

# MOVING FORWARD



*Staying Strong | Building Success | Standing Resilient*



Down East  
Partnership for Children

2019 - 2020 IMPACT REPORT

# We are Thankful for You

What a year! Hard to believe just a short time ago we were hosting Parties in Discovery Park, connecting summer learning sites, and supporting our schools and child care centers, all while thousands of children and families visited the Family Resource Center on a regular basis. COVID-19 forced us all to adapt the way we live, work and play. That's why our theme this year is "Moving Forward," because that's what we do to put children first. We move forward to ensure they receive the services and resources they need to be successful.

We are so proud of the community work accomplished this year. Child care providers opened their doors to the children of first responders and health professionals. Thousands of meals and fresh boxes of food were distributed to families

thanks to the care and coordination of many groups working together. We saw seminars, workshops, support groups and playgroups switch their work to a virtual format and actually increase the number of participants.

We are very grateful for the support you have shown DEPC over the years, but especially this year. Your donations, time and talents make sure that children continue moving forward to be launched as lifelong learners by the end of the third grade. We appreciate all you do every day to meet the needs of young children. Moving forward together we continue to build a better future for all.

Again, our heartfelt thanks,  
**Henrietta Zalkind**  
Executive Director



## A Year in Review

### Support for Families

Programs and services for families went virtual this year, including Incredible Years, Kaleidoscope Playgroups, Triple P workshops and our Circle of Parents support group.

### Support for Child Care Providers

Child care providers continue to be on the frontline providing essential services for families who are working. Most of them are open but not fully enrolled, so space is available for children 0-12. If you or someone you know needs care for children, please have them call our Family First Line, 252-985-4300, ext. 220 to talk about the best options for your needs. Spaces are available in child care, Head Start and public schools where each will follow special health and safety guidelines.

### Access to Healthy Food

One of our Healthy Kids efforts included organizing the USDA's Farmers to Families Food Box program (in partnership with Ripe Revival Market, L&M, Wards Produce, and Greenville Produce) to distribute food boxes of fresh produce to the community. Through this program we distributed thousands of boxes of fresh food to churches, Rocky Mount Housing Authority, summer feeding sites, F.I.T. families (Families Involved Together), and to our six F.E.E.D. child care centers who used the produce on menus and distributed food to staff and parents.

In addition, the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC partnered with DEPC, churches and other community groups to implement Emergency Food Distribution Sites to feed children 0-18 years of age. The Food Bank also provided 22,691 kids meals for our Summer Feeding and Summer Learning Community Sites in our Twin Counties through their "grab and go" program.

**335 people** were reached one or more times per week for food distribution, resulting in **6,540 lbs. of food distributed**, which equals **5,450 meals** served through emergency food distribution through collaboration between DEPC, faith-based partners and Ripe Revival's Food Distribution.

**Another Food Distribution Effort:** Through collaboration with Golden Organics and creative thinking, DEPC distributed over **6,500lbs of fresh food** to **264 children and their families**, as well as **71 child care center staff**.





# By the Numbers

(Many numbers impacted by COVID-19)

**15,128**

Number of Children 0-8

**13,767**

Children benefited from parent education and support programs

**742**

children benefited from DEPC childcare scholarships and NC Pre-K

**996**

entering Kindergarten students participated in K transition activities

**694**

early care professionals participated in childcare quality training

**1,160**

hours of service were given by **417** volunteers

**5,159**

visits were made to Discovery Park

**704,379**

meals were served at Summer Feeding/Learning Sites



**994**

students were impacted by healthy food-related environmental shifts (gardening, virtual garden club, cooking classes) at GW Bulluck and GW Carver Elementary Schools

**2,492**

people visited the Family Resource Center this year



**545**

children participated in Raising a Reader

**3,329**

children are receiving books at home each month through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

**7,074**

books were distributed in 7 medical clinics during well child visits

**45,660**

books were given to children in the Twin Counties this year through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and Reach Out and Read

## Why We Need Your Support

### Literacy

**62%** of children aren't reading on grade level by the end of the third grade

### Poverty

**35%** of children under the age of 5 currently live in poverty

### Health

Too many children and adults are obese or overweight

**30%** of children are obese or overweight

**40%** of adults are obese or overweight

Healthy food options are often not available or affordable

**1 in 5** children face food insecurity

**18%** in Nash County and **24%** in Edgecombe County live in food insecure homes



## School Readiness

Both children and schools need to be ready for success by 3rd grade

Quality early care, literacy, summer learning and school attendance are all important to early school success. The Ready Schools Pathways include: Leaders and Leadership; Transitions; Teacher Supports; Engaging Environments; Effective Curricula; Family, School and Community Partnerships; Respecting Diversity and Assessing Progress.



