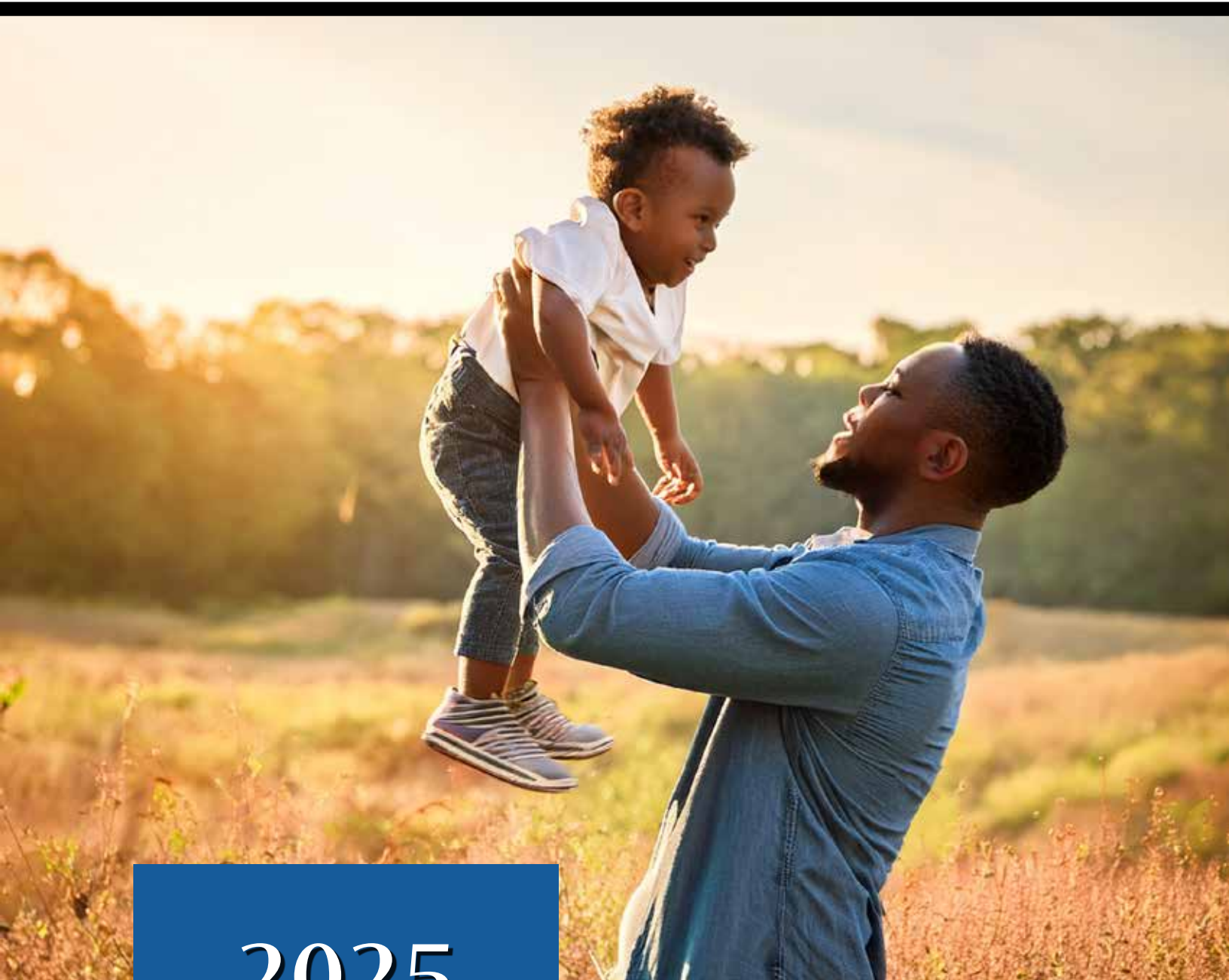




SOUTH CAROLINA CENTER  
FOR FATHERS AND FAMILIES



# 2025 IMPACT REPORT

## **Elevate Fatherhood**

*Helping Fathers Become Great Dads!*

*A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System*





# WHO WE ARE

**A**t the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families (SCCFF), we're dedicated to uplifting fathers navigating economic hardships, societal hurdles, and personal struggles throughout South Carolina's 46 counties. Our core purpose is to equip these dads with essential tools and guidance, helping them step up as outstanding parents and integral figures in their kids' worlds. An involved father can truly turn the tide on countless family issues we see today. We're building toward a world where kids and households don't merely get by—they flourish—through fair and targeted support for fathers overcoming diverse obstacles.

