Care
- Support of Families
- Support of Health
- Support of Early Literacy

Smart Start is North Carolina's nationally recognized and award-winning early childhood initiative designed to ensure that young children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. Smart Start is a public-private initiative that provides early education funding to the state's 100 counties. Smart Start funds are administered locally through nonprofit organizations such as the Partnership for Children of the Foothills.

Annually, the Partnership for Children of the Foothills invests more than 2 million into our local economy by supporting programs for children and families in partnership with local agencies and organizations.

This is an exciting time for the Partnership. We are thankful for the support and successes the partnership has enjoyed this year and we know we couldn't have done it without our partners and supporters.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

PROGRAMS & SERVICES IN POLK, RUTHERFORD AND MCDOWELL COUNTIES



BE ACTIVE KIDS

Be Active Kids is a childcare center-based program that increases physical activity of both children and adults in early childhood settings. A trained child care professional worked as the project manager to implement Be Active Kids with the complete staff of individual centers in Rutherford and Polk counties over a six month period in each participating center. A combination of training, on-site follow up observations, along with consultation and coaching was provided.

- 2 licensed child care centers participated
- 45 children participated
- 12 child care teachers/directors participated in training, planning and implementing increased physical activities
- 63 on-site visits by the project manager for the purpose of modeling, coaching, and assisting in implementation of new activities
- 15 goals set and completed

CHILD CARE QUALITY SUPPORT FOR EARLY EDUCATION-McDowell, Polk, and Rutherford

Provides child care training, technical assistance, and resources for early childhood educators working in licensed childcare facilities serving children birth to five years old. These include in-service training workshops, technical assistance visits, and on-site training, and support to centers and homes preparing for Environmental Rating

Scale assessments. The program supports centers and homes, which are preparing for re-assessment and provides assistance to directors in helping teaching staff reach professional development goals.

TRAINING:

- 76 training workshops were sponsored, delivered or facilitated by the program.
- 257 direct teaching staff participated in at least one of the scheduled training workshops.
- 39 On-site visits or consultations were made with workshop participants from Rutherford/ Polk and 19 from McDowell
- 1,305 training calendars were distributed directly to teachers and directors in licensed facilities.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

- 632 technical assistance visits were made.
- 20 classrooms in 6 child care facilities and public pre-K sites in McDowell County requested and received assistance with preparing for rating scale assessment to maintain or increase their star level.
- 239 teachers working in child care facilities received individual, on-site technical assistance customized to their needs.
- 51 directors received other on-site technical assistance, when requested

CIRCLE OF PARENTS-McDowell County Schools, Rutherford County Community Based, Rutherford County Schools

Circle of Parents (COP) is a parent support group supported by Prevent Child Abuse America. Through peer-to-peer leadership and support at weekly meetings, people in a parenting capacity can, over time, gain self-esteem, overcome isolation and improve their parenting skills by exchanging support and positive parenting suggestions. Families work toward the common goal of building family strengths in the areas of family management, communication, nurturing, and positive discipline.

MCDOWELL COUNTY SCHOOL BASED

- 171 Circle of Parents weekly meetings were held
- A total of 108 parents/guardians participated at least one time
- 22 parents/guardians attended at least 10 times in the fiscal year
- An additional 20 families attended at least 5 times in the fiscal year

RUTHERFORD COUNTY COMMUNITY BASED

- 25 COP weekly meetings were held
- 12 Parents/guardians participated at least one time
- 13 Birth to five year old children attended at least 1 time
- 4 parents/guardians attended at least 10 times in a fiscal year.
- An additional 4 families attended at least 5 times in the fiscal year



RUTHERFORD COUNTY SCHOOL BASED

- 28 COP weekly meeting were held
- 20 Parents/guardians participated at least one time
- 0 Birth to five year old children attended at least one time
- 3 parents/guardians attended at least 10 times in the fiscal year
- An additional 3 families attended at least 5 times in the fiscal year

FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS TOGETHER-McDowell

Families and Schools Together (FAST) offers multi-family and group-based programs that enhance family functioning, promote healthy social-emotional development, and promote school readiness. FAST programs serve all families and their young children; but special effort is made to recruit low-income, stressed and socially isolated families.

