

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 18



Building
Families for
Children

ANOTHER GREAT YEAR

The FY18 Annual Report is just a snapshot of the marvelous things God has done in and through Building Families for Children during the year. As we look back, we are reminded of the many donors, volunteers, foster parents, and others who make this important work possible!

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PROVIDING SERVICES IN MARYLAND FOR 98 YEARS

Building Families for Children has been strengthening families and helping children thrive for nearly a century!



20,000 IMPACTED

Since 1920 we have served over 20,000 children in families rather than institutions.

Building Families was founded in 1920 to ensure that children were cared for in families, rather than in orphanages, where our founder believed they were most likely to get the love and support they needed. Today we hold fast to that belief and continue the work by mobilizing the community and providing trauma-informed care. To learn more, visit www.buildingfamiliesforchildren.org



WHY WE DO THIS WORK

OUR MISSION

To share the love of Christ by helping Maryland's most vulnerable children thrive in families.

OUR VISION

A safe, nurturing family for every child. A supportive, thriving community for every family.

WHAT WE DO

Every child deserves a safe, nurturing family where they can grow and thrive. We make sure children are cared for in a family setting through our two key service areas: Family Strengthening and Treatment Foster Care.

FAMILY STRENGTHENING

SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN™ AND THERAPEUTIC FAMILY SERVICES

These services are trauma-informed early interventions that are designed to strengthen families and keep them intact whenever possible.

TREATMENT FOSTER CARE

CHILDREN OF SPECIAL AND EXCEPTIONAL NEED (CHOSEN)

Our foster care program serves children after they've been removed from their home by a local Department of Social Services, placing them in foster families equipped to help them heal and thrive.



Dear friends of Building Families,

It has been a pleasure to assume leadership of Building Families for Children since August 2018. My acclimation has been filled with many opportunities to engage churches, community partners and State officials with the dual goal of learning about the organization as well as informing them of the good work that we do. Obviously, with any change in leadership there is a period of transition. The BFC staff and the Board of Trustees have been extremely helpful with sharing information on the intricacies of the organization and how the love of Christ has driven the work forward for the past 98 years.

During this period of change and transition, I have an optimistic view for the future of BFC. Our church partners have demonstrated a commitment to the organization through the volunteering of their time, generous financial and material support, and their involvement with the number of lives touched through Safe Families for Children™. Steadfast in our family focused value, CHOSEN Treatment Foster Care has been blessed to increase the number of youth for whom we are able to provide a safe, nurturing family environment. We have also begun expanding our Therapeutic Family Services in order to improve the quality of life for those in need of counseling and provide a therapeutic resource in the community.

I trust that as faithful servants of Christ, we will be blessed to help more families in 2019. While we celebrate our accomplishments and are humbled by the opportunities we have had to share our blessings by being a blessing to others, we must always look to the future. I look forward to exploring new opportunities for continuing and expanding our reach within the community. We welcome all opportunities to continue to share the love of Christ by helping Maryland's most vulnerable children and families by going wherever He shall lead us.

I pray that you will continue to be our partners through this journey of faith.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Damon E. Thompson'.

Damon E. Thompson, LCSW-C
Executive Director



Dear friends of Building Families,

As 2018 comes to a close and I reflect on Building Families for Children this past year, several words and phrases come to mind ... impactful, caring, flexible, God honoring, strategic, and resourceful.

The organization continues to be very **impactful** in providing the best of care for the children and families in our CHOSEN, Safe Families™, and Therapeutic Family Services program initiatives. Our staff is so **caring** in the work that they do each and every day, which goes well beyond “a job” into a commitment to help others in need. The staff and board have been **flexible** in the transition of Debbie Marini to Damon Thompson as Executive Director, not skipping a beat when it comes to providing the life changing services of the organization. With Christ at the center of all that we do, our efforts have been **God honoring** and reflect His love for children as reflected in so many Biblical passages including Matthew 19:14, “Jesus said, let the little children come to me ... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Earlier in the year, the board and staff created a new five-year **strategic** plan for the organization, clearly laying out how we will continue to expand our impact and support the vulnerable children and families in our communities. And finally, the organization has been **resourceful** in being good stewards of the time, talents, and treasure that have been provided by so many volunteers and supporters who are at the heart of the work we do.

