

# THE PARTNERSHIP TIMES

Helping make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child

SUMMER 2008



## CELEBRATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN

### 'Barnyard Animals' have good time at parade

**O**n May 13, The Partnership held its annual parade with approximately 800 children, parents, grandparents, child care providers and community members coming out to support the event at South Piedmont Community College's



Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro.

The parade was a giddy-up good time as the children dressed up in their favorite barnyard animal costumes. The parking lot was packed with cows, chickens, ducks, farmers, and an array of other barnyard prowlers.

Participants enjoyed parading around while singing "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" as the spectators cheered them on.

The Partnership hosts the parade each year as a celebration of young children. Normally, the parade is held in April in conjunction with the nationally-

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**BRONZE AWARD + \$1,000**

### Partnership's excellence recognized

**I**n May, The Partnership was honored with a Bronze Award for Excellence for meeting and sustaining high-performance standards in the areas of early care and education, family support and financial accountability.

Chair Ellen Huntley and Executive Director Elaine Scarborough accepted the award from Ashley Thrift, North Carolina Partnership for Children board chairman during the annual National Smart Start Conference held at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

Eighteen partnerships received a bronze certificate of achievement and \$1,000; and three partnerships earned a Silver Award and \$2,000 for meeting and sustaining high performance standards in the areas

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ACHIEVEMENTS WERE RECOGNIZED AT 2007 BANQUET  
JOHNSON TO BE GUEST SPEAKER

## Annual child care appreciation banquet to be held on Aug. 21

**W**ell-known children's author, Kimberly P. Johnson will be the guest speaker at the annual Child Care Appreciation Banquet that will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 21, at South Piedmont Community College's Lockhart-Taylor Center, 514 N. Washington St., Wadesboro.

The banquet will honor about 100 child care center and family home providers and staff members.

The Star Level Achievement Awards will recognize child care facilities that have attained a higher star rating.

Providers and staff members who have returned to school to earn an associate's degree (or higher) will be recognized; as will graduates of the Teacheread program (an 11-week course) and the Child Care Business Basics class (a 30-hour course). In 2007, 15 Teacheread graduates were recognized; 13 will be honored on Aug. 21.

Each participant will receive an autographed children's book by Johnson, a Shelby native who currently resides in York, S.C. Johnson is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill.

She has written two books of poetry — "Paperback Poetry Part 1" and "Paperback Poetry Part 2" and eight children's books, including the adventure series of the "Itty Bitty Frog," the "Itty Bitty Bunny," the "Itty Bitty Spider" and the "Itty Bitty Mouse"; and "Tag-Along Fred," "Not Again, Mr. Cat" and "Teachers Need Tugging, Too."

For more information on the Child Care Appreciation Banquet, call Kris Poplin at 704.694.4036.



**KIMBERLY JOHNSON**

## THE PARTNERSHIP OFFICERS, BOARD

John Witherspoon, Chair/Secretary  
 Janine Rywak, Vice Chair  
 Dana Maness, Treasurer  
 Lula Jackson, Director At Large  
 Andy Lucas, Director At Large  
 Rev. Rob Rollins, Director At Large

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Dr. Don Altieri   | Anna Baucom         |
| Michelle Brock    | Lynn Edwards        |
| Dr. Gregory Firn  | Leigh Hill          |
| Sharon Ingram     | Ginny Johnson       |
| Dr. Francis Kateh | Cynthia Little      |
| Mary Little       | Jenny McGuirt       |
| Dr. John McKay    | Donna McNair        |
| Phoebe Medlin     | Stewart Poisson     |
| Beth Rogers       | Russell Scarborough |
| Dr. Fred Thompson | Nancy Willingham    |
|                   | Allison Willoughby  |

## THE PARTNERSHIP STAFF MEMBERS

Elaine B. Scarborough, Executive Director  
 Kim Wilson, Program Director  
 Kris Poplin, Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Director  
 Bob Thomas, MAC Accounting Manager  
 Ashlie Jones, Financial Administrator  
 Winnie Bennett, Parents as Teachers (PAT) Coordinator  
 Holly Hammonds, More at Four Coordinator  
 Shana Peale, Community Outreach Coordinator  
 Melanie McLarty and Rozetta McCray, Child Care Resource & Referral Technical Assistance Coordinators  
 Bonnie Morgan, Teen Information & Parenting Service (TIPS) Coordinator  
 Caroline Hightower, Early Childhood Resource Center (ECRC) and PAT Assistant  
 Christine Edwards, ECRC Assistant

To register your four-year-old child for the More at Four program, for this school year, call Holly Hammonds at 704.694.4036.



