

Building
a Solid Foundation for
Wake County's Young
Children



Wake County SmartStart 2002|03 Annual Report



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Dear Friends:

Wake County SmartStart is truly building a foundation for success for our very young children and I am privileged to lead such a dynamic organization.

In 2002-2003, we impacted young children's lives with vital services that are building blocks for their future.

Today, more organizations share our vision to focus resources on young children to ensure they are healthy and enter school ready to learn.

Even as the recovering economy has pushed more families to rely on supportive services for their young children, our organization and our partners have responded to these challenges.

We continue to achieve results the community can measure. In fiscal year 2002-2003, Wake County SmartStart continued to improve its results through targeted outcomes. Here are just a few examples:

- Through Wake County SmartStart activities, children of all economic backgrounds have better access to quality early child care and education. Children who receive subsidies were nearly three times as likely in 2002-2003 to attend a high quality, four or five-star child care facility than the same period a year earlier.
- Overall, the quality of child care for children of all income levels increased by 10 percent compared with fiscal year 2001-2002.
- Wake County SmartStart activities reached 40 percent more children ages birth to 2 with special needs this fiscal year compared with 2001-2002. More children are accessing early childhood intervention services, which significantly increases their likelihood for success in school.

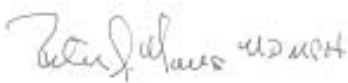
We're also mobilizing the community around children's issues and better engaging our valued, highly trained volunteers in the process.

We wanted to better leverage our volunteer expertise, support programs that address children's needs and complement existing support services. We accomplished these objectives by developing focused volunteer work groups that enabled professionals, such as clinicians, early childhood development specialists and educators to study children's issues across Wake County and develop recommendations for services to meet those needs.

This process has resulted in sound activities that better fill gaps in services for young children and their families.

As the state celebrates 10 years of working to enrich children's lives with supportive services, I am confident that we're building a better tomorrow for our community's youngest children. I look forward to working with you to continue to help our very young succeed by providing a solid foundation for their future.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Morris, M.D., M.P.H

Wake County SmartStart Board Chair



Peter J. Morris

Board Chair
Wake County SmartStart

Working to ensure every child has access to a high quality early care program

The world moves faster today. Just as technology and globalization has affected industry, it also has impacted education. Today, academically, more is expected of our children. Educators measure students' achievement with standardized tests beginning in third grade. Wake County SmartStart is working to ensure every child's foundation for learning is well established at an early age because studies prove that the cognitive skills developed in these early years greatly contribute to a child's successful development and preparedness for school.

Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill found children from Smart Start-involved centers enter school with “significantly higher vocabulary scores, significantly higher ratings by their teachers and significantly fewer behavior problems.”

Wake County SmartStart is working to ensure every child care program is nationally-accredited or has a four or five star (high quality) license.

We're achieving this objective through our **Quality Enhancement Initiatives** that works to improve the quality of child care programs across Wake County. Quality enhancement activities provide intensive technical assistance, mentoring, consultation and training to improve the quality of child care.

During this period, **276 child care centers** and **family care homes** participated in Quality Enhancement activities, reaching **1,273 teachers** with **6,830 children** in their care.

In fiscal year 2002-2003, our work to improve the quality of child care centers achieved the following key results:



Lunchtime at the Jordan Center.

The conclusion: Smart Start involvement improves both center quality and children's outcomes.

In fiscal year 2002-2003, Wake County SmartStart continued to build a strong foundation for more than **17,000 children** by investing in early childhood education programs. Wake County SmartStart staff and its corps of volunteers, helped in the evaluation, programming and funding of these activities delivered by 17 partners to make a difference in thousands of young children's lives.

- Overall the quality of childcare for children from all income levels increased by 12 percent, with the average star rating increasing from 2.56 to 2.86 per child.
- A child from a low-income family receiving financial assistance to attend child care was nearly three times as likely to be in a high quality child care setting (four or five star) than in the previous year.
- Overall, children from low-income families who received financial assistance, were in higher quality care with the average star rating per child increasing 26 percent to 3, from 2.6 the previous year.

