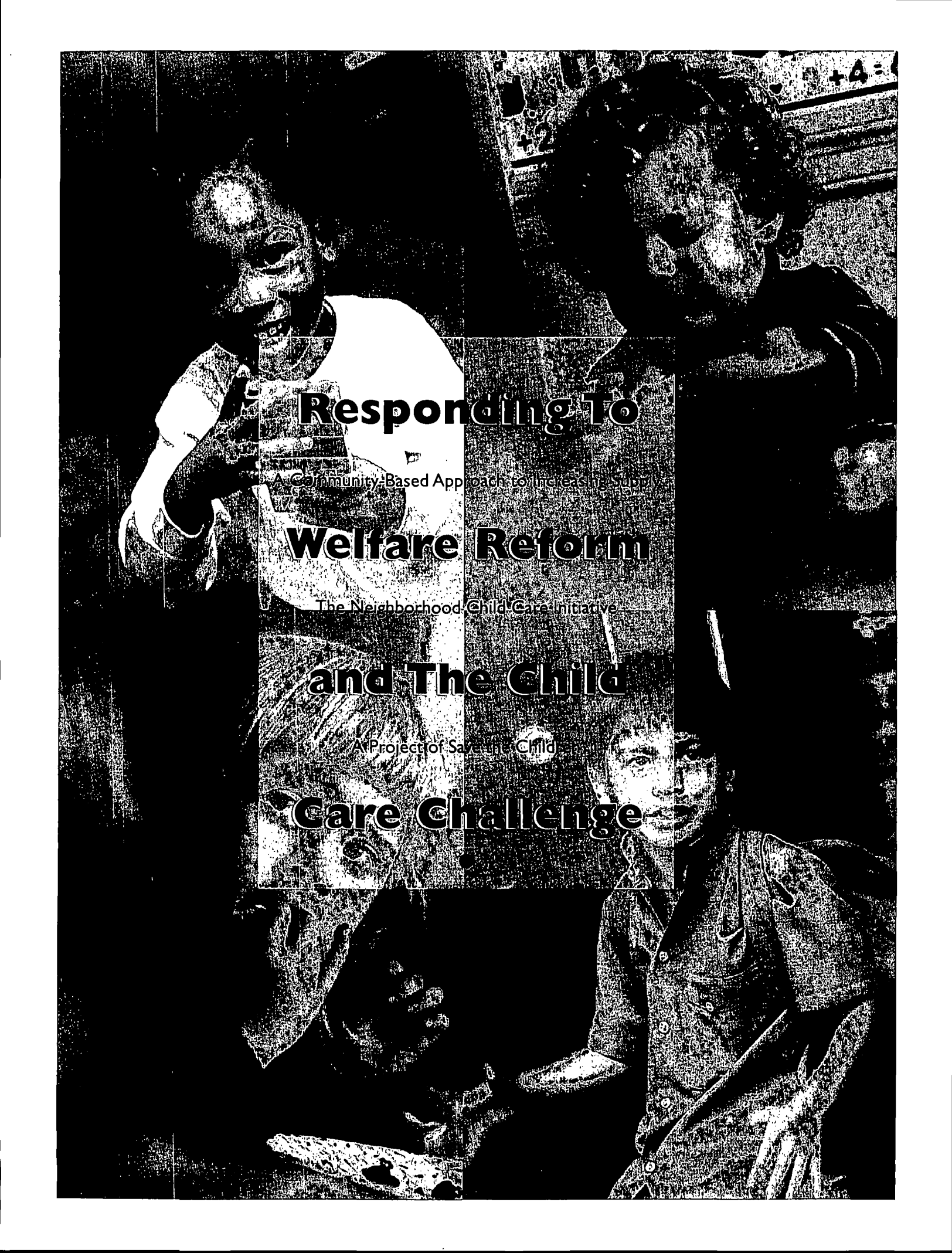




Responding To

A Community-Based Approach to Increasing Supply

Welfare Reform

The Neighborhood Child Care Initiative

and The Child

A Project of Save the Children

Care Challenge

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NEIGHBORHOOD CHILD CARE NETWORK

NCCN

The Neighborhood Child Care Network, a project of Save the Children Child Care Support Center, is a national demonstration project originally funded by the Ford Foundation. The goal of the NCCN is to improve the quality and availability of child care for low income parents in urban communities through intensive diversified strategies at the neighborhood level. Child care is viewed as part of the community and through NCCN, the community has opportunities to influence and support services for children and families.



