

BAMBERG COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

**“MOMMYCISE” Health and
Wellness Fitness Camp**

Annual Report

2014-2015



OUR VISION:

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

First Steps WORKS for the children of Bamberg County.

Annual Report

2014-2015

Bamberg County First Steps WORKS to Empower Our Children, Our Future Community Workers!

Who We Serve

First Steps serves South Carolina's young children and their families, with the goal of ensuring each is prepared for school success.

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

Number of Bamberg County children under 5:

776

Number of Bamberg County children living in poverty:

1339

Babies born each year in Bamberg County to a mother less than a high school diploma:

1 in 4

Our Programs

Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

"MOMMYCISE Health & Wellness Fitness Camp

Our Results

- ✓ 19 Families participated in the Parents As Teachers Program
- ✓ 13 Families Participated in the "MOMMYCISE" Health & Wellness Fitness Camp
- ✓ 273 Home Visitations conducted
- ✓ 401 Books distributed to children
- ✓ Four Families received full day ABC Childcare Scholarships
- ✓ 143 Teachers received Certified Training
- ✓ Santa' Little Helpers Toys, Food & Clothes to 20 children

Bamberg County First Steps has worked very hard over the last fifteen years to increase the quality of childcare services to children and families in our small rural county. Our home visitation, daycare scholarships and teacher training programs are excellent examples of consistency in getting our children ready for school by the first grade.

Bamberg County First Steps works because the community believes in our vision and our mission to ensure that all of our children arrive at the first grade healthy and ready to learn and achieve. Each year our community, board, and other volunteers come together to raise funds in support of quality family services for the children that we serve. The John E. Bamberg and Dr. Michael Watson Jr. Education Scholarship Luncheon has been established to secure funding to defray the cost of daycare for an entire year for one family.

Bamberg County First Steps works because of the strong and vital partnerships that we have established with Bamberg School District One and other community partners who have provided over \$1,000,000.00 in the past fifteen years of in-kind and viable support.

Bamberg County First Steps works because we love and care for our children, mothers, fathers, grandparents and community. We offer extra curricula programs that provide for the health and wellness of our youngest learners and we will continue to work diligently to EMPOWER our CHILDREN, our community's future workers.

Pauletta Plowden

Pauletta Plowden, Executive Director



ED Plowden instilling the love of reading to the wonderful children of our county.

Board Chair

Ricky A. Kears

Executive Director

Pauletta Plowden

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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 Intervention

According to recent federal evaluations, outcomes for clients participating in BabyNet early intervention programs are above national averages. BabyNet matches the special needs of infants and toddlers who have disabilities and/or developmental delays with customized, community-based 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 and From Day One to Grade One are ultimately preparing children for school success.

Based on the needs of our community, Bamberg County First Steps focuses its investments in Family Strengthening and Quality Childcare.

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

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

85% ... live in poverty
 20% ... didn't graduate from high school
 10% ... were teen parents



Sisters Mya and Apple enjoying Family FUN Night!

*My daughters are **READY** for **SCHOOL!** The First Steps parenting program really helped my daughters with their basic school readiness skills and they are doing exceptionally well in pre-school. Thank you Ms. Erica!*

Submitted by Ms. Yakida Johnson, Bamberg County First Steps Board Member

PAT by the Numbers 2014-15

Families Served	19	
Children Served	20	
Total Home Visits	273	
Hours Spent Serving Families	287.18	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	3.52	3.62

This year, our Parents as Teachers Program:

- ✓ Averaged 14.37 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 6 potential developmental delays.
- ✓ Improved parenting practices utilizing the KIPS Screening Tool increased parents knowledge of children development and modeled appropriate parenting interaction.
- ✓ Improved literacy and school readiness skills were indicated by the increased scores in the ACIRI.
- ✓ Made 4 connections for families to services such as Department of Social Services. Library & Continuing Education.

Thank you to our partners!

Bamberg School District One, Family Solutions of the Low Country, DSS Child Care Scholarships, Mary Jane School of Dance, Brabham Oil Company
 E-Z Shops, Goody's Dept. Store

Bamberg County First Steps
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Child Care Training

Those who care for young children need high-quality, accessible, and affordable professional development.

Program Description

High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce.

First Steps-sponsored training is certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and includes topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Best practices in training include not only the training itself, but follow-up in the classroom.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

-Nelson Mandela

Child Care Training Sponsored by Bamberg First Steps, 2014-15

<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Sessions:</u>
1. Child Growth & Development: A Developmental Perspective on Educating Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers	One Session
2. Curriculum: The Indoor and Outdoor Learning Environment	One Session
3. Health & Safety: planning for Children’s Health, Safety and Nutrition, Blood Borne Pathogens	One Session
4. Child Guidance: Culturally Diverse Children and Families	One Session



Early childhood teachers enjoying quality training at Bamberg Ehrhardt High School.

