

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Prioritizing Children
& Families



2024
ANNUAL REPORT



MARY BLACK
FOUNDATION



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WHO WE ARE

The Mary Black Foundation is a private grantmaking organization with a mission to increase opportunities for health and well-being through strategic investments in the people and communities of Spartanburg County.

We believe that investing in young people and the adults who care for them – a multi-generation approach – is one of the best ways to improve outcomes for children and positively impact the health and well-being of the entire community. This population-focused strategy allows for a comprehensive, holistic approach that recognizes a range of conditions in the environments where people live can put individuals at greater risk of negative health outcomes. We want to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to be as healthy as possible.

VISION

Spartanburg County is a welcoming and connected community where all residents can achieve health and well-being.

MISSION

To increase opportunities for health and well-being through strategic investments in the people and communities of Spartanburg County.

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.

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Welcome to the 2024 annual report, *Foundations for the Future*! This past year was significant for the Foundation as we deepened our understanding of the needs and strengths of children and families in Spartanburg County. We set goals to improve outcomes, adopted five programmatic strategies to guide our work, and began aligning all of our efforts with this renewed focus. We believe this new strategic focus will help us achieve our vision of a welcoming and connected community where all residents can achieve health and well-being!

In 2024, the board of trustees also adopted our first ever public policy agenda. Public funding and policy changes are often needed to create the conditions required for the Foundation's investments to be most impactful. While there are a wide range of public policy activities in which the Foundation could engage, the Foundation has prioritized policy issues that are directly aligned with our mission and focus on children and their families. Specifically, we will engage in public policy issues that will (1) increase the number of families who have access to affordable, high-quality health insurance and (2) increase the number of families who have access to affordable, high-quality childcare.



As part of our work, we continue to learn about what is needed to improve behavioral and mental health outcomes in Spartanburg County. With the gift we received from MacKenzie Scott, we partnered with Spartanburg Regional Foundation, and engaged a national consultant, The Bridgespan Group, to help us develop a comprehensive plan. With over 15 institutional stakeholders, all working together, we are creating a roadmap for how we can improve mental health for children, promote the well-being of those struggling with severe mental illness, and support families impacted by substance use. The plan will be released in 2025 and will guide the Foundation's investment of the remaining MacKenzie Scott grant.

Most importantly, in 2024, we supported over 40 nonprofit organizations with over \$2.8 million in grants. One of our grant recipients was My Brothers Keeper Alliance, in honor of Antiwan Tate, the 2024 recipient of the *Dr. George Newby, Jr. Health Equity Leadership Award*. Our total grant funding to support Spartanburg County, since our inception as a private foundation in 1996, has now exceeded \$71 million.



Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited about the opportunity to deepen partnerships and form new relationships with organizations working to improve health and well-being through a focus on children and families. At the same time, 2025 has the potential to be a challenging year for the nonprofit sector. As the federal government looks to cut spending, our nonprofit partners may see a reduction in the funding that allows them to provide critical services while also facing an increase in the number of community members in need, unable to receive services that were previously funded through other federal programs. Because of the comprehensiveness and scale of federally funded programs, local philanthropy will not be able to fill the void if cuts hit Spartanburg. However, the Mary Black Foundation is committed to finding the most strategic and effective ways to support the health and well-being of children and families in our community. We must all work together to ensure progress continues.



Molly Talbot-Metz
President & CEO

A handwritten signature of Molly Talbot-Metz in black ink.

Scott Neely
2024 Board Chair

A handwritten signature of Scott Neely in black ink.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Building Foundations for the Future

In 2024, the Mary Black Foundation continued a transformative shift in our grantmaking focus that we began in 2023. Following a strategic decision by our board of trustees to place children and families at the center of everything we do, we set to work understanding how children are faring in Spartanburg County. Through this process, we identified areas where we’re excelling, as well as challenges, gaps, and disparities that still need addressing. From there, we set two goals focused on some high needs that were identified: improving birth outcomes and school readiness.

