



SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA
2009 Annual Report

THE 2009 ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS THE 2009
WORK OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

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2009: AT A GLANCE

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina updated its vision and mission statement. Going forward the Foundation's vision is *Families in South Carolina have the resources to live out of poverty*. The Foundation's mission is *In response to God's call and in the spirit of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, we strategically use resources to reduce poverty through action, advocacy and leadership*.

The elected Board of Trustees officers for 2009 were Kevin Hall, chair; Yvonne Orr, vice chair; Dee Dee Chewning, secretary; and Mike McCabe, treasurer.

Over 150 people representing South Carolina nonprofit organizations attended a Foundation-hosted nonprofit information session on Mission-Effectiveness in Transitional Times. This January summit was an outgrowth of the economic crisis.

The Foundation awarded over \$2.1 million through 93 grants to organizations working to address poverty in South Carolina.

The Foundation added Twitter to its social media efforts in January 2009. The Foundation now has visibility on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and through its blog.

In January the Sisters of Charity Health System held a two-day educational work session at the Foundation. The session included the Sisters of Charity Foundations' grants management and program staffs from Canton and Cleveland along with all of the South Carolina Foundation staff.

The Foundation traveled to Washington, D.C., in March to participate in Foundations on the Hill, sponsored by the Council on Foundations.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina sponsored the Assembly of Catholic Foundations Conference held in Charleston in March.

The Foundation's senior leadership attended the Sisters of Charity Health System Leadership Retreat April 29 through May 1 at Atwood Lake located in Delroy, Ohio. The retreat focused on mentoring the next generation.

The Foundation hired a senior director of research and promoted within for the director of communications and public policy.

Forty women religious from around the state attended the Collaboration for Ministry Initiative (CMI) Spring Gathering Regional Conference, hosted by the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina in Greenville.

Twelve Responsive Grant recipients received their grant checks at the Responsive Grant Luncheon in June.

The Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, Sisters of Charity Health System and representatives from the Health System's South Carolina ministries met with Bishop Robert E. Guglielmo in June in Charleston.

The Foundation embraced the need for reauthorization of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) legislation. Through its advocacy efforts the Foundation raised awareness on this issue to its congressional delegation, media, other foundations and the public at large.

The Foundation and the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families were recognized in June at an Administration for Children and Families presentation in Baltimore as one of the pioneers in the fatherhood field.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina implemented a [Nonprofit Leadership Training Certificate Program](#), a collaborative effort between the Foundation and Columbia College. In addition to a certificate in Nonprofit Leadership Training, the students—nonprofit leaders in the state—will earn nine graduate-level credit hours through Columbia College.

The “Crossroads” documentary, a 2008 collaborative effort of the Foundation and Clemson University’s video department highlighting the historical impact and challenging future of Catholic Sisters, was nominated for an Emmy in the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Southeast Region competition.

Foundation representatives helped plan and attended the first South Carolina Grantmakers Network’s Fall Forum in October.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Family Assistance released a report featuring the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families as a promising practice for Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Programs.

The 2009 Sisters of Charity Foundation Family Conference was held in Myrtle Beach in October. The conference is held every three years and brings together the boards and staff from all three foundations and the Sisters of Charity Health System.

In October a Foundation representative traveled to New York to present on unfamiliar online communications tools for foundations and nonprofits at the national Communications Network Conference.

The board formally approved the Foundation’s [2010-2014 Strategic Plan](#) at the October Board Planning Meeting.

The Foundation led two sessions at the 40th annual meeting of the Southeastern Council of Foundations; one on the Foundation’s efforts beyond grantmaking, providing insight into the development and management of the Learning Academy and the second informing and educating southeastern grantmakers on the impact of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) legislation and funding on southern states.

A luncheon with local faith leaders and Fred Smith, Ph.D., of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., was held at the Foundation in November. The open dialogue centered around how the faith community can impact community change.

In November, the five-year anniversary of the [Collaboration for Ministry Initiative](#) was celebrated with a conference in Myrtle Beach.

Through a partnership with the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, the Foundation purchased and installed equipment to provide distance learning across the state. Distance learning will enable the Foundation to reach more people by utilizing video conferencing and connecting to other geographic areas.

During its second year the Foundation’s [Learning Academy](#) held 10 workshops. There were a total of 149 workshop participants representing 127 separate individuals and 103 nonprofit organizations from across South Carolina served through these workshops.

Rick Mendoza was elected to the Board of Trustees in December of 2009.

Foundation assets as of December 31, 2009 were \$74,882,777.

FOUNDATION GOVERNANCE

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA IS GOVERNED BY A BOARD OF TRUSTEES WITH OVERSIGHT, LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION FROM THE SISTERS OF CHARITY HEALTH SYSTEM.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In 2009 there were 19 members serving on the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina's Board of Trustees. The 2009 officers, as recommended by the Governance Committee and elected by the full board, were Kevin Hall, chair; Yvonne Orr, vice chair; Dee Dee Chewning, secretary; and Mike McCabe, treasurer. These officers were elected for a one-year term.

2009 Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina's Board of Trustees



Kevin Hall
chair



Yvonne Orr
vice chair



Dee Dee Chewning
secretary



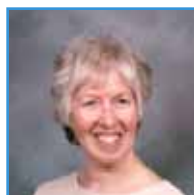
Mike McCabe
treasurer



John Boudreaux



Tobin Cassels



Sister Miriam Erb, CSA



Dorothy Grillo



Susan Heath



Alice Hurley



Bob Jewell



Tom Keith
ex officio



Sue Krey
ex officio



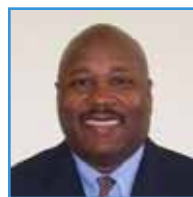
David Lominack



Thomas Otis



Patricia Moore-Pastides



Roy Tucker



Craig Waites

New Trustee Elected to Foundation Board

Columbia attorney Rick Mendoza was elected by the Board of Trustees, and approved by the Sisters of Charity Health System, in December of 2009 with his first three-year term to begin in January 2010.

