

2020

AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR



Mary Black Foundation
2020 Annual Report

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE WHO
MADE THIS SPECIAL ANNUAL REPORT POSSIBLE:

PHOTOGRAPHER **ANTONIO MILIAN**,
STORY CURATOR **LOUISE FAGAN**, AND
ALL OF THE **UNSUNG HEROS OF SPARTANBURG**

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OUR CORE VALUES

Impact- Our results improve and transform people's lives.

Collaboration- We connect with others to make our community stronger.

Accountability- We are responsible stewards of the Foundation's assets.

Respect- We are open, inclusive, and caring.

Equity- We believe all people should have the opportunity to succeed.

OUR VISION

Our vision for Spartanburg County is a thriving and connected community where diverse and educated citizens lead active and healthy lives.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to invest in people and communities for improved health, wellness, and success in Spartanburg County.

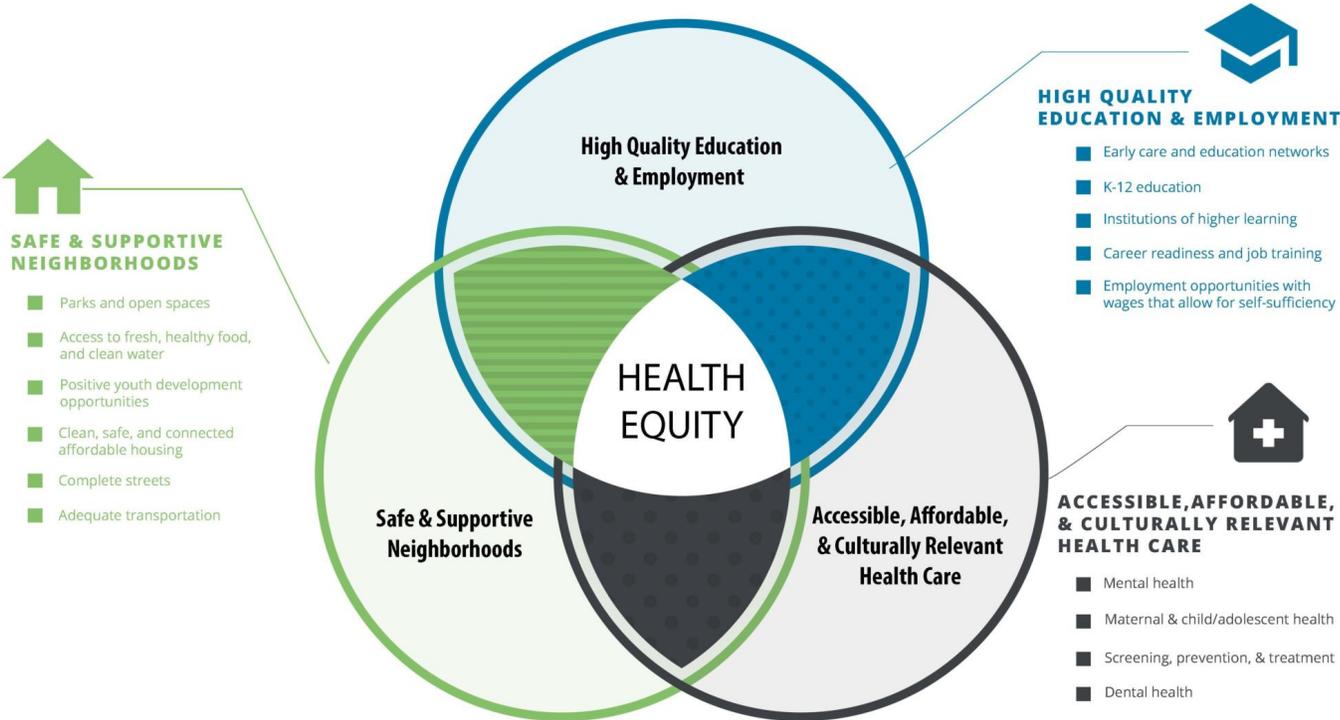
HEALTH EQUITY

The Mary Black Foundation believes that health and wellness are basic human rights. A health equity framework guides us in achieving our mission to invest in people and communities for improved health, wellness, and success in Spartanburg County.

The 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.

HEALTH EQUITY FRAMEWORK

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.**



A LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP



Welcome to our 2020 Annual Report!

It's an understatement to say that 2020 was a challenging year, but we are proud of how Spartanburg has responded and the role the Mary Black Foundation has played in supporting our community's healing and recovery.

2020 began with the launch of our new strategic plan focused on: **Advancing Health Equity, Expanding Impact Investing, and Strategic Grantmaking for Impact.** An early accomplishment was the development of a Health Equity Framework, which guides our work and outlines what we believe Spartanburg needs to achieve health equity. We could not have known what was in store for us in 2020, but this strategic focus prepared us to respond in a thoughtful and deliberate way.

Before COVID-19 became a reality in our community, we were supporting our neighbors who had been in the path of an EF1 tornado that hit Spartanburg on February 6, 2020. We partnered with the United Way of the Piedmont and issued a challenge grant for the newly created disaster recovery fund. This fund and partnership would become important in our response to the coming public health crisis.

"This annual report is dedicated to the unsung heroes of 2020.

"You'll get to read the stories of 15 people who inspired us and who represent the many ways local residents responded to and persevered in 2020.

"Last year was an extraordinary year, but even more extraordinary are the people in our community who faced the challenges head on."

After the Governor's Executive Order declaring COVID-19 a public health emergency, the Mary Black Foundation joined forces with a variety of nonprofits, governmental institutions, public health entities, and the business community. We worked together to slow the spread of COVID-19 and minimize the impact on physical health, as well as emotional, social, and financial wellbeing. The Foundation provided grants to support nonprofits' general operating expenses at a time when their revenue decreased, yet demand for services increased. Our Board of Trustees made the bold decision to exceed our grantmaking targets by providing over \$3.3 million in grants to 46 different nonprofit organizations. This brings the total we have invested in Spartanburg County since 1996 to more than \$61 million.

In the midst of the pandemic, a series of high profile cases of violence against Black Americans forced our community, along with the rest of the country, to examine persistent racial inequities. The Mary Black Foundation is proud to be part of the Spartanburg Racial Equity Collaborative and a community willing to have brave conversations that will spur change for generations to come.

2020 was a difficult year, but it showed our community's strength and resolve. We saw our neighbors come together to help each other and show deep appreciation for what matters most. Our team at the Mary Black Foundation has been moved by the countless people who demonstrated kindness, perseverance, and resiliency. This annual report is dedicated to the unsung heroes of 2020. You'll get to read the stories of 15 people who inspired us and who represent the many ways local residents responded to and persevered in 2020. Last year was an extraordinary year, but even more extraordinary are the people in our community who faced the challenges head on.

As we write this letter, more and more people are getting vaccinated, and it finally feels as if we are beginning to turn the corner. We do not know what new challenges await us, but 2020 has proved we have the capacity to respond. The Mary Black Foundation has a long history of supporting the Spartanburg community. 2021 marks the 35th anniversary of the Foundation's inception - and 25 years since its reconfiguration as a private foundation. As we reflect on our impact over the years, there is much for which we can be proud, yet we know there is much more we can do to achieve a healthy community for all!

Molly Talbot-Metz

PRESIDENT & CEO

Anna Converse

2020 BOARD CHAIR



Sarah Daniel

Community Resource Coordinator United Way of the Piedmont

For 85 years, the United Way of the Piedmont has assisted nonprofits, businesses, and individuals in tackling our community's biggest challenges. Focused on financial stability, education, and health, the United Way has built a reputation as a trusted resource and partner. That relationship within the community became even more evident after an EF1 tornado touched down in Spartanburg on February 6, 2020, leaving people without safe housing or the resources to clean up the damage.

Sarah Daniel, a Community Resource Coordinator at the United Way's Financial Opportunity Center, was able to pivot in her role of helping people achieve long-term financial stability to addressing the immediate needs presented by the natural disaster.

"At the Financial Opportunity Center, we hope to achieve financial stability for clients. We're laying the foundation, teaching financial building blocks. ... Prior to the tornado, we did not typically provide disaster assistance. For a house fire or something of that nature, we would refer people to the American Red Cross. After the tornado, United Way of the Piedmont took on a larger role."

The day after the tornado, the United Way began receiving calls for help. Sarah and her team had to respond quickly.

"I think we are known in the community as a first step. When you need help you may not know if the United Way offers it, but you're going to reach out to us. So, we started answering calls and offering some help ... then the calls started to pour in."

"We had over 100 calls. A lot of folks had trees come through their ceilings ... they had water damage; they were displaced, lost food because of power outages. Debris was another problem ... we were able to link up with the county and help get the debris out of yards. Many people didn't have renter's insurance or homeowner's insurance. For some, their houses were completely destroyed ... some never got to go back."

"The tornado was catastrophic to a lot of families. But [because we were able to provide] this assistance and these resources, people were able to maintain some stability without it causing a larger financial hardship ... whether that was paying for a hotel or security deposit for a new place. The tornado was terrible, but in hindsight, it did prepare us in some ways to provide emergency assistance for COVID-19."

After seeing the positive impact it had on families through the Disaster Relief Fund, the United Way transitioned the fund to the United for All Fund, which is designated for times of crisis such as our local COVID-19 response.

"It was eye-opening to see the impact of what the United Way and our community partners can do when we all come together. I think it shows we're going to be here for each other. Maintaining hope can be really hard, but it will get better and we just need to work together to achieve that. It helped me realize that I'm in a good place. ... This is what I want to be doing, helping the community."

Mia Gentry

Owner

Growing Minds Learning Center

One issue that was thrust into the spotlight during the pandemic-related shutdown is the role that child care plays in a healthy and vibrant community. Child care is a two-generation issue – vital to the educational development of our youngest children and essential to support the workforce of today. Finding affordable, quality child care has been an ongoing challenge for families; however, in 2020, when many child care programs shut down due to health and safety concerns, the issue was elevated as a priority for policymakers, employers, and community leaders.

