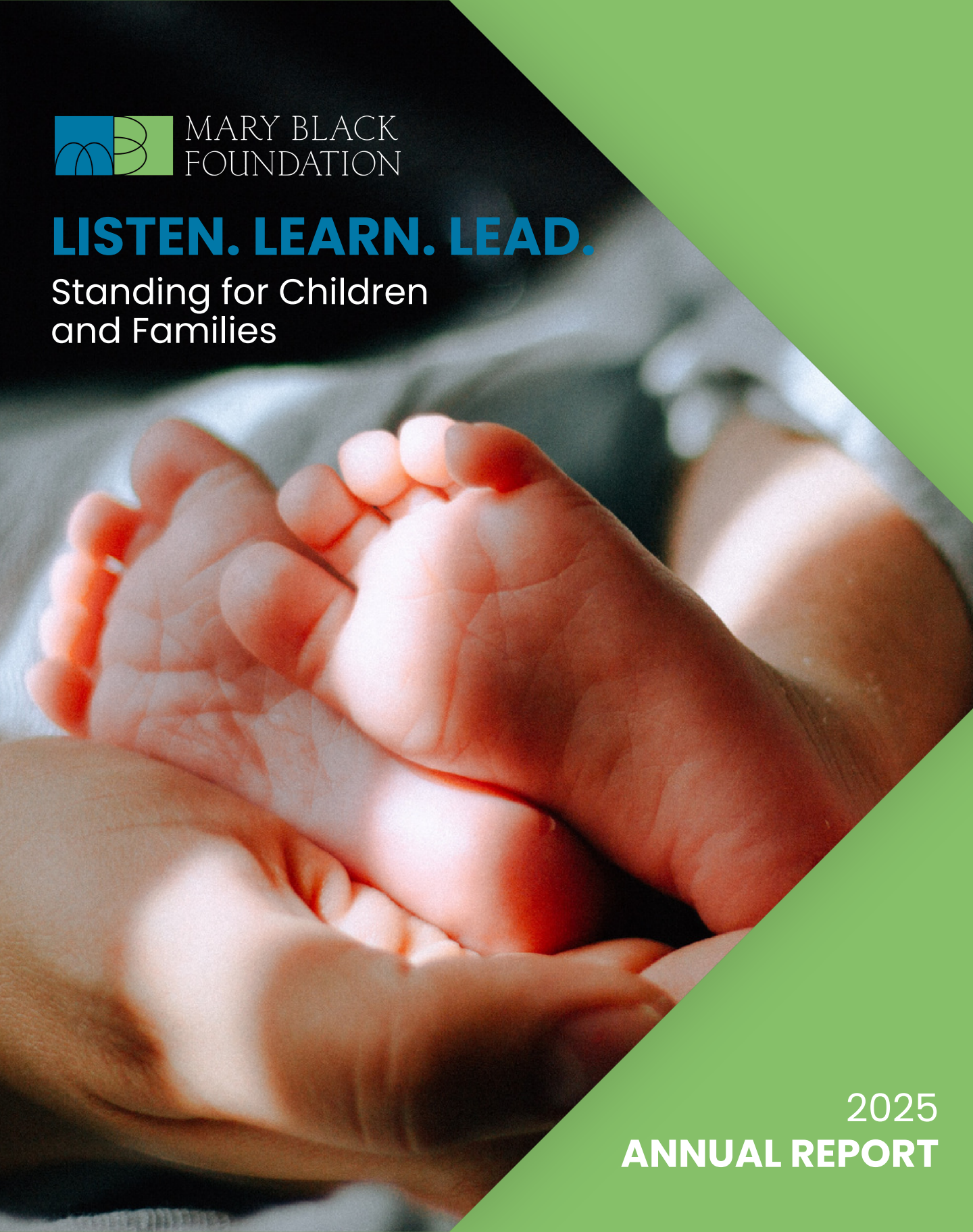




MARY BLACK
FOUNDATION

LISTEN. LEARN. LEAD.

Standing for Children
and Families



2025
ANNUAL REPORT



In 1986, the Mary Black Foundation was founded to support the Mary Black Memorial Hospital. For ten years, the Mary Black Foundation supported the hospital's charitable work and health-related community initiatives.