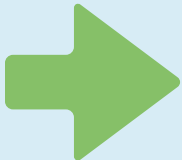


Later in the year, our board approved five strategic priorities to help guide us toward achieving these goals. These priorities are based on holistic and multi-generation approaches and best-practice interventions aimed at improving outcomes for children. In addition, we made the decision to leverage all the tools in our toolbox, not just our grantmaking. Our impact goes beyond our grant dollars, and we are committed to uniting all our efforts to focus on the population that matters most—our youngest residents.

The work of the organizations we funded in 2024 reflects our shift in focus and our goal to prioritize the health and well-being of children and their families across Spartanburg County. As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to fostering a supportive, healthy community where every child has the opportunity to thrive, knowing that the investments we make today will shape a stronger community tomorrow.

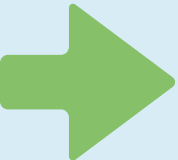
OUR TOOLS

- Grantmaking
- Impact Investing
- Community Impact Initiatives
 - Collaboration and Convening
 - Nonprofit Capacity Building
 - Policy and Advocacy
 - Research and Thought Leadership



OUR STRATEGIES

- 1 Improve women’s access to prenatal and postpartum care and ensure access to contraception for effective pregnancy planning.
- 2 Increase young children’s access to health care, developmental screenings, and early interventions.
- 3 Improve access to high-quality, affordable childcare and early learning environments.
- 4 Support initiatives that advance mental health and resilience for young children and their parents.
- 5 Increase access to financial resources and affordable housing for families with young children.



OUTCOMES

- Increased numbers of **women and infants are healthy, safe, and supported** before, during, and after birth and there are reduced disparities between groups.
- Increased numbers of young **children meet age-appropriate developmental milestones** and there are reduced disparities between groups.



2024 IMPACT

BY THE NUMBERS

\$2.8 million
grants
awarded

\$1 million
community
impact initiatives

\$750,000
impact
investments

The Mary Black Foundation proudly supported organizations in 2024 dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Spartanburg County. In addition to **grants**, the Foundation provided support through **impact investments** and our **community impact initiatives** which includes technical support, community development, supporting pilot projects and contributing to local anchor institutions. Below are organizations that received funding in 2024.

- A Light Unto My Path:** \$1,000 surprise grant awarded as part of the Brew Good for Giving Tuesday celebration.
- Angels Charge Ministries:** \$30,000 to support the expansion of their reentry program, operational support, and two new long-term transitional homes.
- Benjamin E. Mays Family Center:** \$30,000 to support counseling services for uninsured and under-insured individuals in Pacolet and surrounding communities, a \$1,000 sponsorship for their grand opening event, and \$1,000 given in recognition of a retiring committee member.
- BirthMatters:** \$30,000 for the expansion of its doula program for mothers 25 years and older.
- Bloom Upstate:** \$15,000 in general operating support and to provide evidence-based youth development programming.
- Children's Advocacy Center:** \$10,000 in general operating support and to support services for children and families affected by sexual or physical abuse, \$20,000 towards the organization's capacity to support Safe Babies Court, and \$5,000 given in recognition of a retiring trustee.
- Children's Trust of South Carolina:** \$2,500 sponsorship for the Building Hope for Children Conference.

