

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



TODAY'S CHILDREN ARE TOMORROW'S LEADERS.



Down East
Partnership for Children

FOR EVERY CHILD. FOR EVERY COMMUNITY.

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Letter from the Executive Director Giving Thanks & Hope for the Future

Thank you for your support of Down East Partnership for Children this year!

As we enter the Partnership's 30th year of service to Nash and Edgecombe counties, we are reminded that we have much to be hopeful about. The partnership was built on the vision that if we work together, we can do better for our kids and families. DEPC was incorporated in 1993 with absolutely no source of funding at the time. Today, we are bringing multiple, blended sources of public, private funding to the community to support launching every child as a healthy, lifelong learner by the end of the third grade. It takes all of us to meet the needs of our youngest children in an ever-changing environment.

As we look back at the milestones of the year and kick off our celebration of 30 years of service, we'd like to say a special thank you to each of you who donated, volunteered, or partnered with us. You are the heart and soul of building brighter futures for our community.

We are committed to addressing the needs of the workforce of today to build the workforce of tomorrow.

Henrietta Zalkind
Executive Director

Resources for Families

There are many resources available to parents in our community. If you are not sure what services are available, please visit our website (depc.org) or call us. Even if it is not a service we provide directly, we can often help connect you to the right resource to meet your needs.

- We also have many resources available such as links for activities and ideas for summer learning: <https://depc.org/ready-schools/summer-learning/>
- Tips on resilience: <https://depc.org/recipe-for-resilience/>
- Summer Feeding/Summer Learning sites: <https://depc.org/families/summer-feeding-sites/>
- Building Blocks Newsletter: <https://depc.org/building-blocks-newsletter-2/>
- Finding child care: <https://depc.org/child-care/finding-quality-child-care-0-12/>
- Positive Parenting Tips: <https://www.triplep-parenting.com/nc-en/triple-p/>
- Rootle: <https://www.pbs.org/show/rootle/>
- Sesame Street in Communities: <https://sesameworkshop.org/resources/>
- Act Early: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/>

Family First counselors are available to offer families information on over 150 community resources including choosing quality child care referrals. Stay connected with the programs we are currently offering to parents. Visit depc.org or scan the QR code.



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



Early Care & Education
High quality early care and education.



Families & Communities
Engaged families and coordinated communities.



Health
Health and development on track beginning before birth.



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

By the Numbers

(July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

15,312

children 0-8 in both
Edgecombe & Nash counties

721

children benefited from
DEPC childcare scholarships
and NC Pre-K

11,740

visits were made
to Discovery Park

12,397

children benefitted from
parent education and
support programs

621

early childhood
professionals
receiving training

116

ECE teachers served
through WAGE\$

869

households were assisted in
making child care choices

72,555

meals were served
at Summer Feeding/
Learning Sites

882

children participating
in kindergarten
transition activities



483

children participated
in Raising a Reader



3,667

children are receiving books
at home each month through
Dolly Parton's
Imagination Library



6,849

books were distributed
in 7 medical clinics
during well child visits

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.

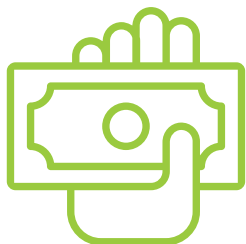
POVERTY

28%

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

HEALTH

31% of Edgecombe County and **21%** of Nash County children live in food insecure households.



CHILD CARE

40%

On average, single parents with infant or toddlers in child care spend **40%** of their income on their child's care.



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. Contact us to get involved!

Addressing the child care crisis

Down East Partnership for Children has consistently stepped up as a leader in addressing the child care crisis. One strategy successfully implemented in the Spring of 2023 was the creation of an Early Childhood Education Apprenticeship Program through Apprenticeship NC. After over two years of community collaboration with strategic partners such as the Community College System, local high schools, Early Childhood Education providers and others, we were able to begin enrolling apprentices into the program in the Fall of 2023. We look forward to expanding the program in 2024 as it supports building the pipeline of Early Childhood Educators needed to provide quality childcare in Nash and Edgecombe counties to support the workforce of today and build the workforce of tomorrow.

