

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Imagination Library

Incredible Years

Blessings in a Backpack

Blessings Resource Center®

Nurse Family Partnership

Compass Point 4K

Annual Report

2017-18



OUR MISSION:

The mission of Chesterfield County First Steps is to ensure opportunities for young children and their families so every child enters school healthy and ready to learn.

www.chesterfieldfirststeps.org
100 West Main Street, Chesterfield, SC 29709 ♦ (843) 623-5904
♦ kmartini@chesterfieldfirststeps.org

Our Message

In Service to Chesterfield County's Children

We are pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2017 – 2018 Chesterfield County First Steps Annual Report to the residents of our great county. The annual report provides you with highlights and accomplishments and services provided in the community.

Chesterfield County First Steps is part of a network of 46 nonprofit county partnerships supported by South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness state office (SCFS).

Chesterfield County First Steps (CCFS) continued to develop and deliver programs and services for young children and their families. Initiating new and expanding established community partnerships, CCFS directly served and effectively connected children and families to resources that are essential to every child's health, well-being and school readiness. Through our partnerships and collaborations, CCFS solidified existing programs and strategically advanced plans for new programs to enhance early education by collaborating with Northeastern Technical College in planning for the implementation of a new quality pre-school class in the Cheraw community to operate in the upcoming fiscal year 2018-2019.

The unwavering and increasing support for and engagement in our work for children by the citizens in our communities continues to help drive CCFS's progress. The investment in the future of our children by our business, education and faith community partners does and will continue to determine our ability to achieve our mission.

CCFS worked with SCFS state office to help ensure the Partnership's strategic goals, programmatic emphases and operational procedures supported statewide priorities for advancement of South Carolina's early childhood system.

Over the past year, CCFS has continued to increase our impact on the communities we serve through successful program delivery, constructive collaborations, dynamic advocacy and effective resource development. Each of these strategies is crucial to meeting the school readiness of young children in rural communities like those CCFS serves. We look forward to the future as we continue to work ensure impactful programs for our local children.

Respectfully,

Karen Martini Waller



At the CCFS board strategic planning retreat at Cheraw State Park, Amelia Clontz was recognized for her years of service and outstanding leadership as board chair for the past four years.

OUR MISSION:

The mission of Chesterfield County First Steps is to ensure opportunities for young children and their families so every child enters school healthy and ready to learn.

Find us on Facebook -
Chesterfield County First Steps:



We get children ready.



School readiness **depends on the capacity of caregivers** to provide children with consistent, nurturing, and responsive relationships in safe, stimulating learning environments, **continuously**, starting at birth. Unfortunately, these quality early childhood experiences happen for too few children in Chesterfield County.

How are Chesterfield County's children doing?	What early learning programs are available for children in our county? Last year:	Where can families access child care in our county?
2,627 are under age 5	N/A attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	17 licensed child care centers
31.1% live in poverty	150 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	12 licensed group/family homes
22.2% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	170 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	3.63% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
3.7% Student drop out (3 rd highest in state)	108 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	0 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
19.6% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	06 were served by 	78 families received assistance with affording child care last year
<small>Kids Count data provided by: </small>	<small>Data provided by: </small>	<small></small>

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Chesterfield County towards these strategic goals in support of the **Profile of the Ready Kindergartner**, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. To build a dependable, sustainable and diversified funding stream to support our mission
2. To engage more parents in early childhood education efforts
3. Expand services to include areas of need not currently addressed by First Steps

In 2017-18, Chesterfield County First Steps provided:

- ✓ **14 children and 8 households with intensive support** to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (*Incredible Years*)
- ✓ **82 children from birth to five received emergency** food to support their household during time of financial crisis. (*Blessings Resource Center*)
- ✓ Support to Nurse Family Partnership to help **25 children and their parents have the tools needed in the home to promote learning through play** (*McLeod Health Nurse Family Partnership*)
- ✓ **551 books to spark the love of reading** for **51 children in the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**
- ✓ **85 hunger insecure children received 4 meals and snacks each weekend** (*Blessings in a Backpack*)
- ✓ a total of **720 children and 63 adults** were impacted by Chesterfield County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events. (*Week of the Child; Sam's Feet, etc.*)

School Readiness Outcomes

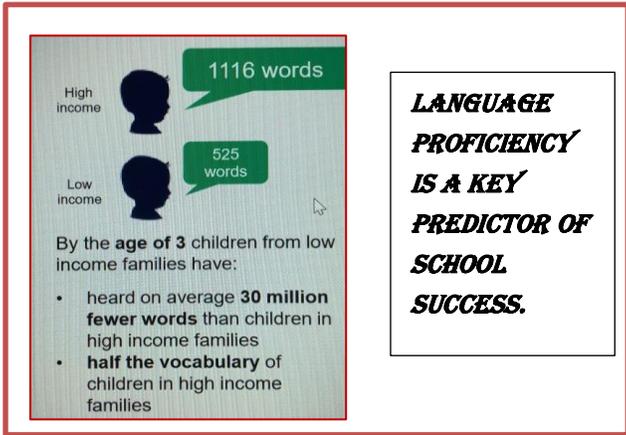
What is the SC Kindergarten Readiness Assessment?