- City of Spartanburg:** \$200,000 for the fourth year of a five-year commitment to support the development and implementation of Hello Family, \$5,381 annual contribution to the Public Safety Fund, \$1,000 sponsorship for the 2024 MLK Unity Week events and a \$750 contribution to the 2024 Juneteeth Essay Scholarship.
- CommunityWorks:** \$20,000 in general operating support and to provide down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers.
- Converse University:** \$33,000 to support mental and behavioral health services for students.
- EMERGE Family Therapy:** \$100,000 to strengthen the organization's capacity to better meet behavioral health needs, \$10,000 to support capacity building during a leadership transition, and \$1,000 given in recognition of a retiring committee member.
- Faith Initiative to End Child Poverty:** \$30,000 to support the Mental Wellness Program, a pilot program focused on addressing mental health disparities through intentional engagement of Black Churches.
- GoForth Recovery:** \$10,000 in general operating support and to track family outcomes as a result of addiction recovery and treatment programs.
- Greater Divine Nine of Spartanburg:** \$2,500 sponsorship for the 2024 Community Health Awareness Day (CHAD).
- Habitat for Humanity:** \$20,000 to provide affordable housing and support services for families, while addressing the increasing cost of construction.
- Healthy Schools Initiative:** \$16,695 distributed between Carver Middle School, Cleveland Academy, Mary H. Wright Elementary School, Meeting Street Academy, and Kids Club as part of their participation in the last year of the Healthy Schools Initiative.
- Healthy Smiles of Spartanburg:** \$15,000 to provide dental screenings, prevention, and restorative care to children without access to health insurance.
- Heightened Development:** \$10,000 to serve as a consultant facilitating long-term planning for Hub City Roots and PAL: Play. Advocate. Live Well.
- Help for Our Elderly:** \$1,000 surprise grant awarded as part of the Brew Good for Giving Tuesday celebration.
- Hope Center for Children:** \$1,000 surprise grant awarded as part of the Brew Good for Giving Tuesday celebration.
- Hub City Roots:** \$75,000 in general operating support to increase access to affordable, fresh foods.
- Institute for Child Success:** \$125,000 in general operating support, that leads to systems-level changes to improve early childhood development outcomes and a \$1,500 sponsorship for the Housing Innovation: Children's Edition summit.
- JUMPSTART:** \$20,000 to provide services that address the educational, employment, healthcare, housing, and family relationship needs of previously incarcerated residents and \$20,000 to support a capital campaign to build new transitional living housing for previously incarcerated individuals.
- Kids Upstate:** \$15,000 in general operating support and to provide evidence-based youth development programming.

Live Healthy Spartanburg: \$75,000 in general operating support to further work that measures outcomes, evaluates disparities, and identifies barriers to achieving health equity.

Mental Health America of South Carolina, Spartanburg County: \$500 sponsorship to support the 2024 Be Kind to Your Mind event.

Middle Tyger Community Center: \$30,000 to provide free or low-cost services to children and families in Spartanburg School District 5.

My Brother's Keeper Alliance South Carolina – Spartanburg: \$25,000 awarded as part of the Dr. George Newby Jr. Health Equity Leadership Award recognizing Antiwan Tate as the 2024 recipient.

Northside Development Group: \$20,000 in general operating support that will improve health and wellbeing in a historically under-resourced neighborhood and a \$1,000 surprise grant awarded as part of the Brew Good for Giving Tuesday celebration.

OneSpartanburg, Inc.: \$10,000 to support the OneSpartanburg Vision Plan 2.0, a five-year community and economic development strategy to improve quality of life in Spartanburg.

PAL: Play. Advocate. Live Well.: \$150,000 in general operating support, \$75,000 towards an endowment campaign, and a \$5,000 grant given in recognition of a retiring trustee.

Project R.E.S.T.: \$1,000 surprise grant awarded as part of the Brew Good for Giving Tuesday celebration.

Reach Out and Read – Carolinas: \$25,000 to support efforts to foster early literacy and healthy relationships among more children in Spartanburg County.

ReGenesis Health Care: \$30,000 to support the work of a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, focused on behavioral health needs of children and a \$1,000 sponsorship for 2024 community health events.

Ruth's Gleanings: \$75,000 in general operating support for the FoodShare and Gleanings programs.

Spartanburg Academic Movement: \$400,000 to support Phase II of the Hello Family initiative, \$5,000 sponsorship for the Thrive 2024: Bridging Paths to Resilience Conference, \$5,000 given in recognition of a retiring trustee, and a \$1,000 sponsorship to support the Panel on Unaccompanied Minors.

Spartanburg Community College Foundation: \$33,000 to support mental and behavioral health services students.

Spartanburg County Foundation: \$1,500 to support the development of a fund to engage Una/Arcadia/Saxon community members in a strategic planning process.

Spartanburg County First Steps: \$85,438 in general operating support to implement and expand Quality Counts, a continuous quality improvement initiative for childcare programs, and support the Hello Family initiative.

Spartanburg County School District 3: \$118,375 for the final year of a three-year commitment to support the implementation of a three-year-old kindergarten in Pacolet.

Spartanburg Methodist College: \$33,000 to support mental and behavioral health services for students.

