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NEWS RELEASE

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Durham's Partnership for Children honored with the Commissioners Community Circle Award

**Durham County Board of Commissioners recognizes Durham's Partnership for Children for great
community service**

Durham, NC – Durham's Partnership for Children, a Smart Start Initiative, announced Thursday that Durham's Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) presented the agency with the Commissioners' Community Circle Award at their regular session on Monday night. The Partnership accepted this award on behalf of young children and their families and collaborating partner organizations, agencies and groups whose efforts are focused on improving the lives of young children birth to age 5 and their families.

"Durham's Partnership for Children has proven that excellence in the areas of productivity, creativity and commitment to citizens is highly valued," said Michael D. Page, BOCC Chairman and presenter of the award. "Their efforts help to improve the lives of citizens and the overall enhancement of our community."

Officially proclaimed The Year of the Young Child by local government earlier this year, 2010 has been a momentous year in the areas of early care and education for Durham's young children. The Partnership celebrated its 15th anniversary and continued to work towards its mission – to mobilize and unify the Durham community to create and support innovative and successful collaborative approaches to serving the needs of children birth to 5 years of age and their families – by investing in multiple strategies to create systemic change in the child care industry. The BOCC paid special recognition to the Docs for Tots NC program, the Kindergarten Health Assessment as part of the joint Transition to Kindergarten Initiative between the Partnership and Durham Public Schools and the Early Childhood Faith Initiative.

"Receiving this award from the BOCC reinforces the City and County's belief in the importance of investing in young children," said Marsha Basloe, Executive Director of Durham's Partnership for Children. "Durham has come a long way and it is fundamental that we continue our commitment to the stability of families, a safer and healthier community, building Durham's future economic success, and the continuum of high-quality early care and education that begins at birth."

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. 219.