

HEALTHY INSIGHTS

from HEALTHY LEARNERS



Making a Difference

SHARING A COUPLE OF OUR MANY SUCCESS STORIES

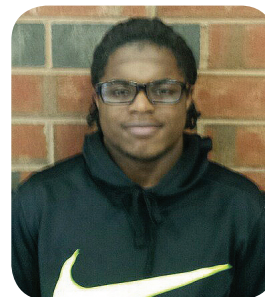
Dillon: A Child with Special Needs Gets the Glasses He Needs

Jeremy* was a 13-year old middle school student when he was referred to Healthy Learners because of difficulty seeing. Jeremy had a few mental and physical challenges, including autism. He was nervous for his optometrist appointment, but was able to perform a preliminary test, which revealed he needed glasses. He became more nervous when the doctor tried to examine him and he was unable to complete the exam. The Healthy Learners staff members who took him to the appointment were able to have him select a pair of glasses and then try the exam again—with the same result. Returning to school, they spoke to the school nurse and his teacher. They were both concerned and understood that Jeremy really needed glasses. They scheduled another appointment and had a

familiar face, his teacher, also there. With her encouragement, the doctor was able to complete the exam. Healthy Learners ordered the glasses he had picked out and delivered them to him at school, gently placing them on his head. His teacher observed how to place his glasses on so they could help him in the future. With his vision greatly improved, he was excited and thrilled to show off his new glasses.

Georgetown: A Trip to the Dentist and a Vision Exam Change a Student's Life

High school student Kevin* was suffering from toothaches. His family did not have dental insurance, so the school nurse referred him to Healthy Learners. Healthy Learners scheduled an emergency dental appointment, which revealed that he needed 11 fillings and two tooth extractions. Healthy Learners also helped Kevin's dad apply for Medicaid. After



obtaining Medicaid, all of Kevin's dental needs were addressed. During a health and

wellness visit with his local health care provider, Kevin failed a vision screening, so he was again referred to Healthy Learners by his school nurse. This time, Healthy Learners scheduled an appointment with a local vision care provider and transported him as well, where he received a pair of glasses. Kevin recently went for his annual six-month dental check-up and is cavity free. Kevin's dad and school nurse report that his self-esteem has improved greatly and he smiles more after receiving proper dental care. According to Kevin, he has even more reason to smile as his grades have improved dramatically thanks to his new glasses. ♦

**Names have been changed.*

Support Children Like Jeremy & Kevin

Your financial support helps remove children's health barriers to learning to ensure healthy children, better students and thriving communities. Donate online at healthylearners.com or call 803.454.0350 to donate by phone. **Healthy Children. Better Students. Thriving Communities. THANK YOU!**

SEND
A GIFT
TODAY



The year 2018 has been one of self-analysis and change for Healthy Learners as we strive to serve more children than ever before. We continue to serve as many children as we can. During the 2017-2018 school year, we served 1,594 children by providing 5,410 services.

From a fundraising and friend raising perspective, there were many successes, including our Songwriters in the Round event in Georgetown and the spelling bee in Greenwood, and our golf tournament continues to be our largest event.

In the future, we plan to add more services to better support the children we serve and to reach into new areas to support children that have not yet been part of the Healthy Learners program. We will pursue opportunities around telehealth next year, which will bring important technology to our programs around the state.

This has been a year of change that included an organizational assessment and the resignation of our long-time executive director Jo Pauling-Jones. We are all grateful to Jo for her many years of service to the Sisters of Charity Health System and her dedicated leadership at Healthy Learners. She made a significant impact on the lives of others and leaves behind a legacy of dedication and commitment to the mission.

But, the future is bright and we are energized by the possibility of building a new service delivery model for Healthy Learners in 2019. Look for more details soon about these exciting changes at Healthy Learners. Ultimately, our goal is the same: to serve more children and ensure that each child returns to the classroom healthier and more productive.