In 1996, the nonprofit hospital was sold, and the Mary Black Foundation received approximately \$62 million from the sale. The Mary Black Foundation was reconfigured as a private foundation to use proceeds from the hospital's sale to improve health across Spartanburg County. Since then, the Foundation has worked to bring its vision to life: *a welcoming and connected community where all residents can achieve health and well-being.*

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.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Since the Mary Black Foundation was established as a private foundation, total assets grew from **\$62 million** in 1996 to over **\$90.2 million** by the end of 2025. This represents a **39% increase in total assets**, which fuels our ability to fund work throughout Spartanburg County. Since 1996:

\$74.8
million in grants
to improve health
and well-being



300+
charitable
organizations
supported

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Welcome to the 2025 annual report! In this year's report, *Listen. Learn. Lead: Standing for Children and Families*, you will find reflections on how we are working to realize our vision of a community where all residents can achieve health and well-being. Last year, we were proud to support more than **40 nonprofit organizations** with **\$3.4 million in grants** focused on improving outcomes for children and their families. In addition to providing this tremendous financial support, we spent 2025 looking for ways to advance our vision through strategic collaboration, convening, capacity building, impact investing, and advocating for children and families.

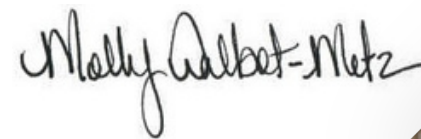
Advocacy and policy work are fairly new to us, so when our board of trustees decided the Foundation should take on a more intentional role around public policy, we had a lot to learn. Our biggest learning is that public funding and policy changes, at a federal, state, and local level, are often needed to create the conditions where the Foundation's investments will be most impactful and sustained. This is especially true for the policy issues that are directly aligned with our mission, like access to childcare and healthcare for families with young children.

Advocacy became a core part of our work in 2025 as shifting state and federal policies reshaped the funding landscape for our nonprofit partners that serve children and families. To navigate this complexity, we worked with the Institute for Child Success (ICS) to map the flow of federal dollars into our community and analyze the potential impact of changes to these funds. We shared the information with nonprofit leaders, other funders, and stakeholders, but heard that many of them felt overwhelmed with the sheer volume of changes. In response, we supported ICS in the creation of a policy digest that tracks state and federal policies impacting young children and their families, providing clear and actionable insights.

Our local nonprofit partners responded to this challenging year with great resilience and resolve, sharing a commitment to serving our community by leveraging each other's strengths, adapting service models, and forming strategic partnerships to be more effective. We supported them throughout the year with general operating grants, capacity building grants, and technical support. We also offered their staff access to an Employee Assistance Program for short-term counseling, assessment, and referrals.

Looking ahead to 2026, we remain committed to making strategic investments—of our time, relationships, reputation, and financial resources—to benefit young children in Spartanburg County. Only by listening to and learning from our partners can we lead in a way that ensures the greatest impact. While there will certainly be challenges in the year ahead, the Mary Black Foundation remains hopeful that our community can work together to ensure the health and well-being of our children.

Molly Talbot-Metz
President & CEO



Dr. Kofi Appiah
2025 Board Chair





LEADING BY LISTENING

The Mary Black Foundation leads by listening—to families, to our partners, and to our community—to understand the challenges they face, learn from their experiences, and identify opportunities to create lasting change. The work of the Foundation is guided by a clear vision: **a welcoming and connected community where everyone can achieve health and well-being.**

We know that to bring that vision to life, young children in our community need a strong start. Our ongoing research, community listening, and data analysis point to two priorities where our investments can make the biggest difference today:

- **Increasing healthy pregnancies and births, and**
- **Ensuring more children show up to school ready to learn.**

In 2025, many of our partners navigated a complex and uncertain landscape. They experienced growing community needs alongside less predictable funding, increased demand without the ability to expand staff, and the challenge of leading through constant change. At the same time, we heard a strong sense of resilience and possibility from our partners and a shared commitment to work together, share resources, and stay connected.

By listening to learn, we respond where the needs are greatest and where our resources can make the biggest impact. What we hear doesn't just inform our work, it shapes it. We turn this listening into action by using all our resources to support proven strategies and interventions that will get us to our destination and help bring our vision to life.



OUR ROADMAP: FROM LISTENING TO ACTION

Grounded in what we hear from our community and what the data tells us about where needs are greatest, our roadmap guides our day-to-day work. It defines the *outcomes* we're working toward, the *strategies* we use to get there, and the *tools* we deploy to make it happen. And because community needs change, so does our roadmap. We revisit it regularly to make sure we're responding to what's happening now.

This roadmap turns our listening into action by defining where we're headed and how we'll get there.