MISSION AUDIT

In July 2009, the Foundation embarked on its first Mission Audit covering the period of September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009. This mission audit included an in-depth review in the following eight key areas: mission effectiveness, catholic identity, quality, diversity, catholic social teaching, community outreach, employee issues and advocacy.

At the completion of the mission audit, the following four goals were established by staff to be implemented beginning September 1, 2009, through August 31, 2010, thus creating the Foundation's Mission Action Plan.

Mission Effectiveness – Strengthen the Foundation's mission effectiveness and competencies of Foundation Board of Trustees members and staff

Diversity – Promote diversity at all levels of the organization

Employee Issues – Remain current by updating the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina Policy and Procedure Manual

Catholic Identity – Incorporate elements of Catholic Identity in the Foundation's daily work

2010-2014 STRATEGIC PLAN

BEGINNING IN 2008, THE BOARD AND STAFF OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA EMBARKED ON AN EXTENSIVE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS. THE STRATEGIC PLAN WAS APPROVED BY THE SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN OCTOBER 2009.



2010-2014 STRATEGIC PLAN

With guidance from Level Smart, an Atlanta-based consulting firm, the development of the Foundation's strategic plan involved a considerable and stimulating exchange of ideas between the Foundation's Board of Trustees, staff and various community members. The strategic plan recognizes the important role the Foundation plays as a statewide foundation and its ability to impact, influence and leverage diverse resources throughout South Carolina. As part of this process, the Foundation reviewed its mission statement, created a vision statement, reaffirmed its organizational core values and guiding principles, refined its grantmaking key focus areas and established strategic goals. The strategic plan was approved by the Board of Trustees at the October 2009 planning meeting.

Working closely with Sister Rosemarie Carfagna, OSU, senior vice president of mission and ministry for the Sisters of Charity Health System, part of the strategic planning process entailed an intensive method of reflecting and comparing the Foundation's mission statement with the Sisters of Charity Health System, which ultimately resulted in the decision to revise the Foundation mission statement. The following new mission statement was approved by the Sisters of Charity Health System on December 14, 2009: "In response to God's call and in the spirit of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, we strategically use resources to reduce poverty through action, advocacy and leadership." The new mission statement communicates the Foundation's rich spiritual history and connection to the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, as well as reflects the Foundation today.

During this time, the Foundation also established a vision for the future, a vision that "families in South Carolina have the resources to live out of poverty." The Foundation defined "families" broadly, to include individuals and couples, as well as mothers, fathers, grandparents or other caregivers of children working to build a better life for themselves, their children, their community and the next generation. In order for families to "live out of poverty," they need to have the necessary resources (i.e., spiritual, physical, material, etc.) to grow and fully develop their God-given potential and gifts.

The Foundation's organizational core values are compassion, respect, courage, justice and collaboration, and these core values play a prominent role within the strategic plan.

Additionally, the Foundation remains committed to the following guiding principles: be proactive; be a convener; disseminate new information to making future decisions; assist in building community infrastructures and human capacity; allow flexibility to seize opportunities and to respond to changing public needs; make informed, educated, value-driven decisions; commit to diversity, take calculated risks, make strategic grants directed toward systemic change; emphasize those with needs and who are philanthropically underserved; and seek to build on applicant organizations' strengths and the strengths of the persons we serve.

In order to reduce poverty in South Carolina, the Foundation decided to intentionally focus its grantmaking efforts to support families in the following areas: social services, health and education. The Foundation furthers its mission through initiatives, grantmaking, education, capacity building, advocacy and measuring the outcomes of these efforts.

On the facing page is an excerpt from the Foundation's strategic plan, including the goals set to positively impact impoverished families across the state and success indicators to measure the impact of the strategic plan.

Our Strategic Goals

Grounded in our core values and Catholic principles, these five strategic goals direct our future work.

mission:

In response to God's call and in the spirit of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, we strategically use resources to reduce poverty through *action, advocacy and leadership.*

Courageously *Lead*

- Become an innovative leader and knowledge resource about families in poverty in South Carolina.
- Increase other organizations' capacity to address poverty in South Carolina.

Collaboratively *Advocate*

- Build a critical mass of state and local leaders in South Carolina who are aware of the impact of generational poverty and can influence policy.

Compassionately *Act*

- Sharpen the focus of our grantmaking to organizations that create opportunities for families to live out of poverty in South Carolina.
- Build our organizational capacity to achieve our strategic goals, fulfill our mission and elevate the Sisters' ministry in South Carolina.

Our Success Indicators

The following targets provide us with a concrete way to benchmark and measure our efforts in 2014.

vision:

Families in South Carolina have the resources to live out of poverty.

Impact

- Provided Strategic Funding to Support Families in Social Services, Health and Education
- 400 Members from the Nonprofit Sector with Increased Leadership Skills
- Increased Capacity and Effectiveness among Grantees

Influence

- Increased Visibility and Leadership to Advance Our Mission
- Successful Dissemination of Knowledge/Research
- Use of Effective Communication Methods
- Launch of Poverty Awareness Campaign
- Establishment of SC Legislative Commission/Council on Poverty

Leverage

- Number and Strength of Partnerships/Collaborations Initiated or Maintained
- Increased Return on Investments (Financial or Social Value)

GRANTMAKING

IN 2009, THE SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA AWARDED 95 GRANTS TOTALING \$2,159,815 TO FAITH-BASED AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO ADDRESS POVERTY.

GRANTMAKING

Many organizations work daily toward improving the lives of men, women and children who face poverty either as a reality that seems hopeless or a threat that is looming and real. The Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina is committed to strengthening and supporting organizations in their grassroots efforts to confront and overcome poverty.

One of the many ways in which this task is accomplished is through grantmaking, in accordance with the mission and values of the Foundation. Simply put, grants awarded through the Foundation are intended to meet the needs of the poor—either directly or indirectly—and build upon strengths and abilities of individuals within the context of the family and a healthy community. While grants are awarded to organizations with very specific purposes in mind, the Foundation seeks programs which complement one another and work together collaboratively.

In order to reduce poverty in South Carolina, the Foundation intentionally focuses grantmaking efforts to support families in the areas of social services, health and education through two primary grantmaking categories: Caritas Grants and Responsive Grants.