Fresh data from the Annie E. Casey Foundation highlights an encouraging shift: fewer South Carolina children are in single-parent households. In the most recent reporting year, that figure dropped to 350,000 from 382,000 the year before, signaling a rise in stable, two-parent environments.

Backed by partnerships with government and private organizations, SCCFF is steadily boosting our efficiency and life-changing influence. Year after year, we sharpen our strategies and actions, always zeroing in on connecting the next dad and his family.

## **Key 2025 Milestones**

- Served more than 3,400 fathers.
- Achieved 192% of our goals.
- \$416,815 of new income for dads who got jobs through our program.
- Awarded a new \$6.25 million fatherhood grant from HHS.
- Opened up new offices in Beaufort, Orangeburg, and Aiken.
- Engaged SC ETV in collaborative fatherhood curriculum overhaul.
- Received 20 "Elevate Fatherhood Month" proclamations from the governor and 19 municipalities.

## **Robert's Persistence**

Robert enrolled in drug court, as well as parenting classes at A Father's Place (AFP). He showed persistent dedication, attending sessions faithfully, and applying the tools he gained. Over time, his hard work paid off. Robert secured stable employment, found safe and reliable housing, and passed every required drug test. On the day he graduated from AFP, Robert was reunited with all his children.





**OVER 3,800 KIDS IMPACTED!**



# MY BIGGEST FAN

*“When you teach your son, you teach your son’s son.” — The Talmud*



I only played one year of football, and that was in third grade. I was the QB. From what my dad tells me, I could’ve been the next Peyton Manning. My parents were divorced, and I lived with my mother in Charleston while my father lived in Columbia. So, it wasn’t often he was able to make it to my games, but he was my biggest fan. I can still remember the feeling during one Wednesday night game when I came out of the huddle and looked over and surprisingly saw him there. He waved. I don’t remember what happened next but I do remember busting out for what felt like a 50 yard touchdown run, and my father pacing me down the sidelines as I ran my 8 year old heart out. I’ll never forget that moment.

There’s a saying from The Talmud that “when you teach your son, you teach your son’s son.” The presence of a father doesn’t just result in touchdowns. It has generational impact long after the last quarter is played, the last base is crossed, the last cheer is cheered. That’s why the work we do here at the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families is absolutely critical. The societal, cultural, and even economic impact of engaged and healthy fathers is immense. I love the change we are seeing in the lives of fathers from Horry County all the way down the coast of the low

country, from the midlands to the hills of Greenville County.

To that end, in 2025 we saw:

- 192% of our goal to reach more dads
- Over 3,400 fathers served
- Award of new federal fatherhood grant

While the numbers speak to our impact, the need for what we do continues to grow. That’s why 2025 has been a year of planning for the next 3-5 years. As an organization, we launched a revamp of our strategic plan. The need to diversify our funding sources, strengthen our already amazing relationships with local organizations, and package our content for broader audiences are clear themes of where we head as we move into 2026. The need is great, but our organization and our partner organizations stand ready for the challenge. Cheers to a successful 2025 and what will be a pivotal and important 2026.

Happy Father’s Day,

  
TJ Clayton, Board Chairman

# GIVING OUR KIDS WINGS

I've always been captivated by the story of the Wright brothers — two bicycle mechanics from Ohio who dared to dream of conquering the skies. As a young boy, I pored over accounts of their relentless experiments on the windswept dunes of Kitty Hawk, facing failure after failure, skepticism from the world, and the sheer impossibility of giving wings to humankind. Yet, through ingenuity, perseverance, and an unyielding belief in what could be, they achieved the first powered flight in 1903, forever changing the course of history. That tale of turning the improbable into reality has inspired me throughout my life, reminding me that true progress often emerges from the toughest trials.

In many ways, 2025 echoed that spirit for us at the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families. It tested us in every way. With uncertain funding, a constantly shifting landscape, and little room for error, we faced real challenges. Yet amid the noise, we remained steadfast in our commitment to what matters most: showing up for dads.