Edith H. Sage

Family day care is a form of child care preferred by many parents. Supporting family day care providers, who care for up to six children in their homes, helps improve the quality of child care for children and parents in the community, and at the same time can help providers increase their own standard of living. The NCCN provides child development and management training, linkages to child care and other community resources, and professional growth opportunities to family day care providers.

Serving children in the context of their community, the NCCN educates and mobilizes religious, business, political and neighbor-

hood leaders as well as concerned citizens to actively support child care programs and address unmet child care needs.

NCCN continues to implement strategies that have proven successful, such as the recently added parent services. Building on the relationships and sense of community that have developed through this project, the NCCN works to bring together a caring community to meet the needs of children.

A Project of



Save the Children

Child Care Support Center

FAMILY DAY CARE PROVIDER SERVICES

NCCN provides technical support and programs for family day care providers to help improve the quality of child care in each neighborhood:



- completing registration requirements for the Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR) and linking providers with child care resources and training.
- assisting with professional development such as national accreditation and credentialing organizations, and opportunities to serve as workshop leaders.
- helping providers learn to market their businesses, establish policies and develop forms and procedures.
- providing information on health and safety, establishing emergency phone lists, and distributing first aid kits, fire extinguishers and smoke detectors.

- providing child development training on topics including age-appropriate toys, equipment, supplies and ideas for creative activities.

Monthly workshops in each community allow providers to come together for training and social activities. Monthly programs are also planned for children including a variety of fun and enriching activities such as folk singing, arts and crafts, and storytelling.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AROUND CHILD CARE ISSUES

NCCN staff seek out a “hub” church in each neighborhood to serve as a office site, a location for workshop activities and a toy lending library for family day care providers. Important in this effort is identifying a church whose membership supports the goals and activities of NCCN.

The NCCN has organized a child care committee in each neighborhood to address

PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The NCCN has added direct services for parents through three projects: *Parent Services Project*, funded by the A.L. Mailman Foundation; *Parents First*, funded by Primerica Financial Services Local Contributions Program; and *The Grandparent Project* funded by Fulton County Roundtable.



Edith H. Sage

Parent Services Project, a replication of a project first implemented in day care centers, supports low and moderate income parents who use NCCN family day care providers. The NCCN sponsors a variety of activities for parents which provide opportunities for empowerment, social networking, education, personal growth, natural parenting and community building in a comfortable, non-threatening environment.

Parents First provides education, group support activities and services for young parents in the Whitefoord Elementary School district. Recognizing that parents are the first and most important teachers for their children, *Parents First* offers support for parents to help strengthen their capacity to nurture and educate their children. NCCN provides personalized home visits by parent educators, early involvement in Whitefoord Elementary to help ease childrens' transition to kindergarten, a referral network to assist parents with special

services, group meetings, and information about health screenings.

The *Grandparent Project* provides support for family day care providers who began child care businesses by taking care of their grandchildren. NCCN helps these providers create a safe home environment, promotes healthy development of children, provides enriching activities to prepare the children for school, increases family income by accessing community resources and gives support to the grandmother and the teenage mother.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

The NCCN advisory committee in Kings Memorial Neighborhood spearheaded a coalition to start a cultural enrichment after-school program at the Kings Memorial United Methodist Church. The coalition included representatives from public schools, Boys Club, Economic Opportunity Atlanta and representatives from area churches. The children, ages six through nine attend Whitefoord Elementary school where 97% of students receive free or reduced lunches.

The program has operated for two years with limited funding from the Atlanta Board of Education. The NCCN helped to write a proposal for Whitefoord Elementary to obtain Child Care Block Grant funding to administer the after school enrichment program. The program now provides free after school care for 40 children at the school.

EMERGENCY CHILD CARE

The Emergency Child Care Project, funded by Fulton County provides child care for families in crisis. Many family day care providers in the NCCN are trained to provide emergency 24 hour child care from one to three weeks. Over the four year life of NCCN, these providers have been the mainstay of this project.

OTHER PROJECTS OF SAVE THE CHILDREN CHILD CARE SUPPORT CENTER

Save the Children Child Care Support Center has a special mission to improve the lives of children in child care. Our mission includes working to improve the quality, availability and affordability of child care services in metropolitan Atlanta, in Georgia, and in other areas of the country. We operate several child care support programs:

Child Care Solutions
Child and Adult Care Food Program
Purchase of Care
Family Day Care Nutrition Education Project
Church Child Care Project
Refugee Project



Save the Children

Child Care Support Center
1447 Peachtree Stree, NE
Suite 700
Atlanta, GA 30309
(404)885-1578

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College of Education
Annual Report 1996

...a *Dream*
and a *Way*

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NAEYC ACCREDITATION AS A STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING CHILD CARE QUALITY



AN ASSESSMENT

Executive Summary

NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD WORK FORCE

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Caring for

Infants & Toddlers in Groups



Developmentally Appropriate Practice



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National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families

May 22, 1997

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Special Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff

Office of the First Lady

The White House

2nd Floor, West Wing

Washington, D.C.

