



ANSON COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

cultivating young minds since 1996

A Celebration Indeed . . .

To some, we are known as the “book people.” Others know us for the events we host for young children, for training early childhood professionals, or for the car seat classes we offer. Most everyone in our community knows something about the Anson County Partnership for Children, but few people understand the full impact it has had.

Over the past 25 years, the Partnership has offered invaluable programs to educate and uplift young children. It has provided parents the confidence and skills they need to be caregivers and prepared early childhood educators to offer high quality care.

The Partnership has built relationships with local and regional organizations that have expanded the resources available to better serve families and early childhood professionals. Most importantly, we have been able to reach out to our loving community in our endeavors. Gail Preslar knew the community would rally around Smart Start when she wrote of Anson County in the application over 25 years ago. [See below.] It is those caring, concerned people who continue to bring hope to our community.

We have made significant efforts to improve literacy skills, high-quality childcare, childcare affordability, and health and safety for young children. Since 1996, the Anson County Partnership for Children has invested \$32,105,638 in this county. This funding includes the investment of more than \$2 million in childcare facilities for Head Start and Developmental Day programs.

Even with the improvements we have achieved, our work is far from over. Sadly, more than half of the children in Anson County live in poverty. More children enter kindergarten unprepared than arrive well prepared. Because 95% of brain development occurs before a child enters kindergarten, early education and intervention are vital to that child’s success. And so, we celebrate our success, but we also rejuvenate our dedication to our work.

On behalf of Anson County Partnership for Children, its board of directors, and our children, we thank the community for its unwavering support of our mission and its help in building a brighter future for our children. May we continue our work together -- cultivating young minds for the next 25 years.

In the Service of Children,

Caroline Goins, MPA
Executive Director

Wesley Martin
Board Chair



Anson County is an ideal site for a Smart Start Partnership. Here in this small rural county where material resources are critically limited and poverty is widespread, there abounds a special resource that too often goes unheralded, yet offers the potential for truly improving the living conditions for young children and families. That resource is the caring, concerned people who live here and value children as the joy of the present and the hope of the future.

Gail Preslar, in the 1996 Smart Start Application

The announcement of the Smart Start Initiative in 1994 struck a chord that was very sensitive to me. The tenets of the initiative were not only the hope, but also the prayers of every parent for his or her child; which were to enter school healthy and ready to learn. After 35 years in public school, 25 in Anson County, my strength was renewed to join the effort to convince the state that Anson County needed and wanted to establish this partnership for its children. The hurdles were high, but the leadership accepted the challenge - and time has made the difference. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Jeraline Cole, First ACPC Board Chair & Retired Educator



The Anson County Partnership for Children currently oversees these programs:

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library is available to every child in Anson County from birth to five and provides a monthly book by mail. Anson County children have received over 161,000 books since the program was launched in 2006.

Raising A Reader provides children sturdy red bags filled with high-quality children’s books every week. Their caregivers receive tips and supplies for activities and may attend Parent Involvement Workshops - now on YouTube!

Reach Out and Read participants are prescribed reading and given books by their pediatricians during well-child visits. Since 2012, it has distributed more than 7,800 books and information on developmental milestones.

Motheread/Fatheread/Teacheread participants gain critical literacy skills in a group setting by learning the “why” of reading rather than just emphasizing the “how” of reading exploration.

Child Care Services promotes awareness of young children’s issues, provides training and technical assistance to child care providers, and delivers developmentally appropriate materials to child care facilities. Currently, 77% of Anson County children are in high-quality (4 or 5 STAR) childcare facilities.

Early Childhood Resource Center (ECRC) provides child care providers, parents, and community members with over 6,000 resources to increase the quality of early childhood experiences and offers weekly storytime and activities.

Child Care Subsidy & Enhancement Program provides subsidies for children to attend high-quality childcare programs and gives quality enhancement bonuses to childcare facilities with 4 or 5 STAR to help them maintain high-quality care.

NC Pre-Kindergarten provides free, high quality care for qualifying children who are four years old before August 31. Originally known as More-At-Four, since 2004 this program has served more than 2,200 children in Anson County.

Proud Parents offers caregivers a positive space to give the children in their care intentional, developmentally appropriate learning experiences. It provides caregivers with information, resources, and connections to promote optimal child development

Safe Kids Anson offers car seat inspections by nationally certified technicians and provides car seats at a highly discounted rate of \$15 for families in need.

Healthy Together 5210 - a collaboration between the Partnership, Atrium Healthcare, and Anson County Schools - reinforces the importance of healthy eating and active living.

Family Support provides free essentials for disadvantaged families in Anson County. During the pandemic, family support needs increased, and ACPC worked with Anson County Schools to deliver over 5,000 school meals. ACPC also delivered boxes of groceries, diapers, wipes, and baby essentials, kits with art supplies and puzzles, and thousands of books.