Training by the Numbers, 2014-15

Total Training Attendance	143
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	51
Number of Training Sessions Offered	4

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 143 early childhood staff with high quality training.
- ✓ 20 hours of certified training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements.
- ✓ 15 follow-up TA with training participants to help put training into practice.

Thank you to our partners!

- Bamberg School District One
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School
- Bi-Lo
- Denmark Technical College

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Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in Bamberg County cannot afford quality care for their children.

Program Description

Access to quality child care is essential for children while away from their primary caregivers. Yet, of those families income-eligible for child care assistance in South Carolina, only a small fraction receive it due to lack of funds. In the absence of nurturing and consistently available family, friends or neighbors, parents are faced with few - or no - affordable care options.

Bamberg First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our scholarship families:

85%	... live in poverty
25%	... didn't graduate from high school

In addition to regular monitoring of child care providers that receive First Steps scholarships, First Steps conducts at least one developmental screening each year with scholarship children and connects families to needed services within the community.

Parents who participate in the scholarship program also participate in Parents as Teachers which targets families with high need and risk indicators.

The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet!
 -Aristotle



The Kramer children enjoying the safety of the First Steps Playcare Center.

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2014-15

Children Served	4
Providers Served	2

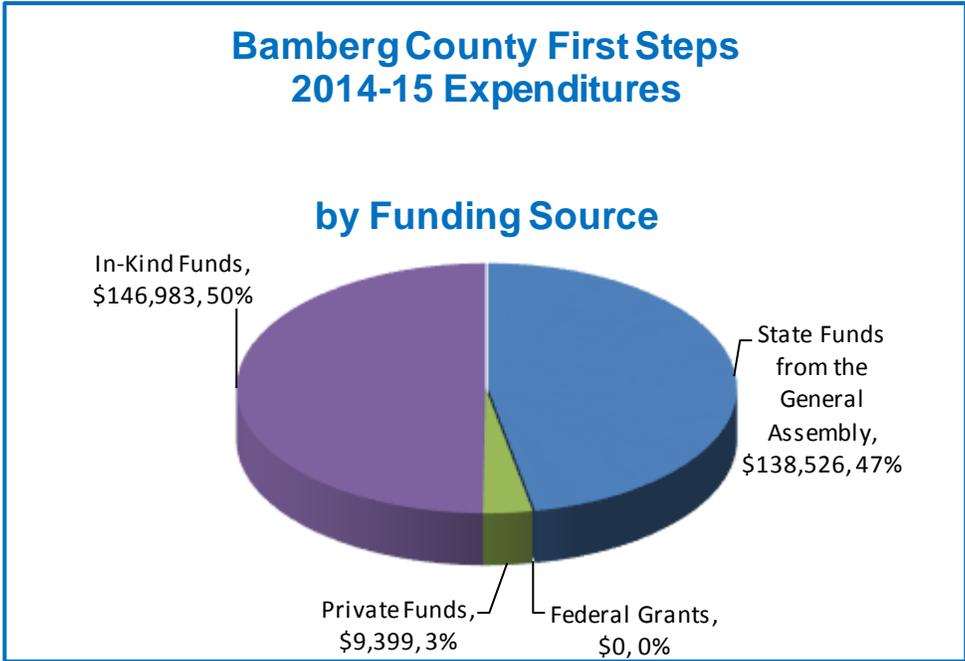
- This year, our Scholarship program:**
- ✓ Provided 4 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school.
 - ✓ Made 4 connections for families to services such as Department of Social Services, Library & Continuing Education.
 - ✓ Supported 2 small businesses in Bamberg County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care
 - ✓ Provided 24 hours of training for scholarship parents in topics such as Developing an Early Reader, Basic Skills children need to learn, Visiting interesting community places, What Parents can do at home to help their child learn, Budgeting with Children.

Thank you to our partners!

- DSS – ABC Childcare Scholarships
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- First Baptist Church Daycare
- Progressive Family Life Center

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Financial Impact



Total 2014-15 Expenditures: \$294,908

State Funds Leveraged in 2014-15*: 113%

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

2014-15 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2014-15 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$33,929	\$0	\$269	\$121,883	\$156,082	53%
Child Care Training	\$17,863	\$0	\$2,529	\$4,320	\$24,712	8%
Child Care Scholarships	\$7,000	\$0	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$14,000	5%
Program Support	\$58,404	\$0	\$2,185	\$12,960	\$73,549	25%
Administrative Support	\$21,329	\$0	\$915	\$4,320	\$26,565	9%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$138,526	\$0	\$9,399	\$146,983	\$294,908	

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Since inception, Bamberg County First Steps has leveraged \$1,912,949 from sources outside of state government. That's 77 cents for every state dollar.

