



STEPHEN SKARDON JR.

Since 1993, Steve Skardon has served as the Executive Director of the Palmetto Project, a non-profit corporation, established by the state's business community, to put innovative ideas to work solving South Carolina's social and economic problems.

Under Steve's leadership, the Palmetto Project has been responsible for more than 100 public-private partnerships in health care, voter participation, race relations, economic development, and education. Included in these are...

- ***Communicare***, a statewide network of free medical services including prescription drugs, hospitalization, and testing for more than 700,000 South Carolinians living below the poverty level without health insurance or Medicaid. Today, Communicare is a non-profit corporation, independent from the Palmetto Project, providing more than \$40 million in volunteer health care services, including free pharmaceuticals.
- ***The South Carolina Healthcare & Information Referral Network***, a statewide system through which any South Carolinians without private health insurance can find free or otherwise affordable medical care, prevention & education programs, and prescription drugs.
- ***Heart & Soul***, a network of trained health ministries in more than 600 African American churches in South Carolina that provides hands-on programming in disease prevention, health education, blood pressure monitoring and referrals for medical services.
- ***The Palmetto Voter Project***, a statewide initiative to increase citizen participation in elections that has resulted in historic high turnouts in every general election since 1992. Steve also serves as co-chairman of a \$48 million overhaul of South Carolina's voter registration and election system.
- ***Imagine South Carolina***, a statewide initiative to explore the impact of race on community problem-solving and promote successful initiatives that bring citizens together across lines of race, culture and class. The project produced statewide ***Citizens' Summits on Race and Community*** in 1996, 1998, and 2000, a series of statewide conferences to promote successful approaches to community problems in which race is a factor.
- ***The South Carolina Immunization Project***, a coalition of state and community organizations that resulted in South Carolina's ranking as first in the nation in its rates of immunization in 1994 and continued to maintain the state's high national rankings in every year since.

Prior to joining the Palmetto Project, Steve served as a senior legislative counsel to the Select

Committee on Narcotics in the U.S. House of Representatives (1991-92); and before that as Vice-President of National Strategies Inc, a public affairs firm in Washington, D.C. (1997-91). During this time he created the Homeless in America Foundation, which funded the construction of 12 national model programs in transitional housing for homeless families. In 1988 he served as Communication Director for the Democratic National Committee.

From 1983-87, Steve served as a floor assistant to the leadership of the U.S. House of Representatives under Speaker Tip O'Neill. He served as a liaison between the Congressional leadership and the leaders of Latin America, including Castro of Cuba, during peace efforts during the civil war in Nicaragua.

From 1977-83, Steve was the Legislative Representative for the National Association of Retired Federal Employees. From 1974-76, he was a newspaper reporter with the *Florence (SC) Morning News*. He also wrote articles for Newsweek, the Washington Post, and the Associated Press.

Steve is a 1974 graduate of the George Washington School of Public and International Affairs in Washington, D.C. He grew up in Summerville, South Carolina. He lives in Mount Pleasant. His son, Sam, is a 2006 graduate of the Academic Magnet High School in North Charleston, and a freshman at Emory University in Atlanta.