2023 Highlights



Summer Feeding/Summer Learning provides healthy meals, enhances literacy

Summer Feeding/ Summer Learning 2023 was very successful with 16 community based sites in Nash & Edgecombe counties offering healthy meals, summer literacy and physical education resources. Fifteen sites received Summer Learning Fun buckets funded by Cummins Engine Plant to promote literacy and physical education. Congratulations to Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church Summer Enrichment Program (Pastor Milton Batts and Nell Burwell Program Director), recipients of the Summer Learning Proclamation on July 13, 2023 presented by Mayor Pro-Tem Councilman TJ Walker during National Summer Learning Week.

Nash County	Breakfast	13,284
	Lunch	24,075
Edgecombe County	Breakfast	16,446
	Lunch	24,435
Food Bank	Breakfast	2,318
	Lunch	1,474

Healthy food tastings

Healthy food tastings are a part of DEPC's outreach in the community thanks to SNAP NC. Healthy kids are more successful in school and life! Food tastings are offered in child care, Registered and Ready events and as part of DEPC's Healthy Kids Collaborative work.



Recognizing early childhood teachers

This past year early childhood teachers were recognized at a Teacher Appreciation Banquet to honor their dedication and work in our community.

Connecting families to resources

This past year, DEPC helped connect families with ARPA funding. Here is a message from one of those recipients: "It's very hard for families who are having hard times at this very moment to provide their kids with the things they need, so I truly want to say all of the programs that help single families, diverse families, blended families, etc. and all other families who participate in awesome programs, thanks a bunch for all the amazing and incredible, awesome work each and every one does. It's a huge blessing to be joining and participating in your program."



Community Fellows: Once a Fellow, Always a Fellow

This past year 15 community partners graduated as the 14th class of Community Fellows. The Community Fellows Program is a 12-week leadership development program for emerging or existing community leaders in Edgecombe and Nash Counties. The goal of the program is to build the capacity of participants to be advocates for children and families so that they can have a direct influence on DEPC's shared outcomes through community driven action. A special thank you to Mrs. Patricia J. Peele, Community Fellows Facilitator/Trainer and Dr. Haywood Parker, Senior Pastor Truth Tabernacle Ministries

This year's participants:

Wayne T. Barlow	Chris Koufopoulos	Frances Velez
Angela R. Byrd	Jeanell Person	Marcia Moyd-Williams
Thomas L. Everett	Tracy L. Pittman	Melissa P. Williams
Jennifer D. Evans	Cameron M. Pollard	
Gary E. Lee	Lennis Sample	
Linda W. Lee	Sharon Sherrod	



Week of the Young Child

DEPC celebrated Week of the Young Child this past year with a parade in Discovery Park. Thank you to our elected officials for their participation!

Each year DEPC's Family Services team receives numerous referrals to connect families to resources. Here are a few stories from this year:

A commitment to families

A caregiver was referred to DEPC by a community partner. He is a grandfather who has a daughter currently incarcerated and has 2 boys. As a grandfather, he made up his mind that no one could raise his grandchildren like he could. This was another way to demonstrate his love for his family. He started his Triple P Brief Sessions, targeted counseling sessions on a specific topic, and came on time for every one of them in-person. We were always encouraged and excited to see him because in the midst of all that was happening, he remained positive. His wife and another daughter who were both helping with the kids also completed several Triple P Brief Sessions over the phone. He communicated with DEPC every time he went to visit the boys who were placed out of the home and about every family team meeting he attended. He practiced what he would say during the visits with the boys, and there was such joy in his eyes as he became confident and competent that his family would be reunited. We knew his court date, but waited patiently for him to reach out to DEPC. Finally, he did and he said "I cannot thank you enough. I am crying with joy! My family has been reunited!" Granddad has since retired to ensure he can give the attention his family needs without working such long hours.



