PROGRAMS

Early Head Start
Quality Counts
Nurse Family Partnership

ANNUAL REPORT
2014-2015

VISION:
Every child in Spartanburg County will enter school ready for success.

First Steps WORKS for the children of Spartanburg County.
Vision: Every child in Spartanburg County will enter school ready to succeed.

Mission: Spartanburg County First Steps will be the engine to drive collaboration, partnership, effective resource utilization and funding to prepare children to be ready for school.

In 1779, as a Founding Father, Thomas Jefferson proposes a two-track educational system, with different tracks in his words for "the laboring and the learned." Scholarships would allow a very few of the laboring class to advance, Jefferson says, by "raking a few geniuses from the rubbish.

In 2015…236 years later, “We know what a difference early childhood programs make in the lives of our kids.” —Barack Obama, President of United States

President Obama called upon Congress to expand access to high-quality preschool for every child in America, proposing investments that support a continuum of early learning opportunity, beginning at birth and continuing to age five. Congress passed funding for the National Childcare Partnership Grants.

Spartanburg County First Steps Early Head Start was awarded one of the EHS Childcare Partnership Grants and the President of the United States called our name on National television as one of the recipients.

How privileged are we to be living in an age where all are considered “Geniuses” at birth and no one is considered “rubbish.” At First Steps, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to make a difference in the “lives of our kids.”

Privileged,

Carolyn Brooks
Each of the six color blocks of the First Steps logo represents a core area of service, outlining our comprehensive strategy to prepare children for long-term school success.

With measurable outcomes across each of its six school readiness strategy areas, First Steps is getting results.

**Healthy Start**
We begin with a focus on providing a healthy start to life. This includes prenatal and post-partum services for both mother and baby. In 2007, First Steps collaborated with key philanthropic and agency partners to bring Nurse-Family Partnership to SC having a significant impact on reducing premature births and Medicaid costs.

**Quality Childcare**
Quality childcare starts with quality childcare providers. Our quality enhancement and training strategies lead to improved teacher-student interaction, which research shows has a significant impact on a child’s development and success in school.

**Family Strengthening**
Our home visitation strategies, such as Parents as Teachers, Parent-Child Home and Early Steps to School Success, are helping parents understand their responsibilities to care for and be positive models for their children. As a result of First Steps’ intervention and parenting support, 66% of clients initially assessed at “low” levels of parenting have achieved moderate or high levels of parenting skill.

**Early Education**
Private-public partnerships through First Steps 4K have led to significant cost efficiencies in the delivery of publicly funded 4K. One recent analysis suggests First Steps is achieving comparable results, without the need for costly capital construction, for 80 cents on the dollar.

**Early Intervention**
According to recent federal evaluations, outcomes for clients participating in BabyNet early intervention programs are above national averages. BabyNet matches the special needs of infants and toddlers who have disabilities and/or developmental delays with customized, community-based resources.

**School Transition**
Each of the corresponding blocks of services leads ultimately to the goal of transitioning children successfully to school. Programs like Countdown to Kindergarten and From Day One to Grade One are ultimately preparing children for school success.

Based on the needs of our community, Spartanburg County First Steps focuses its investments in Quality Childcare and Early Head Start.
This page contains financial data for the fiscal years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. The data includes budget summaries, obligations, expenditures, and financial impacts for various programs and activities. The data is organized into sections detailing different aspects of the budget, including budget summaries, expenditures by funding source, and budget categories. The financial impact is calculated as a percentage, and the State Leverage % is noted for each section.
Spartanburg County First Steps Efforts to Prepare Children for Kindergarten.

- Spartanburg County First Steps Quality Counts works with 44% of the child care centers in the county to improve the quality of early education for young children.
- All seven school districts are represented on the First Steps Board.
- The School Readiness Community Team includes school district personnel.
- FS EHS has contracts with two school districts to provide Early Head Start services in their centers which also are family literacy sites.