While many child care centers have reopened, they now have increased operational costs to keep children and staff safe while also seeing reduced revenue due to capacity limitations. Mia Gentry, owner of Growing Minds Learning Center in Spartanburg, faced the difficult decision about how her small business would respond to the pandemic.

“In March 2020, when the pandemic hit, I went from running a [child care] center with about 45 to 50 children to seven. So I closed in mid-March. I re-opened in June, but had a teacher who was COVID-positive, so I had to close again for two-and-a-half weeks to clean and sanitize.”

“To ensure we were opening as safely as possible, we had to put protocols in place ... to make sure that everyone wasn’t exposed to one another. We meet the parents at the [classroom] door with the thermometer; we make sure that we remind the parents ... to wear a mask.”

The Growing Minds Learning Center did not have to face the uncertainty around the pandemic alone. The center is part of Quality Counts Spartanburg, a program of Spartanburg County First Steps, to improve and communicate the quality of child care. Quality Counts helped child care centers access personal protective equipment (PPE), apply for and receive federal assistance, and supported them in making decisions about operating an essential business in very unusual times.

“[Quality Counts] offered a grant for centers to get fresh food, cleaning supplies, toiletries, hand sanitizer, and masks for the children and the teachers. In addition, Quality Counts’ partners [ABC Quality and Spartanburg First Steps Early Head Start] kept paying for the children, so while we were waiting for the [Paycheck Protection Program loan] to come in, we were still able to make payroll. We had to cut some hours, but we didn’t have to fire anyone.”

“There were so many people who were instrumental in making sure that we were able to stay open. Quality Counts [staff] were constantly funneling information. They made sure we were aware of what was available to us. They provided the things that we needed and not just one time!”

“The center still has not recovered; currently we are operating with less than 30 children. But we’re on an upswing. Quality Counts provides ... knowledge and resources ... to [help me] become a better director. I really appreciate their help.”





Tiffany Beeks

Adult Clinical Coordinator and Therapist SAFE Homes–Rape Crisis Coalition

Support survivors. Stop abuse. Strengthen communities. That is the vision that guides the SAFE Homes–Rape Crisis Coalition, a local nonprofit organization that brings together those working with family violence and sexual assault in a multi-disciplinary response that prioritizes victim safety and offender accountability.

As the Adult Clinical Coordinator and Therapist at SAFE Homes–Rape Crisis, Tiffany Beeks has seen firsthand how 2020 impacted people in need of her services.

“Prior to March 2020, we ran a 40-plus emergency shelter. We had offices in Union, as well as Spartanburg County, where we offered advocacy for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and therapy. ... We had our courthouses where people were going for orders of protection. We would go to court with them; we would get calls from the hospitals, and either a volunteer or a sexual assault advocate would go to the hospital to be with the victims.”

All of that changed on March 13 with the Governor’s Executive Order on COVID–19. After March 13, SAFE Homes–Rape Crisis transitioned to providing therapy services over the internet (teletherapy). With some training and practice, the therapy team resumed its high-quality services.

“We began by taking a deep breath and then jumping in. We found our flow.”

The SAFE Homes–Rape Crisis therapists were aware of increasing risks to their clients. Many did not have a private place for therapy or a time when the abuser was not in the home. Across the country, many worried that sexual assault and family violence were increasing. Economic instability and the closure of schools and child care centers added to stress in families. Locally, SAFE Homes–Rape Crisis had to make adjustments in its emergency shelter to meet the demand for services while also following new health and safety protocols to protect against COVID–19 transmission.

“The isolation affected both therapist and client. We had to do a lot of self-care in order to be able to meet them [the clients] where they were. ... To be the most effective, we need to take care of ourselves. And then we are able to speak to our clients about different things that they can do to take care of themselves.

“Human contact is important. For some of our clients, coming into therapy is where they have a chance to unload, know someone cares about them, and feel safe. ... If we don’t have that relationship, regardless of what modality of therapy we use, it won’t be effective.”

The last year has put a spotlight on numerous public health challenges, including the devastating effects of sexual assault and family violence. The pandemic has also shown us how important organizations like SAFE Homes–Rape Crisis are to the health and wellness of our community.

“SAFE Homes–Rape Crisis continues to work to eradicate domestic violence: To change a victim into a survivor who is thriving, ... to help those who victimize begin to have a different mindset, and to help the community ... have a different view of what a healthy relationship looks like.”

Rev. Scott Neely

Minister

Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg

In the early months of the pandemic, many different resources were made available to families and communities that were struggling the most – private, charitable giving as well as public investments like the federal CARES Act. However, not everyone was eligible or able to easily access the assistance. Members of Alianza Spartanburg, a social impact network dedicated to fostering the inclusion of Latinx/Hispanic residents, recognized an unfolding crisis and sought help through the faith community. They found a partner in Rev. Scott Neely and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg.

“I think the key problem is isolation. When the pandemic hit, the whole world was thrown. For the Latinx community, the challenges became very apparent. ... Lack of federal support is emblematic of how difficult it is for these families to access resources. There is fear of being targeted, of incarceration and deportation, and we can debate all of that, but fundamentally, when the world is in crisis, children need to eat and the world needs the work that these folks are providing. It behooves us all for them to have basic resources.”

“We launched this project [at the Unitarian Universalist Church] in April 2020 as a simple appeal in our community-giving called Share the Plate. Every month there is a different cause. The question was asked, ‘could we provide some support to offer direct assistance to the Latinx community in Spartanburg County?’ Things moved so fast that we extended the appeal into May, and when those two months were completed, the church and the surrounding community had raised over \$20,000. That’s more than we would raise in an entire year. The scale of generosity was unbelievable.”

“We put in place a team to meet every week to review requests for help with rent, mortgage, food, and utilities. The basic rule is \$500 per family to spread the resources out. In some more dramatic instances, a further need came to light [and additional supports were provided]. The stories are harrowing.”

After demonstrating success in Spartanburg, others throughout South Carolina began to take notice. A statewide funders’ collaborative, One SC, which had been raising money for a philanthropic response to COVID-19, and the Coastal Community Foundation asked the Unitarian Universalist Church to consider serving families across the state. In the end, an idea that was seeded by a small church’s giving pledge has grown into a statewide effort that has raised and leveraged almost \$200,000.

“From the church’s view, we were uncertain if anybody would want a small church in Spartanburg to continue to play this role. Other organizations couldn’t add the demands of managing the project, so we [agreed] the church would play the role of fiscal sponsor until a more logical organization was found.”

“There are many forms of leadership that get a lot of attention because they are out front, but there are other forms of leadership that are very powerful. [Many people brought] staff resources, community connections, intellectual resources, credibility, and technology. There is this whole array of things that made this effort possible.”

“The biggest thing that I feel is gratitude that I’m part of a congregation that is open to our fellow community members ... for the trusting relationships that have developed. I feel very proud of all of us – the team, the congregation, and the wider community. To try to connect across some of that isolation ... to work together in a different way.”





Sharhonda and Daquan Jeffries

Owners Jeffries Transport

The COVID-19 pandemic brought dueling health and economic crises, and many of our small businesses have struggled to preserve local jobs and maintain operations. The Bringing Back the Burg Recovery Task Force recognized this challenge and saw an opportunity. Through a partnership with CommunityWorks, a regional nonprofit financial institution, OneSpartanburg created the Small Business Fund. Eligible businesses that were negatively impacted by COVID-19 are eligible for up to \$10,000 in low-interest or forgivable loans.

Jeffries Transport was one of the first small businesses to apply and receive funding through the Small Business Fund.

“Jeffries Transport is a freight company specializing in moving lumber, steel products, and building materials ... anything that can fit on a flatbed, we move it. We run in 48 states. It’s always good to try to work for yourself. We are trying to set our kids up for a better future.” – Daquan Jeffries (Driver)

“When we started our business we connected with CommunityWorks because we were trying to figure out the best way to fund the truck and trailer. ... In October 2019, we had all these plans to outfit the truck and trailer with equipment that would allow us to carry any kind of load, and we knew what we needed to do to make money.

“And then the pandemic hit. The company that our truck and trailer are financed through weren’t offering any type of assistance. The only assistance [Small Business Administration loan] required tax returns from the prior year, which we didn’t have because we are a new business. So we didn’t qualify. It was really difficult because we were using, literally, all of our resources.” – Sharhonda Jeffries (CEO)

Businesses like Jeffries Transport were essential in delivering supplies across the country, but their businesses did not always benefit.

“You would think that truck drivers were continuing to make good money during the pandemic because people still needed essentials, but that wasn’t the case for us. Brokers started paying less for loads. ... We didn’t have the necessary equipment for some loads, and so they stop calling. From a business standpoint, it hurt us.” – Sharhonda

After seeing a notification on the City of Spartanburg’s Facebook page, Jeffries Transport contacted CommunityWorks to apply. It was the last resort for the business.

“The funding came through in October, and it was right on time. We could get the equipment we needed. Now brokers are calling us every day. It truly was a blessing.” – Sharhonda

“We were taking losses but once we got the funding, I could carry anything. We managed pretty well through the pandemic. ... It’s hard when you run your own business. We’ve been living here for a long time and this has helped us tremendously, so we truly appreciate it.” – Daquan

By the end of 2020, the Small Business Fund had raised over \$720,000 from public and private entities, including the Mary Black Foundation, to support Spartanburg’s small businesses.

Sara and Riley Zmick

Participants The Positive Parenting Program

The Hope Center for Children exists to build stable, healthy families and to provide children a safe place from abuse and neglect. The Hope Center for Children knows that parenting can be difficult, so it spearheads a countywide program that provides parents and other caregivers the tools and resources needed to be effective in their roles. The Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) is designed to meet parents where they are. Information ranges from a tip sheet about how to deal with a difficult toddler stage of development, to more personalized and intensive support for parents who have a child with serious behavioral issues. Parents can participate in Triple P through one-on-one sessions and through group-parenting sessions where caregivers can support one another. Others, like Sara Zmick, access the tools and resources through an online module.

