FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT REPORT OF

CALDWELL COUNTY SMART START A PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

LENOIR, NORTH CAROLINA

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

PERFORMED UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

LESLIE W. MERRITT, JR., CPA, CFP

STATE AUDITOR

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT REPORT OF

CALDWELL COUNTY SMART START A PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

LENOIR, NORTH CAROLINA

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

R. DALE FISHER, BOARD CHAIRMAN

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

CARLA D. PATTERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Leslie W. Merritt, Jr., CPA, CFP

State Auditor

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA Office of the State Auditor

2 S. Salisbury Street 20601 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-0601 Telephone: (919) 807-7500 Fax: (919) 807-7647 Internet http://www.ncauditor.net

AUDITOR'S TRANSMITTAL

The Honorable Michael F. Easley, Governor The General Assembly of North Carolina Board of Directors, Caldwell County Smart Start A Partnership For Young Children

This report presents the results of the financial statement audit of Caldwell County Smart Start A Partnership For Young Children for the year ended June 30, 2005. Tichenor & Associates, LLP performed the audit under contract with the Office of the State Auditor, and their report is submitted herewith.

The audit of the Caldwell County Smart Start A Partnership For Young Children was made in conjunction with the Early Childhood Initiatives (Smart Start) program authorized by G.S. 143B-168.10-16. This statute created The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., and required the implementation of local partnerships. The Caldwell County Smart Start A Partnership For Young Children is one of these local partnerships. As such, the Caldwell County Smart Start A Partnership For Young Children is a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and is required by G.S. 143B-168.14 to have an annual financial and compliance audit conducted by the State Auditor. The State Auditor's authority to perform or coordinate all audit functions for state government is set forth in Article 5 of Chapter 147 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

North Carolina General Statutes require the State Auditor to make audit reports available to the public. Copies of all audit reports issued by the Office of the State Auditor may be obtained through one of the options listed on the back of this report.

Leslie W. Merritt, Jr.

Leslie W. Merritt, Jr., CPA CFP State Auditor

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TICHENOR & ASSOCIATES, LLP

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS and MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

304 MIDDLETOWN PARK PLACE SUITE C LOUISVILLE, KY 40243

BUSINESS: (502) 245-0775 FAX: (502) 245-0725 E-MAIL: wtichenor@tichenorassociates.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Directors Caldwell County Smart Start A Partnership For Young Children Lenoir, North Carolina

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets – Modified Cash Basis of the Caldwell County Smart Start A Partnership For Young Children (Caldwell Partnership) as of June 30, 2005, and the related Statement of Functional Expenditures – Modified Cash Basis for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Caldwell Partnership's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatements. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the accompanying financial statements were prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets of the Caldwell County Smart Start A Partnership For Young Children as of June 30, 2005, and the results of its operations arising from modified cash basis transactions for the year then ended, on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 22, 2006, on our consideration of the Caldwell Partnership's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the

scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Caldwell County Smart Start A Partnership For Young Children's basic financial statements. The information in Schedules 1, 3, 4, and 5 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. These schedules have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The information in Schedule 2 has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on Schedule 2.

Tichenor & Associates, LLP

Tichenor & Associates, LLP

March 22, 2006

Caldwell County Smart Start A Partnership For Young Children Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis For the Year Ended June 30, 2005

Exhibit A

	Unrestricted Funds		Temporarily				
		Smart Start Fund	Other Funds		Restricted Funds		Total Funds
Receipts:			 				
State Awards (less refunds of \$48,897)	\$	1,686,477	\$ 191,193	\$	0	\$	1,877,670
Federal Awards		0	185,675		0		185,675
Private Contributions		0	2,590		0		2,590
Special Fund Raising Events Interest and Investment Earnings		0 0	238 117		0 0		238 117
Sales Tax Refunds		0	1,514		0		1,514
Other Receipts		0	4,346		0		4,346
·			 <u> </u>				
Total Receipts		1,686,477	 385,673		0		2,072,150
Net Assets Released from Restrictions:							
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions		0	 1,760		(1,760)		0
		1,686,477	387,433		(1,760)		2,072,150
Expenditures:							
Programs and Support:							
Child Care and Education Affordability		90,283	40,000		0		130,283
Child Care and Education Quality		841,142	27,569		0		868,711
Family Support		407,551	36,904		0		444,455
Health and Safety		157,538	20,210		0		177,748
More at Four		16,989	191,210		0		208,199
Support:		405 504	50.000		0		055 000
Management and General		195,534	59,686		0		255,220
Program Coordination Other:		26,337	0		0		26,337
Sales Tax Paid		0	2,996		0		2,996
			 · · · · ·				
Total Expenditures		1,735,374	 378,575		0		2,113,949
Excess of Receipts Over Expenditures		(48,897)	8,858		(1,760)		(41,799)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year		48,897	 4,260		1,760		54,917
Net Assets at End of Year	\$	0	\$ 13,118	\$	0	\$	13,118
Net Assets Consisted of:							
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	6,401	\$ 13,118	\$	0	\$	19,519
Refunds Due from Contractors		13,851	 0		0		13,851
Total Net Assets:		20,252	 13,118		0		33,370
Less: Due to the State		(20,252)	 0		0		(20,252)
	\$	0	\$ 13,118	\$	0	\$	13,118

