



2025 - 2026

IMPACT REPORT



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Community Partners,

As I reflect on Fiscal Year 2025–2026, I am filled with an incredible sense of pride and gratitude for all that we have accomplished together at the Harnett County Partnership for Children.

This year has been one of growth, collaboration, innovation, and meaningful impact. Every accomplishment highlighted in this Annual Report represents more than a program delivered or a goal achieved – it represents a child given an opportunity, a parent supported, a family connected to resources, and a community working together to create a stronger future for our children.

Our work is grounded in a simple but powerful belief: every child deserves the opportunity to thrive, and every family deserves the support they need to help their children succeed. Throughout FY 2025–2026, our staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, partners, and community members continued to turn that belief into action.

From early childhood education and family support to parent engagement, community partnerships, resource navigation, and advocacy, we have continued to strengthen the network of support surrounding children and families throughout Harnett County. Programs such as Ready to Grow Playgroups and Circle of Parents, along with our broader family support efforts, have helped us meet families where they are and connect them with opportunities, relationships, and resources that can make a lasting difference.

What makes me most proud; however, is not simply what we have accomplished—it is how we accomplished it.

We did it together.

Our community partners opened doors. Our families shared their experiences and trusted us to walk alongside them. Our staff brought compassion, creativity, and determination to their work every day. Our Board provided leadership and vision. Our funders and supporters invested in the belief that strengthening children and families strengthens our entire community.

The stories and accomplishments presented throughout this Annual Report are a reflection of that collective commitment.

There is still much work to do. Children and families continue to face challenges that require us to be thoughtful, responsive, and willing to evolve. As we look toward the future, we will continue to listen to our community, build strong partnerships, seek innovative solutions, and make strategic investments that create meaningful opportunities for children and families.

I am incredibly proud of the Harnett County Partnership for Children and of the difference we are making together. I am equally excited about what lies ahead.

To our families, thank you for allowing us to be part of your journey. To our staff, thank you for bringing your hearts and talents to this work. To our Board, partners, funders, and community supporters, thank you for believing in our mission and standing beside us.

Together, we are building a stronger foundation for children, strengthening families, and creating a brighter future for Harnett County.

With sincere gratitude and pride,



Tara Fish, Executive Director



MISSION

To improve the lives of Harnett County children and families through community based programs focused on health, education, and family support.

VISION

All children have the foundation to succeed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joe Langley, Chair

Lisa McFadden, Secretary

Mary Jane Sauls, Treasurer

Julie McLeod, Immediate Past Chair

Allison Castle, Harnett County Schools

Charlene Edwards, Charlene Edwards Law Office

Claudia Farr, Harnett Literacy Council

Brenda Harnack, At Large Community Member

Shirley McKoy, Foster Parent

Morgan Norris, TRP CPAs, PLLC

Kimberly VanBeck, Harnett County Public Library

Nutan Varma, Central Carolina Community College

Sabrina White, PBS North Carolina

Becky Wise, Harnett County DSS





WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Smart Start is a network of 75 nonprofit partnerships serving all 100 North Carolina counties. Smart Start provides tools and resources to fully engage young children in learning opportunities, so they can grow to be healthy, productive, and well-rounded students, parents, workers, and leaders. Harnett County Partnership for Children is the Smart Start affiliate for Harnett County.



The statewide NC Pre-K program prepares eligible 4-year-olds for school by providing high-quality early education in both public and private settings. The program is community-based, voluntary, and designed to serve 4-year-olds who will benefit most from services. HCPC serves as the contract administrator for Harnett County.



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five, no matter their family's income. The Imagination Library partners with HCPC to help bring the program to Harnett County children.



FAMILY SUPPORT

HCPC offers family-focused programs that improve parenting and promote involvement. Family support programs give parents tools to increase their knowledge of early childhood development and positive parenting practices.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

HCPC supports initiatives to maintain the high-quality early care and education system, support the education needs of the early childhood workforce, and ensure families have access to high-quality care that is child-focused and family-friendly.

CHILD HEALTH

HCPC strives to improve outcomes for children by increasing access to healthcare and by working with medical providers, health department, families, and community partners to improve the health and safety of young children.

LITERACY

HCPC supports programs that encourage families to engage in daily reading habits early for later school success. By combining early initiatives with effective family strengthening programs, an environment that encourages strong parent/child interactions and an early love of reading is created.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Family Support Activities

CIRCLE OF PARENTS

85

Unduplicated parents/caregivers participated in Circle of Parents, impacting 143 children.



READY TO GROW PLAYGROUPS

303

Unduplicated parents/guardians and caregivers benefited from the Kaleidoscope Play & Learn curriculum to learn about their children's development.

469

Children were impacted by participation.

MOTHEREAD

19

Parents served with 30 children.

87.5%

Of parents showed an improvement in read aloud techniques as a result of the program and increased their frequency of reading to their children.



Scan the QR Code to
Learn More About Our
Family Support
Activities

Early Care & Education

STEP

32

Childcare facilities in Harnett County received Technical Assistance (TA) to increase quality of care.

