

GREENVILLE COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Equipping Families  
to Become Their  
Child's First Teacher  
through:

Community Mobilization

Child Care Scholarships

Nurse Family Partnership

# Annual Report

2012-2013



## OUR MISSION:

To facilitate a collaborative  
community partnership for  
measurably improving the early  
childhood development of all  
children in Greenville County.

*First Steps WORKS for the children of Greenville County.*



# Annual Report 2012-2013

## FOSTERING LEARNING THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

### Who We Serve

First Steps serves children pre-birth to 5 years old and their families who are at risk of not being ready for school.

Number of Greenville County children under 6:

**39,900**

Number of Greenville County children under 6 living in poverty:

**7,222**

Babies born each year in Greenville County to a mother without a high school diploma:

**1,639 (nearly 1 in 4)**

### Our Featured Programs

- Nurse Family Partnership
- Child Care Scholarships
- Community Mobilization

### Our Results

- ✓ In 2013, Greenville First Steps engaged over 200 agencies in "Project Pinwheel," a county-wide Child Abuse Prevention campaign, including planting 25,000 pinwheels across the county.
- ✓ This year we were able to leverage \$1.28 in grants, donation, and local support for every \$1 of state funds spent. No state funded entity has a greater level of local leveraging and impact.

\*This op-ed appeared in the Greenville Journal, September 2013

When does learning begin? Some would say it is the moment you step off the school bus, new backpack filled with supplies, heading for your first day of Kindergarten. Others would say it's earlier, maybe the first time you made a connection between the word BUS and the yellow thing that drove past you on the street.

Researchers are discovering more and more about how our brain develops. According to research from Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child, during the child's early years, brain synapse development is "fantastically fast." At its peak rate, "the cerebral cortex of a healthy toddler may create two million synapses per second." By 30 months, a majority of our synapses have been created.

Think of the brain as a series of roadways. One option is a rural country road – a dirt road with mud puddles. The other is a complex interchange where state highways, interstates, and county roads all intersect. If you were responsible for moving tons of freight in a single day, which road system would you prefer? Which would make it easier for complex traffic systems to move?

With 70-80% of brain development occurring during the first 30 months of life, school readiness is a core issue area, predicting early school success, high school completion, family financial stability, and ultimately whether we are producing an employable workforce.

In response to research like this, more than 100 members of the Greenville County community worked to develop a School Readiness Roadmap. The question we asked: What are the research-proven behaviors and assets that each child should possess to ensure that she enters school on track and ready to succeed? The Roadmap development process, facilitated by the United Way of Greenville with key community partners including Greenville First Steps, the Institute for Child Success, and the Greenville County School District, identified that a ready child most likely comes from a Ready Family (where parents embrace their role as their child's first and most important teacher), a Ready Early Care and Education system (where child-serving professionals adopt best practices to create a seamless system of care), and a Ready Community that embraces School Readiness as a core component of a vibrant, educated, financially stable community.

There is no silver bullet; no single program, service, or intervention that will guarantee every child is on track, but through a coordinated effort of public and private partners, we are working to build a roadmap to ensure that Greenville County will be a learning community for generations to come.

