



SOUTH CAROLINA

We're Expanding!

Nurse-Family Partnership in South Carolina reaches new communities

Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) is continuing to expand its reach in South Carolina! In Spring 2011, the Charleston/Berkeley/Dorchester NFP program began seeing new clients in Colleton County through the addition of a fifth nurse.

Recently, the Horry County site has expanded its services to at-risk families in two new counties: Williamsburg and Georgetown.

This is exciting news for the Palmetto State. In 2008, when our organizations joined a statewide public-private

partnership of nonprofits, foundations and government agencies to bring NFP to South Carolina, we committed to ensuring it would thrive and expand. NFP now serves a total of 12 counties, putting us one step closer to our goal of bringing NFP to all vulnerable, first-time families. We were also fortunate to have DHHS Director Tony Keck speak on behalf of NFP at a recent event celebrating the Lexington/Richland site's accomplishments (see radio interview on page 5).

To date, 668 mothers have enrolled and more than 676 babies have been born to NFP clients in South Carolina. We are excited for the opportunity to reach out and impact new families.

Thank you for your support.

Grace Stewart  
SC NFP Director

Spotlight: Horry County to Serve Families in Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties

Leaders of Horry County NFP and Horry County First Steps announced plans to expand services to first-time, low-income mothers in Williamsburg and Georgetown Counties in June. The Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) Region 6 is responsible for implementing NFP in Horry County.

“Williamsburg and Georgetown counties need an evidence-based program like Nurse-Family Partnership,” said Dale Smith RN, MPH, MSN, nurse supervisor.

“Although we are not expanding our nurse team, we are expanding our service area to include two counties that have been identified as high-need. We look forward to extending our support to new families.”

The services NFP provides are a good fit for Williamsburg and Georgetown counties. A 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile compiled by Williamsburg County First Steps found that just over one in five Williamsburg County births are to a teen mother. This is five percent higher than the statewide average.

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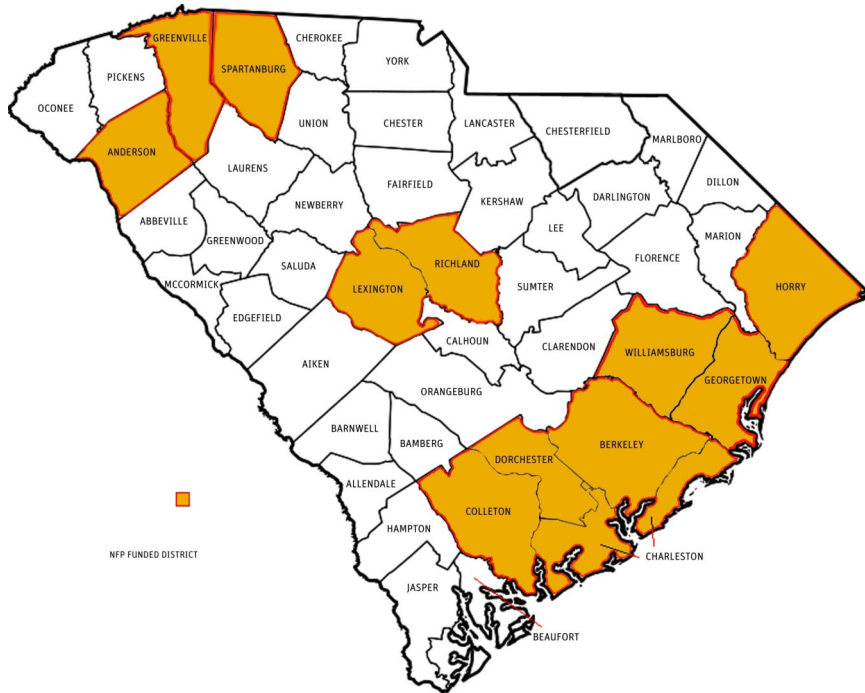
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*South Carolina Nurse-Family Partnership is expanding into two new counties, Williamsburg and Georgetown.*

The report also found that nearly one in three children in Williamsburg County are born to a mother with less than a high school education, and more than 16

percent of families with children have an annual income less than \$10,325 for a family of four.

The same type of report was conducted by the Georgetown County First Steps with results that are similar. More than eight percent of children live below the poverty level, and teen birth rates in Georgetown County are higher than South Carolina averages. More than 40 percent of children born with these two risk factors will not be prepared for school, either being retained or scoring at the “below basic” level by third grade.

“Expansion into Williamsburg and Georgetown was a special opportunity to begin improving outcomes for these families,” Smith said. “As a community, we will all benefit.”

The Horry site enrolled its first mother in 2009 and has served 165 clients, welcomed 75 babies and conducted more than 1,675 home visits.

## Community Briefs

### NFP Recognized as Worthy Investment

NFP was recently highlighted in the Spring 2011 edition of Richard’s Report, a publication of the Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina. The report identified NFP in Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, and Dorchester counties as a sound investment, specifically for its work in the health sector.

The article explained the need for NFP in the Lowcountry and how the counties reach their goals to improve outcomes for families. Since the Charleston program started in August 2009, 150 mothers have been helped, 91 children have been born and 2,297 home visits have been made.

Richard's Report is a periodic review of programs and organizations worthy of charitable support by the foundation.

## Faces of NFP: Donna Hamilton, Colleton County First Steps Board Chair



*Donna Hamilton, Colleton County First Steps Board Chair.*

On February 15, leaders of Charleston/Berkeley/Dorchester NFP and Colleton County First Steps announced plans to expand services to first-time, low-income mothers in Colleton County through the addition of a fifth NFP nurse. This expansion was made possible through funding support from Colleton County First Steps.

Donna Hamilton, Colleton County First Steps Board Chair, was excited to see expansion in her county.

