The Mary Black Foundation seeks to increase the wellbeing of children, families, and communities, especially those disproportionately experiencing inequitable outcomes. We recognize that individuals' ability to access opportunities is shaped by their social and community context. Inequities in access are often the result of centuries of unjust policies and structural discrimination. Health equity exists when all people have access to opportunities to thrive both physically and mentally, and no one is limited in achieving health and wellness because of their race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, age, income or zip code.

To advance health equity, Spartanburg will need to ensure it has:

1. **High quality education & employment**, (2) **safe and supportive neighborhoods**, and (3) **accessible, affordable, & culturally relevant health care**.

![Health Equity Framework Diagram]

**SAFE & SUPPORTIVE NEIGHBORHOODS**
- Parks and open spaces
- Access to fresh, healthy food, and clean water
- Positive youth development opportunities
- Clean, safe, and connected affordable housing
- Complete streets
- Adequate transportation

**HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT**
- Early care and education networks
- K-12 education
- Institutions of higher learning
- Career readiness and job training
- Employment opportunities with wages that allow for self-sufficiency

**ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE, & CULTURALLY RELEVANT HEALTH CARE**
- Mental health
- Maternal & child/adolescent health
- Screening, prevention, & treatment
- Dental health
While no one organization can achieve health equity alone, the Mary Black Foundation uses its resources to advance health equity. Resources include: grants and impact investments, advocacy, capacity building, technical assistance, convening, and strategic alliances. Below are some examples of how the Mary Black Foundation has been working to achieve health equity.