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina’s newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students’ abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

CHESTERFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT (# children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	30%	28%	42%
Language&Literacy	29%	48%	23%
Mathematics	51%	34%	15%
Physical Dev&WB	36%	34%	39%
OVERALL	33%	47%	20%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
OVERALL	26%	38%	36%

- 1. Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
- 2. Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
- 3. Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
- 4. Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom



High income: 1116 words
 Low income: 525 words

By the age of 3 children from low income families have:

- heard on average **30 million fewer words** than children in high income families
- half the vocabulary** of children in high income families

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY IS A KEY PREDICTOR OF SCHOOL SUCCESS.

Demonstrating Readiness: student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

Approaching Readiness: student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

Emerging Readiness: student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

What Chesterfield County First Steps is doing to improve KRA results:

We know that children enrolled in quality 4K programs demonstrate stronger academic performance and greater English Language Arts performance than nonparticipating students. Therefore, CCFS is implementing a new quality 4K preschool program in concert with Northeastern Technical College.

We also need to work within our local communities to stress the importance of language and literacy development from birth to four. This needs to be the combined efforts of families, preschool providers, the faith community and a host of other stakeholders.

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 ♦ kmartini@chesterfieldfirststeps.org

Karen Martini Waller, Executive Director **Dr. Ernest Winburn, Board Chair**

Parents play a critical role in their child’s development.

Program Description

The Incredible Years program is an evidence-based curriculum that is designed to promote positive parenting strategies and to assist parents in managing children’s behavioral challenges. The program includes:

1. Group Sessions once weekly in Pageland and Cheraw;
2. Content of this 14 week curriculum includes play, positive reinforcement, limit-setting, nonphysical discipline alternatives, problem solving, effective communication skills, and supporting children's education;
3. The group therapy process focuses on empowering parents, collaborating, dealing with resistance, and supporting and advocating for parents. This program is used by professionals (such as therapists and parent educators) who are working with parents or caregivers of young parenting practices

We serve families in greatest need. Among our Incredible Years families:

75% ... lived in poverty
10% ... didn't graduate from high school



The Value of the Program can be found in the words of the people who experience them...

This program really opened my eyes to a better style of parenting. Focusing more on the positive than the negatives. I can be more calm and take things one step and one behavior at a time. This has been a wonderful experience and I encourage everyone to take this course.

Incredible Years by the Numbers 2017-2018

Families Served (program completion)	8	
Children Served	14	
Total Group Sessions	42	
Hours Spent Serving Families	108	
The Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory was utilized to measure changes in child behavior. A decrease in T scores indicates improvement.	Pre 118	Post 96 

The Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory indicates an overall decrease in problem behavior at the end of the 14 week sessions.

Pictured above is one group of proud parents who completed the program in Pageland.

This year, our Incredible Years program:

- ✓ 100% of parents showed improvement in multiple dimensions of positive parenting practices at the program’s completion.
- ✓ 100% of children showed improvement in multiple areas of behaviors on the Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory.

Thank you to our partners!

Petersburg Primary School
Cheraw Primary School

Chesterfield County First Steps
100 West Main Street
Chesterfield, SC 29709
843.623.5904

Blessings Resource Center®

A Community Partnership to Strengthen Families

Blessings Resource Center® (BRC)

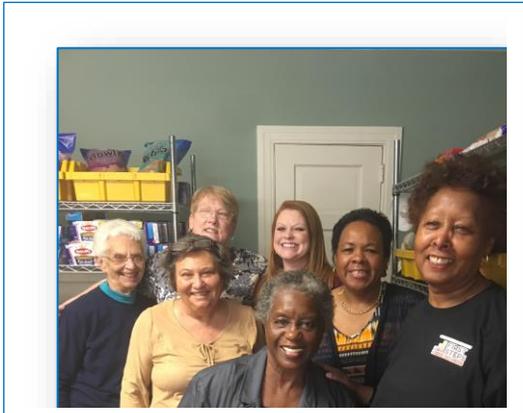
Program Description

Blessings Resource Center (BRC), in concert with community partners and collaborating agencies, provides families in need with food and with access to a broad array of assistance services and information.

Located on the campus of First Baptist Church of Pageland, BRC employs a holistic approach to family assistance, not only meeting immediate nutritional needs but also providing comprehensive assistance information and making spiritual guidance available to those who express such a need. BRC distributes emergency food and provides access to assistance by identifying appropriate resources.



Pictured above are some of our most faithful volunteers.



