



# STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT REPORT OF BLADEN COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN, INC.

ELIZABETHTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

LESLIE W. MERRITT, JR., CPA, CFP

STATE AUDITOR

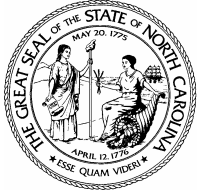
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT REPORT OF**  
**BLADEN COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN, INC.**  
**ELIZABETHTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**RHEA HEBERT, CHAIR**

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**LILLIAN BRYANT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



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

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Office of the State Auditor

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**AUDITOR'S TRANSMITTAL**

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The Honorable Michael F. Easley, Governor  
The General Assembly of North Carolina  
Board of Directors, Bladen County Partnership for Children, Inc.

We have completed a financial statement and compliance audit of the Bladen County Partnership for Children, Inc. (Bladen Partnership) for the year ended June 30, 2006, and our audit results are included in this report. You will note from the independent auditor's report that we determined that the financial statements are presented fairly in all material aspects.

The audit of the Bladen Partnership was made in conjunction with the Early Childhood Initiatives (Smart Start) program authorized by General Statutes 143B-168.10 -.16. These statutes created The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. and required the implementation of local demonstration projects (local partnerships). The Bladen Partnership is one of these local partnerships. As such, the Bladen Partnership is a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and is subject to audit and review by the State Auditor under Article 5A of Chapter 147 of the General Statutes and as authorized in General Statute 143B-168.12(a)(7).

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and other matters based on an audit of the financial statements resulted in no audit findings.

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

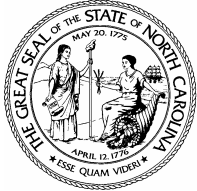
*Leslie W. Merritt, Jr.*

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

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

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Board of Directors  
Bladen County Partnership for Children, Inc.  
Elizabethtown, North Carolina

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets – Modified Cash Basis of the Bladen County Partnership for Children, Inc. (Bladen Partnership) as of June 30, 2006, and the related Statement of Functional Expenditures – Modified Cash Basis for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Bladen 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 Bladen County Partnership for Children, Inc. as of June 30, 2006, 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 April 30, 2007, on our consideration of the Bladen 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

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONCLUDED)

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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 Bladen County Partnership for Children, Inc.'s basic financial statements. The information in Schedules 1 through 5 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Schedules 1, 3, 4 and 5 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 audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on Schedule 2.

*Leslie W. Merritt, Jr.*

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

April 30, 2007

**Bladen County Partnership for Children, Inc.**

**Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis**

**For the Year Ended June 30, 2006**

**Exhibit A**

	Unrestricted Funds		Total Funds
	Smart Start Fund	Other Funds	
<b>Receipts:</b>			
State Awards (less refunds of \$26,538)	\$ 398,068	\$ 12,000	\$ 410,068
Private Contributions		862	862
Other Receipts		359	359
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>398,068</b>	<b>13,221</b>	<b>411,289</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Programs:			
Child Care and Education Quality	151,510	76	151,586
Family Support	46,345		46,345
Health and Safety	44,661		44,661
Support:			
Management and General	105,862	12,000	117,862
Program Coordination	48,788		48,788
Program Evaluation	902		902
Other:			
Sales Tax Paid		1,201	1,201
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>398,068</b>	<b>13,277</b>	<b>411,345</b>
<b>Excess of Receipts Over Expenditures</b>		(56)	(56)
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>		(4,101)	(4,101)
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ (4,157)</b>	<b>\$ (4,157)</b>
<b>Net Assets Consisted of:</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 4,826	\$ (4,157)	\$ 669
Refunds Due from Contractors	629		629
	<b>5,455</b>	<b>(4,157)</b>	<b>1,298</b>
Less: Due to the State	5,337		5,337
Funds Held for Others	118		118
	<b>5,455</b>		<b>5,455</b>
	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ (4,157)</b>	<b>\$ (4,157)</b>

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

***Bladen County Partnership for Children, Inc.***  
***Statement of Functional Expenditures - Modified Cash Basis***  
***For the Year Ended June 30, 2006***

