

**ORANGE COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUNG CHILDREN**  
120 Providence Road, Suite 101 ★ Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
Phone 919-967-9091 ★ Fax 919-933-1008 ★ [www.orangesmartstart.org](http://www.orangesmartstart.org)



**For Immediate Release: November 15, 2010 Website:** [www.orangesmartstart.org](http://www.orangesmartstart.org)  
**Contact:** Cate Graziani **Phone:** 967-9091 ext. 212  
**Email:** [pmcintyre@orangesmartstart.org](mailto:pmcintyre@orangesmartstart.org)

### **Local Partnership Secures Federal Grant to Serve Refugee Population**

*The Orange County Partnership for Young Children has received a federal grant to implement a garden program for the local refugee population.*

Chapel Hill- The Orange County Partnership for Young Children, your local Smart Start and More at Four administrator, is a 2010 Refugee Agricultural Partnership Project (RAPP) recipient. The federal grant was open nationally to agencies both public and private, with funding going to 10 other projects throughout the United States. The Partnership was the only agency from North Carolina to receive money in this round of funding.

Through a grant from the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement, the Partnership will be expanding its current *Growing Healthy Kids* community garden program to accommodate the growing refugee population in Orange County. The award is for three years with \$77,000 being given for the initial year of the project.

The purpose of the RAPP project is to educate and enable refugee families, especially the Burmese and Karen, in creating a sustainable, healthy food source as well as developing English language skills and eventually supplemental income. Along with plots of land, families will receive training on a variety of topics including farming in NC, marketing and business development.

"The active resettlement community for Burmese and Karen refugees in Orange County will benefit greatly from this project. I know the Partnership, like our school system, values the diversity of our community and the ability to best serve all of its children and their families," said Dr. Neil Pedersen, Superintendent of the Chapel Hill/Carrboro City School District.

Collaboration with other community entities include the *Orange County Literacy Council* who will be offering language classes to participating families and the *Orange County Cooperative Extension* who will also be providing training assistance from its well established PLANT@BREEZE Farm incubator program.

For more information please contact Cate Graziani, RAPP project manager, at the Orange County Partnership for Young Children, 919-967-9091 ext. 212.

---

*The Orange County Partnership for Young Children, the local Smart Start and More at Four agency, plans and funds programs aimed at ensuring that all Orange County children arrive in kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed. With Smart Start funding, the Partnership supports early childhood education services, child health screenings to prevent disease, early intervention, parenting education and family support services. The Partnership's \$3.7 million annual budget contributes to the success of more than 20 programs for young children and families in Orange County.*

#### **BOARD**

Creighton Blackwell  
RBC Centura Bank

Jennifer Boger  
Strowd Roses Foundation

Ilene Britt  
Orange County Centers- Durham Tech

Rev. Bob Brizendine  
Hillsborough Presbyterian

Jay Bryan  
Attorney

Cathy Bryson  
Parent Rep.

Dina Castro  
Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute

Linda Chappel  
Child Care Services Association

Mark Chilton  
Town of Carrboro

Nancy Coston  
Orange County Department of Social Services

Mike Cureton  
Celebration Assembly of God

Anita Farel  
UNC School of Public Health

Gwen Harvey  
Orange County Assistant Manager

Rachel Hawkins  
Piedmont EMC

Paula Jones  
Creative Preschool

Mike Mathers  
Chapel Hill Training Outreach

Lucinda Munger  
Orange County Library

Neil Pedersen  
Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

Bernadette Pelissier  
Orange County Commissioners

Paul Popish  
OCPIC; retired Pediatrician

Patrick Rhodes  
Orange County Schools

Sharon Ringwalt  
Orange County Preschool Interagency Council

Kate Sanford  
Chapel Hill Day Care Center

Brian Sartor  
Parent Rep.

Rosemary Summers  
Orange County Health Department

Judy Truitt  
OPC Area Program

Margaret Samuels  
Executive Director