GAME ON
BE A CHAMPION OF LEARNING AND PLAY

Down East Partnership for Children
For Every Child

2020-2021 IMPACT REPORT
Letter from the Executive Director

Proud to serve this community!

We are thankful that in spite of the overwhelming challenges COVID brought this year, we have persevered, adapted, and pivoted to produce high quality work within a model of service that continues to meet the needs of our children and families. Adaptation remains a continuing reality for community-based initiatives working hard to support children and families during the pandemic. Since COVID began, we have innovated to address the needs of our communities, such as connecting families to resources to support basic needs and children’s learning at home, reimagining book distribution and summer programs, and shifting many services online.

We are thankful for the many teachers and child care centers who stayed open and continue to face many challenges. We are committed to ensuring all children, birth to age 8, are nurtured by their family, have access to quality early care and education and transition into schools where they are successfully launched as healthy, lifelong learners by the end of grade three.

We are proud to be a part of this community and proud of the many partners who have helped us along the way when the needs are so great.

Henrietta Zalkind
Executive Director

Faithful Families recognized for accomplishments

Congratulations to DEPC’s Faithful Families initiative, which received state and national recognition for its transition to a virtual format this year. In fact, it was one of the only Faithful Families programs that was able to continue its work during the pandemic, thanks to its leadership team of Viola Barnes-Gray, Donia Simmons, Gwen Shaw and the community relationships built over the years.

Faithful Families promotes healthy eating and physical activity in communities of faith. The program includes a 9-session healthy eating and physical activity curriculum. Faithful Families’ program approach includes small group sessions and policy and environmental changes at the faith community level to promote health for individuals, families, and the local community.

This year, 760 people participated in the cooking classes and church-based action plans to improve both personal health and health of the congregation as a whole (program projection was 500).

“I really enjoyed virtual sessions,” said Shaw. “It was safe, and from the comfort of my own home. I say Kudos to my team at Nash/Edgecombe DEPC for continuing to reach out to make the community better. I also loved hearing members respond to the recipes and sharing their experiences in cooking the dishes at home - changes in small practices that make big impact.”

The initiative was featured in the Department of Agricultural and Human Sciences blog. Read the excerpt below or scan the QR code to view the full post.

“IT takes a very special group of individuals, however, to rise above and see the need to move forward, even in these unprecedented times. Down East Partnership for Children (DEPC) in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, is one of these remarkable group of individuals. It is with pleasure that we take this time to highlight what they accomplished by taking the 9-week Faithful Families courses VIRTUAL!”

- from FaithfulFamilies.com blog
By the Numbers
(July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)

15,285 children 0-8 in both Edgecombe & Nash counties
539 children benefitted from DEPC childcare scholarships and NC Pre-K
7,208 visits were made to Discovery Park

12,979 children benefitted from parent education and support programs
574 early care professionals participated in childcare quality training
527 hours of service were given by 249 volunteers

220,255 meals were served at Summer Feeding/Learning Sites
13,000 pounds of food delivered to families

97 child care centers, schools, and community organizations receiving COVID-19 PPE baskets

Why We Need Your Support

LITERACY
One of the most important predictors of school success and high school graduation is reading on grade level by the end of the third grade.

POVERTY
28% 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.
39% 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.

BRAIN DEVELOPMENT
First 2,000 Days are important
The first 2,000 days of a child’s life are the most important time for their brain development. The most rapid period of development in life happens in children’s earliest years.

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. The Ready Schools Pathways include: Leaders and Leadership; Transitions; Teacher Supports; Engaging Environments; Effective Curricula; Family, School and Community Partnerships; Respecting Diversity and Assessing Progress.

www.depc.org
Leandro v. State of North Carolina

The Supreme Court of North Carolina, in its landmark Leandro v. State of North Carolina decision, affirmed the fundamental right of every child to have access to a sound basic education. The court also ruled that North Carolina was not meeting this constitutional requirement. Henrietta Zalkind, DEPC Executive Director, served on the The Commission on Access to Sound Basic Education. The deadline for the State to implement the plan is this fall.

DEPC Referral Line

Family Services Specialists staffed the state’s call line for essential workers needing help finding and paying for child care, as well as assisting non-essential workers through DEPC’s referral line.

Family Resource Center

The Family Resource Center adapted all parent support groups and workshops to operate virtually.

Summer Feeding

This year, DEPC supported summer learning sites with 19 resource bags with books, 10 Fun Buckets and 3 CATCH Activity Kits. Thousands of meals were served to children in need and participating children were able to engage in fun, stimulating activities to continue learning while school was not in session. **Summer Feeding Sponsors:** Nash County Public Schools, Edgecombe County Public Schools, Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC, Self-Sponsored Food Sites: Provided their own food. **Photo:** St. Mark AME Church participates in the Summer Feeding Grab-N-Go Program. What a great collaborative effort with Pastor Robert Yabrough of St. Mark’s, the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC and DEPC!

