



Children's Home Society
OF NORTH CAROLINA

SUMMER 2011

CAROLINA *Children*



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In the last year,

CHS has made great strides towards becoming one of the leading child and family service agencies in North Carolina. Mergers with Family Life Council, Youth Homes, and most recently Lifegains broadened our services and expanded the scope of how we help children and families. We now have more than 200 staff members with offices in nine cities across North Carolina with vital programs occurring in every area of the state. Some significant highlights from the past year include:



Ken Tutterow

- *Developing and implementing a new strategic plan to guide the work of the agency and help it continue to grow and thrive in the future.*
- *Receiving more than \$1.5 million in new state contracts to help families in crisis through our Intensive Family Preservation & Reunification services.*
- *Hosting two major fundraising events in Greensboro and Charlotte raising more than \$450,000 to support our mission.*
- *Reaching a major milestone toward the validation of the Wise Guys program as "evidenced-based."*
- *Being awarded up to \$6 million from the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation and the Social Innovation Fund to expand our Family Finding services and Wise Guys program.*

Thanks to the guidance of our Board and the tremendous support of the CHS family, we are fortunate to have been able to experience such exciting growth even in the midst of a troublesome economy. This ability to thrive under challenging circumstances speaks to the strength of our staff, our commitment to excellence, and our dedication to the belief that all children deserve the opportunity to grow in a safe and loving family.

There is no way to put a monetary value on family and all that it means to us. Our family in large part shapes our very identity – both when we were young and as adults. Our family helps us navigate life's peaks and valleys and build the very fiber of our being. With our expanded services and programs, we can truly become leaders in transforming families and communities so children can thrive.

It all starts with a permanent, safe, and loving family – this is our mission, this is our focus. Thank you for all you do to help children and families in North Carolina.

Ken Tutterow, CEO

Vision

To be a leader in transforming families and communities so children can thrive.

Mission

To promote the right of every child to a permanent, safe, and loving family.

Core Values

Compassion • Integrity
Excellence • Innovation

CHS Receives Social Innovation Fund Investment

TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA

CHS has been awarded a three-year investment of up to \$6 million - with a first year award of \$2 million - from the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation (EMCF) and the Social Innovation Fund. As part of this investment, CHS must raise \$6 million in matching funds. Over the life of this investment, CHS will expand and implement our Family Finding program statewide, connecting more children in foster care with birth family relatives and other resources. In addition, CHS will use the award to expand our evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention program, Wise Guys®, which targets adolescent males.

The Family Finding program is designed to reconnect children in foster care with biological family members who have the potential to form a support system for the child in the future. CHS has been successful in identifying and connecting more than 50 relatives for each child in the program.

The idea behind Family Finding is simple – reunite children in foster care with their extended families.

Family Finding uses web-based technology and other means to identify and locate biological family members for children in foster care. Once family members are identified, CHS works to rebuild relationships and explore potential permanent family placements for the child. Though a suitable relative home is not always found, Family Finding does provide children with much needed connections to their relatives.

Launched in 1990 by the Family Life Council division of CHS, Wise Guys is a teen pregnancy and dating violence prevention education program for adolescent males. The curriculum covers values, communication, goal setting, anatomy, abstinence, contraception, sexually transmitted infections, dating violence, and fatherhood.

Wise Guys is designed to educate teen males (ages 13-18) from a variety of ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds. Boys in schools

who participate are required to have parental permission, but are generally first chosen by teachers and counselors. Many are from single parent homes and have no male role models, putting them at greater risk for juvenile delinquency, drug/alcohol use, and school failure.

CHS will also be an inaugural member of a new fund established by the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation called the True North Fund. This fund is the launch vehicle for an innovative public/private partnership of the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, the

Social Innovation Fund, and institutional and individual philanthropic co-investors. The fund brings together the capital that nonprofits – which have strong evidence of their programs’ effectiveness and are poised to expand significantly – require to make an impact on the lives of more young people and build a stronger body of evidence about “what works” to help youth succeed in life.