Our volunteers are the most compassionate and hard working individuals. They are dependable and are the reason why BRC operates so efficiently and effectively.

- Approximately **330** households participated in BRC services
- **41,905** Total Pounds of Food Distributed (does not include some non-nutritional heavier items such as water, juice, toiletries)
- **82** children birth to five were impacted by families visiting the BRC
- **826** Unduplicated total number of individuals served.
- **19%** Reside in home of friend or relative
- **9%** Receive Section 8 or subsidized housing
- **56%** Receive Food stamps
- **48%** Have Medicaid
- **31%** Have Medicare
- **4%** Are Veterans

While average total income (INCLUDING Food Stamps, SSI and other assistance,) totals a mere \$10,716 a year or **\$893 per month**, after housing, utilities, medical, and other expenses, net income dwindled to \$241 per month average.

Chesterfield County First Steps
 100 West Main Street, Chesterfield, SC 29709
 843-623-5904

Thank you to our volunteers & partners!

Children’s reading scores improve dramatically when parents are involved in helping them learn to read.

Program Description

According to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, the peak period for brain development related to language is around **nine months of age. One of the easiest and most effective ways to build this capacity in young children’s brains is to read to them.**

Chesterfield County First Steps is the local sponsor of Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides free, age-appropriate books to children age birth to 5 years. Operated by the Dollywood Foundation, Imagination Library is currently in more than 1,600 communities internationally and mails books to about 700,000 children each month.

Children who register with Chesterfield First Steps receive one book per month by mail through the month of their fifth birthday. Each book is carefully selected by a committee of educational specialists.



“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you’ll go.”— Dr. Seuss, “I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!”

Imagination Library by the Numbers, 2016-2017

Children Served	51
Books Given to Children 0-5	551

This year, our Imagination Library program:

- ✓ Provided one book per month to 42 children.
- ✓ Received donations from the Malloy Foundation, Mary Redfearn (CCFS Board Member)
- ✓ Cheraw Rotary Club, & Omicron Chapter/ The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



Want to help us provide books to the many more children who need them?
 Sponsor a child for just \$30 a year!
 Chesterfield County First Steps is a nonprofit organization

Chesterfield County First Steps
 100 West Main Street
 PO Box 553
 Chesterfield, SC 29709

Blessings In A Backpack



Nutrition is fundamental to school readiness. Studies have repeatedly confirmed that children participating in weekend nutrition programs show improvement in attendance, behavior, academic achievement and overall health.

Program Description

Blessings in a Backpack is a weekend nutrition program that provides nutritious, easy to prepare food for the forty 4K students and their siblings at Petersburg Primary in Pageland. Each week during the school year, volunteers pack backpacks with food for the children to ensure that their nutritional needs can be met over the weekends.

Chesterfield County First Steps has partnered with members of the Pageland faith, business and education communities to fund, organize and staff the program.

Seven Pageland churches and the Presbytery of Charlotte have joined with First Steps to provide the majority of the funding for Blessings in a Backpack and members of the local congregations make up the volunteer groups (over 72 volunteers) that pack the backpacks throughout the school year.

Volunteers are from 6 churches: First Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church, High Point Baptist Church, Providence Baptist Church, Wolf Pond Baptist Church & Zion United Methodist Church.

BackPack by the Numbers, 2017-18

Teachers & Parents See Positive Changes

Number of Children served:	85
Parents were surveyed and reported:	52% of parents reported occasionally <i>not</i> having sufficient food to feed their children; 10% reported frequently running out of food.

Children are showing improvements.

Concentration

90% of the teachers reported seeing that most of the children have shown much to some improvement in attentiveness.

Physical Appearance

90% reported that most of the children had shown some improvement in their physical appearance.

Attendance

90% of teachers reported backpack children's attendance rates improve

100% teachers unanimously replied that they wanted to see the program continue

Thank you to our partners!

Our faithful Volunteers and Donors are acknowledged on

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91% of the children are "happy" 😊 about getting the food.

Chesterfield County First Steps
 100 West Main Street
 Chesterfield, SC 29709

Nurse-Family Partnership®

Helping vulnerable first-time mothers empowers them to achieve a better life for themselves and their children.

Program Description

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) helps transform the lives of vulnerable first-time mothers and their babies. Through ongoing home visits from registered nurses, low-income, first-time moms receive the care and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy, provide responsible and competent care for their children, and become more economically self-sufficient. From pregnancy until the child turns two years old, Nurse-Family Partnership Nurse Home Visitors form a much-needed, trusting relationship with the first-time moms, instilling confidence and empowering them to achieve a better life for their children – and themselves.



In Chesterfield County, Nurse-Family Partnership is implemented through McLeod Hospital. CCFS program provides toys and books for families visited by the Nurse Family Partnership home visiting program & enrolls children in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL).

