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MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010

Docs For Tots holds public conference to educate pediatric residents, community on health issues affecting young children and their families

Durham's Partnership for Children launched Docs For Tots NC in 2007, modeled after a national civic engagement program, connecting very young children's health issues, including poverty and the lack of quality early care and education, to the medical community.

Durham, NC – Docs For Tots NC, a civic engagement program launched by Durham's Partnership for Children, is holding a two-day advocacy conference at Duke Children's Hospital and Health Center.

More than 100 participants at the event will include pediatric and family medicine residents and faculty, community pediatricians, nursing and social work staff, child health agency representatives, and medical students.

The two-day conference is funded by the Leonard P. Rome CATCH Visiting Professorship Program. CATCH (Community Access to Child Health) is a branch of the American Academy of Pediatrics aimed at advocacy for children to advance the field of community pediatrics.

"This conference is a chance to showcase local, state and national expertise on pediatric community advocacy and civic engagement in the City of Medicine," said Dr. Debra Best, a practicing physician with Duke Children's Primary Care and Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center and director of the Duke Pediatric residents' Community & Advocacy Rotation. "As pediatricians and pediatric residents, it is important to address health issues that extend beyond the clinical practice walls, such as poverty, inadequate housing, malnutrition, limited access to quality early learning environments, and racial disparities that affect children's overall health and school readiness."

WHAT: Docs For Tots Advocacy Conference

- 8 – 9 a.m.: **Presentation by Dr. Dave Tayloe** "*Pediatric Medical Home: Access, Quality, Finance*"
- 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.: **Community Resource Expo** featuring nearly 20 community programs
- 2 – 4 p.m.: **Breakout Roundtable** Discussions with Steve Shore , executive director of the North Carolina Pediatric Society; Madlyn Morreale attorney with the Medical Legal Partnership for Children; Marsha Basloe, executive director of Durham's Partnership for Children; and Dr. Dina Lieser, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based Docs For Tots. The Panel will be addressing "*Advocacy at the Local, State, and National Level*"

WHEN: Tuesday, March 2, 2010

WHERE: Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center, 2301 Erwin Road, Durham, NC 27710

LOGISTICS: Tuesday's conference will run a series of events from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For details, contact Karine Stallings with Durham's Partnership for Children: 403-6960 x221 or 599-5855

Over 15 years, the Partnership has worked towards its mission— to mobilize and unify the Durham community to create and support innovative and successful collaborative approaches to serving the needs of children birth to 5 years of age

and their families. The Partnership, a Smart Start initiative, also funds programs that provide education and support to families with young children, health services for young children, More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program and Early Head Start.

About Durham's Partnership for Children

Durham's Partnership for Children celebrates 15 years making young children a priority. Founded in 1994 and first funded in 1995 to administer the Smart Start grant in Durham County, the Partnership works as an independent, local nonprofit that serves young children birth to age 5 and their families under North Carolina's nationally recognized initiative to ensure all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. For 15 years, the Partnership has helped working parents pay for child care, improve the quality of child care and provided health and family support services to thousands of Durham County families with young children. The Partnership works to achieve its mission: *To mobilize and unify the Durham community to create and support innovative and successful approaches to serving the needs of children birth to age 5 and their families*, by working with funded partners and mobilizing groups and organizations in Durham County to support and coordinate efforts impacting young children and their families. The Partnership also administers the More at Four Program in Durham County serving more than 400 children and the new Early Head Start Grant which will serve 120 Durham infants and toddlers beginning in the Spring of 2010. For more information about the Partnership, visit www.dpfc.net or call 919-403-6960, ext 221.

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