

2022-2023

Alliance for Children Annual Report

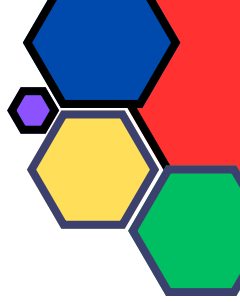


Alliance for Children
investing in bright futures



a partner in the
smart start network™

Alliance for Children



What is Smart Start?

Smart Start is North Carolina's nationally-recognized initiative to ensure that every child reaches his or her potential and is prepared to succeed in a global community. Smart Start helps working parents pay for child care, improves the quality of child care and provides health and family support services in every North Carolina county. Started in 1993, Smart Start was an innovative solution to help address the state wide issue that children were coming to school unprepared to learn.

Policymakers recognized that progress would require tapping into the same innovative spirit that inspired private sector advances, and therefore, established Smart Start as a public/private partnership. Independent, private organizations work in all 100 North Carolina counties through The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., and 75 Local Partnerships. The power of Smart Start is that it delivers outcomes by giving communities local control to determine the best approach to achieving them. Alliance for Children serves as the Smart Start local partnership in Union County.

How Does Alliance for Children Impact the Community

Education doesn't begin when a child enters kindergarten. Education begins at birth. 90% of brain development occurs in the first 2000 days of life making this time critical to the shape and structure of the brain.

Alliance for Children advocates and invests in efforts that strengthen children's health, education, and emotional development by bringing together all the people involved in a young child's life. Families, teachers, doctors, caregivers and many additional support givers working together to ensure that every child has all they need for healthy growth and development.

Because today's children are tomorrow's leaders, parents and workers, everyone has a stake in making sure that all children have the experiences they need to thrive



Letter from the Executive Director



As I reflect over the past year, I am very thankful for a strong and passionate staff, a giving and dedicated Board of Directors, and a community of caring individuals and organizations who work alongside us in serving our youngest citizens and their families.

YOU should be proud of our partnership with Union County Public Schools and the Best Start program serving teen moms and dads in our schools, our partnership with South Piedmont Community College, educating many early childhood professionals, our partnership with ARC of Union and Circle of Parents bringing together parents of Special Needs children to help them find voice. These are just a few of the things YOU have helped us do in the community.

We are very proud of all our programs, technical assistants, and our direct service providers. I hope you will review our 2023-2024 Annual Report and know that while we celebrate what has been done, we look forward to what is to come. Walk with us as we look for ways to engage and serve our families.

As we look for ways to engage and serve our families, we remember that our youngest children are our future moms and dads, our future workers, leaders, and our future community decision-makers.

They need us, and they need YOU too!

Gratefully,
Linda Smith
Executive Director



Investing in Bright Futures

FAMILY SUPPORT ACHIEVEMENTS



Circle of Parents:

- 21 Sessions
- Served 18 Parents of Special Needs Children
- Impacted 17 children 0-5
- Served community meals for 254 participants

Parenting Support and Nurturing Parent Program

- Served 57 parents.
- 89% of parents completed all 12 sessions
- Impacted 67 children 0-5
- 522 Individual counseling meetings
- Provided incentives for 47 participants

Best Start

- Served 34 Teen Parents
- Impacted 22 children 0-5
- 673 Counseling Sessions
- 573 Academic Interventions
- 177 Home Visits
- Graduating class of 17
- Provided incentives for 29 students

HEALTH SUPPORT ACHIEVEMENTS

Child Care Health Consultants:

- Completed NC Health and Assessments Trainings with 6 classes
- 231 Child care staff received technical assistance
- Conducted 48 center specific training sessions
- Completed 6 written health care plans for children with special needs
- Had a combined 591 center contacts (phone, email or visit)
- Conducted 6 child oriented training sessions within the child care classroom



Breastfeeding Support:

- Assisted 830 women initiate breastfeeding
- 393 attended virtual prenatal breastfeeding class
- 911 women in Union County were served by peer counselors
- Hosted the first Big Latch event in person with 16 attendees
- Distributed \$21,377 in Non-Cash Grants

SYSTEM SUPPORT ACHIEVEMENTS

Community Education

- 33, 808 hits to the website and 171 social media posts
- 271 hours of volunteer time
- 4 community presentations to build community relations
- 6 community outreach events to serve the children and families in Union County
- Initiated the Book Library in local laundry mats

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENTS

Education Stars:

- Advised and enrolled 139 Students
- Provided Advising for 30 child care facilities with 39 site visits
- 2 Students received Certificates in Early Childhood Education
- 2 students received a Degree in Early Childhood Education
- Alliance for Children paid for classes for 6 students

Smart Start Resource Library:

- 52 New Memberships
- 23 Annual Renewals
- 114 visitors
- 554 visits in total
- Initiated a new delivery service pilot program to deliver materials to Union County Child Care centers.



