

CRAVEN SMART START NEWS

Craven Smart Start Newsletter

Winter, 2017

Early Learning Is Good Business

Businesses in North Carolina are becoming champions for quality early learning programs and opportunities for young children and are advocating for greater alignment and investments in our children's earliest years. According to the NC Early Childhood Foundation, "These businesses understand the payoff for working parents now and for the future work force of tomorrow." So what is the impact to business and families? It goes beyond having skilled workers. There is an immediate cost for both businesses and families and it's in the billions of dollars. Consider:

\$3 Billion—Annual loss to business when employees don't have access to high-quality, affordable child care. \$8.3 Billion—Annual wage loss of employees who don't have access to high-quality, affordable child care.

29% - Working parents who report that they missed work, were late or experienced reduced concentration due to child care matters.

75% - Mothers and 50% of Fathers—who said they have passed up work opportunities, switched jobs or quit to tend to their children.

So how can a local business become a Business Champion for early learning? Craven Smart Start is working with local organizations to develop an Early Learning Network that will focus on and advocate for young children and their families in our county. Businesses are encouraged to be part of that effort. FMI, call Pinkie Moore at 672-5921.

Mission of Craven Smart Start: 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.



Children and Parents Participate at the 2016 Parade of Preschoolers

In This Issue

- Early Learning Is Good Business
- Holiday Hustle Another Success!
- Provider Emergency Preparedness
- NC Pre-K Up-Date
- About Fundraising and Donations



Board Members, Tammy Cullom and Pat Ipock, recognize the winners of our Christmas Spirit Costume contest for children .

Holiday Hustle Another Success!

Craven Smart Start's 4th Annual Holiday Hustle 10K, 5K and Family Fun Run was held on December 10th at Union Point Park. Despite a weather forecast calling for 25 degrees on race day morning, 163 individuals registered to run. The Holiday Hustle proved to be another success with a good turnout of runners and supporters and with a number of new sponsors. Runners, of all ages, were dressed in a variety of festive costumes for our "Christmas Spirit Contest". Santa was there too, on his motorcycle this year, to kick off the Family Fun Run for young runners and walkers.

Five race teams, from businesses and child care centers, took part in our new Traveling Trophy participant challenge. The team from Port City Community Church won the business trophy and the team from Child Care Network # 77 won the child care center trophy. Each team will have the trophy with their name inscribed for the next year.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who participated. Also, many thanks to everyone who supported and/or assisted with the Holiday Hustle, which includes our Emcee, Jessica Winters from News Channel 12; members of the New Bern Police and Fire Department; our volunteers, Craven Smart Start Board Members; Craven Smart Start staff and their family members. We also take this opportunity to recognize and express a BIG thank you to our sponsors:

- Jingle Bell Jog Sponsor : Alpha Media BOB 93.3 & The Wolf 92.3/101.1 FM
- Spirit Sponsors: Bojangles, B/S/H, Child Care Network #77, Cowey Insurance Group and Fisher Stores
- Holly Jolly Sponsors: Coastal Children's Clinic and Weyerhaeuser
- Mistletoe Sponsors: Allstate Insurance, BB&T, CopyPro, Craven Physical Therapy & Spine; Eastern Dermatology & Pathology, PA, Huryn Psychological, Kimmey Seymore, DDS, Stubbs Perdue, and Zaxby's.

Provider Emergency Preparedness Training

State regulated child care providers who have a direct responsibility for the care and oversight of children are now required by the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education to complete training in Emergency Preparedness. Beside the training, providers are expected to have specific materials on-hand to ensure the well-being of young children during emergency situations.

To offset the cost of the additional materials, Craven Smart Start applied for and received a grant from the Harold H. Bate Foundation to acquire 55 Grab and Go rolling kits. Each rolling kit contains most of the items needed for emergency situations. Licensed family child care homes and centers in Craven County that successfully complete the Emergency Preparedness training through Craven Smart Start's CCR&R program will receive a kit, while supplies last. Many thanks to the Bate Foundation for their generous support!



Cali Broughton checks "Grab and Go Kits" for child care provider Emergency Preparedness training.

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Pinkie Moore –Community
Outreach Coordinator /Newsletter
Editor



Staff at Excel 7 held their annual Family Reading Night and Book Fair for their children, which included NC Pre-K students, and their families on November 12th.

NC Pre-K Up-date

The NC Pre-Kindergarten program is designed to provide high quality educational experiences to enhance school readiness for eligible four year old children in Craven County. The program is administered by Craven County Schools with support from a variety of sources, including Craven Smart Start. Our partnership is proud to provide financial support for approximately 50% of the reimbursement rate for 88 slots in eleven NC pre-K classrooms in Craven County. These classrooms are located at Child Care Network #77; Excel 7; Family Literacy programs at Vanceboro Farm Life and James W. Smith Elementary Schools; and Godette, F.R. Danyus, and Duffyfield Head Start Centers.

NC Pre-K teachers have been busy this fall helping newly enrolled four year olds adjust to new environments and routines, while helping them to be prepared in the following developmental domains: play and learning; emotional and social development; health and physical development; language development and communication; and cognitive development. With the kindergarten curriculum of today, children need these skills. They learn and practice all of them in NC Pre-K classrooms.

About Fundraising and Donations ...

Fundraising plays an important role in Craven Smart Start's existence as a no-profit, yet it continues to be a challenging area for our program. In November, our board of directors chose the topic of fundraising to study at their annual educational retreat held at the University of Mount Olive. Josh Jacobson of Next Stage Consulting, facilitated the afternoon retreat which focused primarily on the board's role in fundraising. Jacobson provided an overview of the seven resource development roles of the board (planner, facilitator, manager, ambassador, donor, recruiter and steward), engaging board members in individual exercises and group discussion. All agreed that they found the session very informative and helpful.

Tribute Donation.... Thank you for your support!

Craven Smart Start is a 501© 3 and donations to our partnership are tax-deductible. And speaking of donations,... we want to take this opportunity to thank Leigh Anne and Jonathan Friesen for their donation to Craven Smart Start. They made the donation in honor of the Kindergarten and Second Grade teachers at Epiphany School of Global Studies. We greatly appreciate their tribute donation.

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

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information or questions about our services and programs.

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Visit us on the web at
www.cravensmartstart.org

Up-dates about Craven Smart Start with Photos on Page 5

- Top Left: A number of Holiday Hustle runners were dressed in the Christmas spirit. Board President Dr. Sandra Plata-Potter is pictured here with the winners of the Christmas Spirit Costume Contest for adults.
- Top Right: These Craven Smart Start Board Members took part in the Board Retreat at the University of Mount Olive in November.
- Center Left: Our weekly Play and Learn sessions continue to be "a must do" for a number of Craven County families with young children, like little Addie and her mom.
- Center Right: In December, the string quartet of the North Carolina Symphony brought the Music Preschool Discovery Program to F.R. Danyus and Duffyfield Head Start Centers. The quartet played a variety of classical numbers for 160 three and four year olds, including children in Raising A Reader and the NC Pre-K Program. The youngsters pictured here gave the musical event a "thumbs up".
- Bottom Left: Holiday Hustle runners, which included some Craven Smart Start alumni, are off and running in the 5k Jingle Bell Jog, sponsored by Alpha Media.
- Bottom Right: At the Music Discovery Program, members of the NC Symphony string quartet let each child hold an instrument and showed them how to move the bow over the strings. This child at Duffyfield Head Start "makes music" on the violin.

