



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

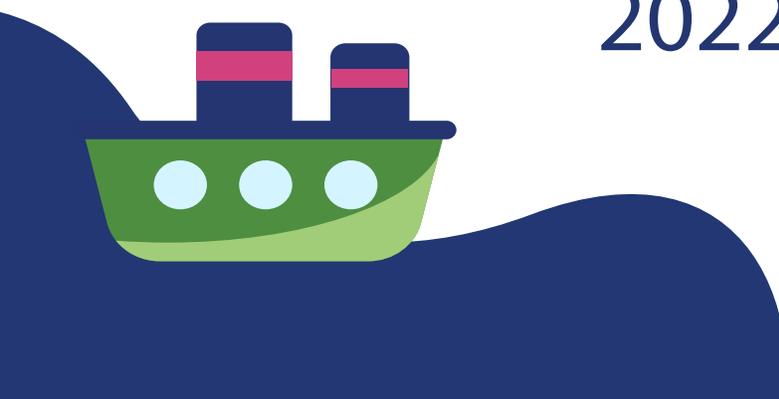


Going further for children. Celebrating the legacy of 30 impactful years.



HEALTHY LEARNERS

A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System





A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Going further for Children only happens together – together with our families, students, donors, volunteers, advocates, health care providers, school nurses and principals, district superintendents, community shakers, and every person who is passionate about transforming the future for one more child in need in our neighborhoods.

Our goal this year is to go further for children, together with you, in proactively identifying more health barriers to learning, being there for families by providing consistent and meticulous care ensuring their child's needs are addressed and becoming a trusted and valued neighborhood partner in the communities we serve. Together, we can show the world what a community looks like where every child, no matter their socio-economic status, has the opportunity to soar in their learning and life, healthy and thriving.



- AMY SPLITTGERBER





“Getting more services to more kids in need, particularly where we can be proactive, will have a substantial, long-term impact on many precious lives and will benefit everyone as it strengthens our state’s human resources and talent.”

- JOHN GARRISON, BOARD CHAIR

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

We are on a mission to transform the futures of children in poverty in South Carolina. We support the research that shows that education is the key for children to go further in life, empowering them to obtain higher-wage jobs, make positive life choices, and learn to invest in their future communities to make them stronger, healthier, and vibrant. For many children in poverty, their educational success is at risk because of fixable health care challenges that have not been addressed – known as health barriers to learning. Healthy Learners was created to address these challenges head on, serving as the catalyst to ensure every child receives the health care they need to thrive in school.

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.

VISION

Our vision is that all children are healthy and able to reach their full potential.



PROACTIVE IMPACT

2022 was a monumental year for Healthy Learners. By fully implementing our proactive approach of service delivery, we were able to screen more than **20,000 students** statewide for health barriers to learning, resulting in a **25% increase** of unique children served and **42% increase** in number of services provided!



REACHING THE UNDERSERVED

Through outreach and health screening, Healthy Learners uncovered an incredible developing need – emergency dental and vision care for uninsured Hispanic children. In an effort to serve this vulnerable population, Healthy Learners has developed an intentional model of care. We distribute Spanish marketing materials, employ Spanish-speaking care coordinators, and fund children’s emergency medical needs. Healthy Learners served 445 uninsured Hispanic children statewide, spending \$182,340 for their medical fees in 2022.

12,629  20,148
services health   
 2,362 screenings
students  86,216
miles traveled

ANSWERING THE CALL

In the fall of 2022, Healthy Learners answered the call to expand its services to Williamsburg and Newberry Counties. Through extensive demographic research and mapping of healthcare resources, we found these counties to mirror the needs and challenges Healthy Learners has sought to resolve in similar sized communities. Through newly forged partnerships, Healthy Learners has a goal of tripling our impact in these new counties in 2023.



Addressing “Hidden” Barriers to Learning

The mental health crisis among children in the United States has reached an unprecedented level. The National Institute of Mental Health reported that 1 in 5 children in the United States had a diagnosable mental health disorder. Mental health impacts a child’s education in a variety of ways, including attention and concentration, memory, social ability, behavior, and school attendance.

