# ANNUAL REPORT

stepping stones

2017 2018

WAKE COUNTY



Our Mission:

Farm to Child Care

Wake County Smart Start works to ensure children, birth to five, are prepared for success in school and in life.

## Stepping Stones and the Path Forward

Author Mary Anne Radmacher says, "Begin each day as if it were on purpose." I am always so grateful to know that our work at Wake County Smart Start IS purposeful each day. Our thoughtful research, planning, and collaboration continues to guide the way toward success for our young children and families.

## Over the past year, WCSS has taken bold steps to serve more children and expand our services portfolio.

As Chair of an incredible Board of Directors who I am proud to call my colleagues and friends, it has been our task to help guide this expansion and direct its course into the future. We welcomed in three new programs in 2017-18: Triple P Positive Parenting Program, which carries on our strong base of supporting parents during the first years of their children's lives, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which is bringing 40,000 home libraries to families across Wake County over the next two years, and Shape NC\*, a statewide initiative that promotes healthy eating and active learning through play across our communities. NC Pre-K expanded to enroll 40% more children than the year before, helped in no small part by increased local funding from Wake County. This broad community support across public and private entities shows us we're moving in the right direction.

**These are stepping stones toward making true the words "Each Child. Every Community. Ready for School and Life."** – a maxim that, along with our logo, are part of our new branding, undertaken this year to align more closely to the North Carolina Partnership for Children. Each step we take is a response to our county's demonstrated need and carries forward our comprehensive strategic plan. Together, they guide us in designing the path to a successful future for our young children. Thank you for your support as we take intentional steps toward our goal of preparing each child for success.

Ingie C. Welsh

ANGIÉ WELSH Wake County Smart Start Board Chair

\*Shape NC: Healthy Starts for Young Children is an initiative of Smart Start and BCBSNC Foundation. It is funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Social Innovation Fund and managed locally by WCSS. *I support WCSS* because I'm a parent and I've seen first-hand the impact that high quality child care has, and what having great support means for me and also for my children. That's something that I want for every child and every parent here in Wake County.

– Liz Hamner, WCSS Board of Directors

## Donors 2017-18

The work of WCSS would not be possible without the support of our donors. It is with great appreciation that we recognize our community of Champions for Children:

#### John M. Alexander, Jr.

**James Allen** 

Bank of America Charitable Foundation

**Phyllis Barbour** 

**Debi Bartholomew** 

**Jaime Biswas** 

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina

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John Rex Endowment

**Charles Kronberg** 

Mark Langford

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Scott Mann

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**Barbara Morales Burke** 

Jenna-Marie Nelson

Natural Learning Initiative, North Carolina State University

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education North Carolina Partnership for Children

North State Bancorp

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Nancy Peck

Heather Petrovich

Regina Petteway

Lynn Policastro

Philip W. Price

Jamal Pullen

Gena Renfrow

**Retirement Plan Solutions** 

**Camille Schaffer** 

Bill Shroyer

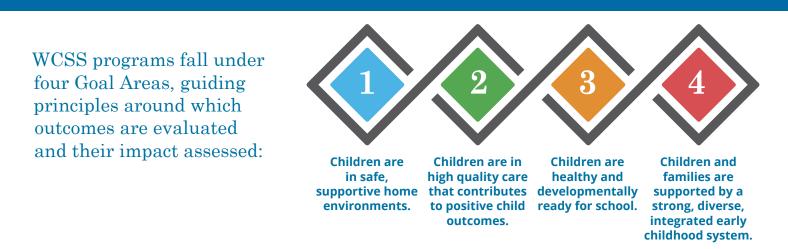
Lora Sinigur

Mike & Joleen Smith

Nancy Spencer

Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation Joe Stewart Suzanne Stroud Kristi Tally That's My DJ NC Live Craig & Anna Troutman Eve & Tom Vitaglione Wake County Government WakeAEYC Linda Ward Angie Welsh Tyrone Williamson Yuntian T. Zhu David Zonderman Wake County Smart Start (WCSS) extends life-changing opportunities to Wake County children birth to age five, providing *stepping stones* to their success. This report documents how the path is constructed to ensure its strength.