Caritas Grants

“In omnibus caritas” meaning “in all things charity” are simple all-encompassing words that the Foundation seeks to practice through the Caritas Grants. As a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina makes Caritas Grants to worthy endeavors of nonprofit and faith-based organizations reaching out to meet the immediate needs of the poor.

Caritas Grants are for organizations providing outreach services to the poor and marginalized. Designed for organizations with annual budgets of less than \$250,000, these one-year grant awards do not exceed \$3,000.

To meet the needs of nonprofit organizations in South Carolina in this economic downturn, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina increased Caritas Grants awarded from once a year to three times in 2009. In addition to increasing the number of times grants were awarded and the number of grants awarded, the Foundation accepted—for the first-time—applications meeting organizations’ basic operating expenses.

2009 Caritas Grants

[Anderson Sunshine House](#) – (\$3,000) Transitional housing for the homeless. (*Anderson County*)

[Bluffton Self Help](#) – (\$3,000) Emergency assistance for the poor. (*Beaufort County*)

[Catholic Charities Coastal Deanery](#) – (\$3,000) Dental assistance for low-income and homeless senior citizens. (*Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties*)

[Center for Women and Children](#) – (\$3,000) Assistance for homeless women. (*Horry County*)

[Chapin We Care Center](#) – (\$3,000) Emergency utility assistance for the poor. (*Lexington and Newberry Counties*)

[Christ Central/Hanna House of Columbia](#) – (\$3,000) Transitional housing for women and children. (*Richland and Lexington Counties*)

[Christ Central Ministries, Inc.](#) – (\$2,000) Commercial hot water heater and metal shelving for the soup kitchen and food pantry. (*Richland and Lexington Counties*)

[Christ Central Ministries, Inc.](#) – (\$2,000) Food and clothing to the needy of Chester County. (*Chester County*)

[Churches Assisting People, Inc.](#) – (\$1,500) Distribution of food to the newly unemployed. (*Horry, Berkeley and Charleston Counties*)

Coastal District Council St. Vincent de Paul Society/Holy Family Parish – (\$3,000) Emergency assistance for the poor. (*Beaufort County*)

Coastal Rescue Mission – (\$3,000) Food for the needy. (*Horry County*)

Community Kitchen of Myrtle Beach – (\$3,000) Funding to purchase a deep fryer for a soup kitchen. (*Horry County*)

Fields to Families – (\$1,500) Growing fresh produce for the hungry. (*Dorchester County*)

Food Bank of Greenwood County – (\$3,000) Funding to purchase walk-in cooler/freezer for emergency food pantry. (*Greenwood and Abbeville Counties*)

Free Medical Clinic of Newberry County – (\$3,000) Diabetic supplies for the uninsured. (*Newberry County*)

Friendship Medical Clinic – (\$3,000) Medicine for low-income and indigent patients. (*Horry County*)

Golden Corner Ministries – (\$2,500) Food boxes for the elderly poor. (*Oconee County*)

Good Samaritan Clinic – (\$3,000) Medical, dental and pharmaceutical care for the uninsured. (*Lexington County*)

Good Samaritan House of Fairfield County – (\$2,500) Providing food boxes to low-income families. (*Fairfield County*)

Great Falls Referral Assistance Service Project – (\$3,000) Emergency assistance for the poor. (*Chester County*)

Happy Gifts Corporation – (\$3,000) Hot meals for the poor. (*Pickens County*)

Helping Hands of Georgetown – (\$3,000) Emergency utility assistance for the poor. (*Georgetown County*)

Helping Hands of Goose Creek, Inc. – (\$2,500) An emergency food program. (*Berkeley County*)

Interfaith Hospitality Network of York County – (\$3,000) Emergency assistance for the homeless. (*York County*)

Lexington County Foster and Adoptive Parent's Association – (\$1,500) Providing assistance to foster parents. (*Lexington County*)

Loaves & Fishes – (\$2,500) Perishable food distribution program for the hungry. (*Greenville County*)

Mercy in Me Free Medical Clinic – (\$3,000) Medical care for the uninsured poor. (*Chesterfield County*)

Midlands Holy Family Fun – (\$3,000) Emergency assistance for the poor. (*Richland and Barnwell Counties*)

Midland Park Community Ministries – (\$3,000) Emergency food for the poor. (*Charleston County*)

MK Inc. – (\$1,000) Food and preparation for a food bank and Kid's Cafe. (*Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties*)

MVP Outreach Community Life Center – (\$2,500) Groceries for the poor. (*Greenville County*)

Nazareth Apostolic Church in Jesus Christ – (\$3,000) Food for the underserved. (*Darlington County*)

Orangeburg Calhoun Free Medical Clinic – (\$3,000) Medical care for the uninsured poor. (*Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties*)

Our Daily Bread – (\$2,113) Funding for a cooling unit for the food storage area. (*Oconee, Anderson and Pickens Counties*)

Pee Dee Community Project – (\$2,500) Providing food for the hungry. (*Georgetown County*)

PK Outreach – (\$3,000) Emergency assistance for the poor. (*Spartanburg County*)

Restoration Outreach and Community Development Corporation – (\$3,000) Meals for low-income senior citizens. (*Newberry and Union Counties*)

Rock Hill School District Foundation – (\$1,500) A discreet program to provide nutritious nonperishable food for malnourished students to take home for the weekend. (*York County*)

Rural Mission, Inc. – (\$2,500) Outreach ministry assisting low-income families and migrants with basic needs. (*Charleston and Colleton Counties*)

Sewee to Santee Economic Foundation – (\$3,000) Septic system pump out for low-income residents. *(Charleston County)*

Stella Maris St. Vincent de Paul Society – (\$2,500) Provide nutritional supplements to elderly homebound. *(Charleston County)*

St. Anne Catholic Parish Outreach Ministry – (\$2,500) Personal hygiene kits for poverty stricken families. *(Florence County)*

St. Christopher's Children – (\$3,000) Meeting personal needs of children in crisis. *(Georgetown County)*

St. Theresa's Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society – (\$3,000) Food for the poor. *(Dorchester and Berkeley Counties)*

