

Faith Summit Focuses on First 2000 Days of Life and School Success

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.

Inside this issue:

Craven Smart Start Board of Directors	2
Faith Summit Follow-up	2
Board Meeting Spotlight	2
8th Annual Early Childhood Conference	3
NAEYC Week of the Young Child	3
Kudos to EDU 284	3
Thank You's to Presenters & Donors	3
Picture This!	4

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE
2nd Holiday Hustle!

12/13/14



By Pinkie S. Moore, Community Outreach Coordinator

On May 20th Craven Smart Start hosted the First 2000 Days Faith Summit at Christ Church Ministry Center in New Bern. Eighty representatives from the faith community, law enforcement, non-profits and human service agencies and board members from Craven County Schools and Craven Smart Start attended the morning session. The group gathered to learn about the first 2000 days of life, the period from a child's birth to the approximate time he begins kindergarten, and to discuss the role that churches and other organizations can play in building a strong foundation for learning and health in young children to ensure they are successful when they enter school and beyond .

Pat Morrow, Executive Director for Craven Smart Start, welcomed the group and explained the role that Craven Smart Start has played in sharing the message of the First 2000 Days in our community. Reverend Marquita Hutchens, Associate Rector of Christ Episcopal Church, gave the invocation. The summit featured three presenters and provided opportunities for audience discussion. Speakers included Dr. Nancy Brown, Board Chair of the North Carolina Partnership for Children; Dr. Terri Colon, Early Childhood Lead Instructor at Craven Community College; and Dr. Lane Mills, Superintendent of Craven County Schools. Dr. Brown, shared information about the role that churches have played over the years in providing early childhood programs and spoke about North Carolina's commitment to young children. Dr. Colon presented the message of the First 2000 Days and the importance of this period of development on future learning, health and life success. Dr. Mills talked about the role that early childhood education plays in school success and beyond. Karen Wood, Program Evaluator/Coordinator for Craven Smart Start, facilitated table discussion activities of the group. Pastor Barbara Rodgers with Dayspring Ministries of New Bern gave the invocation.

Attendees expressed very positive comments about the information shared at the summit. Dr. Sandra Plata-Potter, Craven Smart Start Board President stated, "The Faith Summit provided an opportunity for members of the local faith community to come together and collectively become apprised of the critical first 2000 days in the life of a child. Moreover, we had the opportunity to also come away with additional insight given by Dr. Lane Mills, who pointed out how the next 2,340 days are the number of days a child will spend in K-12 schooling."

Our partnership would like to take this opportunity to thank the individuals and groups who helped to make the summit a reality. These include Christ Episcopal Church for the use of their ministry center; our speakers for their informative presentations, the pastors for their words of compassion and care for children and the North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation for their support and counsel. Finally, we thank those who attended the summit to learn about early development and quality early experiences. It is our hope that everyone who attended will share the information they learned with others.

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First 2000 Days Faith Summit Follow-Up

People of faith, business leaders, and law enforcement professionals have been coming together in similar summits across North Carolina to share the First 2000 Days message to build support for investments in high quality early childhood programs. Although this faith summit has ended, there are actions that faith representatives can take, including receiving alerts from First 2000 Days; sharing information with their congregation through bulletins or social media, etc; or hosting a First 2000 Days presentation for their congregation. To learn more, call Pinkie Moore, Community Outreach Coordinator, at (252) 671-0689.

Photos from the First 2000 Days Faith Summit



Board Meeting Spotlight

Denise Stevens, Child Care Home Provider and Craven Smart Start board member, and Jennifer Bolz, CCR&R Educational Resource Specialist, were recognized during the Spotlight segment of Craven Smart Start's board meeting on March 26th. Ms. Stevens, who currently operates a five-star family child care home, advised the board of the ways she has been assisted by the CCR&R program in attaining a high level of care. Jennifer Bolz explained the role that CCR&R Quality Enhancement Coordinators play in helping child care operators to provide quality care, both in homes and centers, through technical assistance visits and training.

