



Onslow County
Partnership for Children

Together We Build Brighter Futures

a partner in the
smart start network



Annual Report to the Community

Fiscal Year 2016-2017

**~ Children will not remember you for the material things you provided them,
but for the feeling that you cherished them. ~**

Our Mission: The Onslow County Partnership for Children unites all sectors of the community toward the healthy development of children.

Our Vision: Together We Build Brighter Futures.



Our Core Values:

EMPATHY

The capacity to walk in another's shoes is vital to facilitating positive social change.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

We are driven by our passionate commitment to the children and families we serve, and to the greater good of the community; our personal success and fulfillment are measured by how well we help others.

COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

We learn from and listen to others, work as a team, and aspire to set ambitious goals and take bold action. We also strive to act with humility and courage, recognizing our responsibility to the community and its future.

STRENGTH-BASED

We view challenges as opportunities, and dwell in possibility. By focusing on the strengths that are present in any individual or situation, we build upon what IS working, as leverage against what might otherwise seem overwhelming.

DEVELOPMENTAL

At every life stage, learning and development are taking place. We value the trial-and-error nature of human development, and support the inherent messiness of genuine growth.

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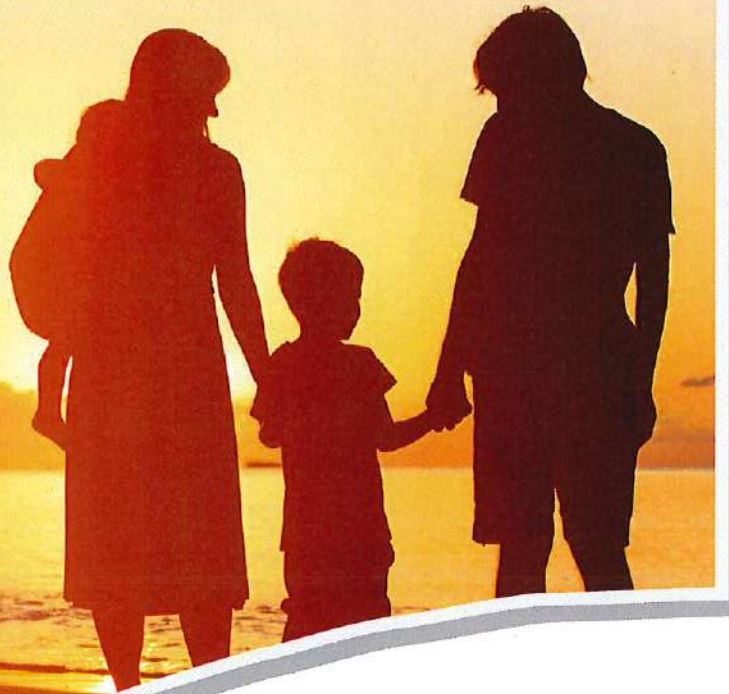
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Building Brighter Futures

Children only have one childhood.

OCPC strengthens families with programs and services that reinforce positive relationships and support social emotional development. We also provide access to community resources and appropriate prevention and intervention strategies.

Our annual report highlights the many ways OCPC is working with families and community partners so that together we can build a brighter future for children in our community.



We serve our community in four key roles:

Human Services Provider: OCPC provides a wide range of direct services to children and families, including home visiting, parent support, military family support, intervention services, and child care access and referral.

Professional Development Hub: OCPC coordinates and hosts a robust menu of mentoring, training and technical assistance programs for the early educators and administrators who serve our County's children in non-school settings. OCPC is a leading agency for workforce development in the early care and education field.

Administrative Services Provider: OCPC provides administrative services to a host of non-profit organizations including program evaluation, fiscal management and accounting. OCPC is an authorized provider for Continuing Education Units related to the child development field in North Carolina.

Community Convener and Thought-Leader: As a convener, OCPC hosts many community events, including the annual State of the Child breakfast, and the Diamonds & Denim gala. OCPC is also engaged in community-wide initiatives such as Safe Kids Onslow. OCPC is on the frontlines of best practice and serves as a translator to the community of new discoveries and developments in the field.

