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- **Total children in county under age 6: 5,216**
- **Total Children in county under 6 living in poverty %: 8.7%**

#### **Greenwood County Highlights**

- Joint County Child Care Training 300 participants
- Distributed over 6,000 books to children during FY09
- Served over 13 Latino families
- Served 146 adults and 187 children
- Conducted 1511 successful home visits
- Child Care Training served over 8,300 children

# **Greenwood County First Steps Partnership**

## *Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report*

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

Our County Partnership started Fiscal Year 2009 as the second year of conducting programs "in-house" and the service provided to our clients continued to be the highest of quality. We battled through personnel dismissal, budget cuts and health issues of parent educators, but were able to continue quality services to our families. Moreover, the budget cuts for this year postponed several of the board's initiatives to expand services. Child Care Quality Enhancement and Postpartum Newborn were cancelled due to budget cuts during this fiscal year.

We have been collaborating with Abbeville County First Steps for six years orchestrating joint child care trainings as well as sharing administrative and programmatic resources. Last year, we were able to provide quality child care trainings, with approved Certified Trainers, to 111 facilities and 737 staff members. We created these results by providing 77 training sessions and providing over 110 DSS child care training credit hours to facilities serving our future-the children! Our training calendar was highlighted by the Joint County Child Care Conference at Lander University attended by over 300 participants. What was astonishing for FY09 is we were able to impact more than 8,300 children from our child care trainings! At Greenwood County's Annual Christmas parade, Greenwood County First Steps Partnership distributed more than 4,000 books totaling approximately \$29,000. We have partnered with DSS to form a strong alliance in serving families through mandated referrals. Greenwood County First Steps full Partnership Board will continue to be innovative and resourceful to make a difference in the lives of young children with their school readiness.

Respectfully,

Michael K. Gaskin  
Executive Director, Greenwood County First Steps



## **First Steps to School Readiness Strategy Areas**

*The First Steps initiative approaches children's school readiness needs in five ways:*

**Family Strengthening:** A parent is a child's first and best teacher. First Steps works to help parents become the best parents they can be. First Steps also helps parents further their own education.

**Healthy Start:** Children's development and ability to learn are profoundly impacted by their health in the earliest years. First Steps works to help families understand children's health needs through education and screenings while also working to help them access needed health services.

**Quality Child Care:** Quality child care provides immediate and long-term learning benefits for children. First Steps works to expand the availability of quality child-care to families and to enhance the level of quality in existing child-care environments.

**Early Education:** Research shows that children who participate in high-quality preschool classes are more likely to start school ready to learn, as well as be more successful later in life. First Steps works to expand high-quality 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten opportunities in public and private settings.

**School Transition:** The transition into kindergarten is a critical time that sets the tone for children's perspectives about the school years, as well their parents' perspectives. Making a strong initial connection between school and home -- and supporting both parents and students during this transition time -- has been shown to impact students' later school success and parents' later involvement during the school years.

## **2008-09 County Partnership Programs by Strategy**

### **FAMILY STRENGTHENING**

#### **Parents-As-Teachers Home Visitation Program**

**Program description:** The Parents-As-Teachers model is a researched based program, and parent educators use this curriculum with consistency. As the Parents As Teachers Supervisor, Executive Director of Greenwood County First Steps ensures that the parent educators keep up their yearly certification hours with trainings that aid in implementing the program. All parent educators and the Parents As Teachers Supervisor have attended the Birth to Three and Three to Five Training with the Born to Learn Curriculum. All staff was trained on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire, Parent Education Profile and Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, and the KIPS and ACIRI assessment tools. Because the program is being operated in-house, the First Steps Director can ensure that the parent educators are conducting and delivering high intensity services. The Partnership will continue to recruit families within our county's high risk inner-city housing areas and the Latino community.

#### **Program results:**

- 70 families were targeted to be served in FY09
- A total of 1511 successful and only 15 unsuccessful home visits were delivered, providing parents with information and resources to strengthen their role as their child's most important teachers.
- 1511 families received referrals for other resources.
- All PAT educators completed training in the Born to Learn Curriculum.
- All PAT educators have, at minimum, a Bachelor's level education (OFS Benchmarks), and one Spanish speaking parent educator
- Families reported an average of 4.91 satisfaction rating with this program (based on a 1 [poor] to 5 [excellent] point scales).

### **QUALITY CHILD CARE.**

#### **Scholarship Initiatives**

**Program description:** Child Care Scholarships are distributed out of the Greenwood County First Steps Office to parents who are working, in a training program and/or going back to school. All scholarship applicants are also a part of Parents as Teachers Program. Children attend centers who are receiving quality enhancement and technical assistance from the local First Steps office. All applicants receive comprehensive services through this program. Comprehensive service is the key to school success.

#### **Program results:**

- Three ABC Vouchers Child Care Facilities provided to families connected with our PAT Program

### **Child Care Training and Professional Development**

Program description: Improve the quality of child care by offering quality enhancement grants, free child care credit hours from certified child care trainers and assistance to child care providers. Greenwood County First Steps worked jointly with child care providers from Abbeville and McCormick counties to provide certified training hours.

