

BUILDING FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

FY 2021

Annual Report



WWW.BUILDINGFAMILIESFORCHILDREN.ORG

Building
Families for
Children



101 Years of Service

It has been a very difficult year. Despite a global pandemic, BFC's volunteers, foster families, donors, and partner churches and organizations have remained steadfast allowing us to continue the critical work God has entrusted to us. We're more grateful than ever for your compassion and generosity!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

Letter from the Executive Director	2
Letter from the Board President	3
Agency Overview	4
Program Reports	
CHOSEN Treatment Foster Care	5
Safe Families for Children	8
Therapeutic Family Services	11
Donors	13
Financial Position	15
Join Our Board	16
Board and Staff	18

Dear Friends of BFC,

During these tumultuous and challenging times, our mission at BFC continues to be to share the love of Christ by helping Maryland's most vulnerable children thrive in families. As we enter our 102nd year of providing services, we find ourselves drawn to the increasing need for stability, unity and peace. The ongoing public health crisis and decline of our economy have caused hopelessness for many families and children, but out of that pain and struggle we have witnessed amazing accomplishments, uplifting joy and spiritual rebirth! We hope that you will celebrate with us!

In these pages, we highlight our successes and challenges; our evolving discoveries and stories of spirituality, flexibility, and transparency; as well as humility, regard for others, forgiveness and connection. A verse from Ephesians 4:32 captures perfectly what we have been focusing on this past year: "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

For those of us with excellent support systems, family, faith, jobs and friends, the pandemic was a terrible inconvenience and a scary illness threatening our health and well-being. Families faced reduced hours at work or loss of jobs, reduced income, loss of childcare, loss of in-school learning and the loss of physical contact—these factors contributed to already stressful times for those dealing with crisis.

On behalf of the BFC staff, Board, volunteers, foster parents and children in our programs, we thank you for your ongoing support and we ask for your continued and increasing support. As we continue to navigate these ever-changing times, **we need you**. Whether you wish to serve on our board, volunteer in our Safe Families® program, wish to become a foster parent, or give in another fashion, YOU are the critical piece to our continued success!

I look forward to engaging with you and others who wish to become part of the Building Families for Children family.



Sincerely,

Cheri C. Sanzi

Executive Director

cheri@buildingfamiliesforchildren.org

Dear Friends,

To us this grace has been given: to share the love of Christ by helping Maryland's most vulnerable children thrive in families.

Like Paul in Ephesians 3, Building Families for Children is clear on the grace/opportunity that God has given us. We are also similarly aware of the truth that we did not earn this grace. Yet, because of Christ and our faith in Him, we come boldly and confidently into God's presence day by day to live out the grace that He has given. On any given day, we may be called to place a new child with a qualified and trained foster family, connect a mother in need with a Safe Families® volunteer, family friend or a resource who will help, raise another \$1,000 needed for the ministry, provide encouragement to one another, or any other number of day-to-day graces. We are given the opportunity to walk in grace as we seek to fulfill the broader mission of sharing Christ's love by helping vulnerable children thrive in families. And we cannot do it without you!

I want to start by saying thank you. Most of you have already been involved with our mission and you are the reason that we are able to fulfill the calling that we have been given. Thank you for walking in the grace that God has given you!

Next, **I want to ask you for your help with a specific need.** As you prayerfully celebrate with us through this report, will you join us in thinking about someone who might be called to join me and the rest of the Board of Trustees as we come together to protect, serve, and support the vision of Building Families for Children? When God raises a name to mind, whether it is your own or someone else's, please reach out to share that name with me at the email address below so that a conversation can begin about the process and the opportunity that God may be opening for them. Please read the compelling information on becoming a board member that we've included in our Annual Report.

Thank you in advance for celebrating and praying with us as we walk in the grace that has been given.



Sincerely,

Shaun Smithson

President of the Board of Trustees

shaun.smithson@gmail.com

Serving Children Since 1920

Building Families was founded in 1920 to ensure that children were cared for in families, rather than in orphanages, where our founders believed they were most likely to get the love and support they needed to thrive. Today we hold fast to that belief, and continue this important work by mobilizing the community and providing trauma-informed care.