Community Supports First Steps

Bamberg County First Steps received quality support from the local community for its Santa's Little Helpers Toy, Food and Clothes Drive. This important project supported the needs of fifteen families and 20 community children. The following businesses, organizations or individuals were instrumental making this holiday project a major success: E-Z Shops of Bamberg, Bi-Lo Grocery Store, Goody's Department Store, Mary Jane School of Dance, Job Corps, Dr. J. Dalton, Ms. Evelyn Smith, Singleton Printing, Department of Social Services, and the Bamberg County First Steps Board. The mission of First Steps is to ensure that every child arrive at the first grade ready to learn. Thank you Bamberg County Citizens for all you do in support of our youngest learners!



Thank you to our partners!

Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$138,000
(through South Carolina First Steps)

Bamberg County Recreation Fund: \$224.00

Greater Savannah River Community
Foundation: \$1,000.00

In-Kind Support

Bamberg County School District One

DSS – ABC Child Care Scholarship

Bamberg County Office on Aging

Bamberg County Job Corps

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

FIRST STEPS "MOMMYCISE" ROCKS OBESITY!!!

Bamberg County First Steps sponsored the "MOMMYCISE" Health & Wellness Fitness Camp during the month of June 2-30, 2015 to help parents' jumpstart their personal wellness, nutrition, and exercise program at home. Facilitators were Pauletta Plowden, First Steps Executive Director, Erica Smith, First Steps Program Manager, and Linda Mintz, First Steps Parent Educator. The Certified REFIT Instructor was Jill Taylor of Mary Jane School of Dance.

The Mommycise Curriculum focused on: Why is Blood Pressure Important? Weight Management & How it Affects Your Health & BMI, Jump Start Your Fitness, Healthy Eating for Healthy Weight, Stress Management, Motivating Kids to be Active, and Talking to your Medical Provider. Thirteen Mommies participated in this important health and wellness program with an average weight loss of seven pounds.

This project was funded through a grant from the Greater Savannah River Community Foundation and the Bamberg County Council Recreation Fund.

Participants who completed the four week course received a rich resource bag that included a "MOMMYCISE ROCK" tee shirt and water bottle, a workout DVD tape and wellness curriculum.



First Steps "MOMMYCISE" WELLNESS CAMP at MARY JANE SCHOOL of DANCE, Bamberg, S.C. (Pic 1&3)

(ED Plowden and Board Member Cindy Hurst Received \$1000 from Greater Savannah Community Foundation for the MOMMYCISE Project) (Pic 2)

First Steps Partnership Board

Bamberg County First Steps Board serves as Education Ambassadors

Bamberg County First Steps Board is a mixed menu of community servants whose primary goal is to serve as Education Ambassadors in spreading a message of hope and love to the children of our county. Each year board members seek ways to increase our brand and find pathways to resource development for the children of our county. As an addendum to our program strategies, this year the board sponsored the First Steps Community Wide Yard Sale, the Santa's Little Helpers Toy, Food and Clothing Drive, Assisted in Grant Development, and donated many hours in board meetings to ensure compliance with the First Steps By-Laws. Some of the board's goals for this year will be to sponsor the Chamber of Commerce Business after Hours, a Community-Wide Baby Shower and the Bi-Annual John E. Bamberg-Dr. Michael Education Scholarship Luncheon. The luncheon will afford one family a quality daycare scholarship for one complete year. We greatly appreciate the time and talent of our local partnership board and all that they do in support of our small rural county's children and families!



Bamberg County First Steps Partnership Board, 2014-15

Name	Position	Board Category
Ricky A. Kearse, Chair	Early Childhood Coordinator, Bamberg/ District One	Early Childhood Education
Dr. Michael Watson, Vice Chair	Retired Medical Provider	Legislative Appointee
Lorraine Peeples	Principal	Pre through Primary Educator
Arlene Crosby	Teacher	Pre through Primary Educator
Tracy Golden	Family Support Specialist	Family Education and Training
Christopher Green	Community Liaison	Family Education and Training
Renne Green	Nurse	Healthcare Provider
Dr. Charles Gailliard	Doctor	Healthcare Provider
Patricia Harley	Transportation Specialist	Transportation Provider
Christine Patrick	Nutritionist	Non-Profit Organization
Rev. William Bowser	Pastor	Faith Community
Rev. Carol Cannon	Pastor	Faith Community
Ernestine Barnwell	Business Owner	Business Community
Yakida Johnson	Cashier/Office Clerk	Parent of a Preschool Child
Juanita Jamison	Daycare Teacher	Childcare/Early Child Development
Gwendolyn Folk	Retired Teacher	Early Childhood Education
Terence McMillan	Social Worker	DSS Appointee
Iona Murdaugh	Library Staff	Library Appointee
Corey Ripley	Teacher	School District Appointee
John Bamberg	Retired Educator	Legislative Appointee
Cindy Hurst	Retired Educator	Legislative Appointee
Candace Darnell	Center Director	DHEC Appointee
Janet Argrow	Center Director	Head Start Appointee
Barbara Thompson	Teacher	Early Childhood Education

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 can contact any participating 4K providers to complete an application. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

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



BabyNet in Bamberg County:
(803) 593-4468

<http://scfirststeps.org/babynet/>

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