***Exhibit B***

	Total	Personnel	Contracted Services	Supplies and Materials	Other Operating Expenditures	Fixed Charges and Other Expenditures	Property and Equipment Outlay	Services/Contracts/Grants
<b>Smart Start Fund:</b>								
<b>Programs:</b>								
Child Care and Education Quality	\$ 151,510	\$ 28,891	\$ 0	\$ 2,303	\$ 5,588	\$ 10,909	\$ 185	\$ 103,634
Family Support	46,345							46,345
Health and Safety	44,661							44,661
	<u>242,516</u>	<u>28,891</u>		<u>2,303</u>	<u>5,588</u>	<u>10,909</u>	<u>185</u>	<u>194,640</u>
<b>Support:</b>								
Management and General	105,862	60,768	20,102	2,209	10,838	11,945		
Program Coordination	48,788	39,401		1,645	4,234	3,508		
Program Evaluation	902	772		130				
	<u>155,552</u>	<u>100,941</u>	<u>20,102</u>	<u>3,984</u>	<u>15,072</u>	<u>15,453</u>		
<b>Total Smart Start Fund Expenditures</b>	<u>\$ 398,068</u>	<u>\$ 129,832</u>	<u>\$ 20,102</u>	<u>\$ 6,287</u>	<u>\$ 20,660</u>	<u>\$ 26,362</u>	<u>\$ 185</u>	<u>\$ 194,640</u>
<b>Other Funds:</b>								
<b>Programs:</b>								
Child Care and Education Quality	\$ 76	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 76	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Support:</b>								
Management and General	12,000	6,852	4,296	12	840			
<b>Other:</b>								
Sales Tax Paid	1,201			1,201				
<b>Total Other Funds Expenditures</b>	<u>\$ 13,277</u>	<u>\$ 6,852</u>	<u>\$ 4,296</u>	<u>\$ 1,213</u>	<u>\$ 916</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

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



**BLADEN COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN, INC.**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**JUNE 30, 2006**

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**NOTE 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**A. Organization and Purpose** - The Bladen County Partnership for Children, Inc. (Bladen Partnership) is a legally separate nonprofit organization incorporated on August 21, 1997. The Bladen Partnership was established to develop and provide, through public and private means, early childhood education and developmental services for children and families. The Bladen 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 Bladen 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 Bladen Partnership did not have any temporarily or permanently restricted net assets at June 30, 2006.

**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

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

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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. Funds Held For Others** - Funds held for others includes amounts received that are fiduciary in nature in which the Bladen Partnership acts in an agency capacity. For the year ended June 30, 2006, the Bladen Partnership was holding amounts withheld from employee paychecks for distribution to taxing authorities.
- H. Property and Equipment** – Under the modified cash basis of accounting, purchases of property and equipment are reported as expenditures in the year occurred. However, Bladen Partnership is required by contract regulation to track and maintain property and equipment items as presented in Schedule 4 of this report. The Bladen 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, 2006. Donated items are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation.
- I. 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.
- J. Use of Estimates** - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting used by the Bladen Partnership requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures (such as allocation of joint

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

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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 Bladen 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 Bladen Partnership and represents a concentration of credit risk as to the generation of revenue.

Associated with these contracts, the Bladen 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, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) entered into contracts with and made payments to service providers selected by the Bladen 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 Bladen Partnership was awarded and has received \$429,943 under a current year Smart Start contract with NCPC. The unexpended balance of this contract is subject to reversion to the State. The Bladen Partnership has returned \$5,337 of this contract to the State based on financial status reports submitted to NCPC subsequent to June 30, 2006.

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

### NOTE 3 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

**A. Service Provider Contracts with Board Member Organizations** - The board members of the Bladen Partnership are representative of various organizations that benefit from actions taken by the Board. It is the policy of the Bladen Partnership that board members not be involved with decisions regarding organizations they represent. During the year, the Bladen 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 Bladen Partnership's Smart Start Allocation.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

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**B. Other Related Parties** - The Bladen Partnership entered into transactions for supplies with a private business associated with a board member of the Bladen Partnership. The amounts paid included:

<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Bladen Office Supplies	\$ 63

**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 Quality** - Used to account for service activities including quality enhancement grants for upgrades, professional development, or health benefits for child care providers.

**Family Support** - Used to account for service activities including family resource centers, parenting education, or community outreach information and resources.

**Health and Safety** - Used to account for service activities including comprehensive screenings or child care health consultants.

**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.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

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**Program Evaluation** - Expenditures that are incurred to monitor the effectiveness and feasibility of Partnership activities and contract agencies to determine if the short-term and long-term goals are being achieved.

