

South Carolina First Steps e-Spotlight

April 15, 2016



Oconee County First Steps and Nurse-Family Partnership Kick-Off the National Week of the Young Child™ with 2nd Annual Community Baby Shower

Oconee County First Steps and the Nurse Family Partnership Program Kicked-Off National Week of the Young Child with the 2nd Annual Community Baby Shower held from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday, April 9th at the Gignilliant Community Center in Seneca, SC.

The Nurse-Family Partnership Program is an evidenced based, home visitation program for first time pregnant women and their families. The goals are to improve pregnancy outcomes, child health and development, and family economic self-sufficiency. Clients are visited in their home by an experienced registered nurse starting in early pregnancy and continuing until the child's second birthday. Nurse-Family Partnership of Greenville County expanded into Oconee County in early 2014 through collaboration with Oconee County First Steps, and is currently serving ten first time mothers.



Mothers and expectant mothers visit participating providers at the Community Baby Shower.



A participating Nurse-Family Partnership family attends the event.

The goal for the Community Baby Shower was to supply potential clients and their families with information on all resources in the Oconee County area and to give other community agencies and medical providers an opportunity to showcase their role in the community. Planning for the Shower began in mid-January. Agencies and providers were recruited and flyers were distributed. OCFS Executive Director, Marie M. Dunnam, taped an interview concerning the Shower with Seneca Mayor Dan Alexander, which was aired on WSNW-94.1 FM's "City Talk" on Saturday morning, April 2nd. In addition, Greenville Health System (GHS) began advertising the event on digital billboards the week leading up to the Shower.

The event was a success with 25 community agencies/organizations and medical providers participating, with each supplying information and special give-a-ways to the many first time mothers and young families attending. In addition, there were

free diaper bags for the first 50 pregnant moms, food provided by the Nurse-Family Partnership Program, and numerous drawings for special prizes. Five eligible pregnant women signed up for the Nurse-Family Partnership Program, and if chosen for the program, will receive a free car seat two weeks prior to their delivery date.

Agencies, organizations, and medical providers participating were: Oconee County First Steps, Nurse Family Partnership, Healthy Connections-Medicaid (DHHS), Blue Choice Medicaid, Foothills Community Health Care Center, DHEC of Seneca, Baby and Me-Tobacco Free-Oconee, Safe Kids; Foothills Pregnancy Center, Birth Right of Clemson, Vocational Rehabilitation, Safe Harbor, SC Works, SC Child Care Resource and Referral Network, Family Connection, School District of Oconee County, Seneca, High School/Teacher Cadets, Ahead Start, Early Intervention-DDSN, Baby Read, Walhalla Library/Friends of the Library, Family Friends, Ripple of One, Heath's Haven, and "Principles of Parenting Successfully" (POPS).

OCFS Board Members Suzanne Evans and Kathleen Davis were on hand at the OCFS table to share information about the agency's various programs, and provided board books to pregnant moms that were given to OCFS at the Chairman's Early Education Summit held in Columbia in November 2015. OCFS also provided many door prizes, including book bags with quilted baby blankets donated by the Walhalla Community Quilting Club, and various other items donated by Board Member Tina Kirby on behalf of the City of Seneca.

The event exemplified how local First Steps partnerships serve as community conveners and portals for early childhood education and care. It also created a way for funders and other stakeholders in the Oconee County area to connect to children and families living in various areas of the county who may not be aware of the many available resources. Not only did OCFS engage the community in yet another fun event, but it also succeeded in promoting good health and well-being for potential NFP clients and other young families; and in connecting families to other organizations who can provide them affordable programming for their health needs.



This woman had recently found out she was pregnant and heard about the Shower on the news. At the event she was able to sign up for NFP; and she also received board books from OCFS.

For more pictures of OCFS and the Nurse-Family Partnership's Community Baby Shower, [click here](#).