



# MISS RUBY'S KIDS



INSPIRING CARING ADULTS TO GUIDE A CHILD'S SCHOOL SUCCESS.



2017 Annual Report





PCHP children are **50% more likely to measure ready for kindergarten** than their socio-economic peers.



Program graduates **scored 2 ½ times higher on social-emotional skills assessment** than the control group.



Enter school performing **10 months above their chronological age**.

**Outperformed the statewide average** on third grade state math achievement test.



**30% higher graduation rate** than their socio-economic peers.



**50% less likely to be referred to special education services** by the third grade.



Georgena and Jasani Simmons read to Beth Wiley, Home Visitor. 5/4/04



Jasani and Georgena Simmons read together. 5/4/04

# 15 Year Celebration 2018

## First Graduating Class



Amanda and Kayla Benson enjoy a book together. 4/29/04



Amanda and Kayla Benson share a book and a smile. 4/29/04

# 2003

“Miss Ruby’s Kids is a wonderful program that I recommend to all my friends and family”  
Georgena Simmons 2018

# 2018





## 2017 PROGRAM STATISTICS

Parent Child Home Program  
(PCHP)

**Families/ In-home Care  
Centers Served**

**61/2**

Total families served in both programs 79

**Books & Toys Provided**

**852 Books  
781 toys**

**Visits with Children**

**2898**

**Spanish Speaking Families**

**6**

Education Mentor Program  
(EMP)

**Children Served**

**62**

**Hours spent with Mentees**

**772.4**

**Schools served**

**10**

**Volunteer Mentors**

**44**

# FINANCES

07/01/16 - 06/30/2017

## ASSETS

Cash

\$48,851

Short-term investments

\$90,572

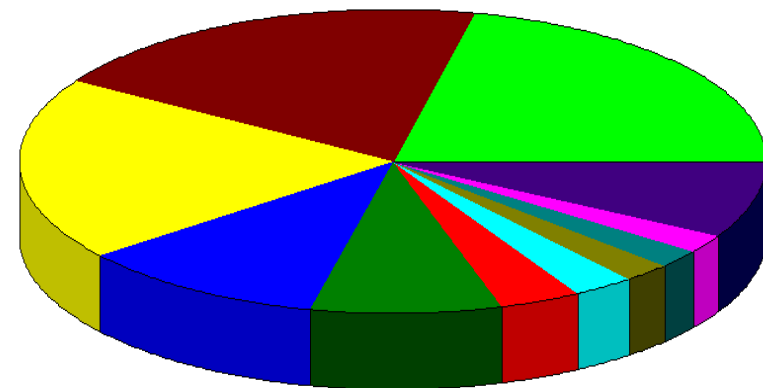
Accumulated Depreciation

\$137,423

## TOTAL ASSETS

\$117,423

## FUNDING



Friends of Miss Rubys Kids	21.61%
Grants - Foundation	19.80
Garden Party	19.46
Giving Day	10.98
Golf Tournament	8.34
Kitchen Tour - Tickets	3.63
Bequests	2.83
Business Contributions	2.12
Indirect/Fundraising Agency Con	2.06
Dining for a Cause - Business	2.03
Other	7.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$214,127.44</b>

# PALMETTO GIVING DAY 2018

Thank you to The Bunnelle Foundation and The Tamsberg Family Foundation for your matching gift donations in 2017. With their help and donations from people like YOU we were able to exceed our Palmetto Giving Day fundraising goal last year! Let us unite again this year on MAY 1st and surpass last year's donations.

## PALMETTO GIVING DAY 2018

TOGETHER WE ARE #growinggeorgetowncounty  
[www.palmettogivingday.org](http://www.palmettogivingday.org)

In 2017,  
Miss Ruby's Kids raised

**\$23,511**

in just ONE DAY for  
Palmetto Giving Day!

