

**2007 Annual Report
The Special children's School**

This was an historic year for The Special Children's School. As the Family Support Network celebrated its twentieth year, TSCS approached its thirty-fifth. Together they sustained their magnificent commitment to the children and families with special needs in our region.

As touching and poignant as this life-giving support, nurture, education, development, and perspective was to these families, no story this past year matched the decision to align with the Winston Salem Forsyth County Schools. In July we transitioned to a contractual agreement whereby all educational programs would be administered by the public schools, to include human resources and finance. The transition was smooth, the agreement a "win-win" for all involved.

While parent involvement, volunteer activity, and the ebb and flow of developmental therapies and classroom inclusion experienced barely a ripple of change, there was fundamental change in the under girding of the school. The County Health Department became responsible for our nursing, Chartwell, Inc. began managing our food service and the public schools took over the full physical maintenance of the building. Most importantly, the over-all curriculum and supervision became the responsibility of the county schools, primarily at the pre-school age level.

The Infant-Toddler program (ages birth through three) retains its contract with the Child Development Service Agency, and the private entity of the Developmental Day school retains its relationship with CenterPoint Human Services, the state LME (local management entity) for DD/MH/SA services. We retain our Five Stars through the NC Division of Child Development and maintain our NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) accreditation. Our legal and fiduciary responsibility as a Board of Directors remains unchanged as does our commitment as an agency provider for The United Way of Forsyth County.

The Board of Directors, whose leadership secured the WSFCS agreement, spent much of 2006-2007 changing from an operational board to an oversight board. The forming of a "Friends" organization and an "Advancement" Committee best symbolized this change.

Financial support plagues all non profits and TSCS is not without its ongoing challenges in this regard. As always, we are deeply grateful to our donors and volunteers, without whom we could not open our doors each day.

**Dr. William R. Donohue
Executive Director**