That focus paid off. We served 15% more fathers than last year, marking our third consecutive year of double-digit growth — driven by smarter, more efficient service to dads in remote communities. Even more important, we strengthened the quality of that service. Every father now receives a PHQ-9 mental health assessment, flexible

program timelines that respect real life, and new opportunities to build community through Father Fellows, Father Fests, and our continued “Thanks Daddy” meal distributions. None of this works without trust — and we are deeply grateful to the fathers who place that trust in us every day.

At the same time, we invested in the people who make this mission possible. As fathers' needs evolved, so did our staff. In 2025, we doubled down on professional development, self-care, and leadership — because strong dads require strong teams.

We owe tremendous thanks to our leadership team, who focused on serving more fathers as efficiently as possible while strengthening their own skills and fostering greater collaboration.

What we accomplished in 2025 is a story of resilience, smart growth, and forward motion — proof that even in a difficult year, meaningful progress is not only possible, but inevitable when we work together. More dads lifted up so that they can give wings to their children.

Happy Fathers' Day! Every Day!



Karriem Edwards



“ We are deeply grateful to the fathers who place that trust in us every day.



# OUR WORK



The South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families (SCCFF) stands as the nation's leading statewide network of fatherhood programs. With robust support from local, state, and federal grants, along with premier foundations, corporations, and individual donors, SCCFF spearheads the delivery of critical funding, innovative programming, and expert technical assistance to five distinguished fatherhood affiliates.

- **A Father's Place** leads service delivery across eleven coastal counties, transforming lives through six strategically placed hubs.
- **Man 2 Man** empowers fathers in six Pee Dee counties, reaching families through three dynamic hubs.
- **Midlands Fatherhood Coalition** is a catalyst for change in sixteen Midlands counties, providing comprehensive services through five robust hubs.
- **A Father's Way** delivers vital support to fathers in four northwest counties, operating from two dedicated hubs.
- **Upstate Fatherhood Coalition** drives measurable progress for fathers in nine Upstate counties through three centers of excellence.

Our fifteen hub offices deliver comprehensive, on-site **programming**, featuring group and individual case management and complimentary educational programs that empower men in the following areas of parenting, healthy relationships, economic mobility, and physical and mental health.

Our **services** include decisive legal guidance for child support, custody, paternity, and visitation. Intervention specialists equip fathers to assess their situations, understand their rights, and confidently navigate social service and family court systems. We stand with fathers in court, supporting them in their journey of reconnection with their children and full engagement in parenting — fostering stronger, thriving families.

Beyond fatherhood programs, SCCFF delivered a five-year proactive program for the next generation through its **Ready4Life** initiative for high school boys. Ready4Life delivers a rigorous curriculum that empowers young men to make informed, responsible choices before adulthood, with an emphasis on family planning and responsible parenthood. The Reality Check curriculum has been widely implemented in schools, community organizations, and athletic teams.

SCCFF launched **Father365.com**, a comprehensive, father-focused website that offers vital information and resources. Through Father365.com, fathers statewide can easily connect with our expert staff, access full-service hubs and outreach spokes, and benefit from programs and services tailored for every participant.





## CODY: A NEW BEGINNING

Cody Wahl is an extraordinary father whose resilience, discipline, and steadfast love have become a beacon of hope to other fathers. When Cody enrolled at our regional partner Midlands Fatherhood Coalition, his son was in foster care, and Cody made a courageous decision to reunite his family. Despite facing legal battles, setbacks, and emotional hardship, Cody's unwavering spirit and hope lit the way forward.

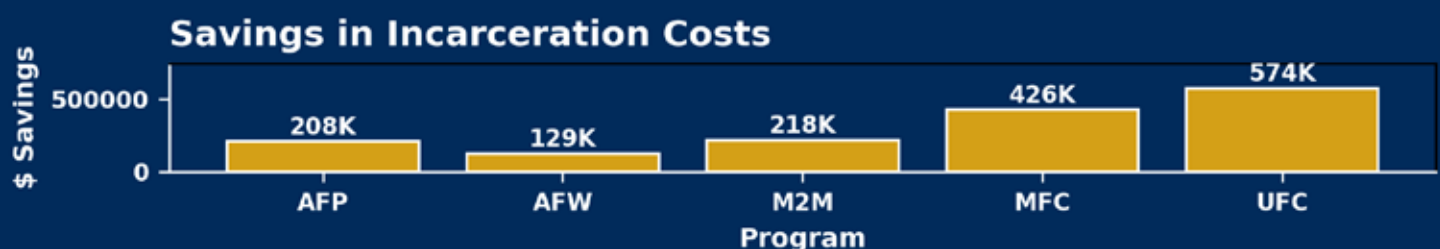
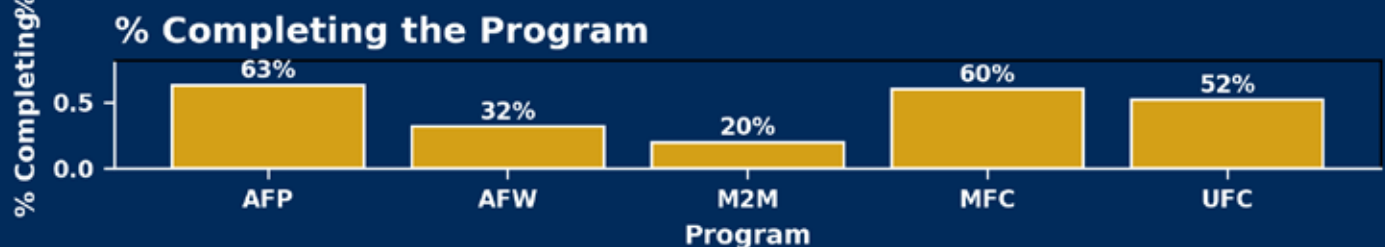
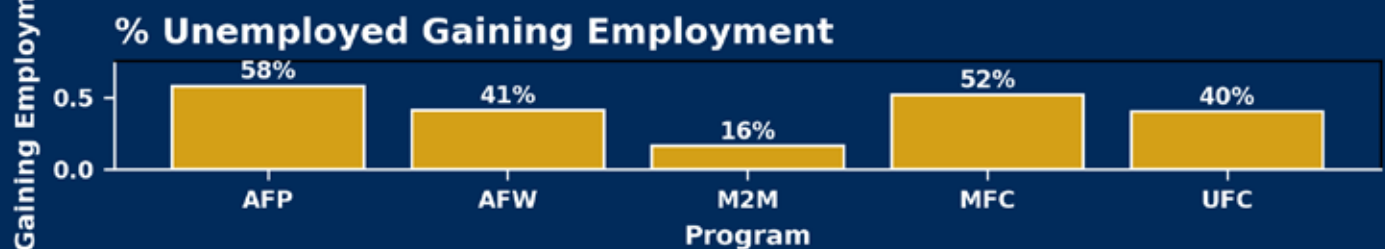
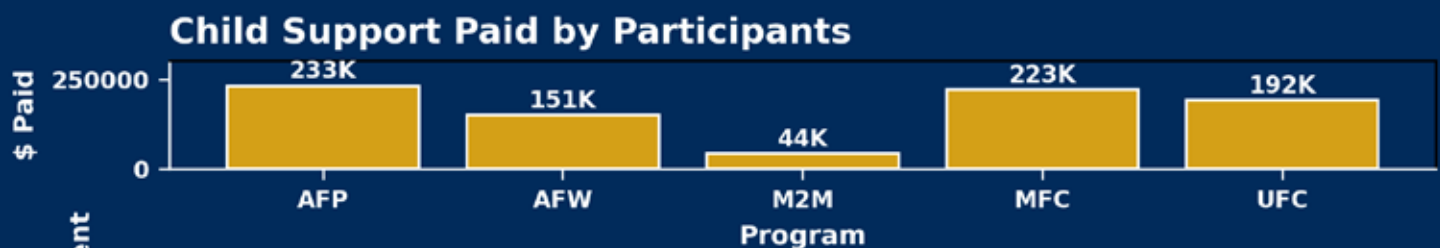
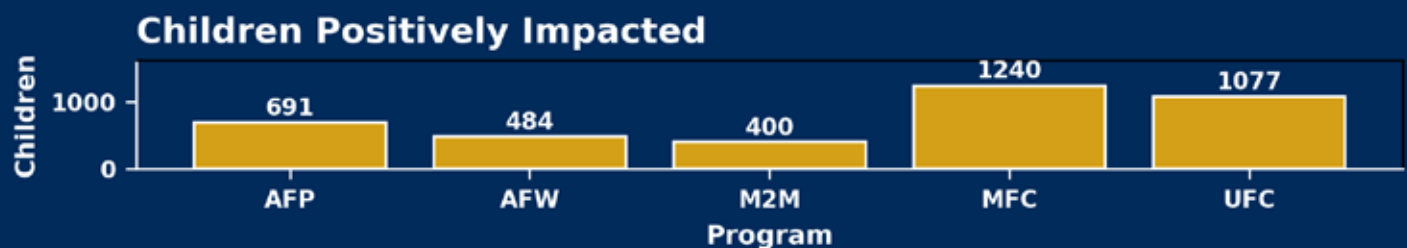
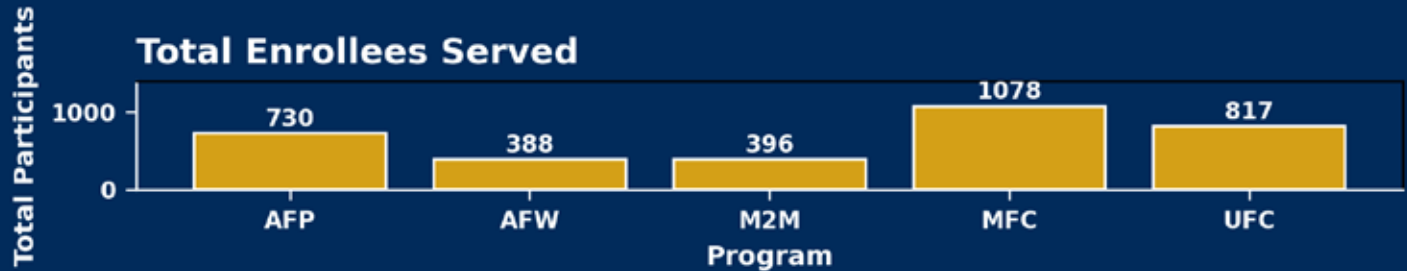
After months of unwavering commitment — attending every session, meeting challenging court requirements, and focusing on personal growth — Cody appeared in court and was granted temporary custody of his son. The judge recognized not just Cody's progress, but his transformation, opening the door to reunification and a new beginning filled with hope.