# Child Care

## An Essential Service

More funding is needed to support child care. The COVID-19 crisis has had a devastating impact on many of the support systems for our youngest children and families, from child care to home visiting to health care, but none more devastating than child care.

Child care is an essential service critical for thousands of children and families, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Families depend on child care to keep working and for their children to have a stable environment. For years, the early education system has been undervalued and teachers are underpaid for the work they do. Did you know that on average, child care teachers, even those with degrees, are paid around \$10 per hour, most often without any benefits? Today, many child care centers are struggling to stay open due to the impact of COVID-19. Funding is urgently needed to support this industry before it collapses so parents with young children can return to work and our economy can recover. More than ever, after school and summer care will be essential to extend learning opportunities for students.

## Why high quality child care matters:

Children's development and learning in the first few years lay the foundation for all of the years that follow. Children who attend high-quality early education programs are better prepared for success in school—academically, socially and emotionally. Children in higher quality programs have more advanced language and math skills, more advanced social skills and more supportive relationships with their teachers. Access to high-quality child care with well-educated, well-compensated teachers helps prepare children to grow, learn and succeed in school and in life.

## What is school readiness?

In North Carolina we have a two-part definition of readiness - readiness of children for school and readiness of schools to support all children who are eligible for kindergarten when they are 5 by August 31. Physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of children are all essential parts of school readiness.

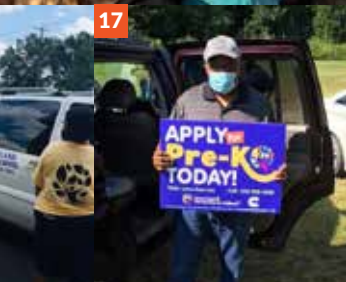
Here are some signs that show a child is ready for success in school. A confident kindergartener: Follows routines; Talks about their feelings; Enjoys looking at books and listening to stories; Can use school tools (scissors, crayons, ball, pencils, glue stick, etc.); "Can do it myself" (can get dressed, wash hands, etc.); Plays well with others.

School readiness means effective teaching and learning for students, inside and out, 365 days a year. School staff and community partners work with families and children to ensure a smooth transition to a school that has engaging, developmentally appropriate environments for young learners, as well as sufficient resources.



# A Year in Pictures -





Our youngest children are the most important resource & asset we have. Their brain development is most sensitive during the first 5 years of life, what kids experience during this time has a HUGE impact on how they show up to school, work, and being a healthy citizen later in life. Childcare and pre-school is woefully and inadequately underfunded. COVID has made these needs more apparent.

- Seth Saeugling, Rural Opportunity Institute (ROI)

## A Sound, Basic Education for All Children

### Recommendations released this year on Leandro v. North Carolina

In 1994, five low-wealth school districts who claimed they did not have enough money to provide an equal education to their students filed a lawsuit against the state. In 1997, the NC Supreme Court ruled that our state's students have a constitutional right to a "sound, basic education."

Henrietta Zalkind, DEPC executive director, served on the Governor's Commission on Access to a Sound Basic Education and chaired the early education workgroup that worked with the court appointed expert WestEd to create a plan for the state to meet the Leandro requirements. Those recommendations and WestEd's report were released and Judge David Lee issued the first of several orders settling this long-running case.



#### Highlights include:

1. Increase the volume and quality of the early childhood education pipeline. This includes strategies to promote increased salaries for early childhood educators, expand salary supplement programs and funding the child care subsidy system to eliminate waiting lists.
2. Scale up the Smart Start program to increase quality, access and support for at-risk children and families. Smart Start's current legislative appropriation is funded at 5% of the calculated need for early childhood in the state and calls for new funds to reach 25% of need.
3. Expand the NC Pre-K program to provide high-quality full day, full year services to all at-risk 4-year-old children.
4. Align and improve early-grade K-12 settings to support successful transitions to K-3 and promote early-grade success. This includes working with families to support transitions, expanding professional development for principals, funding for teacher assistants and specialized personnel in early grades.