Food to Early Education (FEED)

DEPC was able to connect families with nutrition education opportunities remotely. Food tasting boxes were delivered to targeted child care centers, and continued providing nutrition education virtually, when applicable. Through collaboration with Golden Organics, Ripe Revival and creative thinking, DEPC distributed over 6,500lbs of fresh food to 264 children and their families, as well as 71 child care center staff.

For information about the Healthy Food Access Mapping Project visit: https://healthy-food-access-mapping-ucpcog.hub.arcgis.com

Read to Rise

**Campaign for Grade-Level Reading**

2 Pacesetters Honor Awards received from National Campaign for Grade Level Reading in the areas of Parent Success and Big Tent Collaboration (Strengthening Pre-K to K-12 transitions).

Kaleidoscope Playgroups

Kaleidoscope Playgroups strengthens social skills and increases school readiness, essential to learning in the classroom and creating a strong reader by the end of third grade.

Get Registered and Ready Week

995 Registered and Ready bags were distributed to rising K and Pre-K students in Nash and Edgecombe counties.
Summer Learning
Summer learning had everyone enjoying fun summer activities throughout the community! Thank you to Nash Health Care Systems and Southern Bank for providing the Summer Fun Buckets!

- 42 NC Pre-K lead teachers received a Kindle Fire for their classroom to assist with virtual learning and virtual technical assistance.
- DEPC distributed 78 PBS Rootle Early Learning Kits to NC Pre-K students to aid with summer learning. The kits included resources, activities, and supplies.

Once a Fellow, Always a Fellow
The first ever Virtual Community Fellows Program graduated its 13th class of community-based leaders, advocates and volunteers this year. The Virtual Community Fellows Program, targeted emerging or existing community leaders in Edgecombe and Nash counties and built their capacity to be advocates for children and families. Congratulations and thank you to these graduates:

- Chaka Jones
- Shelia Hilliard
- Said Murphy
- Robin Boddie Hagins
- Robert Yarbrough
- Rev. Joyce Lane
- Reena Simmons
- Marilyn Bridgers
- Kelly Spivey
- Jennifer D. Hammett
- Freeda Lawrence
- Cymie Rawlings

Parent Education: Triple P
The Triple P services were virtual this year. Playgroup leaders were successful in marketing and delivering Triple P to our participating caregivers. Attendance rates were higher than they usually were in person. The group discussions were engaging and comments on the surveys were very positive. DEPC also implemented a new Triple P service - Level 4 group. This series was done virtually over 6 sessions with three supportive phone calls offered to 10 caregivers. All 10 caregivers completed the program and demonstrated positive changes in both their parenting and their children's challenging behaviors.

Literacy: Dolly Parton Imagination Library
DPIL/Active Reading was promoted throughout the year. COVID created many barriers for in-person recruitment of participants; despite this challenge, the program exceeded participant projections and had a very successful year.
Congratulations to this year’s winning teams and thank you to our sponsors! Join us April 8, 2022 for the 5th Annual Fore Every Child Classic!

Donors & In-Kind Sponsors

After The Rainbow
AmazonSmile Foundation
Anonymous Trust
Apple Tree Wee School, Inc.
Benevolity Community Impact Fund
B&K Grading and Paving
Blackbaud Giving Fund
Bodie-Noell Enterprises
Boyd’s Service Station
Cannon Foundation, Inc.
Carlton Thorpe Daley Fund
Chick-Fil-A
Carlton Thorpe Daley Fund
Cannon Foundation, Inc.
Cosmic Connection
Cummins Foundation
Cummins Rocky Mount Engine Plant
Cummins Foundation
Edgecombe County
First United Methodist Church
Food Lion
Foundation Builders Academy
Futrell-Mauldin Community Fund
Gill Company
Gill Company
Harriet & George Thorpe Foundation
HoneyBaked Ham Company
Junior Guild of Rocky Mount
Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust
Lakeside Baptist Church
The Links at Cotton Valley
Marrow Pitt Ace Hardware
Mooratt Building Systems, Inc.
Nash County
NC State Employees Combined Campaign
Network for Good
Nicholas Bunn Boddie & Lucy Mayo Boddie Foundation
Nichols Automotive Specialist Inc.
North Carolina Community Foundation
Pfizer Annual Giving Campaign
Prime Smokehouse
Purvis-Moyer Foot & Ankle Center
QVC
Ribeye’s of Tarboro
Rocky River Boutique
Secret Garden II
Southern Bank
Southern Nash Middle School
St. Stephens Loving Day Care
STEP - Strategic Twin Counties Education Partnership
Sundrop Bottling
Tar River Arts Collaborative
Target
Think and Grow Child Care Center, Inc.
Tidal Wave Auto Spa
United Way Tar River Region
Upper Room Ministries/South Hill United Methodist Church
Vidant Health Foundation
Wake Stone Corporation
Wee Care Pediatrics
Wilson Rocky Mount Tarboro Chapter of the Links
Word Tabernacle Church
Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Inc.

