



VOLUNTEER GUIDE 2010

CHATHAM COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

200 Sanford Highway, Suite #4

Pittsboro, NC 27312

919.542.7449

www.chathamkids.org

Find us on 

Chatham County Partnership for Children...

- is a private non profit charitable organization
- was formed in 1994
- is led by a board of directors of about 20 community members, business leaders, parents, teachers, and others dedicated to improving the lives of the county's youngest children.
- oversees Smart Start, More at Four, and Ready Schools
- works to bring in other resources.
- funds a variety of programs specially selected to meet the Partnership's quality child care, health, and family support goals.

Our Vision

Working together, Chatham County's families and organizations will create a healthy and wholesome environment in which all young children can reach their greatest potential.

To learn more about the Partnership for Children
call our office at
542-7449

Or visit our web site at
www.chathamkids.org



SMART START . . .

Is a comprehensive public-private initiative launched by Governor Hunt in 1993 to address the concern that many children begin school unprepared for school success.

Helps young children and families by bringing together and strengthening existing resources.

With SMART START:

Children are better prepared for school.

Child care quality has improved.

Child care teachers are better educated.

Child care teacher turnover has been reduced.

Children are healthier.

Parents are better informed and have more resources.



Programs listed in this guide that are funded by SMART START are identified with the SMART START logo.

MORE AT FOUR...

Is a high-quality pre-k program that serves children who are at risk and prepares them for success in school. Pre-kindergarten is a research-proven strategy for school readiness.

Children served by More at Four attend a full school day, full school year program that meets high-quality state standards. The Chatham County Partnership for Children supports More at Four classrooms throughout Chatham County in public and private licensed child care centers and Head Start.

Programs listed in this guide that are funded by MORE AT FOUR are identified with the MORE AT FOUR logo.



Who Are We?

The Chatham County Partnership for Children is a group of citizens, parents, teachers, and human service providers who are dedicated to improving the lives of the county's young children. Made up of a staff of five and a board of directors of about 30, we provide funds and guidance for programs and services aimed at helping all young children grow strong & healthy, stay safe, and become ready for success in school.



Our History

- 1993** Smart Start is launched by Governor Jim Hunt to address the concern that many children begin school unprepared for school success.
Chatham Friends of Children gets started to study children's needs and apply for Smart Start funding.
- 1994** We become incorporated as the Chatham County Partnership for Children in June and are selected as a second-year Smart Start county, one of the first 24 "pioneer" counties. We spend our first Smart Start allocation on child care subsidies.
- 1995** We establish the initial group of family support and child care quality programs. We develop our first Strategic Plan to guide our program decisions.
In the fall, we decide to develop an in-house evaluation program to evaluate our programs, to offer technical assistance and to ensure a greater level of accountability to the public and to the state.
- 1996** In January, we establish the first full complement of programs, 32 in all, in the core service areas of Child Care Quality; Child Care Accessibility; Child Care Affordability; Health; and Family Support.
- 1997** We receive the Smart Start Governor's Award for Child Care Accessibility.
- 1998** We receive another Governor's Award, this time for Child Care Affordability.
- 1999** The state develops standards and objectives for each core service area; we establish benchmarks for each objective to measure our progress toward key results for children.
- 2000** US Department of Justice awards one of 9 National SAFE START grants to Chatham County to be implemented by our Partnership. (\$3.3 million over a 5 year period)
- 2001** Chatham County Partnership chosen as a mentor partnership for the National Smart Start Technical Assistance Center. (\$25,000 awarded for this recognition)
- 2002** Pittsboro Kiwanis Playground and Bennett Preschool Project are developed entirely with private donations and intensive community volunteer effort. Safe Start services

