

DARLINGTON COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



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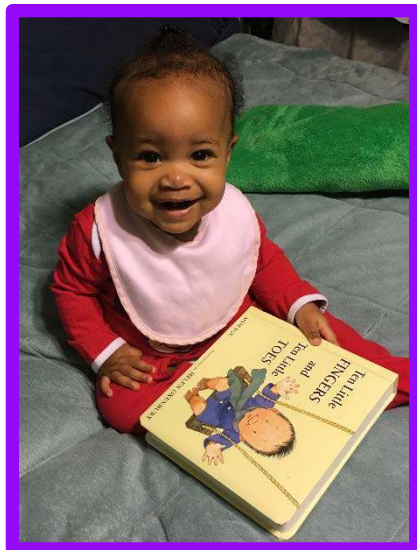
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Annual Report

2016-17



OUR VISION:

Strong Families in Healthy
Communities.



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Darlington County
Children Under Five	293,134	3,999
Children In Poverty	260,646	5,059
Children living in areas of concentrated poverty	14.1%	25.5%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.0%	20.3%

KIDS COUNT data provided by



Indicator	Darlington County
Teen Pregnancy Rate	34.9 (per 1,000)
Repeat Teen Pregnancy Rate	14 th highest in SC

Data provided by



- **Offered 82 sessions for mothers and fathers in the Diva Den and Dad Cave**
 - Parent Counseling
 - Mental Health Wellness
 - Personal Development
- **Held 70 community events and trainings for professional development.**
- **Served 1,806 families and their children in FY17**

Darlington County First Steps

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Board Chair

Dr. Alvin T. Heatley

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Darlington County First Steps
Mrs. Darnell Byrd McPherson
Executive Director

"Teamwork Makes the Dream Work"

When you hear of great events happening in the world, there is a 99.9% chance it didn't happen because of one person alone. More than likely, there was a team of people working together to reach a common goal. Darlington County First Steps believes in the concept of teamwork which is why we prioritize the relationships we have with our partners and Darlington County community members.

We are housed in the building with Adult Education and S. C. Works, the S. C. Employment service, which gives us additional visibility as a source for services and facilitates connecting our parents with those services. Also, in conjunction with Adult Education, we provide on-site free childcare services and family literacy services, four days and evenings per week at two locations in the county. These services are open to any parent of a preschool aged child who is enrolled in Adult Education or receives any services offered by DCFS or SC BabyNet. The BabyNet Intake Coordinator for Darlington County conducts onsite interviews at our location.

For the fourth year, Darlington County Library System, Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center, and DCFS have successfully continued to distribute Welcome Baby Bags/Literacy Kits to every new parent who gives birth at our local hospital. Bags are filled with information about our services along with information about BabyNet and the Darlington County Library. Parents are provided an invitation to visit our office which gives us an opportunity to present them with another gift and have one-on-one conversations about our programs.

DCFS was invited to serve as a key contributor to the City of Hartsville's "All America City" application. Our work with young mothers and fathers was the focal point, as we are the primary providers of services to this population. It was noted, we created specific spaces for our young parents, the Diva Den and the Dad Cave, where services are provided.

Lastly, we have been engaged in a process of continuous improvement and capacity building under the tutelage of The Weathers Group, located in Columbia, SC. Mr. Charles Weathers has facilitated sessions on board governance, community outreach, community collaboration, program sustainability and most recently, guidance as we updated our vision, values, and mission statements.

This year's annual report reflects not only the services DCFS has provided, but our commitment to excellence: our priority of building relationships with families, our partners, community members as well as our state leadership team and funders.

Mission

Our mission is to provide programs, services, and information to strengthen the families and communities of Darlington County.

Vision

Strong Families in Healthy Communities.

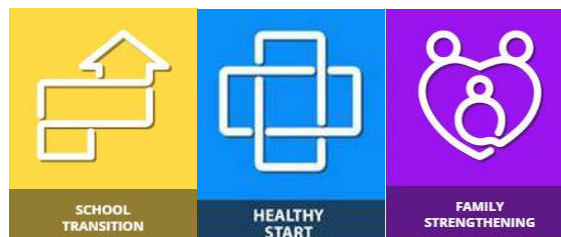
Values

Community Engagement is vital as we aim to create a pathway to success for children and families in Darlington County. Collaborating together, we build long term relationships with funders, individuals, parents, community partners, and other stakeholders, ensuring maximum benefits to the families and communities we serve.