Participant Feedback

23 out of 25 active parents completed surveys at the end of the program year. All either “strongly agreed” or “agreed” with each other following statements.

<i>My child & I found the toys we received useful.</i>	3.8
<i>My child & I found the books we received useful. *</i>	3.8
<i>From the nurse or information in the bag, I learned more about Chesterfield County First Steps’ services.</i>	3.8
<i>I am more likely to enroll in a CCFS parenting program or other services because of this program.</i>	3.6

1 = Strongly Disagree
 2 = Disagree
 3 = Agree
 4 = Strongly Agree
 N = Not applicable

Outputs:

# books distributed	8
# toys distributed (7 got 1 each during 3 different visits)	94
# children given at least one book/toy/backpack	26
# children enrolled in Dolly Parton Imagination Library	26

Outcome:

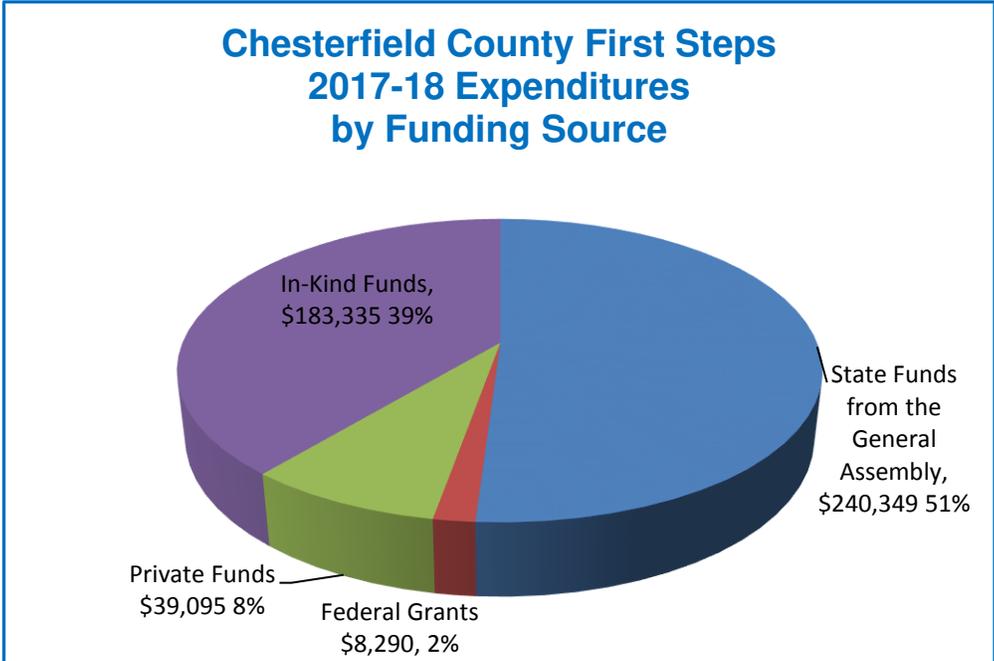
% of parents connected to Chesterfield County First Steps	100%
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-Prepared by External Evaluator

**Our thanks to the
 McLeod NFP Team!**

Visit & like us on Facebook here: www.facebook.com/Chesterfieldfirststeps/

Financial Impact



Total 2017-18 Expenditures: \$471,069

State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18*: 96%

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

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2017-18 Expenditures
Incredible Years	\$68,732	\$0	\$719	\$1,363	\$70,814	15%
Imagination Library	\$0	\$0	\$1,384	\$0	\$1,384	0%
Blessings in a Backpack	\$19,264	\$4,290	\$13,072	\$15,672	\$52,298	11%
Blessings Resource Center	\$0	\$4,000	\$21,436	\$166,300	\$191,736	41%
Nurse Family Partnership	\$375	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$375	0%
Compass Point 4K (Start-Up)	\$31,150	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$31,150	7%
Program Support	\$94,937	\$0	\$2,483	\$0	\$97,420	21%
Administrative Support	\$25,892	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,892	5%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$240,350	\$8,290	\$39,094	\$183,335	\$471,069	

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

Since inception, Chesterfield County First Steps has leveraged \$6,453,549 from sources outside of state government. That's 83cents for every state dollar.

Thank you volunteers & donors!