- Last year the quality of care that a child with special needs received through Smart Start financial assistance increased by **78 percent**, from an average star rating of 1.81 to 3.16.
- **299 child care centers** and homes received bonuses to support the cost of providing high quality care to **2,831 low-income children**.
- **1,383 child care providers** received training to promote healthy and safe practices in caring for **8,533 children**, including those with acute and chronic health conditions.

Ensuring teachers working in early childhood programs have degrees in early childhood education or are working toward such degrees.



Kindergarten readiness program at the Jordan Center.

To meet the goal of quality child care for every Wake County child, we're working to help raise the education level of teachers because studies show that children's skill levels improve in settings where teachers have access to subsidies for higher education. In 2002-2003 Wake County SmartStart continued to work toward this objective with the following results:

- **1,405 child care teachers** received professional development counseling services that supported their efforts to receive early childhood education college credit.
- **16 child care teachers** who were provided with substitute teacher coverage attended classes and earned a total of **169 college credit hours**.
- Wake County SmartStart created a comprehensive resource book for Wake County child care professionals, "**A Guide to Early Childhood Education at Community Colleges and 4-year Colleges & Universities.**" The book details college credit course work options for teachers, including distance learning courses. More than **500** guides were distributed to child care centers, home-based centers and other organizations.

Smart Start partners helping improve the quality of child care

Community Partnerships Inc.

Quality Enhancement Initiative for Family Care Homes
Resource Support For Children with Special Needs

Child Care Services Association

W.A.G.E. \$®

Wake Technical Community College

Early Childhood Professional Development

Family Service Network Inc.

Child Care Substitute Support Program

Quality Enhancement Initiative for Family Care Homes

Child Care Center Technical Assistance Quality Enhancement Initiative

Motheread Inc.

Emergent Literacy

Project Enlightenment

Outreach for School Success: Quality Enhancement

Wake County Human Services

Healthy Start I Project-Child Care Health Consultation

Child Care Assistance Network Quality Bonus

Enhancement

Wake County SmartStart

More at Four

Quality Enhancement Initiative

Ensuring teachers working directly with children in early childhood programs are compensated at a rate comparable to teaching staff with comparable education in public schools.

Higher compensation among child care teachers contributes to better retention, skills improvement and desire to attain credentials, all factors that improve the quality of child care centers for children across Wake County. We made the following progress toward this objective in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003:

- Since the continuity of child care from an educated teacher is fundamental to the child care center’s quality, **781 educated teachers received salary supplements** (on average \$638 for a six month period) for continued employment in their child care center.
- The turnover rate among 1,064 teachers who participated in Wake County SmartStart’s Child Care WAGE\$ Project® was 50 percent lower than the rate among those who did not participate.
- **165 child care teachers** earned college credits as a result of participating in a program providing financial incentives to increase their education level.

Emergent Literacy nurtures children’s reading interest

Motherhead’s Emergent Literacy, an activity funded by Wake County SmartStart, introduces dramatic reading to young children in child care centers across the county.

The program helps young children understand story sequencing, reading comprehension—a solid foundation for reading that’s a key component to kindergarten readiness.

Nearly 300 directors and teachers at 33 local child care centers and family child care homes received emergent literacy training and materials for use in their classrooms and to share with the families they serve. Motherhead’s staff also assessed emergent literacy activities, materials, and environments at selected centers.

The results: hundreds of children in Wake

County from ages 1 to 5 are exposed to books and dramatic story sharing. Children like Dylan, a 2-year-old, would not sit still for stories or participate in story time before Motherhead came to his center. Now that his teachers routinely use and incorporate activities into story time, he pays attention and loves to participate.



Dylan and his teacher reading together.

“Everyday Dylan brings books to his teachers and tells them, ‘Read it!’ ” — Carolyn Sturduvant, an Emergent Literacy teacher



Every child in Wake County is safe and has supportive health services to reach their optimum level of development



Making sure Wake County children with or at risk for special needs or disabilities have early intervention services.

We're supporting the physical, mental, emotional and behavioral health of our very young children. Young children require a good deal of preventive health services, such as medical check-ups, dental services, health screenings and immunizations.

