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NEWS RELEASE

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Durham's Partnership for Children recognized for fourth consecutive year for being national leader in workplace flexibility and effectiveness

Partnership awarded with national Alfred P. Sloan Award in an event hosted by the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce

Durham, NC — Durham's Partnership for Children, a Smart Start Initiative, announced Monday, that the organization was named a winner of the **2009 Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility** distinguishing the early childhood organization as a leading practitioner of workplace flexibility in Durham and across the nation. Durham's Partnership for Children has been recognized as a longstanding family-friendly organization as a recipient of the award since 2006.

"We are honored to be receiving the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility for a fourth consecutive year," said Marsha R. Basloe, Executive Director of Durham's Partnership for Children, a Smart Start Initiative. "It is gratifying to be recognized for our commitment in making our workplace work for our employees. Durham's Partnership for Children strives to model family-friendly practices within the non-profit and early childhood sectors. By supporting policies, such as job sharing arrangements, flexible hours and work-at-home options, we are not only working within the context of our organization's mission to support young children and their families, but our team, in turn, is more productive and accountable in supporting the needs of the organization."

The Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility are awarded as part of the When Work Works project, an ongoing initiative of Families and Work Institute, the Institute for a Competitive Workforce (ICW), an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Twiga Foundation. These partner organizations provide research, resources, and recognition to employers nationwide through When Work Works sharing best practices and research results on creating effective and flexible workplaces that meet the needs of the 21st century.

The Sloan Awards recognize organizations that are dedicated to making work "work" for both the employer and the employees. Representing employers of all sizes and all types, winners of this prestigious award not only offer excellent workplace flexibility practices, but they also use flexibility as a strategic business tool to enhance organizational effectiveness while also benefiting employees.

The Partnership would like to congratulate the other local winners of the 2009 Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility:

- CrossComm, Inc.

- Expedite Group
- The Shodor Education Foundation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- WorkSmart

Applications for the Alfred P. Sloan Awards were open to all organizations in the greater Durham area that had more than 10 employees and had been in business for at least one year. Applicants were evaluated in a rigorous two-step process, first comparing the employer's application to nationally representative data from Families and Work Institute's National Study of Employers, and then corroborating the employer responses through a survey of employees. Durham is one of 30 select communities nationwide chosen to host and participate in the When Work Works initiative.

For more information about When Work Works or the Alfred P. Sloan Awards, please contact Shanny Peer at (212) 465-2044 x 224 or at speer@familiesandwork.org or by visiting www.whenworkworks.org.

About Durham's Partnership for Children

Durham's Partnership for Children was founded in 1994 and first funded in 1995 to administer the Smart Start grant in Durham County. Smart Start is North Carolina's nationally recognized initiative to ensure all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. Smart Start helps working parents pay for child care, improves the quality of child care and provides health and family support services in every North Carolina County. The Partnership works with funded partners (affiliated organizations) 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 ages birth to 5 and their families." Durham's Partnership for Children also administers the More at Four Program in Durham County. For more information about Durham's Partnership for Children, visit www.dpfc.net or call 919-403-6960, ext. 221.

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