St. Vincent de Paul Outreach of St. Peter's Catholic Church – (\$3,000) Food for the needy. *(Beaufort and Jasper Counties)*

St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Benedict's Parish – (\$2,500) Emergency assistance for those in need. *(Charleston and Berkeley Counties)*

Touching Heaven Changing Earth Outreach – (\$3,000) Food for the poor. *(Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Florence and Williamsburg Counties)*

True Vine Christian Fellowship Center – (\$3,000) Food for the needy. *(Dorchester County)*

The Clarendon County Community Development Corporation – (\$2,500) Assistance for low-income families for clothing and utilities. *(Clarendon County)*

The Samaritan House of Orangeburg County – (\$3,000) Transitional housing for the homeless. *(Calhoun, Orangeburg and Bamberg Counties)*

Women's Ministries Women of Power International – (\$2,000) Emergency assistance for low-income women who have been widowed. *(South Carolina)*

Responsive Grants

Responsive Grants are designed to address the root causes of poverty. The grantmaking process allows the Foundation to work more closely with potential grantees before and after a grant award. Through the Responsive Grant process, the Foundation seeks to develop collaborative relationships by selectively offering capacity building, focused technical assistance and monitoring through site visits.

While the Foundation does not place a specific limit on funds requested, all requests submitted are viewed in proportion to funds available for Foundation grants. Grant award amounts vary depending on the requirements of each funding proposal. In 2009, the Foundation received 51 Responsive Grant pre-applications. Select staff members and outside reviewers convened to review and discuss these pre-applications. Of those 51 pre-applicants, there were 18 organizations invited to submit full proposals. From the 18 proposals submitted, there were 13 recommended and approved for funding totaling \$550,000.

2009 Responsive Grants

Carolina Youth Development Center – (\$20,000) A career education program that will transition young people from school to work and toward self-sufficiency. *(Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester Counties)*

Eau Claire Shalom Ministries – (\$25,000) A family literacy program. *(Richland County)*

Healing Species – (\$40,000) A violence intervention/character education program serving at-risk youth. *(Bamberg, Orangeburg and Richland Counties)*

Helping and Lending Outreach Support (HALOS) – (\$35,000) Support for relative caregivers and the children in their care. *(Charleston County)*

Midlands Education and Business Alliance – (\$25,000) Connecting students, parents, educators and employers to education and career opportunities through programs and partnerships. *(Richland, Fairfield and Lexington Counties)*

Miracle Hill Ministries, Inc./Miracle Life Mission – (\$50,000) Providing transitional living beds for men and women moving out of shelters. *(Cherokee, Greenville and Spartanburg Counties)*

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Center – (\$30,000) Funding for a community services extension program expansion. (*Aiken County and South Carolina*)

Salkehatchie Healthy Communities Collaborative – (\$120,000) Enhancing community wellness through education, prevention and intervention. (*Allendale County*)

Teach My People – (\$35,000) Providing high-quality after school and summer programs that are organized and spiritually driven. (*Georgetown County*)

United Center for Community Care – (\$25,000) A centrally located facility housing organization that provides services to the hungry, homeless and disenfranchised. (*Greenwood, Abbeville, McCormick, Saluda, Edgefield and Laurens Counties*)

University of South Carolina School of Medicine – (\$75,000) Achieving optimal high blood pressure treatment for Free Medical Clinic patients using point of care portable ultrasound. (*Richland and Lexington Counties*)

Wings for Kids – (\$70,000) Funding to create a replication model for this innovative after school program. (*Charleston County*)

Winthrop University – (\$5,000) Nonprofit Management certificate program. (*York, Lancaster and Chester Counties*)

Each of the thirteen Responsive Grant grantees received their awards at the annual Responsive Grant Luncheon on June 4 at Saluda Shoals Park in Columbia. A Foundation orientation which included education sessions on grant oversight and processes, Foundation technology and an overview of the Foundation and the Sisters of Charity Health System was held preceding the luncheon. A representative from each organization receiving funding presented on the program funded. Sister Nancy Hendershot, CSA, vice president of mission and ministry at Providence Hospitals, charged the grantees to take with them the spirit of the “good and faithful servant” as in the parable of the Talents (Matthew 25).

Other Grants

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina also distributed Collaboration for Ministry Initiative grants (page 24) and 21 Discretionary/Opportunity grants, totaling \$1,376,302, to organizations including funding to support the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families.

SITE VISITS

Grantee site visits afford board members and staff opportunity to get a first-hand look into how the mission of the Foundation is achieved through grantmaking. The following site visits were conducted in 2009:

March 10	East Cooper Community Outreach (Mount Pleasant, S.C.)
April 15	Children’s Attention Home (Rock Hill, S.C.)
May 20	S.C. Strong (North Charleston, S.C.)
June 16	Trinity Housing Corporation (Columbia, S.C.)
July 9	United Methodist Relief Center (Mount Pleasant, S.C.)
August 18,19, 20	Coastal Samaritan Counseling (Myrtle Beach, S.C.)
October 13	House of Destiny (Boiling Springs, S.C.)
November 5	East Cooper Meals on Wheels (Mount Pleasant, S.C.)

COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA SEEKS TO BE AN ADVOCATE FOR THE POOR. TO FULFILL ITS MISSION AND SERVE THE STATE AND THOSE IN NEED, THE FOUNDATION SEEKS TO BE ENGAGED IN THE PUBLIC POLICY PROCESS. EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY AND POLICYMAKERS ABOUT THE WORK OF THE FOUNDATION AND ITS GRANTEES ENABLES THE FOUNDATION TO ACHIEVE ITS MISSION.

BRANDING

The Sisters of Charity Health System Board of Trustees approved the implementation of a family corporate identity that extends the Health System's logo to all of its wholly owned ministries, including the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina.

With input from the Foundation and Health System, Twist Creative, the Health System's ad agency, designed a new logo for the Foundation.

Old Logo:



New Logo:



MEDIA COVERAGE

The Foundation received significant media coverage in 2009. There was coverage in weekly papers covering 29 of the 46 South Carolina counties. In addition to numerous articles in local, state, regional and industry publications, there were three op-eds in "The State" newspaper. There was an op-ed on Father's Day encouraging public support of engaged and active fathers, one in support of keeping the University of South Carolina's regional campuses in Allendale and Lancaster open and an op-ed around TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) reauthorization and the impact TANF funding has on South Carolina.

