

BAMBERG COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

“MOMMYCISE” Health and Fitness Camp

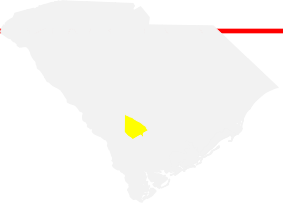
Annual Report

2016-17



OUR VISION:

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



**Bamberg County First Steps
 Pauletta Plowden
 Executive Director**

By The Numbers

| Indicator | SC | Bamberg County |
|---|---------|------------------------------------|
| Children Under Five | 293,134 | 726 |
| Children In Poverty | 24.4% | 43.9% |
| 3 rd Graders "Does Not Meet" Standard in Reading | 22.2% | Bamberg 1: 26.5% Bamberg 2: 25% |
| Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma | 15.0% | 15.6% |

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust

- Since inception, Bamberg County First Steps has leveraged \$2,221,022.99 from sources outside state government. **That's \$.78 for every dollar received.**
- **368.24 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 21 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.
- **Childcare professionals received 25.5 hours** of technical assistance for early care best practices.
- Improved parenting practices through **12 Group Connections Parent Workshops.**
- **Total Families Served in FY17: 28**

Bamberg County First Steps
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Board Chair
 Tracy K. Golden
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Bamberg County First Steps has demonstrated another important year of successes in working diligently with our local children, families and community. There is an important American quote that identifies that "It is better to build strong children, than to repair broken men"! Bamberg County First Steps is in the business of building children, building families, building community partnerships, building collaborations, and BUILDING the FUTURES of our youngest and most precious learners.

Bamberg County First Steps provides a message of hope for our community by affording our children and families educational strategies that focus on Family Strengthening, Healthy Start, Quality Childcare Early Education and School Transitions. With our best practice strategies, we afford families the Parents as Teachers (PAT) model, an evidence-based early childhood home visitation program that offers that personal touch twice per month from a certified home visitor. Families receive intense training in becoming their child's first and most important teacher. As an addendum to parent training, we provide DSS Child Care Scholarships to high need families to assist them in completing their education and/or working a full time job.

While quality daycare is essential it's equally important that our early care teachers are afforded high quality training and professional development. Therefore, Bamberg County First Steps offers our local teachers certified Childcare Training and Development in the areas of Nutrition, Health and Safety, Curriculum, Child Guidance and Professional Development. Research indicates that well trained teachers are the key to promoting a healthy and safe learning environment for our children.

Understanding how the early years impact the lives of our youngest learners, Bamberg County First Steps remains empowered and committed to excellence in ensuring that its mission to helping children during their developmental years of life, grow healthy and ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow. So, we say "thank you" to our state and local First Steps Boards and the many collaborative community partners who have supported us over the past seventeen years and our legislators who supports the reauthorization of S.C. First Steps.

Professionally Yours, Pauletta Plowden



County Programs
 Parents as Teachers
 Child Care Training
 Child Care Scholarships

State Programs
 Early Head Start
 First Steps 4k



What We Do

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 Head Start expands quality early learning and family support to infants and toddlers.



Early Intervention

Children's school readiness depends on their healthy growth and development. First Steps helps identify potential delays early through developmental screenings and referring children to BabyNet and other early intervention 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 are ultimately preparing children for school success.

**Based on the needs of our community, Bamberg County First focuses its investments in....
Family Strengthening and Quality Childcare.**

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

Program Description

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an evidence-based home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PAT services include:

1. **Personal Visits** at least twice monthly
2. **Monthly Group Connections** with other PAT families
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
4. **Connections to Outside Resources** that families may need to succeed

Bamberg County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our PAT families:

- 85% ... live in poverty
- 95% ...single parent households
- 10% ... didn't graduate from high school
- 20% ... were teen parents
- 10% ... had developmental delays



Little TJ ENJOYS PAT Group Meetings!!

