



# CAROLINA children

## Friendship of Three CHS Supporters Linked Through Adoption

Stories of our families are such a meaningful reminder of our purpose. Greensboro's *MOD Society Magazine* recently featured a story about three close friends who have Children's Home Society as the foundation of their families and their long-standing friendship. CHS Board members, Elizabeth Rankin and Courtenay Fields, and their dear friend Anna Wall, an active CHS community supporter, tell their story that started 50 years ago and continues today.

Upon Anna's adoption through CHS 50 years ago, she was welcomed home to Fayetteville by a small group of family friends that included 11-month-old Elizabeth. The two grew up together and became lifelong

friends. Today they both live in Greensboro and are neighbors. When Elizabeth was considering adoption, Anna's mother encouraged and counseled her through the process and Elizabeth has since adopted two children through CHS.

Enter Courtenay, who adopted her son through CHS and has added to the braid of this friendship. Elizabeth's daughter has two godmothers, Courtenay and Anna. Courtenay's husband is godfather to Elizabeth's son. Elizabeth and her husband are godparents to Courtenay's son.

Elizabeth, Courtenay, and Anna paint a beautiful picture of how adoption has shaped their lives and how adoption has evolved from their experiences with infant adoption to the critical need today for families to foster to adopt and to consider adopting older children or children of different backgrounds.

To read the full article visit [yourmodsociety.com](http://yourmodsociety.com).



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**LEARN MORE** about the stories of CHS families, supporters, and staff that impact us, change us, move us to action.



Children's Home Society  
OF NORTH CAROLINA

Brian K. Maness  
President & CEO

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Springtime at Children's Home Society normally sees a focus on our major fundraising luncheons in Raleigh, Charlotte, and Greensboro. However, this year, under far less-than-normal circumstances, our events took on a new virtual format yet maintained our planned storytelling theme. Through our *Staying at Home with CHS* virtual events, supporters heard stories from our team members, program leaders, clients, supporters, and special guests.

Even in a virtual format, stories capture our attention. They make us think and feel. They bring us together. They inspire us to act. Every child and family touched by CHS has a story to share. An amazing example of this is Judy and Alan Patterson, featured in this issue. Think of the stories the 206 infants they fostered over 40 years and those children's children have to tell.

Elizabeth, Courtenay, and Anna tell their story of 50 years of friendship linked by adoption. Taren shares her story of coming from foster care to face the challenges of raising her own family, knowing that CHS was there to help. Quotes from our children awaiting adoption give you a glimpse into their stories.

While the family stories that come from current times will be different, they are likely to have an even greater focus on family. Thank you for being a part of giving our children and families happy times together, fond memories, and stories to tell.

Please continue to stay safe and well.

My best,

**Brian Maness**  
President & CEO



Brian Maness

**THANK YOU NOTE**  
from a child in CHS care



## CHS Responds to COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CHS quickly established a COVID-19 Response Team to monitor the situation and adapt our policies to adhere to state guidelines while continuing seamless support to our clients.

- Staff shifted to working-remotely status.
- CHS offices were officially closed except to staff as needed to conduct essential business while following safe distancing and CDC hygiene guidelines.
- All group meetings, trainings, and client interactions began being conducted virtually as allowed.
- Those required to have client contact were properly supplied with PPE supplies and instructed to conduct pre-visit health checks.

As the impact of COVID-19 unfolds, CHS will continue to follow state guidelines. Should you have questions, please visit our website for updates or email [COVID19info@chsnc.org](mailto:COVID19info@chsnc.org).

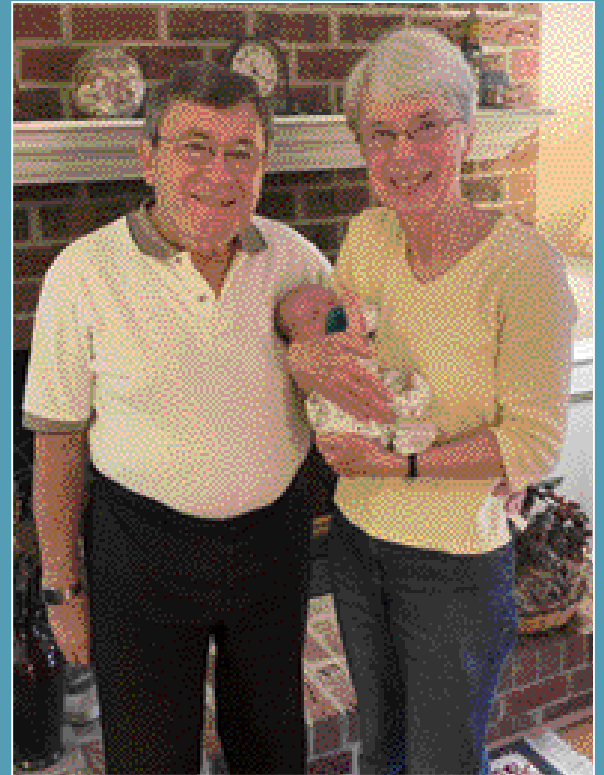
# Couple Fosters 206 Infants Over 40 Years

Just days before their foster care license expired, the day they planned to retire from foster parenting after 40 years, Judy and Alan Patterson welcomed their 206th infant into their home while his adoption plans were being finalized.

