

HEALTHY INSIGHTS

from HEALTHY LEARNERS



Our Children. Our Future.

BOARD HOSTS COMMUNITY MEETING TO BUILD PROGRAM SUPPORT

Healthy Learners Georgetown is one of five programs serving 145 schools in 10 districts across South Carolina. The Georgetown program faces similar funding and service delivery challenges as the other four programs. To address these challenges and ensure sustainability of the program, the board of trustees and Friends of Healthy Learners Georgetown hosted an August community meeting with local residents, service providers and supporters. They shared with attendees the impact the program has had and continues to have in the area and across the state.

John Heydel, chair of the Healthy Learners Board of Trustees, opened the meeting saying, "Today is all about the health and well being of our children, our future."

Board treasurer Rich Williams discussed the need for the program in the Georgetown community to provide access to health care for school children. "We know that our program is mission driven, cost effective and does not duplicate the services offered by any other nonprofit organization," he said.

Tracey Flowers, parent of a Healthy Learners child, provided a testimonial about the importance of Healthy Learners to her family and expressed her appreciation for the program. She talked about the need for access to health care and how the coordination of services for her child has been essential because of her family's current circumstances.

The Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation, Tidelands Health, Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina, Georgetown County School District and others have been instrumental in the success of Healthy Learners in Georgetown through startup funding and ongoing support.

Healthy Children. Better Students. Thriving Communities.



Board members attending the community meeting included in the photo (top row, l to r) Jo Pauling-Jones, Rich Williams, James Gallieshaw, Lite Nartey, Taranda Frost; (bottom row, l to r) John Heydel, Sister Rosemarie Carfagna, OSU, Debbie Locklair, Peg Stover, Sister Nancy Hendershot, CSA. Board member Ed Menzie was in attendance, but is not pictured.

The executive director of the Tidelands Health Foundation, Jessica Sasser, shared why the foundation supports the Healthy Learners Georgetown program. "We see the value of the program and recognize the costs savings to the community when children have their health care needs met by utilizing the correct health care provider as opposed to the emergency room," she said. "The program is a benefit to the children it serves and the Georgetown Community as a whole." ♦

Support Healthy Learners

Your financial support helps remove children's health barriers to learning to ensure healthy children, better students and thriving communities.

Send your gift today. Donate online at healthylearners.com or call 803.454.0350 to donate by phone. **THANK YOU!**

Celebrating 10 Years and Thousands of Children Served in Allendale, Dillon and Greenwood

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A decade ago, Healthy Learners had one program serving the Midlands. Granted, this single program experienced tremendous growth in the number of schools and children served, but the goal of the organization was always to replicate the program and expand statewide. That goal became reality in 2005 when the Sisters of Charity Health System approved the expansion of Healthy Learners to serve Allendale, Dillon and Greenwood counties.

During the past 10 years, these three programs have collectively served more than 3,000 students and provided them with access to 21,055 health care services. Imagine that, so many beautiful, happy, smiling faces! This is the true impact of our ministry and mission—removing health barriers to learning with love and compassion for the children we serve. Their lives are changed and so are ours.

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Healthy Learners Allendale, Dillon and Greenwood programs, we recognize and honor the hard work and dedication of the staff members for these successful program sites, including Shelley Thomas, Gwen Walker, Dee Newell, Debbie Miller, Elaine Copeland and Alice Balentine. We also recognize the many volunteers, school nurses, community partners, donors and friends who have devoted their gifts and talents to making access to health care a reality for the children served.

And, we would not be celebrating 10 years without the financial support that made the expansion possible, which came from The Duke Endowment, BlueCross BlueShield Foundation of South Carolina, Self Regional Healthcare, Self Family Foundation and The Fullerton Foundation.

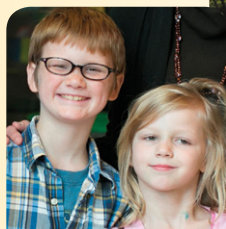
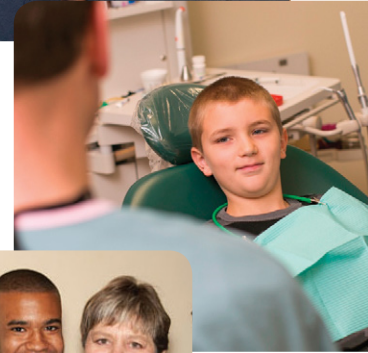
Thank you for your prayers and the support you give to Healthy Learners. You make it possible for us to address the unmet health care needs of children throughout South Carolina.

While we continue on our journey for “Healthy Children. Better Students. Thriving Communities,” we invite you to join us.