2018:

Our fundraising  
GOAL for  
Palmetto Giving Day

**\$43,000**

**PALMETTO GIVING DAY**

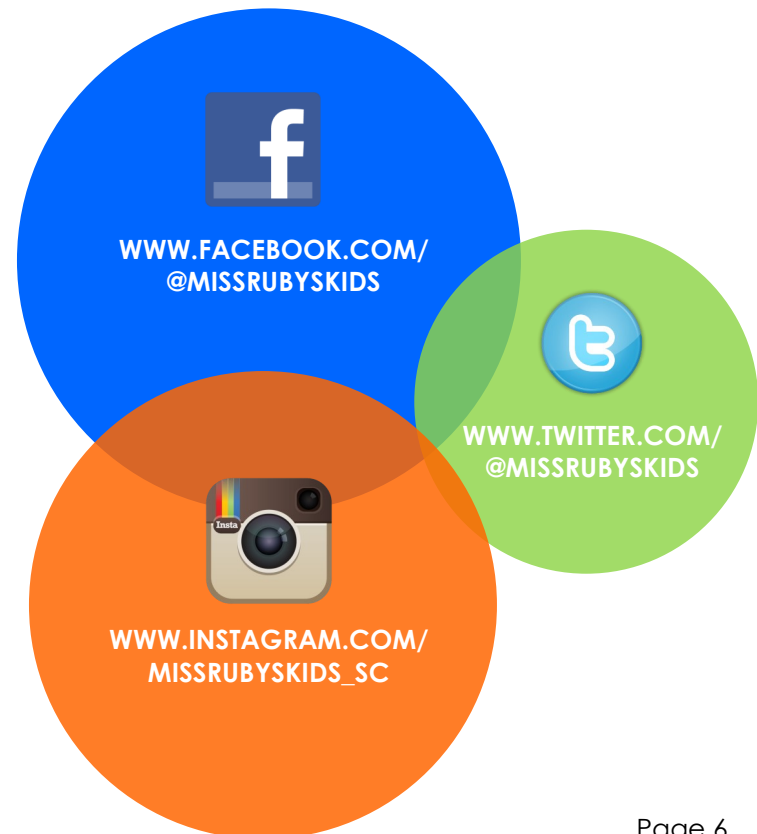
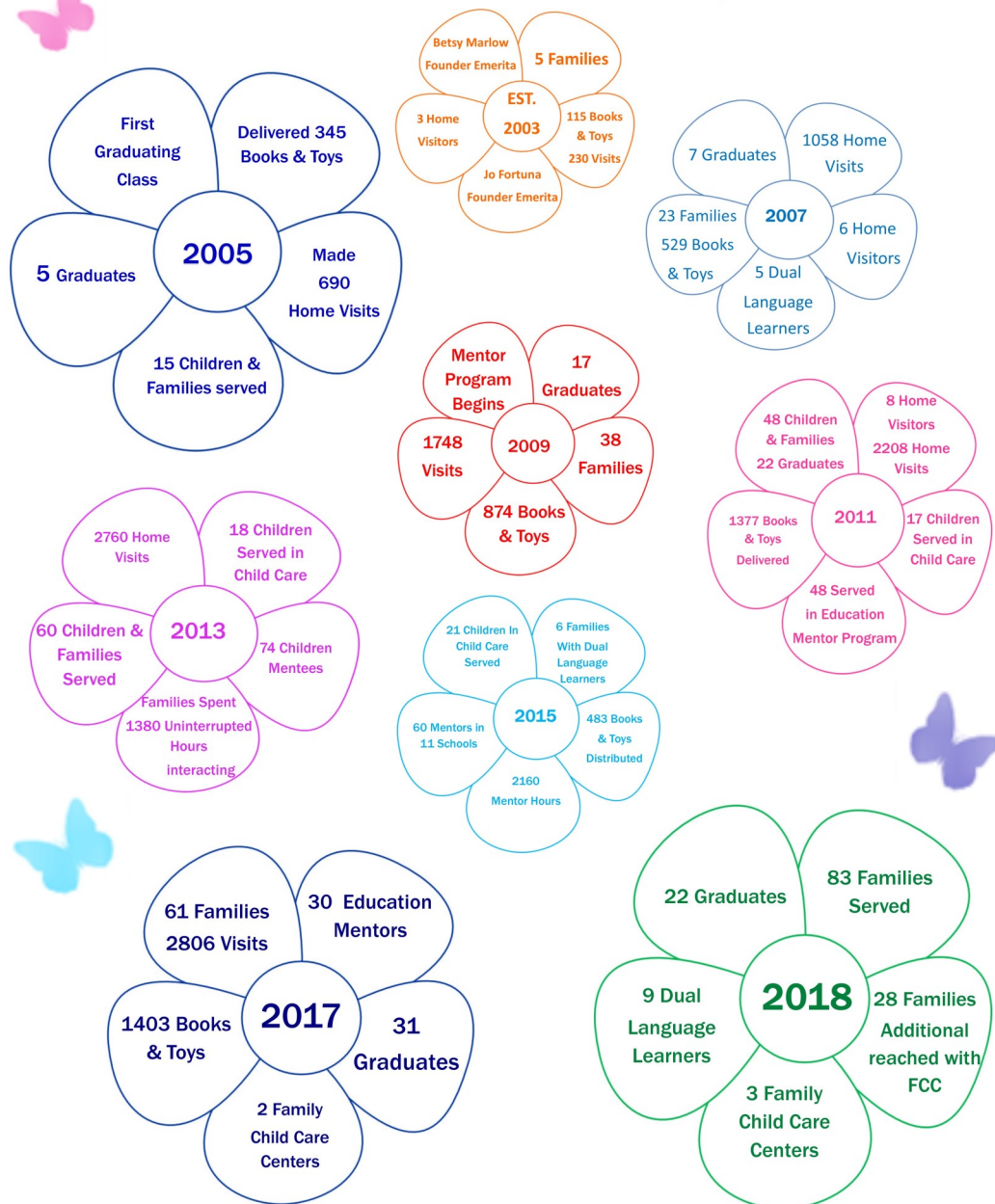
**05.01.2018**