Our Initiatives

When looking for creative solutions to reduce suicide in the community, the Partnership wanted a prevention curriculum for elementary age children to help children help themselves through their sometimes stressful days. The Partnership through collaborative funding with United Way, the City of Jacksonville and private resources brought Mind Up to the community. **MindUP** is based on principles of neuroscience and positive psychology. The program helps students improve resilience, make mindful decisions, and effectively manage their own behavior. By empowering every student with social-emotional literacy skills, they learn to

Since launching the program, Clyde Erwin reported positive student outcomes including:

- ◆ 41% decrease in behavioral referrals
- ◆ 60% decrease in suspensions
- ◆ 86% decrease in clinic referrals
- ◆ 43% decrease in suicide ideations among students



deal more effectively with transitions and challenging situations. There are currently **165** educators and over **1,600** students participating in MindUp at Clyde Erwin, Sand Ridge, and Morton Elementary Schools.

Dolly Parton's **Imagination Library** is an early literacy program for ages birth through a child's 5th birthday to promote literacy and build a home library. A child receives a new

"Golden books do not cost a quarter anymore", said Dawn Rochelle, Executive Director. "We know that access to books in the home is key to a child's lifelong success. What we love about the library this creates for each child in the homes is that it also has lots of tips to help parents to know how to read to children and to make it a fun learning experience."

book each month which is age appropriate. New book titles are introduced monthly so younger sibling(s) will not receive duplicate titles. There was an average of **373** children served per month in fiscal year 2016-17. With additional funding in 2017, the Partnership will grow to serve 10,000 children in 2018!

To learn more, visit <http://www.smartstart.org/dolly-partons-imagination-library/>

Our Initiatives

Children being safe is always on a parent's mind. **Safe Kids Onslow Committee** was founded in 2012 by a multi-disciplinary group of professionals and citizens in Onslow County, all interested in the prevention of unintentional childhood injuries. Our local chapter has promoted advocacy efforts focused on increasing community awareness of injury prevention strategies for children through planned events and initiatives. Last year, **27** child passenger safety seat inspections were conducted for families; in addition to **41** seats distributed. Parents received education surrounding proper installation to ensure families understand the importance of having the "right seat" when transporting children. Through participation in these community events, committee members were able to provide educational information and safety demonstrations to approximately **10,500** community members with the goal of strengthening advocacy efforts aimed at the safety of children. *Safe Kids Onslow Committee* is an active member of Safe Kids North Carolina and Safe Kids Worldwide.

Safe Kids Areas of Focus

- Child Passenger Safety
- Hot Car Safety
- Fire Prevention

The **Shape Onslow Committee's** primary purpose is to bring together key community stakeholders to ensure that our community is aware and participating in community health and wellness initiatives in order for young children to have a healthy start. The Committee formed from **Shape NC**, an initiative of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina and The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. Shape NC is a preventative approach to proactively address the issue of children's health designed to increase the number of children arriving at kindergarten at a healthy weight. This year the Committee extended its work to our community to bring awareness and activities to children and families by partnering with agencies to increase opportunities for active play with our Play Mobile.



The Play Mobile is filled with open ended and unstructured play materials that encourage children and adults to explore play with loose parts. The committee brought The Places to Play map to Onslow County to identify activities in our community. As resources increase we modify the map to bring awareness. Thousands of maps have been distributed.

Early Care & Education

"All of North Carolina's youngest citizens should have the opportunity to succeed at whatever they choose. Having access to high-quality early education can help children develop the skills and strengths they need to excel."

Retired Four-Star General William F. "Buck" Kernan,
U.S. Army, Pinehurst, NC

Our early care and education programs and services provide high quality learning experiences for children as well as resources and knowledge for families to support the healthy growth and development of all children in our community.

843 early educators attended training sessions

Rebecca, of Blending Hearts Family Child Care Facility, shared her story of how participation OCP Training Program has impacted her work with children and families.

