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Contact: Sarah Wolf, Executive Director

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Phone: (336) 982-4588

PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN RECEIVES CLEAN AUDIT REPORT

Jefferson, NC – Ashe County Partnership for Children has a “clean bill” of financial health, according to an independent audit. An audit of 2009-2010 Smart Start and other state-funded activities found the organization was in compliance and had appropriate internal controls. The Partnership administers Smart Start for Ashe County.

The state requires an audit of the Partnership every two years. Auditors look for compliance in three core areas: accuracy of financial statements; how the Partnership processes and authorizes transactions such as grants, accounts payable, payroll and cash receipts; and contract compliance.

“We are very pleased with our results,” said Wanda Parks, board chair for the Partnership. “We have worked hard to use every tax dollar wisely to help our children and our county thrive, and this audit shows we have done just that.”

Smart Start is the state’s early childhood infrastructure. Created in 1993, Smart Start is funded in all 100 North Carolina counties and is administered by 77 local Smart Start partnerships that serve as a system to convene stakeholders to assess local needs; ensure accountability; and leverage community, state and federal resources. Local partnerships have established community networks that bridge education, health services, and family supports to best meet the needs of young children and their families. Federal and private funders have invested millions of dollars in North Carolina’s early childhood system because Smart Start provides the network on the ground that is needed to produce efficient and effective results.

The North Carolina Partnership for the Children (NCPC), Inc. leads the state Smart Start initiative. NCPC places great emphasis on local control, coupled with strict accountability, oversight and measures to ensure financial integrity. NCPC undergoes annual audits and the Smart Start partnerships undergo either annual or biennial financial and compliance audits by an independent auditor.





Ashe County Partnership for Children is a non-profit organization that provides programs and services for families and children in Ashe County. They fund or directly run various programs such as: Smart Start programs to benefit children ages birth through five and their families; domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and awareness services; health and dental services for young children; and parent support groups.

For more information about Ashe County Partnership for Children and their programs, visit www.ashechildren.org, or call (336) 982-4588.

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