# Miss RUBY'S KIDS

15 Years and *Growing*



*Let's be social!*  
FIND MRK ON SOCIAL MEDIA





## WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

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### Vaudrien Forsythe Ray

Vaudrien Forsythe Ray is the second grandchild of Ruby Middleton Forsythe, affectionately known as Miss Ruby. Mrs. Ray earned her B.S. degree from the College of Charleston in psychology, then received her M.Ed. and Ed.S. degrees from the Citadel Graduate School. While working as a school psychologist, she yearned to impact the lives of students at an earlier age to offer less reactive approaches to serving children with challenges. This encouraged her to follow the familiar path of early childhood education. A legacy which began many years ago with Miss Ruby and her educator parents. For the past nine years, Mrs. Ray has owned and directed Ruby's Academy Preschool and Child Care in Mount Pleasant, SC.

Mrs. Ray is past president of the South Carolina Early Childhood Association and holds membership in several associations to include the National Association of School Psychologist, National Association for the Education of Young Children, and Jack and Jill of American Inc.

She resides in Mount Pleasant with her husband, William and three children: Jonathan, Summer and William. Jonathan is currently attending UNC-Charlotte.



### Teresa Peterson

After graduating from UNC-Greensboro with a degree in Early Childhood Education in 1974, Teresa taught in Marine Corps Dependents Schools at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and Laurel Bay, South Carolina. In 1978, she earned a M. Ed. in Reading and Language Arts from UNC-Chapel Hill. Since that time, Teresa has had a variety of experiences related to children and literacy including classroom teacher, reading resource coordinator, curriculum specialist, educational consultant, private tutor, adjunct instructor at UNC-Pembroke, and school administrator at Southeastern Academy (Lumberton, NC).

Teresa originated several volunteer initiatives: "I'm Beary Special" (recognized by the North Carolina PTA as an exemplary program) and the Academic Booster Club at Lumberton High School. She continued her volunteer activities on the Board of Community Concerts of Robeson County, the Board of Good Friends of Georgetown County, the MUSC Children's Hospital Advisory Board, the Prince George Community HOA, Lowcountry Preparatory School Board, as well as a Board Member and Education Mentor for Miss Ruby's Kids. Teresa's passion for improving the lives of children also led her to become a certified parent education facilitator.

