

ORANGEBURG COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Imagination Library

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Quality  
Enhancement

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

Early Steps to School  
Success

# Annual Report

2017-2018



## OUR VISION:

Every Child in Orangeburg County  
will be prepared for  
success in school.

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

610 Laurel Street, Orangeburg, SC 29115 ♦ 803-987-4164

# Director's Message

As we embark upon a new fiscal year and reflect upon the last fiscal year, the Board of Directors and staff of Orangeburg County First Steps become further energized and motivated to realize the mission of our agency which is getting children ready for school. We are excited about providing children with the educational opportunities they need to successfully begin their academic careers in spite of life's challenges. The staff of Orangeburg County First Steps serves each child and family with the utmost commitment and dignity. We are dedicated to offering quality early learning assistance and capacity building that caters to the needs of this local community. This agency continues to seek opportunities to positively serve and collaborate for the greater good of Orangeburg County's youngest citizens. This past year Orangeburg County First Steps experienced tremendous growth by expanding our presence in the community. We are now located 610 Laurel Street, which is in the center of downtown Orangeburg, South Carolina.

We are pleased to share that, through increased quality training for all child development centers served by Orangeburg County First Steps, children are experiencing a greater learning experience as they ready themselves for a formal education. With funds acquired from our partnership with Save the Children, community partners, local schools, and childcare centers in Orangeburg County were provided disaster preparedness educational materials and supplies. Additionally, services have been expanded in the areas of home visitation, training, professional development and so much more. This agency seeks to further assist families through early intervention services, convening the early childhood education community, additional quality trainings and literacy programming.

Our goal is to create long lasting educational impact among children. Therefore, we seek to collaborate with members of the Orangeburg Community and other agencies that are passionate about this very important work. For a chance to make a positive change on behalf of children prenatal – 5 yrs old, become an advocate by contacting our office at 803-987-4164.

LaMyra Sanders, M. Ed.  
Executive Director



## OUR MISSION:

*Collaborating with other entities Orangeburg County First Steps helps families and caregivers prepare their children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance and expand high-quality early childhood services.*

Find Orangeburg County First Steps







# We get children ready



## THE NEED

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

How are Orangeburg County's children doing?	What early learning programs are available for children in our county? Last year:	Where can families access child care in our county?
<b>4,959</b> are under age 5	<b>16</b> attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	<b>49</b> licensed child care centers
<b>36%</b> live in poverty	<b>146</b> attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	<b>17</b> licensed group/family homes
<b>15.9%</b> of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	<b>599</b> 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	<b>33.3%</b> participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
<b>28.2%</b> of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	<b>158</b> 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	<b>13</b> providers are rated B or higher by <b>ABC Quality</b>
	<b>82</b> were served by 	<b>476</b> families received assistance with affording child care last year
<i>Kids Count data provided by:</i> 	<i>Data provided by:</i> 	

## THE GOALS

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

1. Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to increase access to home visitation programs as services provided by the agency.
2. Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to increase services for early identification of physical, emotional and educational disabilities.
3. Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to improve the quality of the environment and educational services provided by the child development centers enrolled in the Quality Enhanced Program.
4. Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to improve quality professional development opportunities in order to increase the number of qualified staff persons who work with children ages 0-5 who work with children in Orangeburg County.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Orangeburg County First Steps provided:

- ✓ **156 children** and **94 adults** with **intensive support** to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (**Early Steps to School Success, Imagination Library, Scholarship, and Countdown to Kindergarten**)
- ✓ **241 staff** working in **94** child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, **helping them better meet the needs of 779 children ages 0-5 in their care** (**Early Steps to School Success, Scholarship, Child Care Quality Improvement, and School Transition**)
- ✓ financial assistance to help **14 children 0-5 attend quality child care** so their parents can work or attend school (**Child Care Scholarships**)
- ✓ **2596 books** to spark the love of reading for **63 children** (**Imagination Library, Early Steps to School Success, Literacy Day Events**)
- ✓ a total of **779 children** and **241 adults** were impacted by Orangeburg County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

