

GREENWOOD COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers



Child Care Training



Fatherhood Initiative
"Real Fathers are Dads"

Annual Report

2014-15



OUR VISION:

Every South Carolina child
arrives at kindergarten
ready to learn.

First Steps WORKS for the children of GREENWOOD County.



Annual Report

2014-15

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.

Number of GREENWOOD County children under 5:
4413

Number of GREENWOOD County children living in poverty:
34.7%

Babies born each year in GREENWOOD County to a mother without a high school diploma:
21.3%

Our Programs

Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training

Fatherhood Initiative

Our Results

- ✓ Distributed over 3223 books to children during FY 15
- ✓ 678 Home Visits were completed with 42 families
- ✓ Over 721 Hours were spent on Home Visits
- ✓ Served over 254 families with parenting groups (PAT and Fatherhood)
- ✓ 243 Child Care Training Attendees
- ✓ Provided 12 on-site mock home visits for Lander University students
- ✓ 95% of SC State Funds Leveraged!

First Steps Works for the Children, Parents and Taxpayers of South Carolina

Michael K. Gaskin, Executive Director

Greenwood County First Steps again, used an innovative and creative approach to ensuring every dollar received by the County Partnership was 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. School readiness is an endeavor that is paramount for the local community, the County and the state of South Carolina. Here is how!

GREENWOOD County First Steps increases the quality of services for children 0-5 and their families.

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 offers children and families comprehensive services for school success.

GREENWOOD County First Steps leverages resources for children and families through public-private partnerships.

We also continue to collaborate with Lander University's Education Department to provide Early Childhood Conferences each year. We were able to provide quality child care trainings with approved Certified Trainers to 59 facilities, and 243 staff members serving more than 3200 children. We created these results by providing 49 training hours with DSS Child Care trainings credit hours to facilities serving our future-the children!

The Joint Child Care Conference with Lander University brought in over 243 participants. What was astonishing for FY15 is we were able to impact more than 3200 children from our childcare trainings!

Board Chair

LILLIAN THOMAS

Executive Director

MICHAEL K. GASKIN

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

Parents play an irreplaceable role in their child's development.

Program Description

The Parents as Teachers (PAT) model is an evidence-based early childhood home visiting framework for families with children prenatal through kindergarten entry that builds strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to learn. PAT services include:

1. **Personal Visits** minimum twice monthly in the client's home
2. **Group Connections** with other PAT families at least monthly
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify issues early
4. **Resource and Referral Network** connecting families to needed resources

Our PAT program:

- ✓ Increases parent knowledge of child development and improves parenting practices
- ✓ Provides early detection of developmental delays and health issues
- ✓ Prevents child abuse and neglect
- ✓ Increases children's school readiness and school success

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

- 94% ... live in poverty
- 48.4% ... didn't graduate high school
- 19.4% ... were teen parents



PAT by the Numbers 2014-15

Families Served	42	
Children Served	45	
Total Home Visits	678	
Hours Spent Serving Families	721.46	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	KIPS 2.76	KIPS 3.17

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 2.0 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 10 potential developmental delays
- ✓ Made 114 connections for families to services such as Hearing, Vision, Employment, BabyNet, Food, Housing, and Fatherhood services.
- ✓ Enrolled nine continuous months in the PAT program: 96.78%
- ✓ Unsuccessful visits - 0!

Thank you to our partners!

Lander University
The Social Change Initiative
Abbeville County First Steps
Erskine College
DSS and Mental Health America

GREENWOOD County First Steps

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Child Care Training

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

Program Description

Efforts to improve the quality of child care must include providing affordable, high quality training 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, but also follow-up with supported practice in the classroom.

