

Building Families for Children

FY24 Annual Report




Building
Families for
Children

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Letter from the President of the Board of Trustees

Dear Friends of Building Families for Children,

In the heart of every child there lies a spark of potential; a dream waiting to ignite. As we journey together to nurture these young lives, we are reminded of the powerful words of Proverbs 22:6, *“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it.”*

The focus of my report this year emphasizes the impact, need, and appreciation that your involvement and financial resources provides when serving our children and families. Your generous contributions of time and financial support are seeds of hope, sown into the lives of children who desperately need love, stability, and a sense of belonging. Your compassion has enabled us to provide essential resources, ensuring that these children have the tools they need to thrive.

Through your generosity, we have been able to achieve the following:

- **Expanded Outreach:** We expanded our services to reach even more children through our church partnerships. Church partnerships amplify our impact by providing invaluable resources, volunteers, and a strong support network.
- **Strengthened Families:** Our family strengthening services empower parents and caregivers with the tools and resources they need to create stable and loving homes. Through training classes, counseling services, and crisis intervention, we strengthen families with Christ-like love.
- **Provided Emergency Assistance:** In times of crisis, we are a lifeline for families facing hardship. Your support enables us to provide emergency shelter, food, clothing, and other essential needs to families in distress.

Moreover, your support allows us to create a safe and nurturing environment where children can heal, grow, and develop their full potential. We understand that all things work according to the Lord’s plan, and we would be remiss if we didn’t share our needs. While we are blessed with a heart of thanksgiving and joy, the harsh reality for Building Families for Children is that this past year has been extremely difficult financially. We have also experienced obstacles in staffing which challenged the agency to deliver the therapeutic services our children and families need.

As we reflect on the impact of your generosity, we are reminded of the words of Matthew 25:40, *“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”* Your selfless acts of love are a testament to your faith and your commitment to making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children. By continuing your gifts of time and financial resources, you’re investing in a brighter future for our families. We hope that the transparency in sharing our appreciation, our heart for serving families with Christ-like love, and our current needs, will encourage you to consider making Building Families for Children a priority in your philanthropy. Your contributions, no matter the size, will help us achieve our mission.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership in building a future of love, hope, and opportunity for these vulnerable children and families.



With heartfelt thanks,

Dr. Steven W. Burnett
President of the Board of Trustees
sburnett@mcdaniel.edu

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of Building Families for Children,

Each year brings new challenges, and 2024 was no exception. Finding qualified and committed staff, recruiting loving and supportive foster families to meet the growing needs of foster youth, and helping families navigate increasingly complex life circumstances have all become more difficult. At times, the weight of these challenges can feel overwhelming, and we need to be reminded of the calling that brought us here. We know that when we stay focused on our mission—to help Maryland’s most vulnerable children and their families thrive by providing trauma-focused supportive services with Christ-like love and compassion—God will guide us through. That was our foundation in 2024, and it will continue to sustain us in 2025.

Recently, a 14-year-old boy in our Safe Families for Children® program reminded us of what truly matters. He is temporarily staying with a volunteer host family while his mother receives the medical care she needs. He expressed his amazement that the host family and Safe Families® support staff were helping him even though they “didn’t really know him.” Our response was simple: we do this out of love for him and his family. As we are commanded in John 13:34 *“Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”* At the heart of our work is Christ-like love and compassion, and our hope is that every child and family we serve feels that love.

As we close out our 104th year, I am deeply grateful for every staff member, board member, volunteer, foster parent, donor, church, and community partner who has poured their time, energy, and resources into supporting BFC.

Your generosity makes this work possible. On behalf of BFC, thank you for your unwavering support!



With heartfelt gratitude,

**Tricia Sakles, LCPC
Executive Director**

tricia@buildingfamiliesforchildren.org

Agency Overview & New Mission, Vision, Values

Building Families for Children is a faith-based nonprofit with a mission to “help Maryland’s most vulnerable children and their families thrive by providing trauma-focused supportive services with Christ-like love and compassion.”

We believe that every child deserves to grow up in a safe, supportive family. Since our founding in 1920, we’ve continued to provide services that make that a reality for many children in Maryland! We currently provide trauma-informed care through three programs: CHOSEN Treatment Foster Care, Safe Families for Children®, and Therapeutic Family Services.

Mission

To help Maryland’s most vulnerable children and their families thrive by providing trauma-focused supportive services with Christ-like love and compassion.

Vision

Safe and supportive families for every child to help them thrive in community and life.