The Pattersons began providing foster care for babies in Pennsylvania in 1980 and continued when they moved to Cary in 1999. Judy is a retired neonatal nurse and when she stopped working to be at home with their young children, they decided to become foster parents.

Judy and Alan's Placement Specialist Grace Ramsey shares, "I cannot describe the love and care they gave each infant they cared for, and the time they spent taking pictures, documenting the babies' schedules and needs, and the connections they made with birth parents and adoptive families."

"They are extraordinary in every way and went above and beyond to love each and every baby as they would their own. They have had many babies who were exposed to drugs or who had serious medical issues, and they were able to care for those babies just as they did the healthy ones. They stay in contact with many of the adoptive families that they meet and feel such a connection with every baby they were able to care for."



*Judy and Alan, thank you for the gift you have given to these 206 children, many of whom are now grown with families on their own.*

## LITTLE FREE PEACE PANTRY

### Helps Feed Community



Our own Heidi Minor, CHS Vault Coordinator, inspired by the Little Free Library movement, started the Little Free Peace Pantry. Thanks to the vision of Heidi and her co-founder and the support of their church, the bright purple box lettered with the word "peace" opened in High Point off Penny Road between Samet Drive and Woodpark Road three years ago.

The pantry is just what it sounds like, a small pantry the size of a kitchen cabinet with free non-perishable items for anyone to take. Anyone can drop off items, and anyone can take items. The pantry has become so popular, it has to be refilled every other day. North Carolina ranks 10th in food insecurity nationwide. Nearly 590,000 households do not have enough to eat. Helping families meet their basic needs goes a long way in keeping them healthy and together.

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***"I just thought this was something really neat to do for our community, something that says to the community 'We may not know you, but you might be having a struggle. We care and we want to have this out and available for you.'" — Heidi***

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# A PLACE TO CALL HOME

## *Staying At Home with CHS*

**Our A Place to Call Home gatherings have been a vital source of support each year.** Due to COVID-19, we had to make a hard decision to put our traditional fundraising events on hold this year, which meant we were facing a potential \$1M shortfall in the annual funds that support our children and families.

In lieu of our *A Place to Call Home* luncheon series we invited our supporters to join us for a week-long virtual fundraiser *Staying at Home with Children's Home Society of NC: Storytelling Through Different Perspectives*.

Each day, April 13-17, participants heard highlights about our programs and how they make a difference in the lives of children and families. They heard from our dedicated team members and how their compassion, integrity, and innovation make a difference in the lives of children and families every day. And they heard from partners and clients about their connections to CHS.

The virtual event culminated on Friday, when Allison Maxon, child and family therapist and consultant on the 2018 film *Instant Family* joined us in the morning live via Facebook from Southern California along with Matt Anderson, CHS Leader, to talk about the Power of Storytelling. In the afternoon, Allison and Matt were joined by Sean Anders, director of *Instant Family* for an informal conversation about the making of the movie.



### WE ALSO KNOW SOME OF OUR CHS FAMILIES NEED EXTRA HELP RIGHT NOW.

And, that is why we created the **CHS Family Relief Fund**. 25% of all gifts made through the end of April were directed to provide help for our CHS families who are suffering COVID-19-related economic hardships.

Thanks to our generous supporters we were able to help more than 80 of our families in need.

**You can still support Staying at Home with CHS at [chsnc.org/donate-today/a-place-to-call-home](https://chsnc.org/donate-today/a-place-to-call-home).**

# THANK YOU SPONSORS!

**Staying at Home with CHS** raised over \$220,000 and counting!

That's enough to provide 36 placements for children in need. Your support matters because to donate is to give hope for family.

| \$10,000+ PRESENTING  |                       | \$2,500+ BRONZE                                                                                      |  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|                       |                       | <p><b>\$3,000</b><br/>Gallagher</p>                                                                  |  |
| \$5,000+ SILVER       |                       | <p><b>\$2,500</b><br/>DEX Imaging<br/>Dixon Hughes Goodson, LLP<br/>Craft Insurance Center, Inc.</p> |  |
| <p><b>\$6,000</b></p> | <p><b>\$5,000</b></p> | <p><b>\$1,000 PATRON</b><br/>Centerline Digital</p>                                                  |  |

# INTENSIVE FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES:

## Keeping Families Together

*Our IFPS team will work with more than 450 families this year*

Every year, many families in North Carolina are at imminent risk of out-of-home placement for their children. Children's Home Society's Intensive Family Preservation Services (IFPS) can make the difference in keeping families together.