#### What does this mean for Nash and Edgecombe counties?

First, it means we have created a model for early education that we can all be proud of. We also can be proud that our work locally has served as a model for others to learn about a system of care and services targeting children ages 0-8.

Second, it means as the court's orders are implemented, the quality of early childhood education will continue to improve, infant and toddler care can be expanded, and salaries for early childhood teachers will improve. We also will continue to work to ensure smooth transitions to school and provide more resources for effective K-3 environments. Please ask your elected officials to fully support implementing the Leandro Plan because children can't wait any longer. For more information about this plan, visit [depc.org](http://depc.org).

## Five Protective Factors to Help Children in a Time of Crisis

There are five protective factors that buffer against adverse childhood experiences that every child experiences, some much more than others. Protective factors serve as buffers; helping parents find resources, support and/or coping strategies that allow them to parent effectively. Research shows that the protective factors are linked to a lower incidence of child abuse, neglect and improved short and long term health and education outcomes. Please help build these protective factors for all kids and families.



Social and Emotional Competence of Children



Social Connections



Concrete Support for Parents



Parental Resilience



Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

1. Summer learning, planting a garden. 2. DEPC Ready Communities' Donia Simmons out in the community. 3. Read to Rise Attendance Awareness Campaign 2019: Cedar Grove Elementary. 4. Reach Out and Read books bring joy to young children! 5. Former Gov. Hunt visited DEPC to greet a delegation from Kansas to learn about our work. 6. Latino Hispanic Outreach Committee meeting. 7. Kaleidoscope playgroups. 8. Early Childhood Community Partners give back. 9. Community leaders Michael Williams, Steve Felton and Evan Covington Chavez address Kansas delegation. 10. They love it! A food tasting in local elementary school. 11. Southern Bank supports DEPC. 12. F.I.T. Families cooking class. 13. The KinderGARDEN at GW Bulluck Elementary provides students with hands-on learning opportunities. 14. Read Across America 2020: DEPC volunteers celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday at Baskerville Elementary School. 15. Summer Learning/Summer Feeding leaders. 16. Working together once again fulfilling the needs of others. 17. NC Pre-K community outreach.

# Our Giving Heroes



## Donors & In-Kind Sponsors

Amazon Smile Foundation  
 Nicholas Bunn Boddie & Lucy Mayo Boddie Foundation  
 Carlisle Funeral Home  
 Carolina Hurricanes  
 Centra Credit Union  
 Donald C. and Laura M. Harrison of The Greater CBC/WRAL Community Fund of Triangle Community Foundation  
 Cincinnati Foundation  
 Cummins Foundation  
 Cummins Rocky Mount Engine Plant  
 Duck Donuts  
 Durham Bulls  
 East Carolina University  
 Edgecombe County  
 Foundation Builders Academy  
 Foundation for the Carolinas  
 Founders Group International

Paul J. Gaskins, DDS P.A.  
 Gold Buyer  
 Harrison Family YMCA  
 John Hackney Agency of Rocky Mount  
 The HoneyBaked Ham Company  
 Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust  
 Marrow Pitt Ace Hardware  
 Miller Orthodontics  
 Nash County  
 Nash UNC Health Care  
 National Christian Foundation Carolinas  
 NC State Employees Combined Campaign  
 NC State University  
 Nichols Automotive Specialist  
 North Carolina Community Foundation  
 Pfizer Annual Giving Campaign  
 PNC Bank  
 PNC Foundation  
 Providence Bank

Publix Super Markets  
 QVC  
 Rocky Mount Mills  
 Rusty's  
 Sheetz  
 Southern Bank Foundation  
 STEP  
 Sun Energy 1, LLC  
 Target  
 Harriet & George Thorpe Foundation  
 United Methodist Health Ministry Fund  
 United Way Tar River Region  
 Upper Room Ministries/South Hill United Methodist Church  
 Versado Foundation  
 Town of Red Oak  
 Wilson Tobs, LLC  
 Wollett Small Engine Repair  
 Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Inc.