## Huntley ends her term on Board

**E**llen Huntley, who was appointed to the Anson County Partnership for Children Board of Directors in July 2000, ended her eight-year term effective June 30, 2008. She served as the Board's Chair for 2002-03, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2007-08.

"Since coming on The Partnership's Board in July 2000, I have learned about the many activities and programs offered by The Partnership, how they are funded and the vision that drives the work," Huntley said. "I have been honored to serve as the Board's chair for three terms and I have been extremely proud to have been a part of an organization that makes such a difference in the lives of children and families in Anson County."



**ELLEN HUNTLEY**

### IN MEMORIAM: LARRY S. CRANDELL

## He added humor, expertise to Board

**L**arry S. Crandell, who passed away on March 24, 2008, served on The Partnership's Board of Directors since coming to Wadesboro as the Director of the Anson County Department of Social Services in 2000. While on The Partnership's Board, Crandell offered his expertise to further enhance programs and added his special style of humor.

A Georgia native, Crandell worked in social services in Raleigh, Cumberland County and Sampson County before coming to Anson County. He was the Department of Social Services director in Sampson.

He is survived by his wife, Catherine Getzen Crandell; his two sons, Michael Lane Crandell, Fayetteville, and Jason Alan Crandell, Culpepper, Va.; by two stepsons, Steve Cotton, Seattle, Wash., and Jeffrey Cotton, Bothell, Wash.; and sister, Deborah Goldman, Hentryville, Ind.



**LARRY S. CRANDELL**

### FOR FY 2008-2009

## Witherspoon is elected Board chair

**J**ohn Witherspoon, Wadesboro Town Manager since October 2003, will serve as The Partnership's Board Chair for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. He served as interim town manager from May to October in 2003 prior to applying for the position full-time.

Previously, he served as the Guilford County manager from 1968-91; and as the Cabarrus County manager from 1991-96.

"ACPC is an amazing organization with its involvement in all areas of child development," he said. "There is no area more important to this community, and my wife (June) and I are fortunate to play small roles in the work. Challenges face ACPC in the form of funding shortfalls and continuing to foster relationships with service partners, such as the Anson County public school system. But challenge is what ACPC is all about and I have complete confidence that The Partnership will continue to improve services to children and parents."



**JOHN WITHERSPOON**

# Board welcomes Ingram, Scarborough, Willoughby

**T**he Anson County Partnership for Children's Board will have three new faces for FY 2008-09 — Sharon Ingram, who will represent parents receiving Smart Start services; Russell Scarborough, who will represent the Sandhills Center for Mental Health; and Allison Willoughby, family child care home representative, Day of Joy.

Outgoing Board members include Lisa Davis, business representative, RBC; Ellen Huntley, business representative, Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates; Gwen Ramseur, family child care home representative, Back 2 Basics; and Stacey Wease, parent of a child receiving Smart Start services, Clodfelter Law Office.

Officers for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 will be John Witherspoon, Town of Wadesboro manager, chair/secretary; Janine Rywak, Anson County Cooperative Extension Center director, vice chair; and Dana Maness, Anson Bank & Trust vice president, treasurer. Directors-at-large will be Andy Lucas, Anson County manager; the Rev. Rob Rollins, First United Methodist Church pastor; and Lula Jackson, Anson County Department of Social Services interim director.

## MORE AT FOUR

### Holly Hammonds joins ACPC staff

**H**olly Kiser Hammonds is the new More at Four coordinator for the Anson County Partnership for Children.

A 2000 graduate of Forest Hills High School, she earned a degree in psychology at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte and is working toward a master's degree as a school and service agency counselor through the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Hammonds worked as a health educator with the Anson County Health Department for a year-and-a-half before taking a similar position with the Union County Health Department, where she worked two years before coming to The Partnership.

As the More at Four coordinator, Hammonds provides technical assistance to each county More at Four site and is the liaison to



**HOLLY HAMMONDS**  
More at Four Coordinator

the N.C. Governor's Office of School Readiness.

