



# THE JOY OF FATHERHOOD



## 2024 IMPACT REPORT

**OUR MISSION**  
We provide the resources for  
fathers to become great dads!

A MINISTRY OF THE  
SISTERS OF CHARITY HEALTH SYSTEM

# FATHER 365



**BE A GREAT DAD  
EVERY DAY**

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SOUTH CAROLINA CENTER  
FOR FATHERS AND FAMILIES

# WHO WE ARE

**T**he South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families (SCCFF) is committed to empowering fathers facing economic, social, and personal challenges across all 46 counties of South Carolina. Our mission is to provide fathers with vital resources and support, enabling them to become great dads and active participants in their children's lives. So many of the challenges facing families today can be resolved by an engaged father. We envision a future where children and families thrive, not just survive, by offering equitable assistance to fathers facing various challenges and barriers.

A recent study by the Annie E. Casey Foundation reveals a positive trend in the number of children in single-parent homes in South Carolina. Over the last annual reporting period, 382,000 children were living in single-parent homes, down from 418,000 the previous year, which means more children are now in two-parent homes.

Through the support of public and private agencies, SCCFF continues to increase operational effectiveness and transformational impact. Each year, we are more intentional in planning and execution while focusing on reaching the next father and his children.

## **Key 2024 Statistics**

- 35,000 fathers helped since 2002.
- 51% growth in fatherhood enrollees for each of the past two years.
- 400% growth in service to dads in the Lowcountry after organizational transition.
- Comprehensive educational programs providing tools, resources, and support.
- Servicing all 46 counties in South Carolina through recruitment, services, and education available from our five regional partner organizations.
- Mental health screening that has enhanced our work with enrolled fathers.
- Launch of FastTrack, an optional enrollment model designed to reduce participant completion time from 6 months to 3 months.

## **Michael's Transformation**

Michael faced challenges with substance abuse and maintaining healthy relationships. SCCFF's educational courses on physical and mental health, along with healthy relationship training, helped Michael turn his life around. He is now sober, has rebuilt his relationship with his children, and serves as a mentor to other fathers in the program.



**OVER 3,000 DADS SERVED**



# JOY EVERY DAY



*“The warrior sets the arrow on a path, direction, and intention that lasts a lifetime.”*

I am not sure if you’ve heard the news, but Father’s Day is now being celebrated in December, as well as January, February, and every other month of the year. It’s at the heart of what we do to make Father’s Day a year-round celebration. Not because fathers deserve more attention than anyone else. It’s simply an acknowledgement that the work we do at the SC Center for Fathers and Families and in partnership with our local organizations is critical and a year-round opportunity.

Reed Markham once said, “Being a great father is like shaving. No matter how good you shave today, you have to do it again tomorrow.”

To that end, in 2024 we saw:

- Fathers and families served in 44/46 counties.
- More than 3,000 fathers served and two years of double-digit growth.
- 16.8% increase in private donations.
- Reorganized Lowcountry outreach resulted in 400% increase in service.

While the numbers are important it’s the stories that are the heartbeat of why we do what we do. This year included stories of fathers getting to see their children for

the first time ever, to fathers winning unsupervised visitations, to even ex-spouses testifying in family court on the incredible improvements they’ve seen in their child’s father.

I’m often reminded of the Psalmist David when he said that children are like arrows in the hands of a warrior. The warrior sets the arrow on a path, direction, and intention that lasts a lifetime.

As a father of two young boys, the mission of making every day a Happy Father’s Day has turned into a personal mantra. I’m personally inspired by the work our friends at the Center and the local fatherhood organizations do day-in and day-out. Their impact reaches cities and communities, but most importantly hearts and families of all of us involved.

While 2024 was another successful year, I strongly encourage you to stay tuned to what 2025 has in store — it’s sure to be another record-breaking and heartwarming year.

Happy Father’s Day,  
  
TJ Clayton, Board Chairman

# MORE DADS. MORE JOY.

**W**e set a goal for 2024 to optimize all resources in order to serve more fathers better, and I am proud to say we accomplished that.

We saved over \$100,000 in potential expenses, which we reinvested into enhancing our services. Our staff participated in over 30 training days and enjoyed monthly recognition and team-building activities, including helping on a Habitat for Humanity house and a statewide fun day.