Through a comprehensive strategic plan, WCSS leadership has mapped out stepping stones for the years ahead. Our partnerships, programs, and initiatives all play a role in early childhood success.



Too often, children can find the route to their success waylaid by obstacles. For nearly 14,000 of Wake County's young children, their hurdles are due to poverty, limiting access to resources and opportunities. In response, WCSS's funded programs prioritize services to children in families with economic challenges and additional risk factors and to the child care facilities serving these families. This focus on "greatest need" helps us lift our community starting with those who need a hand the most.

## Children are in safe, supportive home environments.

The first steps of learning happen at home. Parents and guardians aren't raising their children alone, however. Last year, WCSS funded nearly 7,000 home visits to families to help support these first steps toward success. My children are happier, I'm happier, and I have more time to play with my kids and support my family. PAT is one of the best things that has happened to us!

 Crystal, mother of 2½-year-old twins and Parents as Teachers (PAT) client. Over 2,200 home visits were made in FY2017-18 by PAT, which helps prepare children for success in school by focusing on child development and school achievement through parent education at home.



## Children are in high quality care that contributes to positive child outcomes.



Child care offers a child stepping stones into a world of play and learning – and our work makes each of those steps count with quality. **Over 14,570 children benefit from funded programs that improve quality at the centers they attend.** Quality is contagious, spreading higher levels of care and learning for each child and program reached in Wake County through our work. She was a teacher who simply went through the motions each day just to check things off the lesson and curriculum box. Since the project, she has completely changed her thinking about quality learning experiences and shifted her entire approach to teaching in the classroom. She sees first-hand how the children are benefiting.

 Observation by a Technical Assistance
 Specialist about progress made by a teacher at a center participating in the Advancing
 School Readiness Project (ASR). ASR provides regular training and on-site assistance to centers actively seeking to improve their program quality and it impacted over 1,500 children in FY2017-18.



# Children are healthy and developmentally ready for school.

Being fully ready for Kindergarten means supporting development at every step. Being in good health is just as important to a child's ability to learn as the quality of learning experiences they receive. In 2017-18, WCSS helped improve screening and referrals at 30 Wake County pediatric practices, reaching 10,000 Medicaid-eligible children. School readiness leaped ahead with funding for NC Pre-K expansion, aided by an unprecedented investment from Wake County that resulted in 40% more children being served. Health and development are aided through parent education, a bridge to school readiness that is integrated into many WCSS programs. I thank God for having met you.
You have the gift of teaching, because I enjoy teaching Nicole – and I've learned that from you.

 Adriana, Nicole's mother and HIPPY participant. HIPPY is an early childhood education program that supports parents through home visits and group play, providing solutions that strengthen families and prepare children for Kindergarten. In FY2017-18, 88% of children in HIPPY demonstrated improved developmental readiness for school.

Nicole, Adriana's daughter, plays during a HIPPY session



Children and families are supported by a strong, diverse, integrated early childhood system.

The pathway of a strong, diverse, integrated early childhood system is easy to navigate, with clear directions and no obstacles to impede a child's success. WCSS works to create such a system with supports across all aspects of children's lives. An example is our efforts to localize activism in neighborhoods and areas around Wake County, dubbed Kid Connect. By convening faith leaders, service providers, nonprofits, and other advocates, we connect our diverse resources to reach the children in geographic areas who need services the most. A data sharing agreement with Wake County **Government's Long Range Planning Division arose** out of this work, allowing WCSS to overlay vulnerability maps with service data and more effectively target children and families who aren't fully accessing available needed resources.

It doesn't matter how many great early childhood programs your county has if parents can't find and access those programs. In collaboration with community partners, we are creating simple and direct paths for information and access so that we can connect any child in need with the best resources we have to offer.

 Rev. Carla Gregg-Kearns, Pastor at Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in the Western Wake community and founding member of the Kid Connect initiative to match families with needed local services.

> Total Pre-K Enrollment in Block Groups Below 200% of Poverty

> > Saturation map acquired through data sharing agreement with Wake County Government's Long Range Planning Division, overlaying poverty and Pre-K site locations by census block group.