Playgroups prepare young children for success

One of the Playgroup moms needed help with her daughter, who is her only child and was having tantrums during Playgroup. Mom was taking her outside the play space each week as she screamed. Many times, they would just leave and go home. In fact, Mom let us know that she thought maybe they needed to stop coming. A DEPC Playgroup Coordinator called and had a long talk to tell her not to leave because this is the very reason we are here...to support our families and help children with their behaviors. The DEPC Playgroup Coordinator asked her if she would give it another try with our guidance. In talking, we realized she was having a hard time sharing and that was the trigger for the tantrums. We worked with Mom on how to guide her daughter to share using strategies from Triple P, including some practice sessions set up for Mom and Dad to model sharing at home as well as praise whenever she was willing to share. After practice at home and at Playgroup, she learned to share, even initiating play with her friends. A family who in the past had intermittent attendance and participation was now arriving weekly with a smile and earned a Walmart gift card for fulfilling all our Playgroup incentive goals. Mom and child were happy and enjoyed coming each week!

Circle of Parents makes a difference

"My name is Kamika Graham and I am a native Floridian who moved to North Carolina in 2017 with no family and friends. In 2019, my son Zach was diagnosed with Autism/Asperger's and ADHD. I had no idea what to do, I was in denial and had no support system. In 2021 my son Jordyn was diagnosed with Autism/Asperger's and ADHD. After 2 years of Zach being diagnosed, I still had no clue what to do. Both of my sons were having trouble in school, they were not getting interventions and I was starting to feel defeated. In 2020 while at a therapist appointment, my husband Frank was introduced to Ashley, one of the parent leaders of Circle of Parents (A support group for parents of children, ages birth to 18, with special needs.) He went through the process of signing up for the group. At that time, I personally did not have any expectations for the group. Eventually, we decided to try the group out that year.



Fast forward, after being in the group for these last few years I have received so many blessings and support. COP has become my family away from my family. Ms. Iris, the group Facilitator and the other parents are supportive and share resources, and I am now a parent leader. I love that COP includes child care for our children. I have gained a family in COP. We laugh together, cry together, bond, and understand the stigmas surrounding special needs kids. I am now a parent leader in COP and have had so many different experiences through resources provided through email by Ms. Iris Ray. I have been to out-of-county workshops, been a part of meetings with COP parent leaders statewide, and received a dresser and bed frame for my kids, gas cards, etc. I truly appreciate and love COP and I cannot put in words the impact it has made on my family's lives. My kids even love Children's Corner and Ms. Monica, the facilitator of Children's Corner. Even with their different abilities, they have made friends with other children with special needs within COP. They lack social skills so it is huge for them to be social and make friends."

HEART of DEPC

Success Stories of the Down East Partnership for Children

Early Intervention is essential to lifelong learning and survival in the world today!

I arrived in Rocky Mount as a single parent with my 3yr. old son 7 years ago. While attending a community event at Discovery Park, I received information about Down East Partnership and walked in that following week. I was unaware of the options for my son to attend early childhood programs. Sonja Person looked at me and my son in the eyes as people, not an issue or statistic, and that made a difference. My son is now excelling, 2nd year straight on A/B honor roll in 4th grade because he has a Mom that was shown she has options to advocate for herself and her child. I have continued a career in early education myself due to the seed planted in me years ago.



Quantica Hines
Parent

Donors & In-Kind Sponsors Donations from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Allegra Marketing & Print
AmazonSmile Foundation
American Online Giving Foundation, Inc
Ameriprise Financial
Applebee's
Arrow Exterminators
August Georges
B&K Grading and Paving
Barnhill Family Foundation
Belmont Lake Golf Club
Benvenue Country Club
Bin & Barrel
Boddie-Noell Enterprises, Inc.
Buffalo Wild Wings
Nicholas Bunn Boddie & Lucy Mayo Boddie Foundation
Boyd's Service Station
BPM Properties, LLC
Carolina Hurricanes
Carolina Mudcats
CBC/WRAL Community Fund of Triangle Community Foundation
Childtrust Foundation
Chili's
Cummins Rocky Mount Engine Plant
D and M Golf LLC
Davenport Motor Company

