



ANDERSON COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019

THE NEED

IN SOUTH CAROLINA:

42%

of people live in a childcare desert, where there are more than three times as many children as licensed child care slots

53%

of children ages 3 and 4 are not enrolled in nursery school or preschool



IN ANDERSON COUNTY:

11,892

children under age 5

20.5%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

62%

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

OUR MISSION

Collaborating with other entities, Anderson County First Steps helps families and caregivers prepare their children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance and expand high-quality early childhood services.

OUR APPROACH



High quality programs and services for children and families



Intensive training, resources and support for childcare providers



Strategic partnerships and community education

OUR IMPACT

444

number of children and adults served by Anderson County First Steps in 2018-2019

JOIN US

We rely on a community of partners, donors, and volunteers – **people like you** – who believe in a brighter future for children and families in our community.

605 N. Main Street | 864 222-0410 | www.1stepsac.org

Data provided by:



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

During the past nineteen years, the Anderson County First Steps Partnership has distributed **\$12,289,900** to area providers to support parent and family strengthening programs and services, school transition programs and 4-K classes for at-risk children. **During 2018-19, the Partnership provided:**

- **214 children and 272 adults with family strengthening skills through Family Literacy programs linked to Positive Parenting, Early Education for Children under 4, Early Education Half-day 4-K classes, and Nurse-Family Partnership.**
- **52 children and 50 parents with school transition to 5-K kindergarten assisted by 14 teacher/home visitors through the Countdown to Kindergarten program.**
- **1005 books for 122 children through Family Literacy with Positive Parenting, Early Education, and Countdown to Kindergarten programs.**
- **a total of 266 children and 643 families with high-quality programs, resources, and community education and outreach activities.**

OUR GOALS

Our partnership’s work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Anderson County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina’s description of school readiness:

- Serve as a local portal for connecting at-risk families of Anderson County preschool children to services designed to strengthen families and promote optimal child development utilizing a two-generational approach.
- Increase enrollment and expand accessibility in all Anderson County school districts utilizing the partnership’s integrated community approach.
- Increase understanding in the community of school readiness and make information easily accessible for all Anderson County families through implementation of the partnership’s Community Education and Outreach Plan.
- Serve as a community convener to address the needs of all Anderson County preschool children in support of state readiness priorities and mobilize communities to provide enhanced services to support all Anderson County families.

In addition, I want to congratulate Anderson School District Four Family Literacy Program led by Charity Walker which received the 2018 SCDE Office of Adult Education Family Literacy Service Award given to a family literacy program who has continually championed family literacy and gone above and beyond to ensure that students participate in a quality family literacy program.

Our mission could not have been accomplished without the passion, dedication, and support of our community partners: Liz Wittebort, Anderson School District 1; Allison Strickland and Lana Major, Anderson School District 2; Tammy Vaughn and Susan Brown, Anderson School District 3; Charity Walker, Anderson School District 4; Tonna Marroni and Priscilla Williams, Anderson School District 5; United Way of Anderson County; and The Peoples Bank of Iva:

Paige Wall

Executive Director





NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP



an evidence-based program

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) helps transform the lives of vulnerable first-time mothers and their babies. Through ongoing home visits from registered nurses, 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 Nurse Home Visitors form a much-needed, trusting relationship with their clients, instilling confidence and empowering them to achieve a better life for their children – and themselves.

BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

My nurse is great! She is very supportive and helpful. Meeting with her is the highlight of my week!

144

children served

2248

number of home
visits provided



“My nurse is great. She is very supportive and helpful. I look forward to our visits each week.”
Anderson County Nurse-Family Partnership Client



COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN



an evidence-informed program

Developed by South Carolina First Steps – and identified as a promising state practice by the National Governor’s Association in 2005 – Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a home visitation program pairing the families of rising kindergartners with their future teachers during the summer before school entry. Teachers complete six visits with each family, establishing strong connections during the summer that facilitate classroom learning throughout the year.

CTK BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

14

kindergarten teachers
trained as home visitors

52

children served

311

total home and school
visits

“The best part of the Countdown to Kindergarten program was that B realized that going to school is fun. This program has helped B a lot. I have noticed a big change – she is more excited and isn’t nervous and scared like last year.” Pre/Post Parent Survey





FAMILY LITERACY WITH POSITIVE PARENTING



an evidence-based program

Family Literacy linked to the Positive Parenting Program offers an intergenerational approach, helping both parents and children 0-5 to improve their literacy skills. Family Literacy services integrate four components:

Adult Education; Early Childhood Education; Positive Parenting, and Parent/Child Activities. **THE ANDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE** family literacy program is located at Palmetto Elementary School.