Preventive health services are essential in ensuring our young children reach their full potential. Still, language barriers, lack of health insurance and services affect the number of children who receive preventive health services, which helps determine whether they will start kindergarten ready to learn.

This issue is particularly important to Wake County's Latino community. According to the 2000 Census, Wake County has the fastest growing Latino population of any county in North Carolina. Data show Latino children have the lowest rates of health insurance coverage, preventive health care and dental care. According to the North Carolina Institute of Medicine, more than 20 percent of North Carolina children

have a special health care need. The earlier a child is identified with special needs and intervention begins, the greater the child's likelihood for success in school.

In fiscal year 2002-2003, through Wake County SmartStart funded activities, nearly 500 of our county's youngest children, ages 0 to 2, were identified with special needs and received early intervention services, a **40 percent increase** over those served during the prior year. In addition, Wake County SmartStart made the following progress toward this objective:

- **17,201 children** received developmental screenings coordinated by staff, who were trained through a Wake County SmartStart activity.
- **3,116 children** received speech and or developmental screening and follow-up if a developmental concern was detected.

Making sure Wake County children with or at risk for special needs or disabilities have early intervention services.

In fiscal year 2002-2003, Wake County SmartStart continued to improve this objective with health programs that reached more than one-third of the county's young children ages 0 to 5:



- **343 children** received social/emotional/behavioral health services.
- **5,500 children** received dental screenings and follow-up services if a dental problem was detected.
- Through preventive activities with partners, such as Wake County Human Services and John Rex Foundation, **75 percent of children who received subsidized health care**, such as Medicaid, obtain preventive health services through a primary care health provider.



Wake County SmartStart partners providing intervention and essential health services for young children:

Community Partnerships Inc.

Individual Family Service Plan Community Mentor
Resource Support for Children with Special Needs

East Wake Education Foundation

A Sense of Community

Easter Seals North Carolina

Developmental/Speech Language and Hearing Screening Program

Family Support Network of Wake County

Parent-to-Parent

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Wake County

Mothers on the Move

Lucy Daniels Center for Early Childhood

Identifying Emotionally/Socially Challenged Children Birth to Three

Project Enlightenment

Outreach for School Success: Mental Health Prevention
Intervention Referral

Outreach for School Success: Parents As Teachers

Raleigh Nursery School

Kinship Outreach Program

SAFEchild Inc.

Welcome Baby Plus

Triangle United Way

Operation First Day

VFC of NC Inc.

Family Support- Emergency and Planned Respite Care

Wake County Human Services

Child Health Outreach Worker South/East

Community Voices for Young Children

Enriching Families Nurturing Children

Healthy Smiles

Healthy Start II Project- Pediatric Development Specialist

WakeMed

Hospital-Home Early Intervention Program

Program helps family, support boy with special needs

A few years ago, Patty Fitzsimmons had doubts that her son Sean would be able to handle a mainstream kindergarten class. Thanks to Wake County SmartStart funded Resource Support for Children with Special Needs, a service provided by Community Partnerships Inc., Sean, age 5, can now function in a classroom environment.

Just a year ago Sean was a different child, says Patty, “He would have complete meltdowns where he would huddle in a corner for long periods of time.”

At age 2, Sean began refusing to eat foods other than baby cereal and developed acute anxiety around daily activities. The once playful toddler grew more distressed from the slightest change in his daily routine.

By age 3, Sean was showing strong signs of an integration and sensory disorder akin to Asperger’s Syndrome, a mild form of Autism.

Patty sought help from North Carolina’s Developmental Evaluation Center (DEC) in Raleigh, where he was evaluated by a developmental expert and was found to be in need of developmental services in one or two areas—not enough to qualify for the early intervention program. So, the DEC referred the Fitzsimmons to Resource Support for Children with Special Needs.

A consultant, Missy Boyd, began working with the family on strategies to introduce new routines and help minimize Sean’s anxiety.

By working with Missy on a weekly basis Sean began to do things that had caused him anguish before, such as listening to music, going outside with other students and attending field trips.

“Missy not only worked intensively with the family and Sean, she trained his preschool teachers on how to support his special needs in class,” says Patty.

She added that Missy’s work with Sean’s teachers benefited the entire classroom because the teacher’s special training enabled them to develop strategies for behavior modification that helped other children.

