

CALHOUN COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Parents are their child's first and most important teacher

Imagination Library

One of the easiest and most effective way to build the language neural connections in a young child's brain is to read to her/him

Countdown to Kindergarten

Bringing parents, teachers, schools and the community together as partners set the foundation for success in school

Annual Report

2016-17



OUR VISION:

Every South Carolina child will arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed.



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Calhoun County
Children Under Five	291,026	724
Children In Poverty	24.4%	29.4%
3 rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	22.2%	27.9%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.0%	12%

KIDS COUNT data provided by



- Since inception, Calhoun County First Steps has leveraged \$808,488 from sources outside state government. **That's \$.30 for every dollar received.**
- **887 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 53 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.
- Improved parenting practices through **12 Group Connections Parent Workshops.**
- **25 rising kindergarteners** completed our Summer-2016 school transition program.
- **275 children 0-5** received one age-appropriate book each month for 12 months.
- **Total Children Served in FY17: 358**

Calhoun County First Steps

304 Agnes Street
 Saint Matthews, SC29135
 Phone: (803) 655-5126 Fax: (803) 655-5695

Board Chair
 Stanley Rivers

Calhoun1steps@windstream.net

www.CCfirststeps.org

Calhoun County First Steps

Virginia Newman
 Executive Director

Hats off to the United Way of the Midlands for its constancy to our county partnership. We have received over \$50,000 in grants and employee's designated contributions over the past five years. The impact of this collaboration has expanded our Parents As Teachers program to fifty families and our Countdown to Kindergarten program to forty rising kindergarteners. Through this collaboration, we have the opportunity to travel around the midlands sharing our successes through storytelling as we encourage employees to contribute to the UWM.

We partake in Calhoun County Library's Summer Readiness program. Each Wednesday during the summer, our PAT-certified parent educators report to the library to lead storytime and music activities with parents and their toddlers. This collaboration also affords us the opportunity to register children for our Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program.

On the first Tuesday of each month, we team up with Calhoun DHEC-WIC Program to share parenting tips and register children for Imagination Library.

Through the aforementioned collaborations, our partnership has expanded services for children and families, as well as leveraged 30% of state dollars.



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

County Programs

Parents as Teachers
 Imagination Library

State Programs

Countdown To Kindergarten



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.



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



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.



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, Calhoun County First focuses its investments in.... FAMILY STRENGTHENING, SCHOOL TRANSITION AND EARLY LITERACY.

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

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

84.9% ... live in poverty

12% ... didn't graduate from high school

5% ... were teen parents



Alice Thaxton, UWM, helps Bridget and daughter Tarvonna make Easter baskets during the April PAT group meeting.

My grandson Jakaree is in 4K this year. He was excited that he could write his name when some classmates could not do so!

Aleen Floyd

PAT by the Numbers 2016-17

Families Served	53	
Children Served	59	
Total Home Visits	887	
Hours Spent Serving Families	887	
Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):	KIPS/ACIRI .43	KIPS/ACIRI Adult: .54 Child: .43

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 16 home visits per family.
- ✓ Identified and addressed one potential developmental delay (ASQ Report), and made one connection for family services such as BabyNet.
- ✓ Improved parenting practices: KIPS assessments show pre result at 2.83 and post results at 3.01. Eighty-five percent of families met their family set goal for the year.
- ✓ Parents as Teachers program, as noted by the National Parents as Teachers, noted for demonstrating fidelity to all 17 Essential Requirements of the Parents as Teachers Model.

Thank you to our partners!

United Way of the Midlands

Calhoun School District

Calhoun County Council

Calhoun County First Steps

304 Agnes Street, St. Matthews, SC 29135
(803)655-5126
Calhoun1steps@windstream.net

Imagination Library



Children’s reading scores improve dramatically when parents are involved in helping them learn to read.

