



Community. Kids. Connections.
1999-2009

Winter 2010 Newsletter

FAMILY EDUCATION & SUPPORT

Adolescent Parenting Program
Parents as Teachers
Terry Hicks Scholarship

OUTREACH

United Agenda for Children
Volunteer Opportunities

CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL

Behavior Intervention
Child Care Provider Services
Child Care Referral Services
Early Learning Cooperative
Music on the Move!
Once Upon a Time
Smart Start Reward\$

828-698-0674 www.childrenandfamily.org



VISION: Uniting our community to create an ideal place for children.

A Success Story

This letter was written by a young mother in our Adolescent Parenting Program (APP).

I never thought that a trip to Wal-Mart would impact my life as much as it did. I was shopping with my daughter, Alexi, when I met Summer Stipe for the first time. Even though I had never met this woman she was welcoming; she seemed like she cared. She asked me if I was in school, and how old I was, and after talking about the Adolescent Parenting Program, she invited me to come to the next meeting. I was a little hesitant at first. We had just recently moved back to Hendersonville, so I did not have any friends and I was feeling like I was all alone. I did not know any other pregnant teens, teen moms, or anyone who had any experience with what I was going through, so I went to the meeting.



Janae and daughter Alexi



Summer, APP Coordinator, and Janae holding her state award

The APP meeting was great. It was just what I had been hoping for. I met other girls who knew what I was going through, I had people to share my thoughts with, and people to answer my questions. And the one-on-one meetings with Summer were so helpful. She gave me information on how Alexi should be growing and learning, and it was just a good time to relax, and they helped me know I was doing a good job being a mom.

Without the Adolescent Parenting Program I do not know that I would have been able to finish high school. I did not have the money to put Alexi in daycare, but through Summer I learned about daycare subsidy, and she was put at the top of the list just for being a member of APP. I had always been good at school, but after having Alexi, it was so hard to find time to get my homework done, and even harder to focus during the day when I was away from her. I worked hard to graduate with a 4.2 weighted GPA, honors, and I was even an NC Scholar. And at our picnic for graduating APP members, I was awarded a plaque for having the highest GPA among all the APP graduates throughout the state.

What I'm trying to say is that APP made me want to be better. The coordinators and members of APP gave me hope and let me know that I was not alone. Because of the Adolescent Parenting Program I graduated, went to college, and most importantly, I'm raising a healthy, intelligent baby girl. From the time Alexi was born, I had always wanted to be a good mom, but APP gave me the knowledge and support I needed to be a good mom.

Sincerely, Janae Howard

To learn more about the Adolescent Parenting Program, please call Coordinators Summer Stipe or Jessica Hernandez, or email summers@childrenandfamily.org or jessicah@childrenandfamily.org.

... THANK YOU for helping create a cycle of success by investing in children and families! ...

Would you like to know more about issues facing Henderson County children and families?

You are invited to our complimentary Lunch & Learns on:

**Teen Pregnancy:
Children Raising Children**

March 24, 2010 • Noon-1pm

Please call by March 22 to reserve your spot

Early Literacy

April 21, 2010 • Noon-1pm

Please call by April 19 to reserve your spot

Hendersonville, NC 28793
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Nicole and a preschooler

Volunteer Highlight

Nicole Dowdeswell is making a significant contribution in the lives of preschool children. Nicole is assisting Ellen Miles, Child Care Resource & Referral Behavior Interventionist, by working with children, child care staff, and parents to assist with resolving behavioral issues. Nicole is a homemaker who is sharing her Family and Community Services background specializing in Birth to Kindergarten. Nicole's volunteer services allow our Center to expand our much needed Behavior Intervention Services. In today's economy, the "Volunteer/Professional Staff Partnership" tandem of Ellen and Nicole helps ensure that the Children & Family Resource Center is able to serve and to respond to the special needs of children in Henderson County.

Are you interested in volunteering? We have plenty of ways YOU can help. Please call Volunteer Coordinator Bob Kemp or email bobk@childrenandfamily.org

Advocating for our youngest citizens



On April 16, 2010, the United Agenda for Children will present "Our Kids...Our Future," a Town Hall Meeting designed to focus attention and action on the early childhood development needs in Henderson County and our surrounding region. NC Lt. Governor Walter Dalton is planning to deliver a keynote address and there will be other speakers of national stature to address the economic and social implications of meeting the needs of our small children.

Ensuring a strong future for Henderson County and the western North Carolina region will depend on the investments we make today. Research proves that investing in early childhood initiatives is one of the smartest ways to ensure our future prosperity and economic well-being.

The meeting is designed to educate and inform parents, business and community leaders, child care providers and elected officials of the benefits of significant investment in our children and their early development and to motivate them to become actively involved. Citizens will have an opportunity to converse with lawmakers and policy makers

about our priority to [italicize: improve access to pre-school education] for our youngest children (a priority set by Henderson County citizens during Speak Out for Kids, 2007).

This event will translate into impact right here at home as we all learn specific ways we can impact this issue and lead our community in innovative ways to improve the lives of our children.

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.
PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD.**

Event Information

DATE: April 16, 2010

TIME: 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Conference Hall,
Blue Ridge Community College

REGISTRATION: Call Elisha Freeman
or email elishaf@childrenandfamily.org