



Partnership in the Community

(April 2014) Preschool students in the City of Fredericksburg will be the beneficiaries of a program developed by The Greater Rappahannock Chapter (VA) of the Links, Incorporated in partnership with the Fredericksburg Regional Head Start.

The program, called SMART Start Link 2 Life, will provide exposure to early childhood learning experiences for unserved children on the Head Start waiting list. Links Chapter President Beth Sinkler, Program Chairman Karen Griffin along with members Sandra King, Regina Jackson and Wycessa Small are photographed with Fredericksburg Public School Superintendent, Dr. David Melton, Deputy Superintendent, Marciline Catlett and Acting Head Start Director, Nancy Woodward as they gathered to sign the Memorandum of Understanding at a recent School Board meeting.

A Link member will be assigned to each family and the preschooler and their parents will participate in monthly activity sessions geared towards enhancing early literacy and encouraging health and social well-being in preparation for school readiness. During the sessions, parents will observe the activities and be encouraged to continue these lessons at home using activity calendars and supplies provided by Smart Start. The concepts are presented using games, projects, stories, and other hands-on, fun techniques.

During a 24-month period, the families will receive additional support as they move into elementary school and will participate in field trips as well as nutrition and health-related workshops.

The Links, Incorporated is an international organization of professional women with 277 chapters and over 12,000 members, dedicated to providing educational, health and other assistance to underserved members of our communities.