Compassion and Empathy are fundamental to our relationships. As we open our hearts and minds to the needs of others in our community, mutual trust is formed, which is a cornerstone of successful relationships.

Transparency and Accountability are critical components of our relationships with funders, individuals, parents, community partners and other stakeholders. We achieve maximum impact by working in an ethical environment and having honest dialogue.

Families are our greatest resource. We **advocate, educate,** and demonstrate the importance of engaged families, ready early learners, and healthy, supportive communities.



Goals as Stated in Legislation:

- (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

**Encouraging youth and young adults to make proud, responsible,
decisions for healthy futures.**

Program Description

AC/DC, Access Condoms in Darlington County, provides free condoms to youth in the community. According to data provided by the S.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Darlington County was identified as having the 14th highest teen pregnancy rate in the state. A research project completed by the S.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Accelerating Progress: A roadmap for achieving further reductions in teen pregnancy, identified four strategies that are needed to reduce teen pregnancy. Having teen friendly condom access points was one of the four strategies. Teen pregnancy is an issue that many youth in our community face but certainly not the only one. Darlington County is ranked 6th in the state for Chlamydia infections and 24th in the state for Gonorrhea infections amongst 15-19 year olds. Our strategy for combatting these statistics are:

- ✓ **Placing free condoms in small businesses throughout Darlington County that have a teen-friendly, nonjudgmental environment**
- ✓ **Use of graphics to discreetly identify businesses with free condoms**
- ✓ **Pledge agreements are signed by partners, committing to the AC/DC program**



Total Essence Hair Salon

AC/DC by the Numbers, 2016-17

Condoms Distributed	23,500
# of AC/DC Partners/Individuals	24/15
Chlamydia Infections amongst 15-19 year olds	176 cases
Gonorrhea infections amongst 15-19 year olds	25 cases



This year, our AC/DC program:

- ✓ **Expanded number of AC/DC partners sites and individual distributors**
- ✓ **Highlighted in several newspapers across the Pee Dee Region**

Thank you to our partners!

Barber and Beauty Shop Owners and Individuals
The S.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
The Duke Endowment

Darlington County First Steps

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

Program Description

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

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

Countdown to Kindergarten integrates the following:

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

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

Public Awareness. Throughout the summer, First Steps releases tips to media to help parents and caregivers get children ready for kindergarten.

Our CTK teachers have dedicated over 10 years of service to this program. We are fortunate to have such a committed group!

*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2017

Children Served	48
Home Visits	288



CTK teacher, Brandy Weaver, and CTK children.

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ Secured additional funding for program services
- ✓ Surpassed projected number to serve
- ✓ Parents reported a 26% gain in their commitment to participate in classroom and school volunteer opportunities
- ✓ Parents reported a 93% gain in reading to their children at least three (3) times per week
- ✓ 100% of CTK teachers met or exceeded their goals

Thank you to our partners!

Kiwanis of Hartsville

United Way of Hartsville

Darlington County School District

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Darnell Byrd McPherson, DCFS Executive Director

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Learning begins in the womb and at home.

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** families may need to succeed

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

100% ... live in poverty

80% ... were teen parents



PAT encourages parents to play an active role in the development of their children and themselves. One PAT mother set a goal of improving her literacy skills and achieved it. She went from reading on a 4th grade level to a 9th grade reading level. This gave her the confidence to advance her education and she is currently enrolled in her first year of Darlington County School District's Adult Program, Adult Education. Every day, she continues to work on being the best mother and scholar she can be.

PAT by the Numbers 2016-17

Families Served	15
Total Home Visits	360

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Hired Britney Brisbon, BSW, as new Parent Educator after retirement of Linda Bright-Edwards who served as DCFS' Parent Educator for eight years.
- ✓ Selected for administrative review for the Quality Endorsement Improvement Process
- ✓ Distributed over 360 books to families

Thank you to our partners!