WHERE WE'RE GOING: OUR OUTCOMES

- Increased numbers of **women and infants are healthy, safe, and supported** before, during, and after birth and disparities in birth outcomes among different populations are reduced.
- Increased numbers of young **children meet age-appropriate developmental milestones** and disparities in school readiness outcomes among different populations are reduced.



HOW WE GET THERE: 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.

WHAT WE'RE DOING: OUR TOOLS

We use all our resources and tools to strengthen the ecosystem surrounding children and families in Spartanburg County and work to create sustainable, community-wide change.



Grantmaking



Impact Investing



Research & Data Collection



Nonprofit Capacity Building



Convene Partners

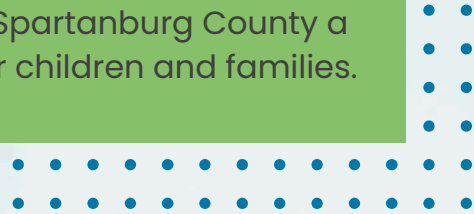


Advocacy & Policy Work

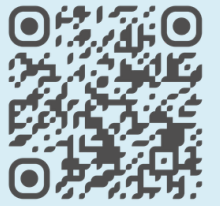
2025 GRANTS

Lasting change requires sustained effort, local expertise, and strong partnerships. Grantmaking is a key way the Foundation advances its mission. Our grant dollars support organizations with deep community connections, proven expertise, and innovative approaches to complex challenges. Beyond grants, the Foundation also invests in technical support, community development, pilot projects, and anchor institutions.

In 2025, the Foundation's grant funding supported organizations doing meaningful work within our five strategies to make Spartanburg County a stronger, healthier, and more vibrant community for children and families.



\$3,458,335 granted & 43 organizations supported in 2025



Scan the QR code to learn more about our grantmaking and recent grantees.

- Angels Charge Ministries
- Benjamin E. Mays Family Center
- Bethlehem Center
- BirthMatters
- Bloom Upstate
- Children's Advocacy Center of Spartanburg, Cherokee, & Union
- City of Spartanburg
- Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine
- EMERGE Family Therapy Center & Teaching Clinic
- Faith Initiative to End Child Poverty
- FAVOR Upstate
- GoForth Recovery
- Healthy Smiles of Spartanburg
- Homes of Hope
- Hope Center for Children
- Institute for Child Success
- Live Healthy Spartanburg
- Mental Health America of SC, Spartanburg County
- Middle Tyger Community Center
- New Morning
- OneSpartanburg, Inc. Foundation
- PAL: Play. Advocate. Live Well.
- Project HOPE Foundation
- Project R.E.S.T.
- Reach Out and Read Carolinas
- Ready Nation
- Ruth's Gleanings
- SC Association for Community Economic Development
- SC Infant Mental Health Association
- Southern Documentary Fund
- Spartanburg Academic Movement
- Spartanburg County First Steps
- Spartanburg County Foundation
- Spartanburg Regional Foundation
- St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic
- Strategic Spartanburg
- The Franklin School
- The Post and Courier Public Service and Investigative Fund
- The Roo Crew
- Together SC
- United Way of the Piedmont
- Uplift Outreach Center
- Upstate Family Resource Center

A VITAL INVESTMENT: COMMUNITY-LED APPROACH TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

In 2025, the Mary Black Foundation made a significant \$6 million commitment over five years to support VITAL Spartanburg, a community-wide action plan for mental and behavioral health. The Foundation's support is a direct result of the unexpected \$8 million gift from MacKenzie Scott in 2022. The plan will launch new, innovative efforts, but it will also support and grow the many effective programs and initiatives already taking place in Spartanburg.

A group of representatives from over 40 organizations worked together for 18 months to create a plan for how to address behavioral and mental health needs together, not in isolation. Even more unique is that philanthropy has been at the table since day one. Funders and service providers worked closely together throughout the process—the decision to develop a plan, the process of creating the plan, funding of the plan, and the execution and evaluation of the plan—have all been designed in collaboration. Spartanburg Regional Foundation is serving as the backbone organization for VITAL Spartanburg, helping coordinate the work across dozens of partner organizations.

From this work, a roadmap for a new countywide behavioral and mental health plan was developed:
VITAL Spartanburg: Our Community Action Plan for Mental and Behavioral Health.



