

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

# READY, SET, GROW!



a partner in the  
Smart Start network





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 on unique programs for preschool children, the families, licensed child care centers, and family child care homes, benefit from tactics that improve the quality of child care, make child care more affordable and more accessible, provide health education and meaningful family support services.

On behalf of the board of directors and the partnership staff it is a pleasure to present to you our **Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2016-2017**. It has been designed to provide a snapshot of the work that we accomplished during the past year, and I believe you will see our continued dedication to providing vital services for the children and families in the McDowell, Polk and Rutherford Communities.

### READY, SET, GROW!

The work the Partnership does around child development is so important because the earliest years of a child's life are critical. It is during this time that experiences literally shape the structure of the brain, setting the course for all future development and how the child will interact with the world around them. Our board of directors has been very intentional in assuring that the programs that we are funding are evidenced based and have proven efficacy.

### JOIN THE CIRCLE

This year I am happy to report that we were able to expand both family support and literacy programs, two fundamental building blocks to support both the child and family. For our families we offer a parent support group called **Circle of Parents**. This program has been very successful in the McDowell Community for years, and because of this success, our board decided to replicate the groups in our other counties and we have seen new successful groups develop. These groups have provided support to over 168 preschool parents this year in more than 190 weekly meetings.

### IMAGINE A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN

In 2017, we announced a new partnership with the national **Read Aloud 15 Minutes a Day** program, which is founded on the importance of daily reading aloud to our children. This program fit naturally with our **Dolly Parton Imagination Library**, which we are excited to report has continued to expand throughout all three counties in our service area. The Imagination Library provides a high quality, age appropriate book to preschool children monthly so that they can build their own library and develop a love for reading. This is so critical for school success in later life. To give you a glimpse of how we have been able to expand this program, consider the following statistics:

- **McDowell County**  
1,023 Children participated, receiving a total of 9,873 books
- **Polk County**  
482 Children participated, receiving a total of 4,538 books
- **Rutherford County**  
1,830 Children participated, receiving a total of 15,820 books

These numbers are exciting, and I'm thrilled to report that we have reached just under 45% of the total preschool population in our three counties with this important literacy program. There is much more I could say but I will let you read the report and see for yourself the excellent work that is being done. You will find a complete program section with program descriptions and highlights beginning on page 5.

It goes without saying that we owe a great debt to the general assembly of North Carolina for their continued support of the Smart Start Program and Network. I would also like to thank our Board of Directors for their support of our programs, and of course our staff who ensure we use the state funds we receive in the most efficient and effective way.

As you read this report if you have questions or you would like to know how you can make a difference, please contact me at 828-245-8673 or by email at [barry@pfcfoothills.org](mailto:barry@pfcfoothills.org).

With kind regards,  
Barry

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

### Sherry Bright

Executive Director, Family Resources of RC  
Rutherford County Representative

### John Carroll

Director, Rutherford County DSS  
Rutherford County Representative

### Cathleen Cullen

Program Coordinator  
ABC Quality Rating and Improvement System  
Polk County Representative

### Dr. Alice McCluney

Director, Early Childhood Education Program  
Isothermal Community College  
Rutherford County Representative

### Phyllis Davis

Public Dental Hygienist, NC Oral Health Section  
McDowell County Representative

### Tracy Davis - Chair

Rutherford Cooperative Extension Agent  
Rutherford County Representative

### Kris Edwards - Vice-Chair

NFP Coordinator  
McDowell County Representative

### Mark Franklin - Treasurer

Director, Customized Training & Development  
Isothermal Community College  
Rutherford County Representative

### Angel King

Director of Elementary Education  
Rutherford County Schools  
Rutherford County Representative

### Nickey Lewis

Director of Preschool, Rutherford County Schools  
Rutherford County Representative

### Meghan Merritt

Executive Director, YMCA Marion  
McDowell County Representative

### Suzanne Metcalf

Community Volunteer  
Polk County Representative

### Jennifer Morgan

Director, Glenwood Family Resource Center  
McDowell County Schools  
McDowell County Representative

### Jen Pace Dickenson

Youth Services Librarian  
Polk County Public Library  
Polk County Representative

### Gail Parton

Retired Child Care Provider  
Rutherford County Representative

### Suzanne Ramsey

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McDowell County Representative

### Dr. Johnny Smith

Dean of Health and Public Service  
Isothermal Community College  
Rutherford County Representative

### Lisa Sprouse

Director, McDowell County DSS  
McDowell County Representative

### Dr. Keith Stephenson

Senior Pastor, Second Baptist Church  
Rutherford County Representative

### Kathy Taft - Secretary

Community Volunteer  
Polk County Representative

### Keith Jamison

Registered Nurse, Julian F. Keith Drug Abuse  
Treatment Center  
McDowell County Representative

## Early Investment is Essential to the Future

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.

