



END POVERTY DURHAM

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MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, MAY 4, 2010

Faith breakfast, event focuses on congregations supporting young children birth to age 5 and their families during National Day of Prayer

Durham's Partnership for Children's and End Poverty Durham co-host event for Durham faith leaders

Durham, NC – Durham's Partnership for Children, a Smart Start Initiative and End Poverty Durham will co-host an interfaith breakfast, *Faith in Our Future: Congregations and Children Birth to Age 5*, on Thursday, May 6 at St. Philip's Episcopal Church. The free event is aimed at engaging Durham faith leaders during the National Day of Prayer to learn tangible strategies for supporting the needs of young children, birth to age 5, and their families. The event will feature exhibits from many local family support programs that provide services to young children birth to age 5.

The event will feature Keynote Speaker Rev. James R. Horton, an Episcopal priest presently serving as Rector of Church of the Advent in Williamston, North Carolina. Fr. Horton presently serves on the Standing Committee of the Diocese of East Carolina and is a Speaker's appointee to the North Carolina Partnership for Children Board.

"The faith community is a critical voice in Durham County working to ensure the health and wellbeing of our residents including young children and their families," said Marsha Basloe, executive director of the Partnership. "Harnessing local congregations support for early childhood is important to build more awareness around the importance of the early years. We are one of the only local partnerships across the state to collaborate with a grassroots interfaith organization like End Poverty Durham to engage the faith community to be vested in supporting vital programs and services for young children and their families."

The event was organized by the Partnership's Early Childhood Faith Initiative, a volunteer supported program under End Poverty's 0 to 5 Workgroup. Over the past three years, the workgroup, with help from the Partnership and Duke University's Center for Child and Family Policy's Durham Family Initiative (DFI), surveyed more than 49 congregations across different faiths in Durham County on how they support families with young children and what kinds of resources they would require to increase support for families with young children. A contract faith coordinator has been working over the past year to engage congregations to support the needs of young children birth to age 5.

WHAT: Faith in Our Future: Congregations and Children Birth to Age 5

- 7:30-8 a.m.: Registration/networking with exhibitors
- 8-9 a.m.: Breakfast Program
- 9-9:30 a.m.: Networking with exhibitors

WHEN: Thursday, May 6, 2010

WHERE: St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 402 E. Main Street, Durham, NC 27710

For details, contact Karine Stallings with Durham's Partnership for Children: 403-6960 x221

Durham's Early Childhood Faith Initiative is a collaborative between End Poverty Durham and Durham's Partnership for Children. The A.J. Fletcher Foundation and the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation have supported this initiative as well as community members and local congregations. For more information, please contact the Partnership at 919.403.6960 or visit www.dpfc.net/EarlyChildhoodFaithInitiative.aspx or www.endpovertydurham.org.

About Durham's Partnership for Children

Durham's Partnership for Children celebrates 15 years 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 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 and mobilizing 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 Program in Durham County serving more than 400 children and the new Early Head Start Grant which will serve 120 Durham infants and toddlers beginning in the Spring of 2010. For more information about the Partnership, visit www.dpfc.net or call 919-403-6960, ext 221.

About End Poverty Durham

End Poverty Durham is a group of interfaith leaders and community-based organizations working collaboratively to eliminate poverty in Durham, NC in the next 25 years. For more information visit www.endpovertydurham.org

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