



Sidewalk Chalk

Monthly e-newsletter

OUR VISION

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

In this month's issue:

- Inspirations
- Congratulations Eagle Scouts
- Be Counted! 2020 Census
- April Awareness 2020
- Family Fun Activities
- A Salute to Seuss
- Don't forget to scroll all the way down for calendar reminders



"Promise me you'll always remember: You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

—Christopher Robin to Pooh, A.A. Milne

Inspirations

One of my favorite expressions is "Heroes don't always wear capes." The COVID-19 crisis has given me pause to appreciate many sectors of heroes in our community who are on the front lines of this unprecedented public health crisis. At the top of my long list: our child care providers and early educators who are continuing to provide loving, high quality care for our youngest. What a tremendous resource these early educators are for the families they serve, in these Covid-19 times, as well as before, and – eventually – after.

I want every early educator to know how much our Partnership team appreciates them. And I want our community to understand what a vital link to our county's economic engine each and every early educator truly is.

There is no question that our current crisis will bring into clear focus how many aspects of our lives we take for granted. I'm betting that our county's early educators will increasingly gain the respect and admiration they deserve.

Now more than ever, the Partnership stands strong in support of our early educators as well as children birth to 5 and their families. As this crisis unfolds and we adapt the way we do business, our mission to ensure strong families with healthy, well-prepared children by galvanizing our community to advocate for and invest in their future will remain our beacon.



Are you in need of urgent child care?

If you or someone you know is a parent who provides necessary services to, or cares for, members of our communities and your child care has fallen through or is unavailable because of COVID-19 closures, call 1-888-600-1685 to be connected with the right fit for you and your child. At this time, representatives are available to assist you on weekdays between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. EST

For more information, download & share these flyers:

Urgent Child Care (ENGLISH)

Cuidado infantil urgente (ESPAÑOL)

Congratulations to two of Randolph County's newest Eagle Scouts



Chas McCrary, son of Mr. & Mrs. Walker & Shannon McCrary of Asheboro.



Ethan Franklin, son of Mrs. & Mrs. Kevin & Julie Franklin of Ramseur.

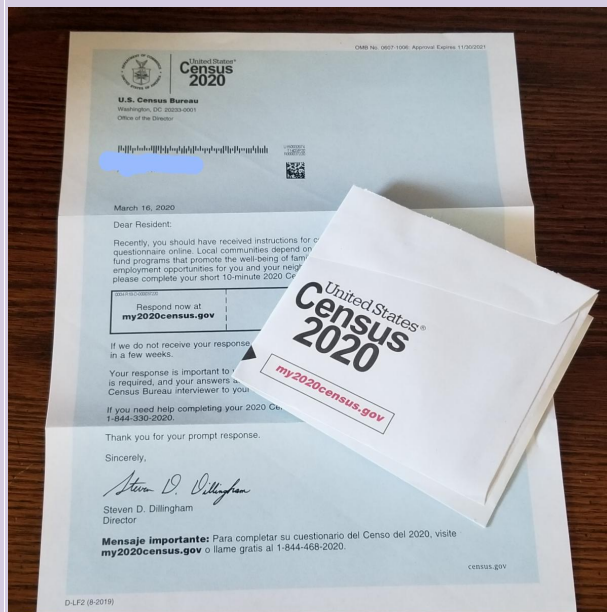
On Sunday, March 9, Chas McCrary earned the distinction of Eagle Scout in a ceremony held at First United Methodist Church in Asheboro. And on Sunday, March 15, Ethan Franklin earned his Eagle Scout honor at Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church, Ramseur.

Chas' project directly benefited the Kids of Hope Child Care Center at 203 English St., Asheboro. Chas raised funds for and built an outdoor dramatic play stage for the center's outdoor learning environment.

Ethan's project transformed the landscaping at the Partnership for Children offices at 349 Sunset Ave., Asheboro. In addition to eradicating poison ivy, the flower beds were spruced up and pine straw was added. It was a beautiful way to not only honor the Partnership's 20 years of service to the community, but to spruce up curb appeal in downtown Asheboro.