*Derek Lewis*  
Greenville First Steps Executive Director

*Ted Hendry*  
United Way of Greenville President

**Board Chair**  
Danny Varat

**Executive Director**  
Derek Lewis

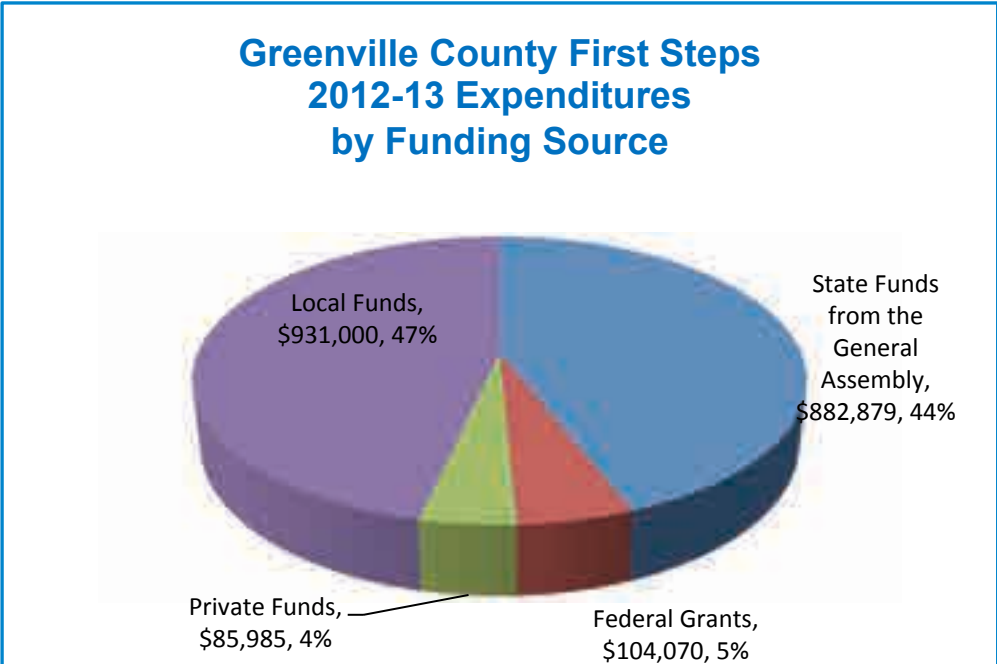
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[www.GreenvilleFirstSteps.org](http://www.GreenvilleFirstSteps.org)

*Building brighter futures for South Carolina's youngest learners.*



# Financial Impact



**Total 2012-13 Expenditures: \$2,003,934**

**Funds Leveraged in 2012-13\*: 127%**

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

### 2012-13 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	Local \$	Total \$	% of 2012-13 Expenditures
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$ 6,189	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,189	0%
Child Care Training	\$ 76,749	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76,749	4%
Child Care Scholarships	\$ 449,475	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 350,000	\$ 799,475	40%
Nurse Family Partnership	\$ 80,571	\$ 104,070.00	\$ 82,000	\$ 581,000	\$ 847,641	42%
Play and Learn	\$ 1,322	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,322	0%
BabySteps	\$ 19,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,500	1%
Community Mobilization	\$ 158,282	\$ -	\$ 3,985		\$ 162,267	8%
Program Support	\$ 47,890	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,890	2%
Administrative Support	\$ 42,901	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,901	2%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 882,879</b>	<b>\$ 104,070.00</b>	<b>\$ 85,985</b>	<b>\$ 931,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,003,934</b>	

Learn more about how Greenville First Steps helps children and families in Greenville County at [www.GreenvilleFirstSteps.org](http://www.GreenvilleFirstSteps.org)



# Community Impact

## Spotlight on Success

### Little Steps

Little Steps provides a safe environment of encouragement and accountability for teen and young parents in the Greenville County area. They accomplish this through peer groups, classes, one-on-one mentoring, and parent child enrichment classes sponsored by Greenville First Steps. Parents earn Baby Bucks for participation and can use their bucks to buy necessities like diapers, clothing, and other supplies from Little Steps' Baby Boutique.

The primary purpose of Little Steps is to assist pregnant and parenting teens in becoming self-sufficient, healthy, and confident parents. Also, they work to reduce teen pregnancy in Greenville County and to help improve dropout rates for new mothers enrolled in Greenville County Schools.

Research shows that teen mothers who receive positive one-on-one mentoring are more likely to stay in school, graduate on time, and move on to college or a career to help support their family. Through partners like the Greenville School District, the United Way of Greenville County, and Greenville First Steps, Little Steps is able to reach these teens during pregnancy and provide them with the support they need to remain on track.