In 2022, Healthy Learners partnered with Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina Foundation, to launch a multi-year initiative to support our children struggling with this “hidden” health barrier to learning, with a particular focus in Georgetown County.

“HEALTHY LEARNERS RECOGNIZES THERE IS NO HEALTH WITHOUT MENTAL HEALTH. IT IS SO ENCOURAGING TO SEE COMMUNITIES BEGINNING TO PRIORITIZE THIS CONVERSATION AND JOIN IN THE EFFORT TO SUPPORT YOUTH MENTAL WELLBEING. “

- AIXA RODRIGUEZ-MARIANI,
MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES MANAGER

EDUCATION

From digital awareness and email campaigns, distributing materials for school district staff, to participating at local events and conferences, Healthy Learners reached over 10,000 people with information on the impact of mental health on children’s education to normalize the conversation around the topic.

COLLABORATION

Healthy Learners in partnership with Optimism Preventive Services conducted South Carolina’s first ever Teen Mental Health First Aid course. Only through collaboration can a community provide support to educate, train and commit to addressing the youth mental health crisis.

Partners:

- Georgetown County School District
- Teach My People
- Helping Hands of Georgetown County
- Optimism Preventive Services
- Black River United Way

TRAINING

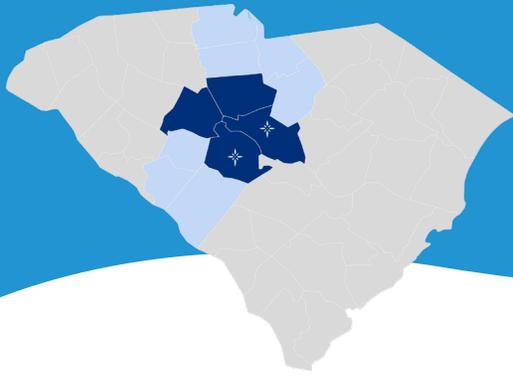
Lastly, while education and collaboration are key, we know multiplying passionate and educated advocates to transform our communities has to be paramount. Healthy Learners conducted seven Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings, equipping 52 adults and 10 teenagers on how to identify signs of depression, as well as how to engage, refer, and walk alongside students who are struggling.



Mental Health FIRST AID®

from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING®





MIDLANDS

UNPRECEDENTED NEED MET

Through deeper partnerships with our local school districts and community advocates, our Midlands team was able to identify and meet an unprecedented level of need for students in the Midlands. With every back-to-school bash, untraditional community health screening or local event, our referrals grew for children and families in need, who have no real options for getting their child’s concerns addressed.

This increase of identified need led our Midlands team to multiply their efforts through purchasing more student transport vehicles, hiring additional staff members to meet the demand, and also increasing the number of Spanish speaking staff members to better communicate with our growing community of Hispanic families in need.

IN 2022, OUR TEAM HELPED 30% MORE UNIQUE CHILDREN THAN 2021, PROVIDING 58% MORE SERVICES.

“I have enjoyed working with the schools, providers, parents, and our wonderful team to coordinate services for students. It warms my heart to listen to them share how thankful they are for Healthy Learners and the services we provide.”
**KIMBERLY ISAAC HOUSE,
MIDLANDS COMMUNITY MANAGER**

“Healthy Learners es una excelente institución. Estoy solo y tengo recursos económicos limitados. Han ayudado mucho a mi hijo y estoy muy agradecida por los servicios. (Healthy Learners is an excellent institution. I am on my own and have limited economic resources. They have helped my son a lot and I am very grateful for the services.)”

- Parent, Midlands

4,270 services **10,403** health screenings
1,031 students **21,744** miles traveled

SONGWriters IN THE ROUND - MIDLANDS

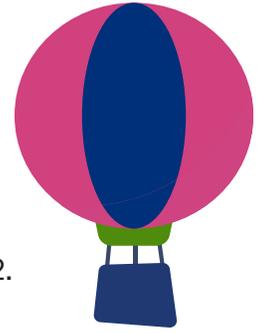
The Midlands hosted another successful Songwriters in the Round fundraiser event in October 2022. We enjoyed a great night of food, drinks and music performed by songwriters who have created music for chart topping artists, as well as their own individual success. This unique, intimate, and music filled fundraiser directly supports striving learners living in poverty across the Midlands. We are looking forward to hosting this impactful event again on October 20, 2023. Mark your calendars!