She and her husband, Pete, live on the Waccamaw Neck and own Peterson Toyota Chrysler Jeep and Dodge in Lumberton, North Carolina. They have two sons and four granddaughters.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Reta Schaap  
*Chair*

Fedrick Cohens  
*Secretary*

Rob Ruark  
*Treasurer*

Myrtle Milton  
*Governance Chair*

Anne Mountford  
Teresa Peterson  
Vaudrien Forsythe Ray  
Sue Tonzola

*Former Members*  
Jeff Siegrist

## MRK STAFF

Kristen Laga  
*Executive Director*

Jenny Walsh  
*EMP Coordinator*

Stacy Nance  
*PCHP Coordinator*

Lisa Haas  
*Office Manager*

Amanda Oliver  
Katie Gainey  
Tiffanie Thomas  
Samantha Saber  
Mayra Vargas  
*2017 Home Visitors*

### *Former Staff*

Sharon Harper  
Kelly Felton

### FORMER HOME VISITORS

Crystal Gethers  
Carolyn Espinoza  
Loretta Wright  
Janice Gethers  
Leah Bluming



# Miss Ruby's Kids Endowment

Miss Ruby's Kids enables identified families and caregivers to inspire a passion for learning in their children. We help prepare parents to be their child's first, best teacher and support both parents and child throughout the child's school career. This year Miss Ruby's Kids turns 15! Several events have been planned to commemorate this milestone; including our Annual Garden Party!

On February 25, 2018, Miss Ruby's Kids officially began the celebration with the unveiling of an Endowment Campaign. The Sunday event included colorful displays of the history of Miss Ruby's Kids in a quaint setting provided by Chive Blossom. Supporters of Miss Ruby's Kids were greeted by current Board Chair, Reta Schaap and Executive Director, Kristen Laga; who both shared information about the importance and impact of Miss Ruby's Kids in our community.

When preparing for this event we reached out to the first 5 families served through MRK. All 5 of these children are still in the Georgetown County school district, 4 of them are in 11<sup>th</sup> grade and 1 is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. All of these students are high achievers, scoring in the 70 or higher percentile of their classes. This is concrete evidence that Miss Ruby's Kids Parent Child Home Program and Mentoring Program work, together we are changing lives!!

How do we change these lives? Through education, compassion and play. There are only 2,000 days between the time a baby is born and when he or she will begin kindergarten. During that time the brain is forming, creating either a strong or weak foundation for all future learning. Child development is a dynamic, interactive process that is not predetermined. It occurs in the context of relationships, experiences and environments. Harvard University neuroscientist Jack Shonkoff puts it this way, "brains are built not born.". Miss Ruby's Kids is able to spend 322 days out of the 2000 helping build these brains thus supplying a strong foundation for school success.

## WHY endowments are important for nonprofit organizations.

***Attract large gifts.*** Individuals often prefer to make major gifts (including bequests) to support operations, programs, or initiatives that will remain in place long after they are gone. Contributing to an endowment ensures that the gift lives on beyond the donor.

***Signal strength.*** The existence of an endowment can serve as a signal to donors that an organization will be around for the long-term. This may draw further support from those who wish to invest in an institution that has longevity.

***Support operations and innovation.*** Because it comes in as unrestricted dollars, the income from an endowment can be used as needed in any given year—for example, to smooth out financial shortfalls in lean times, and can also be used to cover ongoing overhead costs, or even fund current or future programs/projects.

# MISS RUBY'S KIDS

Endowment

Goal \$25,000



\$4,397

#SupportMRK

*I alone cannot  
change the world,  
but I can cast a  
stone across the wa-  
ters to create many  
ripples.*

*Mother Teresa*



# GARDEN PARTY SAVE THE DATE 2018

## MISS RUBY'S KIDS

*Please join us in celebrating our*

*15th anniversary at the*

*2018 Miss Ruby's Kids Garden Party.*

*Save the Date,*

*Sunday April 29th, 2018*



Check out our Sponsorship Levels!  
With your support anything is possible.

[www.missrubyskids.net](http://www.missrubyskids.net)

## Garden Party Tickets

**\$100**

/per  
person

Tickets may  
be purchased  
by calling  
843-527-0277,  
or purchase  
securely online  
by visiting our  
Website & click-  
ing on the  
Garden Party  
invitation



# CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!



Because of our faithful volunteers  
Miss Ruby's Kids is able to grow, thrive and  
succeed in providing brighter futures to the  
children of Georgetown County. We are always  
seeking new people to join our dynamic team and  
continue making a difference in our community.  
Whether you want to work one time at an event,  
join a committee, chair a fundraiser, become a  
Mentor, or help us in the office,  
we have a job for YOU!!!!



Please contact our Volunteer  
Coordinator, Jenny Walsh,  
TODAY

to discuss how you can join us in  
making a difference in our community!  
#TeamMRK

J.walsh@missrubyskids.net  
843-436-7028  
www.missrubyskids.net