



Sidewalk Chalk

Monthly e-newsletter

OUR VISION

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

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"We felt like the child care workers were essential workers that were almost being forgotten about...[they] are risking their own health and safety to care for our local children. It was important to recognize them."

—Jenna McKenzie, McKenzie Real Estate

Inspirations

This newsletter comes with my warmest greetings as it is truly a joy to stay connected in these unprecedented times. Each day, I realize more and more that this pandemic will be a defining historical moment of our lifetimes. At this point in the crisis, I sense how our community collectively awaits to see what life will be like on the other side.

At the Partnership, we are doing our best to embrace the transition. I am proud of our team for tangibly demonstrating the same resiliency we hope to see in the children, families, and communities we serve. We have developed alternative ways to continue serving and delivering programs and technical assistance. Now, we begin to think about not merely *re-opening* at some point in the future, but *re-inventing*.

In his work on transition and change, William Bridges wrote about stages of transition as "seedbeds for new beginnings." In our particular transition zone, we are acknowledging the problems we're facing while also envisioning a better world. In collaboration with our core partners statewide, we at the Partnership are *re-imagining* the early care and education sector as the much-valued, adequately resourced profession it deserves to be. Early educators are heroes! With strategy, conviction, and



teamwork, we will work concertedly to propel our heroes to true hero status among all.

Lisa Hayworth

Executive Director

Are you or someone you know in need of urgent child care?

Call **1-888-600-1685 for Emergency Child Care Referrals & Information**

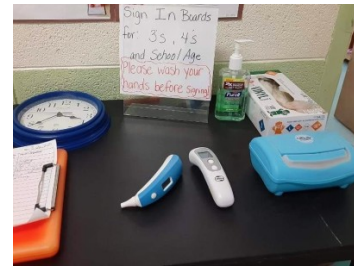
Child Care Heroes

By Andee Edelson, Director of Early Care and Education

How do we define a hero? A hero is someone who puts others before himself or herself. A hero is a person of distinguished courage or ability and admired for his or her brave deeds.

In response to the COVID-19 community challenges and needs, our early childhood professionals immediately knew what they had to do! Without missing a beat, they continue to provide a safe and caring learning environment for children of essential workers. Using new guidelines mandated by the Division of Child Development Early Care and Education, they continue to maintain high quality care.

The above photo depicts the now-required check-in supplies at The Growing Place Child Care Center.



While most child care centers across the United States decided to close, 76% of Randolph County child care programs remain open. Our centers and homes knew they would be critical in offering this essential service for other essential workers.

In the photo to the left, Nina Allard, director of Teddy Bear Child Care Center, takes the temperature of a child at drop-off before the child can be admitted into the center for the day.

We celebrate our early educators, as they prioritize the welfare of children and families even as they continue to grapple with their own health and safety and that of their families.

To all our early childhood professionals: we see you, we hear you, we appreciate you, we value you! You are our heroes!

Partnership staff planted **HEROES WORK HERE signs at child care provider sites throughout the county on Monday, April 27.**

The signs were made possible thanks to the generosity of [Trinity Furniture](#) and [Wilhoit Group/Keller Williams](#).



Shekinah Glory Child Care Center



Teddy Bear Child Care Center



The Kids of Hope Child Care Center



It's a Kid'S World



Trogon's Day Care/Youth Care



First Steps Early Learning Center

Team Building Tuesday Pizza Delivery



McKenzie Real Estate keeps its team members sharp, accountable, and close through what they call Team Building Tuesday. Each week, they focus on one of three themes: Education, Community Service, or Team Building.

"Education keeps us sharp, Community Service keeps us accountable, and Team Building keeps us close," said Jenna McKenzie. "I would consider Team Building Tuesday one of the cornerstones of McKenzie Real Estate."

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, the real estate world has changed right along with everything else. McKenzie Real Estate's downtown Asheboro office, like most businesses, isn't the same.

Work continues, but has become virtual and electronic. Even though they have to practice social distancing, Jenna said they were determined to continue Team Building Tuesday, especially service to the local community.

During the first week, they came up with "Coffee for Caregivers." McKenzie Real Estate partnered with The American Bean coffee truck and set up outside the hospital. Hospital workers were offered free coffee and sweets.

The second week, they took boxes of cookies from Central Bakery and handmade cards to first responders.

Then came week three.

"We felt like the child care workers were essential workers that were almost being forgotten about. Without the child care workers, the nurses, doctors, EMTs, fire fighters, and others couldn't go to work—which means we would all be in danger," explained Jenna. "Child care workers are risking their own health and safety to care for our local children. It was important to recognize them."