In South Carolina, 24% of teen mothers have repeat pregnancies. Less than 2% of teen mothers enrolled in Little Steps have had repeat pregnancies. Additionally, through partnerships they have helped reduce the High School dropout rate for teens in Greenville County from 83% to 33% over the past five years,



## *Thank you to our partners!*

### Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$941,779  
(through South Carolina First Steps)

Children's Trust Fund of SC: \$104,070

United Way of Greenville: \$52,000

### Local Support

Greenville Health System

Greenville County Childcare Association

YWCA of Greenville

YMCA of Greenville

Endowed Scholarship Centers

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



# Community Impact

## Spotlight on Success

### Reach Out and Read

Reach Out and Read prepares our youngest children to succeed in school by partnering with doctors to prescribe books and encourage families to read together. Pediatricians encourage parents to read regularly with their children and distribute free, developmentally and culturally appropriate books to children from six months to five years of age at each well-child checkup. Through this inexpensive, regular intervention, parents learn that reading aloud is the most important thing they can do to ensure their children enter school ready to learn.

Reach Out and Read continues to expand our evidence-based, three-part solution for children growing up in poverty:

1. Doctors prescribe developmentally appropriate literacy strategies to parents
2. The pediatrician gives every child a carefully selected new book to take home
3. Parents incorporate advice received during pediatric visits and make reading aloud part of their daily routine.



Since 1991, this model has been studied by academic investigators in a variety of settings, culminating in 15 independent evaluations that affirm the impact of our program. This body of published research is more extensive than for any other psychosocial intervention in general pediatrics.

Reach Out and Read leverages the unique and trusting relationship between doctors and patients to deliver a full dose of literacy to children and families early and often. Doctors have unparalleled access to children, especially in their earliest years, years vital for growth and development. Almost 96% of children see a health care provider at least annually, while less than one third are enrolled in a childcare setting. Doctors provide the essential link between healthy minds and healthy bodies, and encourage parents in their role as their child's first and most important teacher.



Visit [www.KidsDriveGreenville.com](http://www.KidsDriveGreenville.com) to see what resources are available in our community to help families ensure school success.



# Community Impact

## Numbers Served by First Steps in Greenville County: 2012-13

	Implementing Agency or Organization	Children 0-5 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
<b>Programs Funded by Greenville First Steps:</b>								
<b>Community Mobilization:</b> Project Pinwheel, a month long community wide child abuse prevention month campaign.	Greenville First Steps	N/A	N/A	N/A	200	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Family Literacy-BABYSTEPS:</b> Integrated adult education, early childhood education, parenting, and parent-child interaction	Little Steps	4	13	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Countdown to Kindergarten:</b> Instruction in the home with parents and children the summer prior to kindergarten.	Greenville County School District	35	35	6	3	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Child Care Training:</b> Group training and followup for local child care and early learning staff.	Greenville County Childcare Association	N/A	N/A	286	105	60	60	N/A
<b>Child Care Scholarships:</b> Assistance to qualifying families with affording quality child care.	Greenville First Steps	143	137	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Nurse Family Partnership:</b> Home visits by registered nurses to low-income, first time moms starting in pregnancy until the child turns 2.	Greenville Health System	105	175	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Play and Learn:</b> Curriculum to increase literacy rates, implemented through community agencies	Safe Harbor Little Steps	50	60	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>NUMBER SERVED BY GREENVILLE FIRST STEPS:</b>		<b>337</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>

*Contact us to learn more!*

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# Community Mobilization



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

## Program Description

Working in partnerships with the United Way of Greenville County's School Readiness Council, First Steps helped develop the Greenville School Readiness Roadmap.

The Roadmap contains 12 community wide objectives that serve as targets for our community's efforts to create an environment that ensures children enter school on track and ready to succeed.

Using research identified by Clemson University, the Roadmap identifies the community-wide benchmarks that we are working to address.