FAMILY LITERACY WITH TRIPLE P BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

9

Children served

9

Families served

4

High School Diplomas/GEDs Earned



“It taught me better ways to parent my child and take care of my baby.”
Satisfaction Survey



FAMILY LITERACY WITH POSITIVE PARENTING



an evidence-based program

Family Literacy linked to the Positive Parenting Program offers an intergenerational approach, helping both parents and children 0-5 to improve their literacy skills. Family Literacy services integrate four components: Adult Education; Early Childhood Education; Positive Parenting, and Parent/Child Activities. **THE ANDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO** family literacy program is located at Belton-Honea Path High School.

FAMILY LITERACY WITH TRIPLE P BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

3

children served

3

families served

2

High School Diplomas/GEDs Earned

“It was good to be with girls who were going through the same thing I was. The meetings were always helpful and I enjoyed them. I appreciate the books and materials that were given to me during our meetings”
Satisfaction Survey





FAMILY LITERACY WITH POSITIVE PARENTING



an evidence-based program

Family Literacy linked to the Positive Parenting Program offers an intergenerational approach, helping both parents and children 0-5 to improve their literacy skills. Family Literacy services integrate four components: Adult Education; Early Childhood Education; Positive Parenting, and Parent/Child Activities. **THE ANDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT THREE** family literacy program expanded its services this year to include Raising a Reader. The program is located at the Family Learning Center at Starr Elementary School.

FAMILY LITERACY WITH TRIPLE P BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

4

Children Served

4

Families Served

40

Raising a Reader
Participants



“The impact of this program on me and my family is that “we have more to talk about...about books and what they learn from them.” Satisfaction Survey



FAMILY LITERACY WITH POSITIVE PARENTING



an evidence-based program

Family Literacy linked to the Positive Parenting Program offers an intergenerational approach, helping both parents and children 0-5 to improve their literacy skills. Family Literacy services integrate four components: Adult Education; Early Childhood Education; Positive Parenting, and Parent/Child Activities. **THE ANDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUR** family literacy program which is located at the Family Learning Center at Pendleton Elementary School. **Anderson School District Four Family Literacy Program led by Charity Walker received the 2018 SCDE Office of Adult Education Family Literacy Service Award given to a family literacy program who has continually championed family literacy and gone above and beyond to ensure that students participate in a quality family literacy program.**

FAMILY LITERACY WITH TRIPLE P BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

11

Children Served

10

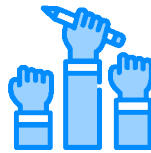
Families Served

113

Books Given

“Being around positive people and having people to talk to has been the most helpful part of this program.” Satisfaction Survey





FAMILY LITERACY WITH EARLY EDUCATION



an evidence-based program

Family Literacy linked to Early Education offers an intergenerational approach, helping both parents and children 0-3 to improve their literacy skills in a high-quality early education environment. Family Literacy services integrate four components: High School Diploma; Early Childhood Education; Parents as Teachers, and Parent/Child Activities. THE ANDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT FIVE early education class is located at the South Fant School of Early Education.

FAMILY LITERACY WITH EARLY EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

4

Children served

4

Families served

81

Books Given



**“My child is safe, the program is free, and I love the books.”
Satisfaction Survey**



EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM: 4K CLASSES



an evidence-based program

THE **ANDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE** provides eligible children with high-quality early education opportunities through two 4K half-day classes. The goals of the 4-K program are to increase the number of at-risk children served and prepare them for school readiness. The classes are located at Spearman Elementary School.

ASD1 Half-Day 4-K Classes BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

40

children served

38

Home Visits

200

Books Given



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“I am amazed at the remarkable gains all of the students have made academically as well as socially and emotionally.”
Lisa Spence, 4-K Teacher

4K

FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN



an evidence-based program

South Carolina First Steps provides eligible children with free enrollment in full-day four-year-old kindergarten programs. In coordination with First Steps local partnerships and more than 200 private, faith- and community-based preschool providers, First Steps 4K expands access to quality child care across the state.



ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for enrollment, a child must:

- ✓ Be 4 years old on or before September 1
- ✓ Qualify for Medicaid or a free or reduced-price lunch program
- ✓ Live in one of 64 qualifying school districts

FIRST STEPS 4K IN ABC COUNTY 2018-2019

52

children enrolled

6

participating classrooms

4K NEWS

In fiscal year 2019-2020, South Carolina First Steps is launching a pilot program to expand 4K enrollment within underserved communities. Age- and income-eligible children residing in any SC school district may qualify for a slot in a participating center that also serves students from eligible districts.



SUCCESS STORIES



Anderson School District One by Liz Wittebort

This past school year, 8 teen moms and 1 Adult Education mother were served in the Family Literacy program. One particular teen mom showed the most amount of progress in a short amount of time. When I first met her, she had just broken up with her boyfriend with whom she shared a one-year-old child. She was heartbroken and at a loss of how to proceed in her life. She had envisioned graduating from high school and living with her boyfriend to create a true family for her little girl. We were able to work through this loss together and work on a new future plan. After Christmas break, she did not return to school and I was worried that she decided to drop out. However, we found out that her brother who she relied on for child care had gotten a new job and returned to work. With the support from First Steps, we were able to assist her with child care so she could return to school. Her school counselor was able to enroll her in the Fast Lane program to expedite her progress. With all of this support, she was able to finish her classes within three weeks! She was then able to apply for a job at the daycare where her child was now attending. She has been able to use her daycare experience to learn more about child development and the growth of her own child. In May, I was privileged to get the opportunity to watch her walk the stage and receive her high school diploma! Since graduation she has been working two part-time jobs to help pay for college expenses. She has been accepted at Greenville Tech. where she plans to study to become a legal assistant. I have been honored to be one of the few people in her life to watch her transform from a timid and shy girl to a confident and fearless young woman and know that the best is yet to come!

Anderson School District Two by Allison Strickland

CW successfully completed the 12th grade. C attended family literacy meetings and has a lot of family support and has worked really hard to graduate this year. She plans to continue working right now but hopes to attend a technical college in the near future

Anderson School District Three by Susan Brown

During the 2018-2019 program year, Anderson School District Three increased the Raising a Reader program by 40 families. The families showed a significant increase in the number of books in the home, the number of minutes spent reading together with their child, and the number of interaction with child and books. Through the expansion of the program, we were able to serve 2 Head Start 3-year-old classes and 2 classes of 4-year-olds at Flat Rock Elementary School. The staff spent numerous hours promoting Palmetto Basics and distributed 5,702 pieces of Palmetto Basics material.

Success continues.....



Anderson School District Four by Charity Walker

A.M. returned to the Family Learning Center in August of this year. She met her goal of earning an EFL Gain on her Reading TABE test. She took two GED Ready tests this year and earned passing scores on both. A.M. has two children under three and has recently signed up for WIC. She also continued meeting with her nurse from Nurse Family Partnership until graduating from the program when her daughter turned two. A.M. has reported planning to return to classes next fall.

Anderson School District Five by Priscilla Williams

All of our students are success stories, but one in particular stands out. Grandmother came to our Grandparents Breakfast. She was so pleased with everything that she had to tell me how she felt. She said her daughter and grandson's father ask her and her husband for nothing. The teen parents do all of the care and provides for their child. She is so proud of how responsible they are. I had many opportunities to talk with this young mom. She is strong and refuses to let negative attitudes pull her down. She told me many had said she would not make it, but that makes her more determined. Her plans are to attend college in Florida and be able to rent a place for her family. It is important that they stay together. Her son's father shares her dream and encourages her. With this frame of mind, there is no doubt they will succeed.





PUBLIC AWARENESS



an evidence-informed program

The **Anderson County First Steps Partnership Community Education and Outreach Plan** is composed of six components: 1) distribute education materials to reflect partnership's mission and to inform the public of available resources; 2) co-sponsor community events that reach our target audience; 3) keep partnership website up-to-date; 4) use social media effectively to communicate, inform and activate; 5) educate and engage local and state policymakers on local impact of First Steps; and 6) network, coordinate, educate, convene parents, local community educational agencies, early childhood professionals, local leaders and the private sector about the importance of early childhood education and school readiness. **The Partnership served as a sponsor with other community partners of the Partners for Prevention of Child Abuse community to raise awareness of child abuse.**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

15,968

materials
distributed

47

events and
meetings held

780

total event
attendance





COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Anderson County First Steps Partnership supports school readiness by serving as a local portal for connecting at-risk families of Anderson County preschool children to services designed to strengthen families and promote optimal child development utilizing a two-generational approach. This year, the Partnership expanded its programming to include **Palmetto Basics and Raising a Reader** community workshops in collaboration with the Anderson County School Districts

