

HEALTHY INSIGHTS

from HEALTHY LEARNERS



Twenty Years in the Making

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's a new year and we have a new name for our newsletter. Thanks to everyone who submitted ideas during our newsletter naming contest. We received many great ideas, but in the end, chose *Healthy Insights from Healthy Learners*, which came from Richard Moody. He received a \$25 Amazon.com gift card for his winning name. We liked the word "insights" because of what it means and what it implies—the power or act of seeing into a situation. Providing children with eye care helps them literally see and by removing health-related barriers to learning helps them learn to have insight.

In this newsletter issue, you'll find our annual report card that includes statistics, survey results and highlights from 2011. While the numbers served are impressive, it's the individuals behind the numbers that really matter. Like Rhonda, a mother of a young boy with multiple learning disabilities who would have had to choose between buying food or paying for doctor visits if it weren't for Healthy Learners. Or, generous service providers like Dr. Jennifer Lippens, who provides eye care and glasses, often at no cost to Healthy Learners.

Healthy Learners began 20 years ago, with a belief that children learn better when they are healthy. Over the years, thousands of children have received health care services statewide and thousands of miles have been traveled transporting children to their appointments. We eagerly anticipate our next 20 years with your ongoing support and friendship as we continue to help children across South Carolina improve their academic performance and narrow the immense health disparities that economically disadvantaged children face.

JO PAULING-JONES

Executive Director, Healthy Learners

A Healthy School Year

Report Card 2010-2011

Included with the report card on pages 2 and 3 are also some broad highlights from 2011, and results from a survey of school nurses, teachers and students.

A Healthy School Year

Report Card 2010-2011

"I personally thank Healthy Learners for the support given. Without their assistance, my child would not have made it to doctor appointments or would not have gone at all because of finances."

— Parent of a Healthy Learners child

In school year 2010-2011 (8/16/10 through 8/14/11), Healthy Learners touched thousands of lives by meeting the unmet health care needs of 1,721 South Carolina children without resources—providing 5,258 services, such as vision and dental care, transportation and more, in five program areas across South Carolina:

Allendale — Allendale County School District

Dillon — Dillon School Districts 3 & 4

Georgetown — Georgetown County School District

Greenwood — Greenwood School District 50

Midlands — Lexington School Districts 2 & 4;
Richland School Districts 1 & 2

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

— Year-End Appeal—raised \$17,626

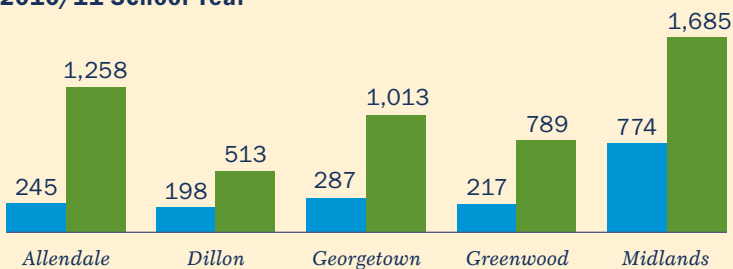
— Healthy Learners Appreciation and Awards Luncheon August 24, 2011

- Board member Marcia Benson awarded the In All Things Charity Award
- Optometrist Dr. Jennifer Lippens awarded the Dee Dee Chewing Healing Award
- Matt Shaffer and Teri Somski named 2011 Ambassadors

— 12th annual George Younginer Memorial Golf Tournament October 26, 2011, raised \$122,284 (see event recap and photos on page 7)

— 2011 Administrative cost = 17%; Program cost = 83%

Healthy Learners Program Statistics 2010/11 School Year



★ **Students Served** (1,721 program total)