PAT by the Numbers 2016-17

| | | |
|---|--------|------|
| Families Served | 21 | |
| Children Served | 21 | |
| Total Home Visits | 297 | |
| Hours Spent Serving Families | 392.24 | |
| Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post): | 3.51 | 3.78 |



This family is preparing to relocate to Korea. The mother completed the PAT Program and joined the military!

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 14.14 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 9 potential developmental delays, and made 14 connections for families to services such as Dental Provider Assistance, Food Assistance, Housing, Speech Resources, Transportation, Employment Resources, Early Education Programs, Library Resources and Family Events & Activities.
- ✓ Improved parenting practices by increasing percentages in KIPS (.21)
- ✓ Improved literacy skills by increasing ACIRI percentages (.21/.29) and distributing 287 books distributed

Thank you to our partners!

Bamberg County School District One
DSS Child Care Scholarships
Goody's Department Store

Bamberg County First Steps

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Child Care Training

Those who care for young children need high-quality, accessible, and affordable professional development.

Program Description

High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development 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 itself, but follow-up in the classroom.



Child Care Training Sponsored by Bamberg First Steps, 2016-17

| | |
|---|------------------|
| <u>Topic:</u> | <u>Sessions:</u> |
| Child Growth & Development: Growth and Development in Early Childhood | One Session |
| Curriculum: Developmentally Appropriate Education: Creating the Best Learning Environment | One Session |
| Health & Safety: Promoting Health & Safety in Childhood Programs, Blood-Borne Pathogens | One Session |
| Child Guidance: Guiding Social Behavior | One Session |

Bamberg County First Steps training sessions incorporate topics that promotes the health and safety and growth /development of children enrolled in high quality daycare centers.

Training by the Numbers, 2016-17

| | |
|--|----|
| Total Training Attendance | 69 |
| Child Care Teachers and Directors Served | 30 |
| Number of Training Sessions Offered | 5 |

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 30 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 20 hours of certified training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 19 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

Thank you to our partners!

- Bamberg School District One
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School
- BI-LO

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Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in Bamberg 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.

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

- 85% ... live in poverty
- 95% ... were single parents
- 20% ... were teen parents
- 10% ... had developmental delays

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

Parents who participate in the scholarship program also participates in Parents as Teachers which targets families with high needs and risk indicators.

"Bamberg County First Steps has help me to become a more hands on parent to my handsome little boy, Chance. He is striving at home and at the daycare center. Thank you First Steps for caring about my son and family!"-Brittney



Brittney and Chance bonding together at the monthly Parents As Teachers Family Connections Group Meeting.

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2016-17

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Children Served | 7 |
| Providers Served | 3 |

This year, our Scholarship program:

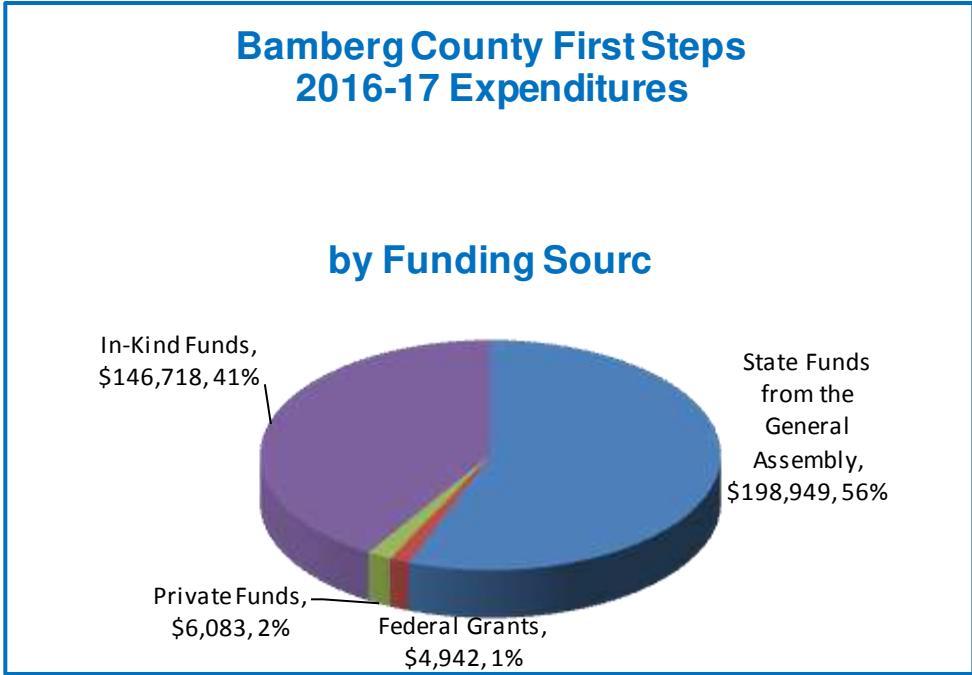
- ✓ Provided 7 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed 9 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ Made 14 connections for families to services such as Dental Provider Assistance, Food Assistance, Housing, Speech Resources, Transportation, Employment Resources, Early Education Programs, Library Resources and Family Events & Activities.
- ✓ Supported 3 small businesses in Bamberg County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care
- ✓ Provided 24 hours of training for scholarship parents in topics such as Dental Health, Pumpkin Patch, and Nature in the Springtime, Fun In Story time, Family Engagement& Self Awareness and Living & Fulfilling Dreams.

Thank you to our partners!

- DSS – ABC Childcare Scholarships
- Bamberg School District One
- First Baptist Church Daycare
- Little Precious Angels Daycare
- Progressive Family Life Center

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Financial Impact



Total 2016-17

Expenditures: \$350,938

State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17*: 79%

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

| | State \$ | Federal \$ | Private \$ | In-Kind \$ | Total \$ | % of 2016-17 Expenditures |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Parents as Teachers | \$47,016 | \$0 | \$192 | \$120,218 | \$167,426 | 47% |
| Child Care Training | \$19,532 | \$0 | \$4,494 | \$5,980 | \$30,006 | 8% |
| Child Care Scholarships | \$24,500 | \$0 | \$0 | \$3,500 | \$28,000 | 8% |
| Early Head Start | \$0 | \$4,942 | \$0 | \$0 | \$4,942 | 1% |
| Program Support | \$80,832 | \$0 | \$1,381 | \$11,440 | \$93,653 | 26% |
| Administrative Support | \$27,067 | \$0 | \$15 | \$5,580 | \$32,662 | 9% |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$198,947 | \$4,942 | \$6,083 | \$146,718 | \$356,690 | |

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

Since inception, Bamberg County First Steps has leveraged \$2,221,022.99 from sources outside of state government. That's 78 cents for every state dollar.

Thank you supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, XYZ First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

Funding Support

- State of South Carolina: \$200,000
(through South Carolina First Steps)
- Bamberg Recreation Grant: \$191.40
- Tri-County Community Foundation: \$1,000

In-Kind Support

- Bamberg County School District One
- DSS – ABC Child Care Scholarship
- Bamberg County Office on Aging
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. – Eta Nu & Nu Tau Omega



Professional Footballer A.J. Cann has been a strong supporter of Bamberg County First Steps and the Annual Back to School Bash.



Bamberg County Attorneys Wilson & Luginbill are major flagship supporters of the 1000 children who receive high quality support from the Annual Back to School Bash! They have supported BCFS for 17 years!!



Local community leader Mrs. Lisa Stokes & her beautiful grandbaby supports BCFS.

How your support helps children in Bamberg County:

- ✓ \$30.00 provides a young child a book twice per month for one year!
- ✓ \$40.00 feeds dinner to low-income families attending a parenting workshop
- ✓ \$292.00 helps a low-income family afford quality child care for one month
- ✓ \$50.00 helps provides families with holiday gifts and supplies for the holidays

Support Bamberg County First Steps Annual Projects TODAY!
Santa's Little Helpers Toy & Food Drive
Mommycise Summer Wellness Camp and
the Annual Back to School Drive

HOW TO GIVE: Mail all contributions to: BCFS, P.O. Box 1129, Bamberg, S.C. 29003

Save the Date!

