



March-April
2003
Vol. 2, Issue 1

- 2002-2003
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Partnership Participating in “Run for the Money”

The Partnership for Children is making a run for the money — and we need your help!

The Community Foundation of Gaston County is sponsoring a new fundraiser for local nonprofits this year, called “Run for the Money.”



The event, which will take place March 29, consists of a run/walk for the community and a chance for you to donate to the Partnership and make your money go further.

How does it work? The Community Foundation will be accepting donations on behalf of the Partnership until April 4. Then, the foundation will match the funds that each organization receives at up to 100 percent. This means you have the opportunity to as much as double your donation to the Partnership. Donations made through “Run for the Money” are tax-deductible.

The Partnership will be using the funds raised through “Run for the Money” to accomplish the mission we work toward every day — to prepare children

for school, protect them and ensure that they have the best possible start in life.

How much the Partnership stands to receive from the fund-raiser is up to you. The more donations received, the larger the dollar amount that the Community Foundation will match in some percentage. This is an opportunity to truly make your donation go farther.

But the “Run for the Money” isn’t just about fundraising. There will also be a run/walk event held March 29.

Everyone in the community can participate in either a 5K competitive run or a 2K fun walk.

There will also be a costume competition, informational booths and other festivities at Grier Middle School, 1622 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia. The school will be the starting and ending point for the run and walk.

For more information, contact Shannon Clubb at the Partnership at (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008.

Want to give?

It’s easy to make your donation for the Partnership. Just make your check out to the Community Foundation and send it in with a completed donor form. Donor forms are available at any local bank, or, if you prefer, contact Shannon Clubb at the Partnership at (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008.

Want to participate?

If you’d like to walk or run on behalf of the Partnership, just fill out an entry form and you’re set! Entry forms are available at any local bank, or, if you prefer, contact Shannon Clubb at the Partnership at (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008.

Feeling creative?

There will be a costume contest among the participating nonprofits. The winners chosen will be those whose costumes best depict the organization they represent. If you have an idea and want to represent the Partnership in the contest, call Shannon Clubb at the Partnership (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008.



PROVIDER CONNECTION

In-Service Training Opportunities Abound

Developing Together is offering the following workshops that will count toward in-service training. There is no fee for these classes. Call Barbara Romich at (704) 484-8599 for times and locations.

- "Teaching Made Easy," March 20 or April 10
- "Positive Discipline," April 3 or 8
- "Using Centers Effectively," March 20, April 5, 9, 10 or 22
- "Transitions," March 22 or April 24
- "Lesson Planning," March 25
- "Playground Safety," March 29

- "Music and Movement," April 5 or 24
- "Dealing with Difficult Behaviors," April 7, 15 or 17
- "Science for Preschoolers," April 8
- "Beyond Time-Out," April 15
- "Math and Science for Preschoolers," April 16
- "Developmentally Appropriate Behaviors," April 24
- "Infant Massage," April 24
- "Lesson Planning for Infants and Toddlers," April 24
- ECERS, April 26
- ITERS, April 26

On March 22 and April 12, multiple workshops will be held throughout the day. Contact Barbara Romich at (704) 484-8599 for a detailed list of sessions.

Child Care Information, Inc. is offering the following workshops that will count toward in-service training.

The following workshop is offered free of charge:

- "SIDS," March 25
- The fee for the following workshops is \$6 per hour. Fee for members of the Association of Early Childhood Professionals of Gaston/Lincoln Counties is

- "Make-it, Take-it Spring," March 27; 2 hours
- SACERS, April 5; 3 hours
- "Color Me Healthy," April 8; 3 hours
- "Child Abuse & Neglect," April 17; 3 hours
- "In the Garden," April 19; 3 hours
- "Community Involvement," April 24; 3 hours
- "I Cannot Sit Still," April 29; 1 hour



Super**STARS**

The following child care centers or homes in Gaston and Lincoln counties have recently increased their STAR ratings:



Cline Learning Center of Dallas No. 2; God's Little Angels Learning Academy, Gastonia



Cline Learning Center of Dallas No. 3; Guardian Child Care, Kings Mountain; Kei and Kay's Home Day Care, Gastonia; Learning Land Children's Center, Lincolnton; Ms. Em's Child Development Center, Denver; Ms. Janice's Day Care, Crouse; Our Gang Day Care Inc., Denver; PJ's Child Care and Learning Center No. 3, Gastonia



AAA Child Care Center, Cherryville; Advantage Child Care, Gastonia; Becky's Little Day Care, Dallas; Mamaw's Place, Vale; Mini Academy, Mount Holly; Mrs. Phyllis Treasured Blessings Child Care, Lincolnton; Ms. Becky's Busy Bees, Bessemer City; Myrtle B. Hoffman Day Care Center, Gastonia; Preschool Connection Inc., Belmont; Sunshine Learning Center Inc., Lincolnton



Brooks Family Daycare, Gastonia



Gina's Kidfirst Child Development Center, Gastonia; Jump Start for Kids — Dallas

To learn more about earning higher star ratings for your child care center or family child care home, call the Partnership at (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008.