Rebecca has been able to improve her classroom environment to ensure it is developmentally appropriate for the children she serves daily. She reported that due to the variety of trainings and coaching that has received; she now has an increased knowledge in supporting children's social emotional development.



1,146 individuals received child care subsidy consultations

Kerrie, recently shared her story of how the Child Care Subsidy Program supported her family so that she could pursue a college education.

Kerrie is the mother of a 4 year old. She realized that her job was not creating any opportunity for advancement without an education so she decided to pursue her Associates Degree. With the assistance of the Child Care Subsidy Program, she was able to go to school and not worry about the cost of quality child care for her child. Kerrie was able to focus on her school work and she will graduate with honors soon. Because of Kerrie's hard work she is positioned to provide for her family.

Military leaders call investments in early child development a matter of national security.

Senior retired military leaders formed a national security organization, [Mission Readiness](#), to call for smart investments in America's children, starting with expanding high-quality early childhood education programs.

Why? 70% of Americans ages 17 to 24 cannot meet the military's eligibility requirements. (Source: [Ready, Willing and Unable to Serve](#), Mission Readiness)

There are three main reasons:

- They didn't graduate from high school.
- They cannot meet the physical requirements.
- They have a criminal record.

Students that do graduate from high school are not necessarily prepared to pass the military's qualification tests. **In North Carolina, almost a quarter of high school graduates who take the Armed Forces eligibility test score too low.**

(Source: [Shut Out of the Military: Today's High School Education Doesn't Mean You're Ready for Today's Army](#), The Education Trust)

Early Care & Education

Preschool Programs



The NC Pre-K Program is a state program designed to provide high-quality educational experiences to enhance school readiness. The NC Pre-K Program believes that to be successful academically, children need to be prepared in all five of the developmental domains that are critical to children's overall well-being and success in reading and math as they enter school: Approaches to play and learning; Emotional and Social Development; Health and Physical Development; Language Development; and Cognitive Development. Children that are 4 by August, 31st are encouraged to apply.

810 children enrolled

56% were active duty military dependents

75 enrolled children had an identified developmental need



Smart Start Onslow Three School

Three School is a locally designed program to provide high-quality educational experiences to enhance school readiness to children who may not be otherwise served. Children that are 3 years old, meet TANF income eligibility, and parents are working or going to school are encouraged to apply.

96 children enrolled

30% were active duty military dependents

96 children received developmental screening and monitoring

85 of 96 children are now enrolled in NC Pre-K

Success Story from the Three School Program:

Henry was a three year old with autism who had never been in a child care classroom before. Through Henry's acceptance to Three School, he not only received high-quality educational services, but was also able to receive Behavioral Therapy from the local school system. This was a service while needed was not previously accessible to Henry through his medical insurance. With all the specialized supports available to Henry in Three School he learned new skills, started having positive social engagement and met many new friends. All because of this wonderful early intervention program!

Family Support

Our Family Support services provide classes and a variety of resources to parents and caregivers living in Onslow County.

Incredible Years

The Incredible Years (IY) Parent Training is focused on strengthening parent-child interactions and attachment, resulting in reduced harsh discipline and fostering parents' abilities to promote children's social, emotional, and language development.

34 parents participated in IY Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and IY BASIC

100% of IY BASIC participants were very satisfied with the services provided and the usefulness of skills learned

100% of IY participants reported an increase in positive parenting practices

Triple P

The Triple P— Positive Parenting Program is an evidence-based parenting program that gives parents strategies to help them build strong and healthy relationships as well as manage their child's behavior.

65 parents participated

95% of parents reported an increase in positive parenting practices after completing program.



Success Story

A husband and wife attended the IY Basic class together. The wife reported that she was working on giving more praise to her son for expected tasks and activities (such as putting shoes away etc.) Mom said she ALSO started to be more intentional about using praise in dealings with her husband as well because she noticed that it worked for both. She said her son was more likely to complete a task that he was previously praised for, as was her husband. The husband also remarked that he was trying to be more intentional about utilizing praise as well because he realized that his wife appreciated it.