Pre-K MASTERS

- Trained 32 staff members
- Provided 6 Educational trainings with 115 total in attendance
- Conducted 200 site visits
- Assisted 3 classrooms with intensive ECERS support
- Distributed \$21,377 in Non-Cash Grants

Smart Start MASTERS

- Trained 143 Union County Child Care teachers
- Provided 9 Community Wide Educational trainings
- Intensively worked with 5 child care facilities, 11 classes and 14 staff
- Distributed \$36,000 in Non-cash grants for new classroom materials
- Provided general support to 17 child care facilities, 7 classes and 14 staff



Inclusion Support

- Trained 81 Union County Child Care teachers
- Provided 7 Community Wide Educational trainings
- Intensively worked with 6 child care facilities and 11 staff
- Provided general support to 10 child care facilities, 17 classes and 34 staff
- Conducted 224 site visit
- Distributed \$7, 940 in Non-Cash Grants to the 6 Intensive sites

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

In collaboration with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL), Alliance for Children provides free books to Union County children mailed to them each month until the age of 5.



- For 2022-23 DPIL served 8,069 children in Union County
- 76,837 books were mailed to children 0-5 in Union County
- Since 2017, Alliance for Children has provided funding for 303,596 books to be mailed to registered children within our community

North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten

The NC Pre-Kindergarten program is designed to prepare at-risk 4-year-olds for success in school and is free for qualified families.

- For 2022-23, NCPK served 331 children
- 46 teachers were trained in curriculum, data collection and Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scales (ECERS)
- 23 classes in elementary schools and private child care centers provided high quality early education to the eligible students
- Through data collection during the year, teachers were able to provide information to the parents and the kindergarten teachers



Farm to Early Childhood Education

Farm to ECE offers increased access to healthy local food, gardening opportunities and food-based activities to enhance the quality of the educational experience in early childhood education.



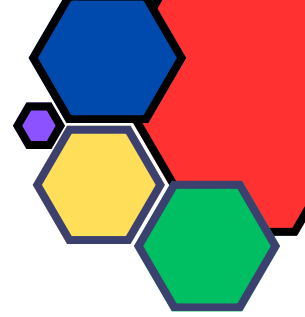
- Collaborated with two centers to build gardens and activities
- Held 12 community meetings in partnership with NC Cooperative Extension
- Participated in NC Crunch with centers to focus on apple growing in North Carolina
- Held information sessions for new centers to enroll in the program

WAGE\$

The Child Care WAGE\$ Program provides child care professionals with education-based salary supplements. These supplements reward education and continuity of care which in turn benefits the children by providing a more stable relationship with better educated teachers.

- \$77,500 was directly released to the teachers in our community
- 46 child care professionals were issued supplements
- WAGE\$ supplements impacted 15 centers
- \$981 average six month supplement
- 100% of the survey results stated that WAGE\$ supplements encourage them to remain with their current center

Our Community



Union County Christmas Parade

The 69th Annual Union County Christmas Parade was held with over 150 entries and thousands in attendance. Supported by over 75 volunteers who helped with traffic, entry placement and more.

On November 3rd we crowned Kristen Baucom of Piedmont High School the Parade Princes at the Shops at Nottingham.

Erika Quintero from Monroe High School received the Spirit Award.



Community Events

- Monroe Fall Festival – children were able to pick out a book along with parents learning more about Alliance for Children
- Monroe Easter Eggstravanza – children received a bag with books and information about how reading and physical activity builds brains. Children were able to complete a craft that encouraged physical activity.
- Downtown Art Walk with the Union County Arts Council – partnered with young children to display their art for participants to enjoy.
- Juneteenth Celebration in Marshville where over 800 books were given to children while parents learned about programs that could benefit their children.



Volunteers

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart” – Elizabeth Andrew

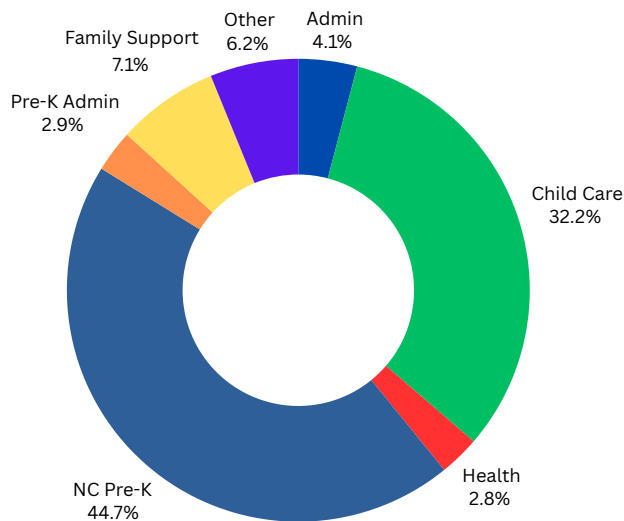
Thank you to all who have volunteered with Alliance for Children, from our Board of Directors to students who take time out of their day to help someone else. They are truly appreciated.



