

BARNWELL COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



**Early Steps to School
Success (Save the Children)**

**Child Care Quality
Enhancement**

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

**Community Education for
Early Childhood Connections**

Annual Report

2014-15



OUR VISION:

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

First Steps WORKS for the children of Barnwell County

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 Barnwell County children under 5:
1,674

Number of Barnwell County children living in poverty:
2,115 = 38.6%

Babies born each year in Barnwell County to a mother less than a high school diploma:
22.5%

Our Programs

- Child Care Quality Enhancement
- Child Care Training
- Child Care Scholarships
- Community Education

Collaboration is KEY!

Ethel T. Faust, Executive Director

As we continue to offer and provide the families of our youngest learners with the tools they need to better prepare their children for school, we find that *collaboration* is still the *key* to the best return on any investment. Our local partnership with our school systems in Barnwell, Blackville and Williston have helped us to maintain services to more than ___ families this past year. We served ___ children in Early Steps to School Success, a home visitation program of Save the Children supporting parents in developing their children's readiness skills for school. We served 32 children with child care scholarships with support provided by the Darnell Committee, a group of local community advocates focused on increasing early childhood quality. Additionally, we provided child care quality enhancement support to 4 child care centers with ___ hours in training and professional development. We continued an outreach initiative to engage and educate adults who are in connection with our targeted population in a non-prevalent manner. We partnered with the Division of Healthy Aging of SC Department of Health and Environmental Control in conjunction with the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging to offer Better Choices Better Health and Arthritis Exercise workshops to support caregivers and their families' health.

We are excited about the changes in our organizational structure in our board structure and anticipate a greater community impact by it.



Happy babies... make for happy lives!

Board Chair
 Catherine Mack

Executive Director
 Ethel T. Faust

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<http://barnwellfirststeps.weebly.com/>

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, Barnwell County First focuses its investments in Family Strengthening and Quality Childcare.

Child Care Quality Enhancement

In order to thrive, children need nurturing, responsive relationships and a supportive learning environment, both within and outside the home.

Program Description

The quality of care they received by young children is crucial to their healthy development and school readiness. Child care providers strive to provide high quality care, but may lack the resources that are commonly available to publicly-funded early childhood programs, such as educational materials, on-site professional development, and other support.

First Steps' Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE) is intended to produce measurable improvements in the quality of care provided to young children. Participating child care providers must serve a high percentage of at-risk children, and are selected through a competitive process that requires a strong level of commitment to the QE process.

Program Components

1. On-site Technical Assistance (TA) at least twice monthly
2. Equipment and materials funding
3. Integration with locally available training, provided by First Steps and other partners
4. Workforce Development
5. Coordination with community partners
6. Pre/post assessments of the classroom environment and teacher-child interaction, using nationally-recognized observational tools for infant/toddler and preschool settings (ITERS, ECERS, FCCERS)

QE by the Numbers, 2014-15

Child Care Providers Served	5
Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms	125

Congratulations to our QE participants for 2014-15!

Child Care Provider
Bedford's Stay and Play
First To Learn
Heavenly Angels
New Jerusalem MBC
Sunbeam Daycare

This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

- ✓ Improved quality, and supported each center in maintain or increasing their licensure with DSS.
- ✓ Provided technical assistance to child care
- ✓ Provided expanded partnerships and networking opportunities to participating child care providers
- ✓ Funded scholarships for 32 children within participating child care providers

Thank you to our partners!

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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.

Our Child Care Providers Support one another as well as our children!



Child Care Training Sponsored by Barnwell County First Steps, 2014-15

Topic:	Partner:
Understanding Fine Motor Delays	Pro Parents of SC
Understanding IEPs	Pro Parents of SC
Helping Your Staff Find Their Smile Again	Child Care Resource & Referral
Handling Catastrophic Emergencies	Child Care Resource & Referral
Language, Literacy and Communication	Child Care Resource & Referral
A Window to the World: Early Language and Speech Development	Child Care Resource & Referral
ANNUAL EARLY CARE & EDUCATION CONFERENCE – Bridging, Understanding & Learning	

Training by the Numbers, 2014-15

Total Training Attendance	125
Number of Training Sessions Offered	7

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ certified training and hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

Thank you to our partners!