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Caldwell County Smart Start A Partnership For Young Children Statement of Functional Expenditures - Modified Cash Basis For the Year Ended June 30, 2005

Fixed Supplies Other Charges Property and Services/ Contracted and Operating and Other Equipment Contracts/ Materials Total Personnel Services Expenditures Expenditures Outlay Grants Smart Start Funds: Programs: \$ \$ \$ \$ 0 \$ \$ \$ Child Care and Education Affordability \$ 90,283 0 0 0 0 0 90,283 Child Care and Education Quality 841,142 15 50,408 40,770 802 1,795 205 747,147 Family Support 407,551 5.964 17,656 4.310 0 379,227 0 394 0 Health and Safety 0 0 0 0 157,538 0 157.538 More At Four 0 91 16,989 13,393 1,577 1,774 154 0 1,513,503 63,801 46,734 1,287 21,028 6,099 359 1,374,195 Support: 3,090 7,009 28,002 0 Management and General 195,534 122,020 25,407 10,006 22,222 0 **Program Coordination** 26,337 0 315 2,015 1,631 154 221,871 144,242 3,090 7,324 30,017 27,038 10,160 0 **Total Smart Start Fund Expenditures** \$ 1,735,374 \$ 208,043 \$ 49.824 \$ 8,611 \$ 51,045 \$ 33,137 \$ 10,519 \$ 1,374,195 Other Funds: Programs: Child Care and Education Affordability 40,000 \$ 0 \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ 0 0 0 0 0 40,000 Child Care and Ecucation Quality 27,569 1,503 45 216 2,546 160 86 23,013 Family Support 36.904 0 35.014 0 1.214 666 10 0 Health and Safety 20,210 0 0 0 0 0 20,210 0 More At Four 191,210 1,666 0 6,837 1,431 111 1,230 179,935 315,893 3,169 45 8,267 4,643 281 1,316 298,172 Support: Management and General 59,686 0 37,546 7,216 1,723 3,083 700 9,418 Other: Sales Tax Paid 2,996 0 0 2,996 0 0 0 0 **Total Other Funds Expenditures** 378,575 3,169 37,591 \$ 18,479 \$ 6,366 \$ 3,364 \$ 2,016 \$ 307,590 \$ \$ \$

Exhibit B

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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NOTES 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- A. Organization and Purpose The Caldwell County Smart Start A Partnership For Young Children (Caldwell Partnership) is a legally separate nonprofit organization incorporated on April 8, 2004. The Caldwell Partnership was established to develop and provide, through public and private means, early childhood education and developmental services for children and families. The Caldwell Partnership is tax-exempt as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- **B. Basis of Presentation** The accompanying financial statements present all funds for which the Caldwell Partnership's Board of Directors is responsible. Pursuant to the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 117, *Financial Statements of Not-For-Profit Organizations*, the accompanying financial statements present information according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets, and permanently restricted net assets. As permitted by this Statement, temporarily restricted contributions received and expended in the same year are reported as unrestricted receipts rather than as temporarily restricted receipts.

The Caldwell Partnership did not have any temporarily or permanently restricted net assets at June 30, 2005.

C. Basis of Accounting – The accompanying financial statements were prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting. This basis differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America primarily because it recognizes long lived assets and other costs which benefit more than one period as expended in the year purchased; it recognizes revenue when received rather than when earned; and it recognizes expenditures when paid rather than when incurred.

However, unexpended advances to contractors that revert back to the State of North Carolina are recognized as a reduction to expenditures and an increase to net assets. Amounts withheld from employee paychecks or other amounts received in an agency capacity are recorded as funds held for others. In addition, Smart Start funds advanced to the local Partnership that are unexpended and unearned at year end are recorded as a Due to the State.

