

Smart Start director: Children are our first partners

By JANICE P. BARNES
Community News Reporter

Forsyth Early Childhood Partnership (Smart Start) has joined forces with Integon, Work/Family Resource Center Inc., BB&T and A-Quality Printers, among others, to foster a spirit of cooperation between parents with small children and their employers.

"Children are our first partners," stressed Dean Clifford,

FECP executive director, at the Human Resources Symposium held Tuesday at the Sawtooth Building in downtown Winston-Salem. She said children need to know that even if life isn't easy, they can win.

Because the productivity of any employee depends upon how relaxed a parent is at the workplace, the partnership between FECP and downtown businesses offer several helping options.

Integon made a \$15,000 donation to the partnership, which FECP plans to match dollar for dollar. Subsidies for quality child care and child care scholarships will be available to qualifying parents and children.

Parenting seminars on crucial issues, such as Family Relations and Positive Discipline, are being offered by FECP and Great Beginnings. The seminars will be held once

a week at the workplace during lunchtime for 10 weeks. Parenting cards with pointers dealing with topics such as temper tantrums and building children's language skills, among others, will be made available at the workplace.

Referral services, resources on child care and child care providers are offered by Work/Family Resource Center Inc.

Church plans prayer breakfast

Sixty-two percent of preschool children spend time somewhere other than home for at least 10 hours a day, said Donna Lambeth of the Work/Family Resource Center Inc.

The Missionary Society of Hanes Memorial Christian Episcopal Church has invited the public to join them in their Prayer Breakfast at 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, in the dining hall of Hanes Memorial CME Church.

The theme for the breakfast is "Missionaries Feeding the Poor Through Christ Jesus." The guest speaker will be Nan Holbrook Griswold, director of the Winston-Salem Food Bank.

Griswold has been executive director of the Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina in Winston-Salem since 1982, the year it opened its doors to help feed the hungry. Since then, the Food Bank has grown to serve more than 280 agencies and churches in 18 counties of northwestern North Carolina. In 1985 it became a member of

Second Harvest, a national network of food banks.

Under her leadership, the Food Bank has been recognized locally and nationally. In 1989 it received the Joel Weston Award for Excellence in Non-Profit Management from the United Way of Forsyth County. It received the Food Bank Excellence Award in 1990 from Second Harvest. And in 1991, the Sara Lee Foundation awarded the Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina with one of its four leadership Awards.

Griswold is a native of Statesville, N.C. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology from Wake Forest University. She is the wife of George Griswold.

Rosa Burroughs and Willie Mae Carson are co-chairmen of the event. Dorothy Archie is missionary president, and Dr. Lloyd L. Watkins is pastor.

For more information, please contact the church office at 724-7151.

Proposition 209 supporters form group to fight affirmative action

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Civil rights activists angrily criticized Proposition 209 supporter Ward Connerly for choosing Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday to announce a national campaign against race- and gender-based preferences.

Connerly, who is black, was a key sponsor of a successful Nov. 5 ballot measure that would wipe out many affirmative action programs if upheld by the courts.

He said he chose King's birthday for his announcement because his new organization, the American Civil Rights Institute, is dedicated to creating the colorblind society for which King struggled.

"He belongs to all of us, and we will not be intimidated by those who think they can arrogantly appropriate for themselves the right to use Dr. King's quotes or his legacy," Connerly said Wednesday.

The timing of the announcement drew harsh criticism from Proposition 209 opponents who peppered Connerly with angry questions during his news conference.

"Ward Connerly has crossed a line, by spitting on

the grave of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., by announcing that he's going to end the programs that (King) died for," said the Rev. Timothy Malone, a minister at the University of California at Davis.

Proposition 209 prohibits racial and gender preferences in public hiring, contracting and education, thus eliminating many affirmative action pro-

grams. It passed with 54 percent of the vote, after a bitterly fought campaign in which both sides laid claim to King's legacy.

A federal judge has barred enforcement of the measure, pending a legal challenge.

The institute, which will be set up as a tax-exempt foundation, has not yet established a national strategy or assembled

its directors, Connerly said. But states where early efforts may focus include Florida, Oregon, Colorado and Washington.

Connerly has acknowledged that King might not have supported Proposition 209. But he said he believes he might have eventually persuaded the slain civil rights leader to reconsider.

Program to help families in crisis

The Five Point Family Assistant Program is planning a Grand Opening Jan. 31 at 9 a.m. The program is the brainchild of founder Jackie Wilson, and is geared to assist families in crisis situations. It is located in the Salem Garden Resource center and looks to fill a void in emergency family assistance in the community.

Wilson believes the immediate impact of the Family Assistant Program will be in providing food and clothing for needy families, but sees potential for much more. "On down the road we may be able to help in other situations such as getting a GED program started," said Wilson.

The Five Point Family Assistant Program is soliciting donations of food and clothing, including can goods, flour, rice, sugar and detergents. The program is also in need of a used copier and/or freezer, and will accept monetary donations to pay expenses and buy food.

The FPFAP is also planning a fund-raising yard sale and is asking for small appliances, and "what-nots" to help their efforts.

"Hopefully one day we won't need this type of program," said Wilson. "But now the communities need these programs, and we will appreciate your help in any of these areas."

Community News Deadline Monday at 5 p.m.

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