## Individual Donors

Viola Barnes-Gray	James Gardner
Barbara Batts	Jama Greene
Carrie Becker	Margaret Harris
Fred Belfield	Daniel Herring
Elke Black	Kim Hickerson
Debra Boudreau	Mike Hudyma
Thomas Braddy	Lisa Ingram
Lou Carson	Kellie Jackson
Melissa Cheston	Clementine Jenkins
Jennifer Cobb	Stacy Sumner Jesso
Adrienne Covington	Charles Johnson
Carol Crocker	Matthew & Katharina Johnson
Thomas Crocker	Sam & Vel Johnson
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J. Wayne Deal	Brad Kerr
Colleen Dew	William H. Kincheloe
Monica & Joel Dood	Shane Lancaster
Charles Dunn	Charles Lane
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Debby Futrell	Debra Lanham

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Linda Leonard	Deborah Shoemaker
Greg Malhoit	Kelly Spivey
Willis Mel Manning	Mary Stephens
Sorell Massenburg	Susan Wallace
Amy Massengale	Alyssa Waymire
Pat Mauldin	Joyce West
Angie Miller	Karen Jones Wiggins
Christine Miller	Tim & Wendy Wilson
Jeanne Moore	Fran Williamson
Debbie Morris	Gary Wingfield
James Newton	Mary Beth Wingfield
Rachelle Pacholski	Barden Winstead Jr.
Lucinda Pardue	Sarah Winters
Donald Perry	Henrietta Zalkind
Sonja Person	Orlando & Ericka Zito



We didn't want to cancel the **FORE Every Child Golf Classic** so we decided to **Play Your Way** during the month of October at Cotton Valley in Tarboro.

**LET US KNOW IF YOU'RE IN AND WE'LL SEND YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED.**

Contact BLambeth@depc.org or MDood@depc.org to confirm your participation.

**PLAY AS A GROUP**

Get your team together and schedule your own round of golf at Cotton Valley at a time that works best for you.

**OR**

**PLAY INDIVIDUALLY**

You can Play It Your Way by playing as individuals on different days. Have your captain turn in one score card for your team that reflects best scores for each hole.

## Twin Counties Read to Rise Wins Pacesetter Award

The Twin Counties Read to Rise coalition was formed in 2016 to support strategies beginning at birth that put children on a pathway to grade-level reading by the end of third grade. The coalition has consistently focused on school readiness, school attendance and summer learning loss to improve early reading skills. Reading on grade level by the end of third grade is the single greatest predictor of future academic and career success. The coalition consists of the following organizations, who have worked diligently to increase early reading proficiency in Nash and Edgecombe Counties:

Boice-Willis Clinic  
 Braswell Memorial Library  
 Cummins Rocky Mount Engine Plant  
 Down East Partnership for Children (facilitator)  
 Edgecombe County Public Library  
 Edgecombe County Schools  
 Family Harrison YMCA  
 F.I.T.

Head Start, N.E.E.D., Inc.  
 Nash County Schools  
 Nashville Baptist Church  
 Peacemakers  
 PNC Community Foundation  
 Teach for America  
 United Way of the Tar River Region





# Board & Financials

## Board of Directors (As of September 2020)

DEPC's Board of Directors and working committees are made up of parents, child care providers, representatives from the school systems and human service agencies, members of the faith community and local business and government. Each member is committed to ensuring the financial and programmatic integrity of the Partnership.

### Officers:

Board Chair: **Debby Futrell**, Area LAHEC

Vice Chair: **Stacy S. Jesso**, Madison Philanthropy Group

Treasurer: **Adrienne Covington**, Nash Community College

Secretary: **Karen Lachapelle**, Edgecombe County Health Department

Community Outreach Committee Chair: **Stacy S. Jesso**

CCR&R Advisory Committee Chair: **Frenchy Davis**, Foundation Builders Academy

Strategic Planning Committee Chair: **Karen Lachapelle**

### Members:

**Betty Battle**, Edgecombe County Department of Social Services

**Fred Belfield, Jr.**, Nash County Commissioner

**Valerie Bridges**, Edgecombe County Public Schools, Designee **Paula Flythe**

**Leigh Daughtridge**, Monarch

**Sherron Deal**, Retired Educator

**Natema Drummond**, Parent

**Steve Ellis**, Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools, Designee **Melissa Dancy-Smith**

**Eric Evans**, Edgecombe County Manager, Designee **William Johnson**

**Amy Pridgen-Hamlett**, Nash County DSS

**Tanya Heath**, Edgecombe Cooperative Extension

**Lew Hunnicutt**, Nash Community College, Designee **Adrienne Covington**

**Linda Knight**, Child Care Center

**Shane Lancaster**, Coastal Credit Union

**Bob League**, Municipal Government

**Sorell Massenburg**, Faith Community Representative

**Trent Mohrbutter**, AVID

**Catherine Roche**, Braswell Memorial Library, Designee **Gloria Sutton**

**Monique Smith**, Parent

**Jodi Sprouse**, Parent (joined Feb. 2019)

**Wendy Wilson**, Carlton Family Foundation

If you are interested in joining a Committee or the Board, please contact Henrietta Zalkind, Executive Director.