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Blessings Resource Center In-Kind Support

Name of Donor	Dollar Value Given
Anonymous	\$109.82
Baker, Peggie	\$67.58
Bethany Church	\$258.02
Center Grove Baptist Church	\$176.70
Chesterfield Ruby Middle School	\$838.46
Clontz, Joe and Amelia	\$15.00
Crump, Donna	\$16.19
Doster, Edith	\$101.55
Etheridge, Martha	\$169.66
First Baptist Church-Children's Choir	\$726.00
First Baptist Church	\$387.76
First Presbyterian Church	\$2,031.23
Fork Creek Methodist Church	\$36.82
Francesco, Ashley	\$61.60
Funderburk, George and Effie (Family Reunion)	\$869.00
Funderburk, Judy	\$275.09
Funderburk, Sam	\$205.74
Good Samaritan Colony	\$1,546.69
Griffin, Angie	\$4.22
Gulledge, Owen	\$391.07
High Point Baptist Church	\$1,764.04
Hinson, Pat	\$122.28
Joyful Noise Couples Class	\$199.00
Kiker, Luella	\$126.71
Lecca, Jeffrey	\$15.48
List, Donna	\$25.52
Lynches River	\$620.00
Lynn, Richard	\$557.55
Mangum, Julie	\$31.68
Miller, Lucie (Red Hat Society)	\$30.27
New Heights Middle School Beta Club	\$382.97
Nurse Family Partnership	\$37.30
Outen, Roddey	\$602.92
Outreach Sunday School Class	\$200.00
Pageland Elementary Service Club	\$619.52
Patrick, Marilyn	\$50.00
Power Parade Food Drive	\$480.48
Robertson, Elaine	\$620.00
Rocky Creek Presbyterian Church	\$851.49
Rose Memorial Nazarene	\$151.36
Sandhill Telephone Food/Toy Drive	\$9,371.20
Small Group	\$1,735.96
South Pointe Christian School	\$517.79
Sutton, Ogden	\$19.40
Union Hill Baptist Church	\$61.95
Walmart Distribution	\$142,096.13
Wolf Pond Church	\$952.16
Wynn, Rebecca	\$590.65
US Postal Collection (Pageland)	\$2,102.49
TOTAL:	\$165,331.59



Pictured above are very dedicated volunteers (they do not fill out the volunteer tracking forms) who unload the truck 1-2 times monthly. Each time carrying in thousands of pounds of food donated by Walmart DC.

The Blessings Resource Center food pantry depends entirely on the generosity of our community partners. We are able to help families in need only because so many people care about their neighbors.

Our thanks to the BRC Advisory Board for their expertise and support:

Myra Coffey (High Point Baptist), Michael Bednar (Walmart DC), Lance Aldridge (First Baptist), Judy Funderburk (Presbytery of Charlotte), Mark Evans (Wolf Pond Baptist), Dick Tubbs (First Presbyterian), David Sides (Lynches River Electric)

Thank you volunteers & donors!

Page 2 of 4

Blessings Resource Center

Financial Donors

Name of Donor	Amount Given
CoBank	\$2,500
FEMA Local Board	\$4,000
First Baptist Church	\$14,646.69
First Presbyterian Church	\$331.25
Jack Ryhne	\$18.75
Sandhill Telephone Cooperative	\$5,000
Second Wind Productions	\$500
Mark Tucker	\$675
Presbytery of Charlotte	\$
Tucker, Carl and Linda	\$5,000.00
Zion United Methodist Church	\$675
Vanessa Tyson	\$50

Blessings Resource Center

Volunteers

Name of Volunteer	Value of Time
Benson, Judy	\$1,501.14
Coffey, Myra	\$1,360.11
Funderburk, Judy	\$612.55
Gerstenmier, Bethany	\$60.45
Haigler, Cody	\$261.92
Hancock, Calvin	\$402.99
Leaird, Gay	\$1,747.98
Lynn, Theda	\$1,883.99
Miller, Eva	\$2,196.32
Miller, Lucie	\$1,712.72
Mills, Keith	\$1,224.10
Moore, Nancy	\$1,229.13
Moore, Robert (Bob)	\$1,813.48
Phillips, Vicki	\$2,035.14
Rowell, Linda	\$3,279.38
TOTAL	\$22,288.49



Blessings Resource Center is funded with private dollars and staffed by volunteers. Our donors and volunteers make everything we do for families possible. These churches, businesses, civic groups and individuals are the very heart of BRC.

Thank you volunteers & donors!

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Blessings in a Backpack Child Sponsors

