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**PRINCE GEORGE'S CHILD RESOURCE CENTER MARKS 25 YEARS**

*Since 1990, Nearly 500,000 Have Benefited From Quality Care, Education, Family Support*

UPPER MARLBORO, MD – More than 1,200 children, families, community leaders and early childhood advocates gathered today at [Watkins Regional Park](#) to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Prince George's Child Resource Center](#).

Since 1990, the Prince George's Child Resource Center has been working to help make sure families have access to quality, affordable child care, health care and other services. Each year the Resource Center supports more than 1,500 families and trains more than 2,000 child care providers, parents and human services professionals.

"The most important thing we can do to strengthen our community and ensure a brighter future is to provide high-quality early childhood care, education, and family support" said Marti Worshtil, executive director of the Prince George's Child Resource Center. "Helping children get the best start in life means providing parents the support they need and ensuring child-care teachers get quality education and training."

Attendees enjoyed playground activities, free pumpkins, carousel and hay rides and dental screenings from the [Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures Dental Van](#). The event also served as the kick-off to a year-long series of activities designed to raise awareness in the county about the vital role of early learning and child care, healthy care, nutrition, family support and provider training. With more than 60,000 residents in Prince George's County under the age of 5, investments in high-quality early childhood care and education, health care and family support services set the foundation for better schools, safer communities, and a stronger workforce.

"I know the work the Resource Center does for families, children and the child care community, said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III. "I have

visited their site and supported their work. Marti Worshtil and her staff are caring, knowledgeable and efficient. They are an asset to our County and I congratulate them on 25 years of great service."

Working with its partners at the local, state and national levels, the Resource Center has made important progress in the last 25 years to improve the lives of children and families. To date, more than half a million children have been served throughout the county. But, poverty, hunger, homelessness and other challenges persist, with far-reaching effects throughout the community. Approximately one-third of Prince George's children entering kindergarteners have the skills and behaviors needed to succeed.

"While we're proud of our progress, we continue to face significant challenges to make sure all children realize their full potential," said Tianya McMillan of M&T Bank and Resource Center Board President-Elect. "By recognizing the need, identifying innovative solutions and working together, we can make sure every child in our community has an equal opportunity for success in school, career and life. "

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*Prince George's Child Resource Center helps create healthy and nurturing environments for children by supporting their families and educating their caregivers. Each year the Resource Center provides family support services to over 1,500 families and training to over 2,000 child care providers, parents and human services workers. Since 1990, the Resource Center has touched the lives of nearly half a million children through home visits, child development education, links to community services, and adult education. [www.childresource.org](http://www.childresource.org)*