



NEWS RELEASE

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DURHAM'S PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN PARTNERS WITH BARNES & NOBLE—SOUTHPOINT TO COLLECT BOOKS FOR CHILDREN ACROSS DURHAM COUNTY

Durham, NC—Durham's Partnership for Children, a Smart Start Initiative, announced Friday that the organization will be kicking off its annual Barnes & Noble Holiday Book Drive on Monday, November 1st. This will be the fifth year that the Partnership has teamed up with Barnes and Noble Streets at Southpoint for this event, where patrons will be asked to purchase books to benefit young Durham County children who might not otherwise have had access to books.

The book drive will last through the end of December when all donated books will be distributed to Durham community agencies that serve young children. Last year more than 4,150 books were collected during the 8-week book drive, which were donated to 22 different agencies and nonprofits including home visiting programs, social services, medical facilities, and a variety of family support and family literacy programs.

"Throughout the years, the Barnes & Noble book drive has always welcomed an outpouring of support from our customers," said Cheri Hodges, Community Relations Manager at the Barnes & Noble store. "We hope that generosity continues this year as community needs continue to grow."

In addition to collecting books for the general birth to age 5 population through Durham's Partnership for Children's early childhood system, the organization and its partner agencies is voicing an increased need for bi-lingual books to help fulfill the needs of some of the Durham community's most at-risk children.

"The book drive serves as an opportunity for Durham's Partnership for Children to engage with the broader Durham community and build awareness of our work," said Amy Blalock, volunteer co-chair of the Partnership's Community Awareness and Development Committee. "Teaming up with Barnes & Noble is beneficial across the board. We hope that by delivering donated books into the hands of children who need them most, we will be helping to support early literacy efforts community wide."

About Durham's Partnership for Children - Making young children a priority.

Founded in 1994 and first funded in 1995 to administer the Smart Start grant in Durham County, the Partnership works as an independent, local nonprofit that serves young children birth to age 5 and their families under North Carolina's nationally recognized initiative to ensure all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. For more than 15 years, the Partnership has helped working parents pay for child care, improve the quality of child care and provided health and family support services to thousands of Durham County families with young children. The Partnership works to achieve its mission *To mobilize and unify the Durham community to create and support innovative and successful approaches to serving the needs of children birth to age 5 and their families*, by working with funded partners, groups and organizations in Durham County to support and coordinate efforts impacting young children and their families. The Partnership also administers the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program in Durham County serving more than 400 children and the new Early Head Start Grant serving Durham infants and toddlers. For more information about the Partnership, visit www.dpfc.net or call 919-403-6960, ext. 221.