

BARNWELL COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Early Steps to School  
Success (Save the Children)

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

Countdown to Kindergarten

# Annual Report

2015-16



## OUR VISION:

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



## By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	BARNWELL County
Children Under Five	289,990	1,499
Children In Poverty	26.4%	42.3%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	25.0%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	21.5%

KIDS COUNT data provided by



- Since inception, Barnwell County First Steps has leveraged \$1,849,339 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.51 for every state dollar received.**
- **41 children provided with scholarship assistance** so their parents could work or attend school.
- **26 families received 407 home visits** as part of the Early Steps to School Success Program.
- **Total Children Served in FY 16: 85**

### Barnwell County First Steps

5961 Lartigue St. Blackville, SC 29817

Phone: 803-284-3160

Fax: 803-284-3160 (call ahead)

**Board Chair**  
 John Holston

[lshuler@scfirststeps.org](mailto:lshuler@scfirststeps.org)

[www.SCFirststeps.com/Barnwell](http://www.SCFirststeps.com/Barnwell)

### LaToya Shuler Executive Director

The mission of Barnwell County First Steps is to provide early childhood education programs designed to ensure that Barnwell County children arrive at first grade healthy and ready to succeed. Partnerships are the key for Barnwell County First Steps. Together with our partners, we provide Barnwell County families with children 0 to 5 years of age, the tools they need to better prepare their children for school.

Barnwell County School Districts 19, 29 and 45 do a tremendous job with our Count Down to Kindergarten Program. Teachers from each school district visit children's homes during the summer to introduce them to material they will be using when entering Kindergarten.

Save the Children is our partner for Early Steps to School Success, a home visitation program that helps parents prepare their children for school success.

The Darnell Initiative Committee is a group of local community advocates focused on increasing early childhood quality. Darnell Committee and Barnwell County First Steps offer Child Care Scholarships. These scholarships are provided to high quality daycare centers that provide a maximized learning environment for children.

As we look towards the future, Barnwell County First Steps knows that with a strong foundation we can help our children be career and college ready allowing for success later in life.

*There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One is roots; the other, wings. - Hodding Carter*



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

### County Programs

- Early Steps
- Childcare Scholarships
- Child Care Training
- Countdown to Kindergarten

### State Programs

- BabyNet
- First Steps 4k

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 Steps focuses its investments on Family Strengthening, Quality Childcare and School Transition.**

# Child Care Scholarships

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

## Program Description

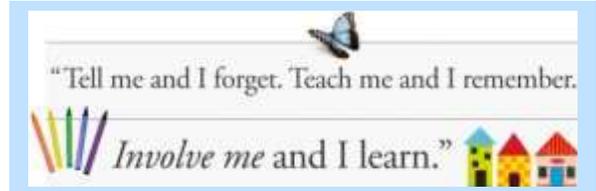
Access to quality child care is essential for children while away from their primary caregivers. Yet, of those families income-eligible for child care assistance in South Carolina, only a small fraction receive it due to lack of funds. In the absence of nurturing and consistently available family, friends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

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

- 93% ... live in poverty
- 25% ... transient or homeless
- 21% ... were teen parents
- 43% ... single parent households

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

The Darnell Initiative provided 41 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school.



Darnell Committee Scholarship participant

## Scholarships by the Numbers, 2015-16

Children Served	41
Providers Served	3

## This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ Provided 41 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed 33 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ Made 17 connections for families to services such as home visitation and transitioning to Head Start
- ✓ 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 21 hours of training for scholarship parents in topics such as Finding a Quality Center and Financial Literacy

## Thank you to our partners!

- Darnell Initiative
- Heavenly Angels
- New Jerusalem Missionary
- Baptist Church Day Care Center
- Bedford's Stay and Play
- Save the Children

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# Early Steps

**Children involved in high-quality preschool are more likely to have better academic outcomes.**

## Program Description

*Early Steps to School Success (ESSS)* provides parent education and support, home visiting and pre-literacy and language development services for families in rural, geographically isolated communities. ESSS is a model designed to be culturally relevant and provide early childhood education services to pregnant women and children from birth to age five, education services to parents, and ongoing staff training to community early childhood educators. It not only recognizes the essential role families have in preparing their children for school, but also reinforces parents' roles as advocates in raising awareness for community-wide efforts that support school readiness. It does this through community collaboration and by creating strong connections between parents and the schools their children will attend.