School Readiness

- Readiness does not happen at the same time or in the same way for all children
- 96% of Early Head Start children were developing typically based on GOLD Assessment- April 2015

FS EHS by the Numbers

Early Head Start

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<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
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<th>FY1415</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>* CACFP</td>
<td>$35,355</td>
<td>$36,084</td>
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<td>* ABC</td>
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<td><strong>$1,681,189</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* CACFP - Child and Adult Care Food Program
* ABC - ABC Childcare Program

Family Goals

- 365 family goals were developed
- 19 goals were completed
- 75% of families progressed on their goals

Health Services

- 18% of Children Served With Disabilities
- 78% of Children Served Who Received Medical Exams
- 62% Children Served Up to Date Dental Screenings
- 16% Children received Dental Examinations
- 22% Pregnant Women Who Received Dental Services
- 79% Children Up to Date on Immunizations
- 90% Pregnant Women Received Post-Natal EHS Visit within 14 Days
- 2 Health Services Advisory Meetings
On March 1, 2015 our program was awarded a $1,474,814 federal grant. The intent of the grant is for Early Head Start to partner with community childcare centers to serve low-income, working families. The grant targets zip codes that have high concentrations of poverty.

Childcare Partners:
Abundant Blessings, Sunshine House, Mother Goose, Learning Years and District Seven’s Early Learning Center.

**Early Head Start by the Numbers**

**Child Care Partnership (CCP) Grant Award**

- Socialization Activities
  - 38 parents & children attended 23 events!
- CACFP
  - 26,238 nutritious breakfasts, lunches and snacks were served at FS EHS centers

**Early Head Start Federal Review & Audit Results**

**Results Audit**
The A133 Single Audit of 2013-2014 was completed with no material findings and was filed with the Federal Clearinghouse in March 2014.

**Results Federal Review**
The triennial review was held January 6-10, 2014. South Carolina First Steps to Spartanburg County (Spartanburg County First Steps) was found noncompliant for Part 1306- Head Start Staffing Requirements and Program Options- Grantees implementing a home-based program option must: maintain an average caseload of 10-12 families per home visitor with a maximum caseload of 12 families for any individual home visitor. The agency created a Home-Based Program Option Compliance Plan which addressed and corrected the staffing problem which was sent to Atlanta in April 2014. A letter was received from Ann Linehan, Acting Director, Office of Head Start in August stating that the information provided to ACF was sufficient to close the previously identified findings.

**Parent Engagement Activities**
996 parent engagement events were provided and training topics included child health, mental health and nutrition, parenting, budgeting, pedestrian safety and school readiness.

**Early Head Start by the Numbers**

- **Parent Engagement Activities**
  - 996 parent engagement events were provided and training topics included child health, mental health and nutrition, parenting, budgeting, pedestrian safety and school readiness.

- **Socialization Activities**
  - 38 parents & children attended 23 events!

- **CACFP**
  - 26,238 nutritious breakfasts, lunches and snacks were served at FS EHS centers

- **Parent Engagement Activities**
  - Parents read to their children a total of 310 hours this year!

- **1351 home visits were completed with families.**

- **Triennial Community Assessment Completed!**

- **307 families received Community Referrals!!**

**Ekky Foss**

**Early Head Start Director Retires!**
December 31, 2014
Thank you for your Exceptional Leadership

*Much of the Early Head Start program’s success is a result of Ekky’s leadership. Spartanburg County First Steps Staff and Board wish to thank Ekky for her thirteen years of service.*

Jeri Ross-Hayes accepted the Early Head Start Director’s position after an extensive National search. The Board and Staff look forward to Jeri’s leadership.
Quality Counts

Has your child’s pediatrician ever mentioned that 90% of your child’s brain architecture will be built by age 4? That’s right 90%!

**Quality Counts Program Information**

**What is Quality Counts?**
Quality Counts is a quality initiative that uses a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) framework to improve the quality in early care and education programs. Quality Counts began as a pilot in January 2012 and went to full implementation in July 2013.

**What is the Goal of Quality Counts?**
Quality Counts is a quality enhancement strategy designed to raise and sustain the level of quality in early care and education programs with the goal that all children will arrive at school better prepared for school success.

**Who is Participating?**
Quality Counts is open to all early care and education centers who are licensed, registered, or approved by DSS. Approximately 45% of the eligible programs in Spartanburg County are participating.

**Why Does Quality Counts Matter?**
Quality Counts supports learning environments that promote healthy brain development for young children. Healthy brain development helps children to arrive at school ready to learn and better prepared for future success. Healthy, prosperous communities need a strong workforce and engaged citizens; preparing for the future means investing in our young children today.