"Riley is my world. She is a preteen (12) and how you react as a parent to a preteen is really important. There was a lot in the program that I didn't expect. It actually reinforced stuff I already do, which made me feel really good, and it also opened my eyes to say, 'yeah I see that. Maybe I should have handled it this way or that way.' [None of us are] perfect parents. But it reinforced different ways to handle things with a positive perspective." - Sara Zmick

"I watched [the videos] with my mom. We get along a lot better, and it's just easier to communicate with her." - Riley Zmick

"I was actually really surprised that she watched the videos, because right now I think it is a critical stage for her, not just in how to talk to me, but how she can approach other people." - Sara

While COVID-19 has created many challenges for the nonprofit sector, a positive outcome has been the move to make programs and services available virtually. Some nonprofit leaders are reporting they will find ways to maintain virtual programming even after the pandemic subsides. Many of their clients find virtual programming to be more convenient and are more likely to begin and complete programs than they would if only offered in person.

"You know, I think that a benefit of the program is being able to access it online because right now COVID is scary. If we weren't in COVID, I would have had to drive to Spartanburg. Being a working, single mom, finding the time to drive into Spartanburg can be a challenge. But it was so easy to access the program online in my living room on my phone. I didn't even have to have a computer or laptop. And I went back [to the information] quite a few times. It deals with more than just parenting. It also deals with handling people and relationships in general.

"I hope [my story] will help someone else ... people who need parenting support." - Sara





Roy Gee

Vice President

JC Bull Resident Council

Hub City Farmers Market, Mobile Market Location

The Hub City Farmers Market is a nonprofit organization committed to increasing the supply, demand, and access to healthy, local food for all in Spartanburg. It offers a weekly farmers' market, a ½-acre teaching farm located in the Northside, and the Mobile Market.

The Mobile Market travels around Spartanburg County, bringing healthy, local food to underserved communities, including JC Bull Apartments, a property that serves seniors in our community. A partnership between the Hub City Farmers Market and Spartanburg Housing made bringing the Mobile Market to JC Bull a reality. Roy Gee, the neighborhood's Resident Council Vice President, sees the need for the Mobile Market, especially for areas within Spartanburg that are identified as food deserts.

"I've been with the Resident Council for two years. I am retired and wanted to get involved to give back to my community. We go around helping people, to see what we can do for them and to help everyone out. Sometimes people need rides. ... From here at JC Bull, you have to go to Ingles or Walmart on the Westside. Most of the residents have to get a ride. Or they take the bus, but the bus doesn't go that far.

"When the Mobile Market first started coming around, we had to get the word out. We put out bulletins for the residents. It was slow at first, but now the residents love it. The program works pretty well. The Mobile Market comes around every Wednesday. ... They provide access to veggies, plus pretty much anything you need. It's growing, growing, growing. And it will continue to grow. And it's easy for the residents. They can just walk to it. The community used to be able to walk to Save-a-Lot. But it closed last year, so it left them with no grocery store within walking distance."

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our neighbors found themselves out of work, in desperate need of food and resources, or unable to pay their bills or afford to meet their basic needs. The Mobile Market was able to maintain its operations and provide vital access to food. The Hub City Farmers Market also raised funds to sponsor Healthy Hero Vouchers for individuals and families struggling because of COVID-19. An additional outcome from having the Mobile Market at JC Bull in 2020 is the increased opportunity for social connection among the senior residents. Not only can the residents access healthy food, they can also interact and build a greater sense of community.

"A lot of elderly people come to this. They can walk to it, right along the path. It's convenient for them. What they offer is very useful.

"With the pandemic, everything came to a halt. But we are still doing everything we can, like getting people food. We are trying to do everything we can for them. This is a great program. Everyone around here loves it. Everyone feels welcome."

Lydia Paz

Participant YMCA of Greater Spartanburg

As the 2019–2020 school year came to an end in an all-virtual platform, young people and their families were seeking in-person summer camp opportunities. These programs would become a lifeline for youth who were craving normal interactions with peers and positive adult role models. Additionally, they were essential for families who needed child care during the day so that parents could work. The YMCA of Greater Spartanburg recognized a need and offered scholarships for families most in need of their summer camps. Lydia Paz was one of over 40 children who was able to receive a scholarship, allowing her mother, Lourdes, to continue working throughout the summer, even though Lydia's original daycare had closed.

"My name is Lydia Paz, and I am 9 years old, in grade 3. Last summer was my first time in the summer camp. My mom had to work, so I came to the camp every week until it finished. My mom brought me here at 7 on her way to work, and then she would pick me up at 4 or 5.

"The daycare that I used to go to closed for a while, so we had to find another one. So, if I hadn't come here then I would have been stuck at home. There were maybe 20 in our group. ... I had, like, three best friends here. I haven't seen them since camp but, in summer camp, I had a lot of fun with them."

Knowing the important role they were playing to keep our community open during a pandemic, the YMCA put into place multiple health and safety interventions. The staff enhanced cleaning and hygiene protocols, changed the pick-up and drop-off process, monitored children and staff for symptoms, followed distancing guidelines, and stayed outside as much as possible. Taking these precautions allowed the YMCA staff to focus the children's time on movement and activity, spending time outside away from computer screens, which was critical for children whose mental, physical, and social health has been deeply affected by the pandemic.

"On Mondays, we would have art, and we would always have a snack time and before everyone got here, we would play with Legos and stuff like that. And then, after that, we would come here to the [soccer] field and do fun things. ... Some of us went to the gym, and some of us went to the Main Y, and after that we would have another snack time. It was really fun.

"After lunch we always went swimming, and I really liked that! I learned how to swim here! After we swam, we would have quiet time and then go to the gym to play something, and after that my mom would pick me up.

"All the counselors were very nice. The counselors made me feel good because they had fun with us. Like sometimes, when we were at the gym, they would play with us, too. I would be like that if I was a counselor. There's a counselor program for middle schoolers, I think, and I would like to do that. I could play with the kids and do some fun stuff with them. I really liked it here, and I had a lot of fun. I would love to do this next summer!"

Lydia's mother, Lourdes, expressed gratitude for the opportunity.

"I'm very grateful because, at that time, due to the pandemic, I lost my job. And, then I returned to work, but it was with less hours. When I saw the cost [of the summer camp], I told them that I could not pay. [The scholarship] allowed me to put her in the program. She enjoyed it and I felt comfortable that she was in a place that was caring for her well. It has been a blessing, and we are thankful for the support and help during that time."





Alonzo Thompson

Chief of Police City of Spartanburg

In the midst of a global pandemic that was wreaking havoc on communities across the United States, the summer of 2020 was marked by a series of high-profile incidents of Black Americans being killed by police and protests in support of racial justice. Many in Spartanburg participated in calls for action. The City of Spartanburg's Police Chief, Alonzo Thompson, shares what it was like to lead during these times.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. So, when the protests started, I knew it would come to our city because we are like every city in America. It was important for all of us to come together. ... We reached out to the organizers of the protest to discuss how they could protest safely. To not be destructive, but be productive. I did not want our city burned to the ground. What I reminded myself, my officers, and my community is that these are not enemy combatants – these are fellow Americans who have a right to assembly and to express their grievances. Our job is to protect constitutional freedoms and rights, first and foremost.

"One moment [during the height of the protest in Spartanburg] that stands out for me, was when a large group of young people from the area colleges lay down in the middle of St. John and Pine [streets]. They wanted to lie on the ground for 8 minutes, 46 seconds. To see these young people out there – Black, White, diverse – it impressed me. I took that opportunity to speak with them. I said, 'I appreciate that you are stepping up, I respect your right to protest, but by being engaged, you have the power to make this country what you want it to be.' It was about listening and sharing. After my speech, they moved off the road."

In January 2020, Chief Thompson joined with other community leaders to form the Spartanburg Racial Equity Collaborative, a group committed to eliminating racial inequities in Spartanburg County through racial healing and systems change. Because the Collaborative had been meeting months before the summer protest, Chief Thompson was able to call upon others in the community to join him in listening and responding to calls for racial justice.

"Due to the work of the [Spartanburg] Racial Equity Collaborative, the leaders in the community were ready that first night.

"Watching George Floyd's death was one of the most hurtful things I have observed in my life. It was not reflective of who we should be in law enforcement. We can't defend the indefensible. The overwhelming majority of those of us in law enforcement try to do things right. Yet, there are those who shouldn't be in law enforcement, who have a poor understanding of what their role is.

"I have been doing this for 37 years and joined because I wanted to try to make a difference. I realize it's not just me. It's been one of my greatest honors to be a part of this community of officers. ... I see myself as a Black man, an officer, a leader, who can hand off the torch to the next generation. That is why the moment at St. John and Pine streets was so important to me. When the moment arises, you have to step up, have the hard conversations, and do what needs to be done: ... to do what's right, at the right time, for the right reason, for a positive outcome."

Brian Naylor

Executive Director GoForth Recovery

GoForth Recovery was established in 2018 as a men's addiction recovery program and residential transitional living home for men addicted to alcohol and/or drugs. Brian Naylor became the executive director in 2019.

"Prior to March 2020, we were focused on programs and on improving our services to provide housing, transportation, and classes. For the residents, it's a balance between building a work life and personal life as well as the recovery piece. So before the pandemic, things were much simpler. There was structure and predictability. By late March, we were in a holding pattern."

Like many nonprofit organizations, GoForth Recovery had to balance its concerns for its clients with its concerns for basic organizational operations. How would the organization keep its clients safe and meet their physical and emotional needs? How would the organization keep its employees safe, adhere to new health and safety protocols, and handle decreasing revenue through fees, grants, and donations?