I really enjoy the Conferences at Lander University. The professors and staff are very energetic and they make learning fun.
Allen

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

Topic:	Sessions:
Professional Development	3
Safety	4
Special Needs	5
Curriculum	7
Child Guidance	6
Health	5
Program Administration	4
Growth and Development	7
CPR/First Aid	8



Training by the Numbers, 2014-15

Total Training Attendance	243
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	243
Number of Training Sessions Offered	49

- This year, our Training program provided:**
- ✓ 243 early childhood staff with high quality training
 - ✓ 11 hours of certified training and 5 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
 - ✓ Served over 59 Centers, which serves over 3200 children!
 - ✓ 98% of the instructors at our Joint County (Greenwood and Abbeville County) annual child care conferences (twice annually) were Lander University Early Childhood Education Professors!

Thank you to our partners!

- Lander University
- The Social Change Initiative
- Abbeville County First Steps
- Erskine College
- DSS and Mental Health America

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FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

Why is this program important?

85% OF ALL YOUTHS SITTING IN PRISONS GREW UP IN A FATHERLESS HOME

Program Description

The County Partnerships' Fatherhood Initiative was piloted in FY13 and the program acceptance was extremely promising. More than 15 clients appeared on a monthly basis and 30% still continued to participate after their compliance period was approved. The Fatherhood Initiative's current results and planned results are below. The Protective Factors Survey is utilized on all families to measure the pre and post results on concrete resources, family support, family resiliency, parent knowledge, and child development. In addition, the Parents As Teachers Parent Knowledge Survey is an additional tool utilized to measure parent knowledge for pre and post results. All surveys are administered at the initial meeting and then within 6 months of receiving program services.

1. Improve the receptive vocabulary skills of participating children
2. Enhance engagement in responsive, language experiences among participating parents.
3. Increase father involvement
4. Provide extended services for the Parents-As-Teachers Curriculum
5. Reduce abuse and neglect

GREENWOOD First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our Fatherhood families:

90% ... live in poverty
 30% ... didn't graduate high school
 89.5% ... single parent home

Thank you to our partners!

- Lander University
- The Social Change Initiative
- Abbeville County First Steps
- Department of Social Services
- Mental Health America

This program has taught me how to be a better dad to my son and what I have learned from the program has enhanced my relationship with my son!!

R. White

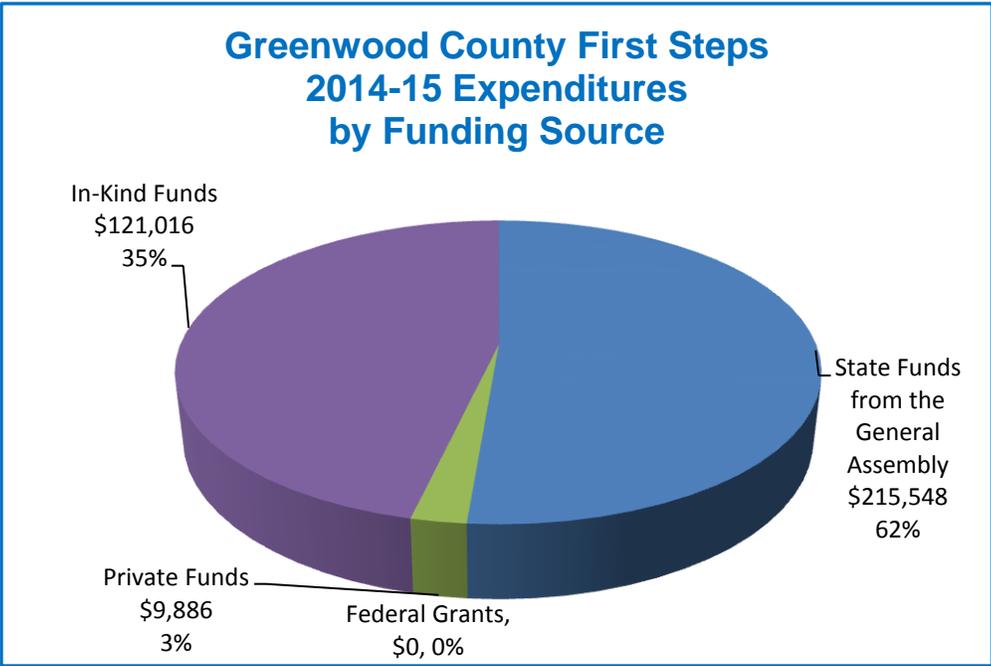
Real Fathers are Dads by the Numbers, 2014-15