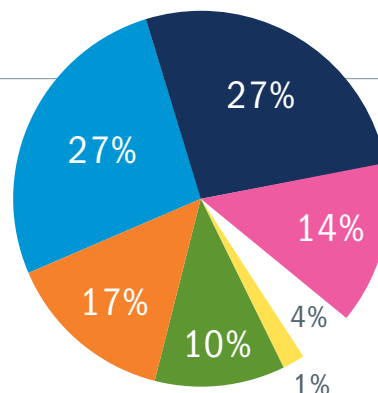
★ **Services Provided** (5,258 program total)



Healthy Learners Midlands former employee Lorie Harris, and current employees Beverly Dunston and Kim Morgan, pictured with Healthy Learners Midlands children at the 2011 appreciation and awards luncheon.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Healthy Learners provided a variety of services in the 2010-2011 school year, with vision, medication and dental services accounting for more than 65 percent of 5,258 services provided. The pie chart to the right is a breakdown of all services provided by category.



Types of Services Provided

Counseling	528	10%	★
Dental	890	17%	★
Episodic	743	14%	★
Hearing	60	1%	★
Medication	1,436	27%	★
Vision	1,410	27%	★
Other	191	4%	☆

Total 5,258

The Montague Eye Center in Greenwood, South Carolina, has been a Healthy Learners provider partner since 2005. Dr. Jennifer Lippens provided an eye exam and glasses to Healthy Learners student Kiara, who is pictured here.



Partner Profile

PROGRAM PARTNER DONATES SERVICES TO HELP CHILDREN SEE A BRIGHTER FUTURE



Optometrist Jennifer Lippens, pictured with two Healthy Learners children, serves dozens of students each year at no cost to Healthy Learners.

Jennifer Lippens, OD, hasn't received payment for three years for providing eye exams and glasses to more than 100 children, but she couldn't be happier. When Dr. Lippens took over the Montague Eye Center practice in Greenwood, South Carolina, in 2008, she decided to offer free eye exams and glasses to all children from Healthy Learners who needed them.

"Healthy Learners was doing a lot of fundraising, which was difficult given the economy. If there was anything we could do to make the program more successful, we wanted to do it," Lippens said. "It's nothing for us to give a child a pair of glasses for the benefits they receive in the long run."

Paying for medical care and getting children to and from appointments is challenging for parents with limited resources. Healthy Learners takes care of both, which Lippens said sets the organization apart from many other programs and made her want to get involved.

Dr. Lippens has formed a tight friendship with Alice Balentine, a student liaison with Healthy Learners Greenwood, which has helped her understand the organization's specific needs and the importance of its provider partners. Dr. Lippens encourages more providers and donors to get involved with Healthy Learners. "So many of us have been blessed in our lives, so to be a blessing for these children in return is the least we can do," she said. *(continued on back page)*

Report Card

(continued)

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Each school year, Healthy Learners surveys students, parents, teachers and school nurses to gauge their satisfaction with the program and the impact it has. Healthy Learners collected more than 1,200 completed surveys from these four groups. Survey results include:

- 92% of student respondents said they felt motivated to do their best at school after receiving services from Healthy Learners.
- 84% of parents surveyed agreed that Healthy Learners had a direct positive effect on their child's grades.
- 99% of school nurses responding agreed or strongly agreed that many students would not have access to basic health care without Healthy Learners.
- Teachers indicated behavioral or mental health problems (92% of teachers surveyed) and vision problems (61%) as the top two health-related barriers to learning among their students.
- 65% of teachers surveyed observed improvements in classroom engagement with children served by Healthy Learners.

Making a Difference

GETTING MUCH-NEEDED ATTENTION



"It's hard to not get emotional when I talk about Healthy Learners. It's hard to explain just how much they mean to me and our family."

–Rhonda, mom to William (left) and Hunter

Rhonda was concerned about her 4-year-old son, William, because he had attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) that caused him to have trouble focusing in school (4-year-old kindergarten). He also had multiple learning disabilities. Rhonda didn't know what to do and felt overwhelmed because her family did not have health insurance and did not qualify for Medicaid. She was working 10-hour days making minimum wage and her husband also did not make much money. William's school referred her to Healthy Learners.

