



Sidewalk Chalk

Monthly e-newsletter

OUR VISION

All children in Randolph County enter school healthy & ready to succeed.

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"I believe we should do all we can collectively or individually to better the future of our children and to help ensure that every child is afforded the best type of learning environment and that they get lots of opportunities for enrichment."

~Debi Lagueruela
Board Member and co-owner of Trinity Furniture

Inspirations

At a news conference on Jan. 17, prominent North Carolina CEOs and business leaders zeroed in on some of the startling statistics our organization thinks about every day, including this:

61%

of North Carolina's fourth graders are not proficient in reading.



This is alarming because grade-level reading ability is a predictor of things like high school graduation rates, youth involvement in the juvenile justice system, adult health and wellness, home ownership rates, and much more.

To improve our children's ability to read at grade level in third grade, do we start in the second grade? First grade? Kindergarten?

If so, we've waited way too long.

80% of brain development happens by age 3.

As the Nobel Laureate Professor of Economics James Heckman has stated, "The foundation for school, career and life success is largely determined through the development of cognitive and character skills beginning in children's earliest years."

More and more CEOs are increasingly acknowledging the role early care and education provides in assuring our state has a **competitive workforce** and a pipeline of **skilled, capable workers**. It hinges upon a **cradle-to-career educational continuum** that shows how high quality care and education in the earliest years of life leads to early elementary school success, which leads to the ability to read at grade-level in third grade, which leads to middle school readiness, which leads to high school graduation, which leads to success in post-secondary educational endeavors and employment.

A major problem, however, is that this pipeline is very leaky. Students are falling behind and falling out at various points along the continuum. Simply put, all too often, if a child isn't prepared at Point A on the pipeline, she isn't likely going to make it to Point B.

Point A is where we must begin, and this means providing **high quality care and education for our youngest children — our infants and toddlers**.

Instead of trying, sometimes in vain, to plug the holes later on in the pipeline, let's instead stop the major gush at the very beginning and ensure that children enter kindergarten poised for success.

In our eyes, success for our youngest children requires three main ingredients:

1. **Healthy Children** — the children themselves are healthy and prepared for life's cognitive and emotional challenges;
2. **Healthy Families** — their families are supported and supportive; and
3. **High Quality Care** — the people providing those earliest years of care and education are professionally capable and competent and fairly compensated.

If you care passionately about getting it right from the start, as we do at the Partnership, you may wish to lend your input as we embark upon a strategic planning process to chart our organization's course for the next three years. We are hosting a kick-off meeting Friday, Feb. 1 at 8:00 a.m. If you'd like to attend, please contact me at 336-629-2128 ext. 10 by Jan 29.

[Lisa Hayworth](#)

Executive Director

Archdale center director honored with Extra Mile Award



Congratulations to **Jamie Guagliano**, director of [First Church of God Day School](#) in Archdale. Jamie was honored at the [Archdale-Trinity Chamber of Commerce](#)'s Annual Membership Awards Dinner on Thursday, January 24 with the **Extra Mile Award**.

The Extra Mile Award recognizes an individual who gives more than expected or required to improve the quality of life in our community in the performance of their regular jobs.

"She is an inspiration to her staff with the implementation of the Reggio Emilia philosophy that provides a progressive framework in early

education that uses the expressive arts and the environment to encourage exploration and social interactions," Executive Director Lisa Hayworth, who presented the award, said. "Jamie is a highly accomplished early educator that does whatever it takes to provide safe, nurturing and educational learning and play experiences and continues to enrich the environment for her children, family and staff."

Jamie, who holds a bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies and also has a background in graphic arts, is in her third year as the director of First Church of God Day School. The school, which maintains a 5-Star rating, serves children and families birth through 12 years old.

Pictured are Lisa Hayworth and Jamie Guagliano.

Partnership awarded Randolph Health Community Foundation grant

On December 21, 2018, Randolph Health Community Foundation awarded Randolph Partnership for Children \$4,000 to transform the outdoor learning environments and play spaces.

The project will be implemented at four child care centers located in three different areas of the county, initially impacting about 250 children, as well as many more in the years to come.

The four centers are Fayetteville Street Baptist and Neighbor's Grove in Asheboro, Grays Chapel in Franklinville, and Liberty Preschool in Liberty.



Initial design work and planning will commence in February and March. Hands-on work at each of the sites will take place in spring and summer so that the new features are in place for the beginning of the 2019-20 school year.

Executive Director Lisa Hayworth explained in the proposal that quality in early care and education includes more than quality classrooms and learning experiences; it also includes quality nutrition and healthy activity. However, while researchers and educators know that playful, physical activities benefit the development of the whole child across social, cognitive, physical, and emotional domains, the actual time children spend playing continues to decrease. Today, children play eight hours less each week than their counterparts did two decades ago (Elkind, 2008). And childhood obesity is on the rise, presenting families with chronic health challenges in unprecedented numbers.