Spartanburg Racial Equity Collaborative: \$5,000 to support a community collaborative working to ensure all people in Spartanburg can thrive regardless of race or ethnicity.

Spartanburg Regional Foundation: \$200,000 to support the development of a countywide plan to improve behavioral and mental health outcomes, \$55,475 for the final year of a three-year commitment to address maternal and infant mental health outcomes through the Nurse Family Partnership program, and \$1,000 given in recognition of a retiring committee member.

South Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children: \$6,250 to support advocacy trainings for parents and childcare providers.

South Carolina Infant Mental Health Association: \$50,000 in general operating support for programs that promote healthy growth for young children and prevent mental health problems.

St. Luke’s Free Medical Clinic: \$25,000 to increase prenatal and pediatric services for children of migrant families.

Strategic Spartanburg: \$10,000 in general operating support to further its mission to leverage data and research to improve quality of life in Spartanburg.

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation: \$12,750 to implement the Healthy Schools program and Resilience in School Environments (RISE) Index.

The Children’s Museum of the Upstate: \$15,000 for the expansion of early childhood programming in the downtown Spartanburg location.

The Roo Crew: \$7,500 to increase organizational capacity to serve families with children experiencing medical or educational obstacles.

Together SC: \$5,000 to support public policy efforts that affect the work of nonprofits in South Carolina.

United Way of the Piedmont: \$25,000 contribution to the United for All emergency fund to support Hurricane Helene recovery efforts and \$89,029 to support the work of Community Health and Resource Coordinators, focused on financial stability and health.

Uplift Outreach Center: \$8,000 in general operating support for mental health services for youth.

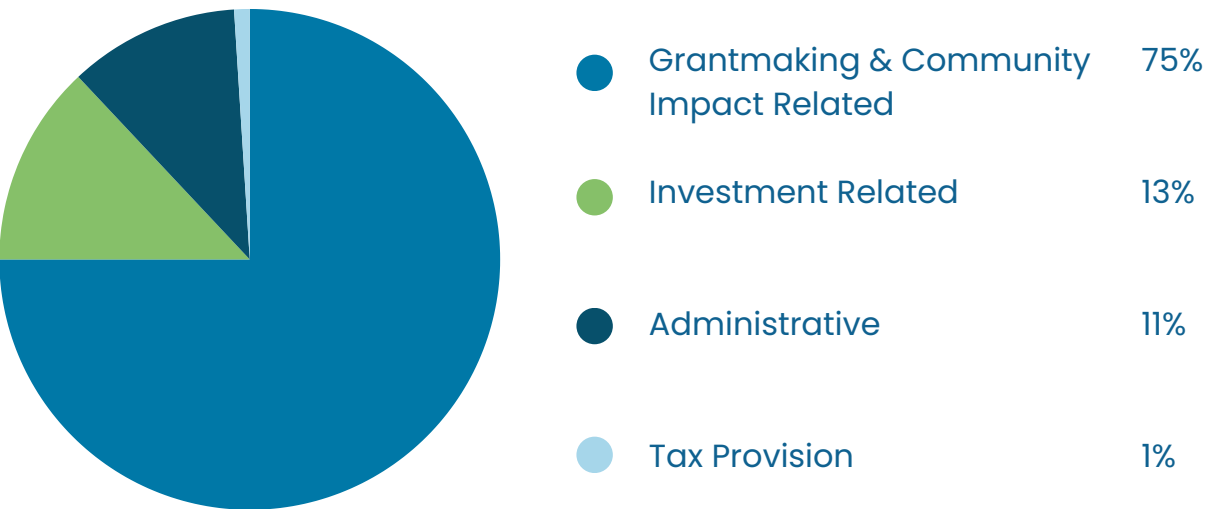
Upstate Family Resource Center: \$80,000 in general operating support and to provide low-cost or free services including family support groups and mental health services to children and families in northern Spartanburg County and \$500 given in recognition of a retiring committee member.

Upstate Warrior Solution: \$5,000 given in recognition of a retiring trustee.

USC Upstate: \$33,000 to support the HealthyU Campaign with the goal of improving the behavioral and mental health outcomes of students and \$6,700 to the Mary Black College of Nursing to support the Teen Summer Academy for rising 10th–12th grade students interested in a career in nursing.