"April was probably our toughest month. We couldn't take any more residents. We didn't have any COVID scares, but we did have people in quarantine. We shut down meetings to outside groups. We always went back to the recovery piece and put the residents' interests first."

"The advantage here is that we are a community of ourselves. While the rest of the world was shutting down, we pivoted quickly. Addiction is a disease of isolation. But we are here. There is strength in numbers and there's accountability. Amazingly enough, we did not lose anyone to relapse or lose anybody to discharge for rules violation. Maybe the pandemic was a motivator, and they were grateful for what they had. Our guys are more scared of relapse. If you believe in your heart that if you pick up a drink or a drug that you're going to die or go to prison for the rest of your life, that's scary. They are not going to quit doing what got them successful."

In addition to recovery services, GoForth Recovery assists its residents with job placement, transportation, basic healthcare, and outside mental health counseling. Another key component to its approach is community service and volunteerism. During the pandemic, 50% of the men in the residential program were laid off. GoForth Recovery partnered with the City of Spartanburg and provided volunteer opportunities to its residents. The men assisted with efforts to provide much-needed services to the City's homeless population.

"One of our pillars of success is service, so when you leave here it's not just with recovery. What are you doing to give back to the community? We have a saying 'we cannot work the resident'. We will work hard for them, but they have to work hard for themselves. We mirror their effort. It's an incredible amount of work that they do. These guys have adverse childhood experiences - physical or emotional abuse, sexual abuse - and they learn how to live a whole new way. These residents are my heroes."





Chelle Jones

Community Health Worker & Health Educator BirthMatters

BirthMatters seeks to reduce teen pregnancy through reproductive health education and to provide doula support to vulnerable expectant mothers and their families. BirthMatters is an organization built on trust and personal connection with clients and their families – whether during home visits, through one-on-one education sessions, or in the hospital during labor and delivery. All of these close and personal interactions had to change after March 16, 2020.

As the Community Health Worker and Health Educator, Chelle Jones had to find alternative ways to serve young people at a time when many needed her the most.

“I’m a liaison for the youth in the community. ... I connect them to resources to use in the community. I also empower them to speak for themselves – for whatever they need at the doctor’s office or in talking to adults ... in their family or even a teacher or counselor.”

“I work with youth from [ages] 13 to 22. A lot of times with the younger kids, it’s the parents who reach out because they don’t really know how to talk to their young person about sexual relationships or healthy relationships. But I am also the one they want to talk to when they’re older. They open up with me and so sometimes I might just be that person holding their hands while they talk. They remember me as someone who will listen.”

Like many of us, youth are missing close personal interaction. Many of Spartanburg’s youth are enrolled in virtual school, and even those in face-to-face classes are missing out on in-school and extracurricular activities that normally bring stability, routine, and joy. The social isolation of the pandemic has taken a particularly hard toll on teenagers who rely on others to navigate the pressures of adolescence.

“Right now, during the pandemic, I know the kids need me, but kids are tired of being virtual. Virtual is okay, but I like the face-to-face contact so I can feel their vibe. ... I can see their facial expressions. You know, I’ve got that motherly instinct. I’m so used to going into the community, seeing the kids, and laughing with them. It’s just not the same. And I think that the youth are somewhat forgotten in this pandemic. They’re at home by themselves if their parents are working; or [if] their parents got laid off, their worried about how the bills are going to get paid. People are worried about the adults, but I’m worried about how the adults’ stress is reflecting on the kids.”

“When this pandemic is over, I really do hope the kids know they can still come to me about anything no matter what. I hope the trust is still there. I just want them to have a fresh start and to get back to being normal kids. It’s been a tough year – from tornadoes to the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement. I just want youth to know that there’s always obstacles in life [but you] don’t let them stop you. Never give up. There is always sunshine on a cloudy day.”

Kim Evans

Volunteer Coordinator Ruth's Gleanings

Ruth's Gleanings is a nonprofit organization that rescues excess fresh and healthy food, including produce, prepared meals, and perishable items that otherwise would be discarded. The food is gathered (gleaned) from farms, farmers' markets, community gardens, grocery stores, restaurants, hotels, corporate cafeterias, or any other source that may have leftover, perishable food. Once the food donations are secured, they are delivered to partner organizations, such as food banks, soup kitchens, community centers, shelters, etc. that serve the poor and those who are considered food insecure. Ruth's Gleanings bridges the gap between food waste and nutritional insecurity.

Ruth's Gleanings could not function without volunteers, and Kim Evans leads the charge as the Volunteer Coordinator. For Kim, the role is personal.

"I am a nurse. I am also diabetic, so increasing access to nutritional food has been a personal health focus. As the Volunteer Coordinator, ... I line up the volunteers to make sure they have everything they need, to make sure they're happy, and to make sure that they are empowered and feel a part of the mission."

Kim has developed a special relationship with her volunteers, which was instrumental in sustaining the necessary volunteer base that many nonprofits struggled to maintain during the pandemic. Kim's investment in building and nurturing relationships with volunteers paid dividends that allowed Ruth's Gleanings to continue to provide fresh and healthy food for the community.

"The pandemic didn't change my commitment to our volunteers or Ruth's Gleanings. Communication [with our volunteers] was even more important. We had to take precautions: the space is now separated so that the tables are 6 feet apart and everyone has to wear masks. We moved to curbside pickup in an attempt to reduce the transmission of COVID-19."

"There were approximately 250 volunteers in 2019, and as many again in 2020. We typically need 13 to 15 each week, and sometimes we have more. We are never going to say 'no' to a volunteer!"

One program offered by Ruth's Gleanings - FoodShare - takes food from farmers and distributors and distributes the fresh produce through food boxes. Twice a month, hundreds of people come through to pick up their FoodShare box. Included in the boxes are recipes, and at pickup there are samples of the recipes for people to try.

"We had one family that would come in with their children ... and the children would try the samples. It's just wonderful that there is this excitement around food. I didn't know that this was going to grow like it has. It's been a really positive experience. It is the perfect place for me to volunteer."





Matthew Mims

Graduate Adult Learning Center

The Adult Learning Center, founded in 1995 by John Wardlaw, is devoted to the growth and development of adult learners by helping them increase their level of education. The programs focus on basic literacy, English for Speakers of Other Languages, pre-employment coaching, computer training, and GED obtainment. During the pandemic, the Adult Learning Center adapted its model to offer classes virtually. Instructors registered students and assessed their educational levels by phone, then helped students complete their classes online. Matthew Mims is a recent graduate, who began and completed his GED classes in the midst of the pandemic.

"I am 20 years old and from South Korea. I moved last February, so I'm fairly new here. I was planning on completing my high school diploma in Korea, but due to family and personal issues, I had to give it up, come to the U.S., and go for my GED instead. I was able to start taking online classes in May.

"I am a fairly introverted person, so when I was taking classes in Korea, I was afraid to ask questions. But here, online, I was able to comprehend more and understand more because [the classes] were in-depth. It was very helpful for me. I also work, so I would wake up early in the morning, go to work, come back home at 5 p.m. super tired. Even when I didn't want to study, I would turn on my laptop and study for a few hours - even for 30 minutes - every day. The Adult Learning Center [and my instructor, Ms. Jayme Smith] always believed in me when I was doubting myself.

"Getting my GED means a lot to me. My mom, unfortunately, couldn't finish high school. She was struggling with her family, and my mom's wish was to just finish high school and go to college, to get educated, and be inspiring to people. To motivate people to do better. That's why I wanted to do this: for my mom back in Korea. So even if it was hard for me, I really wanted to complete my GED."

Organizations like the Adult Learning Center that focus on increasing education and career obtainment have always been important to the success of Spartanburg County, but the past year has highlighted their critical importance to economic mobility and community wellbeing. Their ability to pivot and adapt to the challenges around them allowed individuals to reach their educational goals during a time of uncertainty and stress.

"Now, I am registered for Spartanburg Community College and will start in the fall. I'm still pondering and contemplating what I will do for my future, but right now I want to take classes for accounting.

"It just makes me speechless that I finished my GED. It has taught me that you are the worst critic of yourself. That you should believe in yourself even if others think that you can't accomplish things. You should go for it even if you think that you can't make it. And that's what the Adult Learning Center has helped me realize, that even if I think I can't do it, if I have trust in myself, I can accomplish my goals and dreams."

Gia Quiñones

Mental Health Counselor Spartanburg Area Mental Health

Recent data from the Census Bureau show that 34 of every 100 Americans show signs of clinical anxiety or depression. Increased trauma due to the COVID-19 pandemic – grief over losses of life, fear of getting sick, unprecedented physical distancing, financial and family stressors, and loss of sense of community – may likely increase mental illness and substance abuse. Now more than ever, resources for mental health supports are essential.

Organizations like EMERGE Family Therapy Center and Teaching Clinic and Spartanburg Area Mental Health provide high quality, affordable counseling. Gia Quiñones, a mental health counselor, works with both organizations to serve clients in Spartanburg County. Gia also volunteers with PASOs to raise awareness about mental health among the Latinx community. She is working to destigmatize therapy, especially among underserved communities and people of color.

One of Gia's teenage clients shared her experience accessing therapy over the last year.

"I met Gia through PASOs. They told me there was a therapist who could talk to me. I met her at school right before school closed because of the quarantine.

"Due to the pandemic, I did isolate myself away from my friends. And the situation with my family became somewhat complicated because we had to be together all the time, which we weren't used to. My relationship with my dad has never been stable and it wasn't at that time, so that made me seek help. I was going through a difficult time, a heartache, when I started therapy. Because of therapy, I was able to get through it.

"There are so many stereotypes about therapy, so it was weird at first. From March until I went back to school in August, we met virtually. The first session, I felt a little nervous because it was done virtually. It was a little different, but at the same time it was a good experience. Slowly, I became more comfortable, and I started to feel like I was in a safe place. Then we started having sessions in person. I felt better, and I feel that the relationship with my therapist grew stronger.

