

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



SISTERS *of* CHARITY FOUNDATION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

This past year at the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina was defined by a single, vital intention: listening. From launching research that centered the voices and experiences of individuals experiencing poverty to envisioning the opportunity our Foundation has to move our work forward, we were called to lean into the human dignity of all South Carolinians throughout the year to guide us forward.

The result of this intentional listening is a strategic plan that has led us to shift our focus to dismantling the structural barriers that keep families trapped in cycles of inequity and poverty. By centering systems change and grounding our strategy in the lived experiences of South Carolinians, we have ensured that our priorities are not just well-intentioned, but are directly responsive to the needs and aspirations of our neighbors.

We are headed into 2026 with a determination to remain curious, accountable, and steadfast in our pursuit of equity. The work ahead is significant and the path is steep, but because our direction has been set by the people of South Carolina, we are ready.

Donna Waites
Foundation President

Lee Pearson
Board of Trustees Chair





MEET OUR TEAM



DONNA WAITES
PRESIDENT



MARGIE BLACKWELDER
EXECUTIVE SUPPORT



SARAH KATHERINE CATALANO
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT



HILLER DAVENPORT
CHIEF OF STAFF



ASHLEE MCGANDY
GRANTS MANAGER



MELINDA MERRELL
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF
GRANTMAKING & STRATEGY



ERICKA WOOTEN
DIRECTOR OF CULTURE & VALUES

MEET OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lee Pearson, Chair
USC Arnold School of Public Health

Tracy S. Bailey, Vice Chair
Freedom Readers

Mario Melendez, Treasurer
G3 Wealth Advisors

Adam Sheehan, Secretary
Ryan Specialty Benefits

Donna Waites, Ex Officio
Sisters of Charity Foundation of
South Carolina

Michael Goar, Ex Officio
Sisters of Charity Health System

Kaela Bailey
HDR

Connie Breeden
The Law Office of Connie Breeden, LLC

Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA
Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine

Alex Kubas
BlueCross BlueShield of SC

2025 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Pam Bryant
Wells Fargo Foundation

Miguel Chavez
Sisters of Charity Health System

Kari-Claudia Allen Harrington
USC School of Medicine

Amanda Lawrence
HCA Healthcare, South Atlantic Division

Macon Lovelace
Trinity Partners

Tony McDade
Community Leader and Educator

Rick Mendoza
Maynard Nexsen PC

Patricia Moore-Pastides
Author, Adjunct Professor
& Public Health Advocate

Thomas Otis
Palmetto Infusion Services

Ivan Segura
SC Commission for Minority Affairs

Maria Smoak
Community and Arts Volunteer

Tiger Wells
Duke Energy Corporation

Maria Kratsios
Richland School District Two

Mitch Watson
HUB International - Carolinas



OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

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

LED BY FAITH

At the heart of our mission is a commitment to being led by our Catholic faith, which serves as the moral compass for every decision we make. Rooted in our Catholic identity and guided by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, we approach our work as a statewide grantmaker and philanthropic partner with both moral clarity and reverence for the dignity of the people we serve. This spiritual foundation is inseparable from our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. We recognize the inherent dignity of every South Carolinian and believe that a just society requires every voice to be heard, valued and meaningfully included. We are further shaped by our core values of courage, compassion, respect, justice, and collaboration, which call us to act with boldness and empathy as we work alongside our partners to build a more just and equitable state for all.



A BOLD COMMITMENT

After a year-long, inclusive and research-informed planning process filled with faithful discernment, the Foundation is taking a bold and focused path forward to address systems that influence economic mobility, housing security and health care in South Carolina.

DEFINING OUR FOCUS AREAS

SYSTEMS CHANGE

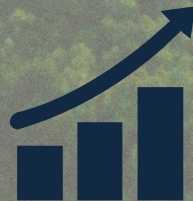
When one or more parts of a system are shifted, redesigned or transformed through long-term action led by the people most impacted by it, the system begins to operate in a way that better serves all individuals in society.

HEALTH CARE



Affordability of and access to high-quality services that prevent disease and improve quality of life.

ECONOMIC MOBILITY



Access to resources that improve economic status and opportunities over a lifetime.

HOUSING SECURITY



Access to stable, safe and affordable housing.

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

GOALS



GOAL 1

Leverage various forms of capital to support nonprofits working to address systems-level drivers of poverty in South Carolina.



GOAL 2

Advance state and local policies that address the systems-level drivers of poverty.



GOAL 3

Promote systemic solutions to poverty in South Carolina through narrative change, information sharing and partnerships.