- 16 FAST meetings were held (2 eight-week sessions)
- 24 parents /guardians participated in FAST
- 26 children (ages 0-5) participated in FAST
- 12 families successfully graduated from FAST

MOTHERLEARN

The MotherLearn program is a collaborative effort between Isothermal Community College, Family Resources of Rutherford County and Partnership for Children of the Foothills. This Family Literacy/Adult Education program for qualified Rutherford County mothers with young children is offered three days a week, four hours a day. Early childhood teachers provides on-site developmentally appropriate activities and quality care for children ages 6 weeks through 5 years, while their mothers are attending GED/Adult ED classes with a certified instructor in an adjacent room.

- 126 Nurturing Parenting sessions were held
- 17 parents were enrolled in MotherLearn for at least part of the fiscal year and participated in the Nurturing Parenting sessions
- 5 students dropped out of the program during the year
- 5 parents graduated this year
- Up to 12 parents were on the waiting list each month due to limited on-site child care
- 18 children were enrolled in the MotherLearn childcare component for at least part of the year
- Up to 5 families utilized the transportation services

THE DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY (DPIL)-McDowell, Polk, and Rutherford

DPIL offers an opportunity to prepare children for kindergarten by exposing them to the concepts of print, encouraging child/parent reading and increasing early literacy activities in the home, thereby stimulating the child's interest in reading and learning. Participating children receive an age

appropriate book each month mailed directly to child from the time of registration until age 5.

MCDOWELL COUNTY

- 857 children participated in the DPIL program in the first 3 months
- 66 children graduated from the program (turned 5 years of age)
- 7,231 books were distributed in McDowell County
- 45 local businesses and agencies had DPIL displays and /or brochures available
- 37 newborns were enrolled as a result of Welcome Books and brochure given to McDowell County families with children born at Rutherford Hospital

POLK COUNTY

- 478 Children participated
- 4,139 Books were distributed in Polk County
- 89 Children graduated from the program (turned 5 years of age)
- 41 local businesses or agencies had a DPIL display and/or brochures available
- 12 newborns were enrolled as a result of Welcome Books and Brochures given to Polk County families with children born in Rutherford Hospital

RUTHERFORD COUNTY

- 1,378 children participated in DPIL project
- 130 children graduated from the program (turned 5 years old)
- 12,248 books were distributed in Rutherford County
- 39 local businesses or agencies had DPIL displays and/or brochures available
- 171 newborns were enrolled as a result of Welcome Books and Brochures being given to each Rutherford County family born in Rutherford Hospital



SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE- McDowell, Polk and Rutherford

This activity assists low income families in paying for high quality licensed child care for their pre-school child(ren). Families must meet financial guidelines and children must attend 4 or 5 star rated child care in order to receive assistance.

MCDOWELL COUNTY

- 116 preschool children received a subsidy voucher to receive assistance with child care affordability (unduplicated)

POLK COUNTY

- 20 preschool children received a subsidy voucher to receive assistance with child care affordability (unduplicated)

RUTHERFORD COUNTY

- 81 preschool children received a subsidy voucher to receive assistance with child care affordability (unduplicated)

NAP SACC

The Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-assessment for Child Care (NAP SACC) program targets early care and education program practices that can help set preschool children on a lifelong path to healthy eating and activity. The NAP SACC program starts with an organizational self-assessment that allows child care programs to evaluate 14 areas around nutrition and physical activity practices and identify the strengths and limitations of their program. Following the self-assessment, a trained childcare specialist serves as the project manager with the child care facility staff in participating

centers or family child care homes, to set goals for change and develop action plans for improving practices.