LOCAL PORTAL

connecting preschool children and their families to services

CONVENER

of community stakeholders to develop an effective and comprehensive early childhood system

CHAMPION

of the importance of school readiness to our children's future

OUR PARTNERSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

9

Meetings Convened

504

Meeting Attendance

321

Referrals Made

Partners for Prevention of Child Abuse convened a community event focused on child abuse on April 8, 2019. Many thanks to our community collaborators that provided resources to ensure a successful event and raised awareness of this important issue: Anderson County Department of Social Services; Anderson County School District One; Anderson County School District Three; Anderson County School District Five; Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Mental Health; Anderson Pregnancy Center; Foothills Alliance; The Parenting Place; and United Way of Anderson County





OUR SUPPORTERS

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

FUNDING SUPPORT

South Carolina First Steps: \$462,350

Stevenson Charitable Trusts: \$11,000
for Nurse-Family Partnership

United Way of Anderson County: \$7,840
for Countdown to Kindergarten

Preschool Development Grant: \$6,163
US Department of Education

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Anderson School District One: \$36,710

Anderson School District Two: \$10,916

Anderson School District Three: \$24,936

Anderson School District Four: \$12,445

Anderson School District Five: \$19,200

People's Bank of Iva: \$5,000

JOIN US

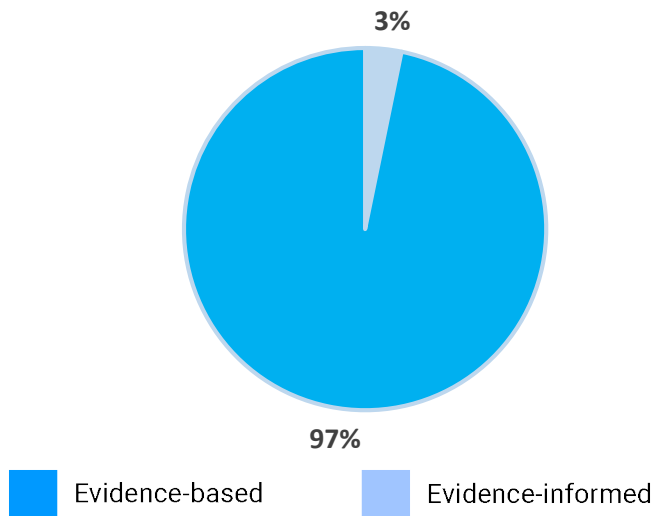
For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at
www.1stepsac.org



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Anderson County First Steps has leveraged **\$4,893,486** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$0.50** for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Triple P – Positive Parenting Level 4	\$266,930	\$	\$	\$47,575	\$314,505
Nurse Family Partnership	\$6,051	\$	\$9,474	\$	\$15,525
Half Day 4K	\$67,284	\$	\$	\$36,710	\$103,994
Early Education for Children Under 4	\$79,585	\$	\$	\$19,200	\$98,785
Head Start Local Programming	-0-	\$733			\$733
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$15,259	\$4,453	\$10,246		\$29,958
Partnerships & Community Education	\$10,058	\$978	\$	\$	\$11,036
Administrative Support	\$17,183	\$	\$108	\$	\$17,291
Total Expenses	\$462,350	\$6,164	\$19,828	\$103,485	\$591,827



LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sherry Adger, Kiddie University	Sanquinita Martin, The Parenting Place
Mari Birchmore, NFP, Secretary	Cassandra Skelton, Parent
Elaine Blango, Kid's Stuff	Dianne Smiley, Anderson County Library
Jackie Blakley, Tri-County Tech, Chair	Allison Strickland, ASD Two
April Brown, Welfare Baptist Church	Tim Taylor, Town of Iva
Betty Carson, Head Start-retired	Maria Torres-Green, Foothills Alliance
Erin Clarke, West Pelzer Elementary	Shannon Vaughn, SHARE Head Start
Nakia Davis, Peoples Bank of Iva, Treasurer	Tammy Vaughn, ASD Three
Meredith Dickens, Tri-County Tech	Gayle Vickery, DSS
Rhonda Gregory, ASD Two	Charity Walker, ASD Four
Debra Madden, ASD Three	Pegie White, BabyNet
Tonna Marroni, ASD Five	Liz Wittebort, ASD One

STAFF

Paige Wall, Executive Director
Deborah Sanders, Program Coordinator/Evaluator

CONTACT US

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