- Baumgartner Funeral Home \$100
- Keith and Jackie Benton \$25
- Robert and Myrtis Burr \$300
- Carolina Landscape Supplies \$750
- Central High School Faculty & Staff \$50
- Cato Memorial Fund-Pageland UMC \$500
- CHESCO \$30
- Joe and Amelia Clontz \$300
- Myra Coffey \$100
- Cobraco Industries \$500
- Cross Country Adjusting \$2500
- Cross Roads Baptist Church \$300
- Janet Dillion \$50
- FEMA \$4,290
- First Baptist Church (Christmas Class) \$100
- H&H Chevrolet, Inc. \$50
- Jesse T. Helms \$300
- Hills creek Forest Products \$750
- Jacqueline Kearns \$150
- Kershaw Dental Bela Dentistry \$150
- Steve and Cynthia Kirchin \$300
- Janice Kiser \$50
- Lamb of God Outreach \$300
- Ann Maxwell \$100
- Karen Martini \$150
- McLeod Health \$250
- Henry & Barbara Moore \$50
- Neil & Robin Mungo \$300
- Lynn Nicholson \$100
- Pageland Family Pharmacy \$450
- Plyler Farms \$250
- Alannah Plyler \$200
- Presbytery of Charlotte \$4,680
- Brandon Price Insurance \$50
- Providence Baptist Church \$500
- Providence Baptist Sunday School Class \$50
- Riner's Heating & Air Conditioning \$50
- Elaine Robertson \$50
- Sandhill Telephone Company \$972.92
- Sandhills Medical Foundation \$250
- Screwmatics of SC \$300
- Second Wind Productions \$600
- South Pointe Christian School \$231.66
- Subway \$50
- Walmart DC \$250
- Wolf Pond Baptist Church \$913.58
- Zion United Methodist Church \$500



Blessings in a Backpack Volunteers

Back-Pack Volunteer In-Kind	
Name of Church	Total In-Kind
First Baptist Church	765.68
First Presbyterian Church	1,329.90
High Point Baptist Church	322.39
Providence Baptist Church	745.55
Wolf Pond Baptist	1,168.70
Zion United Methodist	1,007.49
BBQ Fundraiser Volunteers	2,035.14
TOTAL	\$7,374.85

Blessings in a Backpack is an established, successful weekend nutrition program. The four-year old program is recognized as beneficial by both teachers and parents. The program is independently evaluated each year. And at the heart of this effort is the fact that young children are not hungry.

TO ALL OUR DONORS & VOLUNTEERS



See story about the check donation on next page.

IMAGINATION LIBRARY DONORS

Chesterfield Service Club	\$150
Donna Allen	\$50
Malloy Foundation	\$700
Omincron Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma	\$60
Mary B. Redfearn	\$110
Rotary Club of Cheraw	\$325
Chase & Lesley Watson	\$30

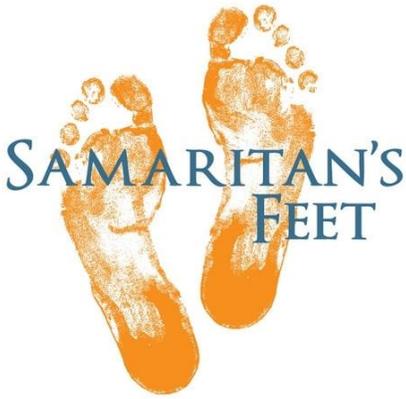
OUR THANKS TO CHESTERFIELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR SUPPORTING OUR INCREDIBLE YEARS PARENTING PROGRAM & BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK PROGRAM

Chesterfield County First Steps (CCFS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the health, well-being and school readiness of all our county’s young children. CCFS receives a small annual grant from the state legislature through the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Initiative. Other than this state grant, for which we are very grateful to our legislators, all funds for our programs and services for children and families are received from private donors. Chesterfield County is blessed by a community that cares deeply about all its children.

WORKING TOGETHER IN SERVICE TO CHILDREN



Last fall, Sandhill Telephone Cooperative (SHTC) hosted a Toy & Food Drive allowing its Members to donate toys and food to SHTC for CCFS Blessings Resource Center. SHTC issued Members a bill credit doubling the amount donated up to \$20. In total, \$7,333 in bill credits were issued. The campaign was very successful as 3,159 pounds of food and 380 toys were collected. This equates to a fair market value of \$5,571 in food and \$3,500 in toys. Over and above the donations by its Members, SHTC donated an additional \$5,000 to CCFS.



Chesterfield County First Steps (CCFS) partnered with Walmart DC of Pageland and Samaritan's Feet to provide new shoes to every student at Petersburg Primary School on Tuesday, November 14. 310 children received a new pair of shoes after their feet were washed by caring volunteers.

COMPASS POINT



Chesterfield County First Steps (CCFS) and Northeastern Technical College (NETC) have launched an ambitious, educational endeavor that merges their respective missions, expertise and resources to provide an exceptional learning experience for both young children and young adults. This fall, CCFS and NETC will open and operate Compass Point 4K, a high-quality pre-kindergarten program presented in a laboratory school environment where NETC early childhood education students will train and gain first-hand experience. First Steps 4K programs place particular emphasis on fidelity to researched-based instructional models and educational best practices. The program will feature degreed teachers and the highest educational standards provided in an innovative academic setting.

Week of the Young Child – Little Folks Food Festival 260 Four Year Olds Participated



Karolyn Tredeau/Staff Photographer

More than 200 four-year-olds enjoyed sampling salad, fresh fruit and picking out fresh produce at the Little Folks Food Festival.