Dear Nicole:

I hope this letter finds you well. I was delighted to speak with you yesterday and would like to thank you and congratulate you once again on a job well done with regard to the April 17 Early Childhood Conference. We were all very impressed with the quality of the conference and the media exposure it received.

We look forward to working closely with you to help create a group that will advise The White House regarding an Early Care and Education Conference for the fall. I have given thought to people who you may want to invite to participate in the planning process, and will get back to you next week with my suggestions.

As promised, I have enclosed a copy of, *Caring for Infants and Toddlers in Groups: Developmentally Appropriate Practice*. This publication is the book for people in the child care world who want to provide developmentally appropriate programs for infants and toddlers.

I appreciate your work in trying to secure us a copy of the list of attendees (with their addresses) from the White House Conference so we will be able to send them copies of our parent poll. I am also looking forward to seeing the picture that you arranged with the First Lady.

Thank you again for your good work and interest in our efforts. I look forward to speaking with you next week.

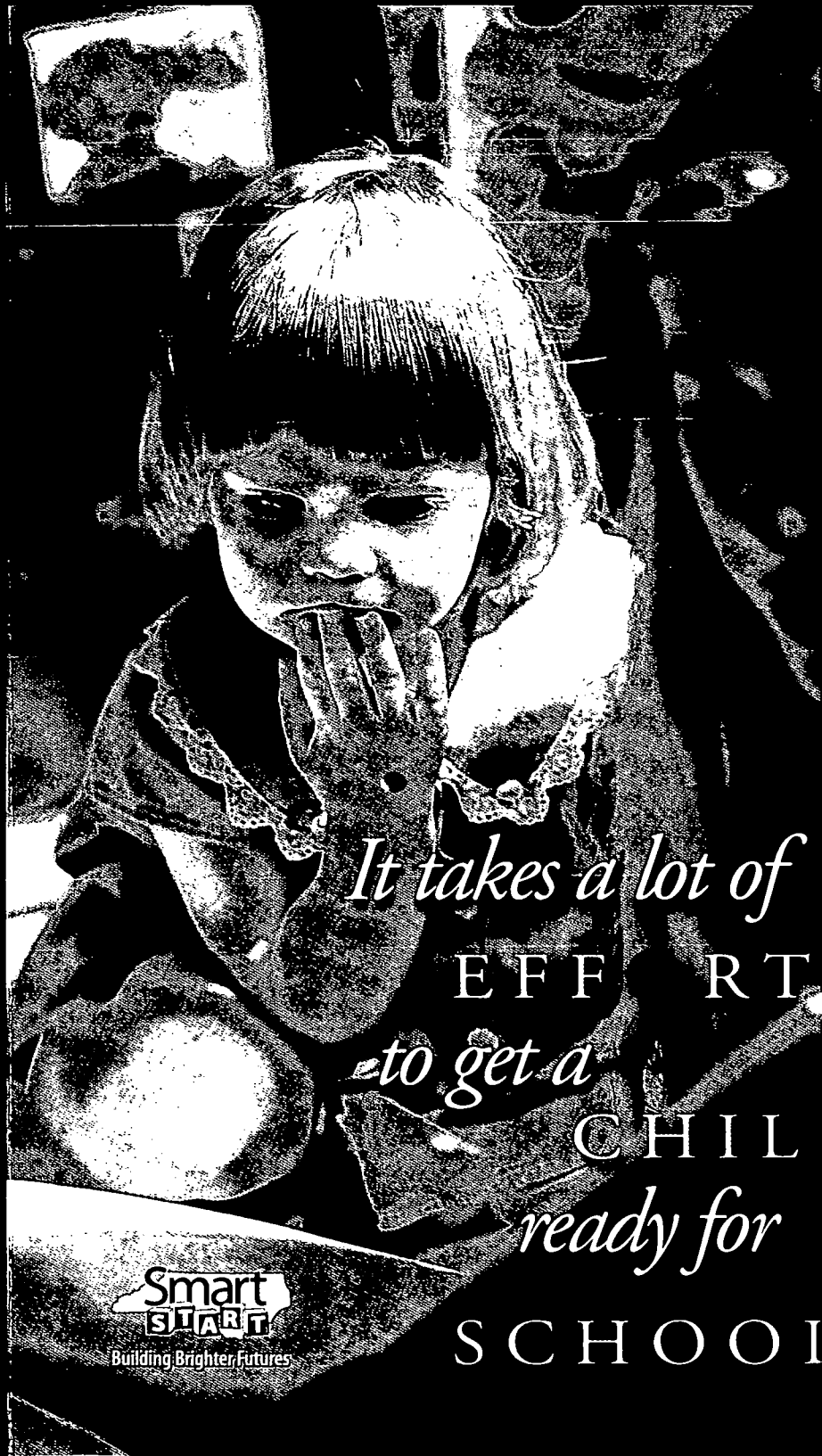
Sincerely,

Matthew E. Melmed

Executive Director

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visit

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**Smart
START**
Building Brighter Futures

In today's world, children need to be as prepared as possible to enter school.

Smart Start is a comprehensive public-private initiative to help all North Carolina children enter school healthy and ready to succeed and, ultimately, to provide our state a stronger work force.

This initiative, launched in 1993 by Gov. Jim Hunt, is unique to North Carolina and unique in the way it works. It's the only program of its kind and has been highly acclaimed by early childhood development professionals across the country.

WITH SMART START

- ◆ working families have access to better child care
- ◆ poor families are getting more affordable child care, which can allow them to work
- ◆ children are getting preventive health care
- ◆ transportation is provided to child care in remote areas
- ◆ parents are getting education to support strong families
- ◆ families are getting better access to information.

formed by age five. Smart Start is already making a difference in the lives of thousands of North Carolina children during these most critical years of development.

