



Ready for Impact 2022

Dear Ready Ready supporters,

When we met The Duke Endowment almost eight years ago, long before Ready Ready became a nonprofit organization, we were overwhelmed with the fantastic opportunity they and Blue Meridian Partners afforded us. Their investment in Guilford County has given us resources and the necessary timeframe – or runway – to design, build and execute a complex system.

The ability to meet metrics and milestones while creating a system of care for children and families in a realistic time frame has helped Ready Ready succeed and grow and support our many partners in this bold mission. Critical to collective success are our Guilford County partners: direct service providers, County departments, state and local elected officials, our school system, health care systems, and others. We are in the early stages of this journey, but we are confident we can succeed if we all stick together.

Our collective focus on investing in early childhood has brought us together. We are working to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. Research shows that early childhood interventions can break this cycle. Ready Ready identifies developmental needs from before birth to age eight, providing access to a continuum of services and supports that prevent delays from becoming persistent gaps. That's how we will break the cycle, preparing children for school and success in life.

Thank you to our local and regional funders. From the earliest days, we committed to raising locally and regionally at least \$800,000 annually to leverage what initially was a \$32.5 million investment from The Duke Endowment and Blue Meridian Partners. A similar local/regional reinvestment through 2024 will help grow the next phase of our work and leverage a similar extraordinary investment from The Duke Endowment and Blue Meridian Partners.

We appreciate your dedication and support and look forward to creating a strong, resilient community together for the 6,000 children born each year and as they grow to experience successful and productive lives - and replicating these outcomes across North Carolina.



Susan Schwartz
Executive Director
The Cemala Foundation



Ed Kitchen
Chief Operating Officer
Joseph M. Bryan Foundation

Our Priorities



Build Public Will for Early Childhood Priorities

Guilford County government has awarded Ready Ready \$1.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to expand our Routes to Ready system into every OB/GYN, pediatric, and family practice in Guilford County.

The Duke Endowment board of trustees and representatives from Blue Meridian Partners visited Guilford County at the end of August for a site visit. The trustees viewed simulations of our navigation system, attended panel discussions, and heard from stakeholders, community partners, government officials, and higher education partners about our collaborative efforts to build a system of care.

We have trained more than 1,000 people in The Basics Guilford, including Department of Social Services employees, service providers, and parents whose children attend Guilford County Schools.



Develop Navigation Systems to Connect Families with Effective Services

In 2022, 94 percent of the OB/GYN practices in Guilford County offered or began training to offer our Routes to Ready system of care for expectant parents and their families.

The four evidence-based programs, Community Navigation, Family Connects, HealthySteps, and Nurse-Family Partnership, have spent more than 3,000 hours in collaboration and created 20 program integrations to help Guilford County families access the resources, support, and information they need.



Expand Proven Programs to Meet Community Need

The Medical Home Advisory Team shared best practices from integrations with programs at Carolina Pediatrics, Greensboro Pediatrics, and Cone Family Medicine. Reach Out and Read is providing medical practices with more options for books featuring diversity.



Build a Culture of Continuous Quality Improvement

Cohort I completed its Model for Improvement (MFI) work in late October 2022. Participants reported growth in terms of their organizations' capacity for CQI work.

Thirteen Cohort II programs have completed their infrastructure assessments and will submit action plans by the end of November. This group began their work in September and will wrap up in May 2023.



Conduct Rigorous Evaluation and Build Sustainability for System-building Work

In 2022, Ready Ready staff and partners developed logic models and established benchmarks for 8 components of our work. Progress toward these benchmarks will be proactively monitored by component teams in 2023 to support strong implementation and as a part of the implementation study to support continuous improvement.



Build Technology to Support Data-Informed Decisions

Work is underway in completing the new key features of the Integrated Data System (IDS) in the Salesforce organization databases for the evidence-based programs.

The data warehouse, consent and participation database, and community portal applications are also in build mode for the planned Q1 2023 launch.