Families Served	184
Children Served	26
One-on-One Clients Visits	61
One-on-One Clients Hours	72.5
Number of Sessions	24

- This year, our Fatherhood Initiative program:**
- ✓ Made 100% connections for families to services such as adult education, employment, food assistance, housing assistance, utility assistance, and library resources.
 - ✓ Provided over 100 hours of services to families with group and individualized sessions.
 - ✓ Provided nutritious meals to families.
 - ✓ Provided sessions to 100% of families on budget and financial management.
 - ✓ Provided sessions to 100% of Treatment cases referred by the Department of Social Services.

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Financial Impact



Total 2014-15 Expenditures: \$346,061

State Funds Leveraged in 2014-15*: 61%

**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	\$ 97,105	\$ -	\$ 6,502	\$ -	\$ 103,607	30%
Child Care Training	\$ 49,285	\$ -	\$ 3,384	\$ -	\$ 52,669	15%
Other Program (Fatherhood Initiative)	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 121,016	\$ 121,316	35%
Program Support	\$ 37,150	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,150	11%
Administrative Support	\$ 31,708	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,708.00	9%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 215,548	\$ -	\$ 9,886	\$ 121,016	\$ 346,061	

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

Since inception, GREENWOOD County First Steps has leveraged \$1,021,329 from sources outside of state government. That is 27 cents for every state dollar!

Community Impact

	Implementing Agency or Organization	Children Served	Parents/ Adult Family Members Served	Early Childhood Staff Who Received Training	Child Care Providers, Head Start Centers, and/or Schools Served	Technical Assistance Visits	Technical Assistance Hours	Group Training Hours
Programs Funded by GREENWOOD County First Steps:								
Parents as Teachers: Parenting/life skills education in the home with families' prenatal-5 years.	GREENWOOD First Steps	45	58	2	N/A	0	0	24
Child Care Training: Group training and follow up for local child care and early learning staff.	GREENWOOD First Steps	3251	N/A	243	59	Non-QE only	Non-QE only	10
Fatherhood Initiative: Group and individualized workshops	GREENWOOD First Steps	26	19	N/A	N/A	0	0	96.5
NUMBER SERVED BY GREENWOOD FIRST STEPS:		3322	77	245	59	0	0	120.5

Changing the World By Changing Me!

Parents-As-Teachers

"I really appreciate the time that is put forth to assist my family...thank you for making a difference!"
 Christopher

Ain't No Stopping Me Now!

Ashley Gauvin entered the Parent's As Teachers program in July of 2013. She is the single parent of three daughters. At the time of Ashley beginning the program, she did not have custody of her daughters. She was unemployed, and lived in the home with her father and her mother cared for her children. Ashley was referred to Goodwill Certified Nursing Assistant program by her Parent Educator. She attended classes for six weeks at Piedmont Technical College, passed the certification exam, and is now a Certified Nursing Assistant. Ashley is attends Piedmont Technical College online courses and works as a part-time nurse's aide with Always Best Care. She is no longer living with her father. She obtained a home for her and her children.

Overcoming Barriers!

