

2013-2014 Board of Directors

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Designees are appointed by their agency to attend in the absence of the elected board member.

Pre-K Support

Patti Fleig, provides environmental and classroom support to 24 NC Pre-K classrooms in Union County. She trains, educates and supports early childhood professionals (most of them early in their career) by creating environments conducive to learning, designing classroom layout, and meeting state ECERS (Early Child Environmental Rating Scale) requirements.

Much like hotels are star-rated 1 through 5, so are child care centers. Those numbers are determined by the quality of the facility, education level of teachers, environmental safety and other factors. Patti makes sure the NC Pre-K classrooms rate a 5.0 out of possible 7.0 in their assessment.

The state requires NC Pre-K to only serve children in a 4 or 5 star rated facility. SUCCESS: Thanks to the support provided by NC Pre-K MASTERS, 90% of the classrooms with returning lead teachers attained program standards score of 6.0 or greater on ECERS rating scale. 80% of first time teachers scored a 5.5 or greater. Patti is proud of two of the NC Pre-K classrooms she worked with that underwent their state



assessment last fall. One of them scored a 6.03 and the other a 5.86. Both of these rooms are models for the rest of the teachers. Because of these high scores, one of the sites went from a 4 Star to a 5 Star rating.

A great BIG thanks to Alex Montecalvo, a Junior at Marvin Ridge High School. He conducted a team drive to collect items to benefit low-income children in the Union County .



Through his efforts, hundreds of items including books, art supplies and sports equipment were given directly to four year old children in NC Pre-K. Volunteer SUCCESS: Thank you Alex for making a difference in the lives of children!

Give!

When you support Alliance for Children, you are investing in children birth to age 5 providing them access to quality programs for a bright future. Early education is the starting point for the pipeline that fuels our higher education system which drives economic growth, innovation, and investment in our local community. Please partner with us today for a life time of results.

Donate now: www.theallianceforchildren.org



There are only 2000 days between the time a baby is born and when that child shows up for the first day of kindergarten.

Contact

Website: www.theallianceforchildren.org (sign-up for our newsletter)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/allianceforchildren

Address: 105 Cedar Street, Monroe, NC 28110 Phone: 704.226.1407

Connect with us and learn about programs that invest in young children in Union County.



2013 - 2014

Investing in programs that strengthen the health, education, and emotional development of young children in Union County.

Investing in bright futures

Our name reflects our mission – Alliance for Children. We are not just one organization, but an alliance of many local organizations that have programs with a common goal – to provide children with the tools they need to achieve success throughout life. With the expertise of our partnering agencies, we are able to maximize our success for children and their families. The variety of funded programs shows the strong collaboration and commitment of our community partners.

Union County Human Services provides a dental education program for preschool children and a breastfeeding peer support program. They also host the Nurturing Parenting Program and provide financial assistance through child care subsidy. **Union County Public Schools** focuses on

supporting pregnant and parenting teens through the Best Start program and recently established a family literacy program.

The Arc of Union/Cabarrus hosts an inclusive play group that supports children to develop social skills while providing much needed support to parents and guardians.

In our effort to improve the quality of child care, we partner with **South Piedmont Community College** and **Thompson Child and Family Focus** to provide several programs focused on improving the education, knowledge and skills of early childcare professionals.

Many thanks to these agencies for partnering with us and investing in bright futures.

Thank you for the support, for always being there for me and for my son.

Thanks for keeping me on track and focused on my education. If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't be in school, and I am glad you put me in the position to still make it somewhere in life. - 2014 High School Graduate—Best Start participant

THANK YOU NOTES & SUCCESS STORIES FROM OUR PARTICIPANTS

Dental Smiles

My child has been terrified of the dentist. After taking your class on visiting the dentist and listening to other children tell their stories, my child is no longer fearful!

Education Stars

I have grown so much in my knowledge of early education. Before I did not really know what it meant to be an educator. I felt like a babysitter. Now I know that it is important to be an instructor for the children.

Family Literacy

I read books to my children before, but never gave them the opportunity to talk about it or relate it to our daily lives. I am more observant now and have noticed a tremendous impact in my younger child.

Smart Start Resource Center

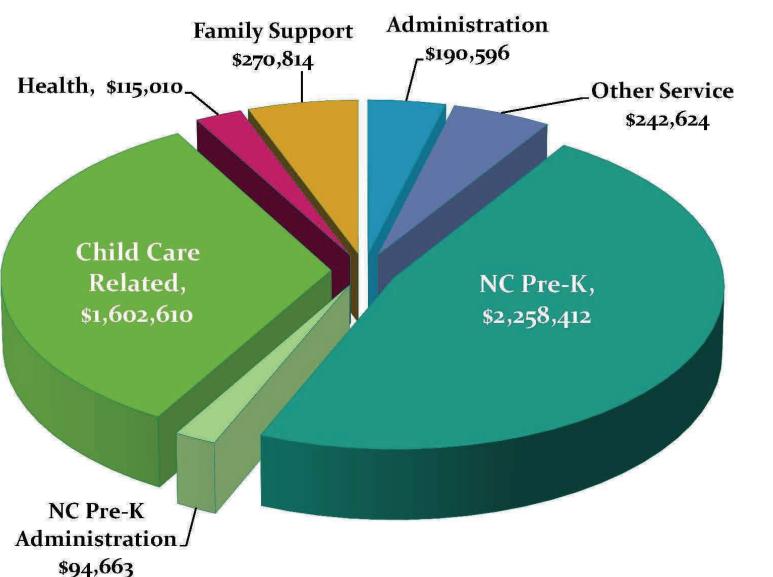
I LOVE this community resource! It's unbelievably organized, too, so I can always find great theme-based games or teaching materials for my son and my home daycare.



