

ANOTHER GREAT YEAR

The FY 19 Annual Report is just a snapshot of the wonderful things God has done in and through Building Families for Children during the past year. As we look back, we are reminded of the many donors, volunteers, foster parents, partner organizations, and others who make this important work possible!

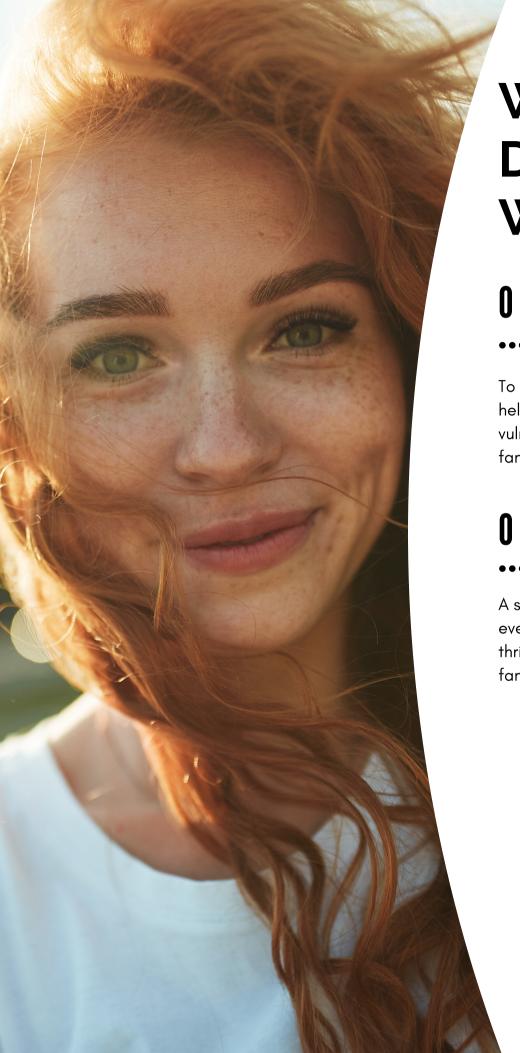
TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **3 5** Overview of Building Families for Children and Programs
 - **f** Letter from the Executive Director
 - Letter from the Board President
- Program Reports
 CHOSEN Treatment Foster Care
 Safe Families for Children™
 Therapeutic Family Services
- 14-15 Highlights
- **16-18** Donors
 - **19** Financial Position
 - **20** Current Staff and Board of Trustees
 - 21 Statement of Faith
 - **??** Contact Information



20,000 IMPACTED

Since 1920 we have served more than 20,000 children in families rather than in institutions. Building Families was founded in 1920 to ensure that children were cared for in families, rather than in orphanages. Our founders believed they were most likely to get the love and support they needed in a family setting. Today we hold fast to that belief and continue the work by mobilizing the community and providing trauma-informed care. To learn more, visit our website: 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. The children are placed in foster families that are equipped to help them heal and thrive.



Dear friends of Building Families for Children,

I have successfully reached the one-year mark of my leadership here at Building Families for Children. I'm proud to be at the helm as the organization ushers in its 99th year of service! At Building Families for Children, our mission is "to share the love of Christ by helping Maryland's most vulnerable children thrive in families." The love of Christ is at the forefront of all that we do.

Through our Treatment Foster Care program and our Family Strengthening services, we strive to have a positive impact on the children and families we serve. In Luke 15:4-6, Jesus shares a story about a shepherd who leaves the 99 sheep who are safe in his flock to find the 1 that is in trouble. We have served many children and parents and plan to serve countless more. For 99 years BFC has existed for the "1" that needs our help at this time in every moment. We will keep doing this important work until our vision is realized... "A safe, nurturing family for every child. A supportive, thriving community for every family."

We would be unable to fulfill our mission and vision without our dedicated foster parents and volunteers, as well as our generous donors. The generosity of those who believe in the work we do allows us to reach that "1". Whether it is a child in need of placement within our CHOSEN Treatment Foster Care program or a family facing obstacles and in need of the support from Safe Families for Children™, each "1" is precious to God. When we're able to serve them, we know He is pleased!

As you read about the children and families we served in FY 19, I hope you will rejoice with me over each "1"!

"What man among you, who has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open field and go after the lost one until he finds it? When he has found it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders, and coming home, he calls his friends and neighbors together, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found my lost sheep!"