The Wake County SmartStart partner, Community Partnerships, also advocated on behalf of Sean. With recommendations made by the agency, Sean was able to attend an early intervention pre-kindergarten program through Wake County Public Schools. This enabled an occupational therapist to work with Sean on improving his small motor skills.

“If it were not for Community Partnerships, Sean would be held back from entering kindergarten.”

“His progress has been remarkable,” says Patty, “If it were not for Community Partnerships Inc., Sean would be held back from entering kindergarten.”

Wake County SmartStart funds help hundreds of children with special needs, like Sean. Identifying children with special needs early and providing their families with immediate support is a critical key to their future success. Last year, nearly **500 children** ages birth through 2, were identified with special needs and received early intervention services, a **40 percent increase** over those served in the prior year.



Picture Success

Wake County SmartStart’s funded Resources for Children with Special Needs has helped Sean conquer many fears due to his acute sensory and integration disorder. One fear—the fear of being photographed—used to cause him anxiety.

Left photo: Taken after Sean struggled an hour to get used to the lights and camera. He is frowning and looks distressed.

Right photo: A year after working with an early intervention specialist, Sean willingly posed for the camera—one of the first times since age 2.

Working to make sure every child has access to child care

The challenges are great to ensure quality child care is accessible to families across Wake County. According to North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, a high quality four-star child care center in Wake County costs three times as much as tuition to a North Carolina public college or university.

This disparity between early childhood education and post-secondary education demonstrates the investment required to

make sure our young children enter school prepared for success. This essential investment is costly for many working families across Wake County amounting to 33 percent of an average family's annual earnings.

Wake County SmartStart funding eliminated the child care subsidy waiting list for several months, allowing families to receive financial assistance.



Working families support the local economy and tax system through their employment and earnings. More than 85 percent of the families receiving subsidy services earn less than \$25,000 per year. Based on 2000 Census household income data, 17,874 Wake County children from birth to age 11 are eligible for child care subsidy services. In today's economy, working full-time is a necessity for most Wake County families.

Working to make sure subsidized child care is available to at least 75 percent of children ages 0 to 5 living in families earning less than 75 percent of the median income.

Despite the challenges surrounding affordable, high quality child care, Wake County SmartStart continued to improve its objectives to support subsidies in fiscal year 2002-2003:

- Wake County subsidy, More at Four, HeadStart and Wake County Public School System's Preschool Services, serve **65 percent of Wake County children** whose families earn less than 75 percent of the state median income.
- Nearly 200 new child care spaces were opened to high needs children through Wake County SmartStart's expansion of the More at Four program.
- Wake County SmartStart worked with Wake County Human Services and Family Service Network, Wake County's child care referral center, to allocate subsidies to centers with at least three, four or five star ratings.



Our reach in 2002-2003

- **1,189 families with 2,125 children received child care subsidies** that allowed parents/caregivers to work or to further their education while their children were in care.
- Wake County SmartStart **provided the matching funds to support 244 children** in the North Carolina Governor's More at Four Program, a high quality pre-kindergarten activity for low income children. This is nearly 200 more children than Wake County SmartStart supported in the prior year.



Making sure every family has the skills and knowledge needed to provide learning opportunities, leading to school readiness, for their young children.

Wake County SmartStart is focusing family support resources on making sure families have knowledge and skills to participate in literacy activities. Through multiple family support activities, Wake County SmartStart works to help parents support the cognitive development of their young children. This includes the development of literacy and numeracy skills—competencies crucial to being school ready. Through parenting classes, home visits and information referrals, Wake County SmartStart's partners help parents support young children's cognitive development. In fiscal year 2002-2003 Wake County SmartStart did the following:

- Helped **900 families with 1,107 children** receive intensive family support services, including nearly 5,200 home visits.
- Enabled **2,759 families with 4,100 children** to receive family services which includes parenting classes, information and referrals.
- Provided **109 families with home safety assessments** and follow-up visits that addressed household child safety hazards.

Smart Start program gives mother hopeful future

A lot has changed for Valorie, 23, over the past 18 months since she gave birth to her second child, Michaela.

