OUR VISION:
Every South Carolina child will arrive at Kindergarten ready to succeed.
Colleton County First Steps
Cindy L. Dickerson
Executive Director

Our programs require successful collaboration with community partners. We ask all parents and partners to join us as we launch new programs and continue programs that have proven outcomes. Parents find our programs easy to participate in and appreciate the educational books and materials we supply to enhance their role as their child’s first teacher.

The entire Board and staff work throughout the county with non-profits, faith-based organizations, businesses, and government organizations to implement programs for children pre-natal to 5 years old. One of our outreach programs includes books that have been provided to all collaborating organizations by our partnership.

Colleton County First Steps was asked to provide the Christmas “Fill the Stocking” Project for the 2016 Christmas Season. Our hope was it would become a community effort and that is exactly what happened. We were amazed at the way the community stepped up and helped us to serve 236 families and 499 children. Many civic organizations and individuals adopted families and contributed to the project; we raised over $6,000 to help fund the project.

Several of our Board Members attend Presbyterian Churches in Colleton County. Susan Dodd, Janice Young, and Juliette Green. All three of these individuals participate in the back to school project, Hands of Christ. This program provides school supplies to children in the county, clothing, and bibles. We also provided books this year, which were very much appreciated, to help the children while they were waiting to be served. We appreciate our Board Members and their service to the community.

County Programs
Parents as Teachers
Child Care Training
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Scholarships
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**
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.

**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, Colleton County First focuses its investments in Quality Childcare, Family Strengthening, and School Transition.
Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) helps transform the lives of vulnerable first-time mothers and their babies. Through ongoing home visits from registered nurses, low-income, first-time moms receive the care and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy, provide responsible and competent care for their children, and become more economically self-sufficient. From pregnancy until the child turns two years old, Nurse-Family Partnership’s Nurse Home Visitors form a much-needed, trusting relationship with the first-time moms, instilling confidence and empowering them to achieve a better life for their children and themselves.

In Colleton County, Nurse-Family Partnership is implemented through Lowcountry Department of Environmental Control. It is funded through the state “Pay for Success” program.

Colleton County First Steps is included with the service provided to Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties and serves families in greatest need.

Of all four counties participating in this program – there were 29 graduates this year and 9 of those were from Colleton County

NFP by the Numbers, 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of Clients Colleton County</th>
<th>13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approximate Number of Home Visits Colleton County</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our NFP program:

- 53% of clients working at intake vs. 69% at graduation
- 20% of graduates on private insurance vs. 5% at enrollment
- 3.7% cigarette smoking at 36 weeks, compared with 5.1% statewide
- Immunization rates at 12 months 96% vs. 95% statewide
- 88% of current, local NFP moms initiate breastfeeding (Healthy People 2020 goal is 81.9%)

Thank you to our partners! We have many partners and here are just a few.

SC Medicaid Program    All School Districts
Children’s Trust        Housing Authority
SC Comission for Minority Affairs Stork’s Nest
PASOs                  Federally Qualified Health Centers
Parents as Teachers

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

Program Description

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. **Personal Visits** at least twice monthly
2. **Monthly Group Connections** with other PAT families
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
4. **Connections to Outside Resources** that families may need to succeed

Colleton First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our PAT families:

- 59% ... single parent household
- 54% ...children with documented delays
- 100% ... children receiving SNAP

Santa came to our Christmas Party

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- **✓** Averaged 2.13 home visits per family per month
- **✓** Identified and addressed 35 potential developmental delays, and made 27 connections for families to services such as child care, Head Start, housing, food banks, BabyNet, Special Needs, and interventionalists
- **✓** Improved parenting practices includes over 50% of our parents are attending school and seeking higher education diplomas

Thank you to our partners!

- Colleton County School District Family Literacy
- Molina Heath Care
- Colleton County Fire Dept.
- Wal-mart
- Family Dollar
- Colleton County Library

PAT by the Numbers 2016-17

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Home Visits</td>
<td>326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours Spent Serving</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colleton County First Steps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Parents are their child’s first and best teachers.

Program Description

Family literacy programs offer an integrated and family-friendly approach, helping both parents and children to improve their literacy skills. Family literacy services provide information for all of the following:

1. Adult Education
2. Child Education
3. Parent Education
4. Interactive Parent/Child Activities

Our family literacy program:

- Helps parents of young children increase their education levels
- Teaches parents how to support their child’s literacy and overall development
- Provides quality early learning experiences for children 0-5 while their parents attend adult education

Colleton First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among families in the county:

- 39% … live under 100% of poverty
- 87.11% … children 0-5 receive SNAP
- 22% … of babies are born to mothers without a high school diploma

Family Literacy by the Numbers 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult Education</th>
<th>Children Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>355</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our Family Literacy program:

- Provided bags with materials to all parents that had a baby at the hospital in Colleton County
- Held a group meeting in the fall and had 116 people attended and over $2,000 worth of diapers were distributed to families
- Provided information and materials about many types of services available in the county for new parents

Thank you to our partners!

