



Build the Future.
Yours. Mine. Ours.

Celebrating 25 years of
serving children and families
of Nash & Edgecombe Counties



IMPACT REPORT 2018

Building a Legacy in Our Community



Dear friends,

On December 7, 2018, the Down East Partnership for Children (DEPC) officially turned 25. It's hard to believe how fast years have flown by. It seems like just a blink of the eye, but it's a whole generation of children who have grown up with us. This generation of children will soon be parents themselves and will look to the Partnership to help them launch their own children as healthy, life-long learners by the end of the third grade.

When we started, there was no Smart Start in our counties, no More at Four or NC Pre-K or Campaign for Grade Level Reading. Child care was considered babysitting. No one talked about using evidence-based practice to support families, or improving the social determinants of health in order to improve education outcomes for children. We only knew that we could improve on the bleak state of child outcomes in Nash and Edgecombe counties if we worked together across race, class, geographic and cultural lines toward a vision of success for every child in a united and supportive community.

So, tenaciously and for 25 years, we have worked together towards that vision. Literally thousands of people have built our local early childhood system, by asking what's possible, not what's wrong. Board members, staff, volunteers, partners and donors supported each successive strategic plan that moved us incrementally forward to where we are today, a comprehensive model for children ages 0-8 that is the

foundation of our education system and our community's talent pipeline. Thank you all for your extraordinary leadership.

Today, the early childhood workforce has improved dramatically. The percentage of children in licensed care who are taught by teachers with a college degree is now 82% in Edgecombe and 50% in Nash. High quality care was almost non-existent when we started. Today, of the children in licensed care, 94% of the children in Edgecombe County and 69% of the children in Nash County are in 4 and 5 star facilities. The percentage of low income children age 2-4 that are at a healthy weight has risen almost to the state average and 62% of parents in both counties report reading 4-6 times a week to their children ages 0-5.

As we look towards the next 25 years, we need to scale-up what has worked before kindergarten into the early grades and invest in building the resources needed to serve all early learners effectively. Much remains to be done and together we will do it. Now, however, we need to stop and celebrate the success of our efforts so far. So, please join us on April 25th at the Rocky Mount Mill's new Power House from 7-10 pm for our 25th Anniversary Celebration. It's going to be great!

Best Wishes to All,

Henrietta Zalkind
Executive Director

Jama Greene
Board Chair

OUR MISSION

Launching every child as a healthy, lifelong learner by the end of third grade!

OUR VISION

We believe that all children and their families can reach their full potential when surrounded by a united and supportive community.

OUR GOALS

1. Health and Development are on track beginning before birth
2. Families are engaged and communities are coordinated
3. Early care and education are high quality
4. Teaching and learning environments for K-3 students are effective inside and out, 365 days a year

Making an Impact In Your Community

16,123

Children 0-8 years old in Nash and Edgecombe counties

13,784

Children benefited from parent education and support programs



531 Children participated in Raising a Reader where they brought books home each week from their participating child care program

2,150 Children are receiving books at home each month through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

779

Children benefited from DEPC child care scholarships and NC Pre-K

1,413

hours of service were given by **324** volunteers



3,372

People visited the Family Resource Center this year



13,714

visits were made to Discovery Park

82,920

meals were served at Summer Feeding/Learning Sites

353

Early care professionals participated in child care quality training

8,997



books were distributed in **7** medical clinics during well visits

5%

turnover rate of child care staff that receive salary supplements in the Twin Counties
(Thanks to WAGE\$. State average is 14%)

Why We Need Your Support

LITERACY

64%

of children in Nash and Edgecombe Counties are NOT reading on grade level by the end of the third grade



POVERTY

1/3

of children in Nash and Edgecombe counties currently live in poverty.

HEALTH

Too many children and adults are obese or overweight

30%

of children in Nash & Edgecombe are obese or overweight.

35%

of adults in Nash & Edgecombe are obese or overweight.

Healthy food options are often not available or affordable

1 in 5

children in NC face food insecurity.



20% in Nash County and **26%** in Edgecombe County live in Food Insecure Homes



SCHOOL READINESS

Both children and schools need to be ready for success by 3rd grade

Quality early care, literacy, summer learning and school attendance are all important to early school success. Risk factors include: living below the poverty level, mothers with less than a high school diploma, single parent home, primary language spoken at home is not English.

Celebrating 25 Years



The Down East Partnership for Children was incorporated as a non-profit in 1993 by a group of community leaders who were concerned about the quality of life for children and families in Edgecombe and Nash counties in North Carolina. At the time, both counties ranked low in quality of life statistics such as poverty, infant mortality, low birth weight infants, teen pregnancies and child abuse and neglect. The team set out to change the course of early education and create a backbone system of support for children and their families.

