

SCBaptists Enhance Education through Community Engagement



Overview

South Carolina Baptists have been steadily increasing their involvement in local schools.

From April 2023 to April 2024, Heart4Schools and SCBaptists have experienced significant growth in both school partnerships and church participation. In April 2023, SCBaptists were partnered with 503 schools, a number that rose to 590 by April 2024. This increase of 87 schools represents a 17.3% growth over just one year, showing a continuing commitment to support through these partnerships. Similarly, church participation in the program has also seen a notable rise. In April 2023, 415 SCBaptist churches were involved in Heart4Schools, growing to 484 churches by April 2024.

These partnerships are not just about occasional visits; they involve consistent, meaningful engagement that addresses the needs of schools and creates nurturing environments for both students and staff. At the recent Heart4Schools Spring Celebration, several volunteers came to give testimony to the work taking place in local schools.

Strengthening Schools through Partnership

Shannon Brown from River Rock Community Church detailed how his church, although small, supports four schools in the Fort Mill area. From organizing coffee trucks for teachers to celebrating birthdays with gift bags, the church ensures its presence is felt and beneficial. The volunteers take time to listen and pray for the teachers, aided by the school allowing the church to put prayer request boxes in workrooms. "We've been able to pray with teachers who are going through all kinds of hardship," Brown said.

Deborah Guest from Lakeview Baptist Church in Hartsville highlighted the adaptive nature of their support, tailoring their efforts to meet the expressed needs of school staff. This responsive approach has led to overseeing lunch periods to give teachers a break when they have meetings during their planning periods.

Read the full story.

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