Colleton Medical Center
Molina Health Care
Family Dollar Stores
Coastal Dental Services
WIC Office at DHEC

Colleton County First Steps
609 Colleton Loop
Walterboro, SC 29488
843-542-9494
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 Colleton First Steps, 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Sessions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Growth &amp; Development</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidance</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood Borne Pathogens</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPR &amp; First Aid</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Needs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Administration</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Training by the Numbers, 2016-17

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of children served</td>
<td>1113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Teachers and Directors Served</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Training Sessions Offered</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our Training program provided:

✓ 184 early childhood staff with high quality training
✓ 52.5 hours of certified training and 2 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
✓ 89 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

Thank you to our partners!

The Beaufort Fund – Coastal Community Foundation
Child Care Center for Career Development
Child Care Resource & Referral
Coastal Electric Cooperative

All Child Care Providers that attend training receive books to share with their classrooms, literacy materials, educational manipulatives to implement the training strategies that they learn during the training sessions.
Too many families in Colleton County cannot afford quality care for their children.

Program Description

Access to quality child care is essential for children while away from their primary caregivers. Yet, of those families income-eligible for child care assistance in South Carolina, only a small fraction receive it due to lack of funds. In the absence of nurturing and consistently available family, friends or neighbors, parents are faced with few - or no – affordable care options.

Colleton County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our scholarship families:

- 100% ... receive SNAP
- 59% ... single parent household
- 36% ... do not have a high school diploma
- 54% ... had developmental delays

In addition to regular monitoring of child care providers that receive First Steps scholarships, First Steps conducts at least one developmental screening each year with scholarship children and connects families to needed services within the community.

All of our scholarship recipients are required to participate in our Parents as Teachers program.

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2016-17

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providers Served</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our Scholarship program:

- Provided 13 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- Identified and addressed 91% potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- Made 100% connections for families to services such as Parents as Teachers program
- Supported 5 small businesses in Colleton County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care

Thank you to our partners!

SC Department of Social Services
ABC Child Care
Child Care Resource and Referrals

Colleton County First Steps
609 Colleton Loop
Walterboro, SC 29488
843-542-9494
Bringing parents and teachers together as partners sets the foundation for success in school.

Program Description

Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a summer home visitation model connecting rising Kindergartners and their families with their future teachers. The program is designed:

- to forge strong and lasting home-school relationships,
- to acquaint children and families with the state and classroom expectations to increase the likelihood of school success,
- to increase parent involvement in the early grades (particularly in hard-to-reach communities), when children’s learning is foundational for life success; and
- to increase public awareness of the importance of school readiness and provide ways for parents and communities to impact children’s early school success.

Countdown to Kindergarten integrates all of the following:

Home Visitation. Teachers make six visits over the summer to the homes of participating students and families. Children and families are introduced to actual materials used in Kindergarten and are given a Kindergarten Transition Toolkit to keep.

Learning Celebration. The last visit is a “field trip” to the school where each child will attend class in the fall.

Public Awareness. Throughout the summer, First Steps releases to help parents and caregivers get children ready for Kindergarten.

*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2016*

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home/School Visits</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Watching my son during the lesson with his teacher and becoming excited about his new books was the best part of the Countdown to Kindergarten experience.

Joseph Ferneza

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- Found parents realizing that there is always an opportunity to volunteer at their child’s school.
- Surveys showed that parents began to understand the importance of reading to their child everyday.
- According to kindergarten teachers, CTK children have always performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students which is a wonderful result when you realize that the children we serve are the highest risk children.
- According to kindergarten teachers, CTK are always more involved than other parents in their child’s education in the areas of volunteering, helping out on field trips, and attending PTO meetings.

Thank you to our partners!

Colleton County School District – Title One
Colleton County Library
Kaplan Early Learning Company
Palmetto Rural Telephone
Walmart

Like us on Facebook!
Colleton County First Steps
609 Colleton Loop
Walterboro, SC 29488
843-542-9494
Total 2016-17 Expenditures: $282,838

State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17*: 38%

*Percentage of state dollars matched by additional federal, private, and/or in-kind funds

### 2016-17 Expenditures by Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>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>$84,006</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$5,094</td>
<td>$6,356</td>
<td>$95,456</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Training</td>
<td>$10,076</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$10,076</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countdown to Kindergarten</td>
<td>$9,233</td>
<td>$9,376</td>
<td>$4,367</td>
<td>$3,670</td>
<td>$26,646</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Training</td>
<td>$12,624</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$16,590</td>
<td>$6,356</td>
<td>$35,570</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Scholarships</td>
<td>$31,500</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>$38,500</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Support</td>
<td>$38,263</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$11,886</td>
<td>$5,358</td>
<td>$55,507</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Support</td>
<td>$19,617</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$180</td>
<td>$1,286</td>
<td>$21,083</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>$205,319</td>
<td>$9,376</td>
<td>$38,117</td>
<td>$30,026</td>
<td>$282,838</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