Luke 15:4-6

Sincerely,

Damon E. Thompson, LCSW-C

Executive Director

Dear friends of Building Families for Children,

This past year has been the first year of new leadership for Building Families for Children (BFC). But has it really? It is very true that Damon Thompson joined us as Executive Director mid-last year and since then we have seen a strong increase in the number of children being served in our programs. Damon's experience and connections in foster care and child welfare have been a true blessing to the organization. Upon further reflection, however, it is clear that for the past 99 years, this organization has been led by Christ and His influence on the staff and those we serve.

There are few organizations, especially non-profits focused on vulnerable families and children, that can celebrate a century of impact to the community. We are thankful to God for the privilege of serving vulnerable children and families for each of the past 99 years, and we are thankful to each of you, our donors, for making this possible. Our commitment as a board and staff is to continue to serve those in need and fulfill our mission "to share the love of Christ by helping Maryland's most vulnerable children thrive in families" … all through His leadership.

Sincerely,

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 for foster parents, advocacy for permanency, and Independent Living Classes are breaking the generational cycles of trauma, poverty, and isolation.



DEMOGRAPHICS

GENDER: 60.4% Female, 39.6% Male

RACE/ETHNICITY: 49.1% African

American, 32.1% Caucasian, 9.4%

Latino, 9.4% Multi-Racial

AVERAGE AGE: 10 Years Old



IMPACT STORY

When David* came to our program in 2014 he had been in a group home for over two years. His family voluntarily placed him in foster care in 2011 because they believed he had tried to harm his sister, something he still adamantly denies. The plan was always to reunify David with his family, but because they were reluctant to commit to family therapy, which was necessary in order to rebuild trust, he remained in foster care.

As you can imagine, the instability and feelings of rejection were hard for David. It was traumatizing to be removed from his home, and painful that he wasn't able to reunify with them. When he was first placed with his foster family, Mr. and Mrs. S., he was hesitant to trust them and his lack of motivation and poor grades in school became a challenge. Even when things were difficult, his foster parents never gave up. They consistently provided the love, nurturing, and structure that David needed, which helped them forge a strong connection with him. David began to heal and thrive!

He graduated high school, secured a full-time job, purchased a car with the help of his foster parents, and has maintained a caring relationship with his biological family. Although he aged out of foster care earlier this year, Mr. and Mrs. S. told him that he is always welcome in their home. He is still living there and he continues to grow into the great man we know he can be! If not for his foster parent's commitment to providing a safe, nurturing, loving environment for him, David's story could have turned out very differently. David found his forever home!

*Name changed to protect client's privacy.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- 53 Youth Served
- 9 Youth Achieved their Permanency Goals
- **80%** of Youth Rated That They Had an Overall Feeling of Safety
- **35** Certified Treatment Foster Parents
- 8 New Treatment Foster Families Certified to Serve Youth in Need of Loving Homes
- **87%** of Foster Parents Reported Making a Difference in the Lives of the Youth in Their Home



SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN™

When crisis strikes, many of us rely on relatives and friends for support, but for some parents this is not an option which leaves them vulnerable. Safe Families for Children™ (SFFC™) mobilizes a network of compassionate volunteers to circle around families in need. Host Family volunteers provide a safe, temporary home for children. This allows parents to focus on crisis situations, like homelessness, without worrying about losing parental custody. Family Friend and Family Coach volunteers provide an extra layer of support for both the Host Family and the parents receiving help. This Circle of Support provides the safety net many vulnerable families need to keep children out of the foster care system. Relationships formed through SFFC™ are long-term, so the next time crisis strikes, parents have someone to call!

The key components of SFFC™ are: **Parents** facing crisis situations maintain full custody of their children when they voluntarily place them in our care. Children stay with safe, loving, thoroughly screened volunteer families for an average of 6 weeks. **Volunteers** form a Circle of Support around families in need. While some volunteers host children, others provide mentoring, resources, and other help so that the parent can focus and achieve their goals, ultimately leading to the reunification of the family. **Churches** play a central role. We engage the faith community to recruit and support volunteers, as well as to refer families in need. Finally, **Community Partners** make up a critical part of the support network we wrap around families in crisis by providing additional services like housing and addiction treatment to help families achieve long-term stability.