As a direct result of the TANF column, the Foundation was asked to participate in WIS-TV's Newswatch television program. South Carolina Department of Social Services and Foundation representatives were interviewed by Ben Hoover, WIS-TV news anchor. The program aired on Sunday, October 25.

CROSSROADS DOCUMENTARY

The award-winning documentary "Crossroads," which portrays ministries of Catholic Sisters in South Carolina, highlighting their historical impact and challenging future, was nominated for an Emmy in the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Southeast Region competition.

The documentary, a 2008 collaborative effort of the Foundation and Clemson University's video department, was featured at the 2009 Celebration of Inquiry Conference at Coastal Carolina University.

In addition, Crossroads was re-broadcast on the SC Channel (all digital) March 29 and again Easter Sunday.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Foundation added Twitter to its social media efforts in January 2009. The Foundation had visibility throughout the year on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and through its blog. These social media efforts have led to the Foundation being featured on numerous other blogs and Web sites, as well as receiving regional and national recognition and being sought out to present at national conferences. These tools are just another way to communicate to different audiences and share the Foundation's message as it works to alleviate poverty.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

The Foundation envisions families in South Carolina with the resources to live out of poverty. Thus, the Foundation embraced the need for reauthorization of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) legislation. The current funding is based on the amount a state received 13 years ago under a different program. The Foundation feels it is an injustice to continue to use this formula, as states with the largest number of citizens in poverty receive the smallest grants. The Foundation worked and continues to work to bring this to light and fight for those who cannot fight for themselves. Working with the South Carolina Department of Social Services, the governor's office, congressional delegation and other foundations, the Foundation is working to get South Carolina its fair share of TANF funding.

COLLABORATION FOR MINISTRY INITIATIVE

HISTORICALLY, SISTER-AFFILIATED MINISTRIES HAVE A STRONG AND SUCCESSFUL RECORD IN REDUCING POVERTY IN SOUTH CAROLINA. TODAY, DUE TO AGING OF SISTERS AND THE DECLINE IN NEW RECRUITS, THERE IS AN ACCELERATING LOSS OF SISTERS' MINISTRIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA. WORKING TO STRENGTHEN AND SUSTAIN THESE MINISTRIES, THE COLLABORATION FOR MINISTRY INITIATIVE CONDUCTS A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING CONVENING MEETINGS, PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, FACILITATING TRANSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP OF SISTER-AFFILIATED MINISTRIES, PROVIDING GRANTS AND EVALUATING THESE EFFORTS.

GRANTS AWARDED

In 2009 the Foundation awarded 10 Collaboration for Ministry Initiative (CMI) grants totaling \$99,900.

2009 CMI Grants

Felician Sisters of St. Ann Catholic Outreach Center – (\$15,000) Increase services to the underserved of St. Ann Outreach Center in Kingstree and St. Philip Outreach Center in Lake City, and for the expanded enrichment and educational opportunities for at-risk children in the Williamsburg school district. (*Florence and Williamsburg Counties*)

Franciscan Center – (\$15,000) A partnership project for poverty alleviation in rural Allendale County through the collaboration effort of public, private and nonprofit sectors through the development of an agricultural business for the community. (*Allendale County*)

Jasper County Neighbors United – (\$10,000) A Parent University addressing the educational and relationship needs of low-income single mothers and their children. Programs include an after school program, a summer lunch program and a mentoring program for the mothers. (*Jasper County*)

Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Services, Inc. – (\$15,000) Family Literacy Program to provide educational opportunities for adults and their children who seek to improve their language, math and general literacy skills as well parenting and socialization skills. (*Charleston County*)

Our Lady of Mercy Neighborhood House – (\$5,000) Develop resources and leadership to sustain the ministry of The Neighborhood House into a viable future to serve the needs of people living in poverty in Charleston. (*Charleston County*)

Sea of Peace House of Prayer – (\$3,000) To facilitate transition in leadership for a center that provides outreach services to the surrounding community. (*South Carolina*)

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School – (\$11,900) To bring together elderly individuals in the community and school children to provide tutoring for the children and companionship for the elderly in the form of Elder Buddies. (*Greenville County*)

St. Cyprian Outreach Center – (\$7,500) Funding was provided for a Hispanic Community Client Advocate to provide Hispanic community members with the means to communicate successfully with service providers. (*Georgetown County*)

St. Martin de Porres Catholic School – (\$7,500) Interactive program to enrich reading, language arts, religion and science skills for students in grades Pre-K-6. (*Richland County*)

Springbank Retreat Center – (\$10,000) Retreats, education and workshops for women in addiction. (*South Carolina*)

SPRING GATHERING REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Foundation's Collaboration for Ministry Initiative held its Spring Gathering on March 28, 2009, in Greenville, South Carolina. Forty women religious from around the state attended. Mark Small, Ph.D., from Clemson University facilitated the conference. The Sisters spent the morning sharing stories reflecting on their lives and the ministries they serve in South Carolina. Through this time of reflection, they learned how much their lives were interconnected. Some Sisters shared stories about a person or situation that affected their ministry, while other Sisters described how they adapted to their ministry in South Carolina. In the afternoon, the group traveled to the new Greenville Monastery of St. Clare in Travelers Rest, South Carolina, to continue the day of sharing stories and prayers together with the Poor Clare Sisters.

STATEWIDE FALL CONFERENCE

In November, the five-year anniversary of the Collaboration for Ministry Initiative was celebrated with a conference in Myrtle Beach. Approximately 90 Sisters from around the state, CMI team members and dignitaries attended the conference. Sister Nancy Schreck, president of the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, Iowa, facilitated the seminar.

As the Sisters gathered together, they examined the layers of grace and were reminded that one's existence is not defined by successes, but by doing one's part. They discussed what it meant to be given, as they strive to help the poor and underserved members of society in their communities and beyond. Rituals and prayers throughout the seminar were led by Sister Pat Kozak of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cleveland. A PowerPoint presentation of a collage of Sisters' pictures and words written at previous events along with nature scenes aired throughout the conference.

