



Volume No. 1

Issue No. 3

August, 2004

## Thank You

The board is thrilled to unveil Smart Start's new logo in this edition of our newsletter. James T. Langford, graphic designer and art director, from Dallas donated his time and talent to Smart Start. We can't thank him enough. Special thanks also goes to Smart Start board member Loretta Rudd, Publicity and Communication Chair, for overseeing this process.

## Director's Training



(Left to right: Julie Talbert, Executive Director; Pam Wilder, Projects Committee Chair, Kay Albrecht, Presenter; and Kathy Talbert, Board President.)

Smart Start sponsored a 30-hour Director's Training Series in May and June. We were thrilled to open the series with national presenter, Kay Albrecht, Ph.D. in a session devoted to staff development. She has authored several books on early care and education topics including: The Right Fit: Recruiting,

Selecting, and Orienting Staff of which all the participants received a copy. Overall, Smart Start trained 36 directors and administrators with 18 completing the entire 30-hour series. I would like to thank the Projects Committee for their incredible contributions and commitment to organizing such an extraordinary training series; Pam Wilder, Committee Chair, Janie Hilliard, Tamera Carter, and Kathy Talbert.

## Caregiver Training

On July 17, Smart Start sponsored a training for beginner and experienced teachers of infants, toddlers, preschool, and pre-kindergarten children. Over 120 teachers from 31 child care centers attended from the region. Each teacher received a resource book on planning appropriate activities for young children. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to providing additional caregiver training sessions in the fall.

## Recognition Dinner



Scholarship recipients, Jessica Martinez and Griselda Mata, from First Baptist Preschool.

On June 22, Smart Start held its first annual Recognition Dinner highlighting the accomplishments of 12 scholarship recipients from the 2003-2004 school year as well as the directors completing the 30-hour training series.

Beck Taylor, an economics professor from Baylor provided the keynote speech. Taylor discussed the economics of child care and parent choice emphasizing the important relationship between high quality practices in child care centers and the positive outcomes for both children and parents. His research suggests that exposure to higher-quality child care settings can serve as a protective intervention for poor children.

There is growing body of research that shows that higher-quality child care settings have staff with college level training. I want to encourage you to get your staff excited about professional development and have them apply for a Smart Start scholarship in November.

## Wal-Mart Grant

On July 19, Jon Lamar, General Manager of the new Hewitt Wal-Mart awarded Smart Start a \$1,000 grant during the grand opening celebration. The funds will be used to expand Smart Start's lending library of educational and training materials that are checked out and used by child care centers. Members may check out materials for one month. Please call if you have additional questions about using the lending library or the resource room.

## Welcome New Members

**Carver Park Baptist Christian Academy**

Waco, TX

**Children First Learning Center**

Waco, TX

**King's Kidz Child Care**

McGregor, TX

**Ms. Ida's Child Care Center**

Waco, TX

**Wagner's Day Care**

Waco, TX

**YWCA of Central Texas**

**Doris Miller Child Care**

Waco, TX



## Membership Meeting Update

Smart Start holds monthly meetings for directors. The purpose is to provide support, resources, information, and training opportunities to directors. Meetings are open to

all licensed child care directors throughout the Heart of Texas region. If you haven't attended one lately, here's what you've been missing

On May 26, Smart Start held a membership meeting at the Mayborn Museum Complex in celebration of its grand opening. We received a tour of the incredible facilities and learned about arranging field trips. The museum is absolutely wonderful and appropriate for children and adults of all ages.

On June 16, Smart Start sponsored an orientation on the Texas Early Care and Education Career Development Trainer Registry for individuals interested in becoming registered child care trainers. The goal of the registry is to improve the quality of training received by child care staff. For more information visit [www.uth.tmc.edu/thssco](http://www.uth.tmc.edu/thssco).



On August 31, Smart Start is hosted a Hearing Screening Certification Training to assist centers in meeting the hearing screening requirement for children 4 and older (refer to rule 746.629 of Minimum Standards). This 6-hour training was limited to 16 participants. If you are interested in attending a future training please call the office. Smart Start is currently seeking funds to purchase an audiometer for our lending library to help members conduct on-site hearing screenings.

## New Staff

Krystal Antao was hired as our new Administrative Assistant in June. She earned a BS degree from Baylor in May with a major in Child and Family Studies. She completed her internship with Smart Start in May and is very familiar with the day to day operations. Krystal will be in the office daily during Julie Talbert's maternity leave in October and November. Please call if you have any questions

# Calendar of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
August 11	Smart Start Board Meeting	12:30-2:00 p.m.	Smart Start Office
August 17	CPR/FA Training	6:00 -9:30 p.m.	Smart Start Office
August 24	CPR/FA Training	6:00 -9:30 p.m.	Smart Start Office
August 28	CPR/FA Training	8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.	Smart Start Office
August 31	Hearing Certification Training	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	First Baptist Preschool
September 8	Smart Start Board Meeting	12:30-2:00 p.m.	Smart Start Office
September 15	Membership Meeting	11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.	Smart Start Office
September 21	CPR/FA Training	6:00 – 9:30 p.m.	Smart Start Office
September 25	CPR/FA Training	8:30-12:00	Smart Start Office

Smart Start will be hosting caregiver training sessions this fall. Look for our announcement later this month.

If you have an event you would like mentioned in our newsletter, please call the Smart Start office.

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