CHS was chosen in an open, national competition that drew 225 applications

from leading nonprofits across the country. In selecting nine organizations for awards totaling up to \$42 million over three years, EMCF relied on a rigorous, in-depth due diligence process to identify a mix of programs with great potential to help larger numbers of economically disadvantaged youth, ages 9-24.

The Social Innovation Fund, established by Congress in 2010 through the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, is a public-private partnership that uses private intermediaries to support the expansion of innovative, transformative social programs proven to promote economic opportunity, healthy lives, and youth development.



For more information, please visit www.chsnc.org or call 1-800-632-1400.



AGENCIES UNITE

TO STRENGTHEN SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN CRISIS

In February,

CHS and Lifegains, Inc. of Morganton merged. With this merger, CHS has expanded foster care services across the state and increased our ability to serve greater numbers of children and families in crisis.

Both agencies have long histories as respected foster care providers with varied, yet complimentary, programs and services. Since 1981, Lifegains has maintained a strong reputation for their commitment to children and families with a focus on serving children in the Asheville, Morganton, Greenville, and Piedmont Triad areas. The merger with Lifegains also brings strong training capabilities for families and staff serving children in the child welfare system.

"We believe the merger with Lifegains augments our capacity to provide care for children in crisis through loving foster homes," said Ken Tutterow, CEO and President of CHS.

"This partnership enhances one of the most comprehensive arrays of child and family services in the state. Through CHS, families can access a wealth of child welfare services - parenting education, family preservation, teen pregnancy prevention, foster care, adoption, and family support services - all from one agency."



As a COA (Council on Accreditation) accredited agency, providing high quality training to staff and clients is of critical importance. The merger with Lifegains will strengthen the training capacity of CHS and help ensure that staff are providing the highest quality services possible for clients in need.

For more information, please visit www.chsnc.org or call 1-800-632-1400.

Frank Crawford to Serve as Board Chair

of Foster Family-Based Treatment Association

CHS Executive Vice President Frank Crawford Jr. has been appointed as the President of the Board of Directors for the Foster Family-Based Treatment Association (FFTA). In this capacity, Crawford will chair all board meetings, appoint committee chairpersons, develop the board meeting agendas, and execute all major business transactions for the association.



Frank Crawford

"I am honored to serve in this role especially during the 25th anniversary of the association," said Crawford. "Our over 400 member agencies are committed to excellence in their service to children and families in the foster care system in our nation. The Board is a talented and dedicated group of leaders who invest significant time and energy in making our industry stronger."

FFTA strengthens agencies that support families caring for vulnerable children. It is an agency-led organization of foster care providers established in 1988 with an initial purpose of defining and refining treatment foster care practices. The Association's membership is composed of agencies throughout North America currently operating foster care programs. The foundation of the FFTA is built upon a belief in the family as a source of stability and security for children and youth.



For more information, visit www.ffta.org or call 1-800-414-3382, ext. 113.



Wise Guys®

CHS is pleased to announce that the Wise Guys® teen pregnancy prevention program has reached a major milestone toward being scientifically validated as an evidenced-based program with the research results published in the *Journal of School Health*.



The March 2011 issue of *Journal of School Health* contains the article "Evaluation of the Wise Guys Male Responsibility Curriculum: Participant-Control Comparisons." The study took place over two school years at multiple sites in Guilford County and analyzes pretest, post-test, and six month follow-up data obtained from over 200 participants and randomly identified comparison middle school males.

A major highlight of the evaluation was finding significant measurable improvements in the areas of knowledge, attitudes, and sexual behavior by Wise Guys participants during the six month follow up.

Rick Brown, the Family Life Council Director of Program Expansion, said, "This article, and the process that led up to it, are because of our commitment to accountability to our most important stakeholders: the teen males we serve locally and their families, our funders, and the many organizations around the country that use our curriculum to help shape teen males into responsible men."

For the entire evaluation report, please visit the Wise Guys website at www.wiseguysnc.org.

