



Smart Start  
of Brunswick County  
*Each Child. Every Community.*

# ANNUAL REPORT

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## OUR VISION

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The community works together to create opportunities so all young children in Brunswick County become successful and contributing individuals.

## OUR MISSION

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To ensure that all children in Brunswick County have what they need to be happy, healthy, and ready for Kindergarten.

2023





# OUR IMPACT

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## Strengthening the Early Childhood Workforce

- 157 Early Educators attended Smart Start trainings
  - 100 % reported increase in job skills
- 18 Early Educators received bonuses for taking college coursework
- 57 Early Educators received a salary supplement
  - 95 % stayed employed at the same site

*"In a field that is rewarding in many other ways, yet barely pays a living wage to most educators, this financial incentive helps fill in the gaps. It supports teachers to stay in the field and in a particular place of employment. It takes some of the stress off, helps us better provide for the children in our care, and gives us emotional incentive to keep going." (Brunswick County Early Educator)*

## Connecting Families to Resources

- 89 families received information on child care
  - 90 % learned about new activities for children
- 42 visitors to the Lending Library
- 16 community outreach events

*We have gotten creative with our donated books! We created brightly colored labels for each book that contain our organization name, an attention grabber ("Do you have young children under the age of 5?"), and a QR code for quick access to our website to learn about services.*

## Strengthening Parenting Skills and Building Resilience

- 31 Parents/Caregivers participated in our Positive Parenting Program
  - 100 % reported they gained parenting knowledge as a result
- 116 Parents/Caregivers participated in Kaleidoscope Play & Learn
  - 78 % reported they now give their child opportunities to learn and try new things

*A young father came to Triple P classes. He grew up in a home that used fear (physical) and lots of yelling to discipline. Since participating in Triple P, he shared that he is much more respectful of his 2 young children now and has a better relationship with them. He learned to be a better role model and realized that when he stays calm, so do his children. He shared that he is prepared to go out in public now- a feat he dreaded prior to Triple P. He shared that his family was much happier!*

## Helping with the Transition to Kindergarten

- 223 children participated in a free, state-funded 4-year old program
- 8 child care centers and 17 classrooms met higher standards
- 491 information packets were distributed to families with rising Kindergarteners

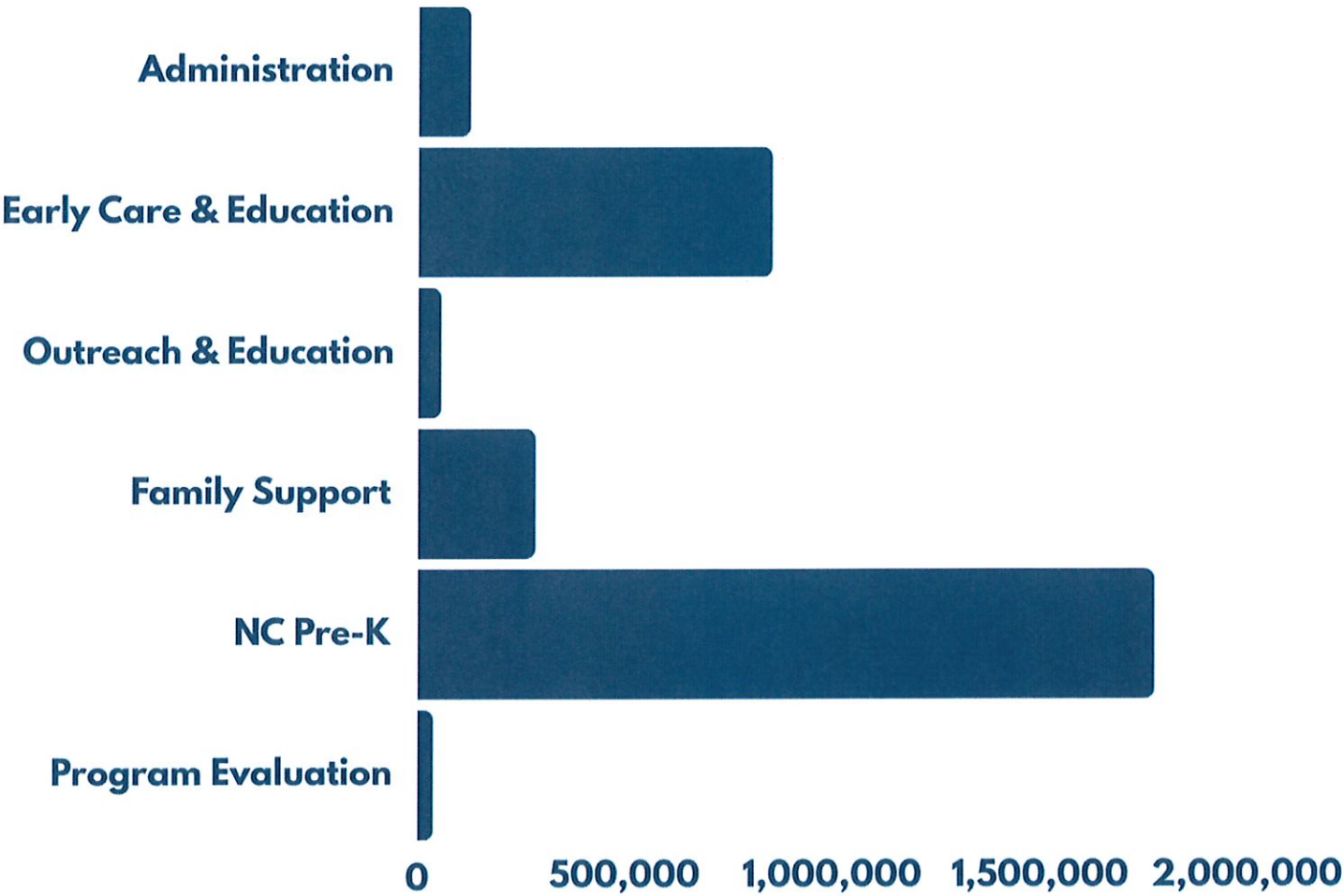
*To get the most authentic and valuable assessment data for our Spanish-speaking children enrolled in NC Pre-K, we recruited a bilingual volunteer who was experienced, willing, and able to help! She traveled to surrounding child care sites to collect valuable data related to the children's development.*

# RESOURCES

SMART START OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY IS A NETWORK OF 75 LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS THAT COVER ALL 100 COUNTIES IN NC. SMART START OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY RECEIVES STATE DOLLARS THAT ARE FUNNELED INTO OUR OWN NON-PROFIT WHERE WE ARE EXPECTED TO MATCH 19% OF OUR BUDGET EACH YEAR.

SMART START ALLOCATION	\$ 1,321,657
NC DCDEE/NC PRE-K	\$ 1,781,539
PROGRAM INCOME EARNED	\$ 6,719
PRIVATE DONATIONS RECEIVED	\$ 18,977
OUTSIDE GRANTS RECEIVED	\$ 1,000

# EXPENDITURES







# STAFF

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Krista Campana, **Executive Director**

Alyssa Racanelli, **Early Childhood Consultant**

Carol Keen, **Family Support Specialist**

Jacob Griffiths, **NC Pre-K Administrator**

Johanna McLamb, **Family Support Specialist**

Jonathan Hartman, **CCR&R Coordinator**

Laura Travis-Ehart, **Program & Evaluation Director**

Lynn Hebert-Smith, **Family Support Supervisor**

Pam Williamson, **Finance Director**

Patricia Ungerer, **Family Support Specialist**

# BOARD

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Resea Willis

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Smart Start services?

visit [www.smartstartbrunswick.org](http://www.smartstartbrunswick.org)