

Volunteers and Vibrant Art Rebuild Progress Park



ASC Vice President of Public Art Jean Greer works with a young artist

Take 60 children – ages 5 through 12 – two ceramic artists, clay, paint and the artistic inspiration of play, nature and community. Add to that the desire to connect a park to the communities it serves with new play structures and landscaping. Now get 150 volunteers from more than 27 Charlotte companies

to trade in their business attire for jeans and a tool belt and you've got hard work for child's play. On April 23, 2003 business and civic leaders from throughout Charlotte rebuilt Progress Park – an old playground in Charlotte's Optimist Park community. Working with KaBOOM – a Washington, DC public service group and Business Strengthening America – a division of USA Freedom – the Arts & Science Council was able to add an artistic flair to the outdoor effort. The ASC sponsored three workshops where children from the Belmont, Villa Heights and Optimist Park neighborhoods worked with artists Terry Shipley and Amy Sanders to design and paint more than 130 tiles that will be placed along walkways and walls in the park. Shipley and Sanders are with Clayworks – a clay stu-

dio that is part of the McColl Center for Visual Art – one of ASC's affiliate organizations. Then ASC executives rolled up their sleeves to move mulch, pour concrete and install swings and slides. Progress Park and the art that will reside there – along with the laughter and play – is just another way to build a livelier, healthier community.



A young artist paints a tile