I thank you, our staff, volunteers, supporters, and board, for your ongoing partnership with Building Families for Children and our mission to “share the love of Christ by helping Maryland’s most vulnerable children thrive in families.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Folkerts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the bottom of the name.

Bill Folkerts
President of the Board of Trustees



TREATMENT FOSTER CARE

Through our Children of Special and Exceptional Need (CHOSEN) program, we provide family-based care for children in treatment foster care who, due to childhood trauma, require more than the basic care and support that regular foster care provides. By training certified foster parents to understand how trauma affects the brain, and equipping them with the tools and support they need, children who are the most likely to be placed in an institutional setting are able to grow and thrive in a family!

Every child in our CHOSEN program has a history of trauma that impacts their needs, development, and behavior. Unfortunately, studies have shown that youth in foster care have poor long-term outcomes when compared with peers. They are more likely to drop out of school, become teen parents, and experience homelessness. So what can be done to help our most vulnerable children? Our treatment model, extensive training and support, advocacy for permanency, and Independent Living Classes are breaking the generational cycles of trauma, poverty, and isolation.



DEMOGRAPHICS

GENDER: 56% Female, 44% Male

RACE/ETHNICITY: 51% African

American, 28% Caucasian, 9% Multi-Racial, 6% Latino

AVERAGE AGE: 14 Years Old



IMPACT STORY

Devon first entered the foster care system at age four when it was discovered that he had been abused by his stepfather and biological mother.

At first, Devon had a really hard time adjusting to being in a new home. He only slept seven hours over the first two days. He presented with a wide range of emotions including anxiety and fear. Devon was also diagnosed with a mild to moderate developmental delay and ADHD. The many difficulties he had already faced led to some challenging behaviors at home and at school. He would often shut down or act out by throwing and kicking things when he did not get his way.

Devon's foster family utilized Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI) to help him heal and thrive. TBRI® is a trauma-informed intervention designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children, and it is the foundation of our training for all foster parents. TBRI® strategies helped Devon feel safe and connected with his foster parents. It wasn't long before he started having fewer tantrums and got much better at using his words to express needs and obeying adults he knew he could trust to take care of him. His significant improvements were noticed by the school, and he made meaningful academic progress despite his cognitive delay.

His foster mom also enrolled him in various activities which give him an outlet for all of his energy. He participated in martial arts, swimming lessons, basketball, and soccer! He is very energetic, so this really helped.

Recently Devon left our program and was reunited with a family member in another state. He is doing well and continues to make strides towards healing!

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- 56** Youth Served
- 12** Youth Achieved their Permanency Goals
 - 4** Youth Reunified with Biological Family
 - 6** Youth Gained Independence
 - 2** Youth were Adopted
- 41** Certified Foster Parents



SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN™

Safe Families™ mobilizes a network of compassionate volunteers to wrap around families facing crisis. While some volunteers temporarily provide housing for kids, others step in to mentor parents and help them achieve their goals. These supportive relationships provide the safety net many vulnerable families need to keep children out of the foster care system and achieve long-term stability. Many families today are isolated; they may not have anyone to call when difficult circumstances arise, leaving them vulnerable and forcing parents to make tough choices like...

"If I leave this abusive relationship, my kids and I will be homeless. I can't do anything until I have a better plan, I feel stuck."

"Do I leave my sick child home alone today, or do I take a day off of work and risk losing my job? If I lose my job, what will happen to us?"

"I know I need help, but if I enter a rehab facility who will take care of my children? I'm scared that they will be placed in a foster home and I won't be able to get them back."

This is where Safe Families™ can step in! Host Family volunteers provide a safe, nurturing home for children, allowing parents to focus on crisis situations without worrying about losing parental custody. Family Friend and Family Coach volunteers provide an extra layer of support for the Host Family and parents working towards stability. Relationships formed through Safe Families for Children™ are long term, so the next time crisis strikes parents do have someone to call!