### 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 - OPERATING LEASE OBLIGATION

Future minimum lease payments under a noncancelable operating lease consist of the following at June 30, 2006:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2007	\$ 4,644
2008	4,644
2009	4,644
Total Minimum Lease Payments	<u>\$ 13,932</u>

Rental expense for all operating leases during the year was \$21,757.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONCLUDED)

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### NOTE 6 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The Bladen 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; and natural disasters. The Bladen Partnership manages these various risks of loss as follows:

<u>Type of Loss</u>	<u>Method Managed</u>	<u>Risk of Loss Retained</u>
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 Bladen Partnership. Settled claims have not exceeded this insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

### NOTE 7 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

**Compensated Absences** – As a result of the Bladen 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, 2006, is \$3,057. No funds or reservation of net assets has been made for this commitment.

### NOTE 8 - DEFICIT NET ASSETS

The Bladen County Partnership for Children, Inc. has a deficit net assets balance because in prior years the Partnership did not apply for their sales tax refund. The Partnership has filed the forms to try to obtain the refunds but have not received a response. If the Partnership does not receive the refund, funds will have to be raised from other sources in order to eliminate the negative cash balance.

***Bladen County Partnership for Children, Inc.  
Schedule of Contract and Grant Expenditures - Modified Cash Basis  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2006***

***Schedule 1***

<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>Smart Start Fund</b>	
	<b>Amount Advanced</b>	<b>Refund Due</b>
<b><i>Paid to Organizations:</i></b>		
Bladen Community College	* \$ 27,319	\$ (629)
Bladen County Health Department	* 34,161	
Bladen Family Support Initiative	* 46,345	
Children's Developmental Services Agency	* 10,500	
Southeastern Community College	71,228	
	<u>189,553</u>	<u>(629)</u>
<b><i>Paid to Individuals:</i></b>		
Health Insurance Reimbursements Recipients	<u>5,716</u>	
	<u>\$ 195,269</u>	<u>\$ (629)</u>

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

***Bladen County Partnership for Children, Inc.***  
***Schedule of State Level Service Provider Contracts***  
***For the Year Ended June 30, 2006***

***Schedule 2***

<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>DHHS Contracts</b>
Bladen County Department of Social Services	* \$ 198,015
Child Care Services Association - WAGE\$ Program	<u>36,000</u>
	<u>\$ 234,015</u>

\* This organization is represented on the Partnership's Board as described in Note 3A - 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.



**Bladen County Partnership for Children, Inc.**  
**Schedule of State Awards - Modified Cash Basis**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2006**

**Schedule 3**

State Grantor/Pass-through Grantor/Program	Receipts	Expenditures
<b>State Awards:</b>		
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 (Previous Year)	\$ (190)	\$ (190)
Early Childhood Initiatives Program (Prior Year)	(26,348)	(26,348)
Early Childhood Initiatives Program (Current Year)	* 424,606	424,606
Multi-County Accounting and Contracting Grant	12,000	12,000
	\$ 410,068	\$ 410,068
<b>Total State Awards</b>	<b>\$ 410,068</b>	<b>\$ 410,068</b>

\* Program with compliance requirements that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements.

***Bladen County Partnership for Children, Inc.***  
***Schedule of Property and Equipment - Modified Cash Basis***  
***For the Year Ended June 30, 2006***

***Schedule 4***

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Furniture and Noncomputer Equipment	\$ 8,322
Computer Equipment/Printers	<u>22,729</u>
Total Property and Equipment	<u><u>\$ 31,051</u></u>

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.

***Bladen County Partnership for Children, Inc.  
Schedule of Qualifying Match (Non-GAAP)  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2006***

***Schedule 5***

***Match Provided at the Partnership Level:***

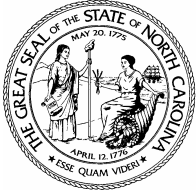
Cash	\$	553
In-Kind Goods and Services		<u>779,931</u>
	\$	<u><u>780,484</u></u>

***Match Provided at the Contractor Level:***

Cash	\$	28,564
In-Kind Goods and Services		<u>24,591</u>
	\$	<u><u>53,155</u></u>

Note: This schedule is presented in accordance with the program match requirement as provided for by North Carolina Session Law 2005-276, Section 10.64(c). The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. and all local partnerships are required to 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.

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**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**

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Board of Directors  
Bladen County Partnership for Children, Inc.  
Elizabethtown, North Carolina

We have audited the financial statements of the Bladen County Partnership for Children, Inc. (Bladen Partnership) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2006, and have issued our report thereon dated April 30, 2007. 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.

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.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Bladen 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 Bladen 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)**

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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 Bladen 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.

*Leslie W. Merritt, Jr.*

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

April 30, 2007

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