



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **South Carolina First Steps Receives Gift from Food Lion**

South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness has received \$2,500 from the Food Lion Charitable Foundation. First Steps will use the donation to purchase backpacks and school readiness supplies for children participating in First Steps' nationally recognized Countdown to Kindergarten program.

"Food Lion's generosity will help us reach more of South Carolina's rising kindergartners, with tools and support to help them arrive at school ready for success," said First Steps Director Susan DeVenny.

As the state's school readiness agency, First Steps combines public and private support with county partnerships to serve the unmet needs of young children and their families. Through the Countdown to Kindergarten program, soon-to-be kindergartners and their parents receive eight home visits from a kindergarten teacher in the weeks leading up to the start of school. In 2007, more than 1,200 children participated in Countdown to Kindergarten.

Established in 2001, the Food Lion Charitable Foundation provides financial support for programs and organizations dedicated to improving the communities in which Food Lion operates. The Foundation places an emphasis on the support of primary and secondary education, feeding the hungry, and organizations that enhance the quality of life in Food Lion's local communities.

Food Lion LLC is a subsidiary of Brussels-based Delhaize Group (NYSE: DEG). Food Lion LLC operates more than 1,200 supermarkets, either directly or through affiliated entities, under the names of Food Lion, Bloom, Bottom Dollar Food, Harveys and Reid's. These stores meet local customer needs and preferences for the freshest and best quality products. Food Lion LLC employs approximately 73,000 associates in 11 Southeast and Mid-Atlantic states.

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