Guadalupe Aquilera has been in our program for several years. Guadalupe has a daughter Paola Carmona who was 24 months at the time. In our first few sessions we identified a need for English to be reinforced in the home, sibling sharing techniques, and a need for structured discipline. Guadalupe also has a son (Hugo) that was aged four at the beginning of our sessions. Hugo has been diagnosed with ADHD. Some of his behaviors included the taking of his sister's toys and interrupt our whole session at each visit. For consistent discipline, the mother worked with Guadalupe on using time out in a chair instead of removing Hugo or Paola to the bedroom. Once in the bedroom, Hugo in particular, would just make loud noises and bang on the door. Hugo had already increased his English usage in his 4K classroom. Guadalupe was determined that Hugo would be a great asset if we included him in Paola's learning. Paola hardly spoke English at all. Between the consistencies that Guadalupe applied to her new discipline style, using the curriculum in a beneficial way to enhance sharing techniques, emphasizing Spanish to English and English to Spanish word learning, and concentrating on reading readiness.

Thank you to our partners!

Funding Support

The Social Change Initiative
 Lander University
 South Carolina State Government



In-Kind Support

The Social Change Initiative
 Lander University
 Mental Health America

First Steps Partnership Board

True Collaboration Makes the Difference

Greenwood County First Steps in partnership with Abbeville County First Steps has had many success stories in the community. Great partnerships have been formed across county lines to save costs administratively, and to serve more families and children in the community. The Greenwood and Abbeville County First Steps Boards have supported the two agencies with sharing office space to saving administrative costs to direct more funding into programs to serve families and children. This successful partnership has had tremendous cost savings for both agencies and became a model to share with other agencies.

Greenwood County First Steps was offered to partner with a new extremely successful venture, the Social Change Initiative (SCI). The SCI has a contract to investigate abuse and neglect cases for the Department of Social Services in four Counties (Greenwood, Abbeville, Laurens and Newberry). This collaboration has provided the two entities the opportunity to serve entire families instead of just families with children 0-5 years of age. More than 42% of the families served by Greenwood County First Steps alone are in both programs. Moreover, the Social Change Initiative is partnering with Greenwood County First Steps to incorporate a fatherhood initiative, Real Fathers are Dads in Greenwood County. The cost to the County Partner....\$50! Yes! Fifty Dollars!

To add the alamo to a "perfect partnership" GCFS and SCI combined office space! This one location is a hub for these amazing entities: Greenwood County First Steps, Abbeville County First Steps, the Social Change Initiative, and BabyNet. If that is not enough, Lander University's Early Childhood Department conducts classes at this location weekly, and the Lander University EC professors' provide FREE workshops at our Joint Child Care Conferences! Students learn from an actual Parents-As-Teachers Home Visit by parents and children in the County Partnership's program!

What will the Greenwood County First Steps Full Partnership Board do next? Well, wait until you read what they have planned for FY16!

GREENWOOD County First Steps Partnership Board, 2014-15

Name	Position	Board Category
Lillian Thomas, Chair	National Health Care	Healthcare
Carolyn Robinson, Vice Chair	Retired	Appointed - Senator Nicholson
Vallery Smith, Secretary	Retired Educator/PT District 50 Home-Based Tutor	Family, Education, Support
Shirley Parks, Assistant Secretary	Retired Educator/PT District 50 Home-Based Tutor	Family, Education, Support
Lark Coleman, Budget Committee Chair	Social Security Administration	Local Government
Duane Jones, Resource Committee Chair	Capsugel	Business Community
Loretta Parker, EC Committee Chair	Greenwood School District 50	Pre-K through Primary Educator
Doris Louden	Ninety Six School District 52	Appointed - School District 52
Reginald White	Security	Faith
Willie Mae Caldwell	Granny's Doll Babies Day Care	Child Care
Johnny Ledford	East Peak Fine Hardware	Parent of Preschool Child
Rosella Quarles	Retired	Faith
Monica Foster	GLEAMNS HRC - Head Start	Transportation

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

Other First Steps Services in GREENWOOD County



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>



First Steps is the lead agency for BabyNet, South Carolina's early intervention system for children under 3. Parents of children 0-2 years old with disabilities or suspected developmental delays should contact their local BabyNet office to schedule an evaluation.

BabyNet in GREENWOOD County:
864-225-6465

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

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