**Quality Counts Program Partners**
Quality Counts is a partnership between the Mary Black Foundation and Spartanburg County First Steps. Public-private partnerships are essential to the success of Quality Counts. These partnerships support the credibility and visibility of Quality Counts in the community.

**Funding Partners**
- Mary Black Foundation
- Spartanburg County First Steps
- Spartanburg County Foundation

**Community Partners**
- Spartanburg Academic Movement
- Institute for Child Success
- Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce
- Spartanburg County Foundation
- Spartanburg Herald-Journal
- Spartanburg Regional Foundation
- Spartanburg Regional Healthcare
- Spartanburg County School Districts
- United Way of the Piedmont

*Spartanburg Academic Movement “SAM”*
The Spartanburg Academic Movement (SAM) is a committed partner and is a firm believer in the work of Quality Counts.

“"It is the launch pad for the transformation SAM is pursuing: which is for all children in Spartanburg County to be educated to the level of their full potential … cradle to career.”

*John C. Stockwell, PhD, Executive Director, Spartanburg Academic Movement*
Quality Counts Supports *What Matters Most*

Highly-qualified technical assistance providers and raters are an integral part of the Quality Counts (QC) TA Model. Highly-qualified means that the Quality Counts team is educated in early childhood development, is experienced in the early care and education world, and is well trained in best practice.

During the past year Quality Counts team members were among the first in our state to be trained on the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale – 3rd edition. Commonly known as the E-3, this scale will replace the ECERS-R and focuses more heavily on the interactions between the teacher and the child. Julie Greer, Quality Counts Rater, has earned reliability on the E-3 and has used the scale in a small pilot with Quality Counts programs. After QC programs receive training on the E-3, QC will begin to use the tool more widely. Tammy Compton, who joined the Quality Counts team in 2014, has completed CLASS Observer Certification for Toddlers. Sharon Bruton and Julie Greer attended the NAEYC conference (National Association for the Education of Young Children) in November, 2014 in Dallas Texas.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality Counts by the Numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding Source</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Funding</td>
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<td>Local Private</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Black Foundation</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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</table>

- 44% of the eligible early care and education programs in Spartanburg County are enrolled in Quality Counts
- Quality Counts offered participants more than 95 hours of high quality training last year
- Approximately 2100 children benefited every Monday-Friday from enhanced learning environments
- More than 450 directors and teachers are implementing goals from an individualized Quality Improvement Plan
Nurse-Family Partnership

Helping vulnerable first-time moms empowers them to achieve a better life for themselves and their children.

Program Description

NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP (NFP) IN OUR COMMUNITY
Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) is an evidence-based, community health program that helps transform the lives of vulnerable mothers pregnant with their first child. Each mother served by NFP is partnered with a registered nurse early in her pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits that continue through her child’s second birthday. Independent research proves that communities benefit from this relationship — every dollar invested in NFP can yield more than five dollars in return.

NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP GOALS
1. Improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in good, preventive health practices, including thorough prenatal care from their healthcare providers, improving their diets, and reducing their use of cigarettes, alcohol and illegal substances
2. Improve child health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care
3. Improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family by helping parents develop a vision for their own future, plan future pregnancies, continue their education and find work.

Risk Factor Profile:

| % Single Mothers | 90.9 |
| % < HS Diploma | 54.3 |
| % with Developmental Delays | 3.5 |

Nurser Family Partnership

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NFP is supported by the most extensive research foundation of any maternal and child health program. Three randomized controlled trials in 1997, 1988 and 1994 - which are still being examined today for long-term impact – show consistently proven results in the areas of improved prenatal health, fewer childhood injuries, fewer subsequent pregnancies, increased intervals between births, increased material employment, and improved school readiness.

Program Results 2009-2015

Spartanburg County NFP by the Numbers
✓ 482 Clients served
✓ 318 Babies Born to Program
✓ In August 2015: 81% moms initiating breastfeeding.
✓ Premature Birth rate 6.9%
✓ 100% of children immunized at 6,12,& 18 months

Thank you to our partners!