- 2003** Launched More at Four pre-kindergarten programs in collaboration with Chatham County Schools; served 34 children in the first year.
- 2004** Sustained program services during period of tight funding and increasing needs.
- 2005** Safe Start OJJDP project ends. Partnership commits to sustaining services coordination. Medicaid funding accessed for services for eligible children.
- 2006** Received Congressional Discretionary Award to continue Safe Start service coordination; thanks to the support of Congressman Bob Etheridge. OPC Area Program funds Safe Start services for 3 – 8 year olds not eligible for Medicaid or insurance.
- 2007** Z. Smith Reynolds, United Way, OPC Area Program, and Chatham County fund Safe Start services coordination and services to children not eligible for Medicaid or insurance. Smart Start special grant awarded to implement early intervention child fund project: Assuring Better Child Development (ABCD). More at Four expanded to serve 253 children; up from 60 served in 2006-2007.
- 2008** Safe Start continues to provide services coordination, referrals and identification of children exposed to violence. Federal funding for Safe Start ended December 2008. Local support from United Way, Chatham County and OPC Area Program sustain the program through the end of the fiscal year. The READY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE is launched and becomes an integral part of the strategic plan for Chatham County Schools and the Partnership for Children.
- 2009** More at Four grows to serve 269 children county wide, expanding to include new private child care sites as well as additional classrooms in the public schools. Two schools initiate Ready Schools Teams. Safe Start service coordination ends with a sustainable system of trained intervention services directly working with human service agencies identifying children exposed to violence; Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services takes on lead role for children exposed to violence.
- 2009** Ready Schools Teams form and begin the planning and assessment process for improving the connection between early childhood educational settings and K-3 classrooms. The Partnership launches another special project: the **Natural Learning Initiative Chatham!** Two child care sites are chosen for implementation of natural design elements on their playgrounds. This represents a significant investment of private funds that the Partnership has saved over the years from individual donors and bank earnings.



Volunteer Opportunity: The Partnership is looking for volunteers to help with our various Planning and Advisory committees. Please consider joining one of the following important efforts.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The Board consists representation from the following key groups: Business and Community members, Government Agencies, and Service Provider agencies and organizations..

Meeting Schedule: Quarterly, 3rd Tuesday, 6:00-7:30 PM,
[September, December, March, June]

PLANNING & EVALUATION. The Planning & Evaluation Committee is chaired by the Board Vice-Chair and is responsible for identifying future goals, developing proposals for reaching those goals, evaluating the effectiveness of current activities, and submitting recommendations for consideration by the Board.

Meeting Schedule: 1st Monday, 3:30–5:30 PM

DEVELOPMENT. The Development Committee provides leadership for involving the Board in fundraising and works with the staff to implement a strategic resource plan for the organization. The work of this committee may involve the following:

Meeting Schedule: Monthly, 1st Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 PM

FINANCE. The Finance Committee serves as the audit committee for the organization and shall provide oversight to ensure the integrity of the financial statements of the organization. The committee, chaired by the Board Treasurer, meets at least quarterly. The Finance committee reviews the detailed budget expenditure reports as well as the agencies overall fund balances and balance sheet. The Finance Committee holds an annual budget work session in May of each year to provide the opportunity for all Board members and staff to participate in the detailed budget development process. Once adopted by the Board, budget revision requests may be reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee, except in the case of changes to the total budget for and activity or project.

Meeting Schedule: Quarterly: 2nd Thursday, NOON—1:30 pm
[August, November, February, May]

FOCUS ON CHILD CARE. The Partnership is charged with implementing early childhood initiatives that improve the quality, affordability and availability of early care and education in Chatham County. The collaboration necessary for implementation as well and the input needed for development and oversight of these initiatives requires participation of individuals and agencies working in direct service within early childhood programs. The Focus on Child Care Committee also oversees the planning and development of the annual child care provider training and recognitions conference.

Meeting Schedule: 2nd Monday, 6:30–8:30 PM

READY SCHOOLS STEERING COMMITTEE. This committee advises, plans, and implements the Ready School Initiative, which strives to fully integrate our early childhood education with public school improvement efforts. The Ready Schools Initiative is working to build a community-wide understanding that high quality education encourages children’s academic, social and emotional growth in a developmentally appropriate framework. Local schools and the Partnership are collaborating to improve children’s experience transitioning from preschool to kindergarten and between the early grades. In addition, the Ready Schools Steering Committee will oversee the Kellogg planning grant to conduct focus groups, research relevant issues, and write collaborative grants supporting Ready Schools and/or other programs that support early childhood education from birth to 3rd grade.

Meeting Schedule: Monthly, 3rd Wednesday, 11:30–1:30 PM

FOCUS ON FAMILY SUPPORT. To achieve the vision of ensuring all children grow up safe, strong and ready for success requires strong parenting. The Partnership supports numerous family support programs. Focus on Family Support brings together direct service providers working to provide parenting education, parent training, individual & family counseling, home visiting, and family support. The committee works to advise the Board on the development of program goals and activities ensuring that the use of best practices in family support services to the extent that resources allow.