- Pro Parents of SC
- Child Care Resource & Referral
- SC DSS Office of Child Care Licensing
- ABC Child Care Monitoring
- Elementary School Reading Coach & Special Services
- SC Highway Patrol Safety Instruction
- Family Solutions of the Low Country
- Darlington County First Steps
- Barnwell School District 19 - Macedonia

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Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in Barnwell 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.

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.

Our scholarships are integrated with Save the Children's Early Steps to School Success home visitation services.

SUPPORT PROVIDED TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS!



Volunteers provide child care support during Annual Early Care & Education Conference 2015.

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2014-15

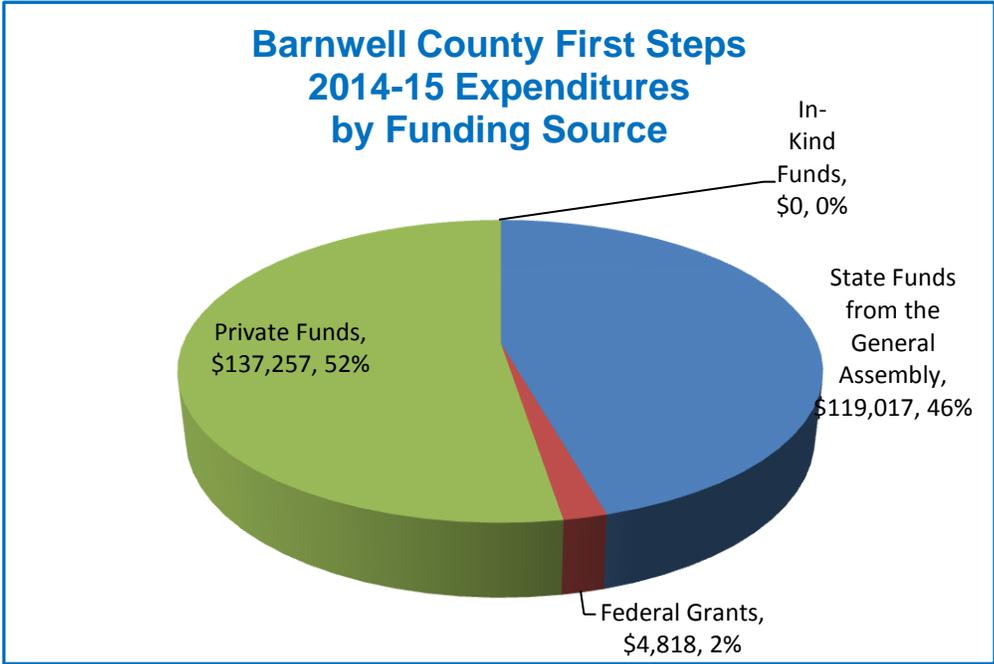
Children Served	32
Providers Served	3

This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ Provided 32 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ Made 15 connections for families to services such as Early Steps to School Success home visitation services.
- ✓ Supported 3 small businesses in Barnwell County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care
- ✓ Provided training for scholarship parents

Thank you to our partners!

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Total 2014-15 Expenditures: \$261,091

State Funds Leveraged in 2014-15*: 119%

*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
Early Steps to School Success	\$22,569	\$0	\$42,259	\$0	\$64,828	25%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$17,955	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$17,955	7%
Child Care Training	\$17,261	\$0	\$722	\$0	\$17,983	7%
Child Care Scholarships	\$4,764	\$0	\$87,397	\$0	\$92,161	35%
Other Program	\$0	\$4,818	\$0	\$0	\$4,818	2%
Program Support	\$39,833	\$0	\$6,879	\$0	\$46,712	18%
Administrative Support	\$16,635	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,635	6%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$119,017	\$4,818	\$137,257	\$0	\$261,092	

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

Since inception, Barnwell County First Steps has leveraged \$1,713,520.80 from sources outside of state government. That's .49 cents for every state dollar.

Community Impact

Community Education for Early Childhood Connections - CEECC

Making connections and expanding partnerships

Our region of executive directors began networking with the superintendents within our region representing the school districts in our counties to better collaborate and focus on relevant areas of interest in early childhood development, school readiness, parent engagement, etc.