- **D.** Cash and Cash Equivalents This classification appears on the Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets Modified Cash Basis and includes all demand and savings accounts and certificate of deposits or short-term investments with an original maturity of three months or less.
- **E. Refunds Due From Contractors** Refunds due from contractors represent the unexpended amount of advances to contractors at year end that are to be refunded back to the State. As recoveries are collected, the receivable balance is reduced. Payments to the State for the recovered advances are recorded as a reduction to the State awards balance.
- **F. Due to the State** The funding provided by the State of North Carolina for the Smart Start program is funded on a cost reimbursement basis. The money is earned to the extent of allowable costs incurred. Any unexpended funds as of June 30 are required to be reverted to The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. to be returned to the State of North Carolina.
- **G. Property and Equipment** Under the modified cash basis of accounting, purchases of property and equipment are reported as expenditures in the year occurred. However, Caldwell Partnership is required by contract regulation to track and maintain property and equipment items as presented in Schedule 4 of this report. The Caldwell Partnership has a policy to track purchases of property and equipment items with an individual cost of \$500 or more and an estimated useful life greater than one year. Such items are valued at their original purchase price, which may be different from their valuation as of June 30, 2005. Donated items are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation.
- **H.** Compensated Absences As a result of the use of the modified cash basis of accounting, liabilities related to accrued compensated absences are not recorded in the financial statements. Expenditures related to compensated absences are recorded when paid. The amount of accrued compensated absences for accumulated, unpaid leave that would be due to employees upon termination is reported as a commitment in Note 7.
- I. Use of Estimates The preparation of financial statements in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting used by the Caldwell Partnership requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures (such as allocation of joint costs); accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates. It is management's belief that these estimates are reasonable and fair.

NOTE 2 - FUNDING FROM GRANT AWARDS

Smart Start Program – The Caldwell Partnership's major source of revenue and support is from the State of North Carolina based on cost-reimbursement contracts with The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. (NCPC) for the Smart Start Program. A significant reduction in the level of funding from the State could have an adverse effect on the operations of the Caldwell Partnership and represents a concentration of credit risk as to the generation of revenue.

Associated with these contracts, the Caldwell Partnership is responsible for developing a comprehensive, collaborative, long-range plan of services to children and families for the service-delivery area. During the year, NCPC and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) entered into contracts with and made payments to service providers selected by the Caldwell Partnership. These service provider contracts are not reflected on the accompanying financial statements. However, a summary of the service provider contracts entered into by DHHS is presented on Schedule 2 accompanying the financial statements.

The Caldwell Partnership was awarded and has received \$1,755,626 under a current year Smart Start contract with NCPC. The unexpended balance of this contract is subject to reversion to the State. The Caldwell Partnership has returned \$20,252 of this contract to the State based on financial status reports submitted to NCPC subsequent to June 30, 2005.

The Caldwell Partnership expects to receive continued funding through new Smart Start contracts with the State.

More at Four – The Caldwell Partnership also received revenue and support from the State of North Carolina for the More at Four Program. The Caldwell Partnership was awarded \$181,790 and received \$179,193 under a current year contract. The Caldwell Partnership expects to receive continued funding through new More at Four contracts with the State.

Early Learning Opportunities Act Discretionary Grant Program – The Caldwell Partnership administered a federal assistance award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Administration for Children and Families. The award is based on a cost-reimbursement contract issued through Learning Opportunities Act Discretionary grant that ended February 28, 2005.

NOTE 3 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Service Provider Contracts with Board Member Organizations – The board members of the Caldwell Partnership are representative of various

organizations that benefit from actions taken by the Board. It is the policy of the Caldwell Partnership that board members not be involved with decisions regarding organizations they represent. During the year, the Caldwell Partnership entered into contracts with board member organizations for program activities as identified on Schedule 1 accompanying the financial statements. In addition, Schedule 2 identifies contracts entered into by DHHS with board member organizations for activities funded by the Caldwell Partnership's Smart Start Allocation.

NOTE 4 - **FUNCTIONAL EXPENDITURES**

The costs of providing the various programs and activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets – Modified Cash Basis. Also, the Statement of Functional Expenditures – Modified Cash Basis, provides detail of the functional costs by their natural classification. Following are the services associated with the functional categories presented in the accompanying financial statements and the methods utilized to allocate joint cost:

A. Program Functions

Child Care and Education Affordability – Used to account for service activities including part-day care programs.

Child Care and Education Quality – Used to account for service activities including quality enhancement grants for upgrades, quality enhancement grants for maintenance, child care resource and referral, professional development, child care substitutes, salary supplements, special needs – support for child care professionals, or health insurance benefits for child care providers.