The Edgecombe-Nash community leaders understood that the only way to improve the quality of life statistics in the two-county area was to develop and change the systems of early care, education and family support. They also realized that Smart Start funding was one way to make that happen.



Today, DEPC has built an early childhood education system that supports children and families where they are through a variety of evidence-based programs and services. The quality of child care is higher than ever, especially for children in subsidized care. There are more programs and resources for young families who are not in formal care and an emphasis on preparing young children to be successful in school and for schools to be prepared to meet the needs of the children they serve.

It is more critical than ever to strengthen the infrastructure that has been the foundation of early care and education by investing to ensure that every child - wherever he or she lives - has what is needed for a healthy and successful start.

Then & Now

Before DEPC:

- There was no early childhood system
- Quality of care was very low
- Most families were in unlicensed care
- Most child care staff were untrained
- There was very limited care for children with special needs
- There was no child care resource and referral
- There was no organized support system for parents
- Statistics and outlook for children and families were bleak

Today..

- Early childhood is considered the anchor of the education system
- DEPC's infrastructure maximizes diverse funding sources, provides evidence based programs that are getting results
- Families are supported better than ever through a coordinated system that offers many resources
- There is a network of strong community leadership, support
- Quality of child care is high and more children are in high quality care
- Children with disabilities are identified at a younger age and are referred to early intervention services
- More children benefit from better nutrition and physical activity
- More children have better outcomes in school.



Making a Difference for Young Children & Families

Paying It Forward

Linda A. Mann:

The premature birth of her daughter compelled Linda A. Mann, a resident of Rocky Mount, to look closely at community resources and support for parents of children with special needs. Her quest for information and knowledge led her to Down East Partnership for Children (DEPC) where she connected with the Family Support Network of Nash/Edgecombe Counties and became a caring mentor to other parents. A 2006 graduate of the Community Fellows Program, she has embraced meaningful opportunities for personal growth and professional development through decades of Partnership services.



Linda became a change agent for her daughter & family and other families; and became an integral part of decision making and policy changes for early childhood care & education. She served two 6-year terms on DEPC's Board of Directors & Executive Committee as well as other committees such as Board Development Committee, Ready Schools Advisory Committee, and previous Chair of the Childcare Resource & Referral Advisory Committee. Quote: "Because of the valuable knowledge of community resources and the empowerment I obtained through DEPC, I continue to pay forward even today and help other families and children reach their full potential because the partnership has helped empowered me. I am a Champion for Children!"

Mann is the Manager of Member Services & Operations at the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce.



Support for Parents

Jodi Sprouse & Levi:

"We moved to this area from Raleigh several years ago and we were looking for ways to connect with other parents and find ways for our son to get acclimated socially. I was at a story time at the library in Nashville and someone recommended the Partnership to me. I called to inquire about resources for new parents and closed my eyes expecting to hear that it would cost a lot of money.

I almost cried when they told me that this was a free service for parents. I signed up for the weekly play and learn groups and have been amazed at how Levi has grown and developed. It was such a blessing to find out about DEPC. Everything about DEPC has been amazing – from the people to the programs and park. I just hope more people learn about it."



Taking the Lead

Xavien Harrison:

Things have come full circle for long time DEPC partner, Xavien Harrison. For many years he participated in numerous leadership programs, served on the DEPC board and supported reading and health initiatives. Then, everything changed... he underwent a heart and kidney transplant and adopted two children (biological brothers in 2013). One child was a teenager and one was age three. He contacted DEPC immediately to learn about the right child care for his family and about the resources he needed now as a parent. "It is amazing what the partnership has accomplished over 25 years," he said. I always knew the partnership was making a difference and taking the lead when it comes to providing cutting edge services and programs. The partnership has always been willing to take the lead in our community and do so in a way that meets needs and brings other players to the table. I now have the benefit of understanding the value of the partnership now that my child is doing so well in the third grade."

Leaving a Legacy

Steve Felton:

Steve Felton grew up in Edgecombe County and has deep roots here in this community. Years ago, Lula Flye Felton, the Felton family matriarch, was a resident at the old Rocky Mount YWCA located in downtown Rocky Mount many years ago.



That building, which gave home to so many in the community and was the center of so much activity, is known today as the Down East Partnership for Children (DEPC).

"The legacy in this building started long before the Partnership came to be. We have an opportunity to continue to pay it forward for future generations. This community has seen changes and challenges over the years but has never lost its commitment to service and the bonds people have forged with each other. We have an opportunity to continue this legacy of service to family and community as well as a commitment to sustaining its future."

Today more than 3,000 people visit the Family Resource Center each year. It provides services for families through Family First, parenting classes, playgroups, nutrition education classes, community gardens and a state of the art playground.

Felton is a financial planner and franchise owner with Ameriprise Financial, Inc. in Rocky Mount.



