SC Thrive is honored to partner with over 400 community organizations. Together, we are an integral component in building stabilized, healthy communities. Our relationships with local, regional and state level partners allow us to be a catalyst for moving our state toward stability. In SC Thrive’s nine years, we have completed over 235,000 applications with a return of over $600 million to South Carolina.

We continue to work across South Carolina to ensure that everyone is informed about available benefits and services. SC Thrive works to streamline the application process and to educate organizations and the public. Much of this education is offered through a variety of trainings which include personal development topics like self-care and leadership assessment; professional development including Mental Health First Aid and Financial Health; and benefits awareness related to SNAP, Medicaid, taxes, Veterans’ benefits and more. In 2018, we engaged 3,478 individuals in these various trainings and others. SC Thrive is at the heart of making a difference in our state through the coordinated efforts of these organizations. Our partners are coming together in the name of providing better access to care and resources necessary to address health, wellbeing and resilience. Through providing quality services and strengthening our relationships, SC Thrive is able to help South Carolina residents continue to build stabilized, healthier communities.

It is because of our wonderful partners, Board of Directors, supporters and staff, that we are the trusted organization that we are today. Thank you for allowing us to serve you!

Tricia Richardson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

David Splittgerber
BOARD CHAIR
Outreach Efforts

2018 was a year of expansion and strategic focus for outreach efforts at SC Thrive. Our outreach team focused on strengthening community relationships and engaging in community coalitions, as well as addressing populations who are experiencing food insecurity and a lack of healthcare coverage. These strategies resulted in successfully connecting more South Carolinians to resources in rural, underserved parts of our state.

We reinforced community relationships by continuing to assess partner needs and giving them the specific tools and techniques that help them reach their clients. New partnerships were formed with the SC Library System, University of South Carolina’s South Carolina Center for Community Literacy and Blackbaud to connect people with resources and trainings. We trained several Blackbaud employees in Mental Health First Aid and BlackBaud is considering implementing this training into their onboarding process. Our outreach efforts are expanding, emphasized by the activity and engagement of our trained partner sites and the multiple partnership awards bestowed to SC Thrive in 2018 from organizations across the state.

We have turned our attention to increasing our social media presence and streamlining internal processes using data to drive marketing and outreach decisions. This helped us focus on targeted areas with high populations of individuals who were potentially eligible but unenrolled in benefit programs. We continued to develop specific processes and campaigns that encouraged individuals to engage with our partner sites to access the resources that address their physical health.
SC Thrive works with more than community organizations and nonprofits. We also work with healthcare entities and state agencies called Executive Sites to help ensure their clients have access to vital resources. These partnerships increased to a total of 42 in 2018. Our Executive Sites work tirelessly to address their clients’ needs holistically, encompassing all social determinants of health. They focus on socioeconomic and environmental factors like education and social support, as well as health behavior and care factors such as eating healthy foods and accessing quality healthcare. Many of our Executive Sites are our most active and engaged partners across the state. CareSouth Carolina has been a partner for over seven years, and our partnership has evolved as they have found creative and original ways to deliver their services. In 2018, they presented us with their Community Partner Award. Marek Calhoun with CareSouth Carolina said this about the award:

“We chose SC Thrive as our Community Partner Award recipient because SC Thrive has proven to be a great community partner. We have worked closely with SC Thrive for many years... and they have always been consistent in their support for CareSouth Carolina and our staff... We look forward to our continued partnership with SC Thrive for years to come.”

Another innovative collaboration addressing physical needs across the state is our partnership with South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC). Program Staff at SCDC locations across the state are trained to use our benefits application software to help pre-release inmates apply for needed resources upon release to increase self-sufficiency and decrease the chances of recidivism. South Carolina has seen a reduction in the prison population since 2009 and providing this support will help maintain this trend.
“I APPRECIATE [MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID], BECAUSE IT HELPS ME TO CONNECT MORE TO PEOPLE WHO STRUGGLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES... MENTAL ILLNESS IS NOT JUST IN THE PEOPLE THAT WE SERVE... MENTAL ILLNESS CAN BE FOUND IN THE PEOPLE THAT WE WORK WITH, LIVE WITH, AND THAT WE ARE FRIENDS WITH.”