The Healthy Learners Dillon office coordinated a doctor's visit, paid for the visit and paid for ADHD medication. Healthy Learners also covered eye care and glasses, dentist visits and additional doctor visits for William and his older brother Hunter.

(continued on back page)

Loyal Supporters

thanks!

We are pleased to present the 2011 list of Healthy Learners donors. The list represents \$798,377 in contributions made between January 1 and December 31, 2011, from 406 generous individuals, foundations and businesses. Your enormous support helps Healthy Learners ensure that all children are healthy and able to reach their full potential.

\$100,000 +

*Self Regional Healthcare Community
Sisters of Charity Foundation
of South Carolina*

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Providence Hospitals

\$25,000 to \$49,999

*BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina
The Nord Family Foundation
The Self Family Foundation
Yawkey Foundation*

\$10,000 to \$24,999

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 Latta Early Childhood Center

Ray Tanner Named Inaugural Champion for Healthy Learners

Ray Tanner, University of South Carolina national champion head baseball coach, was named the first Champion for Healthy Learners. Tanner's award was presented by Matt Shaffer, chair of the Healthy Learners Board of Trustees and senior vice president at BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina's Major Group Division. Shaffer said that Tanner's life's work is about creating champions and advocating for children who are economically and medically disadvantaged.

"He is a winner, a coach, a father and a champion for all young people on and off the baseball field. His values, determination and commitment to making sure that children in need are helped are in total alignment with the mission, vision and values of Healthy Learners," said Shaffer.

Tanner presented Healthy Learners with a check for \$7,500 from The Ray Tanner Foundation to help support its mission.

University of South Carolina baseball coach Ray Tanner (2nd from left) appeared in a public service announcement promoting the George Younginer Memorial Golf Tournament together with Rick Henry, WIS-TV sports anchor, Mia (a Healthy Learners child) and Judi Gatson, WIS-TV senior anchor and former Healthy Learners board member. Gatson was instrumental in securing the PSA from WIS-TV.



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12th Annual Golf Tournament Scores a Big Win

Twelve years after teeing off, the annual George Younginer Memorial Golf Tournament continues to be a big draw and the largest fundraiser for Healthy Learners. Thanks to more than 200 golfers, 50 volunteers and many generous sponsors, the golf outing on October 26, 2011, at Fort Jackson Golf Club in Columbia raised \$122,284 for helping children access needed health care. The event featured a great day of golf, food, prizes and more. The golf tournament included a WIS-TV putting contest and music by the Conder Elementary All-Star Steel Band.

The leaders and board of trustees of Healthy Learners thank all participants and the many sponsors. The tournament was presented by M.B. Kahn Construction Co. and AFLAC with Jim Hudson Toyota as the hole-in-one sponsor. Special thanks are extended to our golf committee, including chairpersons Matthew Roberts and Judy Davis, WIS-TV and Clear Channel Radio. Mark your calendars for October 17, 2012, for the next George Younginer Memorial Golf Tournament.

For more photos and a list of tournament winners, visit healthylearners.com/golf_tournament.



Philanthropy Critical to the Mission of Healthy Learners

Christina Walker oversees fundraising for the Sisters of Charity Health System, which is the parent organization for Healthy Learners. As vice president, fund development, she assists Healthy Learners with its fundraising initiatives. Editors of *Healthy Insights from Healthy Learners* discussed with Christina the importance of philanthropy to the mission of meeting the unmet health care needs of children without resources in South Carolina.

WHY IS PHILANTHROPY IMPORTANT TO HEALTHLY LEARNERS?

Healthy Learners cannot exist entirely funded by private foundations. It gets no government money except for a small reimbursement from Medicaid for transportation expenses. Support from individuals and organizations fills the gap between baseline funding from foundations and the cost to provide vital services. How can children learn if they can't see the front of the classroom or concentrate on school work if they have a toothache? Healthy Learners is the only organization of its kind in South Carolina that removes health barriers to learning.

