



...ensuring affordable, accessible, high quality child care for all young children and families.

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Breakthrough Child Care Resource Center Now Open in Durham

DURHAM, N.C. - Thousands of families and child care providers will have increased access to early care and education services with the opening of the Jim and Carolyn Hunt Child Care Resource Center in Durham. By providing children with greater access to quality early care and education, more children will enter school ready to succeed, closing the achievement gap and enabling them to thrive throughout their education and life.

This one-stop, breakthrough facility provides families with easy access to child care information and resources. In this single place, families can learn about North Carolina's child care system, receive free referrals to high-quality early care and education, apply for help paying for child care and enroll their four-year-old in a More at Four program. Child care providers and directors can also receive technical assistance, attend training, and take home tools to improve the quality of care they are providing and increase the number of stars on their child care license.

At the ribbon cutting ceremony, Governor Hunt praised the new facility, saying, "Thank goodness we have this child care resource center that is leading the way with all of your help and involvement. Leading the way and an example of what we can do, and what we can be. We're proud of you, we're grateful to you, and we are counting on you to make this America's model -- right here, right here in Durham, serving this area - - to show what our commitment to children can be, and should be, and must be."

Ned Brooks, Chair, Child Care Services Association (CCSA) Board of Directors; MaryAnn Black, Associate Vice President for Community Relations, Duke University Health System; and Jim Goodman, CEO, Capitol Broadcasting Company also spoke at the event.

Home to CCSA's Child Care Resource and Referral division, Durham's Partnership for Children, and Durham's Alliance for Child Care Access, the Jim and Carolyn Hunt Child Care Resource Center is a model of collaboration, efficiency and unified advocacy for child care issues in North Carolina. Combining the three agencies in one facility allows for a coordinated system of collaboration and prevents clients from "falling through the cracks" between agencies.

The Center is also home to CCSA's Good Beginnings Infant-Toddler Classroom. Equipped with real-time observation cameras, the classroom is a practicum site for prospective and current teachers working on their early childhood degrees at local colleges and universities.

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CCSA's expanded nutrition program will also be located at the Center. Once completed, the new commercial grade kitchen will produce over 1,000,000 meals a year for children in child care facilities in all three Triangle counties.

CCSA has made the commitment to raise \$3.5 million to pay for the Center. To date, about \$1 million has been raised through corporate, foundation and individual donations, and some government grants. CCSA will launch its public fundraising campaign on November 16 to secure the additional \$2 million needed to fund the building, including the \$500,000 needed to launch the new nutrition program.

In the Triangle, there are over 57,000 children living in homes where all parents work, and over 42,000 of these children are in licensed child care facilities. "With so many children in need of child care or already enrolled in child care, it is essential that children receive quality early care and education that will set them up to succeed in school and throughout their lives," Sue Russell, president of Child Care Services Association said.

Located at 1201 S. Briggs Ave., the new center is on the bus line in close proximity to Durham Technical Community College and the Employment Security Commission, increasing accessibility to a variety of related services. Child Care Services Association also provides services in Raleigh and Chapel Hill. For more information and office locations, visit www.childcareservices.org. Photographs of the ribbon cutting event are available upon request.

Founded in 1974, Child Care Services Association's mission is to ensure affordable, accessible, high-quality child care for all children and families. The organization accomplishes its mission through direct services, research and advocacy. CCSA provides a nutrition program for children in child care settings, free referral services to families seeking child care, technical assistance to child care businesses, and educational scholarships and salary supplements to child care professionals through the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® and Child Care WAGE\$® projects. In addition, Sue Russell, president of CCSA, is a nationally respected expert on child care and is a resource for policy makers and community leaders throughout the United States.

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