United Way of Hartsville

SPC Credit Union

Darlington County First Steps

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Seeing the Big Picture

This has been a year of growth for DCFS. We have maintained a significant online presence via our website, Facebook page, Newsletter, written press releases and newspaper articles. We have expanded our focus in health by adding the Men's Health Collaborative as part of our continued work with young fathers and males in the community; created new partnerships with barbershops, beauty salons, and small businesses to implement AC/DC, Access Condoms in Darlington County, funded by The Duke Endowment and S.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy; played a critical role in coordinating the first ever Early Childhood Symposium in Hartsville; worked alongside Ms. Whitney Tucker, Coordinator of the S.C. Early Childhood Common Agenda, and others from across the state to continue threading the needle for social equity among children and families of color; remained an active member of the Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce by participating in their Ambassador Program, serving on their board of directors and various committees, and continue to provide free Family Literacy/Childcare Services. DCFS contributes to the community through quality program services and volunteer work with other organizations because we see a bigger picture for Darlington County: Strong Families in Healthy Communities.

Community Health Worker

We added certified Community Health Worker, Mrs. Whitney Davis, to the team. This was made possible by funding from The Duke Endowment and the S.C. Campaign. She is primarily responsible for increasing adolescents' access to reproductive health services with the intent to reduce the teen pregnancy rate in Darlington County, executing the AC/DC project, and coordinating Community Work Group (CWG) and Youth Leadership Team (YLT) functions. The CWG includes representatives from Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center- Women's Care of Hartsville, Darlington County Department of Social Services, South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families, Darlington County School District, Kappa Alpha Psi-Hartsville Chapter, Coker College, Department of Health and Environmental Control, United Way of Hartsville, Pee Dee Healthy Start, Nurse-Family Partnership, CareSouth Carolina and others. YLT, a sub-group of the CWG, is made up of high school youth from Hartsville, Lamar, and Darlington. Having these groups ensures we are reaching people on every level from business professionals to parents and adolescent youth.

Relationships formed from the CWG and YLT have led to DCFS participating in more community events such as Gospel in the Park, Coker College's Health Fairs and Cobra Festival, CareSouth Carolina Health Fairs, Pee Dee Healthy Start's Family Day, Head Start Registrations, and many others. These events allow DCFS to educate the community about our initiatives and to extend our reach to those who are in need of services.

S.C. Early Childhood Common Agenda

The S.C. Early Childhood Common Agenda (SCECCA) is a group of advocates that work to create policies for building an equitable early childhood system for South Carolina. Organizations involved in this effort are from the Children's Trust of South Carolina, Institute for Child Success, United Way Association of South Carolina, DCFS and other committed supporters.

According to the SCECCA, children and families of color often face challenges due to poverty and policies that enforce inequity in school systems, employment, and community resources. SCECCA propose equity-informed policy that can reverse these obstacles for parents and children. Increasing opportunity for efficient, quality preschool for families is one solution listed by SCECCA to increase chances of children having school success and a prosperous life. All proposed policies on the agenda are in an effort to ensure South Carolina has strong families. The S.C. Race Equity Impact Guide can be found on the Children's Trust website at: https://scchildren.org/advocacy_and_media/kids_count_south_carolina/race_for_results/race_equity_resources/.

DCFS is proud to be among a group of people who compassionately look at racial and educational disparities and work to eradicate inequities.

Early Childhood Symposium

On October 21, 2016, The Byerly Foundation sponsored the Early Childhood Symposium in Hartsville, SC at First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Members of The Symposium Committee included leaders from the TEACH Foundation, Darlington County School District, Nurse-Family Partnership, BabyNet, S.C. First Steps 4K, and was chaired by DCFS Executive Director, Mrs. Darnell B. McPherson. Featured speakers were Ms. Melanie Barton- S.C. Education Oversight and Ms. Tamika Williams-Associate Director of Child Care for The Duke Endowment.

Community Engagement/Impact Continued

The Symposium brought individuals together who shared a passion for this line of work which made for a successful occasion. The goal of this event was to enhance the services given to children and their families in Darlington County.