Program Description

According to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, the peak period for brain development related to language is around **nine months of age**. **One of the easiest and most effective ways to build this capacity in young children’s brains is to read to them.**

Calhoun First Steps is the local sponsor of Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides free, age-appropriate books to children age birth to 5 years. Operated by the Dollywood Foundation, Imagination Library is currently in more than 1,600 communities internationally and mails books to about 700,000 children each month.

Children who register with Calhoun First Steps receive one book per month by mail through the month of their fifth birthday. Each book is carefully selected by a committee of educational specialists.



When Eiliyah visits the Calhoun First Steps office she surrounds herself with books. She enjoys reading Brown Bear, Brown Bear.

Imagination Library by the Numbers, 2016-17

Children Served	274
Books Given to Children 0-5	2317

This year, our Imagination Library program:

- ✓ Provided one book per month to 274 children who were referred from the local school district St. Matthews Head Start, Calhoun DHEC-WIC, and the county library.
- ✓ Client surveys show that families spend and average thirty minutes/day reading to their child.
- ✓ Received donations from Tri-county Electric, Calhoun First Steps Board and community members in support of children’s literacy.



Thank you to our partners!

- Dollywood Foundation
- Tri-county Electric Trust
- Calhoun First Steps Board
- United Way of the Midlands-Truist

Calhoun County First Steps
 304 Agnes Street, St. Matthews, SC 29135
 (803)655-5126
 Calhoun1steps@windstream.net



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.

*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2016

Children Served	25
Families Served	25
Home/School Visits	146

**CTK program data is for June-August 2016, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.*

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 the child will attend class in the fall.

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



I enjoyed watching my son get so excited about visits from the CTK teacher

Whitney Keller

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ 100% of children/families were very satisfied with the program.
- ✓ Increased the amount of time parents spent reading to children by 45%
- ✓ According to post surveys 87.5% of CTK families had a good understanding of what is expected in kindergarten classroom.
- ✓ 100% of children participating in Countdown to Kindergarten was assigned to the CTK teacher classroom

Thank you to our partners!

United Way of the Midlands
 Calhoun School District
 EdVenture Children's Museum
 Calhoun First Steps Board

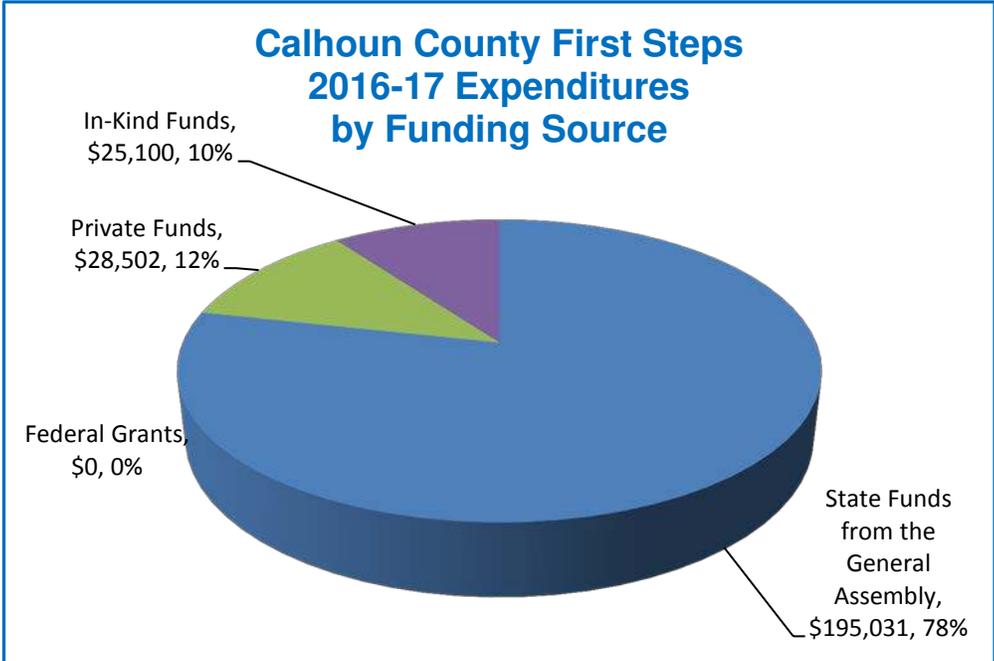
Like us on Facebook!
 Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina



Calhoun County First Steps

304 Agnes Street, St. Matthews, SC 29135
 (803) 655-5126
 Calhoun1steps@windstream.net

Financial Impact



Total 2016-17 Expenditures: \$248,633

State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17*: 27%

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

2016-17 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2016-17 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$139,159	\$0	\$15,003	\$18,396	\$172,558	69%
Imagination Library	\$3,000	\$0	\$2,301	\$0	\$5,301	2%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$5,249	\$0	\$6,940	\$3,204	\$15,393	6%
Program Support	\$28,360	\$0	\$1,778	\$2,750	\$32,888	13%
Administrative Support	\$19,263	\$0	\$2,480	\$750	\$22,493	9%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$195,031	\$0	\$28,502	\$25,100	\$248,633	

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

Since inception, Calhoun County First Steps has leveraged \$808,488 from sources outside of state government. That's 30 cents for every state dollar.

Thank you supporters!

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)

Tri-County Electric: \$1,500

United Way of the Midlands: \$15,000

Your Foundation: \$1500

In-Kind Support

Calhoun County School District

Calhoun County Sheriff Department

Calhoun County Council



Virginia Newman accepts check from Chad Lowder of Tri-County Electric Trust. Tri-County Electric Trust has contributed over \$7000 to our Imagination Library program.

How your support helps children in Calhoun County:

- ✓ \$25 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$250 per month provides a family to receive two one-hour personal home visits each month for twelve months
- ✓ \$325 will provide a child/family to participate in a six-weeks summer school transition program

HOW TO GIVE:

Checks payable to Calhoun County First Steps or designate funds to organization during Midlands Gives

Save the Date!

- May 7, 2018: Midlands Gives
- August 11, 2018: Annual Golf Tournament
- November 15, 2018: Annual Meeting

Support Calhoun First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!

Community Impact

Chief and Captain to Our Rescue

The Importance of Educating the Community about its Resources

Each year, we call upon Calhoun Fire Department and Calhoun Sheriff Department to lead our Parents as Teachers group meeting on family and home safety. The children are always thrilled to receive a red fire chief hat from Chief Wendy Heckle. Chief Heckle shares with parents the importance of not talking on their cell phone while cooking, especially when heating a fry pan full of oil, for talking on your cell phone is a distraction. He shares there has been an increase in house fires due to fry pans on stove unattended due to the cook on a cell phone call. Chief Heckle also shares with parents the need of having a designated place away from the fire for families to go to in case there is a fire in the home.



Chief Heckle and Captain Graham distribute information on home and family safety.

Captain Stanley Graham of Calhoun County Sheriff Department received a trophy during our November, 2016 Annual Meeting for his willingness to dress as Santa Clause for the past two years during our December group meeting.

Captain Graham shares important information on being vigilant when shopping especially during the Christmas season. He also informs our PAT moms of self-defense classes offered by the Sheriff Department. Families were happy to learn that they can call upon the Sheriff Department when they are on vacation to have the department patrol the area in their absence. Captain Graham informs parents the importance of teaching their children that officers are here to help them not to hurt them...do not tell your child.. "if you are bad, I will call the police" for if your child is frighten of the law officer he may hide from the officer in case of an emergency as a fire.

Collaborations Brings About Successful Community Events



During the Week of the Young Child, Calhoun First Steps, OCAB/Head Start, and several early childhood learning centers gathered at South Carolina State University to read books and share music and movement activities.

LaGwenda Thomas, Parent Educator, Calhoun First Steps, assists presenter during storytime.

Support Calhoun First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer.

Getting children ready for school.

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



Interested parents with Medicaid-eligible children who live in eligible school districts can contact any participating provider to complete an application for free, full-day 4K. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

<http://scfirststeps.org/4k>



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](https://www.facebook.com/icansc)