JUST FOR PARENTS

Study shows Smart Start is achieving its goals

North Carolina preschoolers participating in high quality child care programs are ahead of their peers who attend low quality programs, finds a new study of Smart Start by researchers at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The study has three main findings: that child care quality has increased in the study sample during the Smart Start years, that Smart Start-funded activities were positively related to classroom quality and that quality was positively related to children's outcomes.

This independent, two-year study included 512 preschool children at 110 child care programs in 20 Smart Start counties.

"Thanks to Smart Start, licensed child care providers meet higher standards than they did five years ago, and most exceed the

minimum standard as measured by our state's STAR rating system," said Sherry Browning, executive director of the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties, the organization that administers Smart Start funds locally.

Children in the study were assessed on their language, early literacy, math and social-emotional skills—abilities deemed important for success in kindergarten. Children participating in high quality child care programs scored significantly better on language, book awareness and knowledge, math and counting skills, than did children from low quality centers.

The local Partnership for Children has worked since its opening in 1998 to increase the quality of care available in local child care centers. Through Smart Start, local child care has improved by leaps and

bounds.

Two years ago, less than 13 percent of local child care centers were above the minimum standard. Today, more than 70 percent are above the minimum, even though the standards have been raised. The Partnership has worked with at least 77 child care centers, 55 child care homes, 10 local Head Start programs, seven half-day preschool programs and 33 public pre-kindergartens to date.

Smart Start funding has helped more than 950 local

teachers of young children further their educations. Most are taking college courses toward a degree in early childhood education.

Smart Start funds classes for parents and has provided one-on-one coaching for troubled families and adolescent mothers. Parents are assisted in finding quality care and subsidies are provided to families who cannot afford to provide care.

A copy of the study is available online at www.ncsmartstart.org/study.htm.

Searching for Child Care?

We may be able to help. The Partnership, with support from Smart Start and the North Carolina Division of Child Development, offers a free child care referral service to parents and guardians.

We can advise you of any open slots in legally operating facilities in Lincoln or Gaston counties that may

have your preferred rating, location, hours of operation and other features.

To find out which providers may have openings for your child, call Rebecca Powell, parent information assistant, at 704-922-0199 (Gaston) or 704-736-9991 (Lincoln). She may be reached via e-mail at parentinfo@pfclg.com

Children... a wise investment.

The Partnership for Children of Lincoln and Gaston Counties is working every day to make a difference in the lives of local children. Your support makes that difference possible. If you want to invest in the future of children in Lincoln and Gaston counties, please volunteer or make a tax-deductible donation.

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime phone _(____) _____

Amount enclosed: \$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 Other

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Please make checks payable to Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties. Return check with this form in person or via U.S. mail to Partnership for Children, 1012 Philadelphia Church Road, Dallas, NC 28034.

Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties

1012 Philadelphia Church Road
Dallas, NC 28034
phone: (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008
fax: (704) 922-0996
On the Web: www.pfclg.com
E-mail: pfclg@pfclg.com

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

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- March 21 — Partnership Board of Directors meeting, noon, Partnership office
- March 29 — Come out and participate in Run for the Money! 9 a.m., Grier Middle School, Gastonia
- April 6-12 — Week of the Young Child. Check out www.pfclg.com for a list of community events.
- April 25 — Partnership Board of Directors meeting, noon, Partnership office
- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER?

If you would like to receive the Partnership's newsletter by mail, call Shannon Clubb at (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008 or e-mail her at publicinfo@pfclg.com.

Be sure to include the following information:
Name

Organization, if applicable

Complete preferred mailing address (*Note whether address is home or work.*)

Daytime phone number (*if we have any questions*)

STAFF

- Sherry L. Browning, Executive Director
 - Tory L. Borne, Program Manager
- Shannon Clubb, Public Information Coordinator
 - Joyce Edge, Research Assistant
 - Jan Morgan, Administrative Assistant
- Rebecca Powell, Parent Information Assistant
 - Dawn Rippy, Contracts Manager
 - Elizabeth Sisk, Office Assistant
- Vicki Timmons, Finance Coordinator
- Bobbie Weatherly, Purchasing Assistant

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