Program results:

- 8,300 children, 737 staff, and 111 facilities
- 77 Quality Child Care Training Sessions
- Over 110 hours of Certified Training hours with DSS credit
- Joint Child Care Conference with Abbeville County First Steps with over 280 participants and serving more than 19 counties.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<b>Expenditures By Funding Source</b>	
State Appropriation ( <i>Fund 10</i> )	\$192,627
E.I.A. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 55</i> )	\$21,279
State Allocation Carry Fwd ( <i>Fund 11</i> )	\$2,226
State Private ( <i>Fund 15</i> )	\$2,937
Local Private ( <i>Fund 20</i> )	\$15,583
Federal ( <i>Fund 30</i> )	\$52,237
In-Kind ( <i>Fund 25</i> )	\$61,700
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$348,589</b>

<b>Expenditures By Program/Strategy Name</b>	
2102- Parents as Teachers	\$138,477
6012-Child Care Quality Enhancements	\$82,692
6052-Child Care Training and Professional Development	\$45,324
7031-Scholarships Initiatives	\$10,800
9051-Post Partum Newborn	\$6,600
Indirect Programmatic Functions	\$35,932
Administrative Functions	\$28,764
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$348,589</b>

### NOTABLE DONORS

<b><i>DONOR'S NAME</i></b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Greenwood Rotary	\$475.00
DCT Investments	\$22,140.45
Scholastics Books	\$28,986.93
Ronald Puckett	\$25.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$51,627.38</b>

*Local Match Percentage for FY 2009: 43.2%*

## COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<b>Category</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Name</b>
Appointed (Senator Nicholson)	Budget Committee	Carolyn Robinson (Vice Board Chair)
School District #52	Early Childhood Committee (4-6)	Doris Louden (Sec)
Appointed (Rep Gene Pinson)	Legislative Committee	Donald Burton (Board Chair)
Appointed (Rep. Ann Parks)	Budget Committee	Bobby Ligon (Budget chair)
Business	Budget Committee	Venise L. Bolden
Child Care	Early Childhood Committee (0-3)	Ruth Boyd
Child Care	Early Childhood Committee (4-6)	Willie Mae Caldwell
Child Care	Early Childhood Committee (0-3)	Cynthia Aaron
Department of Social Services	Legislative Committee	Alice Jones
Head Start	Budget/Secretary	Carol Bush
DHEC	Legislative Committee	Sara Light
District 50	Budget Committee	Roger Richburg
Faith	Early Childhood Committee (0-3)	Darlene Saxon
Family Education	Budget Committee	Willie Williams
Family Education	Early Childhood Committee (0-3)	Cathey Chapman
Health	Early Childhood Committee (0-3)	Lillian Thomas (Asst Sec)
Non-Profit	Early Childhood Committee (4-6)	Michelle Barksdale
Non-Profit	Early Childhood Committee (4-6)	Ashley Smith
Parent	Early Childhood Committee (0-3)	Sierra Martin
Pre-K-Primary Educator	Early Childhood Committee (4-6)	Loretta Parker (Committee Chair 4-6)
Transportation	Legislative Committee	David E. Roatch
Transportation	Legislative Committee	Louis Smith
Health	Budget Committee	Tony Johnson

# COUNTY DATA SNAPSHOT

In FY09, First Steps County Partnerships statewide made it a priority to become increasingly data-driven. County Partnerships successfully began using powerful new components of the First Steps data system, and County Partnerships also utilized data in new ways to drive their FY09 program plans. In addition to enhanced program data tracking, County Partnerships are also focusing on the best available data about children and families to best understand their communities' needs. At the end of FY08 and the beginning of FY09, County Partnerships began an extensive analysis of this data, including data about the risk factors known to impact children's potential school success, such as low birth weight, teen mothers, and families living in poverty. A county-level risk data report is included in the subsequent pages of this report.

*Your 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile will be inserted by OFS after this section. For your reference, a PDF of this risk profile was sent to you along with your Annual Report Template*

*The SC General Assembly created in 1999 the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Initiative as a "comprehensive, results-oriented initiative for improving early childhood development by providing, through county partnerships, public and private funds and support for high quality early childhood development and education services for children by providing support for their families' efforts toward enabling their children to reach school ready to learn"...here's what happened next:*

## Milestones and Benchmarks

- After two years of administering programs in-house, the partnership improved its data collection. Over 98% of clients provided consent and Social Security Numbers.
- Increase in number of teachers served in child care training by 230 participants
- Received 4,148 books totaling more than \$29,000
- Joint Child Care Trainings with Abbeville County First Steps have been extremely fruitful:
  - o Expanded to provide training for McCormick County
  - o Impacted more than 8,300 children
  - o Served over 19 counties at our Joint County Child Care Conference
- 737 child care staff trained in FY2009
- The County Partnership totaled more 2,387 volunteer hours
- Greenwood and North Hodges Child Development Center, which partnered with Greenwood County First Steps, became NAEYC accredited
- Greenwood County First Steps and DSS formed a joint partnership to refer clients to GCFS Parent-As-Teachers (PAT) Program.
- The Greenwood County First Steps Annual Early Childhood Safety Bash served over 100 families and provided over 1,000 books to the participants.



