

# INVESTING IN SOUTH CAROLINA'S FUTURE

Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) was founded in 2014 as the political advocacy arm of Save the Children and is the political voice for kids. Today, SCAN is working to mobilize more than **5,000 supporters in South Carolina** to make sure every child in the United States has access to high-quality early childhood education and that no mother or child around the globe dies from a preventable disease or illness.

Our volunteer leadership network—based in **Charleston, Columbia and Greenville**—is engaging parents, teachers, medical professionals, faith leaders and local business leaders who are passionate about advocating for kids. Additionally, we have active Student Ambassador Programs at **College of Charleston, Furman University and the University of South Carolina**. Learn more about how to get involved at [www.SaveTheChildrenActionNetwork.org/SouthCarolina](http://www.SaveTheChildrenActionNetwork.org/SouthCarolina).



## Opportunities for All Children in South Carolina

Investing in early childhood education and care is one of the most effective ways to break the cycle of poverty. These investments lay the foundation for success later in school and in life. **Save the Children currently partners with 15 schools in five counties to deliver programs to more than 5,500 children.**

### The Challenge

The environment and interactions children are exposed to during the first five years of life greatly influence their futures. Unfortunately, these programs are out of reach for many working families across the nation, including in South Carolina. **Forty percent of 4-year-olds in across the state are enrolled in public pre-K.**

### The Solution

Two generational high-quality early learning and care programs offer real benefits not only to families, but to the entire country. A December 2016 report from Nobel Prize-winning University of Chicago economist James Heckman shows the rate of return on investments in early childhood development for children in high-quality programs can be 13 percent per child, per year due to improved outcomes in education, health, sociability, economic productivity and reduced crime.

We know that expanding access to high-quality education is the best way to close the growing opportunity gap in our country. **That's why SCAN is continuing to work with Republicans, Democrats and coalition partners in South Carolina to expand access to high-quality early childhood education and home visiting programs, including Save the Children's Early Steps to School Success program.** This program assists babies and young children with language, social and emotional development; and gives parents the skills and knowledge to be the first and best teacher for their child.

## Helping Children Around the World Survive

Children all around the world deserve to survive until their fifth birthdays and beyond. Investing in the health of moms and kids reduces poverty, sparks economic growth, creates more secure nations and, most importantly, saves lives.

### The Challenge

Globally, 5.6 million children under age 5—nearly half of whom are infants—die each year from preventable causes such as pneumonia, malnutrition and malaria. More than 800 mothers die every day from problems related to their pregnancies. In too many cases, moms and kids around the world do not have access to the medical care or supplies they need to survive. This is heart breaking, but the good news is that because of leadership from the United States more moms and kids are surviving—and we can do even better.

### The Solution

In the last 20 years, the number of mothers and kids dying from preventable diseases has dropped by half. Simple and inexpensive solutions, like basic medicine, thermometers and clean water, are saving lives. That's why SCAN is building bipartisan support for the Reach Every Mother and Child (Reach) Act, a bipartisan bill in the U.S. House and Senate which would help end the preventable deaths of mothers and children around the world.



## Our Successes

With the help of our activist base in South Carolina, we have made great progress in advancing our goals for children in the Palmetto State and around the world. In 2017, SCAN worked to protect funding for Save the Children's critical early learning programs in the South Carolina state budget.



### Victories for Kids • 2017



**230**

visits to local, state and federal lawmaker offices



**900,000**  
of messages to  
elected officials  
on behalf of kids



**54,000**  
people engaged at  
**200** events

## Looking Ahead

With elections coming up in 2018, our work is needed now more than ever. In 2018, we are working with First Steps and the South Carolina's Early Childhood Common Agenda to authorize funding for the School Readiness Tax Credit (SRTC), a pilot program that would increase access to high-quality child care by providing tax incentives for child care centers and teachers in five counties. We are also working on gaining support among South Carolina's congressional delegation for the Reach Act.