GOAL 4

Maintain organizational effectiveness by streamlining processes, continuing to prioritize core values and Catholic identity and fostering a culture of continuous learning.

INPUTS



RESEARCH &
LIVED EXPERIENCE



STAKEHOLDER
FEEDBACK



INTERNAL REFLECTION
& DISCERNMENT

A YEAR OF LISTENING

“EVEN WHEN PEOPLE ARE WORKING FULL-TIME, THEY OFTEN CAN’T MAKE ENDS MEET. UNTIL WAGES CATCH UP WITH THE COST OF LIVING, WE NEED TO HAVE STRONGER SUPPORT SYSTEMS IN PLACE.”

Participant from Hispanic/Latino focus group, Mpowrd Report

Poverty is a complex, multifaceted and systemic issue. We recognize that centering those with lived experience of poverty is critical to best understand poverty and identify potential solutions. In 2025, we published two research studies to learn more about the current state of poverty in South Carolina and hear how communities seek to solve it. Read more about this work on our website.

The image shows the cover of a report titled "Listening to Experience and Revealing Community-Driven Solutions: An Executive Summary of Two South Carolina Poverty Studies". The cover is primarily dark blue with a white map of South Carolina on the right side. At the top right, it says "SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION BY SOUTH CAROLINA". The title is in large white font. Below the title, it says "An Executive Summary of Two South Carolina Poverty Studies". At the bottom, there is a section titled "Highlighting Work Led By:" which contains two boxes. The first box contains the logos for CARE (Center for Applied Research & Evaluation) and the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. The second box contains the logo for mpowrd analytics.