One benchmark, reducing the prevalence of abuse, neglect and toxic stress is being tackled by a coalition of over 200 agencies, churches, schools and businesses in our community.

Greenville First Steps played a role as a convener of this group, and organized Greenville's Project Pinwheel for Prevention campaign including the following components:

- A community wide message of the things every family can do to ensure children are safe and nurtured.
- Kickoff event at Furman University Paladin Soccer Stadium
- The Pinwheel Gardens, where 25,000 pinwheels were planted as a symbol of our community's support of children and families.
- "Pinwheel Tales", a compilation CD of children's stories and songs that included tips to parents on engagement activities.



## Why Community Mobilization Works

*Greenville is an incredibly diverse community. That diversity leads to multiple entities developing multiple messages involving multiple partners. Greenville First Steps played a key role in Child Abuse Prevention month as a convener. They brought together multiple partners, helping to coordinate a single message that celebrated each partner's work, while strengthening the public's understanding of what they can do to help protect children in their home, neighborhood, or community.*

*-Phyllis Martin, United Way of Greenville County*

## Program Results 2012-13

- ✓ **25,000 Pinwheels were distributed through 200 partner agencies and businesses. Funding was raised through sponsorships and donations.**
- ✓ **20 page Project Pinwheel Resource guide published and distributed throughout Greenville County**
- ✓ **Visit [www.KidsDriveGreenville.com](http://www.KidsDriveGreenville.com) for more information**

## Community Mobilization by the Number\$

	2011-12	2012-13
State Funds	\$84,843	\$158,282
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Private Funds	\$36,767	\$3,985
Local Funds	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$121,610</b>	<b>\$162,267</b>

## Thank you to our partners!

- Children's Trust Fund of SC
- United Way of Greenville
- Furman University Men's Soccer
- Greenville Health System

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# Family Literacy BABY STEPS



**Parents are their child's first teachers.**

## Program Description

BABY STEPS is a 7 week summer enrichment program funded by Greenville First Steps and operated by Little Steps.

The program provided educational, social, and community resources to 13 teens who were either pregnant or new mothers. Program participants rotated through classes focusing on educational tutoring, labor and delivery, infant care, nutrition, peer group counseling, and parenting. In addition, teens were provided with the opportunity to go on field trips in Greenville County.

Teens earned Baby Bucks during classes and were able to “shop” in the Little Steps baby boutique to receive essential items such as diapers, baby and maternity clothes, strollers, high chairs, and toys. Throughout the summer and during the following school year, all BABY STEPS participants who had a child were given a full scholarship to a pre-approved high quality childcare center.

Through partnerships with the Greenville Health System, Greenville County School District, Greenville Technical College, Small Impressions Child Development Center, the summer BABY STEPS participants added valuable information to their “toolbox” to be better parents, stay in school, graduate, and raise a happy, healthy, and ready to learn child.



***Thank you to our partners!***

**Little Steps**

**Greenville Technical College**

**Greenville County School District**

## Why Family Literacy Works

Little Steps, in partnership with Greenville First Steps has reduced the High School dropout rate for teens in Greenville County from 83% to 33% over the past five years.

Students enrolled in BABY STEPS and Little Steps were significantly less likely than other SC teen mothers to have a repeat pregnancy.

***I really appreciate what all the teachers have helped me learn this summer. I know I will be a better mother because of BABY STEPS-Sarah***

## Program Results 2012-13

- ✓ **13 pregnant and teen mothers participated in 7 week summer enrichment program**
- ✓ **100% of children of participants enrolled in high quality childcare**

## Family Literacy by the Number\$

	2011-12	2012-13
State Funds	\$25,000	\$19,500
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Private Funds	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$19,500</b>
Clients Served	17	13
Cost per Client	\$1,471	\$1,500

### Greenville County First Steps

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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 First Steps program based on other successful school transition models from around the country. Its goals are:

- ✓ to increase the successful transition of South Carolina's most at-risk children into the K-12 school system;
- ✓ 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.