Family Support – Used to account for service activities including family resource centers, ongoing parenting education, literacy projects or family support needs and resources assessments.

Health and Safety – Used to account for service activities including comprehensive health services or child care health consultants.

More at Four – Used to account for development and implementation of More at Four prekindergarten program for at-risk four-year-olds who are at risk of failure in kindergarten. The goal is to provide quality prekindergarten services in order to enhance kindergarten readiness.

B. Support Functions

Management and General – Expenditures that are not identifiable with a single program or fund-raising activity but are indispensable to the conduct of those activities and to an organization's existence, including expenditures for the overall direction of the organization, its general board activities, business management, general recordkeeping, budgeting, and related purposes.

Program Coordination – Expenditures that are incurred to coordinate the policies, procedures, and daily practices of service delivery. Also, costs associated with monitoring in-house and direct service provider activities.

C. Allocation of Joint Costs

Expenditures benefiting more than one purpose were allocated as follows:

Salaries and Benefits – Direct allocation based on employee time reports.

Other Costs – Other costs including occupancy cost (rent, utilities and maintenance), supplies and materials, and communication costs (telephone and printing) were allocated based on utilization data.

NOTE 5 - LEASE OBLIGATIONS

A. Operating Lease Obligations – Future minimum lease payments under noncancelable operating leases consist of the following at June 30, 2005:

Fiscal Year	(Dperating Leases
2006	\$	30,000
2007		30,000
2008		30,000
2009		7,500
Total Minimum Lease Payments	\$	97,500

B. Capital Lease Obligations – Capital lease obligations relating to copier equipment are recorded at the present value of the minimum lease payments. Future minimum lease payments under capital lease obligations consist of the following at June 30, 2005:

Fiscal Year	Capital Leases			
2006 2007 2008	\$	5,667 5,667 944		
Total Minimum Lease Payments	\$	12,278		

NOTE 6 - PENSION PLAN

Retirement Plans – The Caldwell Partnership has a SIMPLE - IRA Plan covering all full-time employees. Each full-time employee of the Caldwell Partnership has an option to participate in the Plan. An Individual Retirement Account is provided to the employee through an outside financial institution. The Caldwell Partnership contributed 4% of gross wages for the year ended June 30, 2005. The Caldwell Partnership does not own the accounts nor is liable for any other cost other than the required contribution. The Caldwell Partnership contributed \$3,036 for pension benefits during the year.

NOTE 7 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Compensated Absences – As a result of the Caldwell Partnership's use of the modified cash basis of accounting, accrued liabilities related to compensated absences (vacation only; sick leave does not vest) and any employer-related costs earned and unpaid, are not reflected in the financial statements. The compensated absences commitment for vacation leave at June 30, 2005, is \$2,629. No funds or reservation of net assets has been made for this commitment.

NOTE 8 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The Caldwell Partnership is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft of, damage to, or destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; employees' health and life; physical property loss and natural disasters. The Caldwell Partnership manages these various risks of loss as follows:

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONCLUDED)

Type of Loss	Method Managed	Risk of Loss Retained
Torts, errors and omissions, health and life	Purchased commercial insurance	None
Workers Compensation – Employee injuries	Purchased commercial insurance	None
Physical property loss and natural disasters	Purchased commercial insurance	None

Management believes such coverage is sufficient to preclude any significant losses to the Caldwell Partnership. Settled claims have not exceeded this insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

NOTE 9 - RESTRICTIONS ON NET ASSETS

Net Assets Released From Donor Restrictions – Net assets were released from donor restrictions during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005, by incurring expenditures satisfying the restricted purposes as follows:

Purpose	 Amount
Literacy Program/Books	\$ 1,760

Caldwell County Smart Start A Partnership for Young Children Schedule of Contract and Grant Expenditures - Modified Cash Basis For the Year Ended June 30, 2005

Schedule 1

	Smart	Start Fund	Othe	r Funds
Organization Name	Amount Advanced	Refund Due	Amount Advanced	Refund Due
* Blue Ridge Community Action	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 58,247	\$ 0
Caldwell Committee for Healthy Families	80,097	1,344	3,877	0
 * Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute * Caldwell County Health Department 	144,050	3	0	0
* Caldwell County Realth Department * Caldwell County Schools	163,985 196,999	6,446 11	20,210 137,175	0
* Child Care Connections of Burke County	468,018	6,047	23,013	0
Creative Beginnings of Lenoir	400,018	0,047	55,650	0
* The Riddle Institute	212,200	0	55,650	0
Shelter Home of Caldwell County	11,289	<u>0</u>	0	0
	1,276,638	13,851	298,172	0
Individuals:				
Insurance Benefit Package for Providers	110,928	0	0	0
Stipends (Family Fun Day, Site Coordinators)	480	0	9,418	0
	111,408	0	9,418	0
	\$ 1,388,046	\$ 13,851	\$ 307,590	\$0

* These organizations are represented on the Partnership's Board as described in Note 3 - Service Provider Contracts with Board Member Organizations.