A SPIRIT OF GIVING

\$2,970,250

IN GRANTS ACROSS SC

235

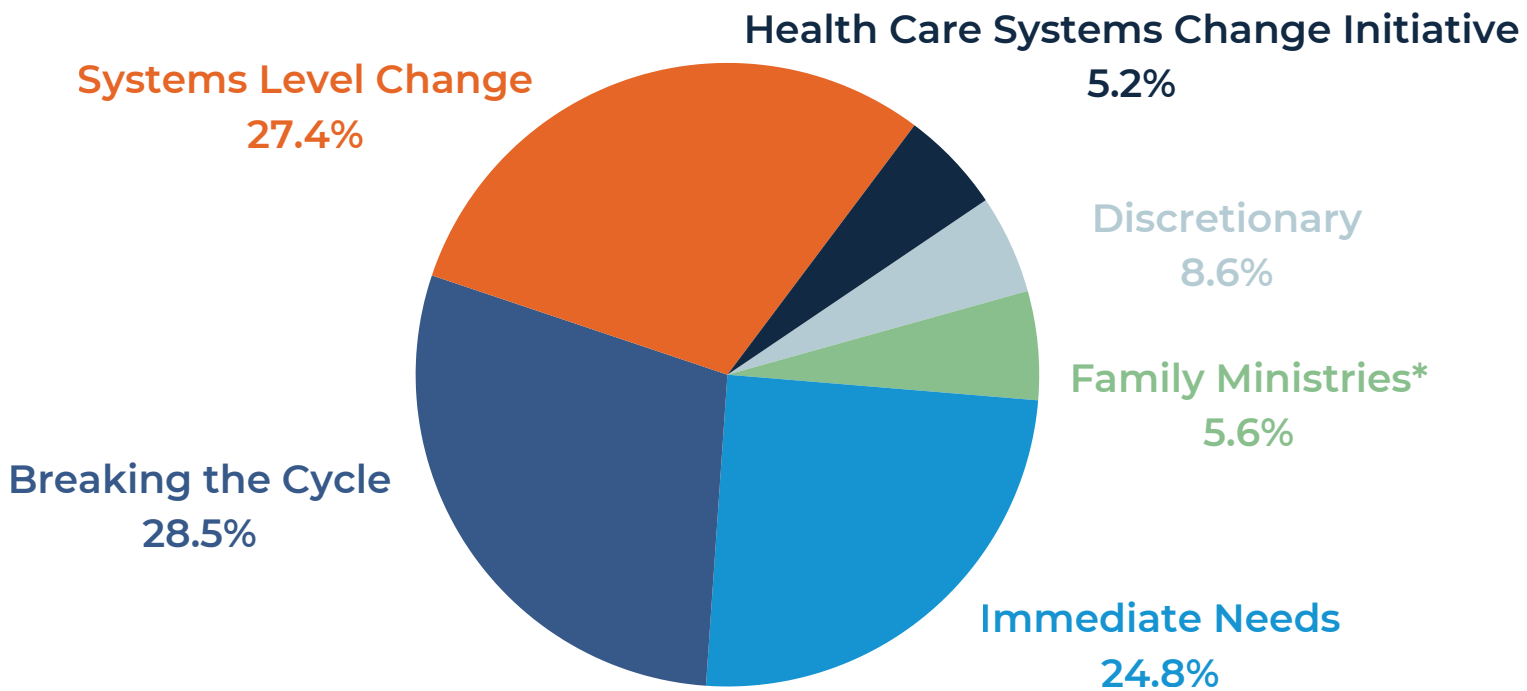
GRANT
RECIPIENTS

46

COUNTIES
SERVED

2025 GRANTMAKING

To ensure our strategic planning process was as rigorous and inclusive as possible, we made the intentional decision to maintain our existing grantmaking levels and partnerships throughout 2025. This consistency allowed our team to focus deeply on the statewide discovery process while providing stable, reliable support to the organizations we know are doing essential, frontline work across South Carolina.



Category	2025 Grants
Family Ministries*	\$165,000
Discretionary	\$255,250
Systems Level Change	\$815,000
Breaking the Cycle	\$845,000
Immediate Needs	\$735,000
Health Care Systems Change Initiative	\$155,000

**Family ministries include Healthy Learners and the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families.*

OUR FINANCIAL ASSETS

2018	\$90,575,454
2019	\$100,053,315
2020	\$108,584,050
2021	\$112,898,417
2022	\$81,995,481
2023	\$84,131,957
2024	\$85,861,387
2025	\$86,102,213



A SOUTH CAROLINA FOR ALL

We look toward a future defined by a South Carolina for all—a state where the inherent dignity of every person is recognized and the systemic barriers of racism and inequity that sustain poverty are dismantled. We envision a future where prosperity is a shared landscape where every South Carolinian has the agency and support to flourish.

While our strategic plan provides a bold new roadmap for systems change, we know that a plan is only as strong as the relationships that sustain it. We will continue to center the lived experiences of our neighbors and engage with partners across the state to ensure our work remains responsive. As we move from a season of deep design into a season of bold action, we invite you to join us in this fight against poverty.

Together, through collaboration and unwavering faith, we can transform the structures of our state to ensure South Carolina is truly a place of opportunity and hope for every resident.



MEET OUR 2025 GRANTEE PARTNERS

This list of partners includes our Immediate Needs, Breaking the Cycle, and Systems Level Change grantee partners.

Alston Wilkes Society
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (Cover SC)
American Civil Liberties Union of South Carolina Foundation
Anderson Free Clinic
Anderson Interfaith Ministries (AIM)
Angels Charge Ministry
Area Churches Serving Together (ACTS)
Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired SC
Avery C. Thompson Sr. Community Center
Barrier Islands Free Medical Clinic
Beaufort-Jasper YMCA of the Lowcountry
Berkeley County First Steps
Bethel Men's Shelter
Beyond Abuse
Beyond Our Walls
Big Brothers Big Sisters Upstate
Black Economic Leadership League of Rock Hill (BELL)
Bluffton Jasper County Volunteers in Medicine
Bluffton Self Help
Bridges For End-Of-Life
Brothers Restoring Urban Hope
Camp Happy Days
Care House of the Pee Dee
Carolina Human Reinvestment (CHRSC)
Catholic Charities of South Carolina - Immigration Services
Central Midlands Justice Ministry
Charleston Area Justice Ministry
Charleston Climate Coalition
Charleston Legal Access
Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services
Charleston Promise Neighborhood
Cherokee County Meals On Wheels
Children's Attention Home
Children's Recovery Center
Classroom Central
Clover Area Assistance Center
Cola Town Bike Collective
Communities in Schools of South Carolina
Community Foundation Of Greenville
(Greenville Homeless Alliance)
Community Initiatives
Community Kitchen of Myrtle Beach
Community Medical Clinic of Kershaw County
CommunityWorks
Compass Of Carolina
Cooperative Ministry
Dillon County First Steps
Dorchester Children's Advocacy Center
E3 (Educate, Empower, Elevate)
East Cooper Community Outreach
Economic Policy Institute
Edisto Indian Free Clinic
EmmanuWheel
Equal Justice Works
Family Promise of Aiken County
Family Support Services of Horry County
Felician Center
Feonix Mobility Rising
First Impression
Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina
Foothills Family Resources
Fort Lawn Community Center
Free Medical Clinic of Aiken
Free Medical Clinic of Newberry County
Freedom Readers
Friendship Medical Clinic and Pharmacy
Georgetown University
(South Carolina Justice Navigator Network, Georgetown Law)
Golden Corner Food Pantry
Good Neighbor Medical Clinic
Good Samaritan Clinic
Good Shepherd Free Medical Clinic of Laurens County
Great Falls Referral and Assistance Service Project
Greenville County Interfaith Justice Network
Greenville Free Medical Clinic
Greenville Housing Fund
Greenville Literacy Association
Greenville Tech Foundation (African American Male Scholars Initiative)
Greer Relief & Resources Agency, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity of York County
HELP of Summerville
Helping and Lending Outreach Support (HALOS)
Helping Hand of Myrtle Beach
Helping Hands of Georgetown
Hilton Head Island Safe Harbour
Hispanic Alliance
Homeless No More
Homeless Period Project
Homes of Hope
HomeWorks of America
Hope In Lancaster
HOPE Missions of the Upstate
Hopeful Horizons
Housing Development Corporation of Rock Hill
i58
ICNA Relief USA, Shifa Free Clinic
Increasing H.O.P.E.
Institute For Child Success
James Island Outreach
Jasmine Road
Jewish Family Services of Greater Charleston
Kershaw Area Resource Exchange (KARE)
Kindred Hearts SC
KNOW(2)
Koinonia of Columbia
Landmark for Families (formerly Carolina Youth Development Center)
Laurens County Cancer Association
Lighthouse Ministries