-DEBBIE
2018 saw the end of a three-year effort in Spartanburg County to provide Mental Health First Aid Trainings for teachers and community members who interact with students and young adults. We were a grantee of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) “Now is the Time” Project AWARE-Community grant which ran from September 2015 to September 2018 in partnership with United Way of the Piedmont’s Behavioral Health Initiative. This initiative, which included 73 grantees across the country helped launch a national conversation to increase understanding about mental health. During these three years, we trained over 1,200 Mental Health First Aiders in Spartanburg County. Attendees were in industries such as community and faith organizations, law enforcement, primary education and secondary education.

Mental Health First Aid is an eight-hour training that teaches individuals to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health issues, provides a five-step action plan to de-escalate mental health crises, and empowers trainees to have uncomfortable conversations and provide next-steps to the individuals they interact with who are facing mental health difficulties. One trainee said, “We found [Mental Health First Aid] most informative and useful to us and believe its greater impact would be felt through it being offered to social workers, ministers, youth leaders, the law enforcement community and especially health professionals. More specifically, we have been able to share this information with other social workers in the upstate with the intention of optimizing its potential as an additional support option for those patients who qualify. It was a great event and one we would like to host again.”
Through our continued partnership with HopeHealth, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), we were able to start peer-to-peer support groups for Veterans in Florence and Williamsburg counties. These peer-to-peer support groups meet on a monthly basis in an effort to provide needed services, resources and support to our Veteran population. According to the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, South Carolina is home to over 400,000 Veterans. After their time in service, Veterans seek the comradery and cohesion that they had while they were serving our country. Peer to peer support groups offer a place of trust and understanding for Veterans, something that we know is essential to helping them thrive.

This is our third year of the partnership under the Making Connections Grant. Within the grant, we are to provide Mental Health First Aid Training, Peer Specialist Training and our Military & Veteran Program Training to all the peer group facilitators as well as designated HopeHealth personnel. Mental Health First Aid offers a Military and Veteran module that provides information about issues affecting the military community such as military culture and mental health, specific risk factors that service members and their families may face, an action plan designed specifically for service members and their families and a review of common mental health resources. According to a study by the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Psychiatry, the rate of depression in military members or Veterans is five times higher than that of civilians. We recognize the importance of mental health for service members and their loved ones and work to help reduce mental health stigmas and strengthen communities.
Since 2012, Trident United Way has supported our Financial Health efforts in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties. While we help individuals across the state file their taxes for free, we have a special focus in the Tri-County area through this partnership. A large part of our Financial Health efforts at SC Thrive are free tax filing and sharing information during that tax filing process about budgeting tax returns and the importance of emergency savings accounts. Looking at what was successful in the past and collaborating closely with Trident United Way, a new tax program strategy was implemented in the fall of 2017 to continue success in 2018. This plan pulled from local resources, including marketing, volunteers and partner sites to ensure that our goals would be met during the duration of tax season. We had a goal to increase tax returns filed to 2,985 and went above that goal to file 3,058 returns in the Tri-County area for 2018. To do this we had 46 trained staff, volunteers and partners completing tax returns at almost 40 sites through Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties.

With the ability to serve clients with a large range of incomes (Adjusted Gross Income, AGI, of $65,000 or less if filing individually and $95,000 or less for those married filing jointly), our tax filing program is one of our most far-reaching opportunities at SC Thrive. A large portion of our tax filing clients qualify for tax credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and Additional Child Tax Credit. For families with low-to-moderate incomes, these tax refunds and tax credits mean a substantial infusion of income into their budget. All our tax clients received information related to other benefits and programs for which SC Thrive Sites could help them apply. They also received information about financial topics such as budgeting, debt reduction, credit scores and banking information.

**TRICOUNTY TRIUMPHS**

"HAVING DONE TAXES FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, THIS YEAR I SAW MORE REPEAT CLIENTS THAN EVER. THIS LETS ME KNOW THAT WE ARE HAVING THE IMPACT THAT WE WANT AND OUR COMMUNITY IS STARTING TO SEE US AS THE PLACE TO GET TAX ASSISTANCE AT NO CHARGE."