- Charlotte Referral Group brought 10 members to serve
- Monroe High School JRAFRCTC brought over 20 students
- Sun Valley Beta Club members volunteered through out the year
- Volunteers from the community
- Monroe Police Department
- Monroe High School students
- Union County Childcare Association volunteered their time to help with strategic planning



One Year Review



Child Care Related

Education Stars	\$81,243
Inclusion Support	87,814
Pre-K MASTERS	109,991
Smart Start MASTERS	110,786
Smart Start Resource Center	60,126
Subsidy - Administration	195,000
Subsidy - Purchase of Care	950,785
WAGE\$	77,500
Child Care Related Total:	\$1,673,245

Health Initiative

Breastfeeding Support	\$61,606
Child Care Health Consultant	84,907
Health Initiative Total:	\$146,513

Family Support

Best Start	\$196,500
Circle of Parents	34,990
Nurturing Parenting	137,137
Family Support Total:	\$368,627

Other

Administration	\$212,818
Community Education	110,145
Dolly Parton Imagination Library	13,739
Fund Raising	13,420
Program Management	183,192
Other Total:	\$533,314

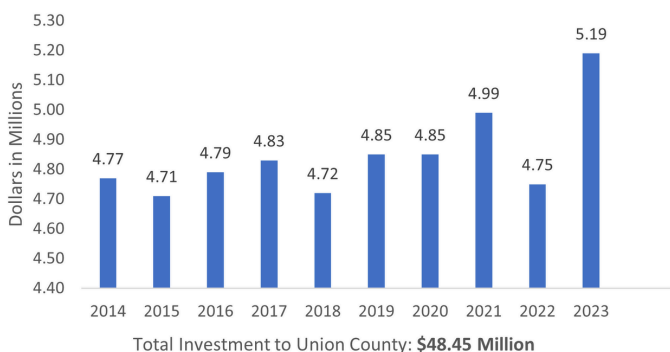
Smart Start Total:

\$2,721,699

Total Alliance for Children Expenditures:

\$5,193,037

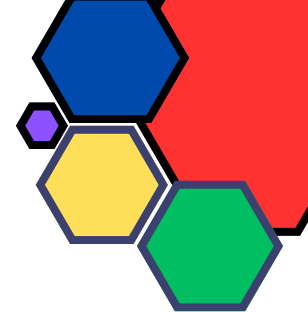
Alliance for Children's 10 Year Investment



NC Pre-K

NC Pre-K Services	\$2,247,741
NC Pre-K Administration	152,144
Child Care Dev. Fund	42,170
CCDF-ARPA	29,283
NC Pre-K Total:	\$2,471,338

Get Involved



Participate in one of our fundraising events or make a tax deductible donation to Alliance for Children

Volunteer your time to assist local organizations supporting young children

Sign up for our e-newsletter to get up to date information on issues related to legislation, early childhood, parenting and child development

Speak to your local legislators on the importance of early childhood education programs

Our Staff

- Linda Smith - Executive Director
- Cindy Scarboro - Financial Director
- Megan Humphrey - Program Manager
- Tara Stone - Community Education
- Megan Helms - Office Administrator
- Suzanne Walters - NC Pre-K Administrator
- Trinisha Dean - Director of Strategic Development
- Nanette Vallecillo - Receptionist
- Cindy Owen - Smart Start MASTERS
- Chelsea Belyea - Pre K MASTERS
- Miranda Lord - Inclusion Specialist

2022-2023 Board of Directors

- Gene Robbins - Chair
- Dennis Joyner-Vice Chair
- Baxter Starnes-Treasurer
- Lorey White-Secretary

- Christa Tyson
- Mark Watson
- Hayne White
- Lauren Williams
- Nina Chaffin
- Josh Francis
- Angela Green
- Jack Hargett
- Dr. Andrew Houlihan
- Angelia James
- Michelle Lancaster
- Ashley McBride
- Cheryl Neely
- Dr. Gwen Perkins
- Dr. Maria Pharr



2661 West Roosevelt Blvd., Suite A
Monroe NC 28110
704-226-1407
www.theallianceforchildren.org

- Designees:**
- Dr. Elenia Daniels
 - Lauren Meseroll
 - Patrick Niland
 - Karen Tucker