Congratulations Chas McCrary and Ethan Franklin, two outstanding young gentleman right here in Randolph County!

Be Counted! 2020 Census



April 1 is Census Day! Everyone should have already received a couple of communications from the US Census Bureau.

Your household's census can be completed (it takes only about 10 minutes) online now. For households that do not complete the online questionnaire, a paper questionnaire will be mailed in mid-April.

The toll-free number for information about completing the 2020 Census is 1-844-330-2020.

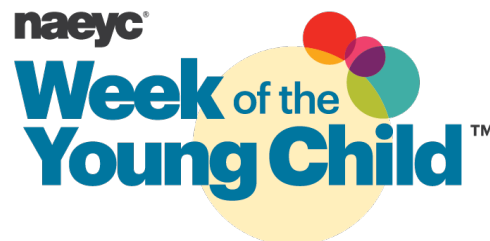
Be sure to complete yours and encourage your family, friends, neighbors, and the families you serve to complete theirs, too! It's important that we all be counted.

April Awareness 2020

Our day-to-day lives have changed dramatically over the past few weeks. And while we won't be planting blue pinwheels just yet or hosting a puppet parade or Play Daze, April is still Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Week of the Young Child is still April 11-17.

For Child Abuse Prevention Month, we can still share pinwheels on social media and boost awareness. We've got pinwheel garden photos from past years that you're welcome to download and use. We can also review and share the [FIVE Protective Factors](#). According to Prevent Child Abuse NC, "The protective factors are conditions in families and communities that, when present, increase the health and well-being of children and families." Use the hashtags #BeAConnection #KidsFirst.

And we can still celebrate children by marking the Week of the Young Child. WOYC is designed to share the importance of high-quality early learning and the critical role early childhood educators play in a child's development and learning. Take a few minutes to [LEARN](#) about WOYC. Then, plan your own WOYC [ACTIVITIES](#) at home. Post your fun and use the hashtag #WOYC2020.



At-Home Activities for Young Children & Families

Let's Make Sensory Bottles!

Sensory bottles are upcycled toys for infants and toddlers that allow them to safely Explore through Movement and Play items that might otherwise be a choking hazard or unsafe. By encasing items inside a bottle, you are expanding the number of different things an infant or toddler can interact with safely.

Sensory bottles help develop fine motor skills as the baby is enticed to grasp. They also promote building healthy brain architecture as the baby interacts using sight, sound, smell, and touch.

Examples of interesting materials you can use to make sensory bottles include:

Water, Seashells, Pom Poms, Glitter, Herbs, Small Toys, Pebbles, Sand, Leaves, Oil, Rice, Dry beans



You can combine oil with food coloring in a bottle filled with warm water to create slow movement. This type of sensory bottle is called a **Calming Sensory Bottle**. Much like a lava lamp, the slow movement has a calming effect on infants and toddlers.

To make one:

- Thoroughly clean and dry a durable bottle.
- Add the materials you want to use.
- If you use water, it should be warm.
- Red, black, and white objects are especially good to use for infants because those are the first colors they see.
- Use a permanent “super” glue to seal the cap.
- If you use glitter glue in warm water, you need to shake the bottle vigorously to ensure the glue dissolves.

Visit the Zoo

The NC Zoo is offering LIVE EVENTS on its Facebook page every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10 a.m.

Local Story Times

Randolph County Public Library is offering FACEBOOK LIVE story time on Tuesday's and Thursdays at 10 a.m. on the RCPL Facebook page. Liberty Public Library will host FACEBOOK LIVE story time on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Go on a Field Trip

Freedom Homeschooling posted a comprehensive list of VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS on their website. Visit places like Buckingham Palace, Mars, The Statue of Liberty, The San Diego Zoo and more ... all online!

Learn through Play

Very Well Family lists 11 LEARNING ACTIVITIES that can be done at home. Their website also lists child development resources by age group.