DHEC Region 2
Spartanburg Regional Hospital Systems
United Way of the Piedmont
Congregational Nursing Program
Spartanburg Regional Home Care
Spartanburg County First Steps
SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
The Duke Endowment
Children’s Trust of South Carolina

Spartanburg County First Steps
900 South Pine Street, Suite C | Spartanburg SC, 29302
Phone- 864-327-4900
www.1steps.org
In collaboration to learn from each other and help change a community of learners, Spartanburg County School District Seven set as a priority an early learning center concept in the Park Hills community.

Principal Wanda Owens-Jackson said … “It will help us to get on one chord, as far as serving our early learners. We’ll be able to pool our resources and make this a wonderful experience for our early learners.”

Over 20 partnerships were formed to make this early education effort possible including Spartanburg First Steps Early Head Start, the Mary Black Foundation, Boys and Girls Club, ReGenesis Community Health Center, Silver Hill United Methodist Church, Spartanburg County Adult Education Program, Spartanburg County Foundation, Spartanburg Housing Authority, Spartanburg Regional Foundation and others.

### Spartanburg County First Steps Partnership Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Board Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Donna Anderson</td>
<td>Department of Social Services Support Provider</td>
<td>DSS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim Ashby</td>
<td>Spartanburg County School District Two</td>
<td>School District Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terrill Banks</td>
<td>Former EHS Parent</td>
<td>Parent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joan Blalock</td>
<td>Spartanburg County Library</td>
<td>Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jean Brewington</td>
<td>Spartanburg County School District Three</td>
<td>School District Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laverne Byrd</td>
<td>Retired Teacher</td>
<td>Family Education, Training</td>
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<td>Sabrina Coan</td>
<td>Childcare Director</td>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamara Cook</td>
<td>Spartanburg Regional Healthcare Nurse</td>
<td>Healthcare Provider</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wanda Fowler</td>
<td>Middle Tyger Community Center, ED. Retired</td>
<td>School District Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clarisa Giles</td>
<td>Nurse Family Partnership, Director</td>
<td>Healthcare Provider</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Goulding</td>
<td>Attorney – 7th Circuit Solicitor’s Office</td>
<td>Attorney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Greene</td>
<td>Spartanburg County School District One</td>
<td>School District Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ava Hughes</td>
<td>Arts Education Director/Chapman Cultural Center</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karyn Lemon</td>
<td>McBee, Talbot, Halliday (CPA)</td>
<td>Fiscal – Required by EHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Love</td>
<td>Childcare, Early Childhood Development</td>
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<td>Kim McBee</td>
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<td>Dr. Lindi Metcalf</td>
<td>Spartanburg County School District Six</td>
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<td>Mike Newman</td>
<td>Department of Health and Environmental Control</td>
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<td>Bob Page</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kay Phillips</td>
<td>Budweiser of Spartanburg/Business</td>
<td>Legislative Appointee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terry Pruitt</td>
<td>Spartanburg County School District Seven</td>
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BabyNet is South Carolina’s interagency early intervention system for infants and toddlers under three years of age with developmental delays, or who have conditions associated with developmental delays.

BabyNet matches the special needs of infants and toddlers who have developmental delays with the professional resources available within the community. Services are provided in everyday routines, activities and places relevant to the life of the family. BabyNet is funded and regulated through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and managed through South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness.

Anyone (a parent, doctor, caregiver, teacher or friend) can make a referral by the number listed below. The earlier a baby or toddler receives help, the better!

To make a referral or to get more information call 1-877-621-0865 or send an email to babynet@scfirststeps.org for assistance.

First Steps is the lead agency for BabyNet, South Carolina’s early intervention system for children under 3. Parents of children 0-2 years old with disabilities or suspected developmental delays should contact their local BabyNet office to schedule an evaluation.

Local BabyNet Office: Serving Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union

Location:
S.C. School for the Deaf and Blind
355 Cedar Springs Road
Spartanburg, SC 29302

Lead Supervisor: Melissa Swann
Office: 864.591.8645
Cell: 864.360.4102
Main Telephone Line: 864-591-8641
The Goals of First Steps

(1) Provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschool children

(2) Increase comprehensive services so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems

(3) Promote high-quality preschool programs that provide a healthy environment that will promote normal growth and development

(4) Provide services so all children receive the protection, nutrition, and health care needed to thrive in the early years of life so they arrive at school ready to succeed

(5) Mobilize communities to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.

Section 59.152.30

Interested parents can contact any participating 4K providers to complete an application. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

http://scfirststeps.org/4k