"Having the option for therapy in my language [Spanish] and the fact that I was able to receive therapy has made me a better person. Therapy is something that makes you more mindful of your feelings. Going to therapy doesn't mean there is something wrong with you. It makes you aware, you grow, and you learn to connect better with people in your life. Therapy has made it more clear for me to know what I want for my future."

While many mental health services shifted to virtual visits during the pandemic, Gia looked forward to the return to in-person counseling.

"It was challenging to adapt to telehealth. ... I became a therapist to connect with people, and my approach is very personable. When we were able to meet again in person, our relationship became stronger. I could see my client, understand her body language ... our interactions changed. [For our] teenagers, there are so many barriers to seeking assistance. I am very grateful that we can better serve our youth and adults who may not have access and to [be able to] provide equitable services."



Dr. Christopher Lombardozzi

Chief Medical Officer Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System

The medical community started talking about COVID-19 in late 2019, but very few people imagined the way it would spread. As we know now, countless people in healthcare would step up to respond in heroic ways. Dr. Christopher Lombardozzi was the public face of Spartanburg's healthcare response. He consulted with the media, businesses, school districts, and government offices, while also speaking to individuals and families about the extent of the healthcare crisis and the overwhelming burden being placed on his colleagues. He was a trusted and accessible voice during a challenging and confusing time.

"[In the early days,] it was hard to know exactly what was going on, exactly how many people were affected, if there was an effective treatment or a test. South Carolina didn't see a case of COVID until early March, so in the first couple weeks it was on the distant radar. What we did know was that this is not an ordinary virus. Our two concerns were treatment and resources. From a personal perspective, my biggest nightmare during those early months was, 'are we able to keep our people safe?'"

"We were relatively fortunate in South Carolina that we didn't get hit until June, so we had a few months to ramp up. Our staff were ready, but not a lot happened with the virus. By the July Fourth weekend, a lot of people in the community were back to sort of normal behavior. Then we got hit. In late July, we started to see a spike. It was already clear that the public was tired of the restrictions, and at that point there was really no clear pathway to something like a vaccine. We have basically been in a state of crisis since then. [As of March 2021], our numbers have come down significantly as vaccines have been rolled out, and we've recovered from the holidays. We are smoldering, as opposed to in a wildfire. We can't forget it's still there, yet it has allowed us, as a healthcare system, to take a deep breath. After an exceedingly difficult year, with the availability of the vaccine, having the ability to finally play offense has meant so much to us."

"I can't express enough the appreciation I have for what the staff did this year. Every department. The people on the front line doing the daily work - I know they made a difference in so many families' and patients' lives. For example, visitation restrictions forced the nursing staff to become part of the patient's family unit to a larger degree than they had done before. One of the unique things about COVID that made it so difficult, is that the patients would arrive through the emergency department, not always, but generally speaking, looking kind of okay. After three or four days, [they'd] become acutely sick then take a turn for the worse, ending up in intensive care. I can say the good news is that most of the people that we took care of made it out. But many didn't. The nursing staff made really strong attachments to these patients; they became their family at the bedside. On one of our units where we took care of a large number of patients, the nurses created a tree to remember. We've got all their names on the tree. These are real people. It's the human aspect of this which has taken its toll. This is going to take a long time for people to recover."

"It's been a remarkable year, and we have a lot to learn from it. The takeaway for me is that the people we have on staff stepped up. People go into healthcare because they care and they want to impact people's lives in a very meaningful way. COVID put a spotlight on what we do, in a way that hasn't happened, perhaps ever. And yet, the work that these people on our staff do, day in and day out, continues. They don't stop caring because COVID goes away. We are in the phase of recovery, so now we refocus on the next things. Healthcare never stops."



HEALTHY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

From 2016 to 2020, the Mary Black Foundation collaborated with Spartanburg County School Districts, Partners for Active Living (PAL), Alliance for a Healthier Generation (HG), and an evaluation team to pilot a new project. The Healthy Schools Initiative would provide intensive technical assistance and financial resources to support schools in creating environments that foster greater opportunities to access fresh, healthy foods and be physically active.

The Schools

- Arcadia Elementary School- **District 6**
- Boiling Springs Intermediate School- **District 2**
- Campobello Gramling School- **District 1**
- Clifdale Elementary School- **District 3**
- Lone Oak Elementary School- **District 6**
- Oakland Elementary School- **District 2**
- O.P. Earle Elementary School- **District 1**
- R.P. Dawkins Middle School- **District 6**
- Woodland Heights Elementary School- **District 6**

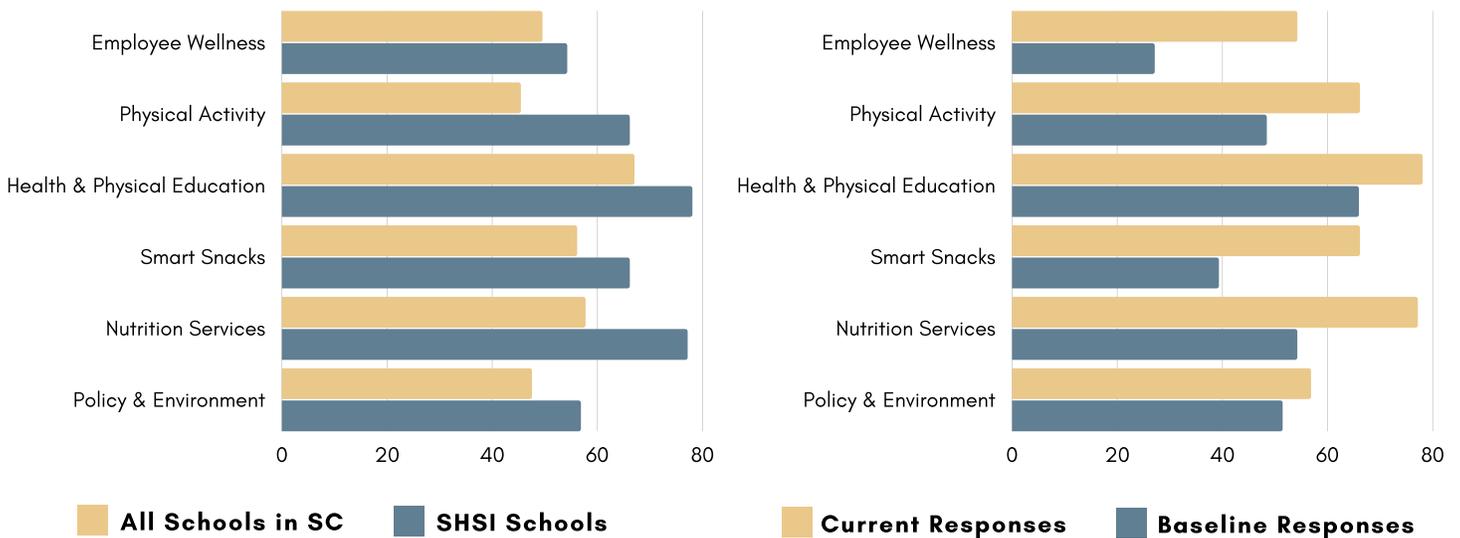
The schools followed implementation strategies that align with the national, evidence-based Alliance for a Healthier Generation Healthy Schools Framework. These strategies focus on policy, systems, and environmental changes. The Healthy Schools Framework consists of an iterative six-step process that all schools go through while also providing flexibility to schools to select their action items based on each school's context, strengths, needs, and desires.

School wellness committees led the work at each school campus. The success of this project is due in large part to the following champions, with special recognition to each committee's wellness coordinator(s):

- Heather Perry & Michael Guerrero - **Arcadia Elementary School**
- Travis Perigo & David Wilkie - **Boiling Springs Intermediate School**
- Catherine Gramling - **Campobello-Gramling School**
- Kim Goode - **Clifdale Elementary School**
- Rob DePaol - **Lone Oak Elementary School**
- Carolina Cabe - **Oakland Elementary School**
- Laura Dickson - **O.P. Earle Elementary School**
- Tariq Caudle & Andy Hallman - **R.P. Dawkins Middle School**
- Paul McGinty - **Woodland Heights Elementary School**

The cohort of wellness coordinators met quarterly for training and support from the technical assistance team (PAL & HG). One of the components of these quarterly meetings was the opportunity to hear from their peers at other schools. When the wellness coordinators gathered, they shared ideas with each other, they helped each other through challenges, and they celebrated their successes collectively. This cohort became a team that continues to be of support to each other.

In 2019, seven of the nine schools received the prestigious National Healthy Schools Award, an increase from two schools in 2016. Below are HG School Self-Assessment numbers, with the first chart showing 2019 results comparing the Spartanburg cohort schools (SHSI) to all Healthy School Program schools in South Carolina. The second chart shows the Spartanburg cohort's baseline assessment results from 2016 compared to the most recent assessment in 2019.



Below are some examples of the policy, systems, and environmental changes that took place over the four years.

Policy

- Nine schools allow drinking water in classrooms
- Seven schools prohibit withholding physical activity as punishment
- Five schools prohibit using food as a reward
- Two schools removed sugar-sweetened beverages from staff vending machines

Systems

- Seven schools implemented physical-activity classroom breaks
- Seven schools expanded before- and after-school physical activity opportunities
- All schools promote drinking water
- All schools promote healthy choices in the cafeteria
- One district launched a comprehensive staff-wellness initiative

Environment

- One new playground was built with over \$22,000 leveraged from KaBoom and the school district
- Four walking trails were completed
- One outdoor area that includes a wooded nature trail, an outdoor classroom, herb and vegetable gardens, seating, and play equipment was constructed
- Three staff fitness rooms were installed and one more was approved
- Twelve new or upgraded drinking water access points were added

The COVID-19 pandemic affected the final steps of the initiative by leading to the shutdown of all schools in South Carolina in March of 2020, the final year of the Healthy Schools Initiative. The participating schools paused their work in March and began to revisit their action plans in late summer/early fall once there was a better understanding of how schools would operate with COVID-19 protocols. Schools were given additional time to use their funds and the technical assistance team regularly shared HG resources to address emerging student, staff, and family wellness needs resulting from the pandemic. The team was able to hold three of the four scheduled school wellness coordinator meetings in the final year but had to cancel the final meeting, which prevented a formal conclusion of the initiative. However, MBF and the technical assistance team met with all of the principals via Zoom to conclude the initiative. Technical assistance is ongoing indefinitely. The Mary Black Foundation and implementation team are incorporating lessons learned into the planning process of a second phase.