Financial Overview — Program Expenditures from Legislature Allocated Funds

Child Care & Early Education

Education Stars	\$126,816
Inclusion Support	64,107
NC Pre-K Support	71,302
NC Pre-K MASTERS	62,274
Smart Start MASTERS	72,515
Smart Start Resource Center	78,654
Smart Start Smiles	81,481
Subsidy — Purchase of Care	891,128
Subsidy — Administration	<u>154,333</u>
Child Care Related Total	\$1,602,610
Health Initiative	
Breastfeeding Support	\$42,551
Smart Start At Play	<u>72,459</u>
Health Initiative Total	\$115,010
Family Support	
Best Start	134,127
Parenting Support & NPP	72,459
Smart Start Family Literacy	<u>55,956</u>
Family Support Total	\$270,814
Other	
Administration	\$190,596
Community Education	80,564
Program Management	<u>162,060</u>
Other Total	\$433,220
Smart Start Total Budget	\$2,421,654
NC Pre-K Services	2,258,412
NC Pre-K Administration	94,663
TOTAL ALLIANCE BUDGET	\$4,774,729



IMPACT

Best Start	99 pregnant and parenting teens
Breastfeeding Support	927 women served
Child Care Subsidy	580 children served
Education Stars	244 early childhood professionals
Family Literacy	27 families participating
Inclusion Support	350 children impacted
NC Pre-K Program	375 children served
NC Pre-K Support & Pre-K MASTERS	375 children served
Nurturing Parenting Program	75 children impacted
Smart Start At Play	263 served
Smart Start MASTERS	150 early childhood professionals
Smart Start Resource Center	3084 children impacted
Smart Start Smiles... .	118 children impacted by dental education

**6549 children & educators
impacted by our programs**

North Carolina's Division of Corrections budget was **\$1.38 BILLION** in FY 2012-2013
During that same period, the state Division of Child Development budget was **\$266 Million**

Imagine the economic prosperity and societal impact if those numbers were reversed!

U.S. Chamber of Commerce says our economic future depends on our investment in early education



Nurturing Parenting Program a Success

Reduces the rate of child abuse, juvenile delinquency, alcohol abuse and reoccurring teen pregnancy.

Nicole Blevins is the program coordinator and the lead facilitator of the Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP). She works with everyone from teen moms to court ordered parents who have lost custody of their children and must complete 13 sessions as part of their rehabilitation and the ability to regain custody of their children.

The number of referrals this year ran significantly higher compared to last years case load because more agencies know about the success of the program.

— Dena, a single mom of 3 girls, lost custody due to domestic violence and medical neglect. The 2 oldest daughters required extensive dental work for over 10

cavities. Her partner is currently residing in the county jail for domestic violence and attempted murder. Her social worker referred the oldest child, four year old Faith, to NC Pre-K, helping her to be ready for success in Kindergarten. Dena completed the program and regained custody of her girls. Her social worker is amazed at her progress. Dena is more engaged with her children and has learned healthier discipline techniques.

SUCCESS: The program has served several hundred families with only a 4.3% recidivism rate since the program began in 2010 . NPP is changing lives in amazing ways.



Violence or abuse derails healthy brain development in those critical first five years of life. Ongoing abuse or neglect has life long consequences for the child, known as toxic stress.

From our Executive Director and Board Chair



Mary Ann Rasberry, ED

We are excited by taking a step back, looking at the past and working toward the future, we have a renewed focus on public engagement and educating the community on the significance of early childhood development.

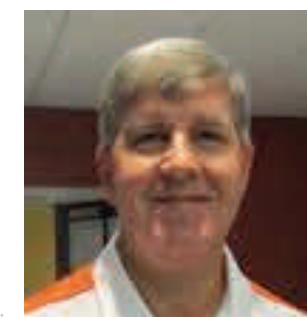
Alliance for Children is making the First 2000 Days message a priority after a kickoff last fall with a regional First 2000 Days Faith Summit in Concord, NC. It is a powerful message driving community leaders to act. Those attending are eager to share their knowledge with others. Our goal is for every parent, grandparent, and educator to learn

the critical importance of the first 2000 days of a child's life.

Our efforts this past year provide powerful stories of the work being done in Union County to make bright futures for our youngest citizens. While we continue to educate parents on the importance of using 4 and 5 Star rated facilities, our energy is placed on the importance of quality and increasing star ratings throughout the child care community.

Increased literacy skills are continually being woven into most every program aimed at increasing school readiness and creating life long learners.

We are overjoyed at the success, that the Best Start Teen Parenting Program had this year with a 97.5% graduation rate of forty students and seven college scholarships.



Gene Robbins, Chair

This program provides teen parents with the support, advocacy, and motivation needed to succeed in life. They are setting examples for their children that education is important!

The last half of the year we focused on stronger fundraising efforts with sponsorships, grant writing and expanded opportunities. Businessman John Huber, is chair of our new governance committee. His experience and enthusiasm for board structure has reenergized committee members to effectively and efficiently support the mission of Alliance for Children.