Little Folks Food Festival a big hit

KAROLYN TREDEAU
Staff Reporter

More than 200 county four-year-olds and their parents, as well as teachers and volunteers, descended on Northeastern Technical College on April 17 for the Chesterfield County First Steps Little Folks Food Festival.

The atmosphere was boisterous and happy at the event, which recognizes the Week of the Young Child.

Tables with a variety of foods filled the auditorium, offering samples of everything from vegetables, fruit and chicken to yogurt, pickles and cheeses.

The children also enjoyed displays of vegetable plants and herbs. Games allowed kids a chance to select healthy foods to put in their baskets or on their plates. A storytelling room and an appearance by Fish the Magish enhanced the children's experience.

Many enjoyed their samples, while others weren't too sure about the foods offered. One little girl at the produce stand rushed diligently to fill her little basket with every food item on the shelves.

The event, which could have been tumultuous, was extremely well-organized.

"The intent is to introduce children to healthy foods they

may not have eaten before and even learn some new vocabulary," said First Steps Director Karen Martini.

Approximately 20 agencies and businesses in the county were either sponsors or participating partners in the event.

South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness is the state's comprehensive early childhood education initiative. Its purpose is to ensure South Carolina's children are ready for school success. More information about Chesterfield County First Steps is available by calling (843) 623-5904.

Community Comes Together for Week of the Young Child

First Steps Event Volunteers

Myra Coffey
Theda Lynn
Gay Leaird
Bob and Nancy Moore
Gerard Myatt
Hugh Hagler
Steve and Alesia Chapman
Vickie Rogers
Vicki Phillips
Judy Funderburk
Kathy Jackson
Eva Miller
Lucie Miller

Week of the Young Child

Ralph Lancy
Bernice Linton
Michael Kaltwang
Pearline Hutto
Jan Burton
Carrie Turner
Mary Redfearn
Amelia Clontz

Special Appearance by:



CHESTERFIELD COUNTY



Little Folks Food Festival

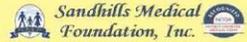
April 17, 2018
9:30am - Noon

Presenting Sponsors

McLeod Health
Cheraw



Walmart
Logistics



Participating Partners



Jarvis Steen's



CHESCO Services



BI-LO

DSS SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES



CHESTERFIELD COUNTY



2018 Week of the Young Child

Event Sponsors

Walmart Logistics
McLeod Health
Sandhills Medical
Sandhill Telephone Cooperative

Participating Partners

Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office
McLeod Nurse Family Partnership
Chesterfield County Library System
Chesterfield Baptist Association Missions Outreach
Pee Dee Coalition
CHESCO
Pageland Garden Club
Pee Dee Healthy Start
CareSouth Carolina
Northeastern Technical College
DHEC
DSS
Central High School FFA
Jarvis Steen
Bi-lo
Food Lion



Fish the Magish Provides Magical Educational Entertainment!

WORKING TOGETHER IN SERVICE TO CHILDREN



**2nd Annual
Parade of Horsepower
Parade & Car Show**

Saturday, June 16, Beautiful Downtown Pageland
 Parade – 11:00 a.m. – Car Show 1:00 p.m.
 Plus a BBQ Lunch (\$5) & Bake Sale
 At Moore's Park and First Presbyterian Church

- Free to See ● \$5 for Parade Entry
- \$15 Car Show Entry Fee ● Trophies in All Categories

ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO CHESTERFIELD COUNTY
 FIRST STEPS BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK



Power Fanatics Mustang Club, Wrecking Crew Mustang Club and Servant's Heart (Elaine Robertson) joined forces this summer to raise money for the Blessings in a Backpack program. The program provides weekend meals and snacks for hunger insecure children attending Petersburg Primary School.



3rd ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE
WALMART DC – Pageland Associates
Organized by: Angie Davis/Walmart DC

In the spirit of the season, Walmart Logistics and Chesterfield County First Steps (CCFS) partnered again for the third consecutive year on an Angel Tree mission to provide toys for children of needy families. Parents and grandparents shared the children's Christmas wishes with Blessings Resource Center (BRC) volunteers. BRC then passed the Christmas hopes of little ones to Walmart DC employees who pooled their personal resources to provide gifts. Toys for the children were picked up by families at BRC.



THE CHESTERFIELD COUNTY FIRST STEPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPRECIATE EVERY INDIVIDUAL, FAITH & CIVIC GROUP, EDUCATIONAL & NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION AND BUSINESS WHO DONATE & VOLUNTEER. WITHOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT, WE COULD NOT SERVE THE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

YOU ARE A BLESSING!

Sam's Feet – 310 Children Received New Shoes and Socks

Chesterfield County First Steps (CCFS) partnered with Walmart DC of Pageland and Samaritan's Feet to provide new shoes to every student at Petersburg Primary School on Tuesday, November 14.

Samaritan's Feet is a Charlotte-based, international, 501(c) (3) humanitarian organization that shares a message of hope and love through washing the feet of impoverished children around the world and providing them with new shoes.