"What it's like to be a parent: It's one of the hardest things you'll ever do but in exchange it teaches you the meaning of unconditional love."

— Nicholas Sparks

Family Support

Community Partner Investments

Parent Education Empathy Rapport Support (PEERS) Family Development Center works collaboratively with families and the community for the prevention of child abuse and neglect.



Parent Education Enhancement

All services at PEERS are for the prevention of primary, secondary and tertiary child maltreatment through community collaboration and partnerships.

222 Participants in all parent education programs combined

4 class topics offered around Active Parenting, Darkness to Light, Early Childhood Nurturing, and Circle of Parents

82% of parents demonstrated increased knowledge in the subject matter of the class they participated in

Adolescent Parenting Program

The Adolescent Parenting Program involves a partnership between PEERS Family Development Center, the Onslow County Department of Social Services and the Onslow County Partnership for Children making an effort to initiate early intervention strategies with adolescent parents.

54 pregnant or parenting teens participated in home visits

82% on track to successfully graduate from high school

0 of the 54 participating teens had a repeat pregnancy

Success Story From the Parent Education Enhancement Program:

A young mother of three has taken several classes offered at PEERS including the Nurturing Parenting Program. The mother was diligent in doing what was asked of her by DSS. She has always been a good participant and shows a genuine interest in learning new parenting skills. The parent educator witnessed her with her children, and saw how she applies a lot of the skills she learned. The mother has also seen the importance of using praise and respect with her children. She has two of her children back and should have her third back very soon. She attributes this to hard work, determination, and PEERS. The mother stated that she values PEERS and has come to realize that PEERS provides an important service to parents like her.

Family Support

Child Advocacy Center

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) of Onslow County provides a child-focused approach for responding to allegations of child abuse and is dedicated to providing comprehensive coordinated and compassionate services to victims of child abuse. The CAC is funded by Smart Start, Governor's Crime Commission, United Way and other private funds.

244 Children were seen for evaluations of Child Abuse

64 Victims aged 0-5

107 Victims aged 6-12

73 Victims 13-17

175 Victims were Female

69 Victims were Male

166 Sexual Abuse allegations

59 Physical Abuse allegations

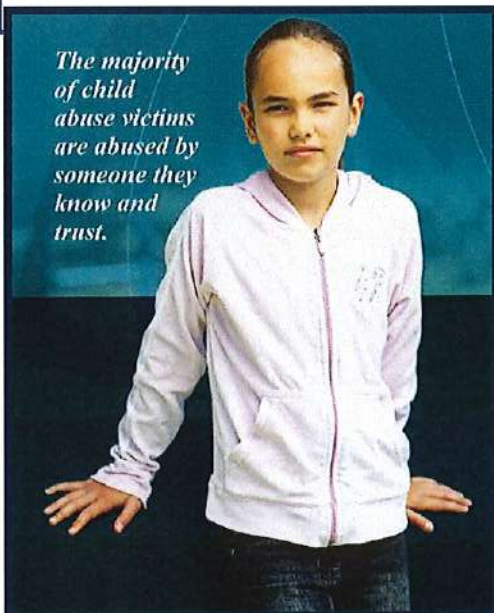
56 Other allegations such as neglect

Success Story

A United Approach

With the collaborative work of the Child Advocacy Center Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), when the Onslow County Department of Social Services and law enforcement found two young sisters in an operational meth lab they immediately were taken to Onslow Memorial Hospital's Emergency Department to be examined. The following day Emily (5) and Avery (2) visited the Child Advocacy Center for a specialized comprehensive head-to-toe physical exam and interview. Thankfully, both children were found to be healthy through the extensive drug and hair follicle testing that was ordered by the CAC's caring pediatrician. The quick response by the CAC MDT assisted in both parents being criminally charged and incarcerated. Emily and Avery were placed with relatives in a safe, loving, nurturing home where healing and restoring hope would continue.