- JOHN BOYLE
“MY FAVORITE PART ABOUT MY WORK IS BEING ABLE TO HELP SOMEONE... WHEN SOMEONE GETS IN A SITUATION WHERE THEY FEEL LIKE THEY’RE STUCK... THEY CAN COME TO SOUTHEASTERN HOUSING AND I CAN REFER THEM OR I CAN TAKE THE EXPERIENCE FROM MY LIFE TO ENCOURAGE THEM THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO REACH THEIR DREAMS FROM THERE.”

-SHANDALYN ISAAC
Our 8th Annual Training brought us to Columbia to honor and encourage the Faces of SC that work to make our state a better place for everyone. We recognized 46 individuals, one for each South Carolina county, and interviewed many of them across the state. Who are the Faces of SC? Yajaira Benet Uzcategui, our Face of SC from Jasper County, said this: “(All those) that are working to make this a wonderful state—the state that we want for everybody—are the Faces of South Carolina.”

Along with over 200 attendees from across the state, we were joined by keynote speakers Tom Keith, Chief Executive Officer of Sisters of Charity Foundation, and Tarra Jackson, a Financial Expert, Speaker and Author. Tom kicked off the conference with a session on South Carolina’s Hopeful Future that helped us identify what Faces of SC looked like in our communities and Tarra closed out our 8th Annual Training reminding us that we can recover from our mistakes and succeed, financially or otherwise. Attendees said, “The sessions were very thought-out and good for both those leading the community efforts as well as the ‘boots on the ground’ teams.”
Since our inception, training has been a huge part of what we do at SC Thrive. As we have evolved as an organization, our trainings have evolved with us. In 2018, we began three new Financial Health pilot trainings; updated and expanded our online training offerings; updated our Benefits Counselor Training to make it even more engaging and effective; added several Employee Assistance Program Trainings for childcare workers through our partnership with Be Well Care Well; and hosted 16 Poverty Simulations for groups including state agencies, schools and students.

As we have updated and created these trainings, we always look at the feedback from our trainees to confirm that they are worthwhile. We also seek to learn what the attendees have experienced and felt during their time with us. One attendee at a Poverty Simulation this year said, “I attended the Poverty Simulation conducted by SC Thrive in May 2018, I did not feel that this would be a beneficial activity for me to attend. After participating in the simulation, I could not have been more wrong. This simulation showed me all the issues that families have to deal with on a daily basis to live today. It is not a matter of just go get a job. It is so much more. Daycare and transportation were the two big issues that many individuals have to tackle to gain employment and to obtain benefits for which he/she could qualify. This simulation helped to remind me that we are assisting people—not numbers. This was very powerful. Many participants were emotional. I feel that it would be very helpful to have these activities opened up to more of the agency staff to help us stay grounded in the true reason why we are here. We are here to serve the citizens of South Carolina.”
2018 FINANCIALS

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EXPENSES

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SUPPORT US

Visit scthrive.org to make a donation. You can donate one time or set up a recurring gift. If you are interested in a specific program such as Mental Health First Aid or Military and Veteran Programs, you can donate specifically to that program. Donations can also be made in honor or memory of a friend or loved one.

AMAZON SMILE

If you are shopping on Amazon, part of the proceeds from the sale could be given to SC Thrive! Using your Amazon account at smile.amazon.com gives you the option of supporting your favorite participating organizations like SC Thrive!

SOCIAL MEDIA

Let your family, friends and followers know that you support SC Thrive! Like us on Facebook (SC Thrive) and follow us on Twitter (@scthrive) and Instagram (@sc.thrive) to keep up with us and to help share our vision of healthy, stabilized communities.

THANK YOU 2018 FUNDERS

- AARP Foundation
- BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation
- HopeHealth
- Impact America
- Individual Donors
- Lake City Community Foundation
- Medical University of South Carolina
- Molina Healthcare
- SC Thrive Executive Sites & Community Partners
- South Carolina Department of Corrections
- South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
- South Carolina Department of Mental Health
- South Carolina Department of Social Services
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- The Duke Endowment
- Trident United Way
- United States Department of Agriculture
- Waccamaw Community Foundation