Nurse-Family Partnership





Reach Out and Read

Each of our 23 funded programs and all our initiatives, partnerships, and collaborations work together to create **the pathway to success for young children in Wake County**, focusing on good health, strong families, and high quality learning experiences.

NC Pre-K

We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all who support young children and the bright future they represent. This truly is a community effort, and we are proud to stand alongside you in this work. Each step we take brings us closer to ensuring **each child**, **in every community**, **is ready for school and life**.







## Partners, Programs, & Collaborative Projects

#### **CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF RALEIGH**

- · School Readiness Services for Hispanic Children & Families
- Language is the Key

#### **CHILD CARE SERVICES ASSOCIATION**

Advancing School Readiness

#### COMMUNITY CARE OF WAKE AND JOHNSTON COUNTIES

Assuring Better Child Health & Development Program (ABCD)

#### FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER SOUTH ATLANTIC

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)

#### LUCY DANIELS CENTER

• Social/Emotional Interventions for Young Children (SecurePath)

#### SAFECHILD

 The Nurturing Program for Spanish Speaking Families (Crianza Con Cariño)

#### WAKE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

- Child Care Health Consultant Program
- Child Care Subsidy Program
- Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)

#### WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

- Parents as Teachers Program (PAT)
- Supporting School Readiness
- Triple P Positive Parenting

#### WAKE COUNTY SMART START

- Child Care Program Quality Supplements
- Community Outreach & Education
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- Farm to Child Care\*
- Improving and Sustaining Quality
   Child Care
- NC Pre-Kindergarten
- Program Coordination & Evaluation
- Reach Out and Read
- Shape NC: Healthy Starts for Young Children, an Initiative of Smart Start and BCBSNC Foundation\*\*
- Wake Connections\*

#### **Collaborative Project**

#### NATURAL LEARNING INITIATIVE AT NC STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF DESIGN

- Preventing Obesity by Design Wake County (POD)\*
- \* funded by John Rex Endowment
- \*\* funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Social Innovation Fund









## Staff 2017-18

Pamela J. Dowdy, Executive Director Gwen Adair Phyllis Barbour Gabrielle Barnard Debi Bartholomew Gary Carr Sharon Clauss Sue Consolatti Joan Crutchfield Sasha Gomez Shalonda Holley Stephanie Jenkins Susan Johns Bryce McClamroch Nikki McDougald Carol Orji Maggie Ortiz Nora Ostler Taty Padilla Nancy Peck Lynn Policastro Melinda Schlesinger Gina Soceanu Anna Troutman Noemi Vasquez Elizabeth Weichel Taushau Wilkinson Liz Ziglar

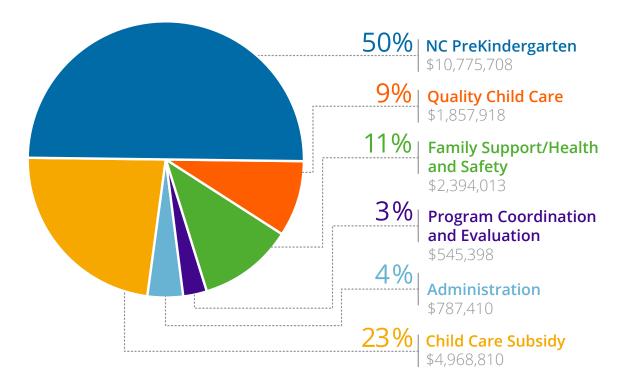


## Board of Directors 2017-18

Christine Alvarado, East Coast Migrant Head Start Project Gail Austin, Wake Tech Community College Ana Maria Bonell, Fox 50 - Capitol Broadcasting Kelly Caldwell, Sonaya Properties Dale Cousins, Community Volunteer L'Teisha Curtis, Telamon Corporation Heather Drennan, Wake County Government James S. Greene, City of Raleigh Liz Hamner, SAS Sherry Heuser, Capability Company Jessica Holmes, Wake County Board of Commissioners Leslie Ann Jackson, NC Community Foundation Mark Langford, Cisco Systems Benita Jones, North Carolina Central University Susan McCullen, Wake County Government Carol Mitchell, NC Cooperative Extension – Wake County Cathy Moore, Wake County Public School System