UPSTATE

SUSTAINABILITY & START UPS

Our Upstate team saw both sustained growth in our traditional service area of Greenwood County, as well as excellent strides made to serve our community in Laurens County in 2022.



Our efforts in Greenwood 50 were exceptional, addressing the needs of 305 students with 2,500 services, making it Healthy Learners' third highest served district in the state. We were also able to continue our work in Greenwood 51 and 52.

Our expansion in Laurens continued to build steam. In partnership with Laurens County School District 55, we successfully screened 2,343 students for health barriers to learning. We also dedicated one AmeriCorps member to directly serve Laurens County, further engaging the community, building trust and awareness, and most importantly, resolving the health care challenges our children face.

“Your staff goes above and beyond in accommodating the needs of our students (and me) when it comes to new referrals, questions, or concerns. We love Healthy Learners and the services you provide to meet the needs of our students!”

School Nurse, Greenwood 51

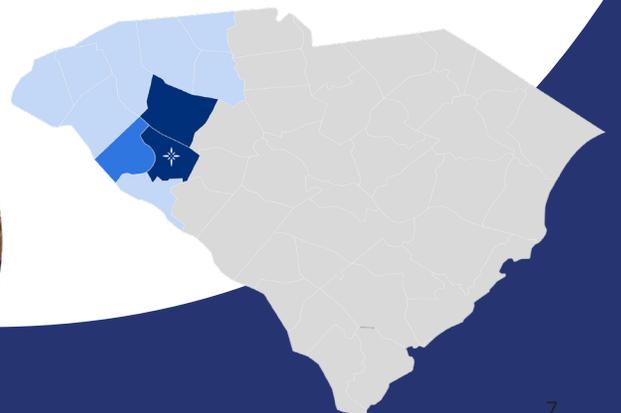
2,704 services **4,749** health screenings
336 students **15,221** miles traveled

“Healthy Learners Upstate ended 2022 on a high! We have a great team that was able to meet the health needs of many students in need in our community. However, there are still many more students who need our help. We are excited about 2023 and are looking forward to all the exciting work that we will be a part of in our schools and community.”

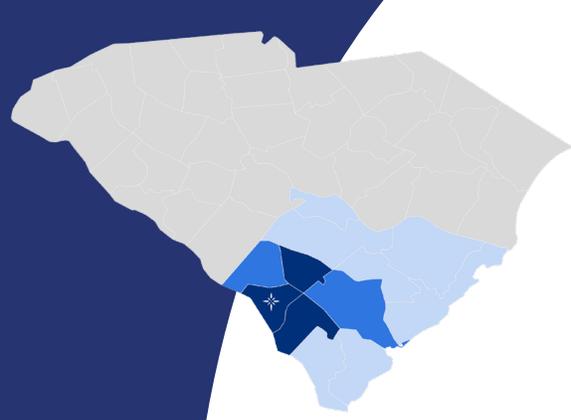
**AIMEE CLARK,
UPSTATE COMMUNITY
MANAGER**

A BUZZING TIME AT THE SPELLING BEE

Who knew spelling could be so exciting? In 2022, we held two exciting spelling bees, virtual and in person. Healthy Learners Greenwood is blessed to host dozens of amazing spellers, who happily give their time and talents to help make our Spelling Bee Fundraiser a success. The community of Greenwood has responded enthusiastically to this event which has a tremendous impact on the level of participation, allowing us to serve more children in need in Greenwood County and beyond.



LOW COUNTRY



PARTNERS IN GROWTH

Healthy Learners has been supporting Allendale County since 2005, and serves as a beautiful model of what a community can accomplish in collaboration with others.