High quality early education yields:

- Higher earnings
- Higher graduation rates
- Reduced crime
- 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 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.

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.

### We believe quality early education requires:

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

Annually, the Partnership for Children of the Foothills invests more than 2.1 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 we've enjoyed this year and we know we couldn't have done it without our program partners and supporters.

# 2,000 DAYS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

## WHAT IS SMART START?

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.



# PROGRAMS & SERVICES IN POLK, RUTHERFORD AND MCDOWELL COUNTIES



## CHILD CARE QUALITY SUPPORT FOR EARLY EDUCATION-

### **McDowell, Polk, and Rutherford**

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

#### **TRAINING:**

- 54 Training workshops were sponsored, delivered or facilitated by the program.
- 242 Direct teaching staff participated in at least one of the scheduled training workshops.
- 1,464 Training calendars were distributed directly to teachers and directors in licensed facilities.

#### **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:**

- 711 Technical assistance visits were made with child care teachers and 212 visits were made with directors/assistant directors to provide individual on-site technical assistance.

- 13 Classrooms requested and received assistance with preparing for rating scale assessment to maintain or increase their star level.
- 260 Teachers working in child care facilities received individual, on-site technical assistance customized to their needs.
- 45 Directors received other on-site technical assistance, when requested
- 54 On-site visits or consultations were made with participating teachers/directors for follow up connected with an inservice.

#### **ACTIVITY KITS PROJECT:**

- 73 Teachers utilized at least one of the Partnership's activity kits to enhance children's indoor/ outdoor learning.

## CIRCLE OF PARENTS-

### **McDowell County, Rutherford County Community Based, Rutherford Co. 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 strengths in the areas of family management, communication, nurturing, and positive discipline.

## **MCDOWELL COUNTY**

- 72 COP weekly meetings were held
- 84 Parents/guardians participated at least one time
- 47 Parents/guardians attended at least 10 times in the fiscal year
- An additional 11 families attended at least 5 times in the fiscal year
- 49 families dropped out of the program
- 31 Birth to five year old children attended at least one time

## **RUTHERFORD COUNTY COMMUNITY BASED**

- 68 COP weekly meetings were held
- 28 Parents/guardians participated at least one time
- 43 Birth to five year old children attended at least 1 time
- 0 Families dropped out of the program
- 52 Attended at least 10 times in the fiscal year

## **RUTHERFORD COUNTY SCHOOL BASED**

- 51 COP weekly meeting were held
- 16 Parents/guardians participated at least one time
- 0 Birth to five year old children attended at least one time
- 0 Families dropped out of the program
- 6 Parents/guardians attended at least 10 times in the fiscal year



## **FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS TOGETHER (FAST)-**

### **McDowell County**

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 through two 8-week sessions
- 23 Parents /guardians participated in FAST
- 23 Children (ages 0-5) participated in FAST
- 14 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/Parenting program. for qualified Rutherford County mothers with young children is offered three days a week, four hours a day. Early childhood teachers provide on-site developmentally appropriate activities and quality care

for children ages 6 weeks through 5 years, while their mothers are involved in the Nurturing Parenting component with a certified parent educator and also attend GED/Adult classes in an adjacent room.