Parents, Schools, Communities Working Together

Pattie Allen:

Retired Educator, Ready Schools Coordinator

"I believe in the innocence of children – their desire to do good, dream and make the world a happier place. Families, schools, and our communities believe this and want to do what is best for children. Together, we can all make this happen. The success of our children, our families and our schools must not only be a community conversation but it must be community action."

Mark Your Calendar!



2nd Annual Fore Every Child Golf Classic



Friday, April 12, 2019

Noon - Lunch and Registration

1:00 Shotgun Start

The Links at Cotton Valley - Tarboro

Anniversary Celebration

"An Anniversary Affair"

Thursday, April 25, 2019

7 to 10 p.m.

Rocky Mount Mills | The Power House



Keys to the Future

Local Campaign for Grade-level Reading Organized by Twin Counties Read to Rise

There is a movement taking place in the Twin Counties to help clear the pathway to success for our children. One of the greatest predictors of future academic and career success is reading on grade level by the end of the third grade. A coalition of more than 20 organizations makes up the Twin Counties Read to Rise. The campaign is addressing three underlying challenges that can keep young children, especially those from low-income families, from learning to read proficiently. They are School Readiness, School Attendance and Summer Learning.

School Readiness

Many children are at risk for school failure before they enter kindergarten. If children enter Kindergarten prepared for success, they stand a much greater chance to read on grade level by the third grade. Schools should also have the resources they need to be ready for children.

School Attendance

Every minute counts in the classroom toward reaching our goal of reading on grade level. Schools promoted the "All Day, Every Day - Attendance Matters" campaign in the classrooms and carpool lines. Timely Tina also made appearances at schools to remind students and parents that every minute counts.

Summer Learning

This year an emphasis on Summer Learning was added to Summer Feeding sites throughout the two counties. Funding from Cummins made it possible to provide more resources for sites and offer more support to coordinators.

Reading initiatives connect children to free books

This year 2,150 children received a book in the mail each month through the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and the best part - it was free! Any child from birth through age 5 may sign up to receive a free book each month until they turn five. It's simple and no obligation - just visit www.depc.org/families

Other reading initiatives include Raising a Reader and Reach Out & Read help get more books in the hands of children in different settings.

Raising a Reader - a program that offers books through child care centers reached 531 children, and 73% of parents surveyed say they are reading with their children more each week.

Through Reach Out & Read, 8,997 books were distributed in 7 medical clinics during child well visits.



Nathan enjoys a book from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library with his father, Trevor.

Parent Support is Foundation to a Smart Start

All the information you need with one phone call! Free service for all families. Call the Family First Specialists at **252-985-4300** and get the resources and connections you need. Activities like Kaleidoscope Play and Learn groups are offered every week during the school year and support groups for families of children with special needs and parenting classes for young children are all offered at DEPC.

Positive Parenting

Triple P is a parenting program, but it doesn't tell you how to be a parent. It's more like a toolbox of ideas. You choose the strategies you need. You choose the way you want to use them. It's all about making Triple P work for you.



High Quality Child Care Matters

Choosing a child care provider is one of the hardest decisions a parent will make. A Family First Counselor can help you make an informed decision about quality, licensed care for your child. We currently serve Edgecombe, Halifax, Nash, Warren and Wilson Counties. We provide free confidential child care referrals based on your family's needs. Look online at www.depc.org through our Child Care Resource & Referral or call us at 252-985-4300. We can help!



Board of Directors

DEPC's Board of Directors and working committees are made up of parents, child care providers, representatives from the school systems and human service agencies, members of the faith community and local business and government. Each member is committed to ensuring the financial and programmatic integrity of the Partnership.

Officers:

Board Chair: [Jama Greene](#), Medical Practice Professional
Vice Chair: [Karen Lachapelle](#), Edgecombe County Health Dept. Director
Treasurer: [Rusty Holderness](#), Rural Equity Corporation
Secretary: [Debby Futrell](#), Area L AHEC
Community Outreach Committee Chair: [Stacy S. Jesso](#), Nash UNC Health Care Foundation
Evaluation Committee Chair: [Karen Lachapelle](#), Edgecombe County Health Dept.

Members:

[Bob League](#), Municipal Government
[Fred Belfield, Jr.](#), Nash County Commissioner
[Art Bradley](#), Edgecombe Cooperative Extension, Designee Tanya Heath
[Eric Evans](#), Edgecombe County Manager
[Charlene Hedgepeth](#), Child Care Center Provider
[Shelton Jefferies](#), Rocky Mount Schools, Designee Mark Cockrell, At-Large Seat
[Sorell Massenburg](#), Faith Community Representative
[Catherine Roche](#), Braswell Memorial Library Director, Designee Gloria Sutton

[Marva Scott](#), Director, Edgecombe County Department Social Services Director, Designee Bobbie Williams

[Monique Smith](#), Parent
[Sherron Deal](#), Retired Educator
[Valerie Bridges](#), Edgecombe County Schools, Designee Paula Flythe, At-Large Seat
[Bill Carver](#), Nash Community College, Designee Adrienne Covington
[Natema Drummond](#), Parent
[Shirley Hill](#)
[Shane Lancaster](#), Coastal Credit Union
[Tim Wilson](#), Poyner & Spruill

If you are interested in joining a Committee or the Board, please contact [Henrietta Zalkind](#), Executive Director.