Janice Kiser, Principal of Petersburg Primary said, "on behalf of the parents and students of Petersburg Primary, I thank Samaritan's Feet for the compassion they are extending toward us. Through their generosity, a very practical need is being met, and my children are feeling loved and cared for in a very special way. "

Wendell Carter and Angie Davis coordinated the project for Walmart. Carter and Walmart DC have worked with Samaritan's Feet to sponsor several ministry events such as this in other locations. "Most of us at Walmart consider volunteerism as one of the most rewarding parts of our jobs," says Carter. "We are proud that Walmart cares so much about the communities it serves and that we are encouraged to participate in beneficial community projects. We are thankful for dedicated children's ministries like Samaritans Feet and Chesterfield County First Steps' Blessings in a Backpack with which we can partner to serve our community's children."

Walmart DC contacted CCFS Executive Director Karen Martini to be part of the event because of First Steps' work throughout the county with at-risk children and families and because of the successful and widely acclaimed weekend nutrition program the organization has been providing at Petersburg for five years.

"First Steps is truly humbled to be asked to be part of this event of hope and love," Martini said. "CCFS exists only to serve children and families and we are overjoyed that Samaritan's Feet and Walmart DC are bringing this ministry to Pageland and Petersburg Primary School. To have the opportunity to partner with an international charitable organization like Samaritan's Feet and an excellent corporate citizen like Walmart Logistics in an expression of love and hope for children is both humbling and inspiring. It is our sincere hope that, in some small way, we have shown these children that there are people in this world in addition to their families and their teachers who truly care about them.

Samaritan's Feet will provide the new shoes for the children while Walmart DC and CCFS volunteers will wash each child's feet and place the new shoes on them.



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

2017-2018 Board of Directors

The CCFS Board of Directors exemplifies the kind of community enterprise that meets challenges head on to achieve the desired results. Each time the CCFS board meets, there is a convergence of our county's education, health, business, faith and civic communities that is dedicated to the sole purpose of ensuring that all our children reach first grade ready to learn and succeed.

This group of committed volunteers carries our message and our mission to the schools, the offices, the factories, the pulpits and the living rooms of Chesterfield County. They also bring the ideas, the input and the concerns of the community for children's issues into the CCFS board room for discussion, evaluation and inclusion in our plans, programs and services.

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We are grateful for their dedication to our community, commitment to progress and devotion to children. They help make First Steps work.

Name	Position	Board Category
Dr. Joel Dale	Pastor First Baptist Church	Faith Community
Dr. Ernest Winburn, Chairman	Retired Pastor and Author	Faith Community
Mr. Marek Calhoun	CareSouth Carolina Community Development	Health Provider
Dr. Harrison Goodwin	Superintendent -CCSD	CCSD Designee
Ms. Pearline Hutto	Retired Educator	Local Government
Mr. Michael Kaltwang, Secretary	Director of Library System	Library Designee
Mr. Ralph Laney, Vice Chairman	Director of DSS	DSS Designee
Ms. Edwina Moody	Agency Nurse Manager-DHEC	DHEC Designee
Ms. Mary Redfearn	Retired Early Childhood Educator	Pre-K Educator
Ms. Carrie Turner	Director of Chesterfield-Marlboro Head Start	Head Start Director
Ms. Robbin Usher	Special Ed Teacher	Primary Educator
Ms. Bernice Linton	Head Start	Early Ed
Dr. Kyle Wagner	President Northeastern Technical College/NETC Foundation	Nonprofit

What is First Steps?

At the state level and in every county, First Steps leverages state funding with other public and private resources to help South Carolina’s children enter kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed. First Steps programs and services support families as their child’s first and most important teacher and are customized to meet the unique needs of local communities, grounded in strong evidence, fueled by stakeholder collaboration, and accountable for results.

First Steps Goals

- (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.

First Steps Building Blocks of Quality Early Childhood Programs and Services



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



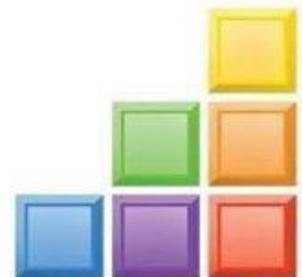
School Transition

From Greenville to Charleston, Abbeville to York, First Steps local partnerships serve as ...

Local portals connecting preschool children and families to services

Conveners of community stakeholders to address the needs of young children and their families

Champions of the importance of school readiness to our children’s future.



for South Carolina and to learn about First Steps 4K programs in your area:

scfirststeps.org

for Chesterfield County First Steps:

www.chesterfieldfirststeps.org



[I CAN] is First Steps’ public awareness campaign for school readiness, in support of the state’s Profile of the Ready Kindergartener. Includes resources for parents, providers and communities to learn what they can do to support school readiness.