

## Elaine Scarborough Departs as Director of Partnership for Children

Anson County Community:

With just a few days before I retire as Executive Director of the Anson County Partnership for Children, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the entire community for your support in the first 20 years of our Partnership. I appreciate Anson County's community leaders; child care providers; current and former Partnership board members; current and former Partnership staff members; current and former Partnership committee members; Barn Blast guests and all supporters of the Partnership. You know who you are and you know how you have supported children in Anson County!

When I was hired as the first employee in 1997, the Partnership had recently received its non-profit status and its first Smart Start funding. My office was a small donated space at DSS and my first assignment was to write our first Smart Start strategic plan for serving young children in Anson County. I can't help but wonder why I took the leap of faith to leave NC public schools after 20+ years and go to work for a fledgling non-profit? And why did I stick with it so long? The answer is that I sincerely believe in the mission of the Partnership: "making Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child."

It has been my privilege to lead the Partnership as it transformed into a community organization that serves ALL children pre-natal through Kindergarten in Anson County. ALL children birth to age 5 are eligible for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. We have sent Dolly Parton books in the mail each month to over 3,000 children in Anson County. Each year we provide weekly Raising a Reader book bags to approximately 600 three, four and five year children including ALL Kindergarten children in the county. ALL Anson County children, parents and caregivers are eligible for free car seat inspections through ACPC, free child care advice, use of the Early Childhood Resource Center stocked with over 5,000 resources and free registration to our newest online parenting program - ReadyRosie. ALL child care providers in the county are eligible to receive technical assistance, trainings, use of the Resource Center, child care subsidy enhancements and monetary incentives through our Education Support Program. This is only a partial list of current Partnership services that are available thanks to your very generous support. It's no wonder Anson County was named the most generous county in North Carolina!

I am hopeful that you will continue to support the mission of the Partnership. I encourage you to serve on Partnership committees, to support the Barn Blast fundraiser and to encourage parents to use the Partnership's services. I am confident that my successor Caroline Goins will lead the Partnership to continue "making Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child."

As I leave the Partnership, I would like to share a quote that has been inspirational to me in my career: "When I approach a child, he inspires in me two sentiments; tenderness for what he is, and respect for what he may become." Louis Pasteur

Most sincerely,

Elaine B. Scarborough, Executive Director, Anson County Partnership for Children

## Extension Notes Take a Bite Out of Food Waste

The news reports of food deserts, hunger in our nation, and local food pantry needs are a powerful reminder about the importance of our food supply. And as citizens lucky enough to have enough food, we need to do a better job of preventing food waste.

Did you know the average family throws away \$1,600 a year on wasted food—equating to over 400 pounds per person? In 2013, more than 37 million tons of food waste was generated. Put another way, 31 percent of the available food supply went uneaten.

Everyone can help reduce food waste, and the benefits - social, economic and environmental - are great.

Wasted food is a social problem. In 2013, 14.3 percent of U.S. households were food insecure at some time during the year. That is 48 million Americans, of which 16 million are children, living in food insecure households. Wholesome, nutritious food should feed people, not landfills.

Wasted food is an economic issue. It is estimated that at the retail and consumer levels in the United States, food loss and waste totals \$161 billion dollars.

Wasted food is an environmental problem. Food is the largest stream of materials in American trash. Rotting food in landfills releases methane, a powerful greenhouse gas 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Most people do not realize how much food they throw away every day - from uneaten leftovers to spoiled produce. So what can you do to help your family reduce food waste, save money and reduce your environmental impact?

Shop smartly, only buy what you need. Keep fruits and vegetables fresh by storing them properly. Prep them when you get them home to make it easier to cook later. And always strive to eat what you buy. When you cannot prevent wasted food, divert it from landfills. Nutritious, safe and untouched food can be donated to food banks to help those in need. Or, consider composting food scraps rather than throwing them away.

By making small shifts in how you shop for, prepare, and store food, you can save time and money, and keep the valuable resources used to produce and distribute food from going to waste. Small steps add up. *By Janine B. Rywak, County Extension Director*

## Anson Animal Shelter Needs Volunteers. Would You Like to Help?

The Animal Shelter depends on the help of volunteers to ensure that animal residents receive love and care. More volunteers will also help relieve the workload on staff which can result in more time for resident animals to be adopted before they are euthanized (put to sleep). Please consider volunteering. For more information on helping, call 704-694-4832.

Anson County Animal Shelter is listed on *Petfinder.com*. This is a searchable national database of pets available for adoption that includes a description and photo. All the animals that are up for adoption are listed and have a picture. Just go to *Petfinder.com* and search for any Anson County town or zip code.

A rescue from Animal Shelter can bring lots of happiness and love into any home...and you will make the animal happy too! It's a win-win.

**And remember, older animals need a home and love too!**

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