Hammonds also is a nationally-certified child passenger safety technician and will lead the initiative at The Partnership.

She is married to Mark Hammonds.

For more information on registering a child for More at Four, call Hammonds at 704.694.4036.

## 2008-09 MEETING DATES

The Anson County Partnership for Children's Board of Directors will meet on the following dates in Fiscal Year 2008-2009:

- Thursday, Aug. 21
- Thursday, Oct. 23
- Thursday, Jan. 15
- Thursday, March 19
- Thursday, May 21

All meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. in the ACPC Boardroom at 117 S. Greene St., Wadesboro.

## \$5,000 + \$5,000

### Partnership receives 2 grants from United Way

**T**he Partnership has been awarded two grants from the Anson United Way.

ACPC will receive \$5,000 for literacy initiatives — such as Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Motherread and Teacheread; and \$5,000 for parenting programs such as Parents as Teachers (PAT) and Teen Information and Parenting Services (TIPS).

"The amounts are double what we have received in the past," said Elaine Scarborough, The Partnership's Executive Director. "We are very appreciative of the confidence the Anson United Way has in The Partnership to provide these services to families in need."

"Both grants will supplement funding received from Smart Start and other sources that don't completely meet our needs," she said.

Scarborough said the grant monies "are very needed in order to continue to provide parenting and literacy services."

# The Partnership invests in early care action plan

**S**ince Fall 2006, The Partnership has been meeting with and speaking to a diverse group of community leaders. The county cross-section has included leaders from local government, economic development, education, business, the faith community, social services, non-profit groups and child care.

The brainstorming sessions have resulted in a gathering of thoughts and ideas concerning early care needs and assets. A Linking Child Care and Economic Development Committee has been formed and charged with developing an early care and education plan with goals and action steps to increase the investment in young children.

For the past 21 months, the Committee has met to analyze the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) and to identify community assets that will strengthen and stimulate the local economy and create a better community for workers, businesses, children and families.

The Committee also has identified broad goal areas to improve and increase investment in early care; and has considered action steps to move the community forward in a positive direction.

The Partnership's involvement with the Linking Child Care and Economic Development Committee has been an important avenue for sharing the impact of early care and education on the current and future economy of Anson County. The recognition of early care and education in the county's economic development plan will create new possibilities for leveraging resources to invest in this critical component of the community's economic infrastructure.

By working with the 21st Century Community program and community partners — such as the Wadesboro First United Methodist Church — The Partnership has invested in the early care ideals. At First United Methodist Church, the Open Doors Center for Children is providing a classroom for children enrolled in More at Four.

The Linking Child Care and Economic Development Committee has committed to not only completing the early care investment plan but working to gain support and endorsement from the community to make things happen. The return on this



**SUSIE HOLCOMBE WITH CHILDREN**

In her Anson County Four Star Family Child Care Home investment will ensure Anson County parents are more productive employees, businesses are able to retain the highest skilled workers and children are safe, healthy and prepared for school and to compete in the global economy.

*SOURCE: "Building Our Economic Future: Anson County's Early Care Investment Plan"*

## Recommended goals, strategies for Investment in Early Care

The following goals and strategies are recommended to strengthen the early care infrastructure in Anson County:

- Increase the availability and accessibility of high quality child care slots.
- Create opportunities to partner with employers to increase investments in early care and support for working parents.
- Include early care in county workforce, economic and strategic planning efforts.
- Increase public awareness and understanding of the importance of high-quality early care and its impact on the local economy.
- Seek out new funding to strengthen the early care infrastructure and increase access and availability of high quality early care and education.

# BARN BLAST 2009

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30



BARN BLAST PARTICIPANTS TAKE TO THE DANCE FLOOR

READY ... SET ... BARN BLAST!

## Partnership gearing up for third fund and friend raiser at Armory

**I**t's only August, but The Partnership is gearing up for the the Third Annual Barn Blast that will be held from 6-11 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30, 2009, at the National Guard Armory on Anson High School Road.

"The Barn Blast has been a very successful fundraising and friend raising event for The Partnership," said Elaine Scarborough, ACPC's Executive Director.

The Second Annual Barn Blast, held back on Jan. 25, raised over \$25,000 for The Partnership-sponsored projects — including Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

"Support for the 2008 Barn Blast resulted in 833 Anson County children, ages birth to five

years old, receiving a free hardcover book in the mail each month. The Partnership's cost is \$30 per child per year," she said.

