



# The Partnership for Children of Lenoir and Greene Counties 2010 - 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

**Our Mission**  
Developing Today's  
Children to Become  
Tomorrow's Leaders

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## From the Executive Director's Desk....

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Partnership for Children of Lenoir and Greene Counties, it is my pleasure to present our Annual Report. Our Partnership serves all children, regardless of income or socioeconomic status, through our various services and programs. We are dedicated to our mission of "Developing Today's Children to Become Tomorrow's Leaders." With community partners such as Lenoir and Greene Public Schools, Lenoir County Cooperative Extension, Public Health Departments, Lenoir Community College, Kinston/Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce, Greene County Chamber of Commerce, Young Women of Promise, Head Start and other agencies and individuals, we have improved the lives of young children and families in our area. Working with Lenoir Memorial Hospital, we successfully transferred administration of the Safe Kids Coalition to the Partnership for Children.

The Partnership has assisted many local child care providers in increasing the quality of their programs. This is demonstrated by the Performance Based Incentive Standards used to evaluate Smart Start Partnerships. Out of a possible five stars, the average star rating of child placements in Lenoir County is 3.84, Greene County 4.21. We have child care choices for your child, regardless of economic status, that are of equal quality and better than other parts of our state. Quality early childhood programs work.

### Why should this matter to members of our community?

In 1962, researchers began following 123 high-risk three- and four-year-olds and their families in Ypsilanti, Michigan. The High Scope/ Perry Preschool project demonstrated participants in this high quality pre-school were, at age 40, more likely to have graduated from high school, make higher earnings, hold a job, and commit fewer crimes than those who didn't attend this high-quality preschool program. Just think of the savings generated by these outcomes. The same has been proven with research models on the effectiveness of the high quality pre-school program, More at Four. Reading and math scores are significantly higher for students who benefit from high quality learning environments.

Differences in the size of children's vocabulary based on whether they were born into a family with high education and income or low education and income are disturbing. By age 3, children with college-educated parents or primary caregivers had vocabularies two to three times larger than those whose parents had not completed high school: Over 1,200 words for college education parents; 300 words for parents who had not completed high school. Is it any wonder children from this latter group routinely struggle to keep up with their peers in Kindergarten and beyond?

Dr. James J. Heckman is a Nobel Memorial Prize winner in Economics at The University of Chicago. His groundbreaking work with economists, developmental psychologists, sociologists, statisticians and neuroscientists has proven that early childhood development determines potential health, economic and social outcomes not just for individuals, but for society at large. His decades of research found that investing in early childhood development for disadvantaged children and their families provides 10 cents earned for every dollar spent for 50+ years through increased personal achievement and social productivity.

It is clear that **Smart Investments** in early childhood programs do provide a good start, a **Smart Start** in the lives of young children.

Keith Sylvester, Executive Director



## Performance Based Incentive Standards (PBIS)

In order to track progress and objectively evaluate local Smart Start Partnerships based on outcomes and results, a performance-based incentive system was created. Smart Start Partnerships are the community-level leaders in establishing a comprehensive early education system where every child has the services they need to enter school ready to succeed. More than 20 criteria have been established in four key areas - administration, early care and education, health, and family support. These standards focus the work and resources of Smart Start partnerships in targeted ways that truly make a difference in areas that are proven to impact a child's readiness for Kindergarten. *Our Partnership has met high performing standards in all criteria with the exception of one where minimum was met.*

## Margaret Blount Harvey Endowment

In May of 2002, the Partnership Board approved the establishment of an educational endowment at Lenoir Community College in honor of Margaret Harvey. Mrs. Harvey was instrumental in the formation of the Partnership for Children of Lenoir and Greene Counties, as well as providing guidance and leadership during the early years of the Partnership. This endowment provides a scholarship for a student who plans to pursue an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education.



## PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### Child Care Resource and Referral

CCR&R maintains a database of child care providers in Lenoir and Greene Counties to help families find quality child care through our child care referral service. CCR&R also provides professional development for child care providers through monthly workshops and an Annual Child Care Conference. Staff provides technical assistance to child care providers and maintains a Resource Center for local child care providers, parents and the community.

This year, CCR&R:

- Served 401 children and 269 families through Child Care Referral Services.
- Offered 65 workshops including the Annual Child Care Conference attended by 401 child care professionals.
- Served 87 facilities and 212 classrooms with technical assistance.

### Family Literacy

Lenoir County Family Literacy and Greene County Family Literacy are comprehensive programs designed to help families break the intergenerational cycle of illiteracy and poverty. Participants in the programs are parents who live in Lenoir and Greene Counties, have children ages one through five, have not completed high school, are taking English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and/or need additional academic or job skills. Family Literacy consist of five components:

- Adult Education
- Parent Time
- Early Childhood Education
- Parent and Child Interaction
- Home-Based Instruction

The Partnership funds the child care component of the Family Literacy Programs.

This year,

#### Greene County Family Literacy:

- Served 17 children
- Served 30 parents

#### Lenoir County Family Literacy:

- Served 19 children
- Served 14 parents



### Dedication and Education Bonus

Dedication & Education Bonus (DEB) is designed to reduce turnover and increase education in the early childhood field by offering a bonus based on education to participating child care professionals. The bonus amount may increase as the participant meets additional educational benchmarks. Participants are chosen through an application process; eligibility criteria are verified before bonuses are provided. Bonuses are provided semi-annually to qualified applicants who have attained designated levels of education and who have been employed in the same facility a minimum of six months.

This year, DEB served:

- 47 child care professionals from 28 facilities

### Child Care Subsidy

The Partnership provides funding to the Greene County Department of Social Services (DSS) that is allocated as subsidy money to assist income-eligible parents to pay for child care. Partnership funds are blended with NC Division of Child Development (DCD) funds for child care subsidies following state guidelines and local priorities.

This year through Smart Start funds:

- 49 children and their families were served through and in high-quality child care.

### little by little

The *little by little* strategy is a mentoring and educational initiative designed to work with a group of students from elementary school until they graduate from high school. The initiative is a tool to deter students from the dangers of school failure, substance abuse, gang involvement, teenage pregnancy and criminal behavior. The commitment of *little by little* is to love, care for and nurture students, encouraging them to dream big. This will be done through mentoring, trips to universities and camps and financial rewards for meeting academic and behavior goals. The PFC's role is to administer the funds of *little by little*, which are private funds from the **little bank** and Ronald McDonald House Charities. This year:

- 56 children received college scholarship funds in their accounts
- 60 children visited UNC Charlotte and UNC Chapel Hill



## More at Four

More at Four is a high quality pre-kindergarten program for four year olds. The purpose of the program is to provide a quality educational experience to prepare children for success in kindergarten.

The program standards for More at Four are built on the belief that in order to be successful in school, children need to be prepared in five areas (as outlined by the National Education Goals panel):

- Health and physical development
- Social and emotional development
- Approaches toward learning
- Language development and communication
- Cognition and general knowledge

The More at Four program seeks to prepare children in each of these areas by utilizing teachers who are specially trained to teach four year olds, developmentally appropriate toys and activities, and curriculum designed for kindergarten readiness. Families must apply and be determined eligible based on guidelines provided by the state. The program is free for all families enrolled.

This year More at Four:

- Served 413 children

*\*The More at Four program was changed to North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) in June 2011. The Annual Report for 2011-2012 will reflect this change.*



## Three-School

Three-School is a high-quality pre-school program designed to prepare three year-olds for success in school and beyond. The Three-School program is modeled after the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten program in terms of program standards.

This year Three-School:

- Served 79 children



## Parents as Teachers

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a parent education and family support program serving families with young children until their child enters kindergarten. PAT is provided to participating families at no charge.

