



GREENWOOD 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 GREENWOOD COUNTY:

4,230

children under age 5

68%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

71%

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

OUR MISSION

To provide quality services and support for Greenwood County families with children newborn to five.

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

2,838

number of children and adults served by Greenwood 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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Data provided by:



Michael K. Gaskin
Executive Director
Greenwood County First Steps

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greenwood County First Steps uses an innovative and creative approach to ensure every dollar received by the County Partnership is used to its maximum potential. Getting children ready to learn is an engagement that requires every agency within this County to understand the importance of being not just stakeholders, but passionate, dedicated, and committed stakeholders. The Greenwood County First Steps Full Partnership Board makes "high quality" the key word to determine why a program should continue to receive First Steps' funding. The service quality of Greenwood County First Steps' programs grew tremendously with the addition of great local and state partnerships. The Department of Social Services, Guardian Ad Litem Programs, and the local court systems are also great partners, to reach the most at risk children in the community and assist with preventing child abuse and neglect. Lander University's Education Department is another great partner. Greenwood and Abbeville County First Steps offer two Early Childhood Conferences a year at Lander University. Professors in the Education Department teach the classes as a part of their community outreach, and students assist as room monitors and with registration. These great partnerships are success stories displaying positive impacts in the communities of both Greenwood and Abbeville Counties. Through these successful partnerships, Greenwood County First Steps offer children and families comprehensive services for school success.

Michael K. Gaskin

OUR GOALS

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

- Goal 1 - Provide high comprehensive parenting programs
- Goal 2 – Provide high quality parenting programs that are inclusive of fathers
- Goal 3 – Provide high quality trainings for childcare providers and early childhood educators
- Goal 4 – Serve as a community convener to partner with agencies in the community to promote comprehensive services to families

I have always admired men and women who use their talents to serve the community, and who are highly respected and admired for their efforts and sacrifices... To provide unconditional services to the community you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity.

Lark Coleman, GCFS Board Chair



CHILD CARE TRAINING



an evidence-based program

High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce. Our training programs are certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and include topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Our 2018-2019 trainings included:

- **Stress Can Affect Child Development**
- **Creative Activities for Children**
- **Preventing SIDS**
- **How to Deal w/Stress in the Classroom**
- **Guiding Children in the Right Direction**
- **Working with Socialization Disorders**
- **Together We Can Make a Difference**
- **Guiding Children's Behaviors in the Classroom**
- **Blood Borne Pathogens**
- **Safety in the Classroom**
- **Safety First!**
- **Integrating Early Learning Centers into the Classroom: STEAM**
- **A Difference is made When...**
- **Making your classroom more inviting for children with special needs.**
- **The Art of Imagination...**
- **Learning Through Play**
- **Classroom Management**
- **Working with Special Needs Children**
- **Literacy in Early Childhood Development**
- **Learning Through Play in the Classroom**
- **The Art of Leading, Through Imagination**
- **Working with Special Needs Children**
- **The Importance of Promoting**
- **Developmental Milestones in Social Environments**

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

#768

total training attendance

#96

child care teachers and
directors served

#24

number of training
sessions offered

The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn. This is why education is the most powerful weapon in which you can use to get your child ready for their educational endeavor. Thank-you Greenwood County First Steps for assisting in the continuing education of Greenwood County's early childhood teachers.

Cynthia Aaron, Childcare Worker



NURTURING PARENTING Home Visitation



an evidence-based program

The Nurturing Parenting Program is a compilation of evidence-based programs designed to offer long term, more comprehensive parenting education. Parents & Their Infants, Toddlers & Preschoolers participate in a Home Visitation Program that utilizes a parenting curriculum that allows more interactive time between parent and child.

NURTURING PARENTING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

25

families served

269

total home visits



- **Open to families in Greenwood and Abbeville Counties who have children prenatal to five years old.**
- **Home visits are provided twice a month with books, educational toys, and school readiness materials.**
- **Home Visitors provide community resource information to all families.**

I am the proud mother of a three-year old, a one year old and an eight-month year old. This program has given me the necessary tools and information needed to assist my children in learning the vital skills to be ready for kindergarten. The home visitor, Natoya (Cartledge), is a very patient and knowledgeable home visitor. Thank you to Greenwood County First Steps for allowing my family to be a part of such a wonderful program.