The majority of child abuse victims are abused by someone they know and trust.



Early Head Start

OCPC Early Head Start (EHS) provides comprehensive child and family development services to families of infants and toddlers up to age three, and expectant families. Services are provided in a home based model on a weekly basis. The EHS program facilitates positive parent-child interaction in the areas of school readiness, health, safety, nutrition, social and emotional well-being, and physical growth and development. Family self-sufficiency is enhanced through empowering families to develop and initiate personal and family goal setting.

72 Funded enrollment

129 Cumulative enrollment

99% of children had health insurance

97% of children had an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care

18% of children were diagnosed with a chronic medical condition

Success Story from Early Head Start:

A mother in the Early Head Start program consistently attended training for employment. She has been looking for employment throughout the course of the family's enrollment in our program and is looking forward to more opportunities as she completes her training. Mom is reestablishing herself within the community after removing herself when she lost her mother. Mom states that she wants to better her life to in turn better the lives of her two sons. Mom and Dad are together as Dad works full time so that Mom has been able to stay home with their sons.



Serving Those Who Serve

OCPC considers its service to military families one of our highest priorities. Military children face a distinctive set of challenges such as frequent moves and family transitions associated with deployments. At times caregivers can feel burdened and overwhelmed, especially if extended family is far away.

Onslow County's projected population is

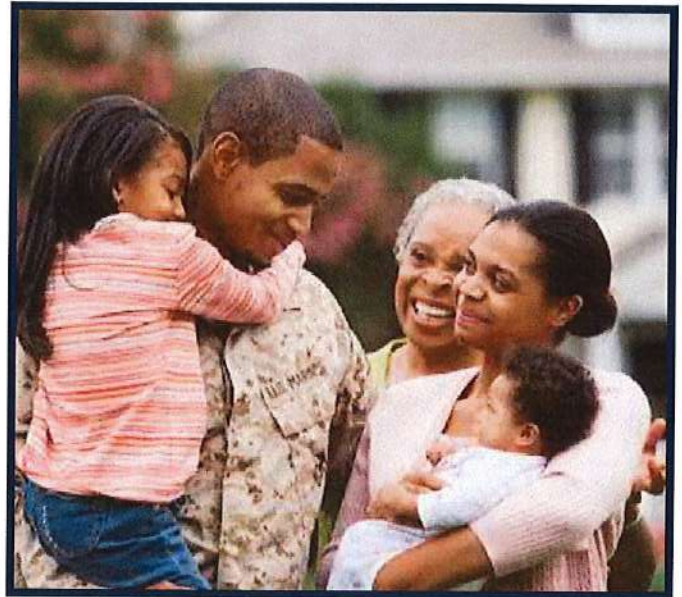
197,433; 75% are military affiliated

44% of the Child Advocacy Center cases were military dependents

54% of children participating in Raising a Reader were military dependents

51% of Onslow County Preschool participants were military dependents

7% of PEERS program participants were affiliated with the military

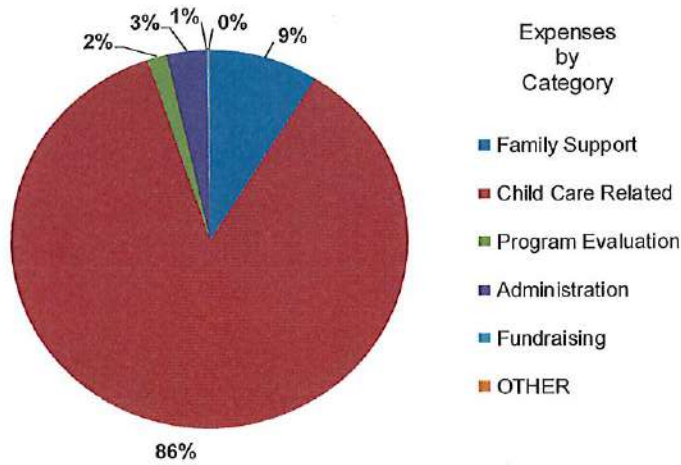


Success Story from a local military family:

