

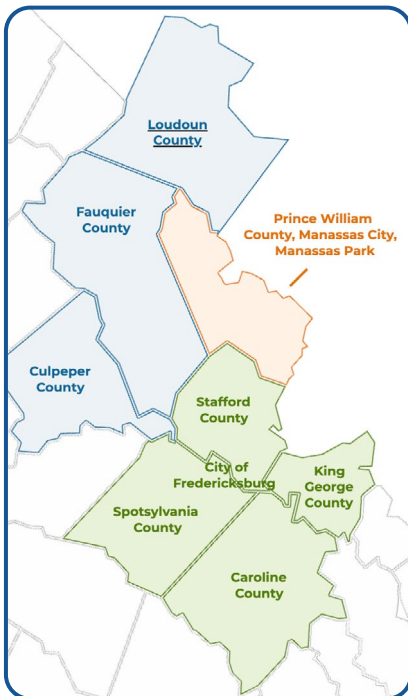
# Every Child Deserves a Strong Start

When **42% of Virginia's kindergarteners** start school unprepared, it's not just one family's challenge—it's a **community-wide issue**. Gaps in early childhood education have lasting effects, but quality early learning gives children the foundation they need for lifelong health, learning, and opportunity.

***When we invest early, we set every child—and our community—on the path to success.***

**For nearly 25 years, Foundation First has been expanding access to high-quality early childhood education in Virginia—ensuring children have the strong start they deserve while supporting families and strengthening communities.**

**Foundation First is a nonprofit dedicated to improving and expanding access to early childhood education across Virginia to ensure every child has a strong foundation for lifelong success.**



In 2022, we were selected as the lead organization for **Ready Region North Central**. In this role, we bring together families, providers, businesses, and local agencies to strengthen quality, increase access, and support early childhood education across the region.

**Greater Prince William Area**

- Manassas City
- Manassas Park
- Prince William County

**LFC Area**

- Loudoun County
- Fauquier County
- Culpeper County

**Rappahannock Area**

- Caroline County
- City of Fredericksburg
- King George County
- Spotsylvania County
- Stafford County

“ Thank you so much for making it possible for my son to be part of the early education program... It gives me such joy to be involved in a program that's dedicated to our children's education. I'm very grateful and confident that he will benefit greatly as he learns and develops.

— Family Member ”

# The Impact of Early Childhood Education



## Education

- 25% higher high school graduation rate
- 4x more likely to earn a bachelor's degree
- Reduced special education placement



## Health & Wellbeing

- Stronger mental health outcomes
- Lower rates of heart disease, high blood pressure, and obesity
- Reduced risky behaviors
- 40% reduction in lifetime arrests



## Economic Opportunity

- Improved employment and job stability
- 3–26% increase in lifetime earnings
- Boosts parental workforce participation
- Higher homeownership rates

*\*According to the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), the Perry Preschool Project (HighScope Perry Preschool Study), the Abecedarian Project, Heckman Research.*

# Strong Foundations Build Stronger Communities

Nearly **70% of young children in Virginia have working parents**, yet too many families struggle to find quality early learning programs. **When programs aren't accessible, children start school behind, parents struggle with employment, and communities lose economic and social benefits.** We support early childhood educators, connect families to programs, and improve the quality and accessibility of care—helping children build strong foundations while strengthening families, workplaces, and communities.



***That's why the work Foundation First does is so important. By supporting early childhood educators, connecting families to programs, and improving the quality and accessibility of care, we help children build strong foundations for lifelong learning—while strengthening families, workplaces, and communities.***

**“ Foundation First gave me essential, life-changing support.** I'm excited to use my voice and dedicate my work to creating real change on the Family Council. My immediate goal is to ensure that every family has the help, support, and resources needed. Providing quality childcare is the key to brighter futures for all children.

—Family Council Participant

# Our Focus



## Families & Children First

Helping families find and stay in quality early learning programs



## Early Childhood Workforce

Stabilizing and supporting early childhood teachers with training and fair compensation



## Quality & Access

Expanding access to high-quality early learning across our region



## Systems Building

Coordinating community efforts and aligning services for greater impact



## Data & Innovation

Advancing data-driven solutions, technology, and sustainability

“Your dedication to bringing providers together has been incredibly impactful, not just for me but for our entire community. These meetings have been instrumental in my professional growth. It was through them that I had the opportunity to meet and form meaningful relationships. They have graciously taken me on as a mentee and have been invaluable guides in navigating the complexities of our work. Their support has helped me with everything from securing resources and setting reasonable prices to planning weekly menus. **These lasting and positive relationships could not have developed without your consistent effort to connect us.** Thank you again for everything you do. Your commitment to fostering a supportive community is truly appreciated.”

— Childcare Provider

# Our Impact



**39,558**

children in Ready Region North Central with access to Foundation First services



**200**

Number of Families supported through coaching, resources, or enrollment assistance



**502**

early childhood educators coached or trained



**60%**

Kindergarteners meeting school readiness benchmarks



**1,155**

professional development hours provided



**125**

programs receiving quality improvement support

# Building the Future

**At Foundation First, we envision a community where every child from birth to five has a solid foundation for success.** To make this vision a reality, we're taking a strategic, data-driven approach—conducting a landscape analysis to map gaps, measure impact, and identify opportunities to strengthen our support.

Looking ahead, Foundation First aims to be **a hub** for families and early childhood providers—connecting people with programs, resources, and support that make a lasting difference. While our work began in the Ready Region, we are exploring ways to expand our reach: offering financial assistance to families in need, growing professional development for teachers, and measuring long-term outcomes to ensure every investment creates real impact.

***Foundation First will continue its legacy of excellence—turning insight into action to ensure a brighter future for children and families, today and for generations to come.***

## Why Philanthropic Support Matters

Foundation First has historically relied on government grants and contracts, but that funding has become increasingly unreliable and cannot meet the true scale of need. Families continue to struggle to afford or access childcare, many remain on long waiting lists, while programs work hard just to keep classrooms well staffed. **Government funding, while important, comes with constraints that limit our responsiveness and innovation.**

***We couldn't do all we do without the support of individual donors, foundations, and state and local governments. The generosity of partners like you enables us to expand our reach, deepen our impact, and transform the trajectory of countless young lives.***

**Studies show that every \$1 invested in early childhood education returns up to \$16 to our community.**

*\*According to First Things First*

**Private philanthropy gives us the flexibility to:**



**Respond quickly to emerging needs**



**Fill critical gaps government funding cannot address**



**Ensure program continuity when contracts shift**



**Invest in long-term solutions beyond grant cycles**

# Take Action



## Donate

Invest in children today and strengthen Virginia's future. When you give to Foundation First, you're helping create innovative, sustainable solutions where they're needed most, and laying the groundwork for every child's educational journey, future career, health, and overall well-being.

*Please consider a one-time gift, recurring donation, planned gift, or many of the other ways to give.*



## Partner With Us

Join us as a corporate, foundation, or community partner to champion early childhood solutions that work. Together, we can expand access to quality early learning, strengthen families, and grow a thriving workforce for Virginia's future.

*We would love to speak with you about developing a customized partnership package that fits your philanthropic and marketing goals.*



## Advocate

Our advocacy connects early education, workforce development, and economic growth. Together, we can advance equitable funding, improve access to child care, and support initiatives that strengthen the early childhood workforce—putting children and families first.

*Join us as a partner, advocate, or community champion to help shape a future where every child in Virginia has the opportunity to thrive.*

# Connect With Us

[foundationfirstva.org](http://foundationfirstva.org)

## Gina Davis

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## Ways to Give



Scan to donate



When one child thrives, we all do.