The Most Reverend Bishop Robert E. Guglielmo, Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston, attended the conference. The Bishop welcomed the opportunity for collaboration with the Sisters who shared in an informal dialogue about their lives and ministries in South Carolina and challenges faced. Bishop Guglielmo celebrated Mass as a culmination of the seminar. Each Sister left the seminar with renewed energies to continue her ministries.

ERUPTIONS OF AMAZEMENT




The book, "Eruptions of Amazement," was unveiled and distributed during the November 2009 Collaboration for Ministry Initiative's fifth annual statewide conference and anniversary celebration in Myrtle Beach. Published in 2009, this collection of pieces written by women religious in South Carolina contains five sections that together represent the diversity and richness of Sisters and their ministries in South Carolina: gathered and graced; blessing and blesses; God revealed; bubbling up; and forever astonished. The book was born out of the previous 2008 annual conference of the Collaboration for Ministry Initiative, "Telling our Stories, Transforming our World." During the 2008 conference, Sisters were led through a series of writing exercises in which they explored their lives and ministries using the metaphors of seeds and seasons. After each writing session, Sisters were encouraged to share their stories with one another. Based on the overall positive reaction of both telling and listening to stories, the writings were collated into the book, "Eruptions of Amazement."

FIVE YEAR REPORT

In November 2009, a five-year evaluation report was completed and shared with the Sisters at the fifth annual statewide conference. Recommendations for the future of the Collaboration for Ministry Initiative were made, informed by the experiences of the Initiative to date and by the current characterization of the Initiative as an empirically-driven, Sister-focused, ministry supportive effort to grow and sustain ministries in South Carolina. The recommendations were to (1) continue to collect data to describe the constantly changing personnel and ministries to understand how best to sustain ministries, (2) remain Sister-focused by continuing annual and regional gatherings and involving Sisters in planning future directions of the Collaboration for Ministry Initiative and (3) continue the current grant giving strategies and evaluate the impact they have on building and sustaining the capacity of ministries.

SOUTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR FATHERS AND FAMILIES

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR FATHERS FAMILIES, A FAITH-BASED, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, DEVELOPS AND SUPPORTS A STATEWIDE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FATHERS AND FAMILIES THROUGHOUT SOUTH CAROLINA. THE CENTER WAS FOUNDED IN 2002 AS AN OUTGROWTH OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE.



The South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families (the Center), an outreach ministry of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, is a statewide organization that coordinates program development, and provides technical assistance, funding support, financial oversight and community capacity building for seven nonprofit organizations serving low-income, non-custodial fathers in eleven communities. Additionally, the Center plays a lead role in advocating for father-friendly state and federal policies and in raising awareness about the importance of father involvement.

The Center is an outgrowth of the Sisters of Charity Foundation's statewide Fatherhood Initiative launched in 1997. Since its creation in 2002, the Center's overarching mission has been addressing the root causes of poverty by reconnecting low-income, non-custodial fathers to their children both financially and emotionally. These fatherhood programs provide participants with a holistic, comprehensive, 24-week program focusing on education, employment, parenting, physical and mental health, spiritual development and improving relationships with mothers of the men's children through education and mediation. Participating men develop life-long skills that help ensure ongoing family involvement and financial support for their children. Through the Fatherhood Initiative, low-income fathers have learned the importance of taking financial, emotional and spiritual responsibility for their children.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

2009 Fatherhood Program Outcomes

Through the services of the local fatherhood programs, 1,601 participants were served in 2009 (1,075 (67%) were voluntary participants and 532 (33%) were court-ordered participants).

Much work goes into supporting father and child relationships. The results in 2009 were as follows:

- 715 participants participated in job readiness sessions
- 314 participants received transportation services by the program
- 397 participants gained employment
- 1,120 participants received parenting education
- 193 participants experienced improved relationship with the other parent
- 504 participants increased time spent with their child
- 262 participants received health screenings
- \$746,478 was paid in child support
- \$125,255 was paid in arrears

Curricula Update

The Center introduced a new curriculum, Responsible Fatherhood, to strengthen job readiness and financial literacy to the existing curricula. The curriculum, by the National Partnership for Community Leadership, includes the following topics: self development, parenting, healthy relationships, men's health and economic stability. Programs received the updated curriculum which also integrated the legal curriculum, the employment component and men's health component. Additionally, the programs were introduced and trained on pre/post tests for each module.

Special Improvement Project

The Center received a Special Improvement Project grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Child Support Enforcement. The grant funds support Father to Father Georgetown in implementing an alternative to incarceration for low-income fathers who are unemployed or underemployed and who owe child support. Under this project, eligible fathers may be court-ordered by a Family Court Judge to Father to Father Georgetown in lieu of incarceration for failure to pay child support. The program has been expanded to incorporate job training to help poorly educated, unskilled fathers gain

job training skills that are marketable in the community.

A partnership between Waccamaw Workforce Investment Administrators, Georgetown One-Stop, Horry Georgetown Technical College and Father to Father Georgetown, was formed so fathers may receive job training vouchers to enroll in welder certification training to develop a job skill that is needed in the area.

Access to Health Care

The newly introduced health access component entered its second year. Throughout 2009, there were 374 first encounters with fathers for a total of 1,035 contacts and 495 follow-ups from the nurse practitioner. There were 262 health screenings conducted. As a result of the screenings, 13 fathers were newly diagnosed with hypertension, 7 were newly diagnosed with pre-diabetes and 2 were newly diagnosed with diabetes.

Providence Health and Wellness, Providence Lab and the nurse practitioner worked together to offer very extensive health screenings that included a Wellness profile, blood pressure, weight, Body Mass Index, CBC, CMP, thyroid disorders, prostate screening, Lipid profile and a urinalysis to fatherhood program participants. Additionally, fatherhood program participants were educated throughout the year about the symptoms, prevention and treatment of H1N1 (Swine) flu.

Technical Assistance

Throughout 2009, the Center conducted several technical assistance sessions for fatherhood program staff. Four technical assistance sessions were held including a session on board governance and a session led by Bernice Sanders Smoot, president of St. Wall Street, on building a case statement.