In 2022, dental needs comprised an average of 46% of the barriers students faced with their health statewide – except in the Low Country. It only comprised 10%, because of a dynamic partnership with Smiles For A Lifetime dental clinic, a mission of Welvista.

Our longstanding partnership in the region allowed us to collaborate and refer dental needs to the experts at Smiles For A Lifetime, allowing our efforts to be focused on meeting the needs of children struggling with their vision, which comprised 54% of the Low Country's services in 2022. We continued to multiply our efforts partnering with the Aiken Lions Club, supporting Healthy Learners staff in screening 3,176 students.



“I’ve always wanted Healthy Learners in our school district. I am just happy we have them.”

- School Nurse, Hampton County

1,996  **3,176**
services **health**   
418 **screenings**
 **students**  **20,436**
miles traveled

CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY

Our staff enjoyed lots of fun events in the Low Country in 2022, such as Back to School Bashes, open houses and participation in Hispanic Heritage Week. Our own Low Country AmeriCorps member, Mason Farmer, dressed up as Diego at Allendale- Fairfax Elementary School during their Hispanic Heritage program! The team is looking forward to participating in more fun activities in 2023 and serving even more students.

“Every day brings happiness to my heart to know that our children in both Allendale and Hampton Counties are being helped to become better in the classroom. I am very grateful for the team of dedicated co-workers that I have. We are all working together to make our mission to remove barriers to learning a success.”

**SHELLEY THOMAS,
LOW COUNTRY
COMMUNITY MANAGER**

PEEDEE



MAKING STRIDES NEAR AND FAR

In 2022, to better align service areas with SC state agency geographic regions, Healthy Learners made the decision to combine the Georgetown and Dillon county service areas into one PeeDee region. Our dedicated team has made excellent strides in both meeting the needs of students in our traditional service area, while also establishing new strategic relationships in neighboring counties where access to medical care is a great need for children struggling to learn.



We saw our greatest number of children served in the Georgetown County School District. We were able to identify 233 unique low-income students in need, 83% self-identifying as people of color, and collectively provided them with 1,451 medical and care coordination services. Additionally, Healthy Learners was able to screen 518 students in out-of-school time settings for health barriers to learning.

While our work in Marion county gained momentum, in the Fall of 2022 we were also able to begin caring for children in Williamsburg County. Relationships in Marion and Williamsburg Counties have led to 1,268 health screenings with 87 children served.

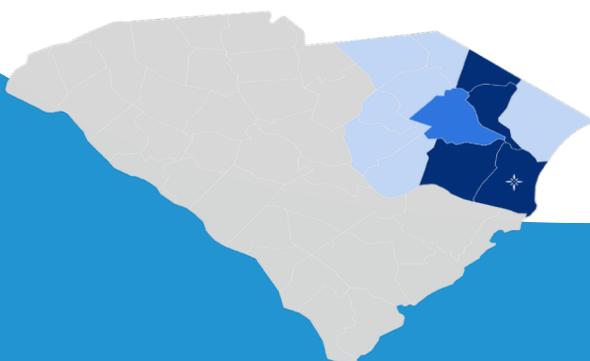
“My son is improving in his schoolwork after being served by Healthy Learners.”

- Parent, PeeDee

3,659 services **1,820** health screenings
577 students **28,814** miles traveled

SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND - PAWLEYS ISLAND

The PeeDee hosted another successful Songwriters in the Round event in Pawleys Island in 2022. This event is a favorite among the local community and raises thousands of dollars to serve students in poverty in Georgetown County. This great night of food, drinks and music returns to Pawleys Island on October 21, 2023. We hope to see you there.



“I’m excited to see the continued growth in our new schools and communities. There are so many great opportunities that are unique to each school and county. I look forward to working with them to help identify children and families that we can provide services for.”