Even with the unexpected ending, the Foundation is proud of the team, each school, and their communities for all they accomplished.

HEALTHY FAMILIES INITIATIVE

Despite the challenges brought by the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Healthy Families Initiative continued to expand its reach to families during a time when they seemed to need it most. The Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) has been provided to over 2,100 parents and caregivers since the beginning of the countywide initiative. The Initiative has been proven to be nimble and timely in its response to current-day needs of parents and caregivers. One of the hallmarks of this year's implementation was the development of a series of videos shared across a number of social media platforms. These videos provided helpful tips for families on how to engage with their children throughout the uncertainty of the pandemic.

Whether reinforcing the importance of reliable routines or providing tips on managing the stress of confinement, the videos offered relevant evidence-based strategies for families trying to navigate the perils of the pandemic. Over 4,000 impressions were made across social media platforms, representing a reach of over 3,200 people. These simple but impactful interactions led to increased engagement into higher levels of Triple P services, such as seminars and discussion groups. All services were moved to online platforms, further increasing the level of engagement for families, as barriers related to childcare and transportation were eliminated.

The resources provided through the Healthy Families Initiative to implementation partners allowed them to access the necessary technology used to deliver program services.

The Healthy Families Initiative continues to serve as an example to other communities for how to successfully scale an evidence-based intervention for population-level impact. The innovation of the partners, coupled with their unwavering commitment to be a reliable resource to children and families, was demonstrated more than ever over the course of 2020.

Program Participant Demographics:

Children in Household

Children 5 and Under	54%
Children 6-12	48%
Children 13-18	18%

Race

African American	15%
Caucasian	35%
Latinx	30%
Other	29%

Gender (Parent/Caregiver)

Female	77%
Male	18%
Unspecified	5%



Magaly Mathis, Family Specialist at Hope Center for Children, and participant of the Triple P program

Implementing Agencies: 0-12 Years Old

- Hope Center for Children
- Meeting Street Academy
- Middle Tyger Community Center/Spartanburg School District 5
- Spartanburg Interfaith Hospitality Network
- Spartanburg School District 2
- Spartanburg School District 3
- Upstate Fatherhood Coalition
- Upstate Family Resource Center

Implementing Agencies: 13-18 Years Old

- Hope Center for Children
- Positive Thinking
- Spartanburg City Parks and Recreation
- Spartanburg City Police
- Spartanburg County Department of Juvenile Justice
- Spartanburg County Department of Social Services
- Spartanburg School Districts 1, 6, & 7
- Spartanburg Interfaith Hospitality Network
- Upstate Family Resource Center
- Whitlock Flexible Learning Center

GRANTS PAID

Community Health Fund

Angels Charge Ministry: \$15,000 in general operating support to serve women during and after incarceration by providing assistance with housing, case management, and advocacy to reduce recidivism and to facilitate a healthy productive reentry into our community.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Upstate: \$10,000 for the first year of an 18-month grant to assist with operational costs related to providing one-on-one mentoring opportunities to Spartanburg children and adolescents.

Children's Cancer Partners of the Carolinas: \$5,000 for assistance with transportation to diagnostic and treatment services to ensure children have access to needed cancer care.

GoForth Recovery: \$12,500 for the first year of an 18-month grant to support a peer support specialist who provides screenings, referrals, and programs to help men who are facing addiction.

EMERGE Family Therapy & Teaching Clinic: \$116,000 for the first year of an 18-month grant to support efforts to increase community awareness of mental health services and to increase its capacity to serve Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in the Spartanburg community.

Habitat for Humanity of Spartanburg: \$15,000 to assist with general operating expenses related to its work in providing housing and home repairs for low-income families.

Healthy Smiles of Spartanburg: \$25,000 for the first year of an 18-month grant to provide children living in low-income households access to dental care, including school-based screenings, an onsite dental clinic, and a mobile dental clinic.

Piedmont Care: \$2,500 to support a project to pilot At-Home HIV Testing.

ReGenesis Health Care: \$25,000 for the first year of an 18-month grant to support a crisis intervention coordinator who will partner with School District 6 to provide children and adolescents experiencing a mental health crisis with immediate assessment and care, preventing unnecessary visits to the emergency room, and improving continuity of care.

Sherman College of Straight Chiropractic: \$15,000 to support the low-cost health clinic that provides chiropractic care to uninsured and underinsured individuals in Spartanburg.

Spartanburg Alliance for the Mentally Ill: \$2,500 to support the #stigmafree Spartanburg campaign.

Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center: \$139,385 for the first year of an 18-month grant to address the stigma within communities of color about accessing mental health resources.

Spartanburg Community College Foundation: \$15,000 to partner with a national consultant to conduct a student mental health assessment and develop a strategy to address gaps and barriers in the college's mental health services.

United Way of the Piedmont: \$25,000 to support the Opportunity Housing Collaborative, which will guide the development of funding, policies, and programs to ensure sustainable neighborhoods and increase affordable housing options.

\$5,000 to support individuals and families most affected by the tornado on February 6, 2020.

Upstate Family Resource Center: \$3,500 to produce a marketing and communications video.

COVID-19 Relief

Adult Learning Center: \$9,000 to assist with staffing and training needed to offer comprehensive adult education services while adhering to COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

The Children's Museum of the Upstate, Inc.: \$15,000 to assist with operational costs at the downtown Spartanburg location, specifically related to providing high-quality learning opportunities for young children, while adhering to new health and safety protocols.

CommunityWorks: \$50,000 to support financial counseling and small business loans through the Bringing Back the 'Burg Small Business Fund.

EMERGE Family Therapy Center and Teaching Clinic: \$20,000 for the first year of an 18-month grant to partially fund a full-time therapist dedicated to community needs that arise out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Institute for Child Success: \$5,000 for its research, public awareness, and advocacy efforts around the impact of COVID-19 on children and families.

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church: \$75,000 to support community needs specific to COVID-19, including mental health and wellbeing services, providing on-site and virtual academic tutorial services for youth, and expanding food distribution to address food insecurity.

Ruth's Gleanings: \$15,000 to assist with operational costs related to the distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables through Spartanburg County emergency food providers and food banks addressing increased need due to COVID-19.

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition: \$25,000 for the first year of an 18-month grant to fund a full-time therapist to work with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, an increased need due to family instability caused by economic uncertainty and stay-at-home recommendations.

The Salvation Army: \$15,000 to assist with increased demand for safety net services including case management, rent and utility assistance, food, and clothing.

The South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind Foundation: \$15,000 to support K-12 education for deaf and blind children in Spartanburg, while adhering to COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

United Way of the Piedmont: \$25,000 to support the COVID-19 Local Relief Fund, which provides rent, mortgage, and utilities assistance to families in need.

\$18,500 for the first year of an 18-month grant to support a community resources coordinator who helps vulnerable families in Spartanburg County create a pathway to financial stability, an increased need due to the economic crisis caused by COVID-19.

Upstate Family Resource Center: \$15,000 in general operating support to address increased need for safety-net services for families who are facing financial instability due to COVID-19.

\$6,000 to support PASOs and efforts to connect Spanish-speaking families in Spartanburg County with resources and support to minimize the impact of COVID-19.

Upstate Warrior Solution: \$5,000 to provide critical case coordination for veterans related to the COVID-19 crisis.

Upstate Workforce Futures Corporation: \$9,200 to support the adoption of COVID-19 health and safety protocols for the ACHIEVE program, which offers employment and educational opportunities for young people ages 16-24 through GED preparation and employability training.

Sponsorships

\$8,800 to the following organizations to sponsor community events:

- Angels Charge Ministry/Free Community Education Session with Becca Stevens: **\$1,000**
- City of Spartanburg/33rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Walk: **\$1,000**
- E.P. Todd Elementary School/Black History Program: **\$1,500**
- Spartanburg County School District Seven/CEO Program at Carver Middle School: **\$500**
- Together SC/2020 Nonprofit Summit and Registration Scholarships: **\$4,800**



Healthy Eating | Active Living

Girls on the Run Spartanburg: \$10,000 for the final year of a three-year grant to give girls access to quality after-school youth development programming.

Hatcher Gardens and Woodland Preserve: \$25,940 for two new structures that will provide educational and fitness activities for all abilities and ages.

Spartanburg Housing: \$15,000 to support participation in the planning of the Spartanburg Healthy School Initiative Phase Two.

Hub City Farmers Market: \$107,430 to support efforts to increase access to affordable, healthy foods through a local market, a mobile market, and SNAP.

Partners for Active Living: \$157,250 to support efforts to decrease childhood obesity, increase access to trails and parks, and ensure safe access to walking and biking for everyone.

\$266,667 for the second year of a four-year grant to support "The Dan", Spartanburg's Urban Trail System.

\$40,000 to provide technical assistance and evaluation support for the Spartanburg Healthy Schools Initiative Phase Two.

Ruth's Gleanings: \$100,000 for the first year of a two-year grant to increase healthy food access by rescuing excess fresh produce from local farms and placing it in food pantries, soup kitchens, and mission homes throughout Spartanburg County.

Spartanburg Youth Soccer Club: \$20,000 to launch the Live Your Dream program that will offer scholarships for recreational soccer for youth ages 5 to 8.

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation: \$15,000 to support participation in the planning of the Spartanburg Healthy Schools Initiative Phase Two.