Barbara Morales Burke, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NC Regina Petteway, Wake County Human Services Patricia Ruppert, Parent Camille Schaffer, Community Volunteer Kimberly Shaw, A Safe Place Child Enrichment Center Mike Smith, Western Wake Pediatrics Kristi Tally, KD7 Enterprises, Inc. Charlotte Turpin, Community Volunteer Michael Wasilick, Wake County Public Libraries Angie Welsh, *Chair*, The Kaleidoscope Project Joe White, NCSU Libraries Tyrone Williamson, City of Raleigh

## Wake County Smart Start Functional Expenditures FY 17/18



Last year, WCSS funded nearly 7,000 home visits to families to help support children's first steps toward success.

Over 14,570 children benefit from funded programs that improve quality at the centers they attend **RECAP OF IMPACT** 

88% of children in HIPPY demonstrated improved developmental readiness for school.

WCSS helped improve screening and referrals at 30 Wake County pediatric practices, reaching 10,000 Medicaid-eligible children

Advancing School Readiness Project (ASR) provides regular training and on-site assistance to centers actively seeking to improve their program quality and it impacted **OVER 1,500 children in FY2017-18**. School readiness leaped ahead with funding for NC Pre-K expansion, aided by an unprecedented investment from Wake County that resulted in 40% more children being served.

## Wake County Smart Start FY2018 Financial Statements

Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis

	Unrestric	ted Funds		
	Smart Start Funds	Other Funds	Temporarily Restricted Funds	Total Funds
RECEIPTS:				
State Awards and Contracts	\$ 7,589,141	\$ 6,043,791	\$ O	\$ 13,632,932
Federal Awards	0	2,254,109	0	2,254,109
Local Government	0	965	587,627	588,592
Private Contributions	0	76,262	212,166	288,428
Interest and Investment Earnings	0	11,273	0	11,273
Sales Tax Refunds	0	6,748	0	6,748
Other Receipts	0	38,639	0	38,639
Total Receipts	\$ 7,589,141	\$ 8,431,787	\$ 799,793	\$ 16,820,721
Net Assets Released from Restrictions:				
	0	294,181	(20/191)	(
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	0	294,101	(294,181)	(
	\$ 7,589,141	\$ 8,725,968	\$ 505,612	\$ 16,820,721
EXPENDITURES:				
<i>Programs:</i> Child Care and Education Quality	¢ 1 000 110	\$ 28,806	\$ O	\$ 1,857,918
	\$ 1,829,112			
Family Support	1,326,737	55,075	0	1,381,812
Health and Safety	875,540	136,661	0	1,012,201
NC PreK	2,792,068	7,983,640	0	10,775,708
Support:				
Management and General	408,588	378,822	0	787,410
Program Coordination and Evaluation	357,096	188,302	0	545,398
<b>Total Programs and Support</b> Other:	\$ 7,589,141	\$ 8,771,306	\$ 0	\$ 16,360,447
Sales Tax Paid	0	13,252	0	13,252
Total Expenditures	\$ 7,589,141	\$ 8,784,558	\$ 0	\$ 16,373,699
Excess of Receipts Over Expenditures	0	(58,590)	505,612	447,022
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	0	1,935,901	425,003	2,360,904
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 0	\$ 1,877,311	\$ 930,615	\$ 2,807,926
Net Assets Consisted of:				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 47,812	\$ 1,124,790	\$ 930,615	\$ 2,103,217
Investments	0	759,290	0	759,290
Refunds Due From Contractors	11,514	0	0	11,514
	\$ 59,326	\$ 1,884,080	\$ 930,615	\$ 2,874,02
Lacc: Duo to State	E0 226	0	0	EO 22
Less: Due to State	59,326	0	0	59,326
	0	6,769	0	6,769
Funds Held for Others				

Note: During FY 2018, the NC Partnership for Children and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) entered into a contract with and made payments to a service provider selected by Wake County Smart Start. This service provider contract is not reflected on this statement. However, a summary of the service provider contract entered into the by the NC Partnership for Children and DHHS is presented here.