Looking ahead: Our Ages 3-5 strategies

Ready for School, Ready for Life (Ready Ready) has selected community partners to pilot strategies focused on families with children ages 3-5 in Guilford County. Ready Ready has chosen these evidence-based programs and partner agencies for this important work:

- **Reading Connections** will implement the Motherread/Fatheread curriculum with parents and caregivers who are strengthening their own literacy skills.
- The **United Way of Greater Greensboro** will offer Raising a Reader through a collaboration with Guilford County School's North Carolina Pre-kindergarten classrooms.
- The **Kellin Foundation** will facilitate the Community Resiliency Model (CRM). This intervention can be used with families and other professionals, such as early childhood educators, to promote awareness of stress triggers and teach skills to manage emotional reactions.
- **Family Service of the Piedmont** will implement Triple P – Positive Parenting Program – in one of Guilford County's high-poverty census tracts in High Point.
- The **YWCA-High Point** will work with Parents as Teachers to enhance parent and caregiver skills around social-emotional development through home visits and group activities.



Sharing Family Voice

Authentic family voice is engaged consistently and intentionally in our work. The Guilford Parent Leader Network (GPLN) is an integral part of the decision-making structure for Ready for School, Ready for Life. In 2022, the GPLN elected a new steering committee and formed a dad's group, Fathers Ready to Grow, for additional networking.

The GPLN has trained new facilitators for Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI) in Phase 1 and 2 modules. The COFI model uses parents' strengths and commitment to their children and neighborhoods to help make positive changes in their own lives, families, and communities. Phase 1 focuses on self, family, and team to create supportive parent teams, set goals, and establish plans. Phase 2 brings in community outreach and action – creating community-based agendas that start with common concerns raised by parents.



Equity Statement

*Ready for School, Ready for Life (Ready Ready) promotes equity, justice, diversity, and inclusion which are woven through our mission, values, and principles. We stand against racism in all of its forms. Ready Ready will work with our community to address the structural inequities that drive disparate child and family outcomes and work towards an environment where equity, justice, diversity, and inclusion are core values. **When we are working to address these structural inequities, Ready Ready will be bold in our actions.***



When Guilford County Black and Indigenous children and families of color (BIPOC) feel welcomed, heard, respected, safe, supported, and valued, all of our community and our society benefit.

Dear Friends of Ready Ready,

As we say goodbye to 2022, we can review the seeds we've planted to impact the lives of Guilford County families by creating population-level change. As our community grows and changes during the seasons of the year, so has Ready Ready.

Investing in early childhood has a high yield in results for children. You, our stakeholders, have invested your time, funding, and commitment, so we are seeing the fruits of your contributions.

For example, through the first stage of our work, aimed at families with children from prenatal to age three, Ready Ready has helped create 85 professional-wage jobs in Guilford County. These positions have been created in Community Navigation at Children's Home Society, Family Connects Guilford, HealthySteps, and Nurse-Family Partnership – as well as Ready Ready.

All these professional-wage jobs are directly focused on nurturing families with young children in our community. We want every child born in our community in 2023 and beyond to enter kindergarten on track: physically, socially and emotionally, cognitively, and with the language abilities they need to succeed. In order to create this crop of kindergarten-ready students, we have to plant those seeds early – earlier than you might expect.

We start prenatally, meeting expectant parents at OB/GYN practices in Guilford County. Many of our partners in this work have ties to health care and the trusted medical providers families engage with as they begin their parenting journey. We call this system Routes to Ready, and we are currently working with 94% of OB/GYN practices in the county.

While their visit to the OB/GYN covers the expectant parents' medical needs, the discussion with a navigator can involve housing, safe sleep, immigration, transportation, or other needs. We are tapping into a network of more than 300 community programs, agencies, and organizations to provide the resources, support, and information families need for their parenting journey.

Together, we are planting seeds for the future. This fall, we announced the partners who will pilot interventions as we add families with children ages 3-5 to our work. It's a critical time for early literacy, family mental health, resiliency, and preparing for kindergarten.

Thanks to you, we are on the way to creating a model that will not only help Guilford County but can be shared with other N.C. communities and other states.



Cherrin Hart

Chief Executive Officer
Ready for School, Ready for Life

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