CHILDREN AWAITING ADOPTION



Cecil, 13



Shango, 9



Gabbrilla, 12



Aliyah, 14

Please visit www.chsnc.org for more information about these and many other children who are available for adoption.

A Lifetime *of service*

For more than 34 years,

CHS social worker Stephanie Berry has dedicated her life to helping children in need and she only sees bigger and better things for the future of the agency.



Stephanie Berry

“As I retire from CHS, I hope the agency continues to grow and expand their services. There are so many families in need across North Carolina. Parents whose skills need to be strengthened, children who need loving guidance and discipline, families who need to learn how to better function in their communities,” said Berry. “The need is great and I know CHS and all my wonderful coworkers are up for the challenge.”

She began her career as a social worker with the Alamance County Department of Social Services in 1971. Focusing initially on Medicaid eligibility and child welfare, Berry said, “It was always important to me to work in a ‘helping’ career. I always knew I wanted to do work that was worthwhile and that allowed me to help people one-on-one.”

In her early career, she practiced an array of social work but she soon felt a strong pull towards working in the adoption field. “So much has changed during my career from focusing on the placement of infants to focusing on older children and I’ve enjoyed all of it. But seeing older children adopted and thriving in their new families has been the most rewarding experience,” said Berry.

With CHS, Berry has worked through every step of the adoption process from counseling birth parents to preparing families to adopt to keeping in touch with families long after the adoption has been finalized. According to Berry, there is no way she can pick one specific experience that has been most meaningful. Every successful placement has been fulfilling in its own special way and working with families has changed her life completely.

“I feel so grateful to have been able to do the kind of work CHS has allowed me to do for the last 34 years,” said Berry. “I am incredibly thankful to have touched the lives of so many children and families.”

Thank you Stephanie for making a difference in the lives of children across North Carolina!

LUNCH by the LADLE

In March, the CHS Family Life Council division hosted the fifth annual Lunch by the Ladle soup tasting event at the Empire Room in downtown Greensboro. Each year, this event raises awareness and much needed funds to help benefit children and families statewide.

Lunch by the Ladle featured signature soup recipes from local restaurants including Basils & Company, The Bistro at Adams Farm, Chick-Fil-A, Giovanni's, Lindley Park Filling Station, Hamilton Lakes Cafe, Josephine's, Marisol, Natty Greene's, The Painted Plate, Poblano's, Reto's, Southern Roots, Southern Lights, Table 16, Taste of Thai, and 1618 Seafood Grille. There was also a wide array of breads, salads, and desserts.



Sponsors for the event included First Carolina Deli, Coffeology, Libby Hill, Kathy Walker Advertising & Gain Composure Photography, The Fresh Market, Simple Kneads, Just for You Catering, The Great Harvest Bread Co., LeBauer Allergy and Asthma, Cone Health Foundation, Forman, Rossabi & Black, SunTrust, Got You Floored, James & Karen Clabough, John Redmond, Replacements Limited, Rice Toyota, Deans Office Machines, and William & Queen McSwain.

This family-friendly event was a great afternoon out for a great cause. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success!

STRENGTHENING Our Family

Over the last 18 months, mergers with Family Life Council, Youth Homes, and Lifegains have greatly expanded the scope of services CHS is able to provide to North Carolina's children and families. Today, CHS has one of the most comprehensive and seamless offerings of child welfare and family support services in the state – providing programs in parenting education, family preservation, teen pregnancy prevention, foster care, and adoption – all from one agency.

One of our greatest challenges over the last 18 months has been bringing together the rich programs, staff, and visions of the individual agencies into one cohesive family. From a program standpoint, we have fully merged our services and aligned our vision. With that work aligned, we are beginning to make strides in reintroducing the “new” CHS to the community through new

promotional materials that truly show the face of the agency as it stands today. A major change you will begin to notice is the consistent use of the CHS logo in place of the former Youth Homes, Lifegains, and in appropriate instances the Family Life Council logo.