Upstate Family Resource Center: \$15,000 to support participation in the planning of the Spartanburg Healthy Schools Initiative Phase Two.

YMCA of Greater Spartanburg: \$22,500 to provide scholarships to its summer camps for children who might not otherwise be able to attend.

Early Childhood Development

BirthMatters: \$121,250 to fund a home visitation program using community-based doulas to support vulnerable, expectant mothers and their families.

The Children's Museum of the Upstate, Inc.: \$36,400 for the final year of a two-year grant to expand early childhood programming at the museum's Spartanburg location.

Children's Trust of South Carolina: \$18,325 to support training and implementation for Triple P expansion throughout Spartanburg County.

Connect: \$235,014 to the following organizations to implement evidence-based interventions and positive youth development programming with youth throughout Spartanburg County (funding made possible through the U.S. Health and Human Services, Office of Population Affairs, Tier 1 B):

- BirthMatters: \$43,116
- Bloom Upstate: \$15,054
- City of Spartanburg: \$53,505
- Hope Center for Children: \$9,512
- In Heaven Hands Ministries: \$6,187
- Spartanburg County School District 1: \$21,000
- Spartanburg County School District 5: \$28,166
- Spartanburg County School District 7: \$58,474

EMERGE Family Therapy Center & Teaching

Clinic: \$25,000 to fund a part-time play therapy position and create a family therapy externship at Meeting Street Academy, adding family therapy to existing play therapy services for preschool children.

Healthy Families Initiative: \$40,000 to the following eight organizations (\$5,000 per organization) for the fourth year of a five-year grant to implement evidence-based parent education, the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P):

- Hope Center for Children
- Meeting Street Academy
- Middle Tyger Community Center
- Spartanburg Interfaith Hospitality Network
- Spartanburg County School District 2
- Spartanburg County School District 3
- Upstate Family Resource Center
- Upstate Fatherhood Coalition

Hope Center for Children: \$102,000 to coordinate the Healthy Families Initiative, a five-year initiative to increase implementation of evidence-based parent education through the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P).

\$73,000 for the final year of a three-year grant to support the implementation of Triple P, an evidence-based parenting curriculum, as part of its Strengthening Families Program.

Institute for Child Success: \$142,500 to support core operating expenses leading to systems-level change and policies to improve early childhood development.

\$180,000 to support the planning and development of Hello Family in Spartanburg.

Middle Tyger Community Center: \$120,000 to support This is My Child, an early learning program that serves children, ages six weeks-four years, in Spartanburg County School District 5

\$8,328 to provide education, case management, and home visits to expectant and parenting teens in an effort to (1) increase educational attainment, healthy birth outcomes, immunization compliance, and positive parenting skills and (2) decrease repeat teen pregnancies. (Funding made possible through the US Health and Human Services, Office of Population Affairs, Pregnancy Assistance Fund.)



Early Childhood Development

Reach Out and Read – South Carolina: \$51,650 for the first year of a two-year grant to support an early literacy program based in pediatric medical offices and to provide professional development for early childhood educators.

Spartanburg Academic Movement: \$30,000 to expand the use of the Ages and Stages developmental screening tool and to transition the implementation of it to Spartanburg County First Steps.

\$55,000 for the first year of a two-year grant to collect kindergarten readiness data through the Early Development Instrument, which helps to identify strengths and weaknesses within Spartanburg’s early childhood system.

Spartanburg County First Steps: \$166,000 to support the implementation of Quality Counts, a continuous quality improvement initiative for childcare programs.

\$200,000 for year one of a three-year grant to support The Franklin School.

\$20,000 for general operating support related to the planning and development of Hello Family.

Spartanburg County Public Libraries System: \$24,900 for the final year of a two-year grant to purchase LENA technology (small wearable devices that help adults make proven, sustainable increases in interactive talk with children) and implement the LENA Start and LENA Home programs with local community partners.

Spartanburg County School District 3: \$22,500 for the first year of an 18-month grant to expand the Parents as Teachers program that provides early detection of developmental delays among preschool children and increases children’s school readiness and success.

Spartanburg Interfaith Hospitality Network: \$27,000 to support a part-time case manager for one of its programs, the Opportunity Center, which addresses the basic needs of individuals who are without safe, stable housing.

Upstate Family Resource Center: \$67,415 for the final year of a two-year grant to build the capacity of PASOs, a program that connects Latinx families with health, nutrition, parenting, and education services.

Upstate Fatherhood Coalition: \$5,000 to support efforts to strengthen families with young children.

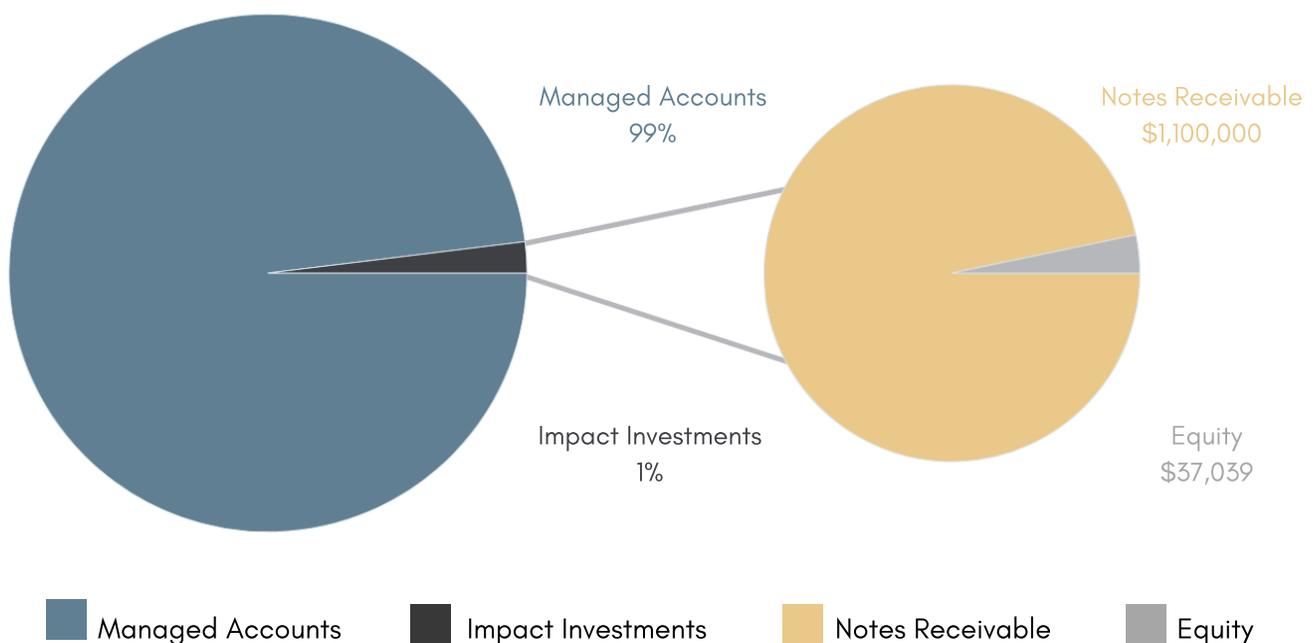
INVESTING FOR IMPACT

In addition to grantmaking, the Mary Black Foundation is able to use its investment assets to achieve its mission through Impact Investing. Impact Investing refers to the use of a foundation’s invested capital to generate positive social and financial returns. Unlike grantmaking, these investments are expected to be paid back, allowing for funds to be recycled back into the community in a way that cannot be done with traditional grants.

Beginning in 2020, the Mary Black Foundation’s Board of Trustees has allocated 7% of its assets for local impact investment projects. As of the end of 2020, approximately 1% of the approved allocation was committed, and two additional projects are in the pipeline. The Foundation is continually looking for local impact investment opportunities.

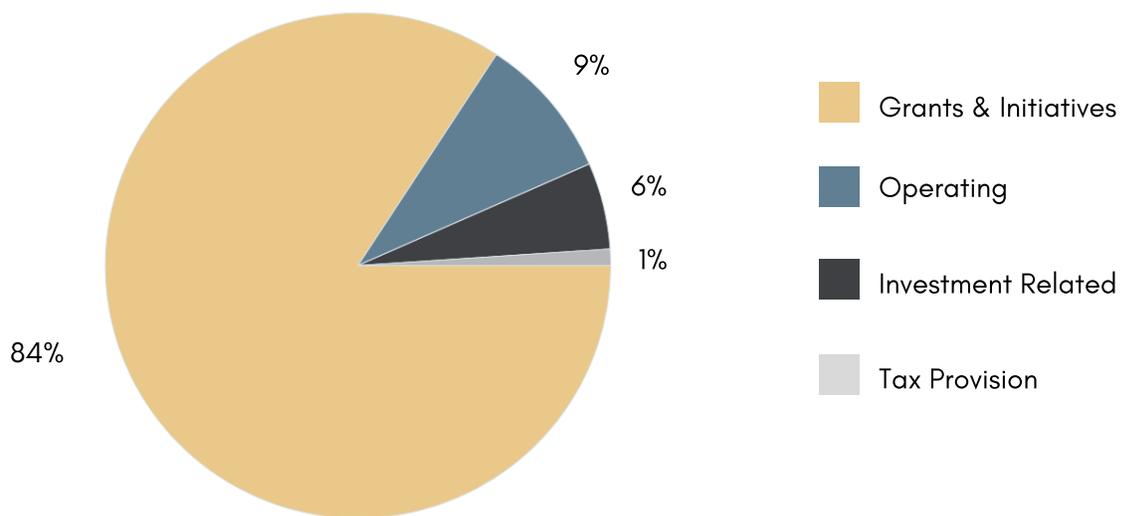
In late 2020, the Mary Black Foundation went through an extensive search process for a new investment advisory firm. One important criteria in selecting a new firm was the ability of the firm to help the Foundation create a portfolio design that aligns with our core values. The Board of Trustees unanimously voted to hire Graystone Consulting, a Morgan Stanley affiliate based in Chicago. We are excited to put our managed investment accounts to work for both positive social and financial returns.