Blessings,

JO PAULING-JONES

Executive Director, Healthy Learners



Making a Difference

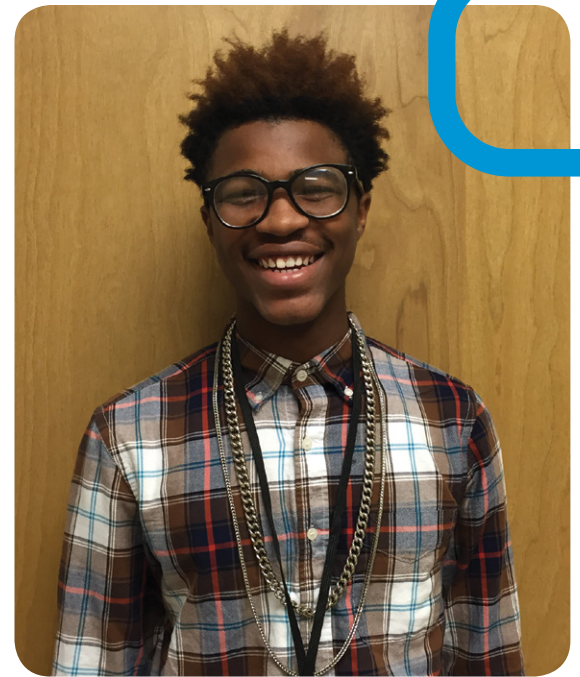
THE GIFT OF GLASSES

Tre L. had always had problems with impulse control, with little consideration of the consequences of his actions. In class in fourth grade, he was constantly getting in trouble for getting out of his seat without permission. His home situation didn't help matters either, with five children living with a single mother who was out of work.

Eventually, Tre's teacher referred him to the school nurse after disciplinary action did not help resolve class behaviors. He continually used the excuse that he needed to get up close to the board so he could see to copy notes. It turned out, that wasn't an excuse. When the school nurse screened Tre's vision, he failed with very poor visual acuity. **The school nurse referred Tre to Healthy Learners Greenwood for an eye exam.** He received a complete exam and was immediately prescribed eyeglasses. Healthy Learners is also working to ensure Tre has a primary care medical provider and dental provider.

The school nurse reports that Tre is now much less disruptive in class because he can stay in his seat to take notes and he has more confidence in himself because he can properly participate in class.

She said that he was thrilled to receive his new glasses. "I have worked with Healthy Learners for 10 years and have never seen a child get so excited about receiving a pair of eyeglasses. One major roadblock has been removed from his lack of impulse control in the classroom," she added. ♦



"I have worked with Healthy Learners for 10 years and have never seen a child get so excited about receiving a pair of eyeglasses. —Tre's school nurse

Behind the Scenes

Joanne Bamberg Jackson, project manager, and Todd Buehrig, director of development, are integral to ensuring short-term operations at Healthy Learners run smoothly and to ensuring the long-term success of the program across South Carolina.



Joanne Bamberg Jackson

Education: Bachelor's degree in organizational management from Clafin University; master's degree in organizational change and leadership from Columbia College; certification in Interior decorating.

Duties: Oversees a variety of projects related to the mission of the organization. Duties include the planning and coordination of special projects and events, management of administrative tasks and responsibilities, staffing and supporting the board's public relations and marketing committee, assisting the executive director, and implementing marketing and social media initiatives.

Hobbies/Interests: Interior decorating

Other: Joanne is married to Walter Jackson and together they have three children and three grandchildren. She serves as secretary of the budget committee at her church and she enjoys greeting and assisting others while serving in the church's ushers ministry.

Todd Buehrig

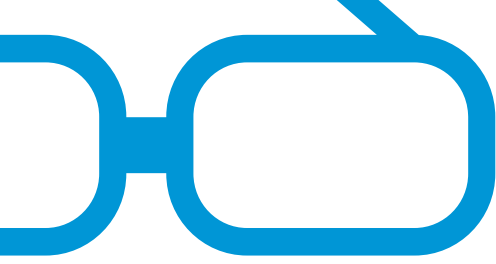
Education: Bachelor's degree from Francis Marion University; master's degree in public administration from the University of South Carolina.

Duties: Develop and maintain strong relationships with donors, perspective donors, board members, volunteers and all representatives and supporters of Healthy Learners. Manages the day-to-day fund development operations for the ministry and works toward increasing contributed revenue from individuals, businesses, grants and events so all the Healthy Learners programs can thrive and grow.

Hobbies/Interests: Tennis, huge movie buff, reading science fiction and traveling.

Fun Facts: Todd is a twin and has skydived more than a dozen times. His worst fear...cockroaches.





