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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2012

Durham's Partnership for Children Receives Grants to Support its Transition to Kindergarten Initiative

Durham, NC — Durham's Partnership for Children (the Partnership), announced Thursday that it received a \$25,000 grant from Wells Fargo and a \$17,500 grant from Morgan Creek Foundation to support rising kindergartners across Durham County through Durham's Transition to Kindergarten Initiative.

Durham's Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) Initiative is a collaborative project of the Partnership, Durham Public Schools and Durham Public Schools Parent Teacher Association. The initiative aims to develop and implement transition to kindergarten experiences that prepare children for successful entrance into kindergarten and to prepare schools to receive children and their families.

This generous investment of \$42,500 will add needed resources directly into pre-kindergarten classrooms through Transition Mini-Grants for teachers. The mini-grants will allow teachers to design transition events for their specific student and parent populations.

"The TTK Initiative has put a laser-like focus on the needs of transitioning young learners in Durham County," said Laura Benson, Executive Director of the Partnership. "Contributions toward this effort from leaders in the business community underscore their commitment to promoting school readiness. We applaud Morgan Creek Foundation and Wells Fargo for helping to shape the future success of our youngest students."

In addition to the mini-grants, rising kindergartners and their families benefit from other TTK activities such as Steps to School Family Nights, Steps to School Newsletters, Teachers Talk Forums, and the annual Countdown to Kindergarten event held each August at the Museum of Life and Science.

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 to ensure that all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. For more than 16 years, the Partnership helps working parents pay for child care, improves the quality of child care and provides health and family support services to thousands of Durham County families with young children. The Partnership leverages the public and private sectors 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.* The Partnership administers Smart Start, NC Pre-K, and Early Head Start in Durham County. For more information about the Partnership, visit www.dpfc.net or call 919-403-6960, ext. 221.