Values

Christ-Centeredness
Family Focused
Innovative, Evidence-Based Practices
Partnerships
Stewardship
Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion





CHOSEN TREATMENT FOSTER CARE

About CHOSEN

CHOSEN At a Glance

Youth Served: 32

Youth Achieved Permanency Goals: 10; 83% of youth who left the program went to more permanent living situations. (6 reunifications, 3 adoptions, 1 move to an Independent Living Program.)

Parents (with placements) reporting satisfaction with the difference they are making in the lives of the youth they have served: 100%

Youth surveyed who reported that their life is moving in a positive direction: 90%

We saw an increase in stability this year as evidenced by a 60% reduction in critical incidents!



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.



Demographics

Gender: 52% female, 48% male

Race/Ethnicity: 44% African American, 28% Caucasian, 10% Hispanic, 18% Multi-Racial

Ages: 1-5 16%, 6-10 31%, 11-15 16%, 16-18 21%, 19-20 16%

Impact Story: CHOSEN Treatment Foster Care

In January 2024, Cathy welcomed her first foster placement—a spirited 16-year-old named Emmie. Having completed her CHOSEN certification just months earlier, Cathy was eager to put her Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) training into practice. She understood that fostering a teenager meant walking a delicate line between guidance and independence, and she was ready for the challenge.

Before coming into Cathy’s care, Emmie faced significant difficulties at home that affected her academic progress. The transition to a more supportive school environment offered a fresh start, but Emmie needed more than just a new classroom—she needed stability, patience, and trust.

Cathy embraced TBRI® principles from day one, creating a space where Emmie felt safe to grow. Knowing that Emmie had a history of reacting impulsively, Cathy introduced mindfulness techniques and the concept of redos. When Emmie would react, rather than respond, Cathy encouraged Emmie to reflect on her choices and consider alternative responses. Over time, these small but powerful moments helped Emmie develop emotional resilience and accountability.

Cathy and Emmie bonded in the kitchen, working as a team to prepare meals—an activity that encouraged both cooperation and conversation. They also started a tradition of monthly dates together, setting aside time for just the two of them. As the connection between Emmie and Cathy grew, Emmie opened up about her past traumas, finding reassurance and validation from Cathy and her BFC social worker, Brianna.

Like any teenager, Emmie grappled with the push-and-pull of independence and authority. She was candid about wanting to spend time with her boyfriend, and Cathy recognized the importance of balancing structure with freedom. Wanting Emmie to feel supported in her relationships, Cathy took the initiative to include Emmie’s boyfriend and his family in their Christmas celebration this year. This thoughtful gesture reinforced that Emmie’s connections mattered and that she was part of a home where she was valued and accepted.

With Cathy’s support, Emmie has grown in confidence and resilience, embracing a future full of possibilities. She envisions completing high school, transitioning into independent living, and pursuing a career working with animals. Cathy and Emmie’s journey is a testament to the life-changing impact CHOSEN foster parents can have. Through patience, understanding, and trust, they have built a foundation for lasting transformation that will guide Emmie well beyond her time in foster care.

Please note: names were changed to maintain privacy.



Want to learn more about becoming a
CHOSEN treatment foster parent?
Scan the QR code or visit:
buildingfamiliesforchildren.org/tfc



SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN[®] (SFFC)

About Safe Families for Children®

SFFC® At a Glance

Children Hosted: 23 (475 nights total)

Average Length of Stay: 15 days

Referral Sources: 50% Self-Referral, 13% Department of Social Services, 13% Community Agencies, 7% Medical Facility, 6% Schools, 4% SFFC Volunteers, 2% Mental Health Services, 5% Other

Total Number of Volunteer Hours: 10,096

Parents Indicating Improvement in the Area of Social Supports: 100%



When crisis strikes, many of us rely on relatives and friends for support. 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 parents have someone to call if a crisis strikes again.

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.



Demographics

Gender: 83% male, 17% female

Race/Ethnicity: 67% African American, 25% Multiracial, 8% Hispanic

Average Age: 5

Impact Story: Safe Families for Children®

When Amani arrived in the United States seeking asylum, she was pregnant with twins. She felt isolated and alone. Her husband and young son remained in her home country. She was unhoused with no source of income and no support network.

Amani connected with the Safe Families for Children® at BFC just before her twins were born. A Safe Families® Host Family welcomed her into their home and provided a safe place where she could rest and prepare for motherhood. A local Safe Families® partner church rallied around her in ways Amani never expected. Volunteers gathered essential baby supplies and covered the cost of an immigration attorney so she could begin the asylum process.

When her initial host family arrangement ended, another family stepped in for six weeks. They provided a stable place for her to call home as Amani worked to secure long-term housing. As her Safe Families® community continued to grow, they celebrated every milestone. Safe Families® staff hosted a party for her twins' first birthday, which brought together friends and volunteers from three different Safe Families® partner churches!