Barn Blast proceeds also will benefit other literacy activities in Anson County.

The Barn Blast features dinner, drinks, music and dancing; silent and live auctions; and offers a choice of sponsor opportunities — including Presenting Sponsor.

As the Presenting Sponsor for 2008, Poisson Poisson & Bower received recognition through press releases and advertisements, had time on the Barn Blast agenda during the event, and had signage posted at the Armory.

TOP PROGRAM

## Schools, Partnership enter after-school collaborative effort

**T**he Partnership and the Anson County School System have entered into an after-school collaborative effort to retain the Teen Outreach Program (TOP).

In the N.C. Legislature's 2008-09 budget, non-recurring funding for the program will not become available until November.

TOP will begin as an after-school project in conjunction with the Support Our Students program at Anson Middle School.

"The Partnership will have the funding for employees to provide the TOP curriculum in the SOS program," said Elaine Scarborough, ACPC's Executive Director.

"This funding provides a nationally recognized curriculum, fact-based human sexuality curriculum as a teen pregnancy prevention initiative through the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services," she said.

The previous TOP initiative was able to serve about 35 students with one afternoon for each grade level. Now, about 80 students will be served four afternoons each week, Scarborough said.



**For more information and/or to enroll your child in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program, call Shana Peale at 704.694.4036.**

## Barnyard 'animals' have a good time in 'Week of Young Child Parade'

**Continued from Page 1**

proclaimed "Month of the Young Child"; however, this year's parade was moved due to the U.S. 74 road construction in Wadesboro.

Following the parade, the adults and children enjoyed a performance of "If You Give a Pig a Party" by the Tarradiddle Players from the Charlotte Children's Theater. The book, written by Laura Numeroff, is a favorite among children and tells the story of animal friends enjoying each other's company while planning a party.

All the children were entertained by the energetic performance. After a morning of parading and viewing a play, the children were given goodie bags that included a barn animal-themed book, a bag of animal crackers and a refresh-



ing juice box. As lunch-time arrived, the children boarded their respective buses and some headed to a local park to enjoy a picnic.

The Partnership thanks SPCC for sponsoring the 2008 parade;

and all of the schools, child care facilities and supporters that helped to make the parade such a huge success.

The 2009 event will return to an April date and will be held on South Greene Street.





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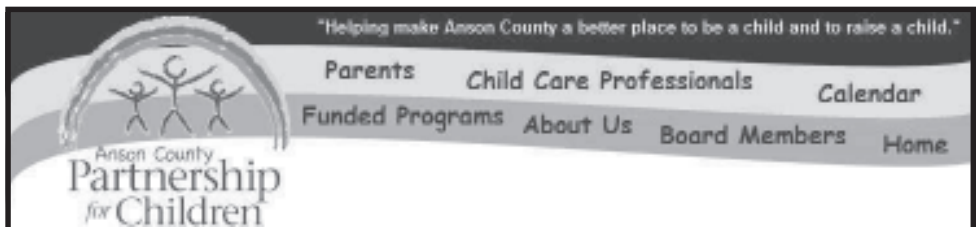
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**Anson County Partnership  
for Children**  
117 South Greene Street  
Wadesboro, N.C., 28170

## Partnership receives award for excellence

**Continued from Page 1** of early care and education, family support and financial accountability for the past five years.

“The Anson County Partnership for Children meets Smart Start’s high standards for program effectiveness and financial accountability,” said Stephanie Fanjul, president of the North Carolina Partnership for Children. “Not only are they effectively serving the needs of children in their communities, they have proven to be exemplary stewards of public and private dollars.”



[WWW.ANSONSMARTSTART.ORG](http://WWW.ANSONSMARTSTART.ORG)

## Partnership relaunches website

**P**arents, as well as professional child care providers, will find programs and information they can use on the newly redesigned Anson County Partnership for Children website.

Information will include the correct way to buckle up your child when driving or how you can get a free book each month from Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library for your pre-school child.

A Calendar of Events will keep you posted on upcoming activities, such as the annual Week of the Young Child Parade and the gala Barn Blast fundraiser.

In addition, the site’s Photo Gallery posts pictures, so you can see the event even if you couldn’t be there.

Check out [www.ansonsmartstart.org](http://www.ansonsmartstart.org) today!