We implemented mental health assessments to identify client needs and introduced a fast-track option for program completion. We hosted fathers at the Charleston Open tennis tournament, provided tickets to Carolina Panthers games, and organized family trips to Carowinds. Our “Heroes for the Holidays” campaign included “ThanksDaddy” meals and Squishmallow toys for Christmas.

We raised funds and awareness through increased media visibility. Major donors boosted their contributions by 15%, and 16 municipalities, along with the Governor, issued Father’s Day proclamations.

These initiatives enabled us to serve over 3,000 fathers, a 50% increase from last year, largely due to a 400% rise in services for dads in remote counties. In October 2023, we expanded A Father’s Place to Jasper County, which hosted its first grad-

uation within a year. We also improved our assessment of each father’s needs to provide appropriate services.

This achievement was a team effort. I commend the fathers for their vital role and appreciate the local staff for their support. I’m proud of the Center’s hard work and grateful to our supporters and partners.

Our aim is to serve more fathers in 2025 through new partnerships, curriculum upgrades, and improved training tools. We’re planning eight strategy meetings with partners to empower fathers and are looking to assist organizations serving fathers beyond South Carolina.

While we focus on dads, our work ultimately centers on children and mothers. I remember how my mother struggled to raise five children alone, and that memory motivates me to support more families.

Please keep our dads, staff, supporters, and the families we have yet to reach in your prayers. If you know of a family waiting for a father’s support, please let them know: Hold on! We’re coming.

Happy Fathers’ Day! Every Day!



Karriem Edwards  
President

“ We are preparing to support more fathers in 2025 with new partnerships, curriculum upgrades, and enhanced training tools.



# OUR WORK



The South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families is the only statewide network of fatherhood programs in the country. Supported by local, state, and federal grants, along with numerous private foundations, corporations, and individuals, SCCFF provides funding, programming, and technical assistance to 5 fatherhood organizations.

- **A Father's Place** serves 11 counties along the coast through 4 hubs.
- **Man 2 Man** serves 6 counties in the Pee Dee region through 3 hubs.
- **Midlands Fatherhood Coalition** serves 16 Midlands counties through 3 hubs.
- **A Father's Way** serves 4 counties in the northwest through 2 hubs.
- **Upstate Fatherhood Coalition** serves 9 counties in the Upstate through 3 hubs.

Our 15 hub offices offer programs and services on-site, including group and one-on-one case management, and free educational programs that teach men the following:

- Good Parenting
- Healthy Relationships
- Economic Mobility
- Physical and Mental Health
- Home Ownership

Services available to dads include legal guidance in the areas of child support, custody, paternity, and visitation. Our intervention specialists assist fathers to assess their situations, know their rights, and successfully navigate the social service and family court systems. We attend court to meet fathers and assist them in their efforts to reconnect with their children and become engaged fathers so that their families can thrive.

In addition to fatherhood programs and services, SCCFF conducts programs for teen boys in high school through our **Ready4Life** initiative. R4L takes young men through a course of study that will help them make good choices prior to adulthood, particularly waiting until they are adults to start families and have children. This Reality Check curriculum is offered through schools, community clubs, and sports teams.

SCCFF has created a father-focused website called **Father365.com** to provide easy access to information and resources to help them connect with fatherhood staff throughout the state through our full-service hubs and in our outreach spokes where programs and services are available to every father who attends.





## MATTHEW: DETERMINED TO PERSEVERE

**M**atthew always immersed himself in his children’s lives, cherishing every moment spent together — from school events to bedtime stories. But when their mother abruptly severed all communication, he was left heartbroken and desperate to reconnect.

Determined not to give up, Matthew enrolled in programs through the Midlands Fatherhood Coalition (MFC) in March, where he found support that helped him develop crucial communication skills, navigate the legal system, and build the confidence to advocate for himself.

In December, during a pivotal visitation hearing, Matthew faced the judge with bated breath and was awarded joint custody. He gained rights to spend holidays and weekends with his children and could contact them anytime. The court’s deci-

sion, which also relieved him from child support obligations, reinforced the sense of justice Matthew had long sought.