### Early Steps by the Numbers, 2015-16

Children Served	26
Families Served	26

### Program Goals:

The overall goals of *Early Steps to School Success (ESSS)* are:

- Children will enter school with the skills necessary for school success
- Parents will have the knowledge and skills to support their children's education
- Home/school connections will be strong
- Early childhood knowledge and skills in communities will be significantly increased



**This year, our Early Education program:**

✓ 25 Families participated in workshops.

### Thank you to our partners!

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Save the Children           | Heavenly Angels                         |
| Barnwell School District 19 | New Jerusalem Baptist Missionary Church |
| Barnwell School District 29 | Bedford's Stay and Play                 |
| Barnwell School District 45 |   |

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# Countdown to Kindergarten



Bringing parents and teachers together as partners sets the foundation for success in school.

### Program Description

Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a summer home visitation model connecting rising kindergartners and their families with their future teachers. The program is designed:

- ✓ to forge strong and lasting home-school relationships,
- ✓ to acquaint children and families with the state and classroom expectations to increase the likelihood of school success,
- ✓ to increase parent involvement in the early grades (particularly in hard-to-reach communities), when children’s learning is foundational for life success; and
- ✓ to increase public awareness of the importance of school readiness and provide ways for parents and communities to impact children’s early school success.

### \*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2015

Children Served	18
Families Served	18
Home/School Visits	99

*\*CTK program data is for June-August 2015, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.*

Countdown to Kindergarten integrates all of the following:

**Home Visitation.** Teachers make six visits over the summer to the homes of participating students and families. Children and families are introduced to actual materials used in kindergarten and are given a Kindergarten Transition Toolkit to keep.

**Learning Celebration.** The last visit is a “field trip” to the school where the child will attend class in the fall.

**Public Awareness.** Throughout the summer, First Steps releases tips to media to help parents and caregivers get

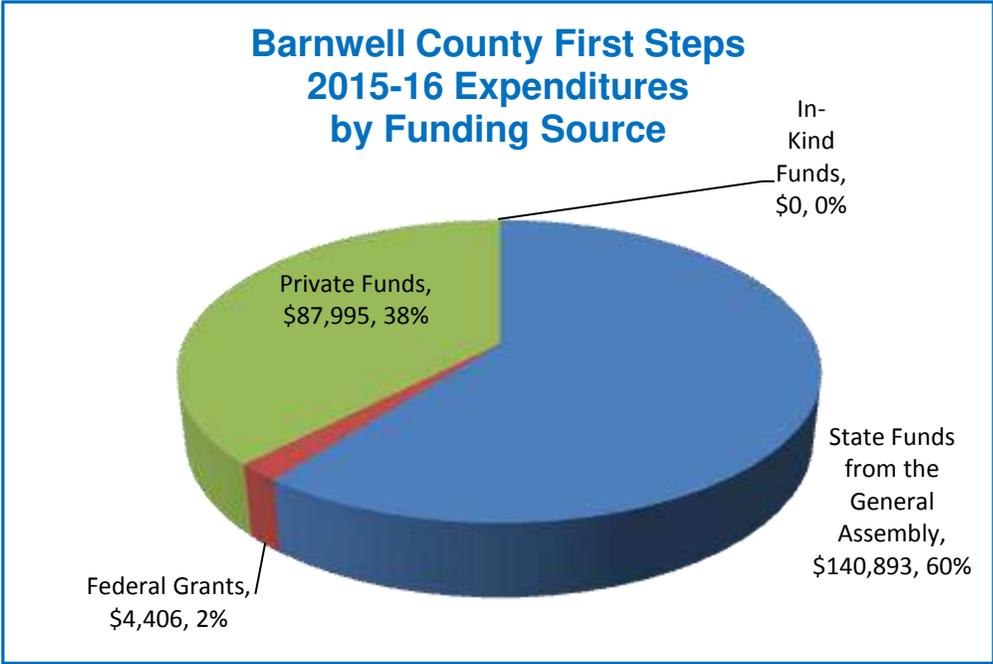


### Thank you to our partners!

- Barnwell School District 19
- Barnwell School District 29
- Barnwell School District 45