Parents are supported by PAT-certified parent educators through home visits, group meetings, developmental screenings and referrals to needed services. By understanding what to expect during each stage of development, parents can capture the teachable moments in everyday life to enhance their child's language development, intellectual growth, social development and motor skills.

This year,

### Lenoir County PAT:

- Served 186 children in 130 families
- Made 720 personal visits
- 12 group meetings

### Greene County PAT:

- Served 91 children in 54 families
- Made 501 personal visits
- Had 6 group meetings



## Community Outreach

The Community Education program is responsible for public awareness, education and outreach initiatives that provide information about the programs and services provided by the Partnership for Children.

This year:

- The Partnership participated in numerous festivals and events including, Kids Fest/Festival on the Neuse, Reading Fun Day and Youth Town Hall meeting
- 1500 members of the community were reached
- 300 brochures distributed
- Served on and led various community boards and organizations including Rotary, Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce, Young Professionals of Lenoir County, STEM East, Kinston/Lenoir County Marketing Group.

## Child Care Health Consultant

A Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC), who is a Registered Nurse (RN), makes site visits to child care facilities. The CCHC facilitates health and safety compliance consistent with Division of Child Development (DCD) regulations; establishes protocols and ensure collective health of children in the child care setting; reviews and educates child care staff on health policies; conducts dental screenings; promotes medical homes, including well-child visits and immunizations; promotes that children with special needs are identified and referred for further evaluation; reviews illness and injury logs, with special attention to child care health trends; provides health education and consultation for staff, parents, and children, including mental health and safety; and documents procedures for situations and emergencies.

This year CCHC:

- Served 1116 children in 40 child care facilities

## Project Promise Mentoring Alliance (PPMA)

The mission of the community-based Project Promise Mentoring Alliance (PPMA) is to inspire and empower youth in grades 6-8 with a passion for learning and success. The primary goal of the PPMA is to develop an innovative continuum mentoring approach to help middle school youth become more confident and productive, stay in school and set goals for the future. PPMA utilizes a variety of best practice strategies including: mentoring, out-of-school time programming—Saturday Academy and Summer Camp Promise, cultural enrichment activities, healthy living, physical activity and gardening, service learning and parent/family engagement.

This year: 75 students were served.



## Kinston Promise Neighborhood

The Kinston Promise Neighborhood Program (KPN) is a comprehensive approach to educating children and strengthening families in the town of Kinston. KPN will create a continuum of services that focus on the needs of children at every developmental stage with specific programs addressing early learning, elementary school, middle school, adolescents and college. The Partnership for Children of Lenoir and Greene Counties serves as the lead fiscal agency for the KPN. Administrative coordination is provided by Theresa Ann Williams Bethea.

## Quality in Action

Quality in Action provides technical assistance to licensed child care facilities with the goal of helping child care providers reach and maintain quality child care.

NC child care facilities are licensed by the Star Rated License system, where they can receive from a one star (minimum standards) rating up to a five star (voluntary enhanced standards) rating. QIA provides technical assistance in areas including room arrangement, lesson planning, daily schedules, environment rating scales, and modeling developmentally appropriate practices.

This year, QIA served:

- 7 child care facilities
- 36 child care providers
- 201 children
- All facilities increased their Environment Rating Scale scores.

## Safe Kids Eastern Carolina

Safe Kids Eastern Carolina is a three-county coalition serving Lenoir, Jones and Greene counties and is housed at The Partnership for Children of Lenoir and Greene Counties. Its key initiatives are poison prevention and control, bicycle safety and car seat education and safety.