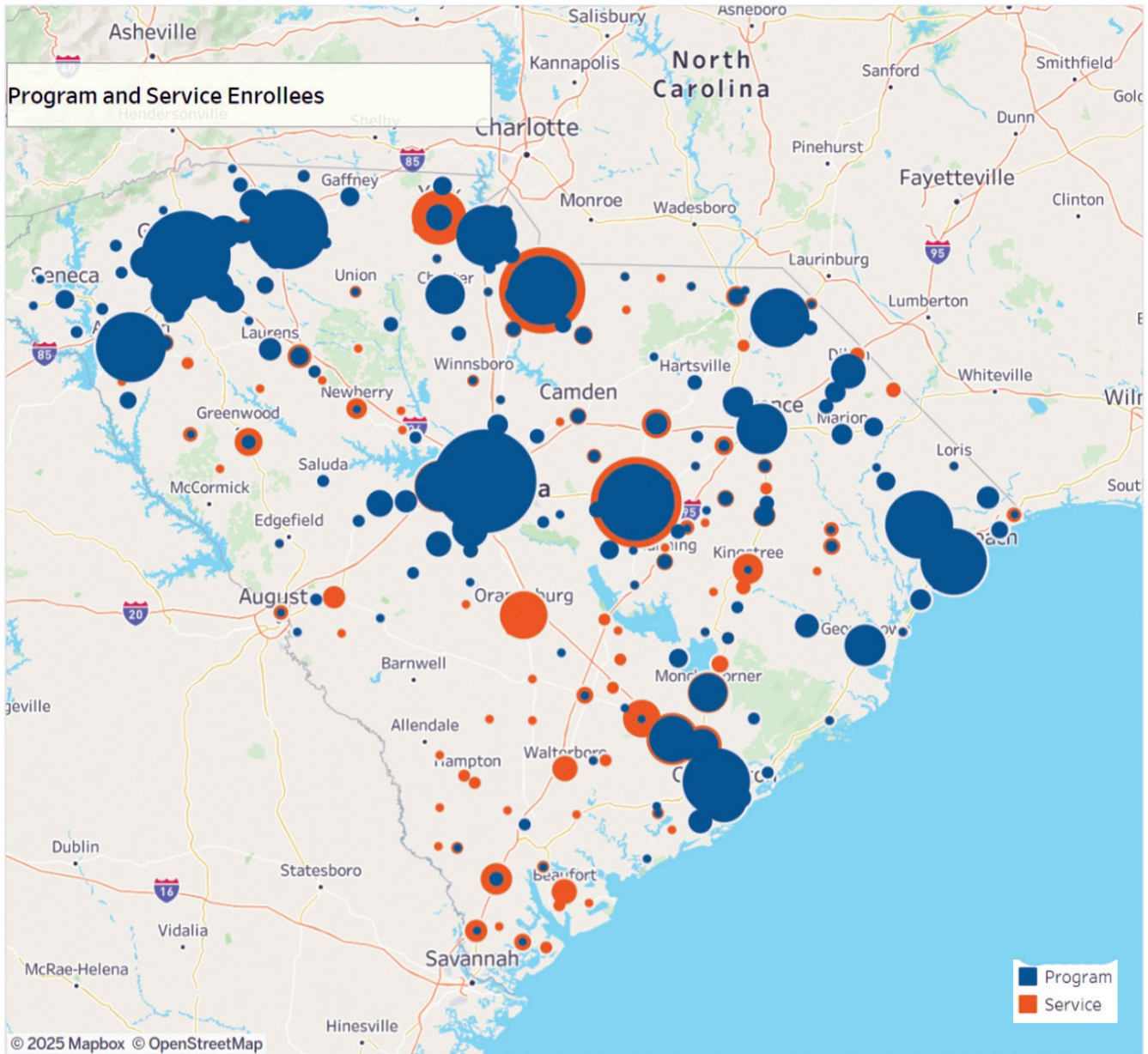
The real joy came on Christmas Day when he brought them to the holiday gathering. The laughter and warmth that filled the room as they embraced their family turned the celebration into a heartwarming reminder of love and resilience.

Matthew expressed his gratitude for MFC: “I can finally be the father I’ve always wanted to be.” His story showcases the incredible power of determination and support in overcoming challenges.

The work of MFC and our other partners demonstrates the vital importance of elevating fatherhood to help children thrive, certain to impact generations to come.

# Program and Service Enrollees FY2024

Total = 3,257 | 1,703 Program / 1,554 Service



**Hub & Spoke** is a strategy used to provide services to outreach counties and remote areas. Hub locations, which are in densely populated areas, offer programs and services daily, while Spoke locations primarily provide services on a quarterly or as-needed basis. Services may be offered in-person or remotely. Clients in remote areas who want to participate in programs can do so if they visit a Hub site.