# School Readiness Outcomes

## What is the KRA?

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

ORANGEBURG 3 (145 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	26%	42 %	32%
Language&Literacy	21%	54%	25%
Mathematics	29%	47%	24%
Physical Dev&WB	41%	24%	34%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>24%</b>

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

ORANGEBURG 4 (237 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	22%	31%	48%
Language&Literacy	21%	50%	30%
Mathematics	36%	43%	21%
Physical Dev&WB	20%	30%	50%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>34%</b>



Early Learning Standards being practiced with 3-4 year olds participating in Reading Rocks Summer Program

ORANGEBURG 5 (500 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	35%	31%	34%
Language&Literacy	30%	40%	30%
Mathematics	41%	46%	13%
Physical Dev&WB	27%	28%	44%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>26%</b>

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

- Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.
- Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards
- Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

Based on the 2017-2018 KRA results, Orangeburg County has over 800 kindergartners with an overall average of 28% demonstrating kindergarten readiness and 45% approaching readiness. In an effort to improve these results, Orangeburg County First Steps will offer at least two trainings on the specific topics of the Ready Kindergartner and Early Childhood Education Standards to providers who work with children on a daily basis. Orangeburg County First Steps has also developed the Reading Rocks Summer Program, modeled after Countdown To Kindergarten; this program provides 3 and 4 year olds with early learning kits and 6 one on one visits by a certified teacher. All participants are assessed (pre and post) based on kindergarten standards and each lesson is based on standards from the SC Early Childhood Education Standards. OCFS also participates in Countdown To Kindergarten providing emerging kindergartners and their families with the support and tools to increase school readiness outcomes by fostering parental involvement.



# Early Steps to School Success

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

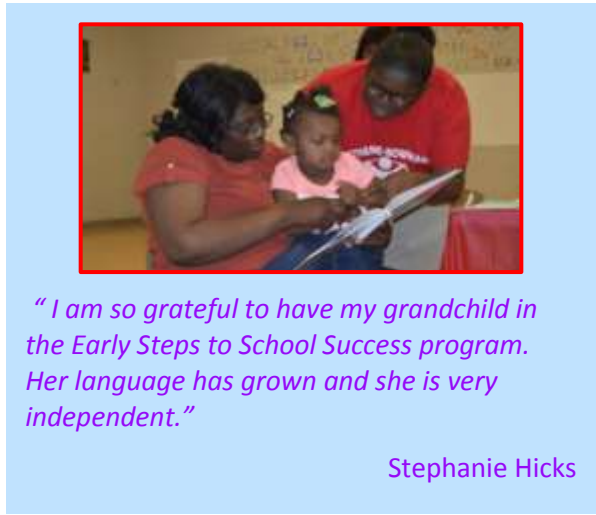
## Program Description

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 ESS families
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
4. **Connections to Outside Resources** that families may need to succeed

**Orangeburg County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our ESS families:**

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 89% ... single parent households
- 14% ... were teen parents



*"I am so grateful to have my grandchild in the Early Steps to School Success program. Her language has grown and she is very independent."*

Stephanie Hicks

## ESS by the Numbers 2017-2018

Families Served	35	
Children Served	35	
Total Home Visits	466	
Hours Spent Serving Families	445	
Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):	3.08	2.86

*Data excludes ESS Expansion*



## This year, our Early Steps to School Success program:

- ✓ Averaged 1.88 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 4 potential developmental delays and made 24 connections for families to services such as library, food assistance, WIC, Toys for Tots, and Employment Resources.
- ✓ Expanded home visitation with a mini grant from United Way of the Midlands providing services for an additional 10 families providing 2 books per month for home libraries and early learning kits for participants

## Thank you to our Early Steps to School Success partners!

United Way of the Midlands  
 School Save The Children  
 Choose Well  
 Blue Cross Blue Shield  
 Toys for Tots

Bethune-Bowman Elementary  
 SCSU  
 TRMC  
 DAZZ of Orangeburg  
 Kaplan Early Learning Co.

