



## NEWS RELEASE

**CONTACT:** Melanie Busbee  
Community Development Coordinator  
919-403-6960, ext. 221  
melanie@dpfc.net

For Immediate Release September 22, 2011

### Fall Faith series defines the impact of child abuse on early childhood development

Durham's Early Childhood Faith Initiative Introduces Fall Lunch & Learn series

**Durham, NC** – According to the most recent statistics (2009) from Action for Children North Carolina, there were more than 124,000 reports of child abuse and neglect in North Carolina last year. Nearly 2,800 of those were reported in Durham County. As a component of Durham's Early Childhood Faith Initiative, Durham's Partnership for Children, a *Smart Start Initiative*, invites faith educators, volunteers and parents that work with young children in faith-based environments to attend its fall Lunch & Learn Series, which is structured around child abuse prevention. Two free trainings are scheduled for Tuesday, September 27 and Tuesday, October 11 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Soul Café, Duke Memorial United Methodist Church on West Chapel Hill Street.

Durham's Early Childhood Faith Initiative is a collaboration between Durham's Partnership for Children and End Poverty Durham. The fall Lunch & Learn Series follows a series of learning sessions held in spring of 2011 that allowed faith educators and children/family ministers to gain a greater awareness around ways to reach out to the underserved birth to five population. The spring Lunch & Learn series focused on topics including early development, positive communications with young children, and welcoming children with autism to faith classrooms.

**WHAT & WHEN:**

**SEPTEMBER 27 "Child Abuse and Congregations"**

**Ted Whiteside, MSW**, Durham's Partnership for Children, Former Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island

Defining child abuse, the importance of putting policies and systems in place to prevent child abuse in faith environments, adult responsibility to report suspected abuse.

**OCTOBER 11 "How Child Abuse and Trauma Impacts Early Development"**

**George (Tripp) Ake, PhD**, Center for Child and Family Health

Impact of abuse and neglect on early child development, particularly on early brain development in young children.

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:**

Soul Café, Duke Memorial UMC, 504 W Chapel Hill Street

**REGISTRATION:**

Winnie Morgan (919) 732-1524  
[winniewmorgan@juno.com](mailto:winniewmorgan@juno.com)

**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 North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program in Durham County serving more than 400 children and the Early Head Start Grant serving Durham infants and toddlers. For more information about the Partnership, visit [www.dpfc.net](http://www.dpfc.net) or call 919-403-6960, ext. 219.