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.

**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.

**OUR MISSION**

**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** 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.

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304 Agnes Street, Saint Matthews, SC 29135 | 803-655-5126 | calhounfirststeps.org
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 (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.
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.
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.
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

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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*
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Category</th>
<th>State Funding</th>
<th>Federal Funding</th>
<th>Private Funding</th>
<th>In-Kind Contributions</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents as Teachers</td>
<td>$128,118.65</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$4,091.57</td>
<td>$14,792.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imagination Library</td>
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<td>Countdown to Kindergarten</td>
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<td>Program Support</td>
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<td>Administrative Support</td>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
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<td>$6,339.79</td>
<td>$15,755.44</td>
<td>$23,245.00</td>
<td>$250,091.00</td>
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LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stanley Rivers, Board Chair
Mariam Aiken, Secretary
Michael Smalls, Fundraiser Chair
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Frederick Golden
Wanda Green-Adams
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Kristen Simensen
Melissa Eisom

STAFF

Virginia Newman, Executive Director
JaVonna Lewis, Program Assistant
Khrystal Jackson, Parent Educator
Quinnetta Garner, Parent Educator

CONTACT US

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