As a maternal care RN, she was aware of NFP on the national level. One day she hoped NFP could be brought to Colleton County, so

she was thrilled when NFP came to South Carolina in 2008 and began a program in the neighboring community of Charleston.

“Our first-time moms are starving for accurate information on everything from pregnancy to life planning skills,” said Hamilton. “NFP’s practice of regular in-home visits makes it a perfect fit for Colleton.

Transportation is a huge challenge here so it’s a benefit that NFP goes to the client’s home – no matter how rural or remote.”

Hamilton knows NFP has the potential to make a lasting impact on the community.

“NFP stands out among other home visitation programs because of the duration of contact with the client,” she said.

“It’s enough time to encourage lasting alterations in life style and decision making. The importance of the trustful relationships NFP nurses build with clients cannot be over emphasized.”

Moving forward, she hopes the expansion of Charleston’s NFP program into Colleton

will open the doors to more regional partnerships like NFP.

“I hope to continue to find support locally for NFP as we go forward. A lot of credit should go to our supportive board who believes NFP is an investment in our future. We are lucky to have such strong community-minded members.”

Hamilton would like to see NFP expand into more rural communities like Colleton.

“Despite best efforts OB providers, ERs, hospitals and government cannot always provide the services that many people, especially first time moms and young families, desperately need. I see NFP as the best possible solution to empowering young parents and building brighter futures for their families.”

She believes if we can sustain this service by finding ways to fund the program using both private and public resources, we will be able to see improved outcomes that directly change lives and strengthen our communities, state and nation.

## Community Briefs Continued...

### Lexington/Richland NFP Hosts First Client Outing

On May 21, Lexington/Richland NFP hosted its first family fun day at EdVenture Children's Museum. The event was the first for NFP clients enrolled in the program. NFP families, guests, children and staff joined in fun family activities, and spent the rest of the day in the museum.

About 60 people attended, including 25 clients and their families. Each family left with a book and a literacy calendar.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to work with low-income, first-time mothers and assist them in their goals of fostering healthy relationships, behaviors and environments for their families," said Billy Wiggins, RN, MSN, Lexington/Richland NFP nurse supervisor.



*Clients and their families visit with one another during the event.*

EdVenture is a family-focused destination designed to inspire the joy of learning. It offers 92,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor interactive exhibit space and in its educational outreach programs and after school programs.

### Dale Smith Earns Statewide Public Health Award



*Dale C. Smith, RN, MPH, MSN, Horry County nurse supervisor.*

Dale C. Smith, RN, MPH, MSN, nurse supervisor for Horry County NFP, was named the South Carolina Public Health Nurse of the Year. The South Carolina Public Health Association (SCPHA) presented her with the award at the its annual meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC on May 27.

"I have seen first-hand the great leadership Dale brings to the entire Horry County Nurse-Family Partnership team," said Margaret Mishoe, Horry County NFP site administrator. "Her passion for the program and what we're doing for local first-time mothers is evident in her daily work. The positive impact Nurse-Family Partnership is having on young mothers in Horry County would not be possible without her guidance and commitment."

*The Horry Independent* and *Myrtle Beach Sun-News* each published a news story covering Smith's accomplishment.

### Nursing Team at Anderson County Site Receives Breastfeeding Certification



*Anderson team with their certificates.*

The Anderson County NFP team of registered nurses recently earned certification to become Breastfeeding Advisors. Dr. Becky Campbell, the Regional Health Director, presented the team with its certificates. The team enrolled in the course through Rising Star Education and learned from a lactation consultant at Self Regional Hospital. With certification, the staff is capable of giving more in-depth information and guidance to the NFP mothers on breastfeeding. The certification term is for three years.

*(Continued on page 5)*

“Breastfeeding is important in the early development of a child. It is necessary that we as a staff can provide adequate knowledge to our clients,” said Alice Bagby, site supervisor.

Bagby and nurse home visitors Chianti Banks, Benita Kirkland, Catherine Jones and Wendy Wright received certification.

## In the News...

From *South Carolina Radio Network*

### **HHS chief praises program for new mothers in poverty**

August 9, 2011

DHHS Director Tony Keck voiced his support for NFP during an event for the Lexington/Richland site.

To read full story visit: <http://www.southcarolinaradionetwork.com/2011/08/09/program-serves-first-time-low-income-mothers/>

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From *The Myrtle Beach Sun-News*

### **Moms, nurses working together in area; Partnership aids low-income, new mothers**

July 7, 2011

The Sun-News ran an in-depth NFP article, following the progress of participant, Aracelis Vega and the program’s objectives and successes.

To read full story visit: <http://www.thesunnews.com/2011/07/07/2263864/moms-nurses-working-together.html#storylink=misearch>

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From *The State*

### **Letters to the Editor Published for NFP Mothers**

May 8, 2011

The nurse supervisor at Lexington/Richland NFP honored the achievement of mothers enrolled in the program through a Mother’s Day Tribute letter to the editor; which ran in *The State* in Columbia.

To read the full letter visit: [http://article.wn.com/view/2011/05/08/Sundays\\_Letters\\_to\\_the\\_Editor/](http://article.wn.com/view/2011/05/08/Sundays_Letters_to_the_Editor/)

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From *OBGYN Nurse Journal*

### **Program Profile: Nurse-Family Partnership**

April 2011

Horry County nurse supervisor Dale Smith submitted an article about NFP to the *OBGYN Nurse Journal*, a national nurse publication. It appeared on the journal’s front page and includes an overview of NFP, results and benefits to the community. [Click here](#) to read full story.



## SOUTH CAROLINA

Nurse-Family Partnership  
P.O. Box 11644  
Columbia, SC 29211

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

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.

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.