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Durham's Partnership for Children Receives State Grant to Help Parents Manage Young Children with Behavioral Challenges

Durham, NC – **Durham's Partnership for Children**, an organization supporting the needs of young children and their families, announced Wednesday that it had been awarded a two-year Smart Start project grant from the North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) to participate in a statewide pilot project to enhance parent education.

The grant of \$21,374 for the first year is funded by the Duke Energy Foundation. Durham's Partnership for Children's grant project is one of 26 Smart Start pilot grants across the state representing 45 North Carolina counties.

"Duke Energy has been a strong partner with Smart Start for 14 years. The Foundation has remained steadfast in their support of helping young children throughout North Carolina enter kindergarten healthy and ready for success. We are very grateful and pleased they will be the largest private supporter of Smart Start's parent education and early literacy programs," stated NCPC President Stephanie Fanjul.

NCPC is funding the pilot project grant program to focus intense community action around four critical issues facing North Carolina children—childhood obesity, access to developmental screenings, family literacy, and parent education. Throughout the two-year program, Smart Start will closely track the impact of these grant dollars in communities across the state.

"This opportunity will enable the Partnership to target resources for critical parent support services. There are not local programs like this that give parents measured tools and strategies to deal with children with significant emotional, social and behavioral issues. We are grateful to Duke Energy Foundation for their support to help close the preparation gap for Durham County's young children by making sure more of our children are developmentally ready for school," said Marsha Basloe, executive director of Durham's Partnership for Children.

The Incredible Years is a nationally recognized 14-week support and training program for guardians of children ages two to five who have challenging behaviors. Through training, guardians will learn strategies on how to manage children with a range of behavioral, emotional and social challenges, including mental concerns—issues that Durham Public Schools administrators' cite as barriers to school readiness.

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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.*