HOW CAN SUPPORTERS PARTNER WITH HEALTHY LEARNERS IN FULFILLING ITS MISSION?

Financial contributions of all sizes are very much needed and very much appreciated to help Healthy Learners raise its modest operating budget each year to serve more students. Private foundations have also begun to assess community support when they make funding decisions, which makes donations from individuals even more important. Donors can also help recruit new supporters and service providers.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF DONATING?

Individuals and organizations support Healthy Learners because they want to help solve a problem and help their communities. Healthy Learners is an authentic, grass-roots organization with a 20-year history of significant impact on a vulnerable population. Administrative costs are low, which means the largest percentage of donations goes to providing direct services to children in need.

HOW CAN SUPPORTERS DONATE?

They can visit healthylearners.com/donate for more information and a secure online donation form. Or, they can contact Executive Director Jo Pauling-Jones at jpjones@healthylearners.com or 803.454.0350.

(*Making a Diff. from page 2*) "I don't know what we would have done without Healthy Learners because there was nowhere else to go," said Rhonda. "We would have had to choose whether to buy groceries or pay for the doctor. If I had quit my job to qualify for Medicaid, we would have lost everything because we wouldn't have been able to pay bills."

Today, William is in a first-grade special education class receiving speech therapy and therapy for a comprehension disability. The ADHD medication has helped him focus in school. His grades have improved tremendously. Both William and Hunter now receive Medicaid, but Rhonda is grateful for the help they received.

"It's hard to not get emotional when I talk about Healthy Learners. It's hard to explain just how much they mean to me and our family. They gave me such peace of mind and lifted a tremendous pressure from us," said Rhonda. ♦

(*Partner Profile from page 2*) For her devoted service, Dr. Lippens received the Healthy Learners Dee Dee Chewing Healing Award in 2011, which is the highest award given annually to an individual who provides direct care to children. Dr. Lippens has been moved by many of the children she has seen over the years and said she feels blessed to have been a part of their lives, both in the near term and long term.

"By eliminating a learning barrier for a child, we can open up many doors for them. It's bigger than just a pair of glasses. We remove that barrier and let them do what they need to do in the classroom," she added. ♦

"It's nothing for us to give a child a pair of glasses for the benefits they receive in the long run."

— Dr. Jennifer Lippens

NEWS BRIEFS AND NOTES

OUR 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.

OUR SERVICES :: Healthy Learners services include vision care, dental care, hearing evaluations, coordination of care, transportation, assistance with prescription medications, clinical counseling and episodic care for other health concerns.

HEALTHY LEARNERS

2749 LAUREL STREET
COLUMBIA, SC 29204

healthylearners.com



HEALTHY LEARNERS

A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System

COMING EVENTS

APRIL 20

Songwriters in the Round (Georgetown)

APRIL 21—MAY 5

Online Auction

OCTOBER 15—27

Designer Show House

OCTOBER 17

13th Annual George Younginer

Memorial Golf Tournament

Please visit healthylearners.com

for more information.

Employee Milestone Anniversaries



Cindy Poole



Kim Morgan

Healthy Learners recognizes two employees in the Midlands office for their years of service and dedication. Cindy Poole, coordinator and assistant executive director, is celebrating 15 years. Kim Morgan, student liaison, celebrates 10 years.

New Board Member Tina Emerson



Tina Emerson

Healthy Learners is pleased to welcome Tina Emerson to the board of trustees and to her role as the new chairperson of the public relations and

marketing committee. Emerson is the marketing director at Rogers Townsend & Thomas, PC, and has more than 13 years of marketing and advertising experience. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Columbia and serves on the planning committee of the Providence Hospitals Heart and Sole Women's Five Miler. Emerson is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and lives in Lexington with her husband and their two children.

FIND US ONLINE

Visit healthylearners.com to get the latest news and updates, see videos about us, learn more about our services and make secure online donations. You can also connect to our Facebook page to discover more about our unique ministry.