In the years ahead CHS hopes to continue to grow as an agency because we believe there are children and families across the state that desperately need our care, experience, and unwavering commitment to best practice. And every aspect of what we do will continue to focus on developing resources and capabilities to transform families and communities in every way necessary to enable children to thrive.

Thank you for being a part of the CHS family!



champions FOR CHILDREN

Wendy's



This winter, CHS was awarded \$135,000 in Wendy's Wonderful Kids

grants from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. These grants are used to fund child-centered recruiter positions in Charlotte and Greensboro. Child-centered recruitment strategies focus attention on the child's world. The goal is to build permanence for the future by examining and understanding a child's past and present life. Wendy's Wonderful Kids is a signature program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption that combines the fundraising efforts of Wendy's and its customers, results-driven grant oversight of the Foundation, and the talent of seasoned adoption recruiters.

NC Division of Health & Human Services

The NC Division of Health & Human Services, Division of Public Health awarded a three year grant of \$75,000 to help support the Family Life Council division's Wise Guys and Jóvenes Sabios programs. Wise



Guys, and its Spanish counterpart Jóvenes Sabios, is a teen pregnancy and dating violence prevention education program for adolescent males. This program has been extensively evaluated since its inception with results consistently showing significant positive gains in measured areas.

The Hillsdale Fund

TJX Foundation

The J. Richard & Sybel F. Hayworth Foundation

Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation

This spring CHS received \$70,000 from foundations to help support adoptive and foster families across North Carolina.

- \$15,000 from the Hillside Fund to support families in Wake County.
- \$4,000 from the TJX Foundation for use statewide.
- \$15,000 from the J. Richard & Sybel F. Hayworth Foundation for families in High Point.
- \$35,000 from Sisters of Mercy to support families in Mecklenburg County.

These funds will support our SPAN program. SPAN services provide critical support for adoptive and foster families who are experiencing disruptions in their family life.

Available throughout central North Carolina, SPAN services include counseling, emergency financial assistance, crisis and behavioral management, attachment issues, respite care, school intervention/advocacy, and family preservation services. In addition, SPAN offers a resource lending library of books, videos, and reading lists to help families address issues that may arise. SPAN staff also has a wealth of information and community referrals to help strengthen a family's ability to parent children with diverse and challenging needs.

Children who are adopted need the same nurturing, love, and guidance as all children but sometimes they need a little extra support. SPAN provides that extra support and these services have become a crucial component in the array of post adoption services CHS provides for families.

A Place to Call *Home*

This spring, CHS hosted two exciting *A Place to Call Home* fundraising luncheons.

Sean Tuohy, adoptive father of Michael Oher, whose life story was featured in *The Blind Side*, shared his family's adoption story on April 14 in Charlotte.



The Tuohy family

The Blind Side tells the story of Michael Oher, a homeless teenager turned first-round draft pick NFL football player with the support and love of the Tuohy family. Sean Tuohy, Michael's adoptive father, was a record-breaking basketball player before becoming a successful entrepreneur and NBA broadcaster.



Lou Gossett Jr.

Lou Gossett Jr. shared his inspirational story in Greensboro on May 12 of how working with the homeless population led him to adopt a teenage boy. Though he won an Oscar for his role in *An Officer and A Gentleman* and an Emmy for his role in *Roots*, one of his most prized accomplishments is becoming a father.

His passion for his work is matched only by his strong belief in helping others. Gossett encouraged and invited the audience to step outside their comfort zone and make a difference that will last a lifetime.

The *A Place to Call Home* luncheons offer a program designed to inspire individuals to support the mission of CHS. Through personal stories, this fundraiser presents a wonderful opportunity to help CHS find permanent, safe, and loving families for children.

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For more information or to find out how you can help educate your friends and family about our critical work, please call 1-800-632-1400 or visit www.chsnc.org.



Picture Perfect

A CHS ADOPTION SUCCESS STORY

One of the first things you see in Alford Mack's home is a collage featuring two smiling faces – Alford and his son Shyeem.