### Program Components

**Home Visitation.** Teachers make six visits over the summer to the homes of participating students and families. Visits are hour-long sessions whereby children and families are introduced to actual materials used in kindergarten and are given a Kindergarten Transition Toolkit (backpack filled with books, puzzles, clay, blocks, floor mats, etc.) to keep.

**Learning Celebration.** This year, the Children's Museum of the Upstate held a Countdown to Kindergarten celebration for all rising kindergarteners including the First Steps CTK families. Over 1,000 people participated and received free books and resources, and played games and explored the museum for free!

Schools Served:

Welcome Elementary School

Sue Cleveland Elementary School

Westcliffe Elementary School

Greenville County School District places as many CTK children as possible in their home visitor's classroom for kindergarten, thereby building upon the teacher-child and parent-teacher relationships built over the summer.

## Thank you to our partners!

Greenville County School District  
 Kaplan Early Learning Company  
 Children's Museum of the Upstate

## Why CTK Works

Kindergarten teachers reported that **CTK children have greater familiarity, confidence and excitement** about attending kindergarten, and that **CTK parents are more involved in school** and more likely to contact them. CTK parents felt a **stronger connection with their child's teacher**, and saw in their children increased confidence and excitement about school. Teachers also said the CTK experience **had a significant positive impact on their professional practice.**

*First Steps Evaluation  
High Scope Educational Research Foundation, 2009*

***Thanks to Countdown to Kindergarten, I already know my son's Kindergarten teacher. She already knows my son and has a good relationship with him. It's going to be a good year***

Eleanor, mother to rising kindergartener

## Program Results 2012-13

- ✓ **New school this year, Westcliffe Elementary School**
- ✓ **Exciting back to school event at the Children's Museum of the Upstate**

## CTK by the Number\$

	2011-12	2012-13
State Funds	\$7,900	\$6,189
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Private Funds	\$1,983	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,866</b>	<b>\$6,189</b>
Children Served	35	35
Cost per Child	\$339	\$177
Number of Visits	169	169
Cost per Visit	\$70.21	\$36.62

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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.

1. Greenville County Child Care Association Conference. The GCCCA Conference allows over 400 childcare professionals opportunity for professional development and enrichment.
2. Virtual Training Designs. In an effort to reduce costs associated with professional development, First Steps is developed an online virtual training platform that can be deliverable across the state at little or no cost to the participant.
3. Developmental Screenings. In partnership with GHS Children’s Advocacy, we conducted Developmental Screenings on over 100 children, and trained Child Care providers how to use information from screenings to work with their children and parents.



## Why Training Works

Research shows that well trained and educated individuals in the child care workforce are **key to ensuring that children are both safe and in a setting to promote their healthy development.**

*National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies*

***Thanks to First Steps, our annual conference was able to expand our offerings, ensuring more trainings are available***

Susan Kear, chair of Greenville Child Care

## Program Results 2012-13

- ✓ 200 participants at the Greenville County Childcare Association annual conference that featured the Ooey Gooey Lady.
- ✓ 86 staff were instructed on developmental screening tools, and how to use them when working with families.

## Training by the Number\$

	2011-12	2012-13
State Funds	\$100,337	\$76,749
Federal Funds	\$2,910	\$0
Private Funds	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$103,247</b>	<b>\$76,749</b>
Child Care Staff Trained	429	286
Cost per Person Trained	\$240.67	\$268.35

***Thank you to our partners!***

- Greenville County Childcare Association
- Children’s Advocacy, GHS
- Lifelong Learning

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# Child Care Scholarships

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

## Program Description

Greenville First Steps continued a successful a scholarship initiative aimed at ensuring parents have access to high quality childcare centers.

Greenville First Steps provides scholarships to families who are NFP clients, teen moms hoping to remain enrolled in High School, and families planning to return to work.

