



Summer 2026

Greetings Friends and Followers!

These past few months have indeed been quite busy. In May of 2025, we held the Open House activities for our new, 4,000 square foot education facility and in September we welcomed the first students. That was a joyous day! It was a long and arduous journey for the Foundation. At last, we were able to begin the task before us and initiate the work toward the fulfillment of our mission.

We provided afterschool tutorial support for 20 young people representing grade levels 2 through 6. We averaged 14 students per day, which also means that we served at least 14 meals per day. **I am happy to report that all the students who attended our afterschool program showed academic improvement!**

We want to give a special thanks to our partner, Classic Remodeling & Construction. They provided the bus transportation that allowed us to take our students, and some of their parents, on field trips to the International African American Museum in Charleston, SC and to Duke Energy's nuclear and hydroelectric sites in Oconee County, SC. For many of our students it was their first time visiting Charleston as well as seeing mountains when they were in the upstate. Check out our website for details www.briggsdelainepearsonfoundation.org. Please note the joy and curiosity exhibited by our students when you watch the video provided courtesy of Duke Energy. When you see their faces, you know the work is well worth it.

Unfortunately, funding was not sufficient to provide a summer program. However, BDPF's board is optimistic that we will be able to secure enough funds to rectify that for the upcoming summer of 2027.

A sincere thanks to the many of you who have supported us with your financial contributions and your words of encouragement. We also want to thank our community partners, in particular, the families of our students; Dr. Roy Jones, Dr. Sheliah Durham and Dr. David Fleming with Clemson University; the friends and family of Dr. Ophelia De Laine Gona; Superintendent Shawn Johnson and Dr. Tyneshia Eaddy with the Clarendon County School District; the Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce; and Margaret Walker, a very special volunteer. We could not have accomplished all that we did without all of you. We expect to open again by October 1st of this year.

As with any endeavor, lessons are learned as the program progresses. The lesson of greatest importance for us this year is that we need a bus to transport our students from the school to our program and to their homes after the program. Many of our students live in rural areas of the county, and many do not have transportation available to get them home. We are now in the process of securing the funds for a bus and a qualified driver. Of course, funds are still needed to pay for teachers, our cook, the food to feed the children and the costs associated with operating the building itself.

Our fundraising is ongoing

We need your donations! Please visit our website: www.briggsdelainepearsonfoundation.org and click the **donate button**. You will be directed to PayPal so that you will be able to make a secure donation. Your donations are needed and very much appreciated.

Remember we are a 501(c)(3) public charity, and all donations are tax deductible. All donors receive a statement from the Foundation on which your tax-deductible donation is listed.

Thanks again for your support and your well wishes!

In service to our community,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marguirite De Laine".

Marguirite De Laine, Chairperson, Board of Directors
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