Early education professionals are the essential employees that make a difference in the lives of other essential workers out on the front line worrying about those whom they serve. Early education professionals provide a service that reassures the parents who need a place that offer their child the same nurturing and loving service they receive in the privacy of their homes. Early education professionals give the parents one less worry! Happy Children, Equal Happy Parents! "It Is Better To Build Children, Than To Repair Adults."

- Joyce Richardson, Joyland Preschool and Child Care Inc.

## Financials

DEPC's Board of Directors and working committees are made up of parents, child care providers, representatives from the school systems and human service agencies, members of the faith community and local business and government. Each member is committed to ensuring the financial and programmatic integrity of the Partnership.

### Expenditures

#### Programs & Support Services:

Child Care Subsidy	\$3,941,429
Child Care Resource & Referral	\$488,200
Family Support	\$785,420
Ready Schools/Ready Communities	\$100,213
Healthy Kids Collaborative	\$368,916
Research & Evaluation	\$117,410

**Total Program Services** **\$5,801,588**

Management and General \$714,962

**Total Expenditures** **\$6,516,550**

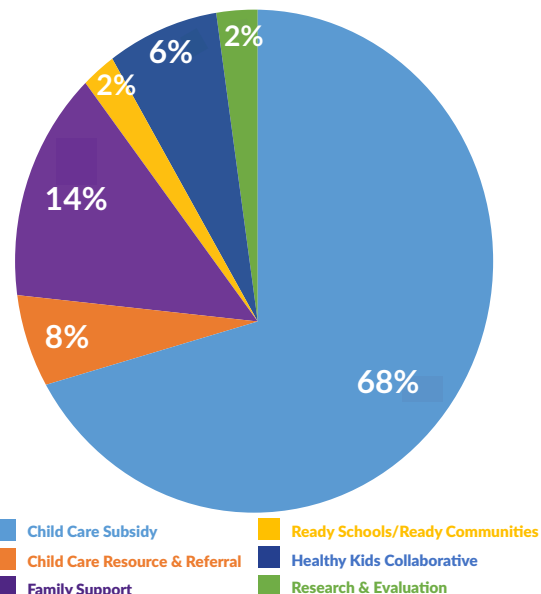
### Assets

**Change in Net Assets** **\$69,121**

**Net Assets, Beginning of Year** **\$460,779**

**Net Assets, End of Year** **\$529,900**

(Unaudited)



# You can make their dreams come true...

## Your donation builds dreams for our children!

Have you ever wondered how you could make a difference in the lives of children in your own community? You can make that difference simply by supporting Down East Partnership for Children. Your donation helps to provide support for the many programs and opportunities necessary in helping to fulfill our mission of "launching every child as a healthy, lifelong learner by the end of the third grade." No matter the amount, when you make the decision to give, you become a part of our mission, and we, along with the children in our community, have two words for you; **Thank You!**

### Ways to Get Involved

#### Annual Giving Campaign Golf Tournaments

- Play Your Way in October
- Fourth Annual Fore Every Child Golf Classic in April 2021

#### Volunteer

Please complete the following and send to Bethany Lambeth's attention.

Please make checks, corporate matches, or other gifts payable to: DEPC, P.O. Box 1245, Rocky Mount, NC 27802

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



#### Giving Campaign

Please accept my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help give children a brighter future.

☐ Make it a monthly donation to be included in the Champions Circle.



#### Volunteer

Please contact me with volunteer opportunities with DEPC.



#### Fourth Annual Fore Every Child Golf Classic

- ☐ \$100 Hole Sponsorship
- ☐ \$300 Team Sponsor (4-person team)
- ☐ Prize donation for raffle  
(Gift certificate, promotional item like hat, t-shirt, etc.)



#### Monthly Gift

Make a Monthly Gift to DEPC. Please contact me with more information.



\*DEPC is qualified as a charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to DEPC are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law\*