Over 40 people from local and state organizations came together for a day of networking and learning with other nonprofit leaders. In every city and state, you will discover that resources aren't used as much as they could because of the lack of awareness. The Symposium was an opportunity to close some of those gaps by building relationships that could form into meaningful partnerships.

Men's Health Collaborative

The Men's Health Collaborative was inspired by our work with young fathers and Mrs. McPherson's participation in BUILD Initiative's National Equity Leaders Action Network (ELAN). The Men's Health Collaborative has an advisory stakeholder group representing a cross section of men, and some women, who are committed to advancing strategies and policies which address and reduce health disparities in African American males and other men of color in rural South Carolina.

Through a series of strategic methods such as participating in health fairs; surveying opinions about men's health; engaging barbers to participate by conducting blood pressure checks for customers; and disseminating informational brochures about health, our goal is to:

- Increase awareness of the advantages and value of good health for the individual, their family, and society/the community
- Provide information, resources, and access to reduce health disparities in men of color.

The City of Darlington and Hartsville signed Proclamations declaring June 2017 as Men's Health Month, we became a Men's Health Network Affiliate, participated in health fairs where health screenings were conducted and hosted meetings with community players on how to better engage barbers in this type of work. Educating communities on the importance of regular check-ups will not only increase life expectancies but will also create a cycle of healthy behaviors and lifestyles for generations to come.

Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce

As a member of the Hartsville Chamber, DCFS maximizes opportunities to intentionally network and work alongside other small businesses and organizations in the community. We are able to inform individuals about who we are and why the work we do is vital for Darlington County. Mrs. McPherson serves on the Chamber's Board of Directors and has volunteered time on committees such as the Women In Business Committee and the EdVenture Museum- Ladies Night Out Committee (a fundraising event for Edventure's satellite site in Hartsville). Ms. Ashley Holman, Parents Are First Project Specialist, volunteered time on the Leadership Hartsville Application Review Committee and Ms. Patricia Sullivan participated in the Chamber Ambassador Program for the second year.

Family Literacy/Childcare Services

Family Literacy/Childcare services are offered to any parent enrolled in Darlington County School District's Adult Program, Adult Education and to parents who participate in DCFS programs. This provides an opportunity for parents to pursue goals such as finding employment and/or continuing their education while their children are cared for and actively engaged in learning activities. Childcare is a free service and is offered four hours in the morning and three hours in the evenings, Monday through Thursday.

"The work that Darlington County First Steps does is important because they are training tomorrow's workforce at an early age. The skills parents and children in their programs learn make Darlington County stronger and healthier. The chamber is grateful to have First Steps as a community partner."

-Quinetta Buterbaugh, Greater Hartsville Chamber President



The relationship between a parent and child impacts all areas of a child's life from birth through adulthood.

Program Description

Parents Are First is funded under the federal Pregnancy Assistance Fund Grant and was awarded to Darlington County First Steps in 2014. PAF is a comprehensive program designed to mobilize community partners to enhance the availability and quality of services for young parents, ages 15-24, in Darlington County. The program focuses on both mothers and fathers and provides direct and in-direct services to program participants. Collaboration is the cornerstone of this program and PAF works closely with many community and state partners to ensure the goals of this program are met.

Program Components:

Academic Achievement. Program participants are encouraged to stay in school or return to school to complete their education. PAF works closely with the Darlington County School District high schools and Adult Education Department and the local colleges including Coker College and Florence-Darlington Technical College.

Pregnancy Prevention. Evidence-based programs, including *Be Proud! Be Responsible! Be Protected!* are provided through workshops for program participants. The AC/DC, Access Condoms in Darlington County, provide free condoms at various locations throughout the county in locations including the Dad Cave, local barbershops, beauty salons, small businesses and individuals in the community.

Parenting. Evidenced-based curricula are used for parenting workshops for program participants. Parenting tips and articles are shared with program participants through a range of mediums including social media.

Fatherhood Initiative. The Dad Cave provides a safe and welcoming environment for young fathers served by PAF as well as fathers served by community partners to grow in their most important role as a dad. The *Responsible Fatherhood* Curriculum and 24/7 Dad Curriculum are used for weekly meetings covering a wide range of topics and as needed, fathers are provided support and direction in dealing with custody and child support issues. Enrichment activities include speakers from our community partners as well as the business community.