The collage seems symbolic of the obvious ties between this father and his adopted son – a testament that they will face life's journey together. "The collage hangs in the foyer so everyone can see it when they come into our home," said Mack. "I wanted to do it so in a few years we can see where we came from and where we are now."

Several years ago, Mack was drawn to adoption because he wanted to give back. He wanted someone to share his life with and, in return, to guide and be a positive influence in the child's life. After about eight months of searching, Mack's social worker showed him a recruitment booklet with Shyeem's picture in it.

"I loved Shyeem's smile," Mack said. "I felt a connection with him right away."

Over a 14 month period, Mack went through extensive training to become a licensed foster home. He welcomed Shyeem into his home on Father's Day 2009, and Shyeem's adoption was approved in December 2009.

Mack said, "The process was trying at times, but well worth it," he said. "I would not trade being a father to Shyeem for anything in the world. Since I was a single person, my life changed in a very big way. Parenting Shyeem is a great experience, but the icing on the cake is when he calls me dad."

It's a Beach Music Party!



The 8th annual BB&T Beach Music in the Park concert series was a blast! Since 2004, CHS and our corporate partners have raised over \$400,000 through the Beach Music series to help support our mission of "promoting the right of every child to a permanent, safe, and loving family."

The 2011 BB&T Beach Music Concert series ran every Thursday from May 12 to June 30 at Kathleen Price Bryan Park (Festival Park) from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm with amazing bands including The Catalinas, the Band of Oz, The Embers, and Sleeping Booty!

Thank you to our 2011 BB&T Beach Music Sponsors!

BB&T

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Make Plans This Fall

to join us for the 3rd annual Ilderton's Beach Music Blast concert series in High Point!

The Ilderton's Beach Music Blast concert series will run every Thursday from September 8 to October 6, in uptown High Point at 1525 North Main Street. Each concert will be from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

These Thursday evening concerts will be amazing fun, family-friendly events. We hope to see you there! For more information, please call 1-800-632-1400 or visit www.chsnc.org!

Featuring some of the best of Carolina Beach music, fans will enjoy music by:

- September 8 - The Embers
- September 15 - The Craig Woolard Band
- September 22 - The Part Time Party Time Band
- September 29 - The Band of Oz
- October 6 - Special Occasions Band

Thank you to our 2011 Ilderton's Beach Music Blast sponsors!



Clients Served

December 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011

TOTAL FAMILIES AND CHILDREN SERVED	7,896
Families Interested In or Seeking Adoption	1,534
Birth Parents Seeking Counseling	70
Adoptive Placements	171
Older Children	148
Infants	23
Clients Seeking Post Adoption Services	1,105
Families Interested In Providing Foster Care	452
Children with Foster Families	335
Total Days of Foster Care Provided	26,456
Families Receiving In-Home Services	112
Family Support & Self Sufficiency Participants	262
Clients Served through Parenting Education Opportunities	2,030
Teen Pregnancy Prevention Participants	1,551