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# Financial Impact



**Total 2015-16 Expenditures: \$233,294**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2015-16\*: 66%**

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

**2015-16 Expenditures by Strategy**

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2015-16 Expenditures
Community Education	\$0	\$4,406	\$0	\$0	\$4,406	2%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$8,732	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,732	4%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$21,040	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$21,040	9%
Child Care Training	\$18,272	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,272	8%
Child Care Scholarships	\$4,424	\$0	\$87,995	\$0	\$92,419	40%
Early Steps	\$7,523	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,523	3%
Program Support	\$56,934	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$56,934	24%
Administrative Support	\$23,968	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$23,968	10%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$140,893</b>	<b>\$4,406</b>	<b>\$87,995</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$233,294</b>	

*Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016*

**Since inception, BARNWELL County First Steps has leveraged \$1,849,339 from sources outside of state government. That's 51 cents for every state dollar.**

## Community Baby Shower

Barnwell County Project Care

On January 30, Barnwell County First Steps Partnered with WellCare and Delta Alpha Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc. for the first Barnwell County Project Care Community Baby Shower at the Williston Town Hall promoting the importance of prenatal and infant health and wellness. This free conference had seven vendors, three guest speakers, two demonstrations (car seat safety/infant and toddler CPR), and 38 expecting and newly delivered women in attendance as well as three dads and one dad-to-be. One lucky winner walked away with a brand new car seat.

Barnwell County First Steps gave out a total of 35 packs of diapers, 40 packs of wipes, 48 information packets, and 55 books, by the end of the shower. The smiles, laughter, and community support was beyond measure. We can't wait to do it all again.



## The Week of the Young Child

On April 7th, Barnwell First Steps hosted a WOYC™ Kick-off Celebration in partnership with AXIS I Center, DHEC, and the Aiken Center. The celebration began with an opening address by Representative Lonnie Hosey, followed by a large group Zumba exercise led by the YMCA. Approximately 180 children attended from Head Start, childcare centers, two Kindergarten classes, and individual families, and 17 volunteers from the local career center helped to make the event a success. Children participated in a variety of fun, interactive activities including coloring, playing with “sand slime” and rainbow rice, singing and dancing to music, creating “bubble art”, and various other games. Children were given the opportunity to touch and learn about a police car and a fire truck, play with a parachute, and pet a chicken. Each child who attended also received a book to take home. The community’s collaboration on this event led to a fun, hands-on learning experience for Barnwell County’s children.

## Thank you to our partners!

### Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$140,891  
*(through South Carolina First Steps)*

Darnell Committee \$87,995

### In-Kind Support

Well Care

Save the Children

Aiken Center

Delta Alpha Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc.

Axis 1 Center

YMCA

DHEC

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



# First Steps Partnership Board

**Vision:** Every South Carolina child will arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed

**Mission:** Our mission is to provide early childhood education programs designed to ensure that Barnwell County children arrive at first grade healthy and ready to succeed.

## Barnwell County First Steps Partnership Board, 2015-16

Name	Position	Board Category
Catherine Mack, Chair 2015	Foster Parent	Legislative Representative
Shadie Hall, Vice Chair 2015	Director of Aiken/Barnwell Head Start	Non-profit for family & children
Cheryl Azouri Long	Executive Director – Axis 1 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, Chair 2016	Pastor - Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church	Faith Community
Kim Stokes	Curriculum Specialist	Early Childhood Education
Phyllis Lott	Education Specialist – Aiken/Barnwell Head Start	Early Childhood Education
Ethel Williams	Director	Barnwell DSS
Stephanie Mahuron	Director	Barnwell DHEC
Sheryl Holston	Director / Teacher – Barnwell Head Start	Head Start Representative
Lee Barrett	Kindergarten Teacher	Williston School District
Carolyn Anderson, Vice Chair 2016	Principal	Barnwell School District
Chrissie Stephens	Assistant Superintendent	Barnwell School District
DayIn Ford	Site Supervisor	DHEC
Teresa Reid	Administrator	Blackville School District
Angela Abstance	Executive Director	Barnwell County Chamber of Commerce
Montenius Collins		



# 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 Barnwell County:

Contact: Michelle Woodall 803-533-5446

Contact: Dorothy Hollis 803-533-7390

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