Information Referral. Program participants are connected to community partners through the PAF program including nonprofits, government, private and faith based partners. Partners provide educational, health, counseling, financial, and counseling services to name a few.

Parents Are First by the Numbers, 2016-17

Community Events	70
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Families served are reflected in Diva Den and Dad Cave Reports.

This year, our Parents Are First program:

- ✓ Established a Community Work Group and Youth Leadership Team
- ✓ Participated in Eastern Tennessee University Women's Health Focus Group
- ✓ Became a satellite program for Man2Man, Fatherhood Program of S.C. Center for Fathers and Families
- ✓ Hosted professional development workshops for local service providers, including school social workers

Thank you to our partners!

Children's Trust of South Carolina, Butler Heritage Foundation
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity- Hartsville Chapter
S.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, CareSouth Carolina
McLeod's Nurse Family Partnership, Darlington County Adult Education

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Being a mother is the greatest job you could have.

Program Description

The Diva Den is a safe haven for expecting and parenting young mothers in Darlington County. Our mission is to provide young women with the support and resources needed for self-empowerment which will give them the confidence to follow their dreams. The Diva Den is a place where pregnant and parenting young mothers are fully engaged in activities and educational, supportive programs that will allow them to make a better life for themselves and their families. Programs offered are:

- ✓ "I'm a Young Mom, Now What?"
 - This program is for young mothers with the desire to discover their strengths, explore new ideas for personal and parental growth, as well as develop new skills to ensure a brighter future for themselves and their children. Program participants are encouraged to provide input and suggestions for workshop topics, special speakers, family fun nights and other events
- ✓ Sex, Love and Relationships
 - A multi-session group for pregnant and parenting young mothers to reduce their risk of STDs, HIV and unplanned repeat pregnancies.
- ✓ Educational Attainment
 - We work with our partners at SC Works, Darlington County Adult Education to help mothers find employment and/or further their education and job skills. Access to computers are available to work on resumes, job applications, papers, etc.

Along with supporting the Diva Den's renovations, The Byerly Foundation also funded the refurbishing of the Family Literacy/Childcare room. Free childcare is available to parents during sessions in the Diva Den.

Diva Den by the Numbers, 2016-17

Number of Sessions	42
Clients Served	127



Planting personal gardens in the Diva Den.

List of some events held in the Diva Den this Year:

- Motherread/Fatheread Sessions
- Community Work Group and Youth Leadership Team Meetings
- Bi-Weekly Client Staffing w/Nurse-Family Partnerships, and Child and Family Resource Center
- Well Care Community Baby Shower
- Adult Education Meet and Greet
- Christmas Movie Marathon
- Legal Aid Presentation to Parenting Groups



Thank you to our partners!

The Byerly Foundation

Cody Mitchell, Esq.

Darlington County School District

Darlington County First Steps

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Dads make a difference.

Program Description

The Dad Cave is a special nonjudgmental place where fathers receive support and valuable resources. It is a place set aside to learn and have fun, find support and to gather with other fathers as they share with each other their exciting fatherhood journey. Meetings are two-hour group led discussions in a comfortable and open atmosphere that cover issues facing today's fathers. Fatherhood Specialist facilitates sessions by using the 24/7 Dad Curriculum.

Topics include:

- ✓ Job Skills/Readiness
- ✓ Parenting/Co-Parenting
- ✓ Men's Health
- ✓ Navigating the Legal System
- ✓ Financial Stability

We attend family court sessions monthly in Darlington and, with the help of The South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families- Man2Man program, can assist with family court related issues such as child support payment modifications, visitation and custody matters.

Dad Cave by the Numbers, 2016-17

Number of Sessions	36
Clients Served	30



Thank you to our partners!

S.C. Center for Fathers and Families/Man2Man

Saint Joseph Head Start Center



Fathers during a session.