248

TA visits were conducted which impacted 827 children and 125 teachers in these facilities.

52

Unduplicated staff participated in the Lending Library.



Scan the QR Code to
Learn More About Our
STEP Program.



CHILD CARE ASSESSMENT TA / ECERS ASSESSMENT TA

12

Classrooms in 11 facilities yielded 129 TA visits

182

Children impacted

23

Staff supported



ITERS ASSESSMENT TA

2

Classrooms in 2 facilities yielded

20

Children and 3 staff supported.

TRAININGS

361

Providers trained through 33 trainings

COMMUNITY IMPACT

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

890

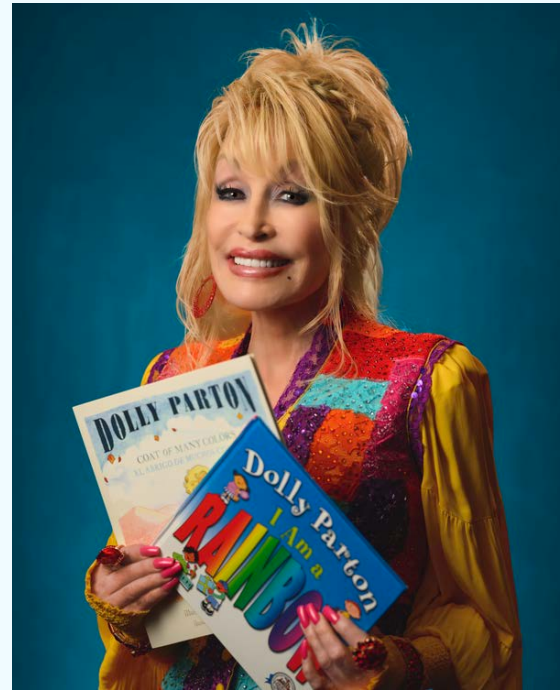
Harnett County enrolled children as of July 1, 2026 in Smart Start system.

3,316

Harnett County enrolled children as of June 30, 2026 in statewide system.

4,206

Total number of Harnett County children receiving books.



REGISTER YOUR CHILD TO
RECEIVE FREE BOOKS!



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



HCPC Outreach Events

- Children’s Art Exhibit
- Teddy Bear Clinic
- Bunny Bop
- Zumbini at the Park
- Super Hero Zumbini
- HCPC Camp Day
- Truck-or-Treat
- Turkeys & Tots
- Little Lights

Community Partnerships

- Angier Fire Department
- Campbell University Health Center
- ECU Dental School
- Erwin Fire Department
- Harnett County Cooperative Extension
- Harnett County Department of Social Services
- Harnett County Health Department
- Harnett County Public Library
- Harnett County Master Gardeners
- Harnett County Schools
- Harnett County Sheriff’s Office

Community Engagement

- Breastfeeding Fair
- Harnett County Community Day
- Harnett County Ag Day
- Readers As Leaders
- Summer Reading Kickoff
- Seed the Need to Read
- Town of Coats Farmers Day

Government & Legislative Engagement

- **Governor’s Task Force:** HCPC’s Executive Director participated in a Governor’s Task Force meeting focused on issues impacting children and families.
- **Legislative Day:** HCPC hosted local legislative leaders for a firsthand look at early childhood services, including a visit to a Ready to Grow Playgroup with Representative Erin Paré and Representative Howard Penny.

Social Media Platforms

- Facebook
- Instagram
- Pinterest
- TikTok
- YouTube

FACEBOOK

5.4K
Facebook followers

503,709
Facebook views

352
Content interactions

35
Reels created

687
New follows

5.5K
Link clicks

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE



Join us for a fun and exciting fundraising event supporting Harnett County children and families and the mission of the Harnett County Partnership for Children.

Teams of four rotate through 13 stations, with each team member shooting 50 clays. Ear protection, firearms, ammunition, and carts are provided for each team. Mulligans are also available for purchase on the day of the event.

With a challenging course, plenty of fun, and opportunities for team building and networking, Raise with Clays is an experience your team won't want to miss!

Prizes are awarded during a delicious catered lunch, providing an opportunity to celebrate the day while connecting with business owners, community leaders, and fellow supporters. Gather a team or register as a sponsor to show your support for Harnett County children and families.

Aim high. Give back. Help build a stronger future for Harnett County's children and families.

BABY STEPS

You can donate new packages of diapers. Check our Amazon wishlist for specific sizes and brands that are currently needed:



IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS:

If you have other baby-related items or supplies, please contact us to see if we can accept and distribute them to families in need. Please call the Harnett County Partnership for Children at 910-893-2344.

MONETARY DONATIONS:

Financial contributions help the Harnett County Partnership for Children purchase essential items, such as diapers in bulk, to efficiently meet the needs of the families we serve. Every dollar counts!





on Facebook
@HarnettCountyPartnershipForChildren



on Instagram @ hcopartnershipforchildren_



on TikTok @ HarnettPartnershipForChildren



on YouTube @harnettcountypartnershipfo9443



910-893-2344



www.harnettsmartstart.org



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