County to County Support...

Ms. Darnell Byrd McPherson, executive director of Darlington County First Steps - a trailblazer among our association of executive directors delivered an awesome keynote message and presentation during our Annual Early Care and Education Conference for nearly 100 attendees.



Every ED of the Low-Country region in attendance at our initial meeting with our region's superintendents.



Program and Conference Coordinator Nigel Fisher, McPherson and Ethel T. Faust.

Thank you to our partners!

Conference Support

- Family Solutions of the Low-Country WellCare
- Aiken Barnwell Mental Health
- Barnwell County United Way
- Aiken Barnwell Head Start
- Barnwell County Sherriff's Department
- SC Highway Patrol
- Beaufort County First Steps
- Axis 1 Center of Barnwell

Conference Co-Sponsors

- Macedonia Elementary School
- Aiken Barnwell Head Start
- Kaplan

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

Community Impact

Connections to Broader Community...

Partnerships with DHEC’s Division of Healthy Aging, SC Lieutenant Governor’s Office

Hosting of our region’s Chronic Disease Self-Management Program allowed us to share our vision and mission of readying SC children for school with many senior adults and their families.

Across the region of Allendale, Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties

This partnership began prior to grant period when our executive director participated in the workshop and became a facilitator of the workshops; and where workshops were held and reached 48 participants

During the grant period (Sept. 1, 2012 to Present) 15 Workshops have been Facilitated reaching 218 participants

We have also facilitated three (3) Arthritis F exercise classes - started with 33 participants; now have 40 participants



Williston Town Hall Group for Better Choices Better Health – CDSMP Workshop



Our Annual Conference draws community members to engage and support quality programs and services in early childhood education



Local Partnership Board

Local Leaders' Advocacy Enhanced through State Leadership

New State Board Chair, other members and staff visit our community!

Our board members along with staff, local early childhood system partners, and volunteer leaders from our community engaged and dialogued with our state leadership, Mr. Ken Wingate, Chairman of the State Board of Directors and state office staff, BabyNet and 4K staff to speak about our successes, challenges, and opportunities for the future. Our site visit was well attended.

Local Leaders Trained in Roles and Responsibilities

Linda Leonard, assigned technical assistant to Barnwell County provided training and guidance to our local board members to empower them to further expand the reach of our local partnership. The Board's attendance was reported to be above average. The focus of the orientation training was to re-energize the board's function, to engage the broader community more in alignment with the vision and mission.

Barnwell County First Steps Partnership Board, 2014-15

Name	Position	Board Category
Catherine Mack, Chair	Foster Parent	Legislative Representative
Shadie Hall, Vice Chair	Director of Aiken/Barnwell Head Start	Non-profit Org. for family & Childrez
Cheryl Azouri Long	Executive Director – Axis I Center of Barnwell	Legislative Representative
Tina Sanderlin	4K Teacher	PreK-Primary Education
Beverly Ashley	Family Services Manager - Aiken/Barnwell Head Start	Faith Community
Patricia Sease	Teacher - Barnwell Head Start	Child Care && ECD Education
John Holston	Pastor – Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church	Faith Community
Nikki Payne	Employment Services Resource Specialist	Business Community
Kim Stokes	Curriculum Specialist	Early Childhood Education
Phyllis Lott	Education Specialist - Aiken/Barnwell Head Start	Early Childhood Education
Aquanis Carthens	Head Start Teacher	Early Childhood Education
Ethel Milhouse Williams	Director	Barnwell DSS
Stephanie Mahuron	Director	Barnwell DHEC
Sheryl Holston	Director/Teacher – Barnwell Head Start	Head Start Representative
* Ms. Lee Davis Barrett	Kindergarten Teacher	Williston School District
Carolyne Anderson	Principal	Blackville School District
Crissie Stephens	Director of Curriculum	Barnwell School Distirtc
DeWayne Eubanks	Philanthropic	Legislative Appointee
Eryl Smalls	Administrator	Legislative Appointee

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

South Carolina's Early Intervention System

BabyNet for Barnwell County:

Main Line: 803-593-4468 Send referrals to Orangeburg

Fax: 803-533-5953

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

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