



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Man-Cave Ribbon Cutting and Open House

Hartsville, S.C.—The Parents Are First Program (PAF) of Darlington County First Steps (DCFS) held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House for their Man-Cave at St. Joseph Head Start Center, July 1, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

PAF is funded under the federal Pregnancy Assistance Fund Grant and was awarded to Darlington County First Steps in 2014. PAF is a comprehensive program designed to mobilize community partners to enhance the availability and quality of services for young parents, ages 15-24, in Darlington County. The program focuses on both mothers and fathers and provides both direct and in-direct services to program participants.

Members of the community, local partners, state partners, family and friends came together in support of DCFS and the PAF program, as staff introduced guest to their new Man-Cave. The Man-Cave is part of the PAF's Fatherhood Initiative which focuses on serving and engaging young fathers, helping them to overcome obstacles and barriers to being a responsible and involved father.

The Man-Cave provides young fathers in Darlington County a relaxing, fun and safe place to participate in PAF's Fatherhood Initiative. The goal is to equip young fathers with the information and skills necessary to promote strong, nurturing and loving relationships with their children.

"Services will include peer counseling, educational guidance, job readiness and training, parenting groups and other enrichment and support services" stated Brenda Ayers, PAF Project Director. "Education and support groups will provide young fathers with direction and guidance as they strive to become more involved in their children's lives."

Darlington County Community Action Agency Head Start, Kappa Alpha Psi-Hartsville Chapter, Darlington County School District-Adult Education, CareSouth, S.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families, and Children's Trust of S.C. are in partnership with DCFS and the PAF program. Representatives from each of these organizations were in attendance for this event.

The Man-Cave will soon be open throughout the week for scheduled and drop in activities.

The office of DCFS is located on 437 W. Carolina Avenue, Hartsville, SC. For more information on the PAF program, visit www.darlingtoncountyfirststeps.org or call the office at 843-857-3148.