To learn more about our values, visit buildingfamiliesforchildren.org/overview



Mission

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



Vision

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



Values

Christ Centered
Family Focused
Community Minded
Strengths Based
Integrated
Stewardship



CHOSEN TREATMENT FOSTER CARE

About CHOSEN

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. We train foster parents to understand how trauma affects development and equip them with tools and support so the children who are the most likely to be placed in an institutional setting are able to grow and thrive in a family!

Studies show that many 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 preparation for independence are breaking the generational cycles of trauma, poverty, and isolation.

Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI) is the attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention we use to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. While TBRI is based on years of attachment, sensory processing, and neuroscience research, the heartbeat of TBRI is connection.

At a Glance

- Youth Served: 58
- Youth Achieved Permanency Goals: 13 (9 Reunified, 1 Adopted, and 3 Moved into Independent Living Apartments)
- Parents reporting a decrease in negative behaviors stemming from childhood trauma since placement: 65%



Impact Story

When Caleb* was first placed in the treatment foster home of Ms. Watts, he didn't sleep for the first two days and frequently had big emotional outbursts. Ms. Watts would not give up on Caleb! She knew this 4-year-old had already faced unimaginable hardship. He was taken from his father, harmed in his first foster home (through a different agency), and now he was in another unfamiliar home with unfamiliar people. She understood why he was too anxious to rest and relax! He needed to feel safe first.

Right away, Ms. Watts, Caleb's dad, and his BFC social worker Brianna formed a close-knit team. When Ms. Watts needed strategies to promote Caleb's healing, she leaned on Brianna for guidance and resources. They worked together to implement TBRI strategies like playful engagement and empowering him to ask for compromises and re-dos. Ms. Watts asked dad about Caleb's old bedtime routine and what things helped calm him. Dad worked with Ms. Watts and Brianna to learn the strategies they were using to support Caleb's mental health. At team meetings, Ms. Watts always complimented dad on how hard he was working, and dad always thanked Ms. Watts for taking such great care of his son!

After a few weeks in care, Caleb was sleeping well and could often be found dancing and singing in the kitchen with Ms. Watts. He was thriving!

When the long-awaited reunification day came, Caleb's dad said, "When they took Caleb I didn't know if this day was going to come!" Brianna replied, "I knew it was going to come! We make a great team and you put in the work!"

The journey was hard, but today dad has a new network of support and an effective set of parenting tools. Caleb is happy to be back home with dad and his family has grown to include Meme (aka Ms. Watts). It's been a great joy to be part of God's plan for this family!

Demographics

- Gender: 55% Male, 45% Female
- Race/ethnicity: 50% Black, 30% White, 10% Hispanic, 10% Multi-Racial
- Average Age: 13 Years Old



** name changed to protect client's identity*



**SAFE FAMILIES FOR
CHILDREN® (SFFC)**

About SFFC

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 voluntarily place children in our care.

Volunteers form a Circle of Support around families in need. Some host children while others help parents achieve stability.

Churches recruit and support volunteers, as well as refer families in need.

Community Partners provide additional services needed to help families achieve long-term stability.

At a Glance

- Children Hosted: 30, for 1,690 Nights Total
- Average Length of Stay: 31 Days
- Referral Sources: 18% Department of Social Services, 8% Hospitals, 18% Other Organizations, 1% Churches, 55% Self-Referral
- Primary Reason for Hosting: 20% Health/Hospitalization, 24% Mental Health Treatment, 8% Financial Crisis, 8% Homelessness, 32% Other Crisis



Impact Story

Katrina* reached out to Safe Families for Children® last January after her newborn daughter passed away. As a single mom with a two-year-old autistic child, Katrina needed support so she could grieve. Our Host Family volunteers were quick to wrap support around her, starting with day-time care for her daughter on the weekends. It became apparent that Katrina needed clinical treatment, so volunteers transitioned to hosting her daughter full-time.

In the spring, Katrina found out that she was expecting another child. She felt a renewed energy and determination to work on her mental health so she could be the mom her children needed! She was hospitalized for a short time and when she transitioned to an outpatient program, more SFFC volunteers were there to help her meet her goals.