### Evidence of Effectiveness:

Early Steps to School Success meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



# Imagination Library



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

## Program Description

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

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

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



Early Reader enjoying Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

## Imagination Library by the Numbers 2017-2018

Children Served	63
Books Given to Children 0-5	753



### This year, our Imagination Library program:


- ✓ Enhanced the home literacy environment by providing one book per month to 63 children and families
- ✓ Created a home library with a total of 753 books mailed
- ✓ Increased interactions between caregivers and children during reading time
- ✓ Created positive attitudes about reading among children and caregivers
- ✓ Statistics show that children growing up in homes with at least 20 books get 3 more years of schooling than children from bookless homes, independent of their parents' education, occupation, and class. Evans, M. D., Kelley, J., Sikora, J., & Treiman, D. J. (2010)

### Thank you to our Imagination Library partners!

- Dollywood Foundation
- SC First Steps
- Orangeburg Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Imagination Library meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



# Child Care Quality Enhancement

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

## Program Description

The quality of care they received by young children is crucial to their healthy development and school readiness. Child care providers strive to provide high quality care, but may lack the resources that are commonly available to publicly-funded early childhood programs, such as educational materials, on-site professional development, and other support.

**First Steps' Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE) is intended to produce measurable improvements in the quality of care provided to young children.** Participating child care providers must serve a high percentage of at-risk children, and are selected through a competitive process that requires a strong level of commitment to the QE process.

### Program Components

1. On-site Technical Assistance (TA) at least twice monthly
2. Equipment and materials funding
3. Integration with locally available training, provided by First Steps and other partners
4. Workforce Development
5. Coordination with community partners
6. Pre/post assessments of the classroom environment and teacher-child interaction, using nationally-recognized observational tools for infant/toddler and preschool settings (ITERS, ECERS, FCCERS)

## QE by the Numbers, 2017-18

Child Care Providers Served	4
Number of TA Visits Provided	85
Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms	140

### Congratulations to our QE participants for 2017-2018!

Child Care Provider	Pre/Post Improvement
Good Hope Child Development	From 5.86 to 2.82
Happyland Child Care Center	From 3.14 to 4.65
Pecan Grove Child Development	From 3.03 to 4.79
Wright's Day Care	From 1.74 to 2.59



Visual Schedules being prepared and on display

## This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

- ✓ Improved quality, on average, by 1.77 based on pre/post Environment Rating Scale assessments
- ✓ Provided 177.5 hours of technical assistance to child care providers contributing to the professional growth of 22 child care teachers and directors
- ✓ Provided \$13,934.21 in materials grants to participating child care providers
- ✓ Funded scholarships for 14 children within participating child care providers

## Thank you to our Quality Enhancement partners!

- Good Hope Child Development Center
- Happyland Child Care Center
- Pecan Grove Child Development Center
- Wright's Child Development Center
- Wright Way Child Development Center

### Evidence of Effectiveness:

Child Care Quality Enhancement meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



# 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.



*Directors from across Orangeburg County attend "Getting LIT for Literacy: Language & Literacy Development Series"*



*Orangeburg Consolidated School District 5 participates in Active Shooter Response Training facilitated by Wayne Freeman of SC Law Enforcement Division*

### Training Sponsored by Orangeburg County First Steps 2017-2018

Topic:	Sessions:
Getting LIT for Literacy: Language & Literacy Development	Two Sessions
Getting LIT for Excellence: Be Quality-Fostering High Quality Environments Be Meaningful-Developing a Meaningful Curriculum Be Prepared-Preparing for Natural Disasters School Safety Zone (Special Training)	Three Sessions

### Training by the Numbers, 2017-18

Total Training Attendance	150
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	64
Number of Training Sessions Offered	6

### This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 150 early childhood staff with high quality training, impacting 82 providers and 473 children
- ✓ 10 hours of certified training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 20 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

### Thank you to our Training partners!

Center for Child Care Career Development (CCCCD)  
 Orangeburg Consolidated School Districts 4 & 5  
 Williams Chapel AME Church

### Evidence of Effectiveness:

Child Care Training and Professional Development meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.





# Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in Orangeburg 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.

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

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 27% ... exposed to parental/caregiver depression
- 92% ... single parent households

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.

## Scholarships by the Numbers 2017-2018

Children Served	14
Providers Served	4

*Thank you so much for all you have done to help me and my son...I truly understand now what being a single parent is and it's not easy. Your help with childcare is a blessing!*

Romaine Haywood



*Scholarship Parent Meeting facilitated by Dr. Terry Fludd (childcare, snacks and activities provided for participants)*

## This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ Provided 14 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed 9 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ Made 13 connections for families to services such as BabyNet
- ✓ Supported 4 small businesses in Orangeburg County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care
- ✓ Provided 4 hours of training for scholarship parents in topics such as Quality Child Care and Family Engagement

## Thank you to our Scholarship partners!

- SC Department of Social Services
- Good Hope Child Development Center
- Happyland Child Care Center
- Pecan Grove Child Development Center
- Wright's Daycare
- Wright Way Child Development Center
- Fludd Consulting and Instructional Services

## Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership's Child Care Scholarship strategy is considered **evidence-based** because it is connected to the following evidence- based programs:  
 Dolly Parton Imagination Library and  
 Early Steps to School Success





**Bringing parents and teachers together as partners sets 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,
- ✓ to acquaint children and families with the state and classroom expectations to increase the likelihood of school success,
- ✓ 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.

Countdown to Kindergarten integrates all of 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.

## \*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2017

Children Served	44
Families Served	44
Home/School Visits	264

*\*CTK program data is for June-August 2017, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.*



*I saw a lot of learning and growing taking place during my visits with the students and parents! Thank you CTK family for making this experience and much needed exposure possible.*

*Peggy Davis-Sheridan Elementary School*

Like us on Facebook!  
 Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina



## This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ Increased the amount of time parents spent reading to children by 56%
- ✓ 95% of parents and caregivers interacted with their child's teacher during the reporting period
- ✓ 100% of parents and caregivers demonstrated increased knowledge of the child's development

## Thank you to our CTK partners!

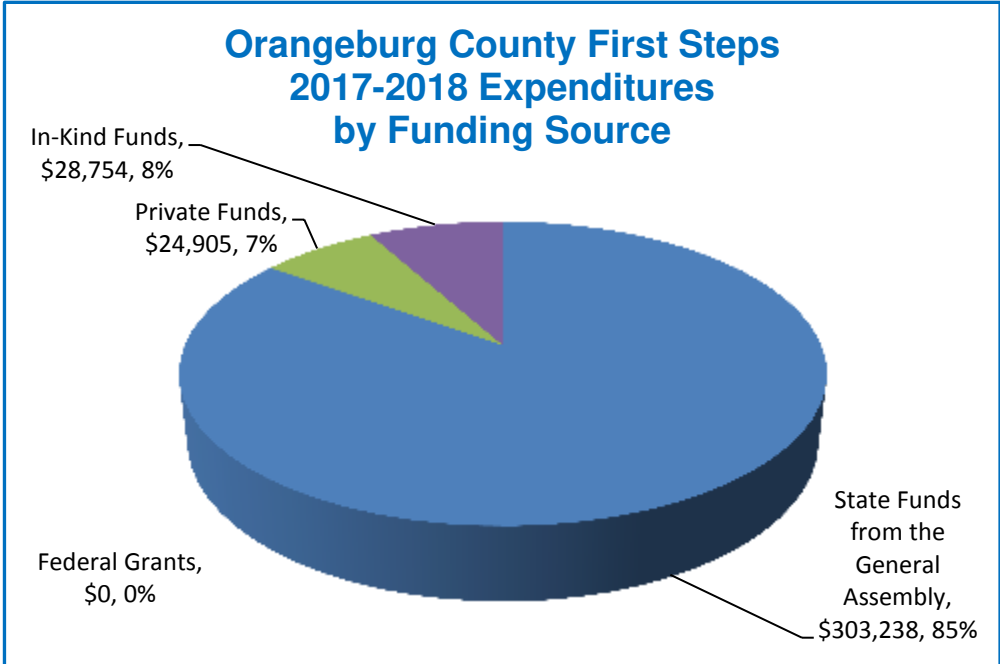
Orangeburg Consolidated School Districts 4 & 5  
 United Way of the Midlands  
 Kaplan Early Learning Company  
 EdVenture Children's Museum

## Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership's Countdown to Kindergarten program meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-informed** program.



# Financial Impact



**Total 2017-18 Expenditures: \$347,808.00**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18\*: 18%**

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

### 2017-2018 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2017-18 Expenditures
Early Steps to School Success	\$29,736	\$0	\$3,094	\$19,528	\$52,359	15%
Imagination Library	\$761	\$0	\$761	\$0	\$1,522	0%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$6,185	\$0	\$5,928	\$1,546	\$13,659	4%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$75,071	\$0		\$7,094	\$82,165	24%
Child Care Training	\$41,382	\$0	\$190	\$0	\$41,573	12%
Child Care Scholarships	\$42,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$42,000	12%
Other Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Program Support	\$72,916	\$0	\$11,930	\$0	\$84,846	24%
Administrative Support	\$26,097	\$0	\$3,002	\$586	\$29,685	9%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$294,149</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$24,905</b>	<b>\$28,754</b>	<b>\$347,808</b>	

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

**Since inception, Orangeburg County First Steps has leveraged \$1,270,199 from sources outside of state government. That's 19 cents for every state dollar.**

# Thank you supporters!

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

## Funding Support

- State of South Carolina: \$303,237  
 (through South Carolina First Steps)
- United Way of the Midlands: \$10,000
- Save The Children: \$10,000
- Board Members/Annual Fundraiser:  
 \$6538.96



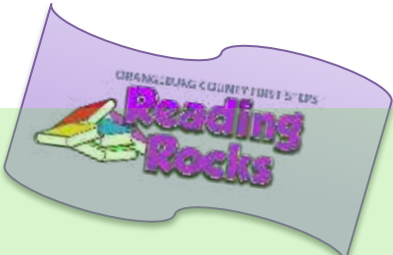
Community Partners attend the Ready, Set, Go Disaster Preparedness Luncheon

## In-Kind Support

- Orangeburg Consolidated School Dist. 5
- Kaplan Early Learning Company



Fatima & Sakyah Meriwether supporting Reading Rocks with a personal donation!



## How your support helps children in Orangeburg County:

- ✓ \$30 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$332 provides a child (ages 5-6) with 6 home visits with a certified kindergarten teacher, a kindergarten toolkit along with early learning standards and family engagement resources
- ✓ \$250 provides a child (ages 3-4) with 6 visits with a certified teacher, pre and post standards assessments, a pre-school toolkit and exposure to early learning standards

**HOW TO GIVE: Mail your tax deductible donations to Orangeburg County First Steps at PO Box 451, Orangeburg SC 29116**

## Save the Date!

Read for the Record, Annual Literacy Campaign –  
 October 25, 2018

Board Retreat – December 8, 2018



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



# Community Impact



***Reading and Singing as We Learn!***

Energetic, charismatic, and full of life are the words to describe Alexis Backmon and one year old Tramaine Allen. They have been a part of the Early Steps to School Success program for 8 months and I must say I enjoy visiting them.

Alexis is a first time mom with a large number of dreams for her son. She loves reading and singing to Tramaine, while he often smiles back. Her passion for life is captivating. "When you do good, you will get good back" she always says. Alexis can often be found ready for her home visit and all assignments completed. Their home library has grown considerably since being in the program. Most often she is always saying, "You have any new books Ms. Glover?" She told me she will be applying for a local library card when Tramaine turns one.