This grant is another step toward the Partnership's quest to transform outdoor learning environments at all early education sites in the county.

Randolph Health Community Foundation Grants Coordinator Linda Schumacher said in the award letter, "Thank you for your work in helping to make Randolph County a healthier community."

Pictured is a sound wall on the playground at First Church of God Day School in Archdale.

Board Profile

Meet **Debi Lagueruela**. She has been serving on the Randolph Partnership for Children's Board of Directors since 2015. She, along with husband Jorge, owns Trinity Furniture, Inc.

"My involvement with the Randolph County Partnership for Children came through the Gala for the Children that Jorge and I attended in 2013 and I found out all of the good things that the Partnership does," Debi said. "It was after that attendance that I was asked to be a part of the enjoyable task of making preparations for the Gala both at The Cetwick and Adaumont Farm. This wonderful fundraiser introduced me to the profound impact this organization has on 'aiding parents and families in the education and development of children in Randolph County' (from the bylaws). I continue to be amazed at all we do through the Partnership."



Originally from Bethesda, Maryland, Debi moved to North Carolina to attend High Point College. After graduation, she decided to stay. She met Jorge while in school. Not only did they marry, but they also teamed up in 1984 with a former neighbor to start Trinity Furniture, Inc. Thirty-five years later, the company, which manufactures niche office, healthcare and higher-education furniture, continues to thrive.

"Two of our three children are involved in the business and our youngest child works for the City of Durham. Megan, Evan and Eric are my proudest accomplishments in life and they are my reason to be involved in the Partnership as high quality early childhood education is instrumental in a child's life as it was in theirs," Debi said.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and Reach Out and Read are particularly important to Debi, because reading was an integral part in their children's upbringing and these programs support that. She understands it's not easy being a parent. Positive outside support is a key element to success.

"Because Trinity Furniture is a community of hard-working, exceptional people who are committed to the good of the community, and since they are equally responsible for the prosperity and success of Trinity Furniture, Jorge and I know that we want to do what we can for each person in our workforce in order to enrich and enable their lives," Debi said. "One of the biggest things that we do for our workers is pay 95% of each employees' individual health insurance costs. So, just like our employees, I hold my work with the Randolph County Partnership for Children as a responsibility to participate towards the common good of our community. I believe we should do all we can collectively or individually to better the future of our children and to help ensure that every child is afforded the best type of learning environment and that they get lots of opportunities for enrichment."

When asked about her favorite childhood memory, Debi explained that it involves her grandmother and grandfather. "They would take me to work with them during my summer vacations to their office in Washington, D.C., where they were a husband and wife team in the practice of optometry. I still have some of the furniture and equipment from that office, which brings back many fond memories."

Debi and Jorge are pictured in the Trinity Furniture, Inc. manufacturing plant, Trinity, NC.

71% AGREE

North Carolina
business leaders
see family-friendly
practices as being
just as good
for employers
as they are for
employees.



Let's get started!

Buildthefoundation.org/FamilyForwardNC

GALA for the CHILDREN

A Night with Eric Carle



AVS Banquet Centre
Saturday, April 6
6:30-10 p.m.

In addition to celebrating young children, families, early education professionals and our community partners and supporters, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and all works by Eric Carle, who continues to spark in the hearts of so many a lifelong love of reading and art.

This year's event will include a delicious meal, plenty of Eric Carle-inspired desserts, an extensive silent auction, lots of networking and a surprise or two. You won't want to miss it!

Thank you to all of our generous sponsors!

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Penciled in

- **Tuesday, Jan. 29:** Silent Auction Committee *noon*
- **Wednesday, Jan. 30:** Farm to Childcare at Precious Memories Preschool *noon*
- **Friday, Feb. 1:** Strategic Planning Task Force *8 a.m.*
- **Wednesday, Feb. 6:** NC Pre-K Collaborative *3:30-5 p.m.*
- **Wednesday, Feb. 6:** Family Homecare Providers training *6:30-8:30 p.m.*
- **Monday, Feb. 11:** Archdale-Trinity Committee *3 p.m.*
- **Wednesday, Feb. 13:** Professional Development Committee *noon*
- **Friday, Feb. 15:** Board of Directors *8:15 a.m.*
- **Wednesday, Feb. 20:** Director's Institute *11:30 a.m.*
- **Thursday, Feb. 21:** RPECC — Drugs: Perception and Prevention. [REGISTER HERE](#) *noon*



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Randolph County!*

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new & gently used books
new infant blankets
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Shop

We're connected with Amazon Smile, so when you shop and select Randolph County Partnership for Children, you're helping to raise money for literacy programs, parent support, early childhood professional development and NC Pre-K right here in Randolph County!



ANNUAL GIVING ~ DONATE TODAY

Randolph Partnership for Children | 349 Sunset Ave., Asheboro, NC 27203 | 336-629-2128

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