- Santa's Little Helpers Toy & Food Drive: October 2017 – December 2017
- Community Yard Sale: December 2, 2017 & June 2, 2018
- Professional Early Care Teachers & Administrators Training: January-April 2018 (4th Saturday)
- Annual Meeting: May 17, 2018
- Mommycise Summer Wellness Camp: Tuesdays and Thursdays – June 2018
- 3rd Annual Back to School Bash:– July 2018

Support Bamberg County First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!

“First Steps Is My BRA”

Submitted By BCFS Board Member- Kristine Autry



As a single mom one of the first things I looked for in a program for myself and my son, is support. When it comes to First Steps I've found support and more. I was blessed enough to be a stay at home mom for the first two years of my son's life, when the time came for me to rejoin the workforce the ladies of First Steps went above and beyond to help me find a job that worked best for my needs. They contacted partners, read the want ads, sent me links to job sites. These are things that fall outside of the First Steps mission statement, however, there was never any hesitation on their part to help. They gave me support, encouragement, confidence, love, and the tools I needed to find a job.

Having a child changes your life in more ways than one. Relationships change, your outlook changes, your priorities change and one way to adjust is to surround yourself with likeminded people and I found that when I found First Steps. Because of the support they have given me my son will be better prepared for life and I'll be better prepared to help him along the way.

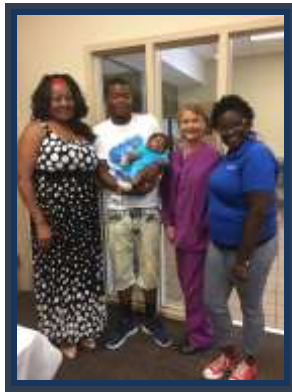
“For these reasons and many more I call First Steps my bra, they are my underlying support and always close to my heart.”

Kristine A.



First Steps Partnership Board

Bamberg County First Steps Board Working Together to Make the Community A Better Place



The Bamberg County First Steps Board in collaboration with Bamberg School District One continues to work diligently to improve the quality of education and school readiness in Bamberg County since 1999. Empowering the lives of hundreds of children and families has been an honor for the local citizens who volunteer to support the early learning needs of our future workers and taxpayers.

Bamberg County First Steps Partnership Board, 2016-17

| Name | Position | Board Category |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Tracy K. Golden, Chair | Family Support Specialist | Family Education and Training |
| Kristine Autry, Vice Chair | Library Assistant | Parent of a Pre-School Child |
| Iona Murdaugh | Library Staff | Library Appointee |
| Loretta Washington | Teacher | School District Appointee |
| Johnell Gaines | Social Development Director | Family Education and Training |
| Renne Brown | Nurse | Healthcare Provider |
| Dr. Charles Gaillard | Doctor | Healthcare Provider |
| Junita Jamison | Childcare Teacher | Childcare/Early Child Development |
| Patricia Harley | Transportation Specialist | Legislative Appointee |
| Candace Darnell | Center Director | DHEC Appointee |
| Janet Argrow | Center Director | Head Start Appointee |
| Demmie Raysor | Retired Director | Philanthropic Community |
| Darlene Bryant | Human Service Specialist | DSS Appointee |

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 with Medicaid-eligible children who live in eligible school districts can contact any participating provider to complete an application for free, full-day 4K. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

<http://scfirststeps.org/4k>



EARLY HEAD START – CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP

Low income families with children 0-36 months, and families with infants or toddlers with special needs, are invited to apply for this year-round, comprehensive program. Available in the following counties: Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Berkeley, Dillon, Georgetown, Laurens, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Saluda and York, and coming soon to Fairfield and McCormick counties. To apply, visit:

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



[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.

Visit: ican.sc

Like us on Facebook: [icansc](https://www.facebook.com/icansc)