CHS Adoptions

August 1, 2010 – April 30, 2011

I'Dereis	Age 4	Molly	Age 10	Billy	Age 5
Justin	Age 10	Jenny	Age 3	Cody	Age 10
Zach	Newborn	Isaiih	Age 3	Toby	Age 16
Kala	Age 1	Dacota	Age 5	Trinity	Age 6
DeAsia	Age 3	Chloie	Age 4	Isaiah	Newborn
Patty	Newborn	Syklar	Age 3	Angel	Age 7
Sandra	Age 16	Kaley	Age 4	Keirstyn	Age 10
Kelly	Age 11	Winnie	Newborn	Shawn	Age 1
Pierce	Newborn	Nikeydan	Age 4	Tavia	Age 16
Justin	Age 16	Kylan	Age 7	Hannah	Age 6
Roger	Age 14	Jessica	Age 17	Jordan	Age 13
Hailey	Age 10	Shawn	Age 2	Ty'Shawn	Age 3
Mary	Newborn	Elijah	Age 5	Miguez	Age 7
Nova	Age 11	Anaya	Age 4	Aaron	Newborn
Reese	Newborn	Brooklyn	Newborn	Leann	Age 11
Alfredo	Age 14	Isaiah	Age 3	Ella	Newborn
Andrew	Age 11	Qu'Shawn	Age 3	Alex	Age 13
Michah	Age 8	Calvin	Age 2	Saquesha	Age 13
Jessica	Age 17	Shina	Age 4	Elizabethella	Age 3
Chaniel	Age 17	Alexandria	Age 3	Gabriella	Age 6
Aliana	Newborn	Chase	Age 1	Jamie	Age 5
Jennifer	Age 8	Aiden	Newborn	Hayden	Newborn
Christian	Age 3	Brittany	Age 8	Juan	Age 7
Dymerion	Age 5	Drake	Age 7	Patrick	Age 16
Dytavion	Age 4	James	Age 10	Chandler	Newborn
Courtney	Age 14	Nathaniel	Age 4	Neveah	Age 7
Jesus	Newborn	Christian	Age 10	Aikira	Age 6
Danielle	Age 16	Christa	Newborn	Danasia	Age 2
Enisha	Age 6	Bryan	Age 4	Samantha	Newborn
Monica	Age 12	Brandi	Age 1	Scottie	Age 7
Hunter	Newborn	Brayden	Age 3	Carter	Newborn
Jamorion	Age 2	Nathan	Age 4	Semaj	Age 4
Chole	Age 3	Brandon	Age 8	Nadia	Age 6
Jaykeb	Age 9	Lane	Newborn	Hope	Newborn
Justin	Age 8	Christopher	Age 13	Landon	Age 2
Ashlee	Age 13	Nicholas	Age 13	Moises	Age 4
Cameron	Age 11	Braelyn	Age 3	Quanshetta	Age 10
Alex	Age 13	Jaseka	Age 18	Arianna	Age 3
Ian	Newborn	Kayleigh	Age 1	Jarvis	Age 2



CHS Needs Your Help!

Since 1902, CHS has touched the lives of thousands of children and families in North Carolina. Currently, CHS is building a video library covering all aspects of our programming to help educate the public about the full array of services we provide. As part of this video library, we would love to include client testimonials.

These videos are short 3-5 minute segments, professionally produced in a relaxed, stress-free environment. We want to capture your personality and your story while presenting you in the best light possible. These videos will be used on the CHS website, the CHS Facebook page, and they will be put on DVDs for our staff to use during presentations to the community.

If you have a story you would like to share about how CHS has made a difference in your life, please contact Cindy Knul at cknul@chsnc.org or 1-800-632-1400.

CHS Online

Are you signed up to receive Carolina Children Online? This email newsletter is an extension of our printed Carolina Children. It is distributed on a monthly basis. To sign up, please visit www.chsnc.org. You can also keep up with the latest news and information from CHS by liking our Facebook page!



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Change Service Requested

CHS Offers Outpatient Therapy Services

CHS now offers therapy services to any child, ages 3-21, and any family who is having difficulties dealing with life's challenges. Services are currently being provided in Alamance, Davidson, Guilford, and Rockingham counties. All services are provided by licensed practitioners who specialize in the mental health needs of children and their families or caretakers. It is not necessary to be affiliated with CHS in order to receive treatment.

"We are proud to expand our services from children with foster care and adoption related issues, to the broader community of children," said Alyce Bitticks, NNC,LPC, Program Coordinator for Outpatient Therapy Services. "Our staff is skilled in treating a wide array of mental health issues and we are committed to helping children overcome any obstacles they may face."

CHS offers comprehensive therapy services including mental health assessments and specializing in issues including, but not limited to:

- **Childhood Neglect**
- **Attachment and Trauma**
- **Grief and Loss**
- **Anxiety**
- **Depression**
- **Anger**
- **Behavior Management**
- **Identity Issues**



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CHS offers multiple service locations with flexible appointment scheduling. We accept Medicaid and private insurance.

For more information please call 1-800-632-1400 or visit www.chsnc.org.
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