DoubleTree by Hilton
Edgecombe Community College
Edgecombe County
Food Lion
Foundation Builders Academy, LLC
John Hackney Agency of Rocky Mount
Harriet & George Thorpe Foundation
Harrison Family YMCA
Holland Custom Builders
The HoneyBaked Ham Company
Geenex
Jersey Mike's
Junior Guild of Rocky Mount
Leggett Chapel Baptist Church
LouReda's An American Table
Nash Building Systems, Inc.
Nash Community College
Nash County
Nash UNC Health Care
NC Farm Bureau
NC Partnership for Children
NC State Employees Combined Campaign
NC Wesleyan University
Network for Good
North Carolina Community Foundation
Outback Steakhouse

Paris Nail Spa
Pledgeling Foundation
Providence Bank
Roberson & Dupree
Sara Lee
Self-Help Credit Union
Sheetz
Simmons & Harris
Southern Bank
S.T.E.P.
Sun Drop
Tarboro Brewing Company
Tarboro Printing
Texas Steakhouse
Tidal Wave Auto Spa
Trax
United Bank
United Way of Bartholomew County, Inc.
United Way Tar River Region
Vidant Health Foundation
Wake Stone Corporation
Watermark Solutions, LLC
Welcome to Tarboro Magazine
Whitener Capital Management, Inc.
Woodard Dentistry
Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Inc.



Individuals

Wanda Barnes
Viola Barnes-Gray
Betty Battle
Michelle Battle
Thomas & Diane Braddy
Natalie Bess
Nancy Bullard
Shaquanna Bynum
Kurt Carlson
Pamela Chapman
Adrienne Covington
Evan Covington Chavez
Jerome Creech
Carol Crocker
W. H. Crocker
Melissa Dancy-Smith
Marie Daniel-Sivels
Elton Daniels
Kyler Daniels
Leigh Daughtridge
Dorothy Davis
Frenchy Davis

Sherron Deal
Purvi Desai
Dr. Joel Dood
John Dood
Monica Dood
Natema Drummond
Charles Dunn
Michelle Etheridge
Steve Felton
Debby Futrell
Todd Gardner
Pam Gould
Mary Grimes
Jim and Pam Harris
Margaret Harris
Tanya Heath
Daniel Herring Jr.
Lisa Hobbs
Mark Holland
Billy Howell
Dan Howell

Gene Hudson
Dr. Lew Hunnicutt
Gene Jackson
Stacy Sumner Jesso
Jackie Kearney
Brad Kerr
Jean Kerr
Linda Knight
Shane Lancaster
Charles Lane
Trevor Lane
Debra Lanham
Keigm Lanham
Glenda Lawrence-Knight
Bob League
Al Leonard
Linda Leonard
Curtis Mallory
Pat Mauldin
Christine Miller
Ginny Mohrbutter

Dr. Trent Mohrbutter
Jeanne Moore
Benton Moss
Michael Myrick
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Jim Newton
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Bridget Phifer
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Ashley Reynolds
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Betty Robinson
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David Sherrod
Moonie Sloan
Monique Smith
Mary Stephens
Braxton Townsend Jr.
William Turbyfill

Mary Veale
Angela Ward
Debbie Webb
Aljeana Whitaker
Ted Whitehurst
Tim and Wendy Wilson
Madison Windell
Lori Winstead
Julian Winters
Sarah Winters
Robert Yarbrough
Henrietta Zalkind
Orlando and Ericka Zito

Board of Directors (As of October 2023)

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

Officers & Committee Chairs:

BOARD CHAIR:

Dr. Trent Mohrbutter, AVID Center

VICE CHAIR:

Benton Moss, Simmons & Harris Inc.