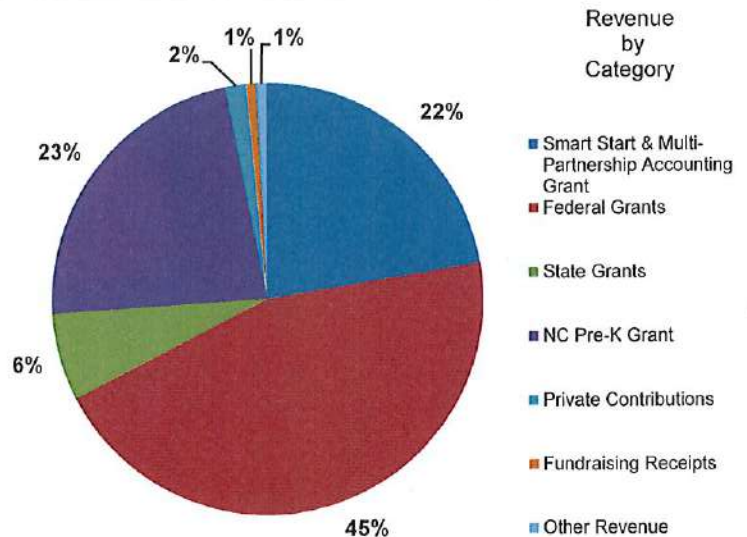
Izzy was recruited at a summer event at the base swimming pool. She was at the end of a deployment, struggling and feeling stressed, most especially with her 2.5 year-old. She reported his frequent anger issues and temper tantrums along with her own lack of patience / frustration when dealing with them. Izzy is reserved by nature, but attended the first session by herself and willingly participated, sharing her challenges and perceived shortcomings with the group. Her husband, Travis, returned from deployment the week of the second session. Izzy brought Travis with her to that session and all subsequent group sessions. Travis, was a bit skeptical at first. Both parents mentioned the struggle they experienced when reacting to their son's behavior and how they handled situations differently, causing their son to play them against each other. By the third session, Travis began to open up about his experiences with his son and the changes he was beginning to notice, especially in response to the praise element of the program. By week six, both parents reported a noticeable drop in their son's misbehavior, especially when paired with the proper execution of a planned activity. By the end of the program, Izzy reported feeling much more patient, positive and confident as a parent and disciplinarian. Travis concurred and stated he felt more patient and less stressed when dealing with any behavior issues. He finally felt that they were parenting their son from the same parenting page. With another deployment looming on the horizon, Izzy feels much more confident that she will be able to effectively parent her son, even in the absence of her husband, and have a much less stressful experience overall.

2016-2017 Financials

Initiatives	Annual Expense
Family Support	\$ 1,682,022
Child Care Related	\$ 16,122,943
Program Evaluation	\$ 291,230
Administration	\$ 604,577
Fundraising	\$ 23,037
OTHER	\$ 22,455
TOTAL	\$ 18,746,263



Resources	Annual Revenue
Smart Start & Multi-Partnership Accounting Grant	\$ 4,258,068
Federal Grants	\$ 8,592,133
State Grants	\$ 1,240,396
NC Pre-K Grant	\$ 4,361,980
Private Contributions	\$ 306,716
Fundraising Receipts	\$ 136,005
Other Revenue	\$ 151,901
Total	\$ 19,047,199



“ The first five years have so much to do with how the next 80 turn out.”

- Bill Gates Sr., Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Because of YOU...

Onslow County Partnership for Children would like to recognize the following businesses and individuals who invest in Onslow County's Children!

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* This list represents donors who contributed \$500 and above during the 16-17 fiscal year. We make every effort to be accurate and thorough. We apologize if we have accidentally missed someone or misspelled a name. We wish we had space to list everyone who contributed. All our donors make a difference in the lives of children.

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Thank you to our community partners!



No USMC or Federal endorsement implied



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www.onslowkids.org

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