Individual Donors

Dr. Alton Anderson
Retha Arrington
John & Melissa Barker
Viola Barnes-Gray
Deborah Battle
Betty Battle
Eleanor Battle
Michelle Battle
Fred Belfield Jr.
Steve Berry
Natalie Bess
Paula Boddie
Robin Boddie-Haggins
Debra Boudreau
Tee Boyd
Rosa Brodie
Monique Brown
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Nell Burwell
Richard Carroll
Lela Cheeson
Melissa Chester
Gerry Cobb
Jennifer Cobb
Hattie Cooper
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Anne Marie Williams
Fran Williamson
Dr. Evelyn Wilson
Jamie Wilson
Tim & Wendy Wilson
Barden Winstead Jr.
Yvette Richardson
Hennieta Zalkind
Orlando & Ericka Zito

QVC
Purvis-Moyer Foot & Ankle Center
Prime Smokehouse
Pfizer Annual Giving Campaign
**Board of Directors**
*(As of October 2021)*

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:** Stacy Sumner Jesso, Sumner Madison Consulting
- **Vice Chair:** Dr. Trent Mohrbutter, AVID Center
- **Treasurer:** Adrienne Covington, VP of Finance, NCC
- **Secretary:** Natalie Bess, Edgecombe County Deputy County Manager

**Community Outreach Committee Chair:** Stacy Sumner Jesso

**CCR&R Advisory Committee Chair:** Frenchy Davis, Foundation Builders Academy

**Strategic Planning Committee Chair:** Dr. Trent Mohrbutter

**Members:**
- Betty Battle, Edgecombe County Department of Social Services
- Fred Belfield, Jr., Nash County Commissioner
- Dr. Valerie Bridges, Edgecombe County Public Schools, Designee Paula Flythe
- Leigh Daughtridge, Monarch (Mental Health Representative)
- Sherron Deal, Retired Educator
- Natema Drummond, Parent
- Dr. Steve Ellis, Nash County Public Schools, Designee Melissa Dancy-Smith
- Eric Evans, Edgecombe County Manager, Designee Natalie Bess
- Debby Futrell, Area LAHEC
- Tanya Heath, Edgecombe Cooperative Extension
- Lew Hunnicutt, Nash Community College, Designee Adrienne Covington
- Linda Knight, Child Care Center
- Shane Lancaster, Coastal Credit Union (Business)
- Bob League, Municipal Government
- Sorell Massenburg, Faith Community Representative
- Amy Priddgen-Hamlett, Nash County Department of Social Services
- Ashley Reynolds, Parent
- Catherine Roche, Braswell Memorial Library, Designee Gloria Sutton
- Monique Smith, Parent
- Wendy Wilson, Carlton Family Foundation

If you are interested in joining a Committee or the Board, please contact Henrietta Zalkind, Executive Director.

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**Financials**

**Expenditures**

**Programs & Support Services:**

- Child Care Subsidy: $4,186,153
- Child Care Resource & Referral: $475,365
- Family Support: $705,080
- Ready Schools/Ready Communities: $113,909
- Healthy Kids Collaborative: $359,662
- Research & Evaluation: $115,133

**Total Program Services:** $5,955,302

Management and General

(Additional Family Resource Center building renovations)

**Total Expenditures:** $6,642,505

**Assets**

**Change in Net Assets:** $15,497

**Net Assets, Beginning of Year:** $636,670

**Net Assets, End of Year:** $652,167

*(Unaudited)*

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www.depc.org
Your donation builds dreams for our children!

Have you ever wondered how you could make a difference in the lives of children in your own community? You can make that difference simply by supporting Down East Partnership for Children. Your donation helps to provide support for the many programs and opportunities necessary in helping to fulfill our mission of "launching every child as a healthy, lifelong learner by the end of the third grade." No matter the amount, when you make the decision to give, you become a part of our mission, and we, along with the children in our community, have two words for you; Thank You!

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

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

Our Goals
Health
Health and development on track beginning before birth.

Families & Communities
Engaged families and coordinated communities.

Early Care & Education
High quality early care and education.

Ready Schools
Effective teaching and learning for K-3 students, inside and out, 365 days a year.

Ways to Get Involved
Game On Campaign
Golf Tournaments
- Fifth Annual Fore Every Child Golf Classic - April 8, 2022
Virtual Silent Auction Nov 26 - 30
Volunteer

Please complete the following and send to Bethany Lambeth’s attention.

Please make checks, corporate matches, or other gifts payable to: DEPC, P.O. Box 1245, Rocky Mount, NC 27802

Name: ____________________________________________

Company/Organization: ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

City: __________________________ State: __________ ZIP: __________

Telephone: __________________________ Email: __________________________

☐ Game On Campaign
Please accept my donation of $__________ to help give children a brighter future.
☐ Make it a monthly donation to be included in the Champions Circle.

☐ Volunteer
Please contact me with volunteer opportunities with DEPC.

☐ Fourth Annual Fore Every Child Golf Classic
☐ $100 Hole Sponsorship
☐ $300 Team Sponsor (4-person team)
☐ Prize donation for raffle
  (Gift certificate, promotional item like hat, t-shirt, etc.)

☐ Monthly Gift
Make a Monthly Gift to DEPC. Please contact me with more information.

"DEPC is qualified as a charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to DEPC are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law"