#### Schedule of State Level Service Providers Contracts For the Year Ended June 30, 2018

Wake County Human Services Child Care Subsidy	\$4.968,810
Total Program and Support Expenditures-Wake County Smart Start	\$16,360,447
Grand Total Expenditures by and through Wake County Smart Start	\$21,329,257

## Volunteers 2017-18

- A Angela Alger-Walker Christine Alvarado Sonia Anderson Dinah Arthur Nannette Ausby Gail Austin
- B Stacey Barbee Krista Barbour
   Linda Bauer
   Sudipto Biswas
   Deanna Bledsoe
   Ana Maria Bonell
   Allison Bost
   Monica Bradley
   Myra Bradley
   Mycal Brickhouse
   Cassandra Brooks
   Paula Brown
- C Kelly Caldwell Bridgette Campbell Jose "PePe" Caudillo Linda Chappell Debolina Chaterlee Nikita Choudhary Kellie Cook Angela Council Dale Cousins Freida Crandell L'Teisha Curtis
  - Dawn Dawson
     Alec Dompka
     Marney Donald
     Robert Dowdy
     Heather Drennan
     Belinda Dunster
  - E Michele Ezzell
  - Maty Ferrer Alberta Forney

- G Tammy Gatling Nikki Gorrell Logan Grant James S. Greene Carla Gregg-Kearns Monnie Griggs
- Petra Hager
   Allison Hall
   Liz Hamner
   Stacy Harrell
   Holli Hembi
   Kathleen Herndon-Lee
   Sherry Heuser
   Michelle Hildreth
   Michelle Hirsch
   Carol Holloway
   Jessica Holmes
  - Leslie Ann Jackson Robin Johnson Benita Jones
- K Connie Kennedy Brian Kuttler
- Mark Langford Debi Lavine Teresa Leak Marshea Lewis Gould Diana Lloyd Sheila Lynch Gay Lytton
- M Takeasia McArn Lisa McCoy Zach McCracken Susan McCullen Beckie McGee Michele McKinley C. Neill McLeod Sara Merz Wilma Metcalf

Carol Mitchell Cathy Moore Christa Moore Barbara Morales Burke Karen Morant Bettie Murchison Shaunta Murff

- N Maria Nelson Jack Nichols Heather Noe Meg Nohelty
- P Wendy Partin Ronetta Pearsall Antonia Pedroza Ruth Peebles Sharon Peterson Regina Petteway Tarkisha Poole Jane Pope Hannah Poteat Jessica Price
- R Deanna Randle
   Waltye Rasulala
   Karen Ray
   Ryan Reese
   Chloe Richardson
   Emma Rigby
   Patricia Ruppert
   Brendan Sadlowski
   Samuel Salinas
   Camille Schaffer
   Kimberly Shaw

- S Alicia Shelton Bill Shrayer LeAnne Simpkins Erin Sloan Mike Smith Jackie Speller Janice Squires Jill Straight
- Kristi Tally
   Lisa Terry
   Karla Theobald
   Laura Tirado
   Sarah Troxell
   Joy Turner
   Charlotte Turpin
- Greg Wallace Michael Wasilick Angie Welsh Joe White Antionette Williams Tyrone Williamson Kim Wimberly Carla Witherington
  - Maria Young
- Z David Zonderman

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All 23 programs funded by WCSS during FY2017-18 represent services, support, and a ssistance given to individual children and families here in Wake County. We are proud to work alongside so many dedicated partners and skilled professionals who believe in each child's potential. As we envision a system of opportunity for the future, we are grateful for our community partners, volunteers, donors, and supporters. They have helped draw the map, walked beside families, and held the hands of young children along the way.





As I continue to move forward in my professional work and in my community service endeavors, I want to be integrally involved in creating healthy spaces and healthy environments for our children. I'm looking forward to supporting that work and being part of it as we help develop the best children that we possibly can here in Wake County.

– Kristi Tally, WCSS Board of Directors

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Wake County Smart Start is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

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