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**DURHAM'S PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN PARTNERS WITH BARNES & NOBLE—SOUTHPOINT TO COLLECT  
3,500 BOOKS FOR CHILDREN ACROSS DURHAM COUNTY.**

***The community generously purchased new books worth nearly \$14,000 for the holiday book drive.***

**Durham, NC**—Durham's Partnership for Children, a Smart Start Initiative, announced Monday that generous Barnes and Noble Streets at Southpoint customers purchased more than **3,500 new books** for Durham County disadvantaged children for the 2008 Barnes and Noble Book Drive that ran from Nov. 1 through Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Durham's Partnership for Children works with community agencies and nonprofits that serve young children and their families. Over the six week book drive, the Partnership distributed the books to more than 20 community agencies serving children in home visiting programs, social services, medical facilities, and a variety of family support and family literacy programs.

"The volume of books customers have purchased on behalf of young children is definitely a testament to the generosity of the greater community," says Beth Rosen, a Manager at the Barnes & Noble store. "It has been a rewarding endeavor to see the outpouring of support."

In addition to distributing books through Durham's Partnership for Children's early childhood system, the agency worked with other organizations, such as the John Avery Boys and Girls Club, the Durham Literacy Center, Durham County Guardian ad Litem Program and Durham County Social Services Department to distribute books to older children.

"This book drive has given Durham's Partnership for Children an opportunity to connect with the broader Durham community and build awareness for our work to ensure children have what they need to be prepared for kindergarten," says Karine Stallings, Community Development Manager. "Family literacy is important to our mission to ensure children are ready for school, making this a win-win partnership with Barnes & Noble."

#### **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 childcare, improves the quality of childcare 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 0-5 and their families." Durham's Partnership for Children also administers the Governor's More at Four Program in Durham County. For more information about Durham's Partnership for Children, visit [www.dpfc.net](http://www.dpfc.net) or call 919-403-6960, ext. 221.

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