



NEWS RELEASE

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CENTER SERVING SOUTHERN WAKE COUNTY MARKS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Wake County's Southern Regional Center, which serves 90,000 visitors each year, is celebrating its 20th anniversary today.

"We are excited to mark two decades of commitment and service to the citizens of Fuquay-Varina, Holly Springs and Garner," said Richard Hayner, director of the Wake County Southern Regional Center. "We strive to make an impact on our local community by providing child, youth, family and economic assistance to those who need it. The most rewarding part of our jobs is witnessing the positive impacts we make on those we serve."

The Southern Regional Center (SRC) was created in 1996 to bring county services to clients in their own communities, making these services more accessible and convenient. In one visit, a client can see a doctor in the clinic, pay taxes, find job training resources and learn about financial assistance to obtain prescribed medications.

Cathy Sauls has worked at the center since it opened its doors. A senior social worker in the Pregnancy Care Management Program, Sauls has spent the past 20 years helping expectant mothers get the prenatal care they need to raise happy and healthy babies.

"I've served hundreds of pregnant women over the years, and it's been a pleasure to know I played a role in the positive development of their children," said Sauls.

She sees firsthand the benefits residents experience by having the center located in southern Wake County.

"Many of our clients rely on family and friends living nearby to drive them to our center to access services," said Sauls. "They would have a more difficult time finding someone willing to bring them into Raleigh, so the close proximity of this facility to their homes makes a big difference."

The center will express its appreciation to its customers today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. by offering activities and safety demonstrations at its location at 130 N. Judd Parkway NE in Fuquay-Varina:

- Cinder the Fire Dog from the Holly Springs Fire Department will be on site from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to teach children the tenants of fire safety, including stop, drop and roll.
- Wake County's Public Health Division will run a car seat safety inspection station from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Residents are encouraged to stop by to ensure their car seats are properly installed.
- Face painting will be available for children of all ages. They can also enjoy snow cones, popcorn and cotton candy.

A separate evening event will recognize the center's staff for their many contributions to the local community. Wake County Board of Commissioners Chairman James West will deliver remarks. He will also be available for interviews. The event will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information on the SRC, visit our [website](#).

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