Meeting Schedule: Monthly, 3rd Wednesday, 11:30–1:30 PM

FOCUS ON CHILD HEALTH. The health needs and resources for young children are an integral part of comprehensive early child planning. This committee includes a broad based group of community representatives and meets as needed to advise the Board on the implementation and effectiveness of current health related activities and their goals, develop future goals and review proposals for reaching those goals, and submitting recommendations for consideration by the Board. This committee may also oversee the involvement of the partnership in health related community activities and events.

Meeting Schedule: Quarterly: 3rd Monday, 3:30-5:30 PM
[August, November, February, May]

More at Four Advisory Committee. The More at Four Program provides high quality early childhood education to children at risk of school failure due to poverty and other factors. The Advisory Committee provides guidance and oversight to the implementation of this program and is comprised of community partner agency representatives, classroom teachers, parents, and other child care providers. This committee is chaired jointly by the Superintendent of Schools and the Board Chair for the Partnership for Children or their designee.

Meeting Schedule: Quarterly: 4th Thursday, 11:30 AM –1:30 PM
[August, November, February, May]

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:
Help at community events and fairs; one time or several times!
SEE NEXT PAGE FOR DETAILS



KEEPING A PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY FOR ALL CHILDREN

The Partnership for Children participates in a wide variety of community fairs and events. We provide developmentally appropriate play and learning activities for young children, infants through preschoolers. These activities include painting, play dough, puzzles, books, soft blocks and toys, etc. Each event requires at least 4 adults to supervise and manage the activities.

Event helpers can work directly with children by putting up paper on the painting easel, refilling paint cups, helping with noodle-beads and other activities. Some one is also needed to give out program information and talk with parents. Our materials are provided in English and Spanish, so it is always helpful to have bilingual volunteers at our booth!

The events we typically participate in are listed below. Please call the Partnership staff to volunteer for an event. Specific details about each event vary from year to year, so call to get more information. Helping with our event booths is fun, fun, fun!

ANNUAL EVENTS:

August: National Neighborhood Night Out

October: Pittsboro Street Fair (October 23, 2010)

April: Easter Egg Hunt

Week of the Young Child

YMCA Healthy Kids Day

May: Day of the Book

Siler City Alive

Come join in the fun and help us keep a presence in the community and build awareness of the importance of early childhood education and quality child development for all children!





**Volunteer Information Sheet
For Boards and Committees of
Chatham County Partnership for Children**

If you are a Chatham County resident, at least 18 years old, interested in children, and willing to volunteer your time and expertise to your community, please complete and return to:
Chatham County Partnership for Children
200 Sanford Hwy. #4, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Date: _____

Personal Information

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different) : _____

Business Phone Number: _____ Home Phone Number _____

Fax Number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Are you currently or have you previously served on a board or committee in Chatham County? Yes _____ No _____

If so, please list all boards and committees on which you currently serve or have served.

Are you interested in serving on the Partnership Board _____ or a Committee _____?

Please list in order of preference Committees on which you would be willing to serve (Finance, Development, Smart Start Planning & Evaluation, Nominating), or a specific program advisory committee (More at Four, Ready Schools, Child Care, Family Support, Child Health).

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Why do you want to serve the Partnership in this capacity? If additional space is needed, please attach a separate sheet.

Education

Please list your educational background. Include names of all schools attended and degrees received.

Employment

Name of Employer: _____

Address: _____

Description of job duties: _____

Civic Involvement

Please list the names of all civic organizations in which you currently hold membership.

Other Comments

Optional Data Section

We ask your help in assuring diversity of membership by age, gender, and race by answering the following questions. You may leave this section blank if you desire.

Gender: Male _____ Date of birth: _____
Female _____

Ethnic Background: African American _____ Hispanic _____
Caucasian _____ Native American _____
Other _____

How did you become aware of Partnership volunteer opportunities?

____ Newspaper _____ Volunteer Fair at _____.

____ Partnership Board member or staff

Other (please specify) _____



This publication is provided to you free of charge, thanks to state funding from the North Carolina Legislature through the Smart Start grant for Chatham County

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