DEMOGRAPHICS

GENDER: 45% Male, 55% Female **RACE/ETHNICITY:** 53% African

American, 26% Caucasian, 16% Hispanic,

5% Multi-Racial

AVERAGE AGE: 5 Years Old

IMPACT STORY

When Shannon* reached out to Safe Families for Children™ (SFFC™) over a year ago, she was in dire need. She had a three-year-old son and was pregnant with her second child. She was in an abusive relationship and battling an eating disorder, addictions, and memories of rejection and abandonment. She wanted to break free of the unhealthy relationship, to be clean and healthy, and most of all the best mother she could be.

Over the next several months Shannon made some difficult choices, but she wasn't alone. SFFCTM wrapped a Circle of Support around her—a family coach, host families, family friends, and resource friends who hosted her son while she gave birth to her precious baby. They provided parenting support, encouragement, prayer, meals, transportation, and resources.

Shannon made the hardest choice and, in her words, the most heartbreaking but most loving one—to place her baby for adoption. She prayed that God would provide a good family for her baby...and He did!

Since connecting with SFFCTM, Shannon has stopped using drugs, is healthier, and best of all, has placed her faith in Christ. She still battles the voices in her head that tell her she will NEVER be enough. In a note she wrote to her SFFCTM Coach, she acknowledges the battle and the One who gives her strength. "I feel like I am fighting harder than I've ever had to. Fighting sadness and hurt and temptation and anger. I wanted to thank you for planting the seed in me that brought me to Christ because without Christ I couldn't do this. Right now I am depending on Him to be my strength."

Please continue to pray for Shannon, and others like her, to believe the truth of scripture, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

*Name changed to protect client's privacy

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

38 Children Hosted

630 Nights of Hosting

17,891 Volunteer Support Hours

100% Reunification with Biological Family

REFERRAL SOURCES: 17% Local Departments

of Social Services, 28% Community

Organizations, 22% Churches and

Faith-Based Agencies, 33% Self-Referral

REASONS CHILD STAYED WITH HOST

FAMILY: 56% Medical

Crisis/Hospitalization, 10% Mental Health Crisis, 6% Homelessness, 28% Other (incarceration, substance abuse, etc.)

THERAPEUTIC FAMILY SERVICES

Our Therapeutic Family Services (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: 78% Female, 22% Male RACE/ETHNICITY: 43% Caucasian, 42% African American, 8% Latino, 5% Asian, 2% Multi-Racial



IMPACT STORY

John* was a 4-year-old boy when he began treatment through BFC's Therapeutic Family Services. It is suspected that John may have been a victim of abuse and was exposed to domestic violence in his home. John had an extremely hard time adjusting to the structure and routine when he moved into a foster home. John got upset easily, threw objects when mad, cried a lot, had difficulty sleeping throughout the entire night and would not sleep without a light on.

John engaged in treatment to target symptoms of trauma, anger, aggression, irritability and poor self-regulation. His therapist at BFC utilized storytelling, therapeutic games, exercises with fidgets, and role play with puppets to teach him strategies to self-regulate. John was exhibiting extremely disruptive behaviors at school, but learned deep breathing, counting, and happy place techniques through therapy. John has since demonstrated the ability to use calming strategies to self-regulate as needed to decrease episodes of disruptive behavior.

His caretakers are very consistent in using "redos" to shape positive behavior in addition to proactive life scripts learned in therapy to include "listen and obey," "adults are in charge," "use your words," "stick together," "no hurts," and "have fun." Since engagement in ongoing treatment with TFS, when John does get angry he asks for space or alone time, independently goes to his room and often returns to talk through his feelings instead of reacting in anger. John has learned to seek appropriate help from adults when necessary instead of defending himself as well as how to seek out care when he is hurt. He has not had any violent outbursts at home in months and is continuing to learn strategies to manage his behavior at school.

John has made drastic improvements. He is a healthy, thriving child who is connected to his foster family.

*Name changed to protect client's privacy

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- 33 Average Number of Active Clients
- **36** Families Served
 - **18** Self or Community Partner Referrals
 - **12** CHOSEN Foster Families
 - 6 Safe Families™ Clients or Volunteer Families
- 1 Therapeutic Day Camp



DONORS

\$15,000 - \$5,000

Anonymous (1) Dr. Martha Dorman Clark T. Rowe Price Program for Charitable Giving Mr. & Mrs. William E. Ely Mr. & Mrs. Willem Folkerts Lake Shore Baptist Church National Philanthropic Trust Redland Baptist Church Mrs. Sandy Wehunt

