

Fairfield Forward Celebrates Successes for the HPHC Grant – 8/6/25

Winnsboro, SC – August 2025 — As Fairfield Forward, Inc. closes out the *Healthy People, Healthy Carolinas* (HPHC) grant, the nonprofit organization reflects on nearly a decade of initiatives that have empowered Fairfield County residents to live healthier lives.

Founded in 1996 and receiving 501(c)(3) status in 2019, Fairfield Forward has remained committed to building a healthier community through advocacy, funding, and partnerships. Since receiving support from The Duke Endowment in 2017, the organization has led the local HPHC initiative to reduce chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and heart disease through multi-sector collaboration and community-driven programs.

Community Impact

Since 2017, Fairfield Forward has introduced or expanded numerous initiatives:

- **FoodShare Fairfield** – Over 4,500 fresh food boxes distributed since 2021, in partnership with FoodShare SC.
- **Community Gardens** – Located at Prisma Health, Winnsboro Arms Apartment, and local schools to promote access to fresh produce.
- **Farmers Market** – Supporting the Fairfield Farmers and Artisans Market since 2015, open Saturdays and select Tuesdays from May to September.
- **Water Bottle Stations** – Installed in schools and service organizations to promote hydration and reduce waste.
- **Fitness Center Equipment** – Purchased the fitness equipment at the County Parks and Recreation Center that opened February 1, 2021.
- **Walkabouts Program** – Offered movement-based online lessons for Pre-K–2nd grade students to improve focus and behavior.
- **Diabetes Prevention Program** – Year-long lifestyle change program led by trained coaches to lower diabetes risk.
- **Alston Trailhead & Kids in Parks** – Encouraging outdoor activity through walking trails and nature programs.



Looking Ahead

As the HPHC grant concludes, Fairfield Forward is actively working to expand its impact through new partners and funding sources such as Central Carolina Community Foundation, American Red Cross, and One SC Fund.

One key focus is sustaining the **FoodShare Program**, which combats food insecurity by providing bi-weekly produce boxes. In 2024 alone, 503 boxes reached local families.

To help sustain this work, Fairfield Forward invites businesses, organizations, civic groups, churches and private donors to join the **FoodShare Sustainers Circle**—a group pledging **\$1,500 annually for three years**. With 15 Sustainers, the program can raise \$22,500 annually to continue the FoodShare Program in Fairfield County for food distribution, supplies, administrative fees, outreach, waste recovery, and staffing.

According to the 2025 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps Report, 13% of people in Fairfield County did not have a reliable source of food/lack adequate access to food.

Support from donors also funds the **FoodShare Coordinator** position, which ensures smooth operation and community outreach. Contributions also support **nutrition education** and **advocacy**, essential to lasting change.

Join Us in Moving Fairfield Forward

Fairfield Forward remains steadfast in its mission: *Building a healthy community by providing local resources and opportunities through advocacy, funding, and partnerships.*

To support our mission or join the **FoodShare Sustainers Circle**, please contact us:

Fairfield Forward

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Together, we can build a healthier, hunger-free Fairfield County.

Name of Organization: _____

Contact: _____ Phone #: _____

What amount do you commit per year for 3 years? _____

\$ _____ to sustain the FoodShare Program **only**

\$ _____ to sustain the FoodShare Program **and** \$ _____ to be used for Free FoodShare Boxes for residents