Additionally, funding is available for families who meet the following criteria:

- Family must be eligible for, but not currently receiving DSS ABC vouchers
- Family must select a pre-approved center/family home provider with a level BB rating or higher
- Parent must be either enrolled as a student (HS or College) or employed at a minimum of 20 hours/week
- Parent must participate in a minimum of 2 hours/month of financial literacy, parenting, positive discipline or GED work.

Scholarships are provided directly to the center on behalf of family. Funds are awarded on a rolling basis. Funds are awarded on an annual basis (with funds planned to be spent by June 30, 2012).

% NFP Family	16%
% Teen Parents	14%

### Thank you to our partners!

- |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| YWCA of Greenville              | St Anthony of Padua |
| YMCA of Greenville              | Unique Kidz         |
| Gateway Academy                 | City Kids CDC       |
| Shannon Forest Christian School |                     |

## Why Access to Quality Care Works

Children develop in an environment of relationships that includes their immediate and extended families, non-family caregivers, neighbors, and community - and poverty can compromise those relationships. **When children receive few opportunities for positive serve-and-return interactions - when the responses from adults are sporadic, inappropriate, or missing entirely - they are not getting the stimulation their brains need to develop in a healthy way.**

*The Long Reach of Early Childhood Poverty, National Scientific Council on the Developing Child*

*When Michael's dad left, there was no way I could work and take care of him. I needed help and First Steps made it possible for me to know Michael was happy and safe while I went back to work*

-Rachel

## Program Results 2012-13

- ✓ 100% clients received a developmental screening
- ✓ 100% clients attended a high quality childcare center
- ✓ 23 NFP Clients utilized scholarships in order to return to school or obtain a job

## Scholarships by the Number\$

	2011-12	2012-13
State Funds	\$528,682*	\$449,475
Federal Funds	\$25,000*	\$0
Private Funds	\$25,000*	\$0
Local Funds	\$187,000*	\$350,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$765,682*</b>	<b>\$799,475</b>
Children Served	115*	143
Cost per Child per Year	\$6,658*	\$5,590
Tuition per Week	\$*	\$100
Child Care Providers Served	10*	15

\*Data includes 2011-2012 3K/4K home visit numbers

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# Nurse-Family Partnership



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

## Program Description

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) is an evidence based, nurse home visitation program designed to improve the health, well-being and self sufficiency of low-income, first time parents and their children. NFP is an intensive intervention spanning a 2 ½ year timeframe. Home visits begin prenatally (every week for the first four weeks and every other week until birth) and continue through the second year of the child’s life (visits range from weekly to every other week). However, visit frequency is flexible and can be altered if the nurse feels there is a need for more visits.

Bachelor’s degree level nurses utilize Visit-to-Visit guidelines, clinical consultation, and intervention resources to implement the programs content in a way that is adaptable to each family.

Locally, NFP is a partnership between the Greenville Hospital System and Greenville First Steps. In 2012, NFP expanded to serve 175 families. Funding is provided by the Duke Endowment (7 year commitment), Greenville First Steps, SC Children’s Trust, and the United Way of Greenville County (3 year commitment). Additional funding was provided through Hollingsworth Funds and Greenville Women Giving.

### Risk Factor Profile:

% of parents without HS diploma	<b>56%</b>
% of parents Medicaid Eligible	<b>100%</b>
% parents recipients of TANF	<b>75%</b>

### NFP Outcomes

- ✓ Increase parent knowledge of child development and improve parenting practices
- ✓ Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues
- ✓ Prevent child abuse and neglect
- ✓ Increase children’s school readiness and school success

## Why NFP Works

**NFP is supported by the most extensive research foundation of any maternal and child health program.** Three randomized controlled trials in 1997, 1988 and 1994 - which are still being examined today for long-term impact – show consistently proven results in the areas of **improved prenatal health, fewer childhood injuries, fewer subsequent pregnancies, increased intervals between births, increased material employment, and improved school readiness.**