With Ms. Backmon's early involvement in her son, Tramaine's life, his future looks bright. I see nothing but excellence for this family as they continue their journey in the Early Steps to School Success program at Bethune-Bowman Elementary School.

*Tuisha Glover-Home Visitor/Parent Educator*

***Countdown To Kindergarten...so exciting!***



I was so excited to meet two of my families at the library. After working with their children, they were able to get library card(s) and check out several books to take home and read. I thought this was very beneficial and hope they will be able to continue taking trips to the library. One family even stayed for the Summer Reading Program event they were having on that particular day.

*Tracy Mvers-Teacher, Edisto Primary School*

***Community Day 2018!***

Children from local childcare centers were participated in fun and educational activities including a petting zoo, storytime, health & safety awareness, and a musical concert by children's music artist, Mister B. Special thanks to volunteers from Claflin University's, Project Pipeline Repair (future teachers), and Williams Chapel AME Church for helping to make this Initiative a huge success for so many children.



*(L)Low Country Party Animals' mobile petting zoo placed a smile on the children's faces, (C) They're all ears as Orangeburg Department of Public Safety keeps'em safe! (R) It's all smiles as Kool Smiles shows us how much fun brushing can be.*

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

# First Steps Partnership Board

Greetings,

As we continue to progress to a more inclusive educational environment across the nation and the state of South Carolina, expectations for students rise higher and become more specific with each passing year. Consequently, new pressures and higher expectations are asked of children at younger ages. Orangeburg County First Steps continues to make strides in order to ensure that those children are not only prepared to best deal with this continually changing educational landscape but also that children are prepared developmentally in a way that ensures life long learning.

To accomplish these goals, Orangeburg County's First Steps Partnership continues to double down on holding selected centers accountable in providing high quality early childhood development, on increasing awareness among community stakeholders about the importance of appropriate early education, and on researching and reporting data results that support the positive affects of focusing human and financial resources on young children's education and development.

On behalf of the Orangeburg County First Steps Partnership Board, we thank you for all of the support that you give to helping Orangeburg's youngest of the young.

Appreciative,  
 Reginald H. Williams, Ph.D., Chairman  
 Orangeburg County First Steps Partnership Board



## Orangeburg County First Steps Partnership Board 2017-2018

Name	Position	Board Category
Gwendolyn Breeland	Human Services Specialist II	Orangeburg County DSS Appointee
Patricia Brown	Child Maternal Health Nurse	Orangeburg County DHEC
Kimberlei Davis	ABC Columbia Digital Content Director	Family Education, Training, and Support Provider
Deloris Glover	Retired ECE Educator	Early Childhood Education
Matthew Henderson, Vice Chairman	Trade Specialist III	Senate Appointee
Bertie Howard	OCAB Administrative Manager	Head Start
Jacqueline Jamison	OCSD #5 Executive Director of Academics	OCSD #5 Appointee
Audrey McCrary-Quarles, Chair-Resource Development Committee	Assistant Professor, Health Sciences & Physical Ed.	Family Education, Training, and Support Provider
Tonya Wells, Secretary and Chair- Organizational Development Committee	Pre-K Teacher	OCSD #4 Appointee
Antron Williams	Soil Conservationist	Senate Appointee
Luvenia Williams	Manager	Non-Profit Organization
Reginald H. Williams, Chairman	Assistant Professor of ECE (SCSU)	Early Childhood Education

# What is First Steps?

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

## First Steps Goals

- (1) provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want** to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschool children;
- (2) increase comprehensive services** so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems;
- (3) promote high-quality preschool programs** that provide a healthy environment that will promote normal growth and development;
- (4) provide services** so all children receive the protection, nutrition, and health care needed to thrive in the early years of life so they arrive at school ready to succeed; and
- (5) mobilize communities** to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.

### First Steps Building Blocks of Quality Early Childhood Programs and Services



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

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

**Local portals** connecting preschool children and families to services

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

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



[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.

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