# PROGRAM IMPACT

3,257 = Total Dads Served in 2024

1,703 = Total Program Enrollees

1,554 = Total Service Enrollees

169 = Average Days in Program

1,072 = Dads Engaged in Parent-Child Events

\$489,234 = Amount of Child Support Paid

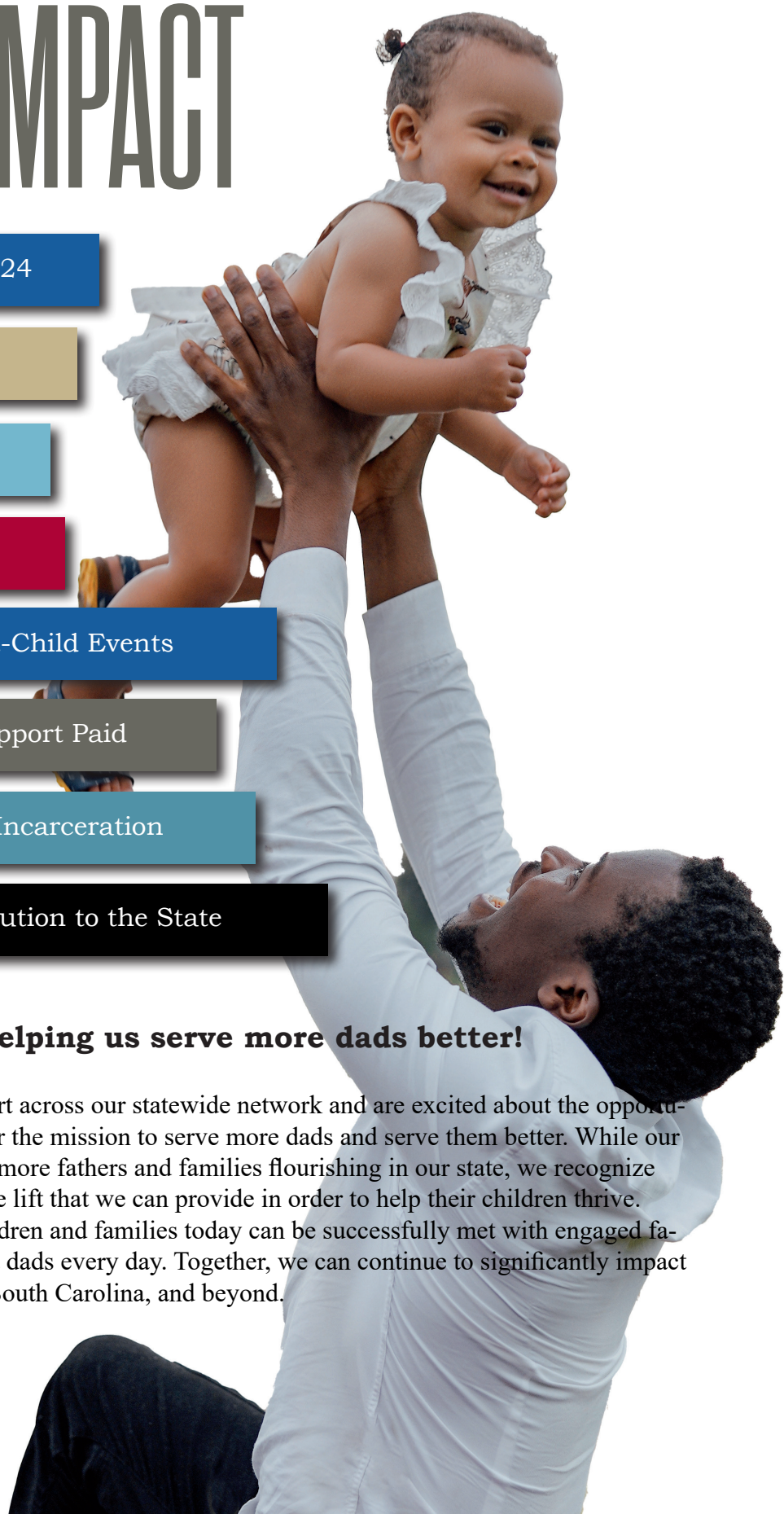
\$1,416,960 = Amount Saved in Incarceration

\$114 million = Potential Contribution to the State

**Thank you for helping us serve more dads better!**

We are grateful for the collaborative effort across our statewide network and are excited about the opportunity to continue our partnership to further the mission to serve more dads and serve them better. While our efforts are reaping more rewards, seeing more fathers and families flourishing in our state, we recognize that there are thousands more needing the lift that we can provide in order to help their children thrive. Many challenges and barriers facing children and families today can be successfully met with engaged fathers doing what it takes to become great dads every day. Together, we can continue to significantly impact the lives of fathers and their families in South Carolina, and beyond.

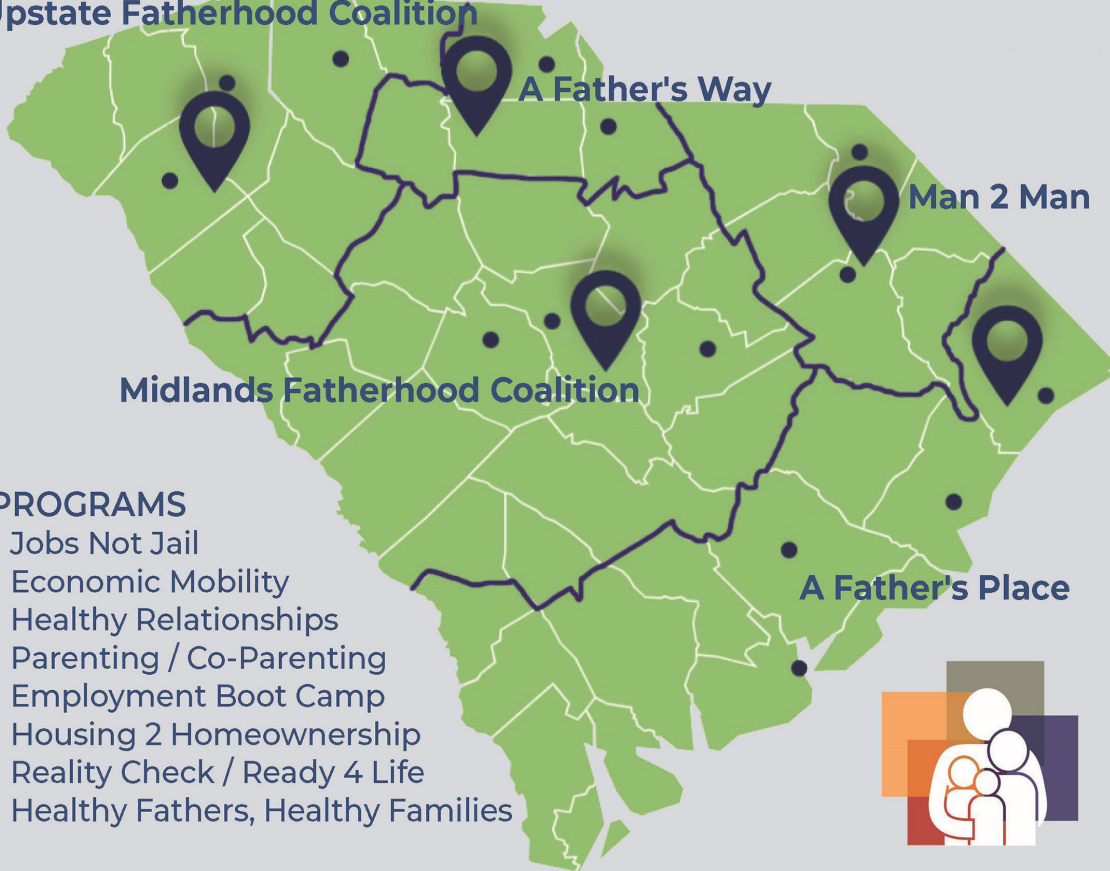
Visit [www.scfathersandfamilies.com](http://www.scfathersandfamilies.com).





Feel the joy.

**Upstate Fatherhood Coalition**



**PROGRAMS**

- Jobs Not Jail
- Economic Mobility
- Healthy Relationships
- Parenting / Co-Parenting
- Employment Boot Camp
- Housing 2 Homeownership
- Reality Check / Ready 4 Life
- Healthy Fathers, Healthy Families



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 and young men to become great dads.



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