\$4,999 - \$1,000

Anonymous (2) Becton Dickinson (BD) Chapelgate Presbyterian Church Chart Your Course Consulting LLC Mr. & Mrs. David W. Childs Mr. & Mrs. Frank H. Clark, Jr. Colonial Baptist Church Complete Commercial Maintenance Co., Inc. Covenant Fellowship CrossLife Community Church Mr. & Mrs. Richard Curlin Mr. Stewart Eidel Emmanuel Baptist Church of Gambrills Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Emory E-volve Technology Systems First Baptist Church of Beltsville Mr. & Mrs. Wayne F. Francischetti Glen Burnie Baptist Church

Mr. John Glennon

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\$499 - \$100

Anonymous (1) Mrs. Tania Alvarez-Kemper ASELL, LLC Mr. John Brian Atwood Mr. & Mrs. William Ayers, Sr. Ms. Dorothy E. Baker Mr. & Mrs. Ron Baker Mr. & Mrs. Fred J. Brandon Mr. & Mrs. Ray Brooks Mr. & Mrs. Charles Burke Chesapeake Hospitality, LLC Costco Wholesale #200 Cyber Defense Agency, Inc. Mr. & Mrs. Freddie W. Elliott Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Esters Ms. Jean Evans Porter Family Ms. Isabelle H. Fenner Ms. Adrienne Feres First Baptist Church of

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DONORS

\$499 - \$100 Continued

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UP TO \$99

Anonymous (1)

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Mr. Steven Dushel

_ . _ . _ _ _ _

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Mrs. Elizabeth Raab Williams

Ms. Gina Wrobel

Thank You!

FY 19 HIGHLIGHTS



DAMON THOMPSON, LCSW-C, BECAME THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Damon brings a wealth of experience in leadership, clinical practice, administration, program development and implementation, fundraising, and financial oversight. He is a man of faith who has been living out his calling to care for vulnerable children and families for over 20 years.

HELD THIRD THERAPEUTIC DAY CAMP

Our third Therapeutic Day Camp took place at a farm in Carroll County. The theme was "Use Your Words," and the activities were designed to be fun and help children healing from trauma learn to use their words when they need something. We sang songs, had a Bible lesson, made a craft, went on a scavenger hunt, played physical games, did sensory activities, met in nurture groups, interacted with farm animals, and more!





ADOPTION

A young man in our treatment foster care program was adopted by his foster parents, Kevin and Karen Freeman! Kevin gave his son a letter on adoption day. This is an excerpt from that letter: "Today you take our family name, but that doesn't change the heritage you have with your birth family or the connection you have with them. Both of your birth parents love you, and we will always work to keep you connected with them."

HIGHLIGHTS



100+ FAMILIES RECEIVED CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Many thanks for the outpouring of gifts and support from individuals, Centennial Wealth Management, The Cheesecake Factory, Dynaxys, LifeWay, the staff at UPS, Gunpowder Baptist Church, Crosspoint Fellowship Church, Chapelgate Presbyterian Church, Christ Church of Mt. Airy, Redland Baptist Church, Elders Baptist Church, Ellicott City Assembly of God, Canton Baptist Church, New Hope Adventist Church, and Colonial Baptist Church. Because of you, these families had gifts to unwrap on Christmas morning! Thanks also to all who attended our first annual Christmas Gift Donation Wrapping Party!

FORMALIZED PARTNERSHIP WITH HOWARD COUNTY SCHOOLS

Building Families for Children signed a memorandum of understanding and became an official partner of the Howard County Public School System. As partners, we work together to strengthen families and ensure that students have the resources and supports they need to succeed in school and thrive at home.





CREATIVE THIRD PARTY EVENTS RAISED FUNDS TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Every year we're encouraged by the creative ways individuals and groups support our mission! We'd like to highlight five of those fundraisers from FY 19. Krav Maga Maryland held an End of the Summer Fitness Kickoff and Fundraiser. Church of the Wonderful Light had a yard sale to raise money and collected school supplies for BFC. New Hope Seventh Day Adventist and Chapelgate Presbyterian Church held gift card drives. Finally, instead of exchanging gifts, the Prince George's School Psychologist Association contributed items to an auction and raised \$1,500 to support our Safe Families™ program!

HIGHLIGHTS



5TH ANNUAL AGAPE 5K WAS A SUCCESS

On June 15 we had our 5th Annual Agape 5k! 347 runners/walkers and 80 volunteers participated to show their support and help us raise the funds we need to serve even more children and families. Over 35 sponsors helped us increase the impact of this event through their financial and in-kind donations.

