



Heritage Keepers® Healthy Marriage Initiative (HMI)

Improving child well-being by helping parents
form healthy marriages and families

Compared to the already discouraging data for South Carolina, Charleston faces family formation problems of an enormous scope.

- **43% of Charleston** vs. 40% of all SC babies are born out-of-wedlock;
- **47% of Charleston** vs. 40% of the SC's children in single-parent families live in poverty.
- **71% of Charleston's** foster children are African-American, **25%** Caucasian, and **4%** of other races;
- **20%** of a foster child's life in **Charleston** is spent in out of home placement;
- **50%** of **Charleston's** foster children leave the system without permanent placement.

*SC Kids Count,
SC Statistical Abstract,
SC Foster Kids Count*

Heritage Keepers® HMI

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Call Angela (114), Byron (113) or Mary (122)

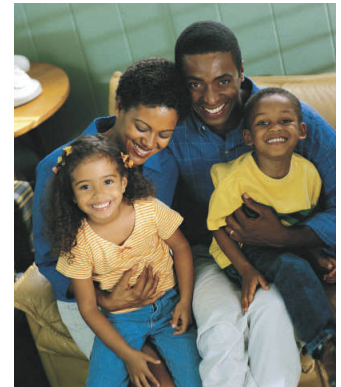
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Heritage Keepers® HMI is an early intervention for parents who dream of having a healthy marriage, a stable family life and happy, successful children.

Children who grow up in, low-conflict families with married biological parents do better compared to children in any other family structure. Too many children in South Carolina are born to unmarried mothers and into poverty that lasts a lifetime. In some instances, the parents of these children live together in a marriage-like relationship. In others, the parents have a close relationship but the father lives apart. In still other cases, the father has little or no contact with either his child or his child's mother.



As a result, over 70% of children from Charleston's fragile families will spend part, if not all, of their childhood in foster care.

Look no further than our own communities to see the results of chaotic family formation and appreciate the need for changing attitudes about healthy marriage and learning the skills needed for a stable family. **Heritage Keepers® HMI** and the **Lowcountry Crisis Pregnancy Center** are working with additional community and faith organizations to help couples who are:

- At least 18 years old
- Romantically involved, cohabiting or married
- Already parents and/or expecting
- Desire to form a healthy marriage and family

Heritage Keepers® services are provided by dedicated male and female Family Coordinators trained to:

- Assess family needs
- Identify and remove barriers, if possible
- Make referrals to other appropriate services
- Set flexible appointment times including home visits
- Provide long term encouragement and emotional support
- Provide incentives for completion of sessions

Heritage Keepers® education sessions will cover topics such as:

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| • Communication/Conflict Resolution | • Benefits of Marriage vs. Cohabitation |
| • Parenting Children and Adolescents | • The Making of a Man and a Woman |
| • Importance of Mom AND Dad | • Career Coaching |
| • Sexuality, Fidelity and Commitment | • Building Wealth |