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**SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Community Support and Collaboration**

**Working together to meet a growing need**

Community support and collaboration are essential to the continued success of NFP sites in South Carolina – and across the country. To become a site, NFP implementing agencies must demonstrate the presence of community support when submitting an application to the NFP National Service Office.

A diverse network of local and statewide partners is also essential to sustaining sites once they are established.

Support for NFP comes in

various forms. Whether it's a physician who provides steady client referrals, a local nonprofit executive who volunteers on an NFP community advisory board, a church that donates baby supplies or a private foundation that funds a nurse home visitor's salary – all are forms of support that are critical to the long-term sustainability of NFP in South Carolina.

For those who have joined our effort, we are incredibly thankful for your time, energy and/or resources. You are

truly making a difference in the lives of vulnerable families and the community.

Even so, demand for NFP still exceeds its current capacity. In this edition of the SC NFP newsletter, we'll share some of the ways program representatives and NFP advocates are spreading the word about NFP to expand our network and generate even more much-needed support.

Sincerely,  
*Grace Stewart*  
**SC NFP Director**

**Spotlight: SC NFP Hosts Community Event Series**

This fall, SC NFP hosted a series of five community lunch events across the state to help raise awareness about NFP, increase partnership opportunities for local sites and generate support among elected officials and other key leaders.

Event attendees, including foundation representatives, medical professionals, state legislators and philanthropic organizations, got a first-hand look at how NFP is transforming the lives of at-risk families in their county. The local programs shared how they have helped clients

engage in healthy practices, complete school or return to work.

For example, 81 percent of Spartanburg County NFP clients initiated breastfeeding post-delivery. In Charleston/Berkeley/Dorchester/Colleton, 43 percent of current clients are employed, which is 10 percent higher than the current national NFP average. And, among Lexington/Richland clients,

only 6.7 percent smoked during pregnancy, which is 5 percent lower than the national NFP client average.



*From left to right: Anderson NFP nurse supervisor Alice Bagby, NFP client Kristina, and nurse home visitor Benita Kirkland.*

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## Spotlight Continued...

Each event averaged 70 attendees from the surrounding community from various backgrounds and featured a special guest speaker. These included:

- Tony Keck, Director of the SC Department of Health and Human Services;
- Chris Kerrigan, Trident United Way president and CEO;
- Harvey Galloway, BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation executive director;
- Rhett Mabry, The Duke Endowment vice president;
- Dr. Sheila Woods, MD, FAAP, AnMed Health Children’s Health Center director; and
- Dr. Amy Picklesimer, MD, MSPH, Greenville Hospital System University Medical Group.

At the Columbia event, Director Keck expressed his



*SC DHHS Director Tony Keck speaks at the Columbia event.*

support for NFP as a transformative, cost-effective solution to several severe and costly health and social issues in the state. He suggested finding ways to shift Medicaid dollars to help with long-term sustainability.

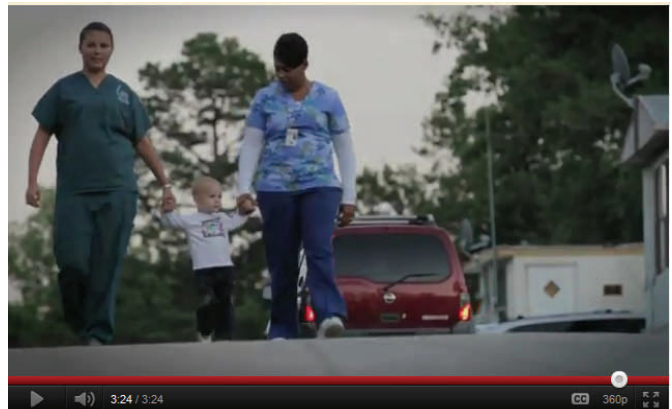
“It really is a program that’s focused on the health and well-being of the mother and the child,” Keck said.

“Medicaid has not been able to really contribute to the financing of this program. What we’re trying to do is push against that regulation and figure out ways that Medicaid in South Carolina can become much more involved in helping the

## Faces of NFP: Lisa Reyes National Service Office, US Eastern Regional Manager for Program Development

When Lisa Reyes discovered a job was available with NFP six years ago, she quickly jumped at the opportunity because of the nature of the work and the difference it makes in the lives of families and communities.

“This program opens doors to new moms who may not be aware of the resources that are available to them in the Carolinas and across the United States,” stated Reyes. “Many of us can think back to an influential



*[Click here](#) to learn more about Greenville NFP client Jennifer and her nurse Veronica, pictured above.*

sustainability of this program.”

In addition, community event attendees heard personal testimonies from local NFP participants and NFP nurse home visitors. [Click here](#) to see a clip of a Greenville County NFP client and her nurse shared at a recent luncheon. Jennifer’s story is one similar to many mothers who enroll in NFP – she found herself pregnant at a young age with no family support to guide her.

Nurse Veronica Polk stepped in and helped her gain skills needed to become a confident, loving mother to her baby boy. Inspired by nurse Veronica, Jennifer pursued a degree to become a medical assistant. Now, Jennifer is about to graduate from the medical assisting program and from the NFP program. Her son is a happy and healthy two-year-old.

person who guided us at a critical life transition. I see every NFP nurse as that instrumental person in the life of each new mom and family she serves.”

Lisa previously was the Northeast/Midatlantic regional manager, and in August 2011, also assumed the responsibility for overseeing program development in the Southeastern United States.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Faces of NFP Continued...