This plan focuses on prevention, treatment, and system coordination and has three key priorities:

- 1) Improve mental well-being of children and families.
- 2) Promote well-being of those struggling with severe mental illness.
- 3) Support individuals and families impacted by substance use disorders.

THE DATA DEMANDED WE ACT

40%

of Spartanburg youth reported **persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness.**

154

overdose deaths due to opioid use in Spartanburg County.

5,000

mental and behavioral health-related visits to SRHS' emergency department annually.

STEERING COMMITTEE



All 7 Spartanburg School Districts

Behavioral Health Task Force

Spartanburg Regional Foundation is serving as the backbone organization for this community-wide initiative. Alongside them and the organizations that make up the steering committee, dozens more helped create the plan and are implementing it in the community.



BUILDING CAPACITY, DEEPENING IMPACT

Beyond awarding grants to support the programs and operations of nonprofit organizations, the Mary Black Foundation invests in the organizations themselves, helping them become stronger, more sustainable, and better equipped to serve our community.

In 2025, that support took several forms:

ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

The Foundation sponsored seventeen nonprofit partners to complete an assessment to identify gaps followed by an opportunity to meet one-on-one with a consultant who helped them develop next steps to strengthen their organization. In addition, participants received a \$1,200 capacity building grant to help begin putting their plan into action.

POLICY & ADVOCACY TRAINING

The Foundation offered a three-part intensive training series to support nonprofit partners in developing practical advocacy plans. While strong programs are essential, lasting change also depends on broader systems that support families. By strengthening our partners' ability to engage in policy and advocacy work, the Foundation is helping ensure their voices—and the voices of those they serve—are part of shaping those systems.

DR. GEORGE NEWBY, JR. COMMUNITY HEALTH FELLOWSHIP

In 2025, the Mary Black Foundation reimagined its Dr. George Newby, Jr. Community Health Award as a year-long fellowship to deepen the investment in the leaders being recognized. First established in 2021 as a community nomination-based award, the fellowship honors the legacy of the late Dr. George Paul Archie Newby, Jr. and recognizes nonprofit leaders advancing community health through innovation, advocacy, and meaningful impact.

Fellows receive funding and support to further their mission and drive sustainable change.



A LEGACY OF CARE, CONTINUED

When **Amber Pendergraph** was named the **2025 Dr. George Newby, Jr. Community Health Fellow**, the recognition represented more than an honor, it marked a full-circle moment. Early in her career as a doula, Amber was hired by Dr. George Newby, Jr. when BirthMatters was still in its early stages as a program of ReGenesis Health Care.

Today, under Amber's leadership, **BirthMatters** is transforming maternal and infant health outcomes in Spartanburg County by making childbirth safer and healthier for young mothers and their babies through free, community-based doula support. Her work continues Dr. Newby's legacy of community-centered care, ensuring more families receive the support they need during pregnancy, childbirth, and early parenthood.





OUR 2025 TRUSTEES

From left to right:

Rev. Scott Neely
Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church
of Spartanburg

Dr. Nayef Samhat
President, Wofford College

Ed Memmott, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect
Retired, City of Spartanburg

Andrea Moore
Attorney, Thompson Dove Law Group

Bernard Wheeler, Secretary/Treasurer
Vice President and Commercial
Relationship Manager, United
Community Bank

Dr. Julie Fowler
Superintendent, Spartanburg
School District Three

Laura Henthorn
Vice President, Mark III Properties

Brandi Gist
CFO, Spartanburg School District Two

Dr. Russell Booker
CEO, Spartanburg Academic Movement

Dr. Laura Barbas-Rhoden
Professor of Modern Languages,
Literatures, and Cultures,
Wofford College

Sloan Evans
Owner, Cedar Avenue, LLC

Dr. Kofi Appiah, Chair
Nephrologist, Spartanburg
Nephrology Associates

Not pictured:

Dr. Ebony Gaffney
Executive and Medical Director,
Spartanburg Office of Mental Health

OUR TEAM

From left to right:

Mary Kathryn Snead
Chief Financial Officer

Natalia Valenzuela Swanson
Senior Director of
Community Impact

Amy Page
Grants Manager

Haley Wicker
Director of Community
Impact

Linda Smith
Office Manager

Rochelle Williams
Chief Strategy Officer and
Vice President of
Community Impact

Denny Boll
Accounting Assistant

Molly Talbot-Metz
President and Chief
Executive Officer

Cassidy Reynolds
Communications and
Events Manager





INVEST · PARTNER · IMPACT

for a healthier Spartanburg