This year, Safe Kids Eastern Carolina held:

- 5 car seat clinics
- 2 bicycle rodeos
- 4 operation medicine drops
- 2 sports safety clinics
- 1 water safety clinic
- 3 health fairs
- Served over 700 children in three counties with safety information and reflective zipper pulls for Halloween
- Implemented Safe Travels program in Head Start for Lenoir and Greene Counties



## Assuring Better Child Health and Development

The Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) Project is a regional initiative, which includes Lenoir and Greene Counties. The project strives to improve the quality of child development services in primary health care practices by integrating ongoing developmental screening and referral for children ages 0-5 in the context of the medical home. The project provides training and on-site technical assistance to primary health care practice sites to facilitate the identification of children who may benefit from early intervention services. Services are provided to physicians and their staff at various times to support the integration of standardized, validated developmental screening and referral into designated well-child visits, the provision of information and education to families regarding their child's development, and collaboration with community partners to ensure follow-up to the practices regarding referral and treatment plans.

This year, ABCD:

- Served 3 medical practices
- Served 13 medical providers
- Served 3570 children



## PARTNERSHIP INVESTMENTS IN LENOIR AND GREENE COUNTIES

### REVENUES

**TOTAL RECEIPTS** \$3,838,370

### EXPENDITURES

#### Direct Services

#### **Child Care And Education Affordability**

Three-School \$414,166

#### **Child Care and Education Quality**

Child Care Resource and Referral 193,457  
 Quality in Action 145,749  
 Dedication and Education Bonus 86,999

#### **More at Four**

1,980,829

#### **Health and Safety**

Child Care Health Consultant 78,032

#### **Family Support**

Greene Parents as Teachers 74,923  
 Community Education 73,673  
 Family Friendly Child Care 23,312

#### **Drop-Out Prevention**

100,839

#### **little by little**

2,633

#### **Evaluation**

77,194

#### **Partnership Administration**

257,390

#### Contracted Services

Craven Smart Start - Assuring Better Child Health & Development 1,000  
 Greene County Public Schools - Family Literacy 75,774  
 Lenoir County Cooperative Extension - Parents as Teachers 136,962  
 Lenoir County Public Schools - Family Literacy 115,438

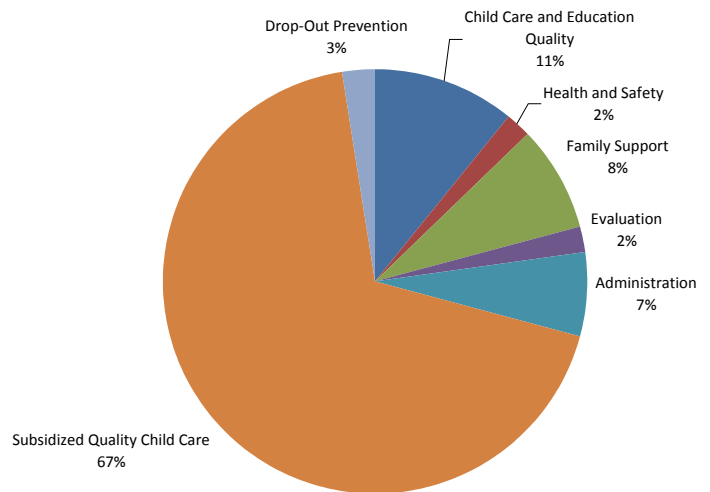
**TOTAL EXPENDITURES** \$3,838,370

#### State Level Service Provider Contracts

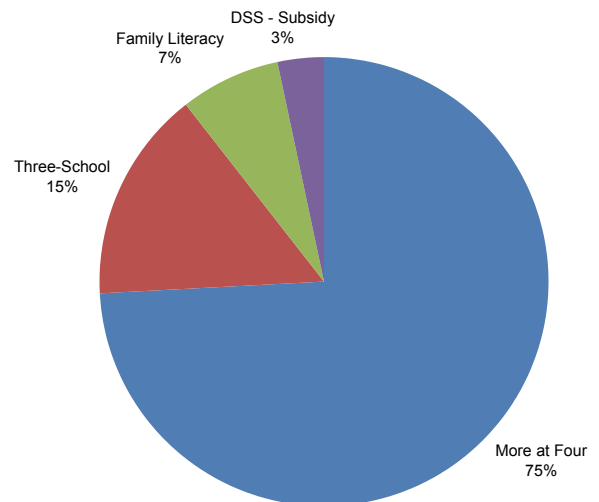
Greene County Department of Social Services - Subsidy \$89,389