Since inception, Colleton County First Steps has leveraged $1,796,572 from sources outside of state government. That’s $.54 cents for every state dollar.
Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, XYZ First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

**Funding Support**

State of South Carolina: $200,000  
*through South Carolina First Steps*  
Beaufort Fund: $10,500  
Child Care Center for Career Dev. $2,000  
Palmetto Rural Telephone: $300  
Colleton County School District: $7,872

**In-Kind Support**

Colleton County School District  
Kaplan Early Learning Company  
SC Department of Social Services  
Bethel Presbyterian Church  
St. Judes Episcopal Church  
Coastal Electric Cooperative

**HOW TO GIVE:**

If you would like to make a donation to Colleton County First Steps, your donation will be tax deductible. Colleton County First Steps is an IRS designated 501(c)3 organization. Please make your check payable to Colleton County First Steps, 609 Colleton Loop, Walterboro, SC 29488.

- Volunteer to help a family have a good Christmas by adopting a needy family during the holiday season.
- Make a donation to allow a needy child to have age appropriate books in their home.
- Make a donation of a box of diapers to help with our diaper drive and promotion through parent training.

Support Colleton First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!
Books for Every Child
Colleton County First Steps believes all children should have age appropriate books in their home, available for them to read or have someone read to them. With the help of FirstBooks.org, we have been able to receive books and pay only the postage required to mail them to us. During the 2016/2017 fiscal year we purchased almost 7,000 books. These books were distributed throughout the county in many ways. Books were provided to new mothers giving birth at the hospital, through the local library’s children’s department and book mobile, many churches distributed books, our Parents as Teachers program, our Christmas project, the children’s art council, Countdown to Kindergarten program, schools, and any family that stopped by our office and asked for books.

Fill the Stocking Project:
Two years ago Colleton County First Steps was asked to take over the Christmas program for needy children in Colleton County, known as “Fill the Stocking”. The first year we served 104 families and 235 children. This year our numbers increased and we provided Christmas presents to 499 children in 236 families.

Our hope was that it would become a community effort and that is exactly what happened. We have been amazed at the way the community stepped up and helped us to serve 499 children we received applications from. Many civic organizations, businesses and individuals adopted families and contributed to the project and we raised over $6,000 to help fund the project. The Board was very involved and we believe our community impact and recognition has grown because of this program. We could not do this without the support and assistance we have received from community involvement.

Support Colleton County First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer.
The entire Board works with non-profits, faith-based organizations, businesses, and government organizations to distribute books throughout the county. Books have been provided to all these organizations by our board members. We are currently working with the Department of Social Services to create a reading room for children to enjoy while they wait for appointments. The Board worked with the entire community to provide Christmas to 499 children this past December. Several Board Members are Presbyterians and participate in the Hands of Christ – Back to School Project. Other members provide food banks at their churches and work with the homeless. All Board members have pulled together to make each of our projects successful throughout the county.

Colleton County First Steps Partnership Board, 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Board Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LaToya Lynah, Chair</td>
<td>Early Beginnings/Early Intervention Services</td>
<td>Colleton Co. Dept. of Special Needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Skoland, Vice Chair</td>
<td>Retired Nurse/Early Childhood Education</td>
<td>Early Childhood Education/Volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan D. Dodd, Treasurer</td>
<td>Case Supervisor/Colleton County DSS</td>
<td>DSS Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebene Edwards, Secretary</td>
<td>WIC Clinical Team Lead Nutritionist III</td>
<td>DHEC Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl Coffin</td>
<td>Colleton Memorial Library Director</td>
<td>Library Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawn Davis</td>
<td>Retired Nurse</td>
<td>Faith Based Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alisha Fender</td>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>Colleton Medical Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louise Ford</td>
<td>Family Coordinator</td>
<td>Head Start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juliette Green, Previous Chair</td>
<td>Retired DSS</td>
<td>Faith Based Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangela Green</td>
<td>Parent &amp; Family Engagement/Title One</td>
<td>Colleton County School District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brenda Hughes</td>
<td>Grant Coordinator</td>
<td>DHEC Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Kulisek</td>
<td>Principal, Black St. Early Education Center</td>
<td>Colleton County School District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica F. Williams</td>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
<td>Colleton County School District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janice Young</td>
<td>Retired Pre K Interventionist</td>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
</tr>
</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

EARLY HEAD START – CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP

Low income families with children 0-36 months, and families with infants or toddlers with special needs, are invited to apply for this year-round, comprehensive program. Available in the following counties: Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Berkeley, Dillon, Georgetown, Laurens, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Saluda and York, and coming soon to Fairfield and McCormick counties. To apply, visit:

http://scfirststeps.org/ehs/

I CAN is First Steps’ public awareness campaign for school readiness, in support of the state’s Profile of the Ready Kindergartener. Includes resources for parents, providers and communities to learn what they can do to support school readiness.

Visit: ican.sc
Like us on Facebook: icansc