In addition to her mental health goals, Katrina had some practical things that she'd put on hold. Katrina missed a scheduled driving test on the day her daughter passed away. After practicing with the help of volunteers, SFFC Director Kim Parsons drove her to take the test and Katrina passed! Volunteers got their church involved to move Katrina out of the apartment where her daughter had died. They generously furnished a homey, new space. Then Katrina was in an accident and totaled her car. The accident caused a premature birth and her baby needed to remain in the NICU. The same group of volunteers and church members again wrapped around Katrina, providing transportation to the hospital for visits. One of the volunteers felt called to donate money to purchase a new car for Katrina!

When Katrina first reached out to SFFC, she was devastated and alone. Today she has an extensive network of supporters and cheerleaders who are ready to help her meet life's challenges!

Demographics

- Gender: 59% Female, 41% Male
- Race/Ethnicity: 54% Black, 31% White, 8% Hispanic, 7% Multi-Racial
- Average Age: 10 Years Old



** name changed to protect client's identity*



THERAPEUTIC FAMILY SERVICES (TFS)

About TFS

Our therapists work 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!

Childhood trauma makes a lasting impact on the brain, hindering a child's ability to learn, grow, and form healthy attachments with others. Our therapists' 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. Our therapists may also use other interventions and tools to best serve each client.

Mindfulness, Theraplay, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), and Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT) may also be integrated into treatment.

Caregivers are actively engaged in each therapy session. Both caregivers and children learn the TBRI principles and skills so they can use them at home and enjoy lasting, positive change in their relationships.

"The goal is to see the precious child that exists beneath the survival strategies and to let them know that we see them."
- Dr. Karyn Purvis, co-creator of Trust-Based Relational Intervention®

We're looking for additional therapists to join the TFS team so we can help more families on the journey to connection and healing. Learn more online at www.buildingfamiliesforchildren.org/employment.

TFS At A Glance

- Families Served: 14
- Sessions Completed: 336



Donors

\$10,000 - \$15,000

Anonymous (1)
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Adornetto
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Ely
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh P.
McCormick III
Lake Shore Baptist Church
Safe Families for Children,
National

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous (1)
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph
Cowperthwaite
Mr. & Mrs. Willem Folkerts
Redland Baptist Church

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Mr. & Mrs. Jason Float
Mr. & Mrs. C. Ray Mann
Dr. Louis & Dr. Carol Owens
Ms. Alexandra S. Patchan
Mrs. Jane Ann Welch
Chapelgate Presbyterian
Church
First Baptist Church of
Beltsville
Grace Community Church
LifePoint Church
University Baptist Church
The Benevity Community
Impact Fund

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous (2)
Mr. & Mrs. David W. Childs, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Frank H. Clark, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Curlin
Mr. Stewart Eidel
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Farace
Rev. Robert H. & Mrs. Karen
Gerstmyer

\$1,000 - \$2,499 Continued

Mr. & Mrs. Jorge Marini
Mr. Arthur T. Queen
Ms. Juanita C. Rogers
Mr. and Mrs. John W.
Rosbrugh, Jr.
Ms. Shirley Schrier
Mr. & Mrs. Michael D. Thibault
Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Weiss
Mrs. Lois S. Wilson
Burtonsville Baptist Church
Colonial Baptist Church
Covenant Fellowship
Elvaton Baptist Church
Emmanuel Baptist Church of
Gambrills
Glen Burnie Baptist Church
Long Green Baptist Church
South Columbia Baptist
Church
Pledgeling Foundation

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous (2)
Ms. Tracy Billings
Dr. Steve Burnett
Ms. Linda Callahan
Mrs. Cynthia Forney
Mr. John Glennon
Mrs. June P. Holland
Ms. Sara Kim
Mr. & Mrs. Adrian Mewshaw
Ms. Gwyneth Meyer
Mr. Benjamin Miller
Mr. Timothy Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Harold L. Moore, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Palmer
Mr. William W. Pepper
Ms. Elizabeth Reyes
Ms. Melissa Rodriguez
Mr. Shane Sartalamacchia
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Simpson, Jr.
Ms. Nancy Singleton