Today Valorie, mother of two, is a student at Wake Technical Community College. She has transitioned from WorkFirst, the state's welfare-to-work program, and holds down a full-time job.

In April 2002, the joy of having a new baby was dimmed by the stress of not having a job to support her growing family.

While still in the hospital, a social worker told Valorie about **Wake County Human Services' Child Health Outreach Worker South/East**, a program funded by Wake County SmartStart that connects parents who are struggling with regular home-based parent education, support services and referrals. The program is offered to families residing in the Southern and Eastern regions of Wake County.

Valorie met her caseworker, Rehanna Colon-James, a few days after Michaela was born.

Within the month, Rehanna helped enroll Valorie into WorkFirst, helped her find a good quality child care for Michaela and Elijuah and got the children on Medicaid, a federally funded health care program for low-income families. With the health insurance, the children were able to obtain regular health check-ups from a primary physician and essential vaccinations.

Over the last year, Rehanna also has helped Valorie secure a Section 8 housing voucher and worked with churches and human service agencies to find the children toys, clothing, and baby equipment.



Valorie with children, Michaela and Elijuah.

“Without this program I would have nothing,” says Valorie as she gives Rehanna an appreciative smile. “I would truly be struggling.”

When it was time for Elijuah to register for kindergarten, Rehanna helped Valorie locate his base school.

“She didn’t know what steps to take to get Elijuah registered for school,” says Rehanna. “It’s hard to get answers about school assignments, so I helped.”

When Valorie didn’t have adequate transportation, Rehanna helped out and also served as Valorie’s main support system to get her treatment for depression.

“She’s my support and my friend,” Valorie says of Rehanna. “Because of her help, I’ve come a long way.”

Wake County SmartStart works to make sure families have the support they need to take care of their young children. Stronger families mean young children will have a foundation for success in school and life.

A recent survey found 98 percent of families who received parenting information, reported feeling confident and competent in applying new skills as a result of Wake County SmartStart funded family support activities.

More at Four prepares children for success in kindergarten

Wake County SmartStart matches funds with the Governor's More at Four Program to provide quality educational experiences in order to enhance kindergarten readiness for four-year-olds who may be at risk of school failure. With 14 sites across Wake County, more than 400 4-year-olds are obtaining a solid foundation for kindergarten in the following five areas:

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



Governor Easley with Wake County children enrolled in More at Four.

SmartStart partners providing vital family support services:

East Wake Education Foundation

A Sense of Community

Family Support Network of Wake County

Parent-to-Parent

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Wake County

Mothers on the Move

Project Enlightenment

Outreach for School Success: Parents as Teachers

Raleigh Nursery School

Kinship Outreach



SAFEchild Inc.

Welcome Baby Plus

Triangle United Way

Operation First Day

VFC of NC Inc.

Family Support—Emergency and Planned Respite Care

Wake County Human Services

Child Health Outreach Worker – South/East

Community Voices for Young Children

SmartStart Subsidy

Wake County Public School System

Transition to Kindergarten

Wake County SmartStart

More at Four



Did you know Wake County's licensed child care workforce contributed more than \$65 million to the county's economy?

—Economic Impact Analysis Study conducted by North Carolina Partnership for Children

Work groups help develop activities to address children's needs

Wake County SmartStart is leveraging volunteer expertise to develop vital programs that address children's needs and complement existing support services.



Ad Hoc volunteer work groups, comprised of professionals, such as clinicians, early childhood development specialists and educators, study important children's issues across Wake County.



These dedicated volunteers study community assessments, review data and discuss current support services to make well-informed recommendations for services that help build a strong and healthy foundation for young children's success in school and life.



In 2002-2003, **Child Care Quality, Teacher Education, Health/Special Needs/Family Support** workgroups helped Wake County SmartStart understand the current status of services and create complementary activities that in many cases filled existing gaps in support programs for young children. More than 50 volunteers studied children's needs and submitted program recommendations to the program planning committee.



Workgroups study activities, such as Quality Enhancement, aimed at improving the quality of child care centers across Wake County.