Dad Cave/Fatherhood Activities this Year:

- **Let's Talk Event scheduled for October, 2017-** Focus of event is to encourage and strengthen parent-child communication.
- **Back to School Bash in August 2016-** Event provided families with free school supplies, food, and information from community organizations.
- **Turkey Giveaway December 2016-** Cody Mitchell donated over 30 turkeys to families
- **Young Father Forum in June 2017-** Event with fathers of all ages and neighboring counties had the floor to ask a panel of dads, who participate in the program, questions about life, and relationships.
- **S.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Annual Conference-** Presentation reviewed Darlington County First Steps' fatherhood initiative.

Darlington County First Steps

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Jon Flowers, Fatherhood Specialist

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Literacy Changes Lives. Motheread Changes Literacy.

Program Description

Motheread is an evidenced based family literacy program. Parents are engaged in learning how to: select age-appropriate books; read to their children; extend the story line of each book; and learn about child development.

Program Components:

- ✓ Groups are led by a certified Motheread facilitator.
- ✓ Group meetings with parents are held at local Head Start centers, local county libraries, and at Darlington County First Steps' location.
- ✓ The curriculum introduces parents to adult literature.
- ✓ The curriculum uses a variety of activities that promote the use of oral and written language to explore every day experiences and encourage vocabulary development.
- ✓ Sessions encourage adults to hold or sit close to children, engaging them in the story-reading process through the use of props, discussion questions and story related activities, songs, and games.
- ✓ Helps parents see themselves as learners and participants in a literate society.
- ✓ Pre/post assessments



Motheread participant choosing a book during Family Literacy Night.

Motheread/Fatheread by the Numbers, 2016-17

Families Served	70
Projected to Serve	40

This year, our Motheread/Fatheread program:

- ✓ Participated in the annual Week of the Young Child Celebration with Darlington County Community Action Agency- Head Start
- ✓ Extended program to local elementary schools (Cain, Darlington and Rosenwald, Society Hill)
- ✓ Providing ongoing services to parents of three (3) Head Start Centers
- ✓ Exceeded projected number of parents served

Thank you to our partners!

Darlington County Community Action Agency- Head Start

Darlington County School District

United Way of Hartsville

Darlington County First Steps

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Early literacy creates positive outcomes for children in the future.

Program Description

The Reach Out and Read (ROR) Model prepares young children to succeed in school by partnering with doctors to prescribe books and encourage families to read together. ROR begins at the 6-month checkup and continues through age 5, and focuses on children growing up in low-income communities. Families who participate in ROR read together more often and their children enter kindergarten with larger vocabularies, stronger language skills, and are better prepared to achieve their potential.



How Are We Involved?

Darlington County First Steps partnered with Dr. Dante Lewis of Eastern Carolina Pediatrics in Darlington and the Darlington County Library System to provide the ROR program. Eastern Carolina Pediatrics is dedicated to the ROR Model and supports early literacy with First Steps and the Library.

Eastern Carolina Pediatrics has a literacy rich waiting room for parents and their children to explore the wonders of books together and posters that display developmental milestones children should reach at certain ages.



*Dr. Lewis of Eastern Carolina Pediatrics
prescribing a book to a patient*

This year, the Reach Out and Read program:

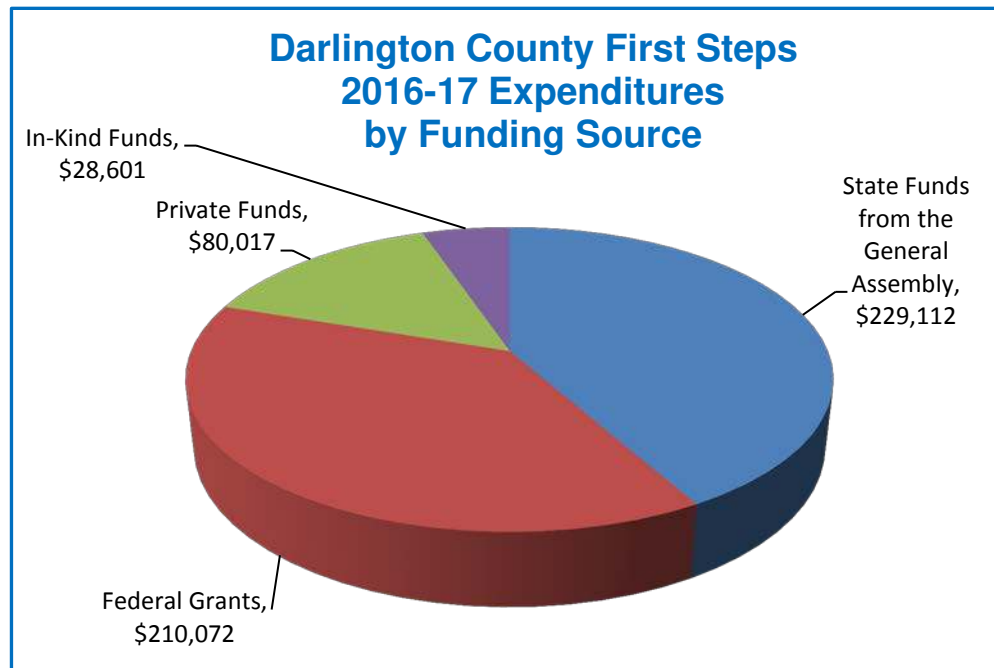
- ✓ Continued another successful year of the Reach Out and Read program
- ✓ Dr. Lewis conducted 2770 well visits at Eastern Carolina Pediatrics in Darlington
- ✓ Prescribed 1,000 books to children

Thank you to our partners!

Darlington County Library System
Eastern Carolina Pediatrics
Reach Out and Read Carolinas

Darlington County First Steps

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Total 2016-17 Expenditures: \$547,802

State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17*: 139%

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

2016-17 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2016-17 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$53,998	\$0	\$0	\$3,074	\$57,072	10%
Parents Are First	\$0	\$210,072		\$0	\$210,072	38%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$8,605	\$0	\$6,998	\$0	\$15,603	3%
Family Literacy/Learning	\$17,308	\$0		\$323	\$17,631	3%
Health and Human Service Coordination	\$0	\$0	\$62,950	\$211	\$63,161	12%
Parent Training	\$42,968		\$6,507	\$16,362	\$65,837	12%
Motheread/Fatheread	\$23,974	\$0	\$0	\$3,534	\$27,508	5%
Program Support	\$57,996	\$0	\$3,562	\$3,915	\$65,473	12%
Administrative Support	\$24,263	\$0		\$1,182	\$25,445	5%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$229,112	\$210,072	\$80,017	\$28,601	\$547,802	100%

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

Welcoming Babies with Welcome Baby Bags!

Darlington County First Steps, Darlington Library System, and Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center have partnered for three years to present Welcome Baby Bags/Literacy Kits to moms who deliver new babies at the hospital. Welcome Baby Bags and its contents promotes early learning and school readiness. This year, we distributed over 486 bags to new parents!

Upon being discharged from the hospital, mothers receive a diaper bag that contains wipes, parent literature, growth charts, milestone booklets developed by the Born Learning Campaign, library card forms, Future Scholar, South Carolina's 529 College Savings Plan brochures, and two books- one from DC First Steps and one from Darlington Library System. There is also a "gift card" inside that invites parents to DC First Steps' office to receive an additional gift. This strategy allows us to speak one on one to parents about services that are provided through the organization and how they can utilize them. Gifts are composed of literacy calendars, books, wipes, diapers, linens, bottles, baby shampoos, and lotions.



***New parents with their Welcome
Baby Bag***



Welcome Baby Bag Envelope

Thank you to SPC Credit Union, United Way of Hartsville and Future Scholars for donating items to include in Welcome Baby Bags and to Giving Tuesday and Belk Charity donors for funding some of the cost of supplies!

Learning begins in the womb and continues for a lifetime.

Darlington County First Steps

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First Steps Partnership Board

Name	Position	Board Category
Alvin Heatley	Chairman	Non-Profit Organization
Allison Baker	Member	Darlington County School District
Alma Harris	Member	Family Education, Training and Support Provider
Beth Campbell	Member	D.S.S. Designee
Crystal Gardner	Member	Business Community
Diane McIver	Member	Head Start Designee
Jimmie Epling	Vice-Chairman	County Library Designee
Lucretia Bellamy	Member	DHEC Designee
Sharman Poplava	Member	Philanthropic Community
Thomasena Davis	Member	Child Care Provider
Winfred Herrington	Member	Faith Based Community

“First Steps has changed the lives of many parents and children in Darlington County and have enabled mothers and fathers the ability to pursue their goals while providing childcare services for their children.”

