



partnershipforchildren
JOHNSTON COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OUTBACK JOINS PARTNERSHIP TO HELP CHILDREN WITH SCHOOL SUCCESS

SMITHFIELD- July 31, 2008 - Outback Steakhouse in Smithfield is working with the Partnership for Children of Johnston County to raise much needed funds to help support efforts in ensuring that all Johnston County children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. Mike O'Dowd, Managing Partner at Outback Steakhouse is sponsoring a special steak luncheon on Thursday, August 21 to support the Partnership's efforts.

According to a recent report from Johnston County Schools, 17.4 % of children who enter Kindergarten do not have sufficient mastery of reading knowledge and skills to be successful in school. In lower income areas those percentages rise to nearly 30%. The Partnership works with children and their families to help prepare them for success in school. Some services include: two lending libraries full of developmentally appropriate toys and resources for children, parents and teachers; early literacy classes for children and families through a grant from the Wachovia Foundation; funding the National Parents as Teachers Program to work with parents in the home during their child's early learning years and funding the More At Four pre-Kindergarten program. Most of the Partnership's programs are designed to serve all Johnston County children and are not limited to low-income families. The Partnership also funds many services to improve the quality of early childhood environments throughout the county.

"With all the Partnership for Children provides there are still many children not receiving crucial services necessary to be ready for school. Outback's generosity is helping us fill that gap." states Dr. Morris, Executive Director. "We are extremely grateful that Mike O'Dowd and his staff at Outback Steakhouse are partnering with us."

The Partnership for Children of Johnston County is the lead agency in bringing together government, businesses and individuals to improve the health, education and emotional well-being of Johnston County Children.

The steak luncheon includes Steak, Caesar salad, Roasted garlic mashed potatoes, Cheesecake, Tea or Soda and costs only \$10 with the entire amount going to the Building Brighter Futures Fund Drive. To learn more visit www.pfcjc.org and to purchase tickets phone the Partnership for Children at 919-938-2411 Ext. 100.

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