In December 2023, Amani received her work permit—what she calls her best Christmas present ever. Soon after, she accepted a position as a receptionist at a small business. With respite support from Safe Families® volunteers and childcare vouchers for her twins, she took steady steps toward independence. Her church small group helped her purchase a car, and donations to BFC funded the first six months of her auto insurance.

In July, Amani and her twins moved into a townhouse. It was the first home she could call her own since arriving in the United States! As her natural support network grew, Amani's time with Safe Families for Children® came to a close. Though she graduated from the program, the relationships she built remained strong.

Today, Amani is not only thriving but also giving back. She is using her experience to advocate for families in crisis and turning her challenges into a source of hope for others.

Please note: names were changed to maintain privacy.



Want to learn more about becoming a Safe Families for Children® volunteer? Scan the QR code or visit: buildingfamiliesforchildren.org/sffc



THERAPEUTIC FAMILY SERVICES (TFS)

About Therapeutic Family Services



TFS At a Glance

Families Served: 9

Sessions Completed: 142

“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®

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 integrate other interventions and tools into treatment to best serve each client. In addition to TBRI, some of the other modalities our therapists use in treatment are:

Mindfulness

Theraplay

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)

Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT)

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.

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

Financial Donors

\$10,000-\$50,000

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous (1)
Mr. and Mrs. G. Stewart Eidel

CHURCHES

Grace Community Church
Lake Shore Baptist Church

\$5,000 - \$9,999

CHURCHES

LifePoint Church

\$2,500 - \$4,999

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous (1)
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Reeves
Mrs. Jane Ann Welch

CHURCHES

Jessup Baptist Church
First Baptist Church of Beltsville
LifePoint Legacy/Orphan Ministry

\$1,000 - \$2,499

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous Donor (2)
Mr. and Mrs. Akil Booker
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Ely
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Float
Mr. and Mrs. Willem Folkerts
Rev. Robert H. and Mrs. Karen Gerstmyer

Mr. John Glennon
Mr. James Misner and Ms. Sabrina Iga
Mr. C. Ray Mann
Dr. Louis and Dr. Carol Owens
Ms. Alexandra S. Patchan
Mr. Arthur T. Queen
Ms. Irmaris Rosas
Mr. Karl Russo
Ms. Virginia Schrock
Ms. Nancy Stringfield

CHURCHES

City on a Hill Community Church
CrossLife Community Church
Emmanuel Baptist Church of Gambrills
Long Green Baptist Church
Mt. Airy Baptist Church
South Columbia Baptist Church
White Plains Baptist Church

ORGANIZATIONS

APL Federal Credit Union
Friends in Need Foundation of the Ellicott City
Rotary Club
Take Two Software

\$500 - \$999

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CHURCHES

Calverton Baptist Church
Carsins Run Baptist Church
Colonial Baptist Church
Covenant Fellowship
First Baptist Church of Suitland

\$100 - \$499

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Ilnur Azizov
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Ms. Nikia Blackwell
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Mr. and Mrs. James P. Trigger
Mr. and Mrs. Steven E. Watts
HaeMi Wen
Mr. Mark Widmeyer
Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Wiseman
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce W. Woodford

CHURCHES

Bethany Church, Columbia
Glen Burnie Baptist Church
Glenn Dale Baptist Church
Inner Light Family Ministry
Loch Raven Baptist Church

ORGANIZATIONS

United Way of Central Maryland

Up to \$99

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous (1)
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Adornetto
Mr. Fernando Alem
Mr. Robert L. Bates
Ms. Rhonda Beaver
Ms. Janice Bennett
Ms. Ayrah Bermudo
Ms. Mary Colbert
Ms. Andrea Collins

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Mr. Ryan Hammonds
Ms. Ann Hoang
Mrs. Elnora Holmes
Ms. Joy Kim
Pastor Mimi Kim
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Koch
Rijin Lee
Mr. Michael Lee
Ms. Meredith Lohbeck
Mr. Cesar Loredo
Ms. Melissa Mohip
Ms. Analiza Pesebre
Mr. Zachary Piercy
Ms. Julie Raines
Ms. Emily Ross
Ms. Heidi Schweingruber
Ms. Lenika Shah
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Shusterman
Ms. Mary Clark-Smith
Mr. Rory Wallace
Ms. Katie Williams

CHURCHES

H.O.P.E. Church
Impact Community Church

ORGANIZATIONS

Costco Wholesale #200
Sunshine Paws Pet Fashion



Want to learn more about becoming a financial supporter?
Scan the QR code or visit:
buildingfamiliesforchildren.org/donate

