



CALHOUN COUNTY



**FIRST  
STEPS**

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 CALHOUN COUNTY:

**650**

children under age 5

**41.6**

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

**57%**

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

## OUR MISSION

Collaborating with other entities, Calhoun First Steps helps Calhoun County 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

**576**

number of children and adults served by Calhoun 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.

304 Agnes Street, Saint Matthews, SC 29135 | 803-655-5126 | [calhounfirststeps.org](http://calhounfirststeps.org)

Data provided by:



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is gratifying to have served as Executive Director for the past twenty years. In carrying out my responsibilities, I continually keep the acronym QCAL (Quality-Collaboration-Accountability-Leadership) in the forefront as we plan and implement quality, evidence-based programs, work with local government, private and non-profit partners, make the most of our state and private dollars and serve as a community convener.

It is with pride that I share that Calhoun First Steps has served as a Parents as Teachers Affiliate as well as an Imagination Library Affiliate for ten years.

**Virginia L. Newman**  
Executive Director  
Calhoun County First Steps

*Virginia L. Newman*

## OUR GOALS

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

- Expand access to comprehensive family strengthening and early literacy programs
- Increase community collaboration and participation in Calhoun First Steps programs and activities
- Expand and engage more dads in parenting and school transition programs
- Become more visible in the community

As board chair, I am very proud of the impact Calhoun County First Steps has made in the life of those who we serve, our children.

**Rev. Stanley Rivers, Board Chair of Calhoun County First Steps**

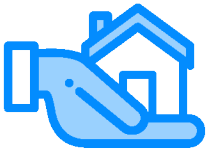


# PARENTS AS TEACHERS



*an evidence-based program*

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PAT services include:



Personal visits from a parent educator at least twice monthly



Monthly group connections with other PAT families



Screenings and assessments to identify developmental concerns



Connections to outside resources that families may need to succeed



## PAT IN THE NEWS

PAT recently received the highest rating from the federal Prevention Services Clearinghouse. This recognition validates the effectiveness of Parents as Teachers as a strategy for improving parenting practices, promoting early detection of developmental delays and health issues, preventing child abuse and neglect, and enhancing school readiness and success.

## PAT IN CALHOUN COUNTY 2018-2019

**45**

families served

**785**

total home visits

Calhoun County received a letter of congratulations from the PAT National Office commending that its 2017-2018 APR and Performance Measures Report data demonstrates fidelity to all of the Essential Requirement of the PAT model.



Parents as Teachers



## IMAGINATION LIBRARY



*an evidence-based program*

As the local affiliate of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, we provide free, high-quality books to children from birth until age five, no matter their family's income.

Children enrolled in our Imagination Library program receive one book per month by mail. Each title is selected by a panel of early childhood literacy experts, who are responsible for choosing books that meet the age-specific developmental needs of young children.

### IMAGINATION LIBRARY BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

**194**

children served

**1698**

books distributed

Books are 100% free to children in Calhoun County. Thank you to our Imagination Library supporters: Dollywood Foundation, Tri- County Electric Trust, Calhoun County First Steps Board, and United Way of the Midlands.

**Join us by sponsoring a child for just \$27 a year.**





# 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

5

kindergarten teachers  
trained as home visitors

33

children served

165

total home and school  
visits



Ms. Marla Fanning, 5K teacher at St. Matthews K-8, solicits the help of rising kindergartners as she reads *The Night Before Kindergarten* during the Countdown to Kindergarten Celebration held at St. Matthews K-8.





## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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Addressing the needs of young children is a shared endeavor. In addition to providing services to families and support for child care providers, Calhoun County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Calhoun County begin school ready to succeed. We serve as a:

### 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

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## OUR PARTNERSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

64

Children participated in  
Community Education &  
Outreach Events

25

Parents  
participated in  
PDG Focus Group  
Meeting

“First Steps is a miraculous research-based program that focuses on strengthening parent-child bonding and early literacy skills.”

**Dr. Sharon Daniels, Director, OCAB Head Start**



## OUR SUPPORTERS

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

### FUNDING SUPPORT

State of South Carolina: \$204,751  
(through South Carolina First Steps)

Calhoun First Steps Board Golf Tournament: \$4,267

Federal: Pre-school Development Grant: \$6,340

United Way of the Midlands: \$8,700

TRUIST (United Way): \$931

Pre-School Development Grant: \$6,340

Tri-County Electric Trust: \$2,500

Orangeburg Alumni Chapter – Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc: \$500

### IN-KIND SUPPORT

Calhoun County Council: \$23,245

## JOIN US

For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at  
**[calhouncountyfirststeps.org](http://calhouncountyfirststeps.org)**

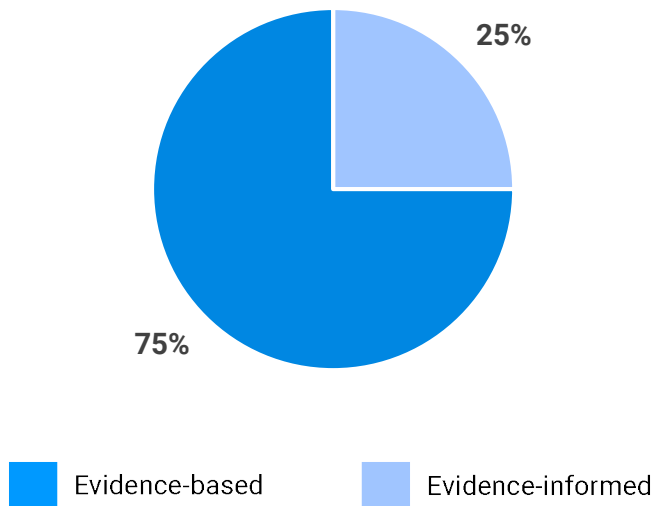




## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

#### Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



### ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Calhoun County First Steps has leveraged **\$901,233** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$29.06** for every state dollar.

### SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Parents as Teachers	\$128,118.65	\$0	\$4,091.57	\$14,792.00	\$147,002.22
Imagination Library	\$4,031.09	\$0	\$1,750.39	\$0	\$5,781.48
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$25,933.79	\$3,604.82	\$6,412.85	\$0	\$35,951.46
Program Support	\$22,747.01	\$2,734.97	\$901.35	\$5,700.00	\$32,083.33
Administrative Support	\$23,920.23	\$0.00	\$2,599.23	\$2,753.00	\$29,272.51
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$204,750.77</b>	<b>\$6,339.79</b>	<b>\$15,755.44</b>	<b>\$23,245.00</b>	<b>\$250,091.00</b>



## LEADERSHIP

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stanley Rivers, Board Chair

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Mariam Aiken, Secretary

Crystal Williams

Michael Smalls, Fundraiser Chair

Gary Jones

Sharon Daniels

Christia Murdaugh

Frederick Golden

Charlene Nimmons

Wanda Green-Adams

Kristen Simensen

Bridgett McKnight

Melissa Eisom

Cheryl Prickett

### STAFF

Virginia Newman, Executive Director

JaVonna Lewis, Program Assistant

Khrystal Jackson, Parent Educator

Quinnetta Garner, Parent Educator

## CONTACT US

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[calhounfirststeps.org](http://calhounfirststeps.org)

