

DSS

Serving Children and Families

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07-29-14

Pat Littlejohn
SC Fathers and Families
2711 Middleburg Drive
Columbia, SC 29204

Dear Ms. Littlejohn,

I am writing today to tell you how excited I am about our partnership with the Upstate Fatherhood Coalition. There are really no words to describe how helpful and effective collaboration impacts clients except to give specific examples. The SpartanburgUFC staff have made a tremendous difference in the lives of families in Spartanburg County.

In looking over the past year, there were 107 children that left foster care to return home or were placed with relatives. The UFC was involved with most of the parents of those children. We currently have 300 Family Preservation cases with 669 children and the UFC is working with many of those families.

Our partnership with UFC is something that has evolved over the past 2 years and makes me feel hopeful. I believe that changing the way we engage with families is in part due to the efforts of our collaboration with UFC. Some of the things that have changed include participation in Family Team Meetings, assisting parents in understanding what real behavioral change means, mediation, assisting with child support issues, referrals for food, clothing and supporting parents like they need to be supported. Mr. Andre McCullough and Ms. Martha Pearson have been able to connect to parents and develop relationships that show the parents they can change. They give them a level of support that is essential to correct problems and navigate a system that can be very difficult. They also help DSS case managers with difficult situations, coming to the office to discuss and problem solve ways to resolve conflict.

I am sure you see reports and know exactly how many families that the Spartanburg UFC has served but did you know that there are many families that continue to stay in touch with the UFC even after they complete services? Several parents have expressed to me personally the difference that the support has made in their lives, especially at a time that was very difficult.

I felt compelled to write to you to let you know how we are doing here in Spartanburg. I met you at the dinner recently in Greenville and thought you would appreciate positive reflections.

Sincerely,



Katie Brophy
Spartanburg DSS
County Director