“It was just amazing that someone from Nurse-Family Partnership was always there for me. I was never alone because I could always call Lisa for support or answers, whether good or bad. She was always there waiting to help me whenever I needed it.”-Jennifer

## Program Results 2012-13

- ✓ **Successful implementation of national program adhering to stringent model fidelity**
- ✓ **Sound fiscal management allows for leveraging of private funds. First site in SC to grow to a 7 nurse team. In 2012 \$15 in local, private, and federal funds were raised for each \$1 of state funds invested.**
- ✓ **75% of clients have returned to work or school within 12months of enrollment.**

## NFP by the Number\$

	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
State Funds	\$51,000	\$80,571
Federal Funds	\$262,455	\$104,070
Private Funds	\$437,495	\$82,000
Local Funds	\$86,000	\$581,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$836,950</b>	<b>\$847,641</b>
<hr/>		
Families Served	229	211
Cost per Family	\$3,654	\$4,017
Number of Visits	2,777	3150
Cost per Visit	\$301.38	\$269.09

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# Family Literacy Play and Learn



Parents are their child's first teachers.

## Program Description

The Play and Learn curriculum, developed by staff at Greenville First Steps, teaches families the importance of early learning through interactive parent workshops and family literacy time. The program reinforces early literacy, language skills, logic and reasoning, and other best practices. A Play and Learn session usually takes place on weekends or weeknights during dinner time (to further develop a family setting) and lasts about one hour.

The foundation of Plan and Learn is a weekly meeting hosted by a local community agency or faith community and facilitated by a coordinator and volunteers from local congregations or community centers. Facilitators are trained on the curriculum and on up-to-date early childhood development information and research. Ongoing technical assistance and support is provided to coordinators by a Greenville First Steps staff member.

Play and Learn is implemented by Little Steps and Safe Harbor.



**Thank you to our partners!**

- Little Steps
- Greenville Technical College
- Greenville County School District

## Why Family Literacy Works

Parents are their child's first and most important teachers. A 2007 study found that the more that mothers read to their children the greater the gains for children's vocabulary and cognitive ability such that, by age 3 (when children begin to be interested in pre-reading activities), mothers who had been reading daily during the preceding two years had children with significantly elevated language and cognitive scores.

*The Effects of Early Reading with Parents on Developing Literacy Skills, National Scientific Council on the Developing Child 2007*

***I enjoy learning the best ways to read with my son. The hands on activities are always so much fun. -Kendra, mom of 2 year old Jeremiah***

## Program Results 2012-13

- ✓ Implemented through Little Steps and Safe Harbor to reach families of greatest risk of school failure

## Family Literacy by the Number\$

	2011-12	2012-13
State Funds	\$2,143	\$1,322
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Private Funds	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,143</b>	<b>\$1,322</b>
Families Served	63	50
Cost per Family	\$34.002	\$26.44
Number of Visits	945	750
Cost per Visit	\$2.27	\$1.76

### Greenville County First Steps

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# Community Leadership in Early Childhood