TREASURER:

Adrienne Covington, Nash Community College

SECRETARY:

Natalie Bess, Edgecombe County

CCR&R ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Frenchy Davis, Foundation Builders Academy

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Leigh Daughtridge, Monarch

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Dr. Trent Mohrbutter, AVID Center

Members:

Tikela Alston, Braswell Library

Betty Battle, Edgecombe County Department of Social Services

Patricia Bell-Spruill, Step By Step Family Daycare Home

Dr. Andrew Bryan, Edgecombe County Public Schools, **Designee Dr. Michael Myrick**

Dr. Steve Ellis, Nash County Public Schools, **Designee Melissa Dancy-Smith**

Natema Drummond, Parent

Michelle Etheridge, Edgecombe County Health Department

Eric Evans, Edgecombe County, **Designee Natalie Bess**

Tanya Heath, Edgecombe Cooperative Extension

Dr. Lew Hunnicutt, Nash Community College, **Designee Adrienne Covington**

Shane Lancaster, Coastal Credit Union (Business)

Dr. Glenda Lawrence-Knight, Town of Princeville

Pastor Gary Lee, First Baptist Middlesex

Linda Knight, Child Care Center

Durell Petway, Parent

Ashley Reynolds, Parent

Wendy Wilson, Envolve Health

Pastor Robert Yarbrough, St. Mark AME Church

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

Financials

Expenditures

Programs & Support Services:

NC Pre-K	\$3,058,876.20
Scholarship	\$1,138,814.23
Family Services	\$650,652.35
Provider Services	\$178,230.86
Ready Schools / Ready Communities	\$265,559.58
Healthy Kids Collaborative	\$694,391.71
Research & Evaluation	\$176,509.46

Total Program Services \$6,163,034.39

Management and General \$748,422.79
(includes Family Resource Center building renovations)

Total Expenditures \$6,911,457.18

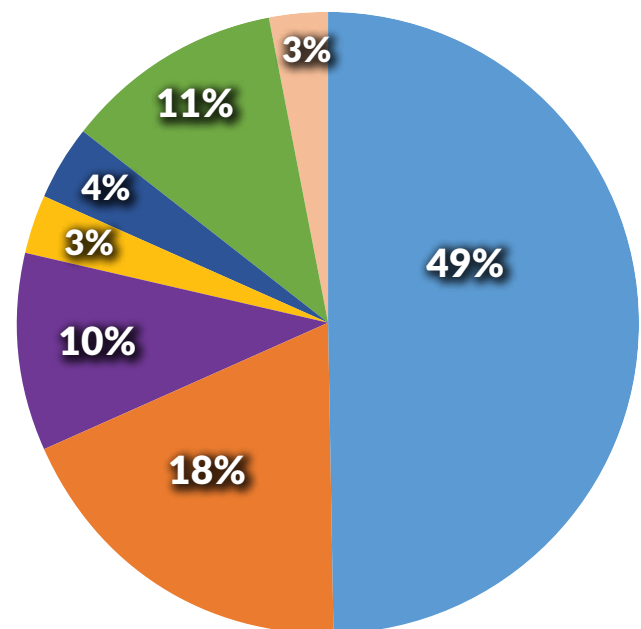
Assets

Net Assets, Beginning of Year \$803,867

Change in Net Assets -\$368,293

Net Assets, End of Year \$435,574

(Unaudited)





Join us this year as we celebrate **30 years of service** to children and families in the Twin Counties.

April 19, 2024



FORE EVERY CHILD
GOLF CLASSIC
to benefit
Down East Partnership for Children

September 28, 2024

FAMILY FUN DAY
at North Carolina Wesleyan University

Learn more about our programs

Down East Partnership for Children offers a variety of services and resources for families with children ages 0-8. Scan the QR code to the right to view all of DEPC's family services and our programs for 2023!



Your donation builds dreams for our children!

Have you ever wondered how to 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 support the many programs and opportunities necessary 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!**



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

Name: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____



Please accept my donation of \$_____ to help give children a brighter future.

☐ Make it a monthly donation to be included in the Champions Circle.



- ☐ \$100 Hole Sponsorship
- ☐ \$300 Team Sponsor (4-person team)
- ☐ Prize donation for raffle
(Gift certificate, promotional item like hat, t-shirt, etc.)

JOIN US!
April 19,
2024



Please contact me with volunteer opportunities with DEPC.



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



This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



*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.