

## U.S. PROGRAMS

### Investing in Childhood: South Carolina

Save the Children invests in childhood – every day, in times of crisis and for our future. In the United States, our child experts work to ensure that our nation's most underserved children have the best chance for success. Every day, we help children get ready to learn and succeed in school and live healthy, active lives. We ensure children are protected when crisis strikes. And we advocate to ensure American children's voices are heard and their needs addressed, securing the future we share.

Save the Children has been implementing our evidence-based education and health programs in South Carolina since 2003. Thanks to the support of our generous donors, we currently partner with twelve schools in five counties to deliver these programs to 4,861 children in the state.

#### EVERY DAY

Save the Children's Early Steps to School Success program assists babies and young children with language, social and emotional development; equips parents with the skills and knowledge to successfully support their child's growth; and develops strong home-school connections. The program can begin when moms are pregnant and it follows infants and toddlers through age 5.

Through our Literacy program, we provide children in kindergarten through sixth grade with the opportunity to increase their reading achievement by supplying the tools they need to develop reading skills and the guidance and support they need to grow as readers.

And our Healthy Choices program increases children's access to regular physical activity and healthy snacks, as well as nutrition education to increase children's knowledge of healthy living. It also serves children in kindergarten through sixth grade.

In addition, Save the Children partners with the Corporation for National and Community Service to operate a Foster Grandparent Program in the Barnwell, Orangeburg, Lee and Clarendon counties. Our Foster Grandparent Program recruits low-income senior citizens from the local community and pairs them with elementary school children who are struggling readers.



**Results:** In 2014-2015 in South Carolina, 75 percent of 3-year-olds in our Early Steps to School Success program scored at or above the normal range for vocabulary acquisition. Children in our Literacy program read an average of 64 books during the school year, and more than 64 percent of participants showed significant reading improvement. On average, literacy improvement was equivalent to an additional 4.1 months of schooling.

Children in our Healthy Choices program participated in an average of 29 minutes of physical activity per day and were introduced to nutritious snack options.

#### IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Save the Children's Get Ready Get Safe initiative helps communities prepare to protect their kids before, during and after a disaster. We respond directly to disaster-affected communities, working to address unmet needs of children. We also support the child care community by providing recovery assistance, as well as emergency preparedness. In addition, we offer long-term resiliency support to children and caregivers through our emotional support program, Journey of Hope.

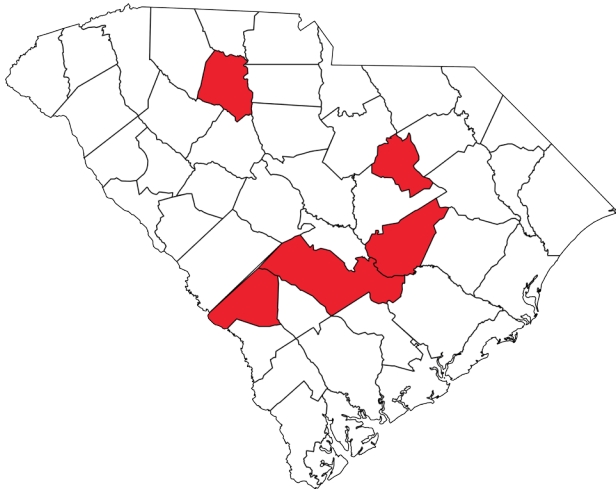
**Results:** Since 2005, we've helped more than 1,000,000 U.S. children in crisis through our emergency preparedness, response and recovery programs.

**By improving early learning opportunities, we help children enter school ready to succeed.**

Save the Children knows literacy is the foundation for success – in school and life.

## WHERE WE WORK

SITES	Children Served	Early Steps	Literacy	Healthy Choices
<b>BARNELL COUNTY</b>	1,718			
Barnwell Primary		•	•	
Barnwell Primary Darnell		•		
Kelly Edwards Elementary		•	•	•
Kelly Edwards Darnell		•		
Macedonia Elementary		•	•	•
<b>CLARENDON COUNTY</b>	482			
St. Paul Elementary		•	•	•
Summerton Early Childhood		•	•	•
<b>LEE COUNTY</b>	994			
Bishopville Primary		•	•	•
Lower Lee Elementary		•	•	•
West Lee Elementary		•	•	•
<b>ORANGEBURG COUNTY</b>	653			
Bethune-Bowman		•	•	•
Dover Elementary		•	•	•
<b>UNION COUNTY</b>	1,014			
Foster Park Elementary		•	•	•
Monarch Elementary		•	•	•



## FOR OUR FUTURE

We advocate for initiatives and legislation at the state and national levels that promote children's well-being and resiliency, including the necessity of quality early education programs, funding for underserved school districts, and child care emergency preparedness.

**Results:** Since 2010, Save the Children has achieved policy change in 37 states and the District of Columbia, benefitting 57,000,000 American children.

## SPONSORSHIP

Save the Children's Sponsorship program gives children living in poverty the opportunity for a brighter future. Monthly contributions by individual donors directly benefit a sponsored child's community, ensuring access to a quality education, healthy foods and opportunities to grow in a nurturing environment. Through regular written correspondence with their sponsored child, sponsors are able to personally witness the positive change they are making, not only in the life of a young girl or boy, but in the child's entire community.

**Results:** Currently, nearly 3,917 children in South Carolina benefit from Save the Children sponsorship. More than 2,507 sponsors support early childhood and school-age education and health programs in South Carolina.

## CHILD POVERTY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

- 27% of children live in poverty.<sup>1</sup>
- 57% of children are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals – a socioeconomic challenge recognized as a barrier to student achievement.<sup>2</sup>
- 66% of 3- and 4-year-olds from low-income families are not enrolled in pre-school/nursery school programs.<sup>3</sup>
- 72% of fourth graders scored below proficient in reading achievement on the National Assessment of Educational Progress.<sup>4</sup>
- 39% of children ages 10-17 are overweight or obese.<sup>5</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> 2013. Kids Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation.

<sup>2</sup> 2011-2012. National Center for Education Statistics.

<sup>3</sup> 2011-2013. Kids Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation.

<sup>4</sup> 2013. Kids Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation.

<sup>5</sup> 2011-2012. National Survey of Children's Health.