In addition to the technical assistance sessions in 2009, seven fatherhood program staff attended mediation training. To date, a total of 17 fatherhood program staff are certified mediators. With this training, fatherhood program staff are recognized by the Family Court as certified mediators.

OVERALL PLANNING

Strategic Planning

The Center finalized its five-year strategic plan in 2009. The process involved input from its Board of Trustees, staff, consultants and fatherhood program staff. Along with the strategic plan, an implementation plan was created. Below are the five goals from the strategic plan:

1. To establish the Center as a recognizable national fatherhood expert and “go-to” resource based upon our quantifiable programmatic and policy experience and data
2. To become integrated as a critical link in existing systems in service delivery
3. To expand positive impact on low-income father’s lives by means other than intensive direct service delivery
4. To strengthen leadership for sustainability of the Center and the Initiative
5. To implement a diversified fund development plan that targets private and public funding to secure financial resources to sustain the Initiative

Mission Audit

In September 2009, the Center completed its annual mission audit report. The report included a review of eight key areas: mission effectiveness, catholic identity, quality, diversity, catholic social teaching, community outreach, employee issues and advocacy.

POLICY

The Center strives to advocate for changes to policy that have a negative consequence on the father/child relationship. Most often these consequences are unintended and are the result of little attention being paid to the importance of a father's involvement in the life of his child. Below is a list of some of the key policy issues that were addressed in 2009:

Inclusion of Fathers in Child Protective Services

When children are removed from the home of a custodial parent for abuse and neglect, the non-custodial father is often overlooked as a placement alternative for the children. Furthermore, fathers, traditionally, have not been provided information about the whereabouts of their children when they have been removed from the custodial parent's home.

Center representatives presented during the Federal Review of Child Welfare Services regarding the lack of inclusion of fathers in the Child Protective Services system and the Fatherhood Initiative's opportunity to be a resource for the Department of Social Services. The Center is advocating for stronger protocols for the Child Protective Services caseworker to require a diligent search for the non-custodial parent and the involvement of the non-custodial parent in the safety plan, treatment plan and if necessary, permanent alternative placement.

Alternative Sentencing Commission Hearing

The Center has long advocated for alternatives to incarceration for non-payment of child support and sought the state's leadership's support. In 2009, Senator Glen McConnell established the Sentencing Reform Commission to examine the entire spectrum of corrections and sentencing. The Sentencing Reform Commission afforded the Center the opportunity to provide testimony supporting diversion courts as viable alternatives for incarceration and more specifically to include the Center and the alternative to incarceration for non-payment of child support as a recognizable option for the civil courts. The Commission is comprised of legislators, the director of the Department of Corrections and several judges.

COMMUNICATIONS AND AWARENESS

Presentations

In an effort to raise awareness and share best practices, the Center participated in conducting several presentations throughout the year.

2009 Presentations

Evaluation: Tips and Tools to Document and Impact Your Work with Fathers – A webinar through the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse. Fatherhood practitioners across the nation participated in the webinar. *(March)*

Foster Care and Fatherhood – Arizona Fatherhood Conference presentation on utilizing fatherhood programs to improve policy, attitudes and placement options for children involved in Child Protective Services and to help reduce the number of children placed in foster care. The session also shared lessons learned by fatherhood programs providing direct services to fathers referred to their programs by Child Protective Services. *(March)*

Using Data and Evaluation to Promote and Sustain a Fatherhood Program – A workshop led by Center staff at the Administration for Children and Families annual fall conference. *(Fall)*

WIS-TV Awareness Segment

In March 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Omnibus Appropriations Act that included \$140,000 in appropriations for the Midlands Fatherhood Coalition in Fairfield County and the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families. Because of this, the Center executive director, Midlands Fatherhood Coalition Fairfield site director and a participant of the Midlands Fatherhood Coalition Fairfield site, were featured on WIS-TV Awareness. The three discussed the Fatherhood Initiative and the benefit of the funding through the 2009 appropriations to the community and low-income fathers and their children.

Father's Day

Several of the fatherhood programs hosted activities throughout the month of June for the celebration of Father's Day, June 21, 2009. Media attention was given to the Center and fatherhood programs through featured articles in "The State" and the "Sun News" daily newspapers. The Center mailed Father's Day cards to fathers and advocates of fathers throughout the state.

Center Recognized in Review Prepared by Casey Family Programs

Casey Family Programs based in Seattle, Washington, prepared and published a report on promising practices and policies for effective father engagement. The Center is cited throughout the 24-page report, *Engaging Fathers in the Child Welfare System*, for promising practices in several key areas: Father Support and Education; Policy Reform and Collaboration with Cross-System and Community Partners; and Professional Practice and Training.

Fatherhood and the Center Included in Child and Family Services Review

During 2009, the South Carolina Department of Social Services prepared a statewide assessment report for the Child and Family Services Review. The review assesses how well a state is performing in achieving positive outcomes for children and families engaged in child welfare services. The report acknowledges that fathers and paternal relatives have not been adequately identified or engaged which could have potentially provided permanency for additional children in care. However, the report goes on to state that the Center is now engaged with the agency to promote more involvement with fathers.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Report

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Family Assistance released a report featuring the Center. The report, *Emerging Findings from the Office of Family Assistance Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Grant Programs: A Review of Select Grantee Profiles and Promising Results*, features eight Healthy Marriage and eight Responsible Fatherhood Programs. The report will be used to inform White House Administration, Congress, as well as practitioners in the field, about promising practices of the Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Programs and their outcomes.