Dezarae Jimerson, Nurturing Parenting Participant



Nurturing Parenting®
Established 1983



NURTURING PARENTING **Parent Training**



an evidence-based program

The Nurturing Parenting, Parent Training Program is a comprehensive group-based parenting program for parents of young children. Sessions are offered weekly and parents learn skills needed for a healthy nurturing parenting lifestyle. Group and individualized sessions are offered through Parent Training. Clients must complete a total of 13 sessions to receive a certificate of program completion. This program is operated in-house and the goal is to increase Parental involvement and reduce abuse and neglect.

PARENT TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS **2018-2019**

26

families served

84

total group meetings

Thanks to a charitable donation from the Community Wal-Mart Foundation, we expanded our Nurturing Parenting programs by more than 15%.

Your support makes a difference!



Nurturing Parenting®
Established 1983



NURTURING PARENTING

Nurturing Fathers - Fatherhood Program



an evidence-based program

Workshops are offered to equip, educate, and empower fathers with the necessary tools to engage positively in their children's quest to be successful. The goal is to increase father involvement and reduce child abuse and neglect.

"Any Man can be a Father, but it takes a REAL MAN to be a DAD"

NURTURING FATHERS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

32

families served

174

total group meetings

“As a leader and facilitator, Mr. [Michael] Gaskin has taught me that while a dad's nurturing may often take the form of playful roughhousing and silly jokes, his influence is quite serious and significant: the presence of a loving father greatly increases a child's chances of success, confidence and resilience, physical and mental well-being,

Torrei Tinch, Fatherhood Program Graduate



Nurturing Parenting®
Established 1983



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Addressing the needs of young children is a shared endeavor. In addition to providing services to families and support for childcare providers, Greenwood County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Greenwood 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

OUR PARTNERSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

170

Families
connected to
services

680

Materials distributed

“ Many people are good at talking about the things they do for others,
but in fact do little. Then there are others that do a lot in the
community, but don't talk about it;

They are the ones who really make a difference in the community in
which they live.

Thank you Greenwood County First Steps for MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Robin Smith, Department of Social Services



OUR SUPPORTERS

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

FUNDING SUPPORT

South Carolina State Government: \$220,045

Walmart: \$1000

Bi-Lo: \$48

Greenwood County First Steps Staff: \$75

IN-KIND SUPPORT/PARTNERS

Lander University

The Social Change Initiative

Mental Health America

Abbeville County First Steps

Greenwood Children's Center (Nurse Family Partnership)

Guardian ad Litem

Erskine University

Greenwood County Department of Social Services

Greenwood School District 50

Tabernacle Baptist Church

JOIN US

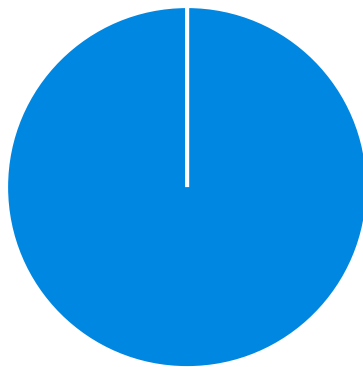
For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at
www.gcfirststeps.org



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures by Program Type



100%



Evidence-based



Evidence-informed

ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Greenwood County First Steps has leveraged **\$2,301,563** from sources outside of state government.

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

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	In-Kind	Private Funding	Total
Nurturing Parenting	\$139,115	\$0	\$274,403	\$221	\$413,739
Child Care Training	\$62,838	\$0	\$21,888	\$3,314	\$88,040
Core Functions	\$10,548	\$922	\$0	\$0	\$11,471
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$0	\$7,373	\$0	\$0	\$7,373
Administrative Support	\$11,215	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,215
Total Expenses	\$223,717	\$8,296	\$269,291	\$3,536	\$531,839



LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lark Coleman, Board Chair
Lillian Thomas, Vice-Board Chair
Vallery Smith, Secretary
Shirley Parks(Deceased), Assistant Secretary
Monica Foster, Budget Chair
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Carolyn Robinson, Resource Chair
Cynthia Aaron
Linda Baylor
Benita Goode

Johnny Ledford
Lillian Lee
Doris Loudon
April Ouzts
Rosella Quarles
Robin Smith
Kayla Starnes
Reginald White
Jalessa Wideman
Andrea Witt

STAFF

Michael K. Gaskin, Executive Director
Santasha S. Highley, Program Coordinator
Natoya Cartledge, Home Visitor
Dolores Rucker, Administrative Assistant

CONTACT US

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