**DEE NEWELL,
PEEDEE COMMUNITY
MANAGER**

2022 FINANCIALS

SCHS
\$105,205

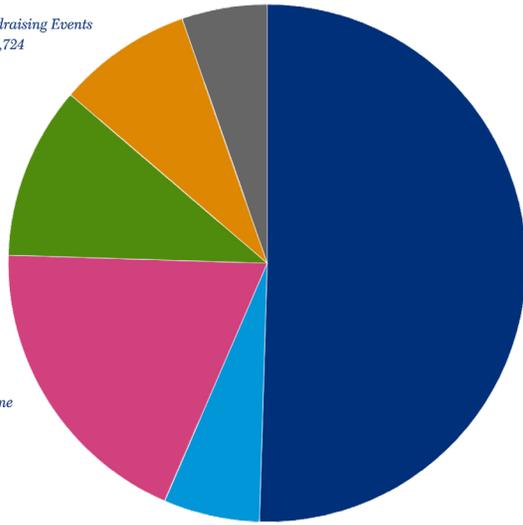
Fundraising Events
\$165,724

In kind/Medical
Service/other
\$212,660

Investment Income
\$375,350

Contributions/Annual Fund
\$118,360

REVENUE



EXPENSES

Depreciation/Education/Other
\$138,636

Grants
\$996,283

Student Transport
\$106,731

In kind Medical Fees
\$212,660

Medical Fees
\$244,390

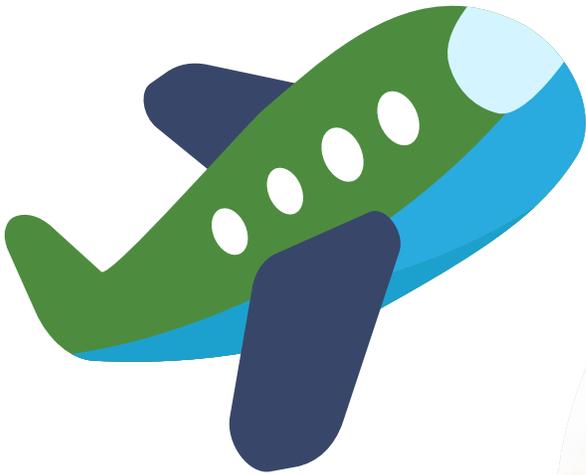
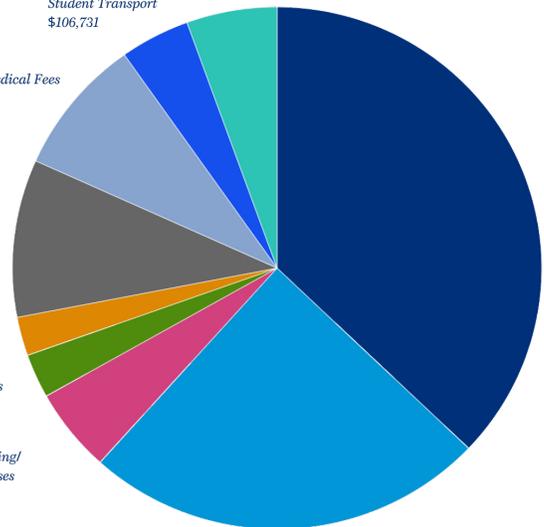
Purchased Service
\$60,049

Fundraising Events
\$68,523

Rent/Marketing/
Office Expenses
\$170,300

Corporate Staff
\$615,080

Direct Services/Staff
\$930,732





GO FURTHER FOR CHILDREN WITH US

Are you inspired to take a new step in supporting striving learners in need in your neighborhood? There are a variety of ways we would love to have you to join us!

VOLUNTEER as an individual or a team! Check out our current opportunities at HealthyLearners.com/volunteer

JOIN THE THRIVE NETWORK, supporting children through monthly giving. Learn more at Healthylearners.com/thrive

REQUEST A SPEAKER to share about Healthy Learner's work in your community

HOST A DRIVE! Whether it is toothbrushes, coloring books or children's books, our children love to get gifts from our community that let them know they are supported.

FOLLOW OUR STORY on social media or subscribe to our e-news to stay up to date on the life changing work happening in children's lives.

GOING FURTHER

THE MISSION OF HEALTHY LEARNERS IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE SUPPORT OF OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS AND DONORS:

\$100,000+



\$20,000 - \$99,999



\$5,000 - \$19,999



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HEALTHY LEARNERS
Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System