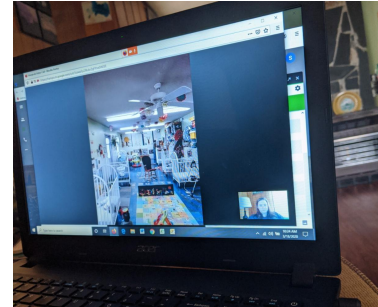
So on Tuesday, April 14, Jenna and the team at McKenzie Real Estate took advantage of Little Caesars' \$5 pizza deal and delivered pizza to 12 area child care centers.

READ MORE to find out how the centers reacted and to see the photos!

Virtual Technical Assistance & Professional Development

The Partnership has a 20+ year history of providing professional development support to local child care providers. And while it may look different, our technical assistance specialists are still providing support to our heroes on the front lines.

Pictured is a virtual TA session between Scarlet Welborn, an infant-toddler TA specialist at the Partnership, and Gloria Dillion and Carol Swaney, teachers at We Care Child Development Center.



In addition to virtual TA, a list of professional development resources are available on the [**TRAINING**](#) page of our website.

Earth Day

The 50th Anniversary of Earth Day was celebrated on Wednesday, April 22. Here's a peek at Earth Day at **Harmony Place** in Asheboro. They were among the many local centers who planned special activities to celebrate our home planet! Special thanks to everyone at Harmony Place for letting us share a few of their photos from [Facebook](#).



NC Pre-K Application Drop-Off Schedule

Partnership staff will be on site at the RPC Offices, 349 Sunset Ave., Asheboro, to receive NC Pre-K applications for four-year olds for the 2020-21 school year following this schedule:



Thursday, May 14: 2-4 PM

Friday, May 15: 10 AM-Noon

Tuesday, May 19: 4-6 PM

Families dropping off applications must stay in their cars. Partnership staff will retrieve materials while maintaining safe social distancing guidelines.

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success of young children in Randolph
County by using **Amazon Smile**?
Without paying anything extra??

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**Randolph County Partnership for
Children Inc**



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You shop. Amazon gives.

Seed Kits for Kids

Patty Sullivan, the Partnership's early childhood health & wellness Specialist, teamed up with Randolph County Cooperative Extension Agent Allison Walker to create seed kits for each child care center classroom in Randolph County that is still in operation.

The kits will include seed packets for cucumbers, tomatoes, and zinnias (or three types of seeds as available), as well as peat pots and soil for planting the vegetable seeds and peat pellets for the zinnias.

In addition, the teachers will be provided with a seed investigation challenge for the children to help identify the seeds provided.

The kits are being put together this week and will be distributed to centers by early May. For more information on this project, contact Patty at psullivan@randolphkids.org.



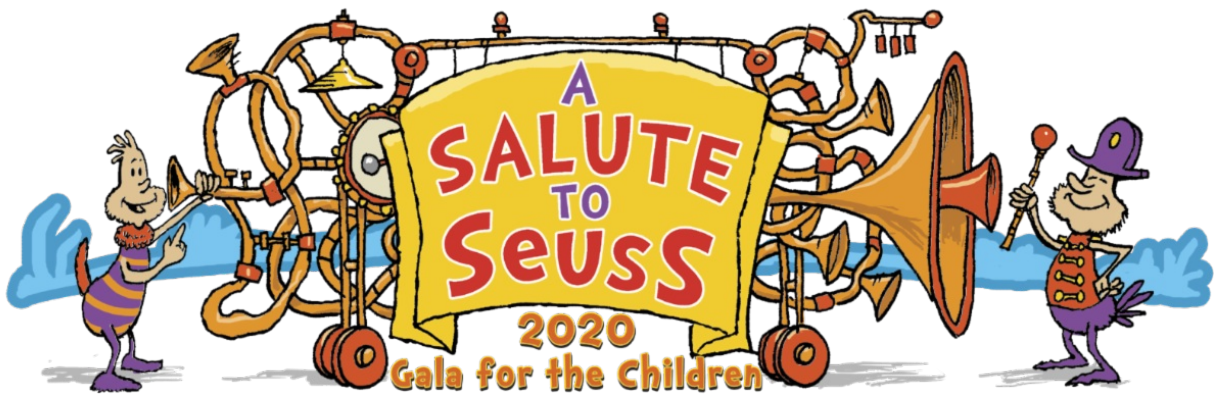
Acme-McCrary &
Sapona Foundation, Inc.

&



NATALYA MENDEZ
DMD, FICOI
BRACES • IMPLANTS • DENTURES

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)

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Representative Pat Hurley

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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. Contact [Lisa Hayworth](#) for an invitation to board meetings.
- RPC staff will not be attending non-essential outside meetings between now and May 10.
- Beyond May 10, RPC will follow the guidance of Randolph County Public Health and the NC Governor's Office.
- The 2020Gala for the Children A Salute to Seuss has been postponed and will now be held on Saturday, August 29.
- For virtual professional development opportunities, visit our [TRAINING](#) page on the RandolphKids.org website.
- A celebration to honor child care professionals who earned degrees during the 2019-2020 year will be held June 25.



*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