"The purpose of the program is to keep families together – to empower the families we work with to parent their children in a safe and loving manner," said Renee Wilson, IFPS Program Supervisor. "We want to be able to pull on the strengths of the family – every family has something they are good at – we want those strengths to empower the family."

The program is considered intensive because specialists spend at least 10 hours per week working one-on-one with the families for 28 days. The program model allows for a deeper view of the family as a whole.

Freddie Paige, IFPS Specialist, says, "When I think of 'intensive' it's about always being available. I'm there 24/7 even if it's just to have a conversation. Sometimes it just takes a conversation when the anxiety rolls in, to have a sounding board to help maneuver through the process."

Specialists also work to help clients navigate community resources so that they can succeed after case closure at 28 days and beyond.

"A lot of our services are based on helping families meet concrete needs," says Renee. "If you are going to be evicted next week, you're not listening to what I'm telling you about your parenting skills. We try to knock out those concrete needs so we can then focus on the parenting. But, most of the time we are doing this simultaneously, so if we are driving to look for your next house, we are also talking about how you can talk with your children better."

An IFPS Client, Taren, who was also a youth in foster care, says when her family became at-risk, "All of the things that happened to me as a child came back. You don't want that for your children. CHS was the best thing that happened to me in that situation."

### IFPS FAMILIES STILL INTACT:

**99%** at Case Closure

**94%** at Six Months

**94%** at 12 Months



*"It's a good feeling when you leave, you leave a footprint, a positive footprint."*

**Freddie**



*"I got the feeling of being a person and not a case."*

**Taren**



*"At CHS, we believe in families. We believe in families to be able to rebound, reconnect, rebuild."*

**Renee**

# CHS CELEBRATES WOMEN IN PHILANTHROPY



L to R: Dianne Chipps Bailey, Managing Director of Philanthropic Solutions, Bank of America; Jenny Ward, Charlotte Community Relations Manager, Bank of America; Peyton Hostetler, event host; Kristen Smalley, CHS VP of Philanthropy

In February, CHS hosted its first Women in Philanthropy event in Charlotte where an impassioned group of women gathered to celebrate and discuss women in philanthropy, their roles through the years, and the meaningful impact they have on our communities.

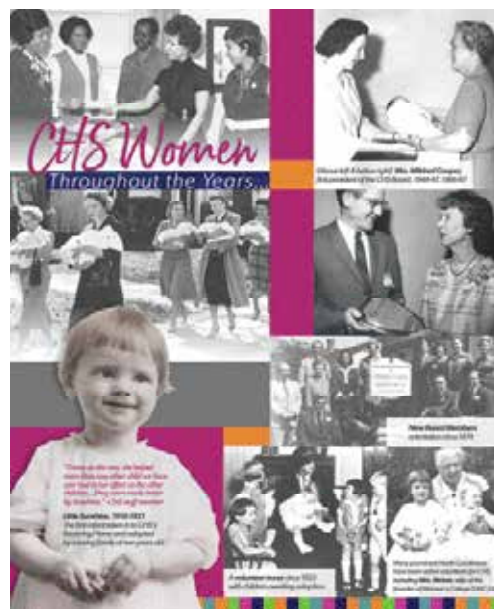
Bank of America kindly sponsored the event held at the home of Peyton Hostetler, and CHS was very fortunate to have Dianne Chipps Bailey, Managing Director of Philanthropic Solutions at Bank of America, lead the discussion. Dianne shared what motivates women to become involved with an organization, how they give, and why women need to continue the charge.

“Charitable giving makes everyone happy, but women even more so” said Dianne. “We give more and we volunteer more. What I believe about women and their power in philanthropy is that we are better when we are together. Women are the answer.”

Children’s Home Society Vice President of Philanthropy Kristen Smalley added that CHS has a proud history of

women in leadership and philanthropic roles, a tradition that continues today. CHS staff is comprised of 84 percent women. “Generations of mothers and daughters have been impacted by our dedication to children and families and are committed to our mission to promote the right of every child to a permanent, safe, and loving family.”

The event came to a close as Dianne asked those in the room to share what about philanthropy gives them joy and makes them feel most fulfilled. Attendees shared their stories with the group and while each was unique, there was a common theme: community. Giving of our time, talent, and treasure makes us feel more connected and stronger as a community.



Hostetler commented on the event, “It was my honor to bring together this gathering of notable community philanthropists who are not only making a difference in the lives of children and families through support of Children’s Home Society but are strengthening the fabric of our entire community.”



## CHS PLACING GREATER EMPHASIS ON

# SHARED PARENTