OUR VISION:
Every South Carolina child will arrive at Kindergarten ready to succeed.

Annual Report
2016-2017
**By The Numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>Charleston County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Under Five</td>
<td>293,194</td>
<td>23,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children In Poverty</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust

- Since inception, Charleston County First Steps has leveraged $9,795,874 from sources outside state government. **That's $68.34 for every dollar received.**

- **2288 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 89 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.

- **Childcare professionals received 12 hours of technical assistance** for early care best practices.

- Improved parenting practices through **11 Group Connections Parent Workshops.**

- **Total Children Served in FY17: 794**

Charleston County First Steps  
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Charleston, SC 29464  
Phone: (843) 745-0237  
Fax: (843) 745-0895  
Board Chair  
Richardine Singleton-Brown  
www.charlestonfirststeps.org

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**Charleston County First Steps**  
**James Ella Collins**  
**Executive Director**

The goal of the Parents as Teachers (PAT) program is to provide parents with child development knowledge and parenting support; offer early detection of developmental delays and health issues; prevent child abuse and neglect; and increase children’s school readiness. The PAT model includes one-on-one home visits, monthly group meetings, developmental screenings, and linkages and connections for families to needed resources. Parent educators conduct the home visits using structured visit plans using guided planning tools. Local sites offer at least 12 hour-long home visits annually with more offered to higher-need families. PAT serves families for at least two years between pregnancy and Kindergarten. PAT affiliate programs select the target population they plan to serve and the program duration.

The PAT program teaches parents important skills to practice at home. Reading opens the door to your child’s early academic success, imparts a love of learning and leads to higher grades in every subject. Numerous studies have shown that strong oral language skills are the basis for literacy development. When children learn to read at an early age, they have greater general knowledge, expand their vocabulary and become more fluent readers. They also have improved attention spans and better vocabulary concentration. Early readers can recognize a larger number of words by sight, which enables them to learn more from and about their environment.

As parents talk, sing and read to their children, existing links among brain cells are strengthened and new links are formed. At a younger age, learning is faster than it will be as the child grows older. When a child is taught to read, the process of learning has a profound influence on the entire functioning and development of the brain. You can play a critical early role by inculcating not only reading skills and ability but more importantly, instilling a lifelong love of learning and reading.

A child who learns to read joyfully at home, at an early age, with a loving parent or caregiver, grows in self-confidence and independence. Reading promotes greater maturity, increases discipline and lays the basis for moral literacy. It sparks curiosity about people, places and things and also satisfies the child’s curiosity by providing explanations of how things work. It exposes the child to a range of problem-solving techniques. In addition, early reading ignites the child’s creativity and imagination.

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**County Programs**

- Parents as Teachers
- Child Care Training
- Early Head Start-Parents as Teachers and Child Care Partnership
- Quality Enhancement
- Raising A Reader
- Trident Literacy

**State Programs**

- 4k Early Head Start
- First Steps
What We Do

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.

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 Intervention
Children’s school readiness depends on their healthy growth and development. First Steps helps identify potential delays early through developmental screenings and referring children to BabyNet and other early intervention resources.

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.

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 Head Start expands quality early learning and family support to infants and toddlers.

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 are ultimately preparing children for school success.

Based on the needs of our community, Charleston County First Steps focuses its investments in.... Healthy Start, Family Strengthening, Early Intervention, Quality Childcare, Early Education.
Child Care Quality Enhancement

In order to thrive, children need nurturing, responsive relationships and a supportive learning environment, both within and outside the home.

Program Description

The quality of care received by young children is crucial to their healthy development and school readiness. Child care providers strive to provide high quality care, but may lack the resources that are commonly available to publicly-funded early childhood programs, such as educational materials, on-site professional development, and other support.

First Steps’ Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE) is intended to produce measurable improvements in the quality of care provided to young children. Participating child care providers must serve a high percentage of at-risk children, and are selected through a competitive process that requires a strong level of commitment to the QE process.

Program Components

1. On-site Technical Assistance (TA) at least twice monthly
2. Equipment and materials funding
3. Integration with locally available training, provided by First Steps and other partners
4. Workforce Development
5. Coordination with community partners
6. Pre/post assessments of the classroom environment and teacher-child interaction, using nationally-recognized observational tools for infant/toddler and preschool settings (ITERS, ECERS, FCCERS)

QE by the Numbers, 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care Providers Served</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of TA Visits Provided</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to our QE participants for 2016-17!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care Provider</th>
<th>Pre/Post Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discovery School, toddler room</td>
<td>From 3.41 to 5.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adams Run, toddler room</td>
<td>From 3.24 to 5.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carousel, infant &amp; toddler room</td>
<td>From 4.18 to 5.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster’s Child Care, toddler room</td>
<td>From 2.88 to 5.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

✓ Improved quality, on average, by 1.9 based on pre/post Environment Rating Scale assessments
✓ Provided 158.75 hours of technical assistance to child care providers
✓ Provided $29,601 in materials grants to participating child care providers

Thank you to our partners!

ABC Quality Rating System
Foster Grandparent Program
Gibbes Museum of Art
Charleston County Public Libraries
Coastal Pediatric Dental and Braces

Charleston County First Steps
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Parents As Teachers – Early Head Start

Parents are their children’s first learning model.

Program Description

The Parents as Teachers (PAT) model/Early Head Start Home-based option is an evidence-based early childhood home intervention framework for families with children prenatal through three years old. Early Head Start is a federal initiative providing child development and parent support to low income families. It focuses on the role of the parent as the child’s first and most important teacher. The program includes:

1. **Personal Visits** conducted once weekly for a duration of 90 minutes.
2. **Group Socializations** conducted twice per month for two hours with a focus on both the parent and child. It emphasizes peer group interaction through age appropriate activities.
3. **Screenings and Assessments** conducted on a regular basis for each child’s health and developmental progress.
4. **Family Partnership Agreement** provides an individualized focus for each enrolled child and family. The agreement defines goals and skills that will be incorporated into their child’s curriculum.
5. **Services to Pregnant Moms** that ensures women have access to comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care.

Charleston County First Steps serves families in greatest need.

Among our EHS families:

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 95% ... were single parent households
- 95% ... were TANF eligible

EHS by the Numbers 2016-17

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Home Visits</td>
<td>515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours Spent Serving</td>
<td>773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average gain, Keys to</td>
<td>KIP’s average gain: .72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interactive Parenting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale (pre-to-post)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When I would tell him, “Today is Monday and Ms. Melody is on the way, he would sit looking out his bedroom window waiting for her to pull up. There was nothing but excitement on his face.

~Latoya

Thank you to our partners!

- Lowcountry Food Bank
- Lowcountry Orphan Relief
- Danny Jones Armory
- Charleston County Libraries
- Charleston County School District
- Palmetto Project

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Parents as Teachers

Program Description

Personal Visits at least twice monthly - Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an evidence-based home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PAT services include:

1. Monthly Group Connections with other PAT families
2. Screenings and Assessments to identify developmental concerns
3. Connections to Outside Resources that families may need to succeed

Charleston County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our Parents As Teachers families:

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 75% ... were TANF eligible
- 34% ... English is not the primary language spoken in the home

Parents play a critical role in their child’s development.

“Being a parent, we don’t know everything and it doesn’t hurt to learn….from time to time we need guidance.” ~S. Aryton

PAT by the Numbers 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage/Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Home Visits</td>
<td>1387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours Spent Serving Families</td>
<td>1455</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):

- KIP’s average gain: .81
- ACIRI average gain
  - Adult: .58
  - Child: .59

Thank you to our partners!

Charleston County Public Library
Abrazo Program
Sea Island Comprehensive
Children’s Museum of the Lowcountry
ShelterNet
Palmetto Community Action Partnership
Lowcountry Orphan Relief
Charleston County School District

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- Averaged 21.02 home visits per family
- Identified and addressed 36 potential developmental delays
- Improved parenting practices with 83% of families remaining enrolled for 9 consecutive months or more
- Improved literacy skills through distribution of 2,521 books
- Made 29 connections for families to services related to clothing/household needs, adult education, ESL classes, and financial services

“Play is the work of childhood.” – Mr. Rogers
Those who care for young children need high-quality, accessible, and affordable professional development.

Program Description
High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce.

First Steps-sponsored training is certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and includes topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development, and program administration. Best practices in training include not only the training itself, but follow-up in the classroom.

Child Care Training Sponsored by Charleston County First Steps, 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Sessions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ Quality Learning Environments</td>
<td>two sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Inclusion of Infants and Toddlers w/ Special Needs</td>
<td>two sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Promoting Nutrition and Physical Activity</td>
<td>one session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Creating a Framework of Learning through Safety</td>
<td>two sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Ethics for the ECE Educator</td>
<td>two sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Denver II Screening Tool</td>
<td>one session</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our training program provided:

- 164 early childhood staff with high quality training
- 12 hours of certified training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements

Training by the Numbers, 2016-17

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Training Attendance</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Teachers and Directors Served</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Training Sessions Offered</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Engaging Families through Early Literacy at Home.

Program Description

Raising a Reader is an evidence-based early literacy and parent engagement program that has demonstrated it can improve the reading readiness skills of children entering school. The program fosters family engagement and literacy behaviors, promotes connections with local libraries and develops early language and literacy skills in young children.

Core program components:

1. School or home-based teachers are trained to promote family engagement and implement the program in the classroom or during home visits.
2. Parents are trained to develop book-sharing routines in the home and to practice interactive techniques during story time.
3. Each week, children bring home a different bag filled with beautiful, high-quality multicultural books.
4. Families are connected to their local libraries so they can sustain their family book sharing routines.

Raising A Reader by the Numbers | 2016-17

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total children Served</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classrooms served</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-based Children Served</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our Raising A Reader program:

✓ Presented 215 blue bags filled with books to children at the year-end Blue Bag Bonanza.

Thank you to our partnering schools:

- Child & Family Development Center Head Start
- St. James Santee Head Start
- Stall High School Early Head Start
- Johns Island Early Christian Childhood Academy
- Harvest Pointe Child Development Center
- Nia Infant, Toddler & CDC
- New Israel CDC

Charleston County First Steps

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Program Description

✓ As part of the federal Early Learning Initiative, the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) grant allows Early Head Start (EHS) programs to partner with local child care centers serving infants and toddlers from low-income working families. To promote parent employment and self-sufficiency, EHS-CCP provides full-day (10 hours minimum), year round (48 weeks minimum) child care so that low-income children have the healthy and enriching early experiences they need to realize their full potential.

✓ All children receive developmental, health, vision, and oral screenings after enrollment in program.

✓ Qualified teachers receive ongoing supervision and coaching to support implementation of a research-based curriculum and responsive caregiving.

✓ All EHS families are eligible for direct family-specific benefits such as home visits, health tracking and follow-up and individualized family support services.

EHS-CCP by the Numbers:

- 144 children and their families received high quality child care and education
- 39% of families received SC Vouchers for child care
- 100% of teachers received curriculum support and onsite coaching
- 77% of teachers were enrolled in college courses
- 99% of children were enrolled in a health insurance plan
- 44% of families were referred for additional family support services

“The EHS-CCP program has helped my granddaughter achieve some of the goals I had for her. She is talking, learning, and has become more comfortable around people. It is a blessing for her and I am grateful she is around loving people who care.” - Patricia, grandparent of a one-year-old

Thank you to our partnering centers!

New Israel Child Development Center
NIA Infant, Toddler & Child Development Center
Harvest Pointe Child Development Center
Johns Island Early Childhood Christian Academy
Stepping Stones Academy
Benefits for Children and Families Qualifying for EHS Services

- Developmental screenings, referral and linkage to needed medical, dental, nutrition, vision and mental health services
- Provision of diapers and formula
- Access to home visits, parent engagement activities and family support specialists who help the family meet its goals

Benefits for Partnership Child Care Centers

- Additional resources to improve child care worker compensation
- Quality improvement funds to purchase new supplies, equipment, materials and facility improvement
- Support for staff including enhanced training and professional development
- Low child-to-teacher ratios and smaller, high-quality environments supporting enhanced curriculum and instructional support

The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is a measure of income used by the Department of Health and Human Services for determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs.

*Percentages of children who met or exceeded expectations based on three assessment checkpoints using Teaching Strategies Gold®

- Includes a child’s ability to:
  1. Regulate own emotions and behaviors and establish and sustain positive relationships
  2. Demonstrate effective and efficient use of large and small muscles for movement and position
  3. Listen to and understand increasingly complex language and use language to express thoughts and needs
  4. Demonstrate positive approaches to learning and to remember and connect experiences
  5. Recognize pictures and some symbols, signs or words
  6. Learn and begin to use math concepts and to use a variety of strategies to solve problems
Total 2016-17 Expenditures: $2,515,590

State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17*: 233%
*Percentage of state dollars matched by additional federal, private, and/or in-kind funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016-17 Expenditures by Strategy</th>
<th>State $</th>
<th>Federal $</th>
<th>Private $</th>
<th>In-Kind $</th>
<th>Total $</th>
<th>% of 2016-17 Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents as Teachers</td>
<td>$272,242</td>
<td>$99,130</td>
<td>$22,608</td>
<td>$66</td>
<td>$394,046</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising A Reader</td>
<td>$59,738</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$59,738</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trident Literacy</td>
<td>$9,416</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$9,416</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Quality Enhancement</td>
<td>$142,987</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$803</td>
<td>$3,953</td>
<td>$147,743</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Training</td>
<td>$54,286</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$340</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$54,626</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Head Start - Child Care Partnership</td>
<td>$35,506</td>
<td>$1,482,951</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$54,433</td>
<td>$1,572,890</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Family Partnership</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,175</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,175</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Support</td>
<td>$97,433</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$97,433</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Support</td>
<td>$84,598</td>
<td>$69,369</td>
<td>$2,755</td>
<td>$21,801</td>
<td>$178,523</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>$756,206</td>
<td>$1,651,450</td>
<td>$27,681</td>
<td>$80,253</td>
<td>$2,515,590</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since inception, Charleston County First Steps has leveraged $9,795,874 from sources outside of state government. That’s 68.34 cents for every state dollar.
Thank you supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Charleston County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

**Funding Support**
- State of South Carolina: $756,207 
  *(through South Carolina First Steps)*
- Department of Health & Human Services
  Office of Head Start: $1,651,450
- City of Charleston: $2,000

**In-Kind Support**
- Kaplan Early Learning Company
- Elink Corp.
- Charleston County School District
- Nia Infant & Toddler Development Center
- Harvest Pointe Child Development Center
- Johns Island Early Childhood Christian Academy

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**How your support helps children in Charleston County:**

- $25 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- $10 feeds dinner to low-income families attending a parenting workshop
- $50 helps a low-income family afford quality child care for one month
- HOW TO GIVE: make checks payable to Charleston County First Steps. Send to: CCFS 4975 Lacross Rd., Suite # 100, North Charleston, SC 29406

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Save the Date!

**Charleston County First Steps Annual Meeting November 14, 2017**

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Support Charleston County First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!
Parental Resilience-Finding the Way!

Parent As Teachers
Parental resilience is the capacity of parents to adapt and change during life’s stressors. When parents model resilience, it teaches their children how to cope during times of stress. Charleston County First Steps’ Parent Educators are prepared to partner with families to provide support as they work through a crisis. The parent’s ability to bounce back, with the support of a Parent Educator, helps families find their way.

Kanya is one of our Parent Educators who partnered with Ms. Aryton, a single mother of 2 children, ages 1 and 9. Ms. Aryton had recently lost her job and did not have a plan. Kanya provided helpful resources to Ms. Aryton to assist her in working through her situation. Ms. Aryton attended Goodwill’s Hospitality Training program, which is a one week training that offered a job opportunity. She has now been employed for 4 months at a restaurant in downtown Charleston.