# 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile Greenwood County

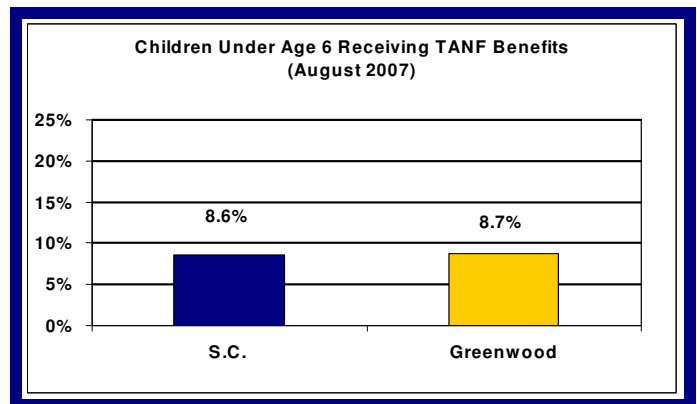
Total Children Under Six: 5,216

## CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4%      Greenwood County (2007): 8.7%

**Fast Fact:** 1 in 12 Greenwood County children has an annual family income equivalent to \$10,325 (or less) for a family of four. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 45% of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Children in deep poverty often face a wide variety of school readiness obstacles, ranging from inadequate prenatal care and nutrition to low maternal education.
- 456 of Greenwood County’s 5,216 children under age 6 received federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits during 2007, indicating a family income at or below 50% of the federal poverty definition.

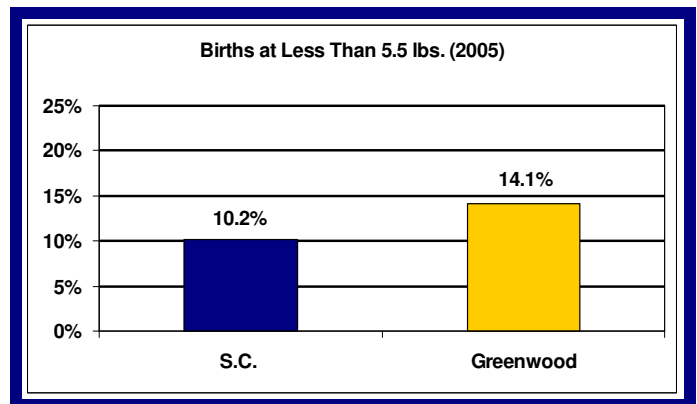


## CHILDREN AT LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (Less Than 5.5 lbs.)

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2%      Greenwood County (2005): 14.1%

**Fast Fact:** 1 in 7 Greenwood County children is born at a weight less than 5.5 lbs. A recent statewide analysis suggests that at least one-third of these children (36%-52% depending on weight category) will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Babies born at low weights are often prone to developmental delays associated with early academic failure.
- Many have received inadequate prenatal care and suffer from significant health complications.
- 128 of the 907 children born in Greenwood County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.





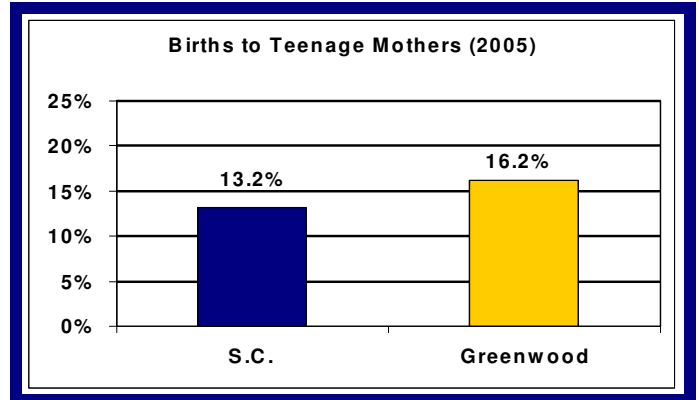
## BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

Statewide Average (2005): 13.2%

Greenwood County (2005): 16.2%

**Fast Fact:** Roughly 1 in 6 Greenwood County births is to a mother under 20 years of age. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 43% of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Teenage parents often lack the maturity and knowledge required to optimally fulfill important parental responsibilities, are less likely to advance their own educational attainment and often fail to advance beyond low-income status.
- 147 of the 907 children born in Greenwood County during 2005 had teenage mothers.



## BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Statewide Average (2005): 23.7%

Greenwood County (2005): 29.3%

**Fast Fact:** Nearly 3 in 10 children in Greenwood County are born to mothers possessing less than a high school diploma. A recent statewide analysis suggests that roughly half (48%) of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Research suggests that a mother’s own educational attainment is closely linked to the subsequent academic performance of her children.
- 266 of the 907 children born in Greenwood County during 2005 had mothers with less than a high school diploma.