Do you have a fun at-home activities we can share? Email it to mbare@randolphkids.org or tag Randolph County Partnership for Children on Facebook or Randolph_Kids on Instagram!

For more than a decade, local restaurants have been donating gift certificates to our Gala for the Children silent auctions. And small business have been donating items.

This year, instead of asking them to donate, we're asking our supporters to purchase gift cards and items from local restaurants and local small businesses that can then be donated to our Gala for the Children auction.

Let's make our fundraiser a tool to give back to our friends and neighbors who have been hit the hardest in our communities.



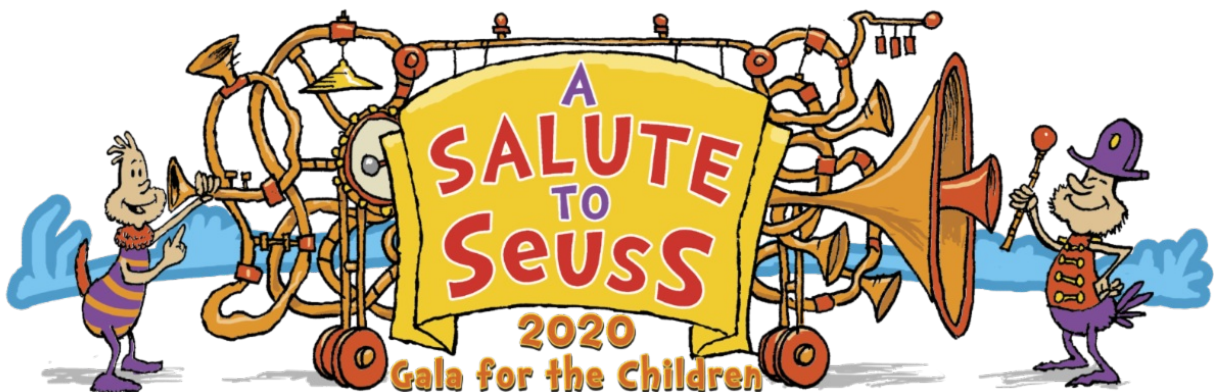
Acme-McCrary &
Sapona Foundation, Inc.

&



NATALYA MENDEZ
DMD, FICOI
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Present



We've changed the date for our 2020 Gala for the Children **A Salute to Seuss**. We are now planning to hold our largest fundraising event of the year on

Saturday, August 29!

We depend on the funds raised to sustain and expand critical programs and initiatives for young children in Randolph County, preparing them to enter kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed in school and life. Our programs support and enhance literacy, health, and early learning for children age birth-5 as well as professional development for early educators.

We look forward to our event also serving as a time of community celebration and strength after such trying and difficult times brought on by this unprecedented pandemic.

We're so very grateful for our growing list of sponsors!

Presenting Sponsors/Top Cats (\$3000)

Acme-McCrary & Sapona Foundation

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Sam I Ams (\$1200)

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Pam Hill, Clerk of Court

[The Courier-Tribune/C-T Media](#)

Hospitable Hortons (\$750)

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[Carolina Pharmacy](#)

Hope Haywood, Randolph County Commissioner

Who's Whos (\$350)

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Dr. & Mrs. Stephen & Kelly Gainey

Want to get involved?

SPONSORSHIP

AUCTION DONATION

Penciled In

- The RPC office is closed to the public until further notice. Staff will still be working primarily from home during this time.
- Essential agency board and committee meetings will be held virtually between now and May 10. Attendees will be notified with participation information.
- RPC staff will not be attending non-essential outside meetings between now and May 10.
- The Puppet Parade and activities planned for Friday April 24 is postponed. We will update the community on the new date when we have one.
- Play Daze planned for April 29 is cancelled.
- The 2020Gala for the Children A Salute to Seuss has been postponed and will now be held on Saturday, August 29.



*Help us put kids first in
Randolph County!*

Donate

new & gently used books
new infant blankets
diapers

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!

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

Visit our website