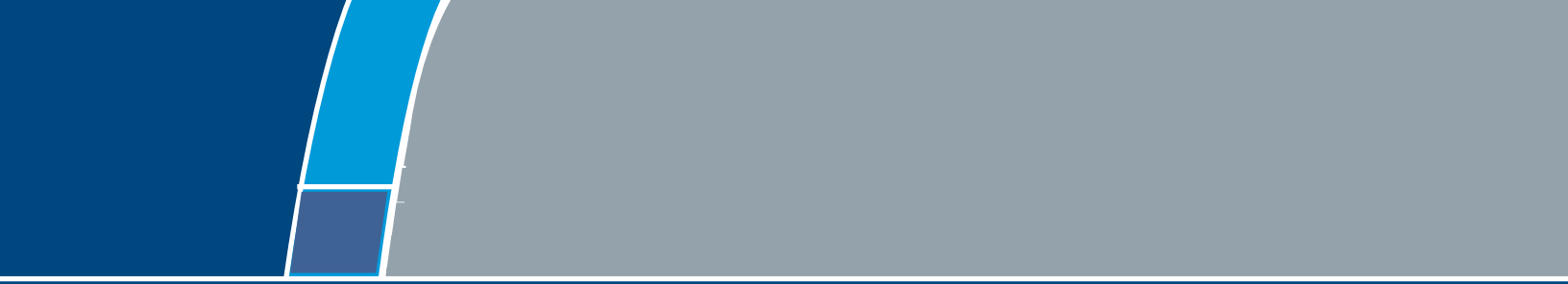
James Bell Associates, a leading and respected evaluation and research services firm based in the Washington D.C. area, conducted an extensive review of 76 programs with an emphasis on curriculum, staffing, training, services, recruitment and retention, community partnerships and evaluation outcomes.

Fatherhood Christmas Celebration

The Foundation and Center hosted the Annual Fatherhood and Family Christmas Celebration and Luncheon on Monday, December 7, 2009, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. The event featured keynote speaker and national fatherhood leader Joseph Jones, president and chief executive officer of the Center for Urban Families. Approximately 200 people were in attendance.

White House Sponsored Town Hall Meeting

The Center, Midlands Fatherhood Coalition and Upstate Fatherhood Coalition participated in the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships Roundtable and Community Forum on Responsible Fatherhood and Strong Communities on December 15, 2009, at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia.



Center representatives participated in a roundtable discussion and had the opportunity to specifically address issues related to fathers and the child support system. Fatherhood program staff joined in for the Community Forum. During the forum, three fathers from the Midlands Fatherhood Coalition addressed a Fatherhood Panel comprised of U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, Joshua DuBois, executive director, White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and Michael Strautmanis, chief of staff, White House Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The event, co-sponsored by the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships and the U.S. Department of Justice: Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, was a part of a national ongoing conversation on responsible fatherhood initiated by President Barack Obama in June.

Web Site and Social Media

The Center's Web site was updated in 2009 to provide easier navigation for visitors. The updates allow the Center the capability to add video and audio components along with more interactive features to the site. In addition to the Web site update, the Center launched into social media applications with the creation of a Facebook fan page, a Twitter account and a blog.

LEARNING ACADEMY

THE PURPOSE OF THE FOUNDATION'S LEARNING ACADEMY IS TO LEVERAGE TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS OF MULTIPLE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AS WELL AS SHARE BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED.

LEARNING ACADEMY

Facing a high grant application rejection rate, a declining economy and recognizing that many nonprofits need to enhance their operational skills, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina implemented the Learning Academy to provide capacity building workshops to nonprofits in South Carolina.

As good stewards, it is the desire of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina to provide a diverse population of nonprofit organizations in South Carolina with the opportunity to expand their skills and knowledge and enhance educational access, while cultivating personal and organizational responsibility and capacity.

The purpose of the Foundation's Learning Academy is to leverage training and educational opportunities for the capacity building needs of multiple nonprofit organizations in the state of South Carolina, as well as share best practices and lessons learned.

The Learning Academy strives to develop intentional individuals and organizations who are empowered, informed and responsible, provide learning environments that integrate emerging trends and innovation and promote continuous learning.

Vision

- To serve as a conduit for convening nonprofit organizations and leveraging training and education for the common needs at no cost to the participant and low cost to the Foundation
- To provide a cadre of professional facilitators with expertise in areas needed to enhance organizational and programmatic success
- To provide opportunities for organizations to network, collaborate, learn and grow

Theoretical Approach

Strengths-Based – Application process provided a picture of current strengths of organization

Customized – Based on application process, facilitators could customize workshop based on the participants

Collaborative – Kept workshops small and intimate to create networking, peer learning and support in a small setting

Relational – Kept workshop participation at a maximum of 20

Consultative – Utilized facilitators who were experts in areas

Informative – Provided resources and materials

Workshops

The Foundation's Learning Academy works to leverage training and educational opportunities for the capacity building needs of multiple nonprofit organizations in the state of South Carolina, as well as share best practices and lessons learned. Workshops on a variety of topics are held throughout the year and are open to South Carolina nonprofits addressing poverty. To allow for more interaction and learning opportunities, each workshop is limited in size. Participation in the workshop is determined by a selective process, requiring the submission of a completed application form.

In 2009 the Foundation's Learning Academy held 10 workshops, adding a workshop on team skills to its curriculum. There were a total of 149 workshop participants, representing 127 separate individuals and 103 nonprofit organizations, from across South Carolina served through these workshops.

Leadership Strategies Graduate Course

The Leadership Strategies Graduate Course, a partnership between the Foundation and Columbia College, began classes in August 2009. This Learning Academy course is designed for those nonprofit leaders who are recognized as having great potential and are ready to take their nonprofit leadership to the next level. The purpose of this track is to provide nonprofit lead-

ers the opportunity to enhance knowledge, skills and frameworks to lead nonprofit organizations in an ever-changing diverse society.

The classes ran through December and met once a month for two consecutive days. The course consisted of five sessions; Leadership and Ethics in the Nonprofit World, Leadership Development in Team Building, Strategic Leadership, Leadership in Financial Growth and Sustainability and Understanding Politics and Policy for Social Impact.

Ten students completed the first semester of the course, earning three accredited graduate level college hours. Columbia College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The course expanded into a nine hour graduate level credit certificate program. The current students will graduate with a Nonprofit Leadership and Innovation Certificate in August 2010. New students will begin the certificate program in the fall of 2010.

Distance Learning

Through a partnership with the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, the Foundation purchased and installed equipment in the Foundation board room. This equipment will enable the Foundation to provide distance learning opportunities in an effort to reach more people by utilizing video conferencing and by connecting to other geographic areas.

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