They should be healthy, alert and motivated, because children who start off on the right foot have a better chance of leading productive lives. Not every child, however, has that chance. And that's where Smart Start comes in.

It involves both state and private funding and is administered by local agencies and organizations — by people who best know what children and families in their communities need. These local partnerships bring together parents, educators, child care providers, nonprofits, churches, and business people to help build brighter futures for children and families in North Carolina.

Studies show that much of a child's intellect, personality, and social skills are



ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOGNITION

◆ In just three years, more than 154,000 children have received higher quality early education and care statewide. More than 34,000 children have received child care subsidies so their parents can work. More than 72,000 children have gotten early intervention and preventive health screenings.

◆ North Carolina has the highest percentage of working mothers in the nation — 67 percent — and our families and children deserve the best care we can provide. In just three years, Smart Start has increased the number of top quality child care centers by nearly 60 percent in the 32 Smart Start counties.

◆ A Performance Audit, conducted by the big six accounting firm, Coopers & Lybrand, at the request of the North Carolina General Assembly, calls Smart Start "a credible program that delivers substantial good to children and families in the state of North Carolina."

◆ A study from Columbia University cited North Carolina as one of only eight states in the nation with a comprehensive, focused plan to promote the well-being of young children — because of Smart Start.

◆ *Working Mother* magazine recognized North Carolina as working harder than any other state in the nation to improve the quality of child care and expand services to children and families. In 1995, the magazine called North Carolina the "Most Exciting State" because of Smart Start.

◆ Some of the top corporations in the state have given their largest donations to date to



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◆ Business, church and community leaders are volunteering thousands of hours on behalf of Smart Start, helping children and families in their communities. Organizations like the Jaycees have endorsed Smart Start, and Blue Cross and Blue Shield and The Caring Program have partnered to provide insurance to children identified through Smart Start.

The North Carolina Partnership, the statewide nonprofit organization that provides oversight of Smart Start partnerships, is committed to ensuring the success and accountability of Smart Start programs and funds.

