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Durham's Partnership for Children to develop community task force to study needs in northern Durham County
The Partnership will recruit volunteers in northern Durham County to study the needs of young children.

Durham, NC --- Durham's Partnership for Children leads the efforts of our community to see that all children, from 0-5 years of age, are ready to enter kindergarten and be successful in school and in life. Over the last 13 years of its existence, Durham's Partnership for Children has seen an area of our county where services are increasingly hard to find, resources are limited, and demographics are continually changing. Our experience in trying to fund activities and services in this area tells us that it is underserved and under-resourced. That area is the northern region of Durham County.

Durham's Partnership for Children is seeking community input into this region's needs through the formation of a Northern Durham Task Force. The Board of Directors voted to form this task force in an effort to quickly collect and assess demographic and needs data for this region, and compile a clear picture of the challenges and solutions for serving young children in this defined area.

In the past, the Partnership has been a strong supporter of services for young children in northern Durham County, specifically in and around Bahama. These services may no longer be available for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. As we seek to fulfill our promise to serve young children throughout all of Durham County, we are seeking leadership from the community to help us set the agenda. This transitional period will be an ideal time to assess the needs of this often neglected area so that the Partnership can best invest its community dollars and young children and families may be most effectively served in the years ahead.

Those interested in joining the Northern Durham Task Force, which will convene from July to October, should contact Karine Stallings, Community Development Coordinator of Durham's Partnership for Children at 403-6960 or karine@dpfc.net.

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.