- 132 Nurturing Parenting sessions were held
- 6 Students dropped out of the program during the year
- 26 Parents were enrolled in MotherLearn for at least part of the fiscal year and participated in the Nurturing Parenting sessions
- 11 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 Counties**

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 DPIL**

- 1,023 Children participated in the DPIL program

- 157 Children graduated from the program (turned 5 years of age)
- 9,873 Books were distributed in McDowell County
- 45 Local businesses and agencies had DPIL displays and /or brochures available
- 15 Newborns were enrolled as a result of Welcome Books and brochure given to McDowell County families with children born at McDowell Hospital

## **POLK COUNTY**

- 482 Children participated
- 4,538 Books were distributed in Polk County
- 98 Children graduated from the program (turned 5 years of age)
- 56 Local businesses or agencies had a DPIL display and/or brochures available
- 6 Newborns were enrolled as a result of Welcome Books and Brochures given to Polk County families with children born in Rutherford Hospital

## **RUTHERFORD COUNTY**

- 1,830 Children participated in DPIL project
- 183 Children graduated from the program (turned 5 years old)
- 15,820 Books were distributed in Rutherford County
- 45 Local businesses or agencies had DPIL displays and/or brochures available
- 55 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 preschool 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**

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

#### **POLK COUNTY**

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

#### **RUTHERFORD COUNTY**

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

## **WAGE\$-**

### **Rutherford**

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

- 78 Participants received a supplement. As of June 30, 2016, 77 child care professionals in 24 Rutherford County child care programs were still participating.
- 17% Rate of turnover in Rutherford 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 eight local agencies and one 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**

- Child Care Quality Support for Early Education
- Community Outreach and Education
- The Dolly Parton Imagination Library (serving all three counties)
- 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
- Circle of Parents

#### **Rutherford/Polk/McDowell Health District**

- Healthy Smiles
- Nurse Family Partnership



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

## REVENUE & SUPPORT

Smart Start Grant .....	\$ 1,925,312.00
Cash Contributions .....	\$ 33,873.00
In-kind Contributions .....	\$ 244,363.00
Private Grants .....	\$ 64,433.00
State Accounting Grant .....	\$ 14,490.00
<b>Total Revenue &amp; Support .....</b>	<b>\$ 2,282,471.00</b>

## EXPENDITURES

### Programs & Supporting Services

Child Care Subsidy .....	\$ 852,045.00
Community Outreach and Education .....	\$ 32,577.00
Family Support Programs .....	\$ 244,508.00
Health and Safety Programs .....	\$ 3,636.00
Literacy Programs .....	\$ 134,364.00
Program Coordination .....	\$ 89,638.00
Quality Support for Early Education .....	\$ 235,559.00
WAGE\$ Project .....	\$ 108,367.00
Private and Grant Funds for Program Expenses ..	\$ 127,303.00
In-kind Expenditures .....	\$ 244,363.00
<b>Total Program Expenditures .....</b>	<b>\$ 2,052,360.00</b>
Management & General .....	\$ 215,531.00
Accounting Grant .....	\$ 14,490.00
<b>Total Expenditures .....</b>	<b>\$ 2,282,471.00</b>



# READ ALOUD 15 MINUTES A DAY

## NEW PARTNERSHIP

Partnership for Children of the Foothills announced a new partnership with the national Read Aloud 15 Minutes a Day program.

Read Aloud 15 Minutes is a nonprofit organization that is working to make reading aloud every day for at least 15 minutes the new standard in child care. Their vision begins with the knowledge that when every child is read aloud to for 15 minutes every day from birth, more children will be ready to learn when they enter kindergarten, more children will have the literacy skills needed to succeed in school, and more children will be prepared for a productive and meaningful life after school.

In 2012, this group launched a decade-long commitment with a simple call to action...Read Aloud for 15 Minutes Daily. Their goal will best be achieved by partnering with other organizations and business that are invested in child development and education and education, to ensure that reading aloud daily for 15 minutes becomes the new parenting standard, and thereby changes the face of education in this country.

By joining this campaign, Partnership for Children of the Foothills has committed to increase parent knowledge around the importance of early literacy and gain pledges by parents or caregivers to read aloud to the children in their care.

Learn more and pledge to read at [ReadAloudPFCFoothills.org](http://ReadAloudPFCFoothills.org) today!





## STAFF – PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF THE FOOTHILLS

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## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Partnership for Children of the Foothills exists to help families thrive in McDowell, Polk and Rutherford Counties. There are many in our communities that don't know the programs offered, or the depth of resources available and we need your help! Like us on Facebook and become an active part of telling our story:

## CONTACT US!

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Partnership for Children of the Foothills