She supports a team of program developers who work across the East Coast. This team will include the new program developer for the Carolinas who will begin later this year.

*“The partnership with NFP stakeholders and champions is absolutely critical to ensuring NFP’s success,” Reyes said. “I have thoroughly enjoyed getting involved with NFP in the Carolinas and look forward to furthering this important work together.”*

“Program developers work closely with state partners and nurse consultant colleagues to support community planning efforts around new NFP implementations,” Reyes said.

“We also focus on developing the relationships and strategies necessary to assure that NFP sites are well-supported and will be sustained.”

Prior to joining the NFP team, Reyes worked with children and family service organizations, both as a social work practitioner and as a researcher. She also worked for the US Department of Health and Human Services as a presidential management fellow.

Reyes credits her previous experience with helping bring stakeholders together to support and sustain successful NFP programs.

Since August, Reyes has enjoyed working with state leadership throughout the Carolinas and is already impressed by the strong network of partnerships involved.

“The partnership with NFP stakeholders and champions is absolutely critical to ensuring NFP’s success,” Reyes said. “I have thoroughly enjoyed getting involved with NFP in the Carolinas and look forward to furthering this important work together.”

## In the News...

From *The State*

### Statistics show Nurse-Family Partnership works

August 17, 2011

This article highlights the accomplishments of the Lexington-Richland County site. To read the full story [click here](#).

From ABC News 4 Charleston

### Partnership helps expectant moms in lowcountry

August 22, 2011

This story highlights an NFP participant, Sarah Ridgeway, who was a featured speaker at the Charleston/Berkeley/Dorchester/Colleton community update luncheon. To read the full story [click here](#).

From *Union Daily Times*

### Help first-time families succeed

October 7, 2011

This story ran as a result of the announcement that federal funding from the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program will assist the existing Spartanburg County NFP program with expansion into Union County. To read the full story [click here](#).

## Community Briefs

### **NFP Presents to SC Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children**

In September, SC NFP representatives were chosen to speak at three hearings before the Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children (JCLCC). The committee is a forum for citizens, legislators and agency directors to study the needs of children and to promote effective, efficient strategies to address children's problems. The series of hearings were held in Charleston, Columbia and Greenville. Of the 75 speakers selected to be on the agendas, 18 spoke directly on NFP's behalf or referenced the program as a standard for excellence. Committee members heard why NFP is the gold standard of home visiting programs: its demonstrated return on investment to communities. In Greenville, they also heard the personal testimony from a client and nurse supervisor.

JCLCC uses its reports for guidance and consideration of policy, funding and legislation that affects children. Greenville First Steps Executive Director and Greenville NFP community advisory board chair, Derek Lewis, was appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley to serve on the committee.

### **NFP Urges Congress to Maintain Home Visitation Funding**

In late October, the NFP National Service Office joined with other national home visiting programs to urge Congress to maintain funds for the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program, a five-year funding stream for states, territories and tribes to implement evidence-based home visitation programs like NFP. South Carolina has already benefited, with The Children's Trust of South Carolina receiving \$2.5 million to support home visiting programs in our state.

A joint letter from numerous SC organizations was sent to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction sharing information about the benefits of the program and urging them to maintain funding for MIECHV. Letters were also sent to members of the Appropriations Committees in the US House of Representatives and the US Senate. Thank you to all the organizations and individuals who supported these efforts. Your support will help ensure South Carolina can continue to help families in need through proven programs.

### **NFP National Service Office Announces Chris Bishop as New Program Developer for Eastern Region**

Chris Bishop will be joining the NFP National Service Office Eastern Region Program Development team, and he will be responsible for directly supporting NFP in the Carolinas. Chris is based in Charlotte, NC, and brings more than 15 years experience both directing and working for community-based organizations. His most recent experience is as a foreclosure prevention outreach specialist with the NC Housing Finance Agency. In that role, he worked in a cross-section of communities all across the state, aligning government, business and civic organizations to collectively promote the program.

Chris also has experience providing technical assistance to local agencies and in community organizing, organizational development, marketing, fundraising and advocacy. Chris started in his new position November 28 and will begin orientation with the National Service Office and program development division for several weeks. The SC NFP partners join in welcoming Chris to the team.



Nurse-Family Partnership is an evidence-based, community health program that uses nurse home visits to help transform the lives of low-income, first-time parents and their children.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Nurse-Family Partnership  
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E-mail: [SCNFP@capstrat.com](mailto:SCNFP@capstrat.com)

Nurse-Family Partnership is a growing national initiative, located in Denver, Colorado. Currently, the program is serving clients in 32 states across the nation.

For more information, please visit  
[www.nursefamilypartnership.org/locations/South-Carolina/find-a-local-agency](http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/locations/South-Carolina/find-a-local-agency)  
Call 1-866-864-5226

## What is the South Carolina Nurse-Family Partnership?

The South Carolina Nurse-Family Partnership is a public-private partnership dedicated to implementing the Nurse-Family Partnership program and promoting its sustainability in the state. Together, the organizations that comprise SC NFP have agreed to support the program and increase awareness of its positive accomplishments serving first-time, low-income parents and their children.

Members of the SC NFP are:

- ▶ The Duke Endowment
- ▶ The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
- ▶ South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness
- ▶ The Children's Trust of South Carolina
- ▶ BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation



THE DUKE ENDOWMENT



South Carolina  
FOUNDATION

The BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.