2002/2003 Board of Directors

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Peter J. Morris, M.D, M.P.H.
Wake County Human Services

Barbara Allen
Community Volunteer
Jo Baker
Wake County Public Schools
Mary-Ann Baldwin
Community Volunteer
Emily Barbour
Hartsook Companies Inc.
Nell Barnes
Learning Together Inc.
Carey Calrberg
Family Service Network Inc.
Dale Cousins
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Community Volunteer
Norris Thurston
Community Volunteer
Mary Urzi
Wake County Human Services
Michael Weisel
Taylor, Penry, Rash and Reimann
David Zonderman
North Carolina State University

Thanks to the many volunteers who worked to make a difference for young children across Wake County.

Barbara Allen*

Pat Allingham

Jo Baker

Laura Baker-Campbell

Kathy Baldwin

Mary Ann Baldwin

Emily Barbour

Nell Barnes

Patti Beardsley

Shannon Blalock

Deanna Bledsoe

Joann Blumenfeld

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Mabel Dillard

Cindy Drew

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Jackie Everard

Michelle Ezzell

Richard Fitzgerald

Adele Foschia

Jill Fournier

Cam Frazier

Nancy Gaj

Annette Galante

Judy Gardiner

Christy Gaudette

Kathi Gillapsy

Yvonne Glenn Thompson

Deborah Gooch

Vernetta Griffin

Merianne Grigonau

Tony Habit

Allison Hapgood

Barbara Heckman

Jim Helm

Brent Henry

Nora Hernandez

Elaine Hickey

Brenda High-Sanders

Gwen Hinton

Mirna Hoina

Johanna Irving

Rehanna James

Tanya Johnson

Tracee Johnson

Melissa Johnson

Linda Johnson

Ahada Jones

Charles Kronberg

Mary Ellen Lamb

Giang Le

Warren Ludwig

Brenda Lytle

Jane MacLeod

Kym Martin

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Paula McGee

C. Neill McLeod*

Janice McNeill

Marjorie Menestres

Andrew Meyer

Beverly Miles Burnett

Colleen Miller

Allison Miller

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Peter Morris*

Rene Morrison

Debbie Mugno

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Tracey Page

Bing Peebles

Patsy Pierce

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Michelle Putterman

Waltye Rasulala*

Cindy Redd

Sabrina Richardson

Joyce Richardson

Nora Rodriguez

Gemimah Rodriguez

Mary Hunter Royal

Kelli Rushing

Thereline Sampson

Joan Sanoff

Kathy Schutt

Therese Scott

Phylis Sharpe

Jean Smith

Mike Smith

Kristi Snuggs

Donna Rutowski

Tamara Stafford

Phyllis Stephenson

Melissa Stevenson

Jane Stikeleather

Pam Stoudt

Christy Strother

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Norris Thurston

Linda Tудay

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Gail Walton

Carla Weinfeld

Michael Weisel

Jennifer Tolle Whiteside

Patty Williams

Val Wilson

David Zonderman

*served or is currently serving as Board Chair
Board members names appear bolded

Thanks to the many volunteers who worked with our partners' activities.

Making sure North Carolina 'Keeps the Promise'

Each year, Champions for Children along with local organizations across the state, convene hundreds of child advocates at the state capitol building in Raleigh for "Keep the Promise". Champions for Children helped to sponsor the rally and worked to collect signatures from Wake County residents in an effort to encourage lawmakers to support services essential to children's development.

The outdoor rally, held April 29, 2003, was attended by politicians, agency representatives, child care providers, educators, parents and children. Child care providers and parents made sure children could attend. Their presence magnified the message to lawmakers: support children's needs.

More than 15,000 petitions were presented to co-speakers, Reps. Jim Black and Richard Morgan.

Keep the promise reminds lawmakers to keep the promise they made to North Carolina's young children in 1993 when they wrote: "The General Assembly finds, upon consultation with the Governor, that every child can benefit from, and should have access to, high-quality early childhood education and development services. The economic future and well-being of the State depend upon it.."



"TEACH, an education program for child care teachers, is one of the many activities child care providers urged state legislators to support during the annual Keep the Promise event at the state capitol in April.