\$500 - \$999 Continued

Mrs. Monlisa L. Smith-Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Shaun Smithson
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Ulman
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore
Xenohristos
Bethany Church, Columbia
Calverton Baptist Church
Canton Baptist Church
CrossLife Community Church
First Baptist Church of
Suitland
H.O.P.E. Church
Loch Raven Baptist Church
Mt. Airy Baptist Church
Lead Through The Cross
Safety Consulting, LLC
Thrivent Financial's Thrivent
Choice Program

\$100 - \$499

Anonymous (6)
Mrs. Tania Alvarez-Kemper
Mr. Erik Apahnis
Mr. John Brian Atwood
Ms. Dorothy E. Baker
Mrs. Lillian Banchemo
Mr. Jonathan Barnes
Ms. Virginia B. Biedron
Mr. & Mrs. Larry A. Bohn
Mr. Mathew Borger
Mr. & Mrs. Fred J. Brandon
Mr. Andrew Brazis
Ms. Laura Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Chapman
Mr. & Mrs. David Childs, Jr.
Mr. Morris Cunningham
Ms. Dana P. Falkenstine
Ms. Isabelle H. Fenner
Mrs. Elizabeth Fitzgerald
Mr. Glenn Geist
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Geist
Ms. Angie Greer

Donors

\$100 - \$499 Continued

Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Hayleck
Ms. Marian L. Holt
Ms. Doris M. Howard
Mr. Charles R. Hurst
Ms. Kristin Jackson
Dr. Mercy Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. William Jaquays
Ms. Amanda Johnson
Mr. Brian Jones
Ms. Karyn P. Keating
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Koch
Mr. Fred Kramer
Ms. Martha Kreps
Mr. Charles McDonell
Mrs. Nanouka Mercado-
Johnstone
Mr. Tom Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Mitton
Ms. Melissa Mohip
Ms. Sarah Powell
Ms. Julia L. Rankin
Ms. Jamie Rohsner
Mr. Dave Sackett
Mr. & Mrs. Prakash Sargunar
Ms. Susanna Shapiro
Mr. Randy Sleight
Ms. Lydia Vickery
Rev. & Mrs. Paul Viswasam
Mr. Mark Widmeyer
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wiseman
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Woodford
Colesville Baptist Church
Elkridge Baptist Church
Firm Foundation Ministries
Glenn Dale Baptist Church
Inner Light Family Ministry
Jessup Baptist Church
Latter Day Missionary Baptist
Church
Weems Creek Baptist
Church
White Plains Baptist Church

\$100 - \$499 Continued

Humanified
United Way of Central
Maryland

Up to \$99

Anonymous (16)
Ms. Rosa Allen
Ms. Shiria Anderson
Ms. Lori Armantrout
Mr. Albert Barnes
Mr. Robert L. Bates
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Black
Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. Britt
Mr. Mason Chang
Mr. Gregory David
Ms. LeKiesha Davis
Ms. Tracy Deik
Mr. & Mrs. Freddie W. Elliott
Mrs. Eve Ferguson
Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Fields
Rev. & Mrs. Kevin Freeman
Ms. Nancy Gagnon
Mrs. Kimberlee Glinka
Mr. Walter Gordon
Ms. Rebecca Hart
Mr. David Heppel
Ms. Lorraine Infeld
Mrs. Louise Kibler
Dr. Barbara Kobzik-Juul
Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Mantey
Mrs. Susan E. Marley
Ms. Tanysha Mayfield
Ms. Erica McAndrew
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E.
McMonigle
Ms. Dawn Moore
Ms. Denise Morgan
Ms. Melanie Morones
Ms. Danielle Pajak
Ms. Leizl Pesebre

Up to \$99 Continued

Mr. Zack Piercy
Ms. Sharon C. Porter
Mr. & Mrs. John Precilio
Mr. David Sadowski
Mr. Josh Silbermann
Mr. Karl Spangler
Mrs. Susan Sumner
Ms. Keyanna Turner
Ms. Robyn Ulman
Mr. Charles Vickers
Ms. Evelyn White
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Yutzzy
Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. Zeegers
12spot
Blossom Marketing
Frontstream

Grants



Howard County
Community Service
Partnership
\$29,836



Kiwanis Club of
Ellicott City, MD
\$1,000

Financials

Assets

Cash	\$	341,664
Investments		798,709
Accounts Receivable		228,527
Prepaid Expenses		14,506
Property and Equipment, Net		6,431
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	<u>1,389,837</u>