Financial Overview FY18

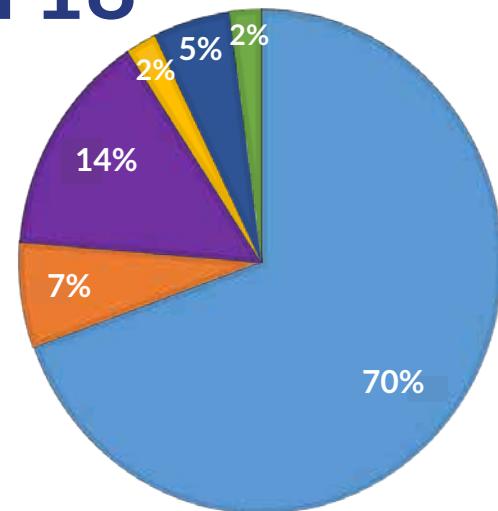
Expenditures

Programs & Support Services:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Child Care Subsidy | \$3,956,203 |
| Child Care Resource & Referral | \$384,376 |
| Family Support | \$821,376 |
| Ready Schools/Ready Communities | \$119,023 |
| Healthy Kids Collaborative | \$291,587 |
| Research & Evaluation | \$117,539 |
| Total Program Services | \$5,690,104 |
| Management and General | \$495,464 |
| Total Expenditures | \$6,185,568 |

Assets

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Change in Net Assets | -\$75,830 |
| Net Assets, Beginning of Year | \$536,609 |
| Net Assets, End of Year | \$460,779 |
| (Unaudited) | |



Programs & Services Expenditures

- Child Care Subsidy
- Child Care Resource & Referral
- Family Support
- Ready Schools/Ready Communities
- Healthy Kids Collaborative
- Research & Evaluation

Visit depc.org for a complete list of donors and volunteers.

Year In Review

2018



Back to School - Westside Church of Christ donated backpacks and school supplies for the Edgecombe County Schools Migrant Program. Students received a backpack filled with supplies.



Community/School Gardens - Many hands make light work! Students from Peacemakers and Rocky Mount High School volunteered with FoodCorps Service members at GW Bulluck.



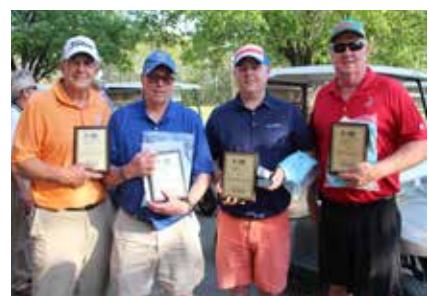
Summer Feeding & Learning - Representatives from summer feeding sites received materials, training about ways to enhance their sites. Many thanks to Cummins for sponsoring this effort.



Super Heroes! This year's Week of the Young Child Children's Parade included a super hero theme. Thanks to Nash Health Care Foundation for donating capes for each child! More than 200 children marched in the parade.



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is Here! DEPC Board Chair Jama Greene read at Think and Grow child care center in Tarboro to kick off Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.



DEPC's First Golf Classic - This year marked DEPC's first annual golf classic. We look forward to next year's tournament on Friday, April 12, 2019 at The Links at Cotton Valley in Tarboro.



Kindergarten Round-up - Dorchess Baptist Church and Conetoe United Methodist Church each held a Pre-K ~ Kindergarten Roundup! There were activities for kids and opportunities to learn more about registering for school.



Power of Sharing - DEPC received 2nd Place in the Collaborative Education category at the Power of Sharing Gala presented by Coastal Credit Union Foundation. This event recognizes the impact nonprofits are making throughout the community.



Play & Learn Groups - Reading in Discovery Park to celebrate Summer Learning Day! Play & Learn groups meet each week throughout the year. Contact us for more information.



Fruits and veggies are cool and fun! Children were greeted by some fun friends at Party in the Park - a free event open to all children and families held each April and October.



NC Pre-K Development Day - DEPC held its first NC Pre-K Teacher Professional Development Day! It was a joint training between Public Schools, Private Child Care and Head Start programs serving NC Pre-K children!



Triple P Seminar - 22 Child Care Providers participated in a Triple P Positive Parenting Seminar! CCR&R Core Services shared Triple P with child care providers to learn more about this parenting program.