MEET OUR 2025 GRANTEE PARTNERS

Limitless Community Development
Lions Vision Services
Literacy SC
LiveWell Greenville
Loaves & Fishes
Lowcountry Food Bank
Lowcountry Legal Volunteers
Lowcountry Local First
Lowcountry Youth Services
Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas
Meals on Wheels of Greenville
Meals on Wheels of Summerville, Inc.
Metanoia Community Development Corporation
Middle Tyger Community Center
Midlands Housing Alliance
Midlands Mediation Center
Mill Village Ministries
Miss Ruby's Kids
My Sister's House
Nehemiah Community Revitalization Corporation
Neighbor to Neighbor of South Carolina
Neighborhood Cancer Connection
Neighborhood Focus
New Directions of Horry County
North Charleston Dental Outreach
Northside Development Corporation
One80 Place
Operation Home
Operation Sight
Organization name
Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Services
Palmetto Community Health Care Center
Palmetto Place Children and Youth Services
Palmetto Project
Partners For Active Living
Pendleton Place
Pickens County Advocacy Center Inc
Pickens County Meals on Wheels
Power In Changing
Pregnancy Center and Clinic of the Low Country Inc
Public Education Partners
Rebuild Upstate
Richland County Public Education Partners
Richland Library
Root & Rebound
Safe Harbor
Second Chance Bikes
Second Helpings
Senior Resources
Servants for Sight
Serve & Connect
Sistercare
Smith Medical Clinic
Soteria Community Development Corporation
South Carolina Appleaseed Legal Justice Center
South Carolina Coastal Conservation League
South Carolina Environmental Law Project
South Carolina Infant Mental Health Association
South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health
South Carolina Technical College System Foundation
Southeastern Chapter National Safety Council
St. Cyprian Outreach
St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic
Step by Step Ministry Hope Project
Student Action with Farmworkers
Taylors Free Medical Clinic
Teach For America - South Carolina
Teach My People
Teachers' Supply Closet
The ARK of South Carolina
The Aspen Institute - Criminal Justice Reform Initiative
The Center for Community Self-Help - Fair Lending Alliance
The Children's Center
The Dee Norton Lowcountry Children's Center
The Free Medical Clinic
The Green Heart Project
The Life House Women's Shelter
The Naomi Project
The Period Project
The Sustainability Institute
The Village Group
Time Served
Trident Literacy Association
Trident United Way
Turn90
Undue Medical Debt (formerly RIP Medical Debt)
United Ministries
United Way Of Greenville County Incorporated - On Track Greenville
United Way of Horry County
United Way of Kershaw County
United Way of Lancaster County
United Way of the Midlands
United Way of the Piedmont
United Way of York County
University of South Carolina - PASOs
University of South Carolina Educational Foundation- FoodShare
Vision To Learn (Charleston)
Vital Aging of Williamsburg County
Volunteers in Medicine Hilton Head Island (VIM HHI)
We Are Family
Welvista
Wholespire
Windwood Farm
WINGS
Women's Rights And Empowerment Network
YMCA of Greenville - Judson Community Center
Young Moms Together (formerly Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina)
YouthBASE



SISTERS *of* CHARITY
FOUNDATION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Working together to
reduce poverty in
South Carolina.