–Winfred Herrington, DCFS Board Member

“Darlington County First Steps is the “go-to” organization in the county for early childhood resources and support. For many years, Darlington County First Steps has helped families prepare their children for school and life success. Research shows that early childhood is a critical window for human development. Positive early learning experiences can help lay the groundwork for future academic and life success. The organization focuses on strengthening the core family through its Countdown to Kindergarten, Parents as Teachers, Reach Out and Read programs and Diva Den and Dad Cave facilities. DCFS is an essential component of the county’s health resources and an effective voice for children and families.”

– Sharman Poplava, DCFS Board Member and Executive Director of the TEACH Foundation



Interested parents can contact any participating 4K providers to complete an application. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

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



BabyNet in Darlington County:

<https://msp.scdhhs.gov/babynet/site-page/refer-child-babynet>

Thank you donors!

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Funding Support

- ❖ *Belk Charity*
- ❖ *Giving Tuesday*
- ❖ *Kiwanis of Hartsville*
- ❖ *SPC Credit Union*
- ❖ *State of South Carolina*
- ❖ *The Children's Trust of South Carolina*
- ❖ *The Duke Endowment*
- ❖ *The South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy*
- ❖ *United Way of Hartsville*
- ❖ *United Way of South Carolina*



DCFS Executive Director receiving diaper donations from SPC Credit Union

In-Kind Support

- ❖ *Butler Heritage Foundation*
- ❖ *Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center*
- ❖ *CareSouth Carolina*
- ❖ *Child and Family Resource Center*
- ❖ *Darlington County Community Action Agency*
- ❖ *Head Start*
- ❖ *Darlington County Library System*
- ❖ *Darlington County School District-Adult Education*
- ❖ *Hartsville Administrative Professionals*
- ❖ *The Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce*



DCFS Staff Receiving Check from SPC Credit Union

How your support helps families in Darlington County:

- ✓ A Countdown to Kindergarten toolkit costs \$170
- ✓ Average cost of 10 copies of one Motherhead Book is \$50-\$75.
- ✓ 1 case of books for children cost up to \$20
- ✓ Diapers and wipes expenses for 1 family ranges from \$30-\$50

HOW TO GIVE: Visit www.darlingtoncountyfirststeps.org and find the Donate page. Every donation helps. Thank you for supporting families!

Support Darlington First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation or volunteer!

A Look Inside This Year!

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AC/DC Presentation to Head Start Staff



Jon Flowers and Cody Mitchell, Esq. prepare for the Turkey Giveaway



Participating in Head Start Registration



Colleagues from across the state at the S.C. Campaign Summer Institute



Darnell B. McPherson with Mr. Harris E. DeLoach, The Duke Endowment Board Trustee, at the S.C. Nonprofit Summit



S.C. Thrive Conference at Savannah Grove Baptist Church



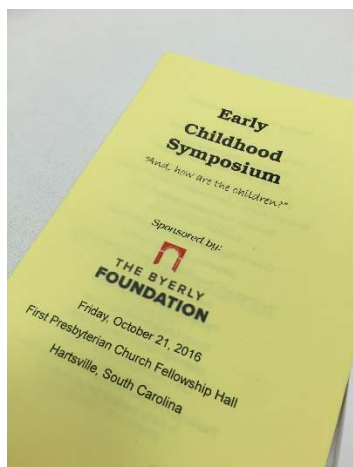
Promoting Men's Health at Gospel in the Park



Proclamation signing Men's Health Month in City of Darlington



Proclamation signing Men's Health Month in City Hartsville



Early Childhood Symposium



The Duke Endowment -Teen Focus Group w/PAF Director and Evaluators



Parents Are First Mothers



Linda Bright-Edwards with Hartsville Administrative Professionals (HAP). HAP have adopted a PAT family for the past four years for Christmas. Families are given toys and needed household items.



Fathers in the Fatherhood Program



Family Literacy/Childcare Supports Child Abuse Prevention Month!