

NC GlaxoSmithKline Grant Award of \$25,000 to Help Young Children in Eastern North Carolina

MISSION STATEMENT:

To ensure that every child, birth to five, in Craven County receives the education, health and family support necessary to arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed.

The NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation has awarded \$25,000 to Craven Smart Start to support a program that addresses children's developmental problems before they start school.

The world's second largest pharmaceutical company's NC-based foundation awarded the grant to Craven Smart Start for an evidence-based program called Assuring Better Child Health and Development. ABCD helps busy pediatricians and other children's health care providers perform routine developmental screening during regular check-ups and connect children to specialized therapies and other early intervention services. When children get the interventions they need at a young age, they are more likely to graduate high school, hold a job, and avoid delinquency as adults.

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Smart Start partnerships in Craven, Lenoir, Greene and Pamlico counties are working together to implement the program. The NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation's "Ribbon of Hope" grant will fund a health professional to work with six pediatric primary care practices that serve a total of more than 6,800 children age 0-5 in Craven and neighboring counties.

"A child's doctor is the best-informed professional that parents have regular contact with during a child's early years," said Pat Purnell, Executive Director with Craven Smart Start. "Parents are eager to receive information about behavior and development from them, and referrals for specialized care, if needed. ABCD helps streamline what can be a somewhat confusing referral process for early intervention services."

Doctors screen children by using brief, standardized questionnaires that ask parents about their child's development and behavior. When results indicate a possible concern, children are referred for further evaluation and therapeutic services, if needed.

Thanks to the ABCD program, which began last May, more eastern NC children are being identified and connected to services before they start kindergarten. The program has been replicated in more than 25 NC counties but other than in the Greenville area, there were no projects in eastern NC - until last May.

The grant from the NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation will allow Smart Start to continue their work with the medical practices and to add a much needed autism screening component. As a Ribbon of Hope grant recipient, Craven Smart Start will also receive free customized assistance and consulting services from the NC Center for Nonprofits to help them expand and grow their program.

2009-2010

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"Smart Investing: Communities Thrive when Children Thrive"

by Pat Purnell, Executive Director of Craven Smart Start, Inc.

North Carolina Partnership for Children received a grant from the Z Smith Reynolds Foundation to conduct a public engagement process to determine priorities for future investments in early childhood across North Carolina. Ten to twelve citizens from each of the 100 counties were invited to participate in smaller regional forums with eight to ten counties. Our regional forum was held on Jan. 28th. Then there were three summits held in the east, west and middle of the state at which 20 to 25 counties participated. The east's summit was March 2nd in Greenville. A broad base of citizens was invited to participate. An important aspect of this initiative was to increase awareness and understanding of the participants about issues associated with early childhood development. Therefore, folks beyond the Board membership of Craven Smart Start were invited to participate.

The Craven participants included Mike Davis of Confidential Records Management, Inc., Amy Bryant from Easter Seals UCP; Melissa Lewis from Creekside Recreational Therapy; Thurman Hardison, Director of New Bern Parks and Recreation; Connie Davis, Center Manager for Head Start; Bill Green from BB&T Bank, Janet Sockwell, Director of Exceptional Preschool Program for Craven County Schools, Tate Johnson, Director of Governor Perdue's Eastern Office and Pat Purnell, Executive Director of Craven Smart Start, Inc.

A final report melding together the data from all three summits is due in late April. The items voted on as priorities for young children by the Greenville Summit are:

- The importance of meeting basic needs
- The value of collaboration
- The need for high quality early childhood child care
- The critical importance of the family.



Craven Smart Start Delegation to the New Bern Smart Investing Forum on January 28, 2010
 Front Row Left: Janet Sockwell, Pat Purnell, Amy Bryant, Connie Davis
 Back Row from Left: Bill Green, Mike Davis, Tate Johnson
 Not Pictured Thurman Hardison and Melissa Lewis

Kindergarten: Ready, Set, Go !

