



# Starting Smart

September 2023



## Hello from the Executive Director

Kasserian Ingera? How are the children? "Kasserian Ingera" is a greeting shared between Masai Warriors in Africa who were among the most accomplished, intelligent, and fearsome. This traditional greeting that continues today acknowledges the value that the Masai always place on their children's well-being. Even warriors with no children of their own always answer: "All the children are well," meaning that life is good, peace prevails, and that the priorities of protecting the young are in place. The tribe believes that monitoring the well-being of the children is the best way to determine the future health and prosperity of their whole society. If the children are well – the community is thriving. I'm hoping that this newsletter will help get our community thinking about just that – our children and our future.

You were specifically chosen to receive this newsletter. You have either volunteered, collaborated, served, donated, participated, participated, or attended a special event of ours. Thank you!!

I do hope that you find the read interesting, informative, and inspiring enough .....and that you start asking HOW ARE THE CHILDREN here in Brunswick County?

*Krista Campana*

## About Smart Start

Our mission is to ensure that ALL children in Brunswick County, birth to age five years, are happy, healthy, and ready for school. That is a really BROAD mission that requires us to cast a very WIDE net – making it challenging to comprehend all that we do. We are hoping this newsletter helps!

We do not serve children directly – like a child care center or Head Start. Instead, we provide services for individuals who have a direct impact on a child's life during the first five years - whether that child is enrolled in a child care setting (cared for and educated by professionals) or home (with mom, dad, Aunt, grandmother, or caregiver).

Smart Start is a network of 75 Local Partnerships that cover all 100 counties in North Carolina. All 75 of us receive state dollars that are funneled into our non-profit which is managed by our Board of Directors. As a non-profit, we have some flexibility to develop programming to meet the local, specific needs. But as a recipient of state dollars, we are held to very strict rules and regulations. For example, in order to leverage those state dollars, we are required to match 19% of the funds that we receive each year. We are also only allowed to fund programs that are evidence-based or evidence-informed. I hope you are curious to learn more!



## First Annual Tailgate and BBQ!

Let's Tailgate together! Join us on Saturday, October 7th from 10:00am - 1:00pm for BBQ plates, hot dogs, baked goods, and football/tailgate themed activities for families. Come for the food, stay for the silent auction and fun!

BBQ plates - \$13 (available for purchase online)

Hot Dogs - \$2

Buy Your Plate Today



## ARPA Award

- Smart Start recently received a grant award of \$35,000 through Brunswick County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). These are federal funds, initiated from COVID-19 relief, and are aimed at aiding public health and economic recovery. We are excited to launch 3 special projects with the ARPA funds including money for educator recruitment and commitment bonuses, trainings to implement Parents as Teachers, and Positive Parenting Program classes.



## Partner in Prevention!

The Carousel Child Advocacy Center recently presented Smart Start of Brunswick County with the **Partner in Prevention** plaque. The plaque symbolizes our commitment to the health, safety, and well-being of the children in our communities, along with other organizations. We will continue to do our part to prevent, recognize, and properly report child sexual abuse.



## Kaleidoscope Play and Learn

- Kaleidoscope Play & Learn is now in 4 locations throughout the county! Smart Start of Brunswick County offers Kaleidoscope Play & Learn (KPL) – which are free weekly play groups for young children (birth to age 5 years) and their caregivers. Each group has a trained facilitator who plans and sets up fun, culturally and developmentally appropriate play activities for the children and their caregivers to participate in together. These play groups not only give children opportunities to build their social-emotional skills, caregivers connect



## Get Involved!

Smart Start of Brunswick County is always looking for volunteers to help us at events and other opportunities throughout the community. Currently we are looking for volunteers to help with:

- **Little Free Libraries** - Help deliver books to some of our Little Free Libraries located throughout the county
- **Tailgate and BBQ** - Help us with activities, cooking, prepping, or our silent auction.
- **Kindergarten Packets** - Pack information and goodies for all children enrolled in Pre-K and ready

with other adults and learn about community resources and child development.

to move to Kindergarten

Email Lynn Hebert-Smith with any questions!

[More About Opportunities](#)

[Email Krista](#)

[Email Lynn](#)

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[Send Us A Message](#)

Keep in Touch!



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