Grants



Community Foundation of Howard County

\$5,000



HORIZON FOUNDATION

Horizon Foundation of Howard County

\$10,000



Department of Community Resources and Services

Howard County Community Service Partnership

\$39,731.21

Financial Position

Assets

Cash	\$	63,951
Investments		767,623
Accounts Receivable		114,170
Prepaid Expenses		10,832
Furniture and Equipment, Net		51,879
Right-of-Use Asset - Financing		10,374
Right-of-Use Asset - Operating		<u>1,194,229</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	<u>2,213,058</u>

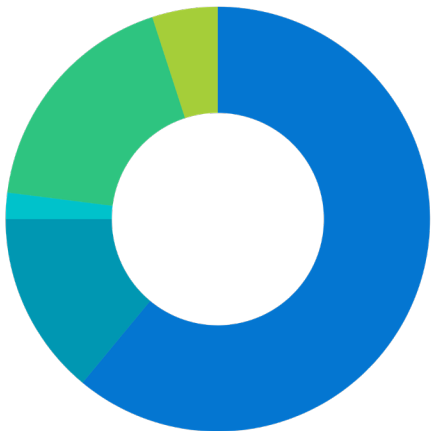
Liabilities and Net Assets

LIABILITIES		Liabilities
Accounts Payable	\$	71,176
Accrued Salaries and Benefits		52,161
Lease Liability - Financing		14,130
Lease Liability - Operating		<u>1,279,254</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$	<u>1,416,721</u>
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	\$	681,411
With donor restrictions		<u>114,926</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$	<u>796,337</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$	<u>2,213,058</u>

Expenses

Total Expenses: \$1,891,648

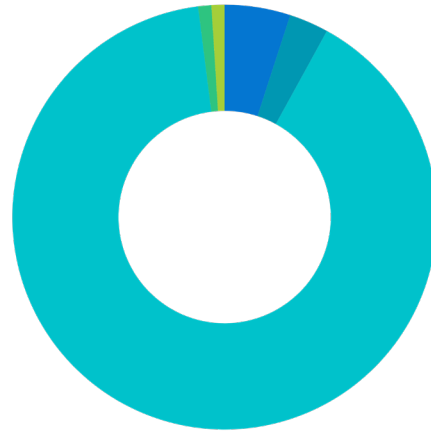
- CHOSEN: \$1,162,718
- Safe Families for Children®: \$257,492
- Therapeutic Family Services: \$33,452
- Management and General: \$349,160
- Fundraising: \$88,826



Revenue

Total Revenue: \$1,729,993

- Contributions: \$97,660
- Investment Income, Net: \$63,457
- Program Service Fees: \$1,554,232
- Rental Income and Other: \$9,717
- Net Assets released from restriction: \$4,927



Current Board and Staff

Staff

Tricia Sakles, LCPC

Executive Director
tricia@buildingfamiliesforchildren.org

Tara Anderson

Program Director, Safe Families®
tara@buildingfamiliesforchildren.org

Julie Rankin

Operations Administrator
juliel@buildingfamiliesforchildren.org

Ed Harrison

Community Engagement Coordinator
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Jasina Wise

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Kristen Carrasco

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Jackie Corpuz, LCSW-C

Administrative Assistant, CHOSEN
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Rhonda Murray

Volunteer Coordinator, Safe Families®
rhonda@buildingfamiliesforchildren.org

Board of Trustees

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Mr. Stew Eidel

Member of Crossroads Westminster

Ms. Trina Harvey

Member of Real Life Church

Pr. Shane Valenstein

Lead Pastor at City on a Hill Church

Mr. Jeff Shusterman, Vice President

Member of LifePoint Church

Mrs. Michelle Gibbs

Member of Crossroads Westminster

Mrs. Emily Scott

Member of Church at Covenant Park

Join our Board of Trustees

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 truth"* (1 John 3:18). Your time and expertise will make a lasting impact on the lives of children and families facing crisis.

If you are interested in exploring board membership, please contact Board President Dr. Steven Burnett at: sburnett@mcdaniel.edu



Key Responsibilities

The BFC 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.
- Establishing policies that ensure BFC continues to provide services that effectively meet the needs of the community and best practices are followed.
- Acquiring and allocating resources to support vital services.
- Assuring effective stewardship of the Agency's assets and finances.

Qualities & Characteristics of our Board Members

BFC seeks board members who are passionate about the organization's mission, vision and values, 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 align with the agency's Statement of Faith.

Commitment

Board members are elected for three-year terms. During that time, board members are committed to:

- Attending at least three of four general board meetings annually.
- Serving on at least one committee.
- Making an annual financial donation to the agency commensurate with one's ability.



Building Families for Children, Inc.

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