The day Cody picked up his son was a moment overflowing with relief, gratitude, and pure joy. He gave thanks for this second chance, but also for the unwavering support of his Intervention Specialist, Jarell Rose, whose steadfast belief in Cody's potential saw him through. On this life-changing day, hope and faith triumphed.

Cody's story stands as a powerful testament to the extraordinary change that is possible when a father stays focused on his future. His strength, perseverance, and humility have brought healing and inspired others to believe in the power of redemption and love.

We are deeply proud of Cody and privileged to walk beside him as he steps boldly into this new chapter of fatherhood — filled with hope, purpose, and promise.

# Fatherhood Numbers at a Glance





A photograph of a man with a beard and short brown hair, wearing a blue t-shirt, holding a young child with light brown hair in a light blue shirt. The man is looking up at the child with a smile. The background is plain white.

# PROGRAM IMPACT

3,409 = Total Dads Served in 2025

2,008 = Total Program Enrollees

1,401 = Total Service Enrollees

182 = Average Days in Program

\$416,815 = New Income for Dads in Program

\$842,391 = Amount of Child Support Paid

\$1,554,300 = Amount Saved in Incarceration

\$115.8 million = Potential Contribution to the State

We deeply appreciate the collaboration within our statewide network and look forward to strengthening our partnership as we work to elevate fathers and their families. Our collective efforts are already helping more dads and families thrive across our state, but we know that many more still need our support to help their children succeed. By empowering fathers to become more engaged every day, we can help families overcome challenges and barriers that stand in their way. Together, we will continue making a profound difference for fathers, their families, and communities throughout South Carolina and beyond.



Lifted up.



The South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families is a non-profit ministry established by the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina in 2002. We provide educational, medical, legal, and career resources for fathers to reconnect with their families and become great dads, in partnership with five regional affiliates through more than 15 offices statewide.

For more information about our work, visit [www.scfathersandfamilies.com](http://www.scfathersandfamilies.com) or call us at 803.227.8800.