DEMOGRAPHICS

GENDER: 57% Male, 43% Female

RACE/ETHNICITY: 50% African American, 30% Multi-Racial, 20% Caucasian

AVERAGE AGE: 7 Years Old

IMPACT STORY

Written by Irene Kim,
Safe Families™ Volunteer

"Hi there Ms. Kim. I'm sorry to bother you, but we've run out of food stamps again. If you have anything, even leftovers in the fridge, I'd really appreciate it just for my daughter. Sorry to bother, but I don't want her to be hungry when she gets home from school."

For the last two years, we've volunteered as a host home through the Safe Families program. This call was from one of the families we supported this past spring when this woman's daughter stayed at our home. Thankfully, she was reunified with her mom and their case is now closed, but we grew so close to them that we continue to remain in contact. Every Sunday we pick her up for service at our church and every Friday night, we bring her to our church Awana program. Then in between, we have play dates, and occasionally we get these calls when they just need a little bit more support.

When these phone calls come, I think of this family on the other end of the line who has become like family to us. It is only natural then that we come to help. They are family. I jump into my car, knock at their apartment door, and pick them up for a grocery run. The girl who stayed at our home months ago comes out and wraps her arms around me as I give her a kiss on the head. Mom, too, comes out, and I look at her like my friend or sister. We then walk around the grocery store while chatting and even chuckling at inside jokes that have become a part of our relationship.

Relationship doesn't end when the case closes. Life and obstacles don't end either, so we will continue to do life with this family and walk together through the ups and downs. We are tremendously blessed and thankful for that and for Building Families for giving us the opportunity to serve.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

30 Children Hosted

2,121 Nights of Hosting

54,143 Volunteer Support Hours

100% Reunification with Biological Family

REFERRAL SOURCES: 20% Local

Department of Social Services, 47%

Community Organizations, 27% Churches

and Faith-Based Agencies, 7% Self-Referral



REASONS CHILD STAYED WITH HOST

FAMILY: 47% Homelessness/Unstable Housing, 33% Parental Mental Health Crisis, 30% Medical Crisis, 13% Parental Incarceration

THERAPEUTIC FAMILY SERVICES

Our TFS therapist works with children of all ages and their caregivers to address emotional and behavioral difficulties resulting from trauma. We help families of all types (adoptive, foster, and biological) to connect, heal, and thrive together! We also provide Therapeutic Day Camps and Parenting Workshops throughout the year.

Childhood trauma makes a lasting impact on the brain, hindering a child's ability to learn, grow, and form healthy attachments with others. Our therapist's approach is based on the principles of Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®), a holistic, attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. Caregivers are actively engaged in each therapy session, equipping them with the insight and tools they need to form deep connections with their children to facilitate healing and help them thrive.



DEMOGRAPHICS

GENDER: 38% Female, 62% Male

RACE/ETHNICITY: 54% African

American, 31% Caucasian, 9% Latino, 5% Multi-Racial, 1% Asian



IMPACT STORY

Olney entered foster care at age three after he was found unsupervised, without proper clothing, and wandering around a motel parking lot. It was apparent that Olney was malnourished and had significant speech delays. When Olney was first placed in foster care, he had an extremely hard time adjusting to his new environment.

Olney began weekly family therapy through our Therapeutic Family Services (TFS) in 2017. His foster parents and Kwajera, our in-house therapist, reported a wide-range of behaviors including physical aggression, hoarding food, and poor boundaries with strangers. He also had difficulty communicating his basic needs and emotions.

Later that year Olney moved to a new foster family, and our program therapist, Kwajera, continued to work with him and his new caregiver. His foster mom learned how to connect with him through mindful engagement and therapeutic play. She learned to empower him through proactive strategies that shape positive behavior, and she consistently uses correcting skills of redo's and compromises that she learned in therapy.

During their ongoing family therapy with Kwajera, Olney made remarkable improvements and he quickly built a very strong connection with his new foster mom, who he calls "mom-mom." His verbal communication improved and there was a sharp decrease in his aggression and disruptive behavior. Olney responds very well to her and has learned that his foster mom is always going to care for and love him but also needs to discipline and correct him.

