



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: August 29, 2007

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Partnership Welcomes New Board Chair and Officers

DURHAM, NC- August 29, 2007- Durham's Partnership for Children, a Smart Start Initiative, held its Annual Board Meeting August 23rd and welcomed new board chair, Michael Palmer.

Michael Palmer is Director of Community Affairs for Duke University. Michael oversees the office that manages the Neighborhood Partnership. A former Deputy Durham County Manager, he fosters productive relations between Duke and community groups and identifies outside funding for Duke Partnership activities. Michael is Duke's main liaison to Durham city and county government.

Michael has been the chair of the Community Awareness Committee, Treasurer and Chair of the Finance committee for the Partnership. He has most recently been Vice Chair of the Board.

"The Partnership is glad to welcome Michael as our new board chair. His sound background and thoughtful decision making ability will help the Partnership continue to touch the lives of Durham families with children age birth to five," stated Marsha Basloe, Executive Director of Durham's Partnership for Children.

In addition to Mr. Palmer, the Board was presented with a slate of officers and new members from Membership Chair, Durham County Commissioner, Ellen Reckhow:

Officers:

- **Vice Chair: Angie Welsh** is Senior Vice President of Resource Development for the Triangle United Way. Angie oversees all aspects of the resource development department that includes data analysis, strategic planning, program funding, program monitoring, and agency relations. Angie has been a member of the Allocations Committee with Durham's Partnership for Children. She also directed the start-up and wrote the grant proposal for the first Smart Start grant that initiated the Wilson County Partnership for Children.
- **Secretary: Ilene Britt** is the Program Director of the Early Childhood Associate program and an Instructor at Durham Technical Community College. Ilene has been involved with Durham's Partnership for Children since its inception. She has been a pediatric early interventionist, a child care center director, served as a board member of the NC Interagency Coordinating Council, and is a NC Early Childhood Education Fellow.
- **Treasurer: Bill Bryant** is a Financial Advisor at Scott & Stringfellow, Inc. He works with organizations, families and individuals on financial issues such as

investment management, retirement plans, saving for college and other financial planning issues. Bill holds designations of Certified Financial Planner™, Certified Investment Management Analyst™, and Chartered Retirement Plan Specialist. Bill has been involved with Durham's Partnership for Children for three years and has served as Chair for the Community Awareness and Development Committee and the Finance Committee, and is a member of the Executive Committee.

New members of the Board were voted in:

- Dr. Debra Parker, North Carolina Central University representative
- Rhonda Parker, City of Durham representative, Director, Parks & Recreation
- Delphine Sellars, Cooperative Extension representative, Director

The Partnership also said thank you and farewell to Harold G. Sellars, Senior Vice President of Mechanics & Farmers Bank whose term of office as Board Chair ended.

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 call 919-403-6960, ext. 234.

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