Organization Name	DHHS Contracts	
* Caldwell County Department of Social Services	\$	721,261

* These organizations are represented on the Partnership's Board as described in Note 3 - Service Provider Contracts with Board Member Organizations.

The information on this schedule provides a listing of service provider contracts entered into by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as described in Note 2 - Funding from Grant Awards.

See Independent Auditor's Report.

Caldwell County Smart Start A Partnership for Young Children Schedule of Federal and State Awards - Modified Cash Basis For the Year Ended June 30, 2005

Schedule 3

Federal/State Grantor/Pass-through Grantor/Program	Federal CFDA Number	Contract #	Receipts	Expenditures
Federal Awards: Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Early Learning Opportunities Act Discretionary Grant Program	93.577	90LO0034/01	\$ 170,675	\$ 170,675
US Department of Education Pass-through from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Pass-through from Caldwell County Schools Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies More at Four - Valmead Basic School	84.010A	N/A	15,000	15,000
Total Federal Awards			185,675	185,675
State Awards: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Child Development Pass-through from the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. Early Childhood Initiatives Program (Prior Year) Early Childhood Initiatives Program (Current Year) Multi-County Accounting and Contracting Grant (Current Year)	*	N/A N/A N/A	(48,897) 1,735,374 12,000	1,735,374 12,000
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program		2090004512	179,193	168,983
Total State Awards			1,877,670	1,916,357
Total Federal and State Awards			\$ 2,063,345	\$ 2,102,032

* Programs with compliance requirements that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. ** Major Programs per OMB Circular A-133

Note: The More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program is contracted jointly by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of the Governor. The allocations for the More at Four program are included in the budget for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services; therefore, the above schedule identifies that agency as the State Grantor. The Office of the Governor is responsible for oversight of the More at Four Program.

Caldwell County Smart Start A Partnership for Young Children Schedule of Property and Equipment - Modified Cash Basis For the Year Ended June 30, 2005

Furniture and Noncomputer Equipment Computer Equipment/Printers Motor Vehicles	\$ 12,192 18,584 164,215
Total Property and Equipment	\$ 194,991

Note: The information on this schedule provides a summary of property and equipment with acquisition or donated cost of \$500 or more which were held by the Partnership at year end. The valuations represent historical cost. On the modified basis of accounting, these items are expensed in the year of purchase.

Match Provided at the Partnership Level:

Cash In-Kind Goods and Services	\$ 211,186 1,988	
	\$ 213,174	
Match Provided at the Contractor Level:		
Cash In-Kind Goods and Services	\$ 144,457 49,500	
	\$ 193,957	

Note: This schedule is presented in accordance with the program match requirement as provided for by North Carolina Session Law 2003-397, Section 10.38(c). The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. and all local partnerships are required to match the total amount budgeted for the Smart Start Program in each fiscal year. The match is comprised of both cash and in-kind amounts. Only in-kind contributions that are verifiable, quantifiable, and related to the Smart Start Program can be applied to the in-kind match requirement, including volunteer services. The law allows for volunteer services to be valued for match purposes, a concept that deviates from generally accepted accounting principles. This schedule identifies those amounts allowable for this partnership in meeting the statewide match requirement.

TICHENOR & ASSOCIATES, LLP

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS and MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

304 MIDDLETOWN PARK PLACE SUITE C LOUISVILLE, KY 40243

BUSINESS: (502) 245-0775 FAX: (502) 245-0725 E-MAIL: wtichenor@tichenorassociates.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Board of Directors Caldwell County Smart Start A Partnership For Young Children Lenoir, North Carolina

We have audited the financial statements of the Caldwell County Smart Start A Partnership For Young Children (Caldwell Partnership) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2005, and have issued our report thereon dated March 22, 2006. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Caldwell Partnership's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purposes of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Caldwell Partnership's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS (CONCLUDED)

which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management of the Caldwell Partnership, The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., the Governor, and the General Assembly and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Tichenor & Associates, LLP

Tichenor & Associates, LLP

March 22, 2006

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