RECEIVED GRANT FROM THE HORIZON FOUNDATION

We were awarded a grant and partnered with the Horizon Foundation throughout the year to raise awareness and reduce the stigma around mental health. There were film screenings, workshops, panel discussions, and an online campaign among other activities.





541 STUDENTS RECEIVED BACKPACKS

Generous donors made it possible for many local students to start school feeling prepared! Thank you to B&T Bank, Jay Fischetti Real Estate Group, Canton Baptist Church, Chapelgate Presbyterian Church, Church of the Wonderful Light, Colonial Baptist Church, Crosspoint Fellowship Church, Glen Burnie Baptist Church, HOPE Church, Inner Light Family Ministry, Jessup Baptist Church, Liberty Church PCA, LifePoint Chuch, Long Green Baptist Church, South Columbia Baptist Church, University Baptist Church, and the individuals who donated! Thanks also to the volunteers who participated in our first annual Backpack Packing Party!

FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

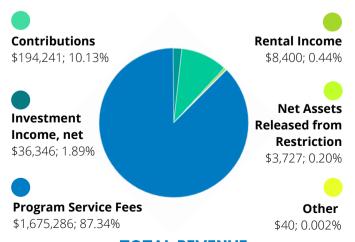
Cash	\$ 179,656
Investments	707,591
Accounts Receivable, Net	152,302
Prepaid Expenses	9,809
Property and Equipment, Net	1,749
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,051,107

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

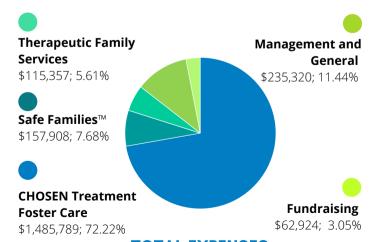
LIABILITIES	Liabilities
Accounts Payable	\$ 79,086
Salaries Payable	33,415
Vacation Payable	41,790
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 154,291
NET ASSETS	Net Assets
NET ASSETS Without Donor Restrictions	\$ Net Assets 796,316
	796,316
Without Donor Restrictions	796,316

REVENUE

EXPENSES



****TOTAL REVENUE:** \$1,918,040



TOTAL EXPENSES: \$2,057,298

STAFF

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Damon E. Thompson, LCSW-C, Executive Director
Becky Loomis, Director of Administration
Tricia Sakles, LCPC, Director of Organizational Performance
Julie Rankin, Executive Assistant
Catherine Fields, Marketing & Events Manager

CHOSEN TREATMENT FOSTER CARE

Tia Blue, LCSW-C, CHOSEN Program Director Lawrence Brown, LMSW, Certification & Intake Manager Willie Doctor, LMSW, Recruitment & Training Manager Hannah Fuller, LMSW, Treatment Social Worker Michelle Molina, LMSW, Treatment Social Worker Dawn Simon, LBSW, Senior Treatment Social Worker Raquel Washington, LMSW, Treatment 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, Clinical Coordinator

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Kristen Carrasco, *Business Office Assistant* Taiwo Soetan, *Administrative Assistant*

BOARD

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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

We believe that Jesus is God's son, the Lord over all things, and sole provider of salvation to fallen/sinful mankind. *Ephesians 1:5-10, Colossians 1:15-20, Deuteronomy 6:4*

We believe that there is one God eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Luke 1:35, Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

We believe that churches are our indispensable partners. 2 Corinthians 1:4, 2 Corinthians 8:19, 1 John 3:16-18

We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit calls us to spiritual unity as followers of Jesus Christ. *Ephesians 4:3, Galatians 3:26–28*

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, Acts 1:8, Ephesians 2:10*

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, *Psalms 10:14*, *Isaiah 58:7*, *Isaiah 1:17*

We believe the Bible is the true Word of God. 2 Timothy 3:16, Isaiah 40:8, Psalm 119:105

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. *Micah 6:8, 1 John 4:7-9, Isaiah 1:17*

We believe all people are made in God's image and therefore have intrinsic value and dignity at every stage of life. *Genesis 1:27-28, Psalm 139*

We believe family as created by God is the best context for raising children who thrive. Genesis 2:24, Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Psalm 78:6, Ephesians 6:1-4, Mark 10:6-9, Ephesians 5:22-28, 1 Peter 3:1-7



www.buildingfamiliesforchildren.org 7161-A Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia, MD 21046 (410) 872-1050