First, and most importantly, we want to say thank you! 2022 was a year of record growth for us - and that is due in large part to our donors, professional partners, supporters, volunteers, champions, and friends of Beginnings SC. Because of the tireless way you show up for our organization we are able to continue to provide free, individualized support to the families in our programs.

As we identify more and more children and families, our need for resources grows. It was with heavy hearts that we made the decision to institute a waiting list at the end of 2022. We are optimistic about our growth and evolution, and hope soon to be able to remove out waiting list completely, but that cannot happen without the continued support of those who have helped us get to where we are today.

Our goal for 2023 is to increase our reach and our sustainability so that we can continue to provide life-changing support to families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Thank you,
Cara Smithwick & Mary Reaves

OUR MISSION

Beginnings SC provides expert knowledge and individualized planning strategies for parents, professionals, & communities to promote successful outcomes for children who are deaf or hard of hearing in South Carolina. We believe every SC child who is deaf or hard of hearing will reach his or her fullest potential.

Mary Reaves
Director of Programs

Cara Smithwick
Executive Director
**EDUCATE**

We educate the families about the challenges that deaf and hard of hearing children face.

- Reached **189** families this year through **734** hours to families through **1,250** services, including **115** individualized home visits.
- Partnered with **SC Hands & Voices** to host **7** Topic Tuesday webinars for parents and professionals.
- Hosted **1** Virtual Author Nights for **26** families.
- **131** ASL sessions to **31** families

**ADVOCATE**

Together with the family, we assemble and support both short and long term game plans that increase the opportunities for both the child and family.

- Received **108** new family referrals.
- Advocated with parents at **64 IEP meetings and pre-IEP preparation meetings**.
- **Referred 2 Spanish-speaking families to Family Connection of South Carolina to provide linguistically-accessible services for Spanish-speaking families**
- Supported **15** parent-to-parent mingles (meetings) with **SC Hands & Voices**

**FACILITATE**

We connect and facilitate the professional resources required to maximize the successful belonging of both the child and the family.

- **1,425** of South Carolina’s children received hearing screenings in **43** child care programs across the state totaling **7,227** children having been screened since the program’s inception.
- Our staff provided training to **334** child care professionals to identify signs of hearing loss with **42** training sessions at **47** sites.
- Grew our online community through increased engagement and number of followers on our social media.
- A total of **30** training sessions to Lending Library sites and **115** total people trained
- **1,560** minutes of Technical Assistance during OAE screenings
- Hosted the NTID Regional Stem Center’s STEM Bus tour in **4** counties, reaching **80** students and **41** teachers

**BSC CORE VALUES IN ACTION**

- **115 Home Visits**
- **334 Professionals Trained**
- **1,425 Children screened**
Attended the House resolution honoring Beginnings SC & a Statehouse tour with 3 families.
Collaborated with NRSC to host STEM Bus Tours in Feb. and Sept. across the state.
Collaborated with USC School of Music for Music Field Day featuring DEAFinitely Dope.
Hosted Wine Down in April 2022.
Partnered with SC Hands & Voices to host 7 Topic Tuesday Webinars that are recorded and shared!
Hosted 1 virtual Author Night for 26 families!
Hosted a fun Signing Santa Night for families.

FROM THE THOMPSON- HAMMOND FAMILY

"June 10th 2022 is a date that I will always remember... because it was the day I found out my son Logan has bilateral sensorineural hearing loss. Everything went so fast – especially the "doctor language". I still had many unanswered questions and a lot of confusion. My son was born premature at 29 weeks he was already involved in early intervention, I was told they would help. At the time my early interventionist was not equipped with knowledge of hard of hearing/deaf children so I still felt stuck and confused. During Logan’s audiology appointment my audiologist sensed my frustration and asked would I be okay with her passing my information over to a lady named Lisa Jolly and that she was apart of a program called Beginning SC. I was all in for any type of help and clarification.
After the first call with Lisa I got off the phone feeling good about it all. There is such a stigma on deaf/ hard of hearing kids and until I was introduced to Beginning SC I believed it all. I learned so much - like something as simple as washing the dishes in front of my son may effect his hearing [me], to knowing the different types of frequencies and understanding that deaf / hard of hearing people are just as capable of doing any and everything. Logan may have to work a bit harder but he can live a normal life. I have also met different families who we can relate and share stories ideas and thoughts while allowing our kids to meet so they know they are not alone. Becoming apart of the Beginning SC has been the best move I could have made for Logan and my entire family."
- Chantel Thomspon, mother of Logan Hammond
WITH YOUR HELP
Beginnings SC was able to reach more families than ever before!

189 families reached
108 new family referrals received
115 home visits
64 IEP meetings & prep meetings
42 hearing screening trainings provided

Beginnings SC cannot wait to see what 2023 holds in store and is dedicated to providing the best quality of service to the families we serve.

ONWARD & UPWARD

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