- 2 Child Care facilities participated
- 62 children participated
- 11 Child Care teachers/director participating
- 35 on-site visits for the purpose of modeling activities with the children, coaching and assisting the teachers with implementation

WAGE\$-Rutherford and Polk

The Child Care WAGE\$ project provides eligible child care professionals with education based professional development supplements. The Child Care WAGE\$ is an education-based salary supplement program for teachers, directors, and family child care providers. Because these supplements reward education and continuity of care, children birth to 5 years benefits from more stable relationships with better educated teachers. Supplements are issued to teachers, directors and family child care providers based on education attained

- 88 participants received a supplement. As of June 30, 2016, 77 child care professional in 30 Rutherford County child care programs were still participating.
- 13% rate of turnover (left the child care field) in Rutherford County with early educators that participated in the WAGE\$ Project
- 0% rate of turnover in Polk County with early educators that participated In the WAGE\$ Project.

FUNDED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Annually, Partnership for Children of the Foothills invests more than \$2 million into the local economy by supporting 15 programs in 8 local agencies and 1 state organization. These agencies and programs include:

- **Child Care Services Association**
WAGE\$
- **Family Resources of Rutherford County**
Motherlearn
Circle of Parents
- **McDowell County Schools**
Circle of Parents
Families and Schools Together
- **Partnership for Children of the Foothills**
Be Active Kids
Child Care Quality Support for Early Education
Community Outreach and Education
The Dolly Parton Imagination Library (serving all three counties)
NAPSACC
Program Coordination & Evaluation
Partnership Administration
- **McDowell County Department of Social Services**
Child Care Subsidy
- **Polk County Department of Social Services**
Child Care Subsidy
- **Rutherford County Department of Social Services**
Child Care Subsidy
- **Rutherford County Schools**
Circle of Parents
- **Rutherford/Polk/McDowell Health District**
Healthy Smiles
Nurse Family Partnership



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016

REVENUE & SUPPORT

Smart Start Grant.....	\$ 1,925,992.00
Fed Grant/Healthy Smiles	\$ 102,828.00
Cash Contributions	\$ 5,579.62
Private Grants	\$ 24,550.00
Sales Tax Reimbursement	\$ 3,993.58
State Accounting Grant	\$ 13,576.71
Total Revenue & Support.....	\$ 2,076,449.91

EXPENDITURES

Programs & Supporting Services

Child Care Subsidy.....	\$ 898,456.00
Community Outreach and Education.....	\$ 38,960.13
Family Support Programs.....	\$ 185,554.48
Health and Safety Programs.....	\$ 29,160.99
Literacy Programs	\$ 111,022.28
Program Coordination.....	\$ 91,048.05
Quality Support for Early Education	\$ 213,831.69
WAGE\$ Project.....	\$ 121,582.00
Total Program Expenditures.....	\$ 1,689,615.62
Management & General Expenditures	\$ 215,531.00
Total Expenditures.....	\$ 1,905,147.32

There are only 2,000 days between the time a baby is born and when that child begins kindergarten. Experiences during that time have a lasting impact on later learning, health and success.

WHY SMART START?

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

The first few years of a child's life are the most critical years of brain and personality development. It is crucial that children receive high quality early care and education to ensure that they enter school ready to succeed. This is why quality child care - care that provides a loving, nurturing, and stable environment - helps children enter school ready for success, improves their skills, and keeps them safe while their parents work. Our partnership works closely with licensed child care centers and family child care homes and provides unique services to families of preschool children to give children in Rutherford, Polk and McDowell Counties what they need to be prepared for success in school.

YES! I/WE WOULD LIKE TO HELP THE PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF THE FOOTHILLS WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- Join a committee
 - Join our mailing list
 - Sign-up for e-alerts and the electronic newsletter
 - Volunteer
 - Make a donation,
- My gift is in the amount of:
- \$25 \$50
 - \$100 \$1,000
 - Other amount: _____

To make your secure contribution online please visit our website at: www.pcfhothills.org

Please complete and mail to:
Partnership for Children of the Foothills
338 Withrow Road, Forest City, NC 28043

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____



CONTACT US!

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