Olney was successfully discharged from TFS a year later after achieving his treatment goals. His foster mom continues to utilize the skills she learned and he continues to grow and thrive in her home!

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

55 Individuals Served

26 Families Served

11 Self or Community Partner Referral

10 CHOSEN Foster Families

5 Safe Families™ Clients or Volunteer Families

100% of Clients Report Overall Satisfaction with Services at Discharge



DONORS

\$5,000 - \$15,000

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First Baptist Church of Beltsville
Mr. & Mrs. Willem Folkerts
Lake Shore Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh P. McCormick, III
Redland Baptist Church
University Baptist Church
Mrs. Sandy Wehunt

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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LifePoint Church
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Mount Airy Baptist Church
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Dr. Louis and Dr. Carol Owens
Mr. Arthur T. Queen
Ms. Juanita C. Rogers
South Columbia Baptist Church

\$1,000 - \$4,999 CONTINUED

The Church at Severn Run
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Mrs. Jane Ann Welch
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\$500 - \$999

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Women's Missionary Union of
University Baptist Church

\$100 - \$499

a2z Inc.
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Lauren Foley
Anonymous (1)
Mr. John Brian Atwood
Ms. Dorothy E. Baker

\$100 - \$499 CONTINUED

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Hope Baptist Church

DONORS

\$100 - \$499 CONTINUED

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UP TO \$99 CONTINUED

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Mr. Franklin J. Lhotsky Jr.
Mr. William Smillie & Ms. Linda Rose
Ms. Dana Lindquist
Ms. Helena Lucas
Ms. Nancy Martel

Up to \$99 CONTINUED

Mr. Thomas Rees & Ms. Martha Sewall
Ms. Melissa McIntire
Ms. Pat McTighe
Mr. & Mrs. Donald J. McWilliams
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Mr. & Mrs. Roger White
Mrs. Elizabeth Raab Williams
Mrs. Jennifer Williams
Mr. Aaron Winston
Mr. Gilbert Wong
Mr. Walter Zapf

THANK YOU!

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

These are just a few of the creative ways churches, individuals, and businesses supported Building Families for Children in FY 18.



MASTER FREEMAN'S EVERYTHING SAUCE

For three years, Freeman Fine Foods, LLC has been donating a portion of every sale of their delicious sauce to BFC. Kevin Freeman, Owner, says, "We are on a two-fold mission of spreading both flavor and goodness."



CHRISTMAS SURPRISE

Benjamin Watson, former tight end for the Baltimore Ravens, organized a Christmas shopping spree for 24 of the families we serve! Teammates Danny Woodhead, Nick Boyle, Tyus Bowser, Carl Davis, James Hurst, and Brandon Carr also attended the event.



ALTA WILDE LAKE FASHION SHOW

The Alta Wilde Lake apartment complex partnered with Macy's to organize a fabulous fashion show and silent auction. All of the proceeds were donated to Building Families for Children.



DIY WEIGHTED BLANKET

Barb donated 3 handmade weighted blankets! Studies show that the gentle pressure helps kids with sensory disorders, anxiety and more by inducing a calming effect.



HIPPODROME DAY CAMP

Big thank you to the Hippodrome Foundation for inviting our youth to take part in a special day camp. They had a BLAST exploring their talents in this beautiful space!



FIRST NIGHT BAGS

For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Tristan raised money and gathered volunteers to help him make blankets and pack 40 duffle bags to give to children in foster care on their first night in a new home.

FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash	\$	157,978
Investments		880,393
Accounts Receivable		103,295
Prepaid Expenses		11,865
Property and Equipment, Net		4,161
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	<u>1,157,692</u>

LIABILITIES

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$	52,577
Salaries Payable		32,839
Vacation Payable		32,075
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$	<u>117,491</u>

Liabilities

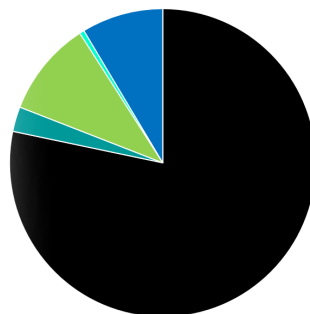
NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$	936,474
Temporarily Restricted		3,727
Permanently Restricted		100,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$	<u>1,040,201</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$	<u>1,157,692</u>

Net Assets

REVENUE

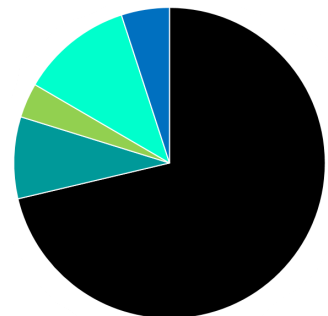
- Program Service Fees:
\$1,481,012; 78.3%
- Investment Income:
\$49,396; 2.6%
- Contributions:
\$189,391; 10.0%
- Rental Income:
\$10,200; 0.5%
- Net Assets Released
from Restriction:
\$162,998; 8.6%



TOTAL REVENUE:
\$1,892,997

EXPENSES

- CHOSEN:
\$1,418,193; 71.3%
- SFFC™:
\$168,208; 8.5%
- Other Programs:
\$72,075; 3.6%
- Management and
General:
\$230,476; 11.6%
- Fundraising:
\$100,202; 5.0%



TOTAL EXPENSES:
\$1,989,154

STAFF

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Damon E. Thompson, LCSW-C, *Executive Director*

Becky Loomis, *Director of Administration*

Tricia Sakles, LCPC, *Director of Programs*

Julie Rankin, *Executive Assistant*

Catherine Fields, *Marketing and Events Manager*

CHOSEN TREATMENT FOSTER CARE

Willie Doctor, LMSW, *CHOSEN Program Director*

Lawrence Brown, LMSW, *Recruiter*

Hannah Fuller, LMSW, *Family Support Social Worker*

Michelle Molina, LMSW, *Family Support Social Worker*

Dawn Simon, LBSW, *Senior Family Support Social Worker*

SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN™

Brenda Ulman, SFFC™ *Program Director*

Tammy Folkerts, *Outreach Coordinator*

Mona Jones, *Family Support Coordinator*

THERAPEUTIC FAMILY SERVICES

Kwajera Jackson, LCSW-C, *Therapist*

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Kristen Carrasco, *Business Office Assistant*

Taiwo Soetan, *Administrative Assistant*



BOARD

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Bill Folkerts, *LifePoint Fellowship Church*

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Felicia Veale-Buckson, *Friendship Baptist Church*



STATEMENT OF FAITH

Building Families for Children (BFC) is an interdenominational, Christian non-profit that desires to honor God by serving families and children in distress. BFC accomplishes this vital work in partnership with individuals, churches, organizations, and agencies who respect this statement of faith.

OUR BELIEFS

- 1 We believe that Jesus is God's son, the Lord over all things, and sole provider of salvation to fallen/sinful mankind.
- 2 We believe that there is one God eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- 3 We believe the Bible is the true Word of God.
- 4 We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit calls us to spiritual unity as followers of Jesus Christ.
- 5 We believe as followers of Jesus, we are committed to the Great Commandment and Great Commission and as such are active, visible bearers of God's love. Matthew 22: 37-38, Matthew 28: 18-20
- 6 We believe that in using our spiritual gifts to fulfill the Biblical mandate to care for widows and orphans we are equipping and building up the Body of Christ. James 1:27
- 7 We believe that churches are our indispensable partners.
- 8 We believe in following the example of Jesus Christ in treating others as we would want to be treated with respect, love, in service, and always seeking justice.

OUR GOAL IN ESTABLISHING THIS STATEMENT OF FAITH IS TO PROVIDE:

- A biblical context and foundation from which we work
- A transparent belief system that doesn't filter God's love but allows it to shine
- A statement that inspires unity of God's people
- Biblical principles on which authentic helping relationships can be built



BUILDING FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN, INC.

Columbia, Maryland | 410-572-1050 | www.buildingfamiliesforchildren.org