

REGION A PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Witness the Miracle...A Nurturing Community...A Loving Family... A Smiling Child
116 Jackson Street ♦ Sylva, NC 28779 ♦ 828.586.0661 www.regionakids.org

December 1, 2016

Dear Champion for Children:



On Behalf of the Region A Partnership for Children, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to you, your family and loved ones during this holiday season! May you experience Peace and Joy in your home and heart throughout the coming year!



At this time of sharing and generosity, we reach out to our friends and partners to ask you to remember the children and families in your communities who depend on your financial support for their continued success in every season.

You can give a special gift at this holiday season by investing in the future of your community and supporting the Smart Start programs that help children develop the skills needed for success and lifelong learning!

Did you know that, according to Duke University, End of Grade Scores for third graders are considerably higher when children enter kindergarten with Early Literacy preparation through high quality Early Education Learning Environments and Pre-Kindergarten enrichment? Smart Start programs such as Raising a Reader and Reach Out and Read ensure that **children in your county** are reading early with their caregivers whether they are at home or in child care. **Through Smart Start Reach Out and Read, children in all seven Region A counties received over 7,000 free books during their well child checkups last year.**



Our Smart Start partners understand that lifelong preparation and school readiness begin with prenatal support and continue throughout early childhood.

Smart Start addresses this reality through a variety of programs such as Parents as Teachers Home Visiting, Family Support Network, Childcare Quality Enhancement and nutrition, health and safety programs.

Smart Start nurtures the full potential of each child for lifelong success!

Your help is critical today because, this year, the need far outweighed available state funding for programs in this region. We started the year with over \$123,000 less than our Smart Start providers required to do the work. Without your help, we won't be able to continue the important work that has made such a difference so far.



Your investment today, especially during this season of giving, will help to sustain our local programs, serving young children, and ensure that they get the best start in the earliest years of development!

Only 2000 Days to Get it Right... There are only 2000 days between a child's birth and when he or she goes to kindergarten! Research shows that a child's quality of life and the contributions he or she will make to society can be directly traced to the first few years of life. High quality early education yields higher graduation rates, higher earnings and reduced crime rates. Well supported families, health initiatives and quality early childhood programs reduce health care costs, improve school readiness, reduce the need for remedial education and increase family self-sufficiency.

Invest in Their Future!

Every dollar that you invest will be used to provide services for children in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain Counties and the Qualla boundary during their First 2000 Days.

Sincerely,

Mary Otto Selzer, Board Chair

Please make this holiday season a very special time for the children and families in your community and take this opportunity to invest in their future! We need your help!