Partner Profile

DILLON EYECARE ASSOCIATES



Optometrist McKethan Gaddy, O.D., with Dillon Eyecare Associates wanted to help children in the Dillon, South Carolina, area who had eye

problems. When Healthy Learners expanded to Dillon in 2005 and was searching for partners, Dr. Gaddy was a perfect fit. He has been an optometry partner with Healthy Learners Dillon from the beginning, examining and treating more than 1,000 children over the past 10 years.

Of the many children Dr. Gaddy has treated, one young girl really stands out. She was diagnosed with glaucoma in the second grade. She was at risk of going blind without proper treatment. The condition and high pressure in her eyes also made it difficult for her to see her schoolwork and led to frequent headaches. Her family was not supportive in her treatment, which meant she did not receive medication unless she was at school.

“After many years of continued monitoring and education, the student is now in the 10th grade and able to use eye drops and other meds as directed daily. Her eye pressures are lower than ever,” said Dr. Gaddy. The result: her grades have improved, she has her driver’s permit and is visibly more confident.

Dr. Gaddy said he is proud to be a partner with Healthy Learners because of the results he sees and because of how important it is to provide children with necessary health care.

“I notice a tremendous impact in students’ self-esteem and their grades in school,” said Dr. Gaddy. “We’re also there on the frontline to provide early diagnosis of glaucoma and other conditions that can lead to severe eye problems and even blindness.” ♦

Healthy Learners Program Updates

Five Healthy Learners programs serve 145 schools in 10 school districts across South Carolina. Following are brief updates from these programs.

ALLENDALE Healthy Learners is celebrating 10 years of serving the school children of Allendale County. The program continues to build relationships with program partners and providers, and seeks opportunities to build relationships with new ones. Shelley Thomas, program manager, and Gwen Walker, student services coordinator, are excited to celebrate this milestone and look forward to continuing the program for many more years.

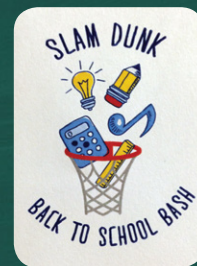
DILLON Dee Newell, program manager, is pleased to report that Healthy Learners Dillon is back to being a full-time operation as a result of contractual Medicaid reimbursement funding from the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS), just in time to celebrate its 10th anniversary.



GEORGETOWN Healthy Learners Georgetown participated in a training program earlier this year for local pediatricians and family practice physicians about development and behavior in early childhood. Program Manager Rebecca Lammonds served on a discussion panel at the training. “The program was a wonderful opportunity to increase awareness about Healthy Learners among Georgetown physicians, which we hope will lead to identifying more children in need of our services,” said Lammonds. Lammonds is also co-chair of one of the event sponsors, the Health Care Collaborative for Children

and Youth (HCCCY). Pictured are Carolyn Ellis, Rebecca Lammonds, Dr. Stacy Cobb, Karen van Bakergem, Dr. Sheryn Waterman and Sally Garr Brodhead.

GREENWOOD Greenwood is the third program celebrating its 10-year anniversary and continues to have an active Friends of Healthy Learners group. The group recently held its inaugural adult spelling bee to raise money for the Greenwood program.



COURTESY JUNIOR LEAGUE OF COLUMBIA

MIDLANDS The Healthy Learners Midlands program was one of several sponsors of the Slam Dunk Back to School Bash in August, which benefited nearly 300

children from three Columbia elementary schools. The children received backpacks filled with school supplies and books, vision and dental screenings, and fittings for a free pair of sneakers. Healthy Learners Midlands will work with local school nurses to facilitate follow-up care for children identified with vision or dental needs.



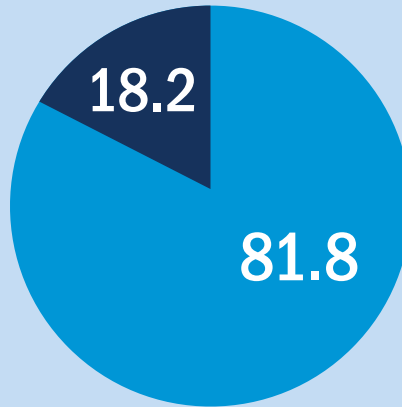
COURTESY JUNIOR LEAGUE OF COLUMBIA

By the Numbers Report Card 2014-2015



4,671

The number of vision, dental, medication and other health-related services provided.



Keeping Administrative Costs Low

81.8% Program
18.2% Administrative

Actual Program Costs
\$833,198*

*2014-2015 school year (less in-kind services)



99%

of Healthy Learners school nurses rate the program's service quality as Excellent. 1% rate it as good.

145 schools served statewide at **10** school districts in **5** program areas.



Healthy Learners

RETURNS \$6.52

FOR EVERY \$1 INVESTED

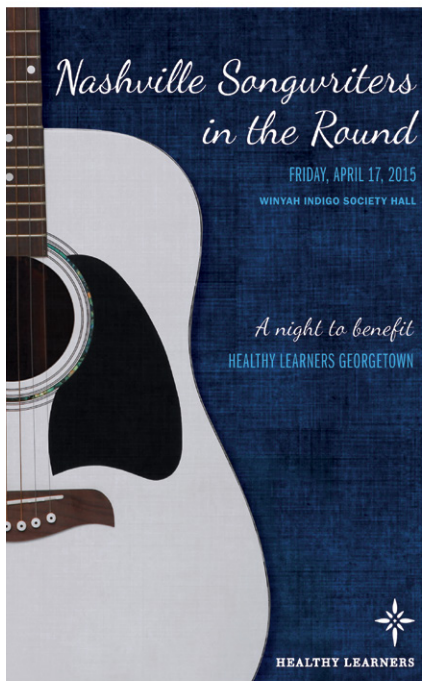
WHICH EQUATES TO A TOTAL POTENTIAL SAVINGS OF MORE

THAN **\$5.4 MILLION.**

Compared to 14% of their peers at comparison sites, 30% of school nurses in HL sites were more likely to report:



"A lot fewer of my students have unmet medical needs now than when school began."



NEWS BRIEFS AND NOTES

Songwriters in the Round Brings Nashville to Georgetown

The annual Nashville Songwriters in the Round fundraising event in the spring continued to hit all the right notes, selling out tickets and raising \$56,900 to benefit Healthy Learners Georgetown. The event, independently organized by Phillip and Rebecca Lammonds, featured Nashville songwriters who shared their songs and the stories behind them in an intimate setting. Thank you, Phillip and Rebecca, and everyone else who helped make the event a success, including board members Matt Shaffer and Teri Stomski and her family who sponsored the event. "This was the most successful and well attended concert yet, and people I spoke to shared appreciation and satisfaction with Healthy Learners Georgetown, the event and our wonderful mission," said Executive Director Jo Pauling-Jones.

Champions for Children Golf Tournament a Big Hit

The 16th Annual Healthy Learners Champions for Children Golf Tournament in Memory of George Younginer teed off October 21 at the Fort Jackson Golf Club in Columbia, South Carolina. Despite the flooding and torrential rains in early October, the golf course was open and the weather was perfect for a day of golf, food, entertainment, contests and prizes, raising more than \$108,000 in much-needed funds to support the mission of Healthy Learners. Thank you to Colonial Life for being the event's premier exclusive sponsor for the third consecutive year, and to co-chairs, Rick Henry, WIS TV sports director and Matt Younginer, national account manager, Husqvarna and Healthy Learners Fund Development Committee member. Congratulations to Jim and Anne Hart. Because of their volunteer time, financial support and commitment to the program, they were recognized as the 2015 Healthy Learners Champion for Children award recipients.



(left to right) Board Chair John Heydel, Executive Director Jo Pauling-Jones and Healthy Learners Champion for Children award recipients Anne and Jim Hart

First-place winners— *On Wildcat:* Lizards Thicket team—Bobby Williams, Mark Williams, Robert Williams, Matthew Williams; *On Old Hickory:* Chad Farmer, Kyle Cassidy, Todd Sweat, Rob Butler

Online Giving Event Raises Funds and Awareness

Healthy Learners participated in the second annual Midlands Gives fundraising event, a 24-hour online giving challenge presented by the Central Carolina Community Foundation. The event raised \$8,675 for Healthy Learners. The online challenge happens again Tuesday, May 3, 2016.

Speakers Bureau Available

Healthy Learners now has a formal speakers bureau with staff and volunteers available to speak to community, corporate and church groups, and professional and other organizations about the work of Healthy Learners, and inspire people to get involved. The speakers bureau is a free service that was developed to increase awareness and support for Healthy Learners. Contact Joanne Bamberg Jackson at joanne.jackson@healthylearners.com or call 803.454.0350 ext. 1 for more information and to check for speaker availability.

BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Employees Support Healthy Learners

Thank you to BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina and its many employees who continue to support Healthy Learners. BlueCross BlueShield chose Healthy Learners as its July nonprofit organization of the month. Employees raised more than \$10,000 by purchasing \$5 "jeans day" tickets and through an adult spelling bee hosted by WIS-TV anchors Judi Gatson and Rick Henry with more than 300 employees participating.

MISSION :: In the spirit of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, Healthy Learners is devoted to removing children's health barriers to learning with love and compassion.

SERVICES :: Healthy Learners services include assistance with the Medicaid application process, assistance with referrals for clinical counseling, coordination of health care, dental care, hearing evaluations and care, medications, transportation to appointments, treatment for medical needs, and vision care.

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healthylearners.com



HEALTHY LEARNERS

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