Investment Portfolio as of December 31, 2020



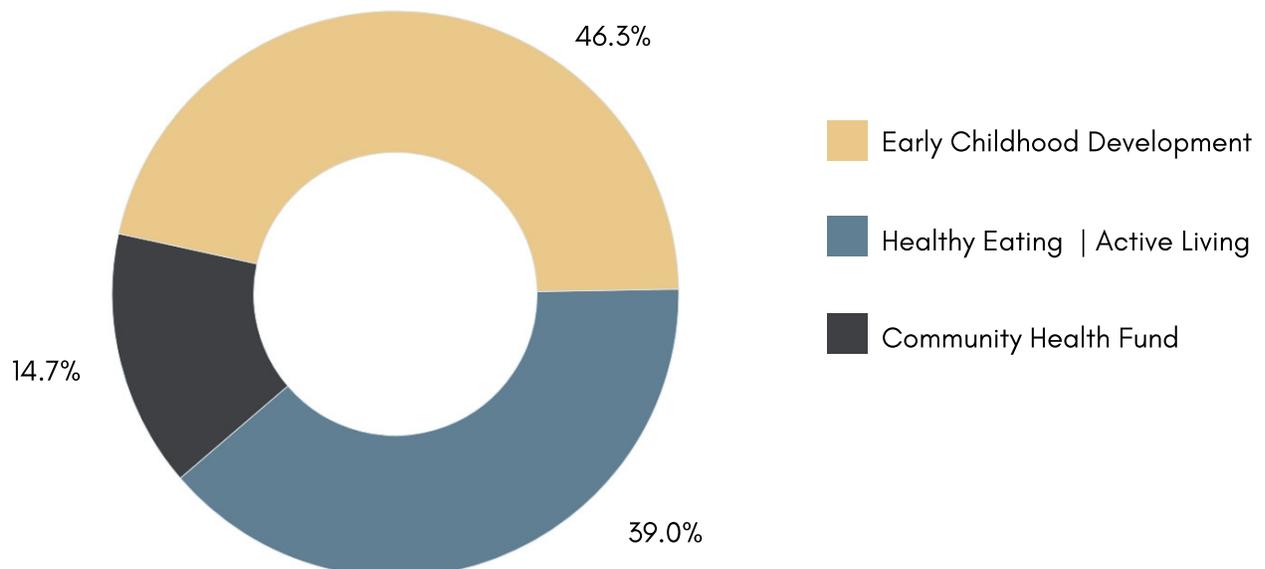
FINANCIALS

2020 Grantmaking and Expense Allocation



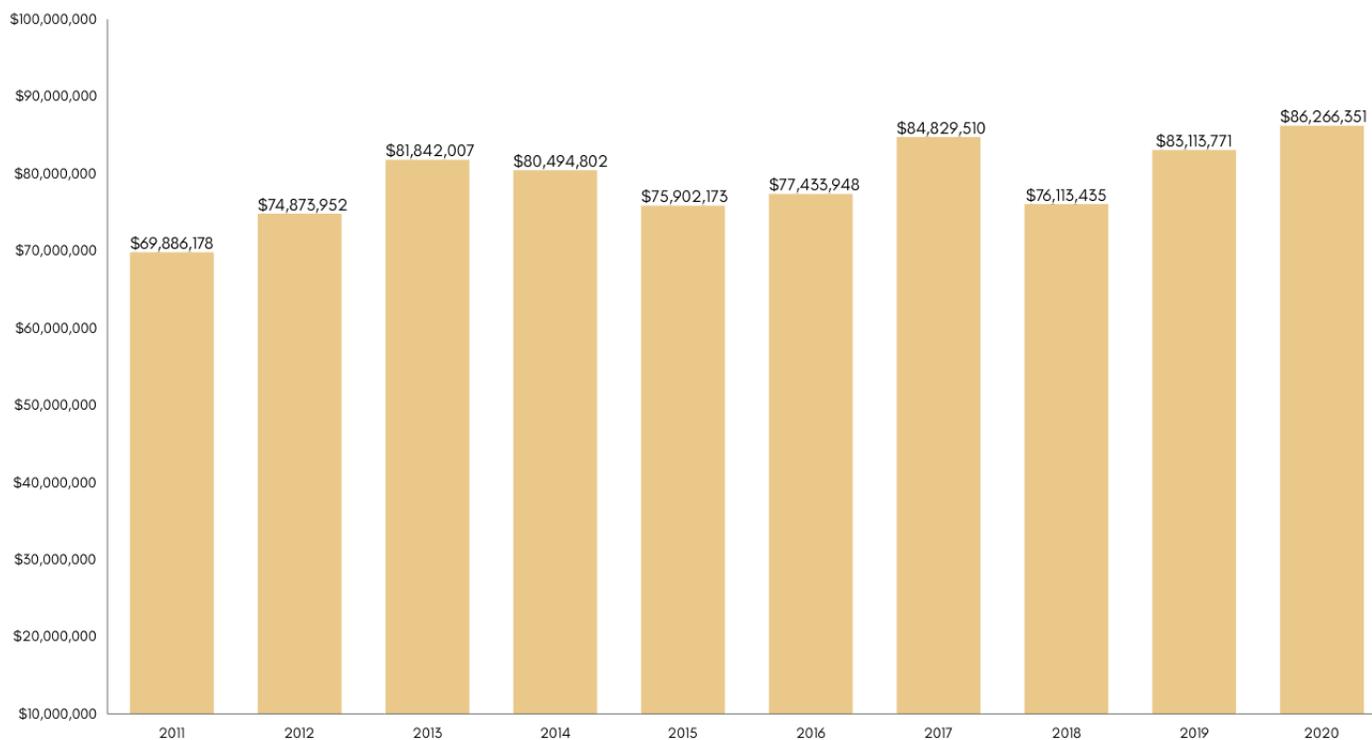
84% of spending in 2020 was for direct grantmaking and grant-related initiatives.

Lifetime Grants by Priority Areas: 1996-2020

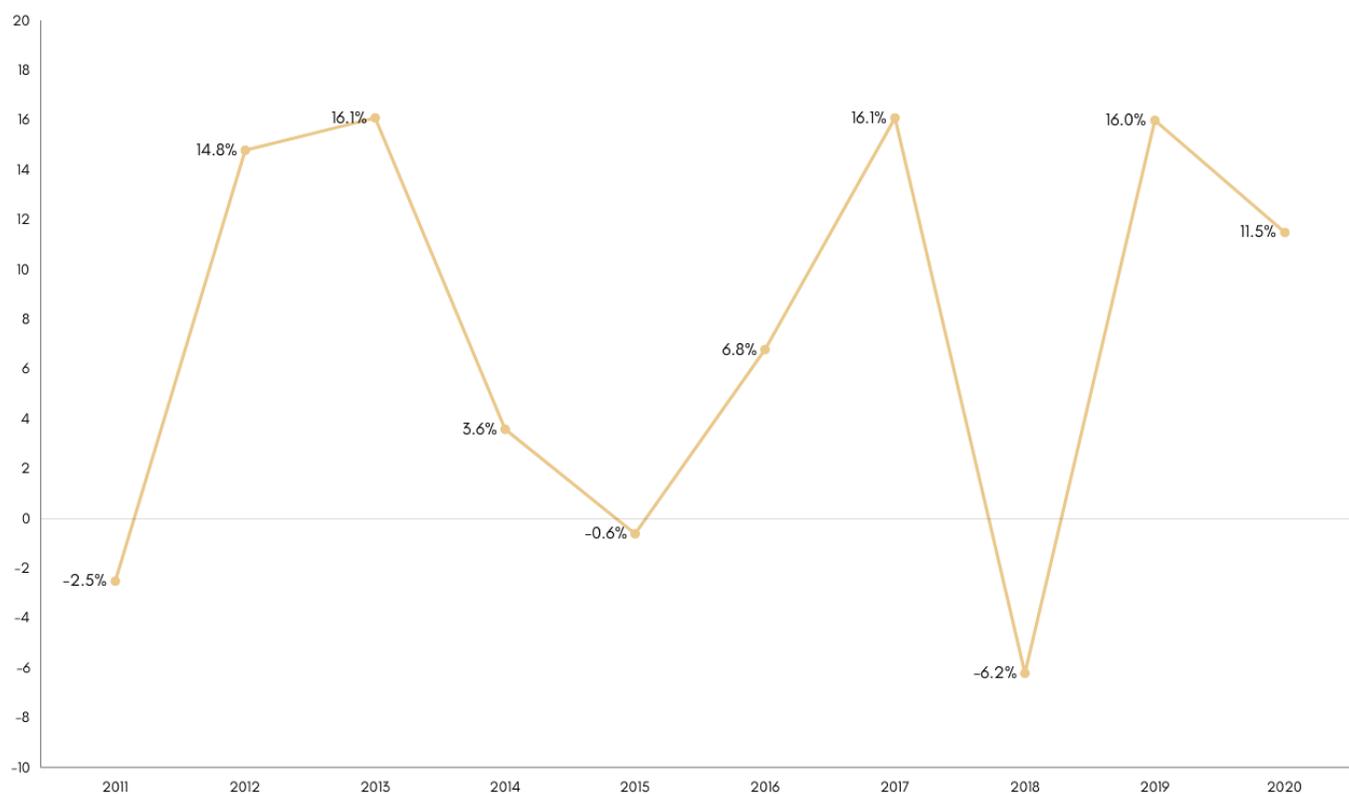


Since its reconfiguration in 1996, total assets of the Mary Black Foundation have grown from approximately \$62 million to \$86 million. Also, during this time, over \$61 million has been distributed to nonprofit organizations to directly benefit Spartanburg County.

Total Assets of Foundation



10 Year Investment Returns



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