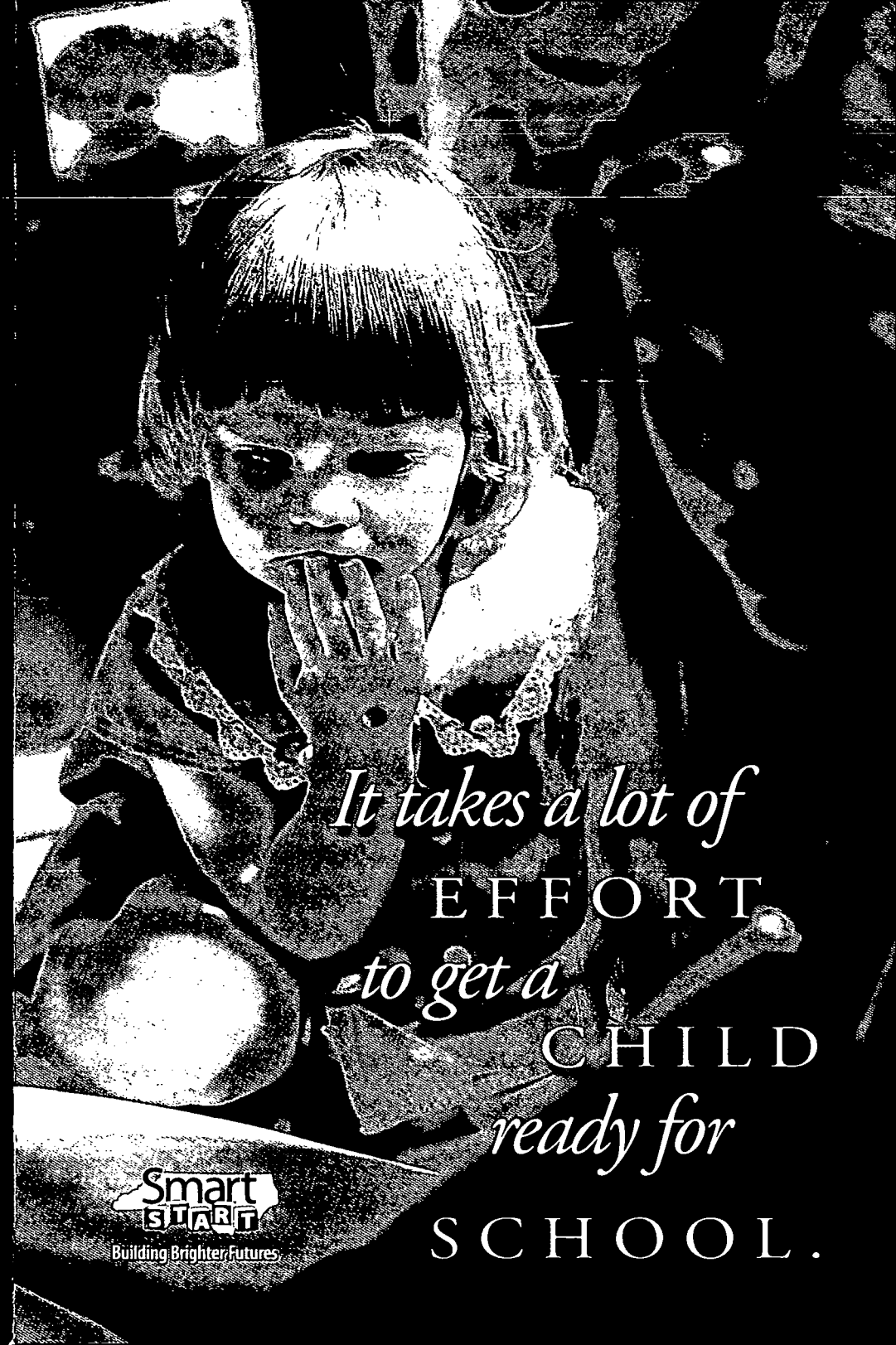
Working together, we can build a brighter future for our children and for the state of North Carolina.

For more information about Smart Start,
contact the North Carolina Partnership
for Children at (919) 821-7999 or visit
<http://www.smartstart-nc.org>

