

Santa and The Grandparents Network team celebrate the season and spirit of giving with volunteers and the young Durham area families they serve

Every child is a gift and Santa will deliver a gift for every child, compliments of The Grandparents Network at a luncheon Monday December 22nd at the Durham Main Library. This celebration will highlight the Grandparent volunteers, their "adopted" young families and the accomplishments of the organization during this first year of operation.

Durham Connects created The Grandparents Network program to help the parents of newborns handle the very real challenges of balancing a new or growing family. The wisdom and experience of the Grandparents has proven to be invaluable along with the professionals that are also a part of the services offered.

Program Director Ann Jones Clement said "We are so proud of the way our Grandparents have stepped up to help fill this need in Durham. Times have changed and you no longer necessarily have the blessing of an extended family to provide that helping hand and pass on parenting skills."

"The feedback we have gotten tells us it is working and we are winning. During 2008 our program has grown and the needs have too, but this is a celebration of what we have achieved with the support of our extended family in this community" states Mrs. Clement.

The Cribs for Kids initiative, in conjunction with manufacturer Graco provided significantly discounted brand new baby beds to dozens of new mothers this year, free of charge. Many of the Grandparents Network volunteers have personally funded incidentals and done several fund raisers, including selling Artful Greetings holiday greeting cards, to help further underwrite the needs of the organization.

For more information on this program and the Grandparents Network or becoming a volunteer, please visit www.durhamconnects.org or call Ms. Bea Chestnutt at 668-3279.

Walk to Cure