“Having a parent educator with knowledge and a caring spirit who loves working with families and children is a great asset for anyone to have.”
~S. Aryton

Parent Support + Dedication = S.M.A.R.T Goals

Parent As Teachers Early Head Start
Parent support is a vital tool for families enrolled in the Parents As Teachers model of the Early Head Start Home Based Program. Parents receive individualized support through weekly home visits to meet their specific needs during the program year. Parents have goals for themselves and their children’s success, but often need help with reaching those goals. Part of the success in the EHS Home Based Program is to create and implement S.M.A.R.T goals. These goals are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely. Achieving these goals requires effort and motivation. Melody, a Home Visitor and Parent Educator, dedicates herself to helping her families set and achieve their goals. These goals are set within the first 3 months of visits. Melody visits with each family on a weekly basis, providing them with 90 minute sessions. Achieving goals or small steps empowers parents to keep striving forward.

Latoya and her 3 year old son completed a year of EHS Home-Based services. She was so grateful to have Melody as a part of her success. “My son and I were blessed to have Melody. She has helped us reach milestones that I don’t think we could have achieved. I really don’t know where to begin when it comes to expressing how thankful we are for everything Melody has done. When Melody started coming to our home, my son immediately had a connection with her and looked forward to seeing her every Monday. She has so much patience and has a genuinely helpful spirit. She recognized that my son had speech concerns and suggested that he see a speech therapist. The search for a speech therapist was difficult, but she found TriCom Therapy. They have been working with him ever since we found them. Melody not only assisted him with those milestones, but she referred me to a program were I was able to gain my GED! Melody is greatly appreciated and because of her, my son is very prepared and is doing an awesome job at Midland Park Early Headstart Program. Melody you rock!” ~Latoya

Support Charleston County First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer.
30 MILLION WORD GAP INITIATIVE
PARTNERSHIP BOARD

TALK MORE. TUNE IN. TAKE TURNS.
The “30 Million Word Gap Initiative” collaboration by First Steps encourages families to talk more! 85% of a child’s brain develops in the first 3 years of life. By age 3, some children hear 30,000,000 fewer words compared to children who are engaged in conversation on a daily basis. It’s the gap that we can aim to close through the power of language. You have the power to influence a child’s success in life by simply engaging in conversation. Leading the way to #STOPTHE WORDGAP, Charleston County First Steps Partnership Board members demonstrate how parents can support child development. By partaking in the initiative, the board is bringing community awareness to inspire people to get involved in early childhood development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Board Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hon. Richardine Singleton-Brown</td>
<td>Magistrate Judge</td>
<td>Business Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorraine Powers</td>
<td>Retired Principal</td>
<td>Business Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Gail Fleming</td>
<td>Retired SC State University Dean - College of Education Humanities, and Social Services</td>
<td>Non-Profit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violet Washington</td>
<td>Human Services Coordinator</td>
<td>DSS Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Crossley</td>
<td>Community Health / Chronic Disease Prevention</td>
<td>DHEC Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristin Zeaser-Sydow</td>
<td>Trident Technical College Higher Education Administration</td>
<td>Family Education, Training &amp; Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridget Ward</td>
<td>Children’s Librarian at Otranto Road Regional Library</td>
<td>Library Appointment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harriet Wilder</td>
<td>Retired Business Owner/ Child Development Center</td>
<td>Early Childhood Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latosha Jenkins-Fludd</td>
<td>Site Coordinator (DSS)</td>
<td>Legislative Appointee (House)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Taylor</td>
<td>Asst. Associate Superintendent, CCSD</td>
<td>School District Appointee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emanuel Williams</td>
<td>Retired, Assistant Principal</td>
<td>Legislative Appointee (Senate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Briggs</td>
<td>Retirement Planning Specialist</td>
<td>Parent of a Preschooler</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Turner</td>
<td>Taxes &amp; Accounting</td>
<td>Business Community</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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; and
(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