Trainings help educators support children's mental health

Wake County SmartStart is working to make sure educators have the training to help assess young children's mental health needs. The Wake County Children's Mental Health Initiative is a collaboration of many local agencies who pool resources to examine the support services for children's mental health issues, such as assessing behavioral problems, depression and anxiety. The two-year-old initiative led by Triangle United Way, is working to make sure children have appropriate intervention services. Wake County SmartStart shared this community objective with Triangle United Way by helping to fund a yearlong training curriculum for 44 professionals who work with young children on social, emotional and behavior issues. The training program helped these professionals identify the specific mental health needs of young children to provide the appropriate intervention services for them and their families.



According to Wake County Human Services' 2002 Community Assessment, "Wake County: Opportunities and Challenges," one in five children and adolescents may have a mental health problem and there are significant disparities that exist between our community's need for services and the availability or access to these services. These findings have helped guide the work of the Wake County's Children's Mental Health Initiative.

Financial Summary

Wake County SmartStart, Inc.
Statement of Receipts, Expenditures and Net Assets (unaudited)
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003

Receipts		Expenditures	
Smart Start Grant	6,224,560	Personnel and Contracted Services	1,502,349
More at Four Grant	581,189	Supplies and Materials	141,828
Reversion of State Funds	(131,453)	Non-Fixed Operating Expenses	102,372
Corporate Grants	50,460	Fixed Charges	152,198
Private Donations	8,217	Property and Equipment	24,269
Program Income	5,210	Services/Contracts/Grants	4,852,920
Sales Tax Refunds	29,450	Participant Training	14,936
Total Receipts	\$ 6,767,633	Total Expenditures	\$ 6,790,871

Excess of Receipts Over Expenditures	\$ (23,238)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$ 114,696
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 91,458

Net Assets Consisted of:

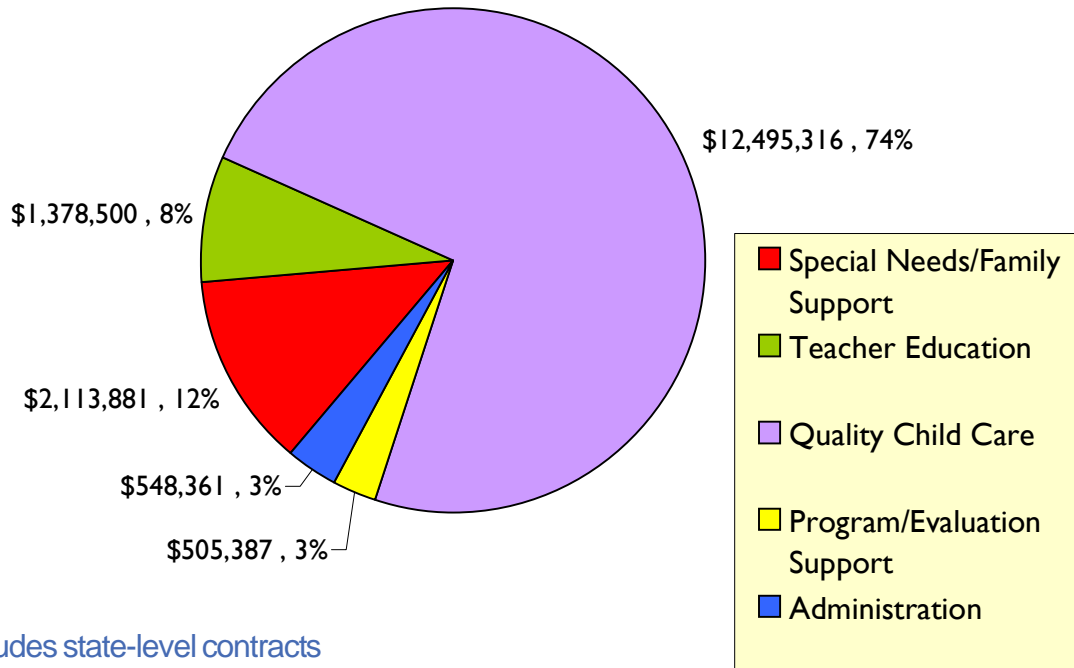
Cash on Deposit	\$ 29,782
Refunds Due from Contractors	\$ 64,442
Less: Funds Held for Others	\$ (2,766)
	\$ 91,458