N.C. Partnership for Children
1323 Capital Blvd., Suite 102
Raleigh, NC 27603



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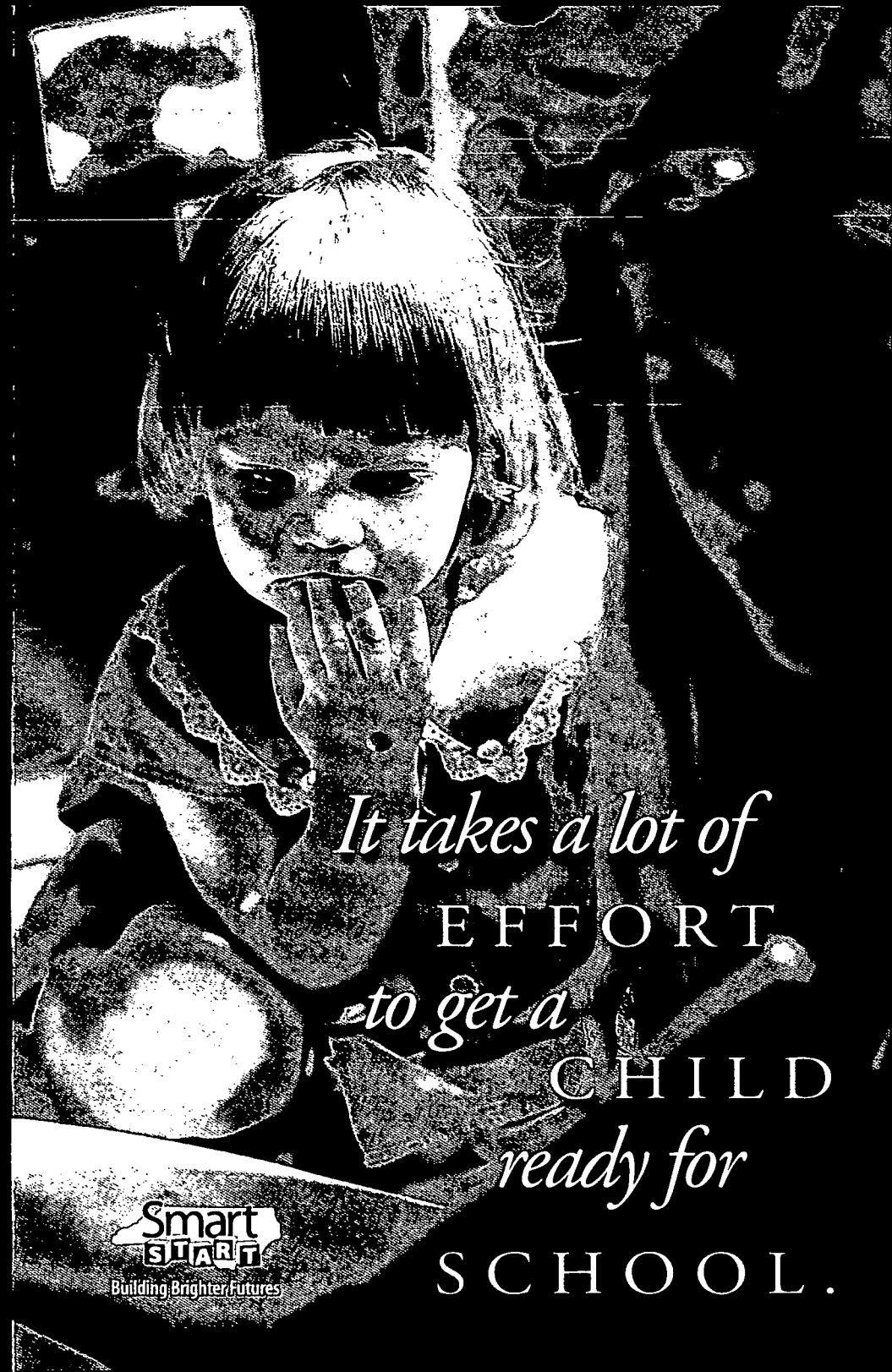
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Working together, we can build a brighter future for our children and for the state of North Carolina.



For more information contact:

**Save the Children
Child Care Support Center**

1447 Peachtree Street, NE
Suite 700
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3030

phone: (404) 885-1578 • FAX: (404) 874-7427

Childhood Care and Education Services

available from

The Child Care Support Center

Increasing the supply of child care

The Child Care Support Center can help communities increase the supply of child care through:

- the development of family child care networks
- consultation to churches, synagogues, businesses and non-profits in the development of child care centers and school-age programs

Developing support programs for parents

The Child Care Support Center is the Georgia affiliate of the nationally recognized Parent Services Program. This program utilizes the comfort and convenience of the child care setting to offer a range of services and resources to the entire family to promote parent leadership and family well-being.

Improving the quality of childhood care and education

The Center can provide training and technical assistance to family child care providers and child care centers.

The Center can work with community partners to develop sustainable community-based systems of training and support for caregivers.

Working with the business community to assess and address the child care needs of their employees

Services include:

- Enhanced child care resource and referral to assist employees in locating child care that meets their needs
- Employee workshops, presentations and written materials on choosing child care and balancing the demands of work and family
- The development of family child care networks to provide care to the children of employees
- The development of special child care services for parents who work non-traditional hours
- The establishment of on-site child care centers

Working with state and local governments and communities to conduct childhood care and education assessments and develop childhood care and education plans.

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