For the past four years, Craven Smart Start and Craven County Schools have sponsored **Kindergarten: Ready, Set, Go** information sessions for parents with children entering kindergarten in the fall. The purpose of the session is to help parents prepare for their child's transition to kindergarten. This year the sessions were held at First United Methodist Church in Havelock, the Central Office for Craven County Schools, and Craven County Cooperative Extension. Craven County School officials presented information about school policies and kindergarten enrollment and shared tips on how parents can help prepare their children for kindergarten. Each family was provided a packet containing kindergarten readiness materials and information about Craven County Schools, including school calendars and required school forms. Eighty Craven County families attended the sessions.

Purse Sale Fundraiser Up-date

Fundraising partners, Craven Smart Start and Newspapers in Education, are pleased to report that, after three sale opportunities, we have sold the 1,300 purses that were donated to us last fall.....and we have earned a total of \$7,640.15 to be shared between our respective organizations for literacy efforts that benefit local children.

Our next collection drive will begin in August, 2010 and our next sale will be held on October 16, 2010, at the New Bern Women's Expo. Thanks again to those ladies who so generously donated purses and to those ladies who eagerly purchased them. We greatly appreciate their support.

Congratulations to the ABCD Project on their \$25,00 grant from NC GlaxoSmithKline!



Craven Smart Start recognized for work with local doctors. Board President Arey Grady, ABCD Project Specialist Marla Smith, and Executive Director Patrica Purnell hold NC GSK award certificate

In Memoriam



Craven Smart Start staff would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Paula Clearwater, who passed away on March 5, 2010, after a long, valiant battle with cancer. Paula was a center director at Miss Nancy's Early Learning Center in Morehead City and at Trinity Presbyterian Child Care Center in Havelock for a number of years. Paula was a strong advocate for children and families, who will be remembered for her professionalism, her leadership and her commitment to high quality care for children. She was an inspiration to those who knew her and she will be greatly missed by the child care community and by the families she served.

Donor Report

Many thanks to the following individuals and businesses for their donations during our recent Annual Fund Drive.

Individuals

- Jackie Beach
- Tonya Cedars
- Wendy Chapman
- Dr. Catherine Chew
- Tammy Cullom
- Dana Drake
- Carol Erwin
- Kent Flowers, Jr.
- Megan Foradori
- Sherry Forrest
- Pat Glasgow
- Arey Grady, III
- Lisa Green
- George Griffin
- Betty Hamby
- Renee Harrell
- Teresa Harris-Suhrie
- Jeannie Holton
- Susan Husson
- Jason R. Jones
- Paula Jones
- Kelly Klemmer
- Kim Matthews
- Bob & Carol Mattocks
- Pinkie Moore
- Pat Purnell
- Suzanne Richey
- Barbara Rodgers
- Dr. Michael Romaine
- Deborah A. Rouse
- Julie Rowe
- Rev. Jeff Sockwell
- Dr. Bart Spano
- Ellie Toombs
- Edith Travers

Businesses

- Fisher Oil Co
- Child Care Home Providers
- Keller-Williams Realty
- Wachovia Corporation

Craven Smart Start, Inc.
is a 501c(3) non-profit.
Donations are
tax deductible.

Craven Smart Start, Inc.



**New Bern 300th Anniversary
First Night**



Craven Smart Start participated in a number of community events and a very successful fundraiser in the fall and winter months. These included Parade of Preschoolers; Breakfast with Santa; New Bern's 300th Anniversary First Night celebration; Reading Fun Day and our purse sale fundraiser at the Women's Expo. In addition Varick Preschool and Parents as Teachers, Smart Start funded programs, held special events for their parents. Here are photos from these events..



Purse Sale Fundraiser



Reading Fun Day



Parade of Preschoolers

Fall & Winter Activities 2009-2010



Family Support Network's Breakfast with Santa



Varick Preschool Christmas Program



**Donation from The ARC of Craven County for
Breakfast with Santa**



**Parents as Teachers: Parent and Child Activity
Making Gingerbread Houses**