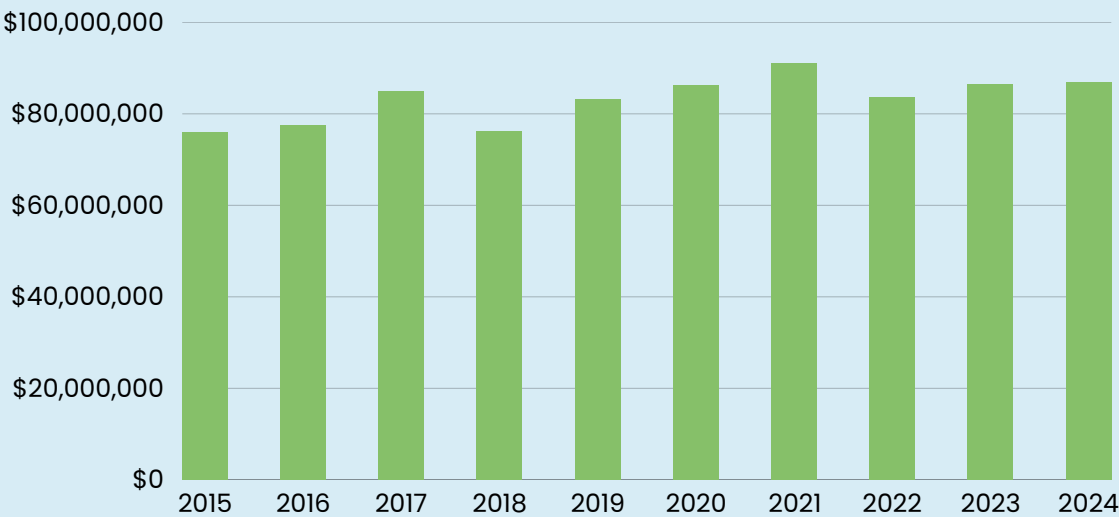
FINANCIALS

2024 Grantmaking & Expense Allocation



Total assets have grown from \$62 million in 1996 to **\$86.9 million** as of December 31, 2024.

A look back over the past decade is below.



The Foundation has seen a **34.2% increase** in total **investment assets** since 1996.

Over the past ten years, returns have been positive in all but three years.



STAFF & BOARD

OUR TEAM



From left to right:

- Cassidy Reynolds**
Communications and Events Manager
- Linda Smith**
Office Manager
- Haley Wicker**
Program Director
- Rochelle Williams**
Chief Strategy Officer
- Amy Page**
Grants Manager

- Ureka Wright**
Administrative Assistant
- Mary Kathryn Snead**
Chief Financial Officer
- Molly Talbot-Metz**
President and CEO
- Natalia Valenzuela Swanson**
Senior Program Director
- Denny Boll**
Accounting Assistant

OUR 2024 TRUSTEES



From left to right:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dr. Nayef Samhat
<i>President, Wofford College</i> | Bernard Wheeler
<i>Vice President and Commercial Relationship Manager, United Community Bank</i> |
| Laura Henthorn
<i>Vice President, Mark III Properties</i> | Dr. Laura Barbas-Rhoden
<i>Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures & Cultures, Wofford College</i> |
| Dr. Ebony Gaffney
<i>Executive and Medical Director, Spartanburg Area Mental Health</i> | Sloan Evans, Secretary/Treasurer
<i>Owner, Cedar Avenue, LLC</i> |
| Dr. Julie Fowler
<i>Superintendent, Spartanburg School District Three</i> | Dr. Russell Booker
<i>CEO, Spartanburg Academic Movement</i> |
| Dr. Kofi Appiah, Vice Chair/Chair Elect
<i>Nephrologist, Spartanburg Nephrology Associates</i> | Rev. Scott Neely, Chair
<i>Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg</i> |
| Ed Memmott
<i>Retired, City of Spartanburg</i> | Anna Converse
<i>Owner, Habis Designs</i> |
| Karen Calhoun
<i>Principal and Vice President of Business Development, McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture</i> | |