8th Annual Early Childhood Conference

Despite rainy weather conditions, 180 child care teachers and administrators, preschool teachers and parents attended the 8th Annual Conference Building Brighter Futures Conference on March 29th. Craven Smart Start and Child Care Resource and Referral hosted the conference which was held on the New Bern campus of Craven Community College. Nefertiti Bruce Poyner, a nationally known speaker, author and provider of professional development experiences for the Devereux Center for Resilient Children in Villanova, Pennsylvania, served as keynote speaker for the opening and closing sessions. Ms. Poyner gave inspiring and enlightening presentations regarding social and emotional health and development in children and shared tips for building resilience in children. The conference also included workshops that focused on early literacy, promoting positive family interactions; cultural awareness in the classroom; health regulations in child care; lesson planning; recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect; implementing the Creative Curriculum; and promoting positive adult-child interaction. Many thanks to Craven Community College for providing their facility and to the presenters, volunteers and staff who contributed to the success of the conference.

NCAEYC Week of the Young Child ***(April 6-April 12)***

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The purpose of the week is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. This year, our partnership joined forces with the New Bern Mall by hosting special activities for children and their parents at the Mall. We were joined by CCR&R, Green Bear Fitness and Michaels. We met new families and answered parents questions related to child care and community resources, while on-site at the Mall. We want to give a BIG Thank you to our community partners...the New Bern Mall, Green Bear Fitness and Michaels.

Kudos to EDU 284

KUDOS....to Dr. Terri Colon and the early childhood education students in EDU 284 for sharing the message of the First 2000 Days on May 7th in a class presentation in front of invited guests. Dr. Colon selected the topic of the First 2000 Days for the students to demonstrate that they can meet the NCAEYC standard for advocacy, which is a requirement for developing their professional portfolio. The seven students who participated in the presentation included Wendy Ward, Ayanna Slade, Kemiah Carter, Cheryl Jenkins, Deatrice Johnson, Willie Armond, and Latoya Pate. Good job, ECE students!



Jennifer Bolz, conference coordinator with Nefertiti Bruce-Poyner, keynote speaker

Many thanks to all of the conference presenters:

- Nefertiti Bruce-Poyner
- Laurie White-Brant
- Candy Upson
- Susan Husson
- Sandi Rugar
- Debra Yarbrough
- Samirra Wise
- Carroll Worrell-Barnes
- Teresa Doane
- Letha Ricks
- Faye Legacy
- Sholandia Holloway
- Tanesha Langhorne

Thank you also to the following for their donations or services during this quarter:

- Belk Department Store
- Nicole Hightower
- Alpha Delta Kappa

Craven Smart START



Willie Armond, an early childhood education student at Craven Community College (CCC), takes her turn at the podium, as she presents information about the First 2000 Days for EDU 284. Dr. Terri Colon, on the right, handles the technical part of the presentation. Congratulations to the EDU 284 students: they all graduated from CCC in May with their Associates Degree!



Children and their parents had lots of fun participating in the Week of the Young Child activities in the New Bern Mall in April. They enjoyed the various music and movement activities, including a parachute activity, offered by Green Bear Fitness and the craft activities hosted by Michaels. CCR&R also hosted a Play and Learn activity for children and parents using puzzles, art activities, dress-up items and books, all focused around "becoming a community helper". The Mall Easter Bunny also stopped by each day to visit the children.



On May 9th, our partnership observed "Child Care Provider Appreciation Day". CCR&R staff took time that day to treat 300 child care providers in facilities throughout the county with candies and goodies. In addition, each NC licensed child care center and home was given a Certificate of Appreciation. Brenda Gray, the operator of Fresh Start child care home in New Bern proudly shows off her certificate of appreciation to Pat Morrow, our Executive Director. Thank you, child care providers, for all you do in working with our children to give them a "smart start".



Craven Smart Start and CCR&R staff (from left, Pinkie Moore, Christen Fries and Jennifer Bolz) brought a Smart Start touch to the display cases in the New Bern Public Library in May. They created displays that focused on celebrations in May and the First 2000 Days and highlighted parenting tips to promote language and early literacy. They also showcased various learning materials and educational toys that can be borrowed from our Resource Lending Library. For information about the Resource Lending Library, contact Jennifer at (252) 672-5921 Ext 21.