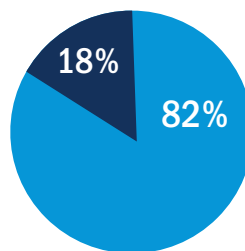
Here is wishing you a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy 2019. Thank you for all that you do to continue to support the mission of Healthy Learners throughout the year. ♦

By the Numbers

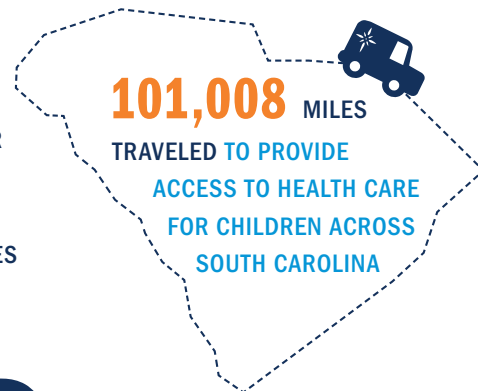
The numbers add up to a huge impact by Healthy Learners during the 2017-2018 school year:



5,410 IS THE NUMBER OF VISION, DENTAL, MEDICATION AND OTHER HEALTH RELATED SERVICES PROVIDED TO **1,594** CHILDREN



LOW ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS
82% PROGRAMS
18% ADMINISTRATIVE



150 SCHOOLS SERVED STATEWIDE IN **12** SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN **5** PROGRAM AREAS



Healthy children are better students, AND, parents who know their children are cared for are more productive employees.

SPECIAL IRA GIVING OPPORTUNITY COULD PROVIDE YOU WITH TAX BENEFITS

A popular IRS provision allows those age 70½ or older to make charitable gifts directly from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to qualified charities completely free of federal income tax (in any amount up to \$100,000 per person per year). The income laws of most states allow tax-free treatment as well. Making gifts from IRA funds that would otherwise lead to increased taxes can be a wise choice for most taxpayers. This is especially true for those who must take required minimum distributions each year.

Check with us, your IRA administrator or tax advisor for more information in order to complete your charitable IRA distribution in a timely fashion. *Contact: Marge Rath, director of development, Healthy Learners at 803.454.0350, extension 4 or email at mrath@healthylearners.com.*

Program Updates

Five programs serve 150 schools across South Carolina. Following are brief updates from these programs.

ALLEDALE – Healthy Learners Allendale has been serving children in Allendale County Schools for 13 years! The program continues to seek out new partnerships and support to enhance its ability to meet the unmet health needs of all students. The highest service used this school year has been medication assistance with episodic needs second. Program Manager Shelley Thomas said the program is fortunate to “work with a group of nurses, teachers and administrators who sincerely care about the children and are not hesitant to find a way to get them the help they need.”

DILLON – Healthy Learners Dillon continues to serve students in Dillon District Three and Four. The top services provided are vision, medication and counseling, with dental services growing because of poor dental health. Through a partnership with Smiles for a Lifetime, the program transports students from Latta (Dillon 3) and Lake View (Dillon 4) to the Smiles for a Lifetime dental clinic located on the Dillon High School campus. One objective for school year 2018-19 is to focus on the dental needs of kindergarten and 4-year-old kindergarten students in Latta and Lake View, which is happening by working closely with the schools to provide access to dental care and transportation to appointments.

GEORGETOWN – The Georgetown program hosted another successful Songwriters in the Round fundraiser event (*pictured below*) in April, with attendees treated to performances by talented Nashville singer songwriters in an intimate setting. In January, Healthy Learners Georgetown will be celebrating 10 years of serving the children of Georgetown County. The program continues to seek ways to serve the children in the community by partnering with other organizations and participating in the Health Care Collaborative for Children and Youth (HCCCY). This school year, the program began a new partnership with school nurses in the Georgetown County School District to assist with student health screenings.

GREENWOOD – Healthy Learners Greenwood is experiencing growth in all three school districts (50, 51 and 52), with the number of students referred this school year 46 percent higher than last school year for the same time period.



MIDLANDS – Healthy Learners welcomed Naomi Washington as the new Midlands program manager in August. Washington came to Healthy Learners with more than 10 years of experience in the field of social work, and a lifelong passion for service to enhance the lives of those in her community. She previously was human services program coordinator in the areas of investigations, foster care and foster care licensing for the South Carolina Department of Social Services. Washington also has non-profit experience working with Communities in Schools of the Midlands and Girl Scouts-Mountains to Midlands. Washington, a native of Blackville, South Carolina, has a bachelor's degree in social work from Columbia College and a master's degree in human services from Liberty University.