## Greenville County First Steps Partnership Board

2012-2013

Name	Position	Board Category
Dr. Danny Varat	Board Chair	Legislative Appointee
Karen Allen	Greenville Library System, Youth Services Manager	Library System Appointee
Jamie V Bach	Parent of young child	Legislative Appointee
Linda Brees	Greenville Hospital University Medical Center, Director of Children's Advocacy	Hospital System
Stacy Burr	Associate Professor	Early Childhood Education professor
Keith Frazier	Department of Social Services, Greenville Director	DSS Appointee
Marty Garrison	First Presbyterian Academy, Director	Child Care provider
Lorraine DeJong	Furman University, Early Childhood Professor	Early Childhood Education professor
Julie Hartman	Bob Jones University, Early Childhood Professor	Early Childhood Education professor
Lillie Hall	SC Department of Health and Environmental Control	DHEC appointee
Hasker Hudgens	Redemption World Outreach	Faith Community
Jil Littlejohn	YWCA of Greenville, Executive Director	Child Care provider
Melinda Davis-Lux	Wyche, Burgess, Freeman PA, Shareholder	Business Community
Ashley Newton	BiLo Charities	Business Community
Stacey Peek	Grace Fellowship Baptist Church, Pastor	Faith Community
Dr Nancy Powers	Developmental Pediatrician	Hospital System
Jennifer Powers	Elliott Davis, LLC	Business Community
Cynthia Sosebee	SHARE Head Start	HEAD START appointee
Karen Sparkman	Greenville County Schools	School District Appointee
Carrie Woodward	Michelin North America	Transportation
Dr. Sandra Linder	Clemson university	Early Childhood Education professor
Meredith Burton	Furman University CDC Director	Child care provider
Stephanie Knobel	YMCA of Greenville: Judson Community Center	Child care provider
Melissa Sheaffer	Greenville Tech Child Development Center Director	Child Care Provider

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



# Getting children ready for school.

## What is First Steps?

South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness was created in 1999 by the South Carolina General Assembly for the purpose of **having every child in South Carolina arrive at kindergarten ready to learn.** Sadly, many South Carolina children possess one or more risk factors that put them at **high risk** (greater than a 1 in 3 chance) for **“early school failure”** – either being retained or scoring below grade level in reading or math – by third grade.

First Steps exists to bring together efforts in early childhood at the state and local level, public and private, to focus and intensify services and assure the most efficient use of all available resources to serve the needs of South Carolina’s young children and their families.

First Steps works to accomplish its mission through a state coordinating office and a network of county partnerships (46), each a private non-profit organization led by a board of early childhood stakeholders. With a modest recurring appropriation of state funding, First Steps leverages cash and local resources at the federal, state and local level to improve services for young children in five strategy areas:

### Family Strengthening

A parent is a child’s first and best teacher.

### Healthy Start

Children’s development and ability to learn are profoundly impacted by their health.

### Quality Child Care

Access to high-quality care is a critical component of a child’s healthy development.

### Early Education

Quality preschool opportunities set the stage for success in school.

### School Transition

Preparing children and parents for a successful transition into kindergarten.

Each First Steps county partnership determines how to spend its funds based on an annual needs and resources assessment and collaboration with community partners to **fill gaps in local services** for young children and their families. First Steps has proven its impact through strong program and fiscal accountability and independent evaluations - a requirement of its enabling legislation.

All programs that receive First Steps funding - whether they are operated by a First Steps county partnership or a collaborating partner, such as a school district – must adhere to program standards that require programs to be research-based and operated with fidelity; staff who have appropriate qualifications, training, and supervision; services to be comprehensive and coordinated with available community resources; standard assessment instruments that document client outcomes; and programs that **target services to children most at risk** for not being developmentally ready for school.

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

First Steps works with community partners to reduce first grade retention. **From 2001 to 2010, first grade retention dropped by 48% statewide, saving taxpayers \$21 million annually.**

First Steps leverages resources for families of young children through public-private partnerships. **Since 1999, local partnerships have leveraged \$97 million in increased services, equal to an additional 46 cents for every state dollar invested.**

**First Steps has increased the quality of services available to young children and families,** using research and data to improve programs.

**First Steps is a national leader in state-local collaboration** to benefit families and communities.

[www.scfirststeps.org](http://www.scfirststeps.org)

## Other First Steps Services in Greenville County



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 Greenville County: 864-331-1450



KidsDriveGreenville.com is a comprehensive web-portal designed to be the first place parents, caregivers, and the community go to learn more about school readiness.

On KidsDriveGreenville.com, families are linked to resources on childproofing a house, developmental screenings, safe sleeping, scholarships, things to do in our community, and finding quality childcare.

[www.KidsDriveGreenville.com](http://www.KidsDriveGreenville.com)

Greenville County  
First Steps

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