\$3,927,759

## EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTIONAL CATEGORY



## SUBSIDIZED QUALITY CHILD CARE



***I would like to help support the children and families of Lenoir and Greene Counties by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Partnership for Children of Lenoir and Greene Counties:***

Name

Address

Phone

Amount of Donation

Please mail completed form to:  
 Partnership for Children of Lenoir and Greene Counties  
 1465 Highway 258 N  
 Kinston, NC 28504.

Make checks payable to: Partnership for Children of Lenoir and Greene Counties.





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Partnership for Children of Lenoir and Greene Counties would like to thank all of those who made contributions to our agency during 2010-2011. Various types of donations were made including volunteering services in one of our programs, monetary donations and in-kind contributions.

## ***This year, the Partnership was the recipient of multiple grants, including:***

\$2,500 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Grant  
\$24,223 – Ronald McDonald House Charities Foundation  
\$500 – Andy's Foundation  
\$175,000 – Drop-Out Prevention  
\$6,000 – SEED Grant  
\$6,000 – Kids Fest on the Neuse  
\$1,000 – Sanderson Farms

## ***Safe Kids:***

\$400 – Bicycle Helmet Grant  
\$300 – Safe Kids Week Grant  
\$600 – Child Passenger Safety Week Grant  
\$300 – Fire Prevention Grant  
\$1,500 – Sport Safety Grant  
\$300 – Never Leave Your Child Alone Grant  
\$200 – Operation Medicine Drop  
\$500 – Pool and Spa Grant



Without the support of our local community, our agency would be unable to support children in the greatest capacity possible. The Partnership staff and the children and providers we serve would like to say,

***Thank You!***

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristal Suggs - <i>Chair</i>	Patrick Miller
Lorraine Washington - <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Ellen Benton
Judy Smith - <i>Treasurer</i>	Rita Hodges
Linda Solomon - <i>Secretary</i>	Steve Mazingo
Shenile Ford	Rebecca Pate
Joy Brock	Katie Webb
Iris Jacobs	Jane Gridley

### ***Affiliations***

Kristal Suggs – Instructor, Kinston Charter Academy  
Lorraine Washington – Commissioner, Town of Snow Hill  
Judy Smith – Professor, East Carolina University  
Linda Solomon – CCR&R Representative  
Shenile Ford – Director, Greene County Cooperative Extension  
Joy Brock – Supervisor, Greene County Health Center  
Iris Jacobs – Child Care Provider  
Patrick Miller – Superintendent, Greene County Schools  
Ellen Benton – Director of Instruction, Lenoir County Schools  
Rita Hodges – Board Chair, Lenoir County Schools  
Steve Mazingo – Superintendent, Lenoir County Schools  
Rebecca Pate – Director, Greene County Chamber of Commerce  
Katie Webb – Marketing Coordinator, White & Allen, PA  
Jane Gridley – Instructor, Lenoir Community College

## PARTNERSHIP STAFF

Sherry Askew	<i>Program Director</i>
Taylor Bowen	<i>Parent Educator</i>
Jennifer Bowers	<i>Program Coordinator</i>
Tristan Bruner	<i>Evaluation Coordinator</i>
April Fields	<i>Finance Director</i>
Regina Harris	<i>Program Assistant</i>
Christy Hobbs	<i>Child Care Health Consultant</i>
Julissa Lopez	<i>Program Coordinator</i>
Jeannine Poythress	<i>Program Specialist</i>
Stephanie Sullivan	<i>Program Specialist</i>
Keith Sylvester	<i>Executive Director</i>
Molly Taylor	<i>Community Outreach</i>
Elizabeth Williams	<i>Program Specialist</i>



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