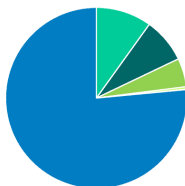
Liabilities and Net Assets

LIABILITIES		Liabilities
Accounts Payable	\$	71,942
Salaries Payable		45,866
Vacation Payable		47,402
Deferred Revenue		29,786
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$	<u>194,996</u>

NET ASSETS		Net Assets
Without Donor Restrictions	\$	975,131
With Donor Restrictions		219,710
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$	<u>1,194,841</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$	<u>1,389,837</u>

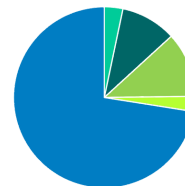
Revenue \$2,418,603

- **Contributions:** \$239,822 9.9%
- **Federal Grant:** \$193,700 8.0 %
- **Program Service Fees:** \$1,849,541 76.5%
- **Investment Income, Net:** \$124,315 5.1%
- **Rental Income:** \$8,400 0.4%
- **Net Assets Released from Restriction:** \$2,825 0.1%



Expenses \$2,209,515

- **Therapeutic Family Services:** \$73,972 3.3%
- **Safe Families@:** \$218,675 9.9%
- **CHOSEN TFC:** \$1,601,188 72.5%
- **Management and General:** \$256,687 11.6%
- **Fundraising:** \$58,993 2.7%



JOIN OUR BOARD

READY TO MAKE A LASTING IMPACT?

BFC is looking for dedicated, passionate, effective community leaders who are ready to further serve their communities by joining our Board of Trustees. Serving on the board is a rewarding opportunity to demonstrate Christ's love not only in word, but also "with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18). Your time and expertise will make a lasting impact on the lives of children and families facing crisis.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Trustees plays an essential role in fulfilling the agency's mission. Some of the key responsibilities include:

- Determining how the organization carries out its mission through long-range and short-range planning, review and evaluation
- Establishing policies that ensure BFC continues providing services that effectively meet the needs of the community and best practices are followed
- Acquiring and allocating resources to support vital services
- Enhancing and promoting community-agency relationships
- Assuring that the organization is true to its Christ-centered value



BOARD MEMBER QUALITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS

BFC is looking for board members who are passionate about the organization's mission, reflect the demographics and/or represent the interests of the community BFC serves, and meet the following criteria:

- Relevant governance, business, or other professional experience
- Familiarity with and access to community leaders, political representatives and other relevant local organizations
- Willing to fundraise and connect the Agency with other resources
- Christians who subscribe to the agency's Statement of Faith and attend churches that also subscribe to these beliefs



COMMITMENT

Board members are elected for three-year terms and may be elected by the Board to serve one additional three-year term. During that time, board members are committed to:

- Attending at least 3 of 4 annual meetings
- Being a working member of at least one committee
- Making an annual financial donation to the organization commensurate with one's ability

Staff

CHERI C. SANZI

Executive Director

BECKY LOOMIS

Director of Administration

TIA L. BLUE, LCSW-C

CHOSEN Program Director

DAWN SIMON, LBSW

Intake Coordinator

KIM PARSONS

SFFC Program Director

AJA BROWN, LBSW

Treatment Social Worker

TAMMY FOLKERTS

Outreach Coordinator

KRISTEN CARRASCO

Office Manager

TRICIA SAKLES, LCPC

Director of Organizational Performance

JULIE RANKIN

Executive Assistant

WILLIE DOCTOR, LCSW-C

Recruitment & Certification Manager

RAQUEL WASHINGTON, LMSW

Treatment Social Worker

MICHELLE MOLINA, LCSW-C

Treatment Social Worker

BRIANNA JEFFRIES, LMSW

Treatment Social Worker

CHELSEA MCGONIGLE

Family Support Coordinator

TAIWO SOETAN

Administrative Assistant



Board

PRESIDENT

Mr. Shaun C. Smithson

Mr. Willem Folkerts, Past President

Rev. Paul Viswasam

VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Steven Burnett, Ed.D.

Mrs. Doreen Chapman

Mrs. Darla Trigger

TREASURER

Mr. Richard C. Curlin