Note: During FY 02/03, the NC Partnership for Children and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) entered into contracts with and made payments to service providers selected by Wake County SmartStart. These service provider contracts are not reflected on this statement. However, a summary of the service provider contracts entered into by the NC Partnership for Children and DHHS is presented below:

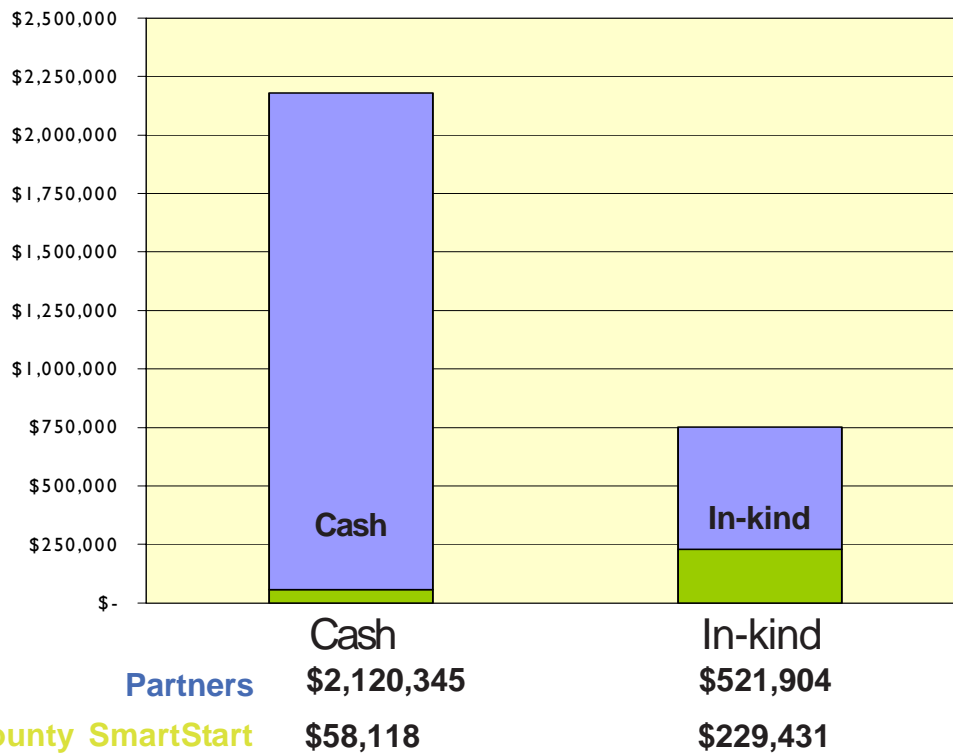
Child Care Services Association—WAGE\$ Program	\$ 1,154,531
Wake County Human Services-Subsidy Program	\$ 9,096,043

Total Contracts **\$10,250,574**

Wake County SmartStart Expenditures Fiscal Year 2002/2003



Wake County SmartStart Cash and In-kind Donations Fiscal Year 2002/2003



Wake County SmartStart Staff

Administration

Pamela J. Dowdy, Executive Director

Tonia Bethea

Sheridan Miller

Chiquita Wilkins

Finance

Gabrielle Barnard, Director

Janet House

Marcy Johnson

Program Coordination and Evaluation

Pat Hansen, Director

Program Coordination

Helen Horne

Melissa Juniper

Roberta Macauley

Trystyn Snellings

Evaluation

Melinda Schlesinger, Manager

Jennifer Call

Peter Semenchek

More at Four

Debi Bartholomew



Quality Enhancement Initiative

Elizabeth Santana, Director

Megan Davis Hans

Lori Fisher

Cynthia James

Stephanie Jenkins

Sabrina Johnson

Samelia Jones

Lori LaBelle

Tammy Nixon

Carol Orji

QuWanya Smith

Gina Soceanu

Joan Ware

*Staff list as of second quarter, 2003



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Photography Credits

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Karine Michael - Cover

Quality Enhancement Initiative Staff - Jordan Center

Writing/Design

Karine Michael