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Durham's Partnership for Children Receives Grant for Nutrition and Dental Needs for Young Children

Durham, NC - **Durham's Partnership for Children**, a Smart Start Initiative supporting the needs of young children and their families, has received a \$10,000 grant for nutrition and dental needs in early childhood in Durham County from the **Elizabeth Wade Grant Endowment Fund of Triangle Community Foundation**. The grant funds will be used to expand the Smart Start-funded "Nutrition Consultation" project which works with food preparation and nutrition in early childhood centers. This project has observed the increasing need to provide outreach, education and services to pregnant women and infants to improve the dental care that is often related to poor nutrition.

The grant to **Durham's Partnership for Children** will provide funds in support of this outreach, specifically education and treatment to reduce the incidence of dental cavities in low income children less than 5 years old in Durham County. The project aims to increase outreach to pregnant women and infants on good oral hygiene and reduce the number of cavities in populations with little access to dental care. Additionally, the program seeks to assist pregnant women with nutrition choices and in obtaining preventative dental care during pregnancy and for their infants.

"Studies have shown a strong link between poor dental health in pregnant women and the incidence of pre-term, low birth weight babies. This new grant is an important step because it works to avoid some of these very preventable problems, and the outcome has great benefits for the lives of both mothers and their children," stated Gayle Harris, Assistant Director of the Durham County Health Department.

The grant continues Durham's Partnership for Children's work to improve the school readiness of young children in Durham County through its ability to lead, collaborate and leverage its Smart Start funding. Since 1995, the Partnership has provided Smart Start funds to the community for early care and education, family support and health including early detection of developmental problems in young children. In addition, the Partnership's More at Four program provides its 4-year olds with dental, vision, and language screenings each year as part of its systemic pre-K program. The Partnership is grateful to the Elizabeth Wade Grant Endowment Fund of Triangle Community Foundation for allowing us to continue this important work with this new grant.

"The Triangle Community Foundation is pleased to provide these funds to Durham's Partnership for Children. We are optimistic that this project will bring much-needed services to mothers and children with little access to dental care," stated Beverley Francis, Director of Philanthropic Services at Triangle Community Foundation.

About Durham's Partnership for Children

Durham's Partnership for Children was founded in 1994 and first funded in 1995 to administer the Smart Start grant in Durham County. Smart Start is North Carolina's nationally recognized initiative to ensure all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. Smart Start helps working

parents pay for childcare, improves the quality of childcare and provides health and family support services in every North Carolina County. The Partnership works with funded partners (affiliated organizations) 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 0-5 and their families." Durham's Partnership for Children also administers the Governor's More at Four Program in Durham County.

For more information about Durham's Partnership for Children, visit www.dpfc.net or contact Jeremy Evans at 919-403-6960, ext. 224.