Partner Profile

GEORGETOWN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



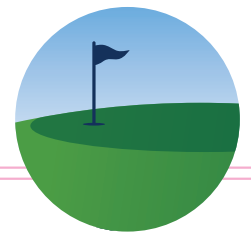
School nurses are priceless partners in fulfilling the mission of Healthy Learners. They are the people who most often identify children who need healthcare services and lack the resources to obtain

those valuable services. Healthy Learners Georgetown is fortunate to have Laura Tucker, lead school nurse at Georgetown County School District (GCSD), as a partner and advocate. Laura became a GCSD school nurse in 2004 and has served as lead school nurse since 2009, overseeing nursing at nearly 20 schools in the district. She has served on both the Healthy Learners Board of Trustees and Friends of Healthy Learners Georgetown.

Under her leadership, school nurses in GCSD are trained and encouraged to identify children in need and without resources and refer them to Healthy Learners for services. She and program manager, Aixa Rodriguez-Mariani, communicate and update each other frequently to continue improving services to the children of Georgetown County.

“I was a school nurse before Healthy Learners came to Georgetown. I remember what it was like having so many children with needs that we were unable to meet,” said Tucker. “After having Healthy Learners all these years, it is hard to imagine (and I don’t want to think about) not having such a valuable partner in meeting the numerous health care needs of our students.”

Healthy Learners thanks Tucker and all the GCSD school nurses of Georgetown County Schools, as well as school nurses across South Carolina, for their partnership and commitment to meeting the health care needs of so many children in the state. ♦



NEWS BRIEFS AND NOTES



Golf tournament co-chair Dawndy Mercer Plank with two Healthy Learners students



M. John Heydel receives Champion for Children award



Pictured is one of 61 teams who competed in the spelling bee

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.

Champions for Children Golf Tournament Stands atop the Podium

The 19th annual Healthy Learners Champions for Children Golf Tournament in Memory of George Younginer October 24 at the Fort Jackson Golf Club in Columbia scored another big win in raising much-needed funds to support the mission of Healthy Learners. Longtime supporter and golf outing participant Scott O'Neal said, "As always, I was honored to be part of the golf outing. It is a humbling experience to acknowledge the help that Healthy Learners provides to those in need." Special thanks to Aflac for being the event's premier exclusive sponsor. And, thank you to the many sponsors and volunteers who made the event a success, including co-chairs Dawndy Mercer Plank, WIS-TV anchor and Matt Younginer, national account manager, Husqvarna and Healthy Learners Fund Development Committee member.

M. John Heydel Honored with 2018 Champion for Children Award

M. John Heydel was awarded the 2018 Healthy Learners Champion for Children Award at the golf tournament. The award honors an individual who has served as an advocate for children and brought attention to the needs of underserved children in the community. Heydel was one of the visionaries behind the establishment of Healthy Learners in 1992 and has demonstrated his long-term commitment to increasing access to healthcare for children by continuing to be involved for more than 25 years.

Spelling Bee Raises Thousands for Healthy Learners Greenwood

More than 200 spellers showed off their spelling skills at the fourth annual Greenwood Friends of Healthy Learners Adult Spelling Bee held in September, raising more than \$40,000 for Healthy Learners Greenwood. By the time the final word, "suffrutescent," was reached, three of 61 teams remained: Ware Shoals District 51, First Baptist Church and representatives from the Links at Stoney Point's Bermuda's Restaurant. The Ware Shoals educators missed just three of 42 words, which earned them first place and bragging rights for a year. The spelling bee has steadily grown since it began in 2015, when there were 36 teams. Becky McIntosh, fund development coordinator, attributes the success to a number of factors. "Anyone can participate as part of a team of four and it is education oriented, which fits with Healthy Learners. We have a strong group of volunteers who ensure the event is well organized and moves quickly. Most importantly, it's just plain fun," she added.



Joanne Bamberg Jackson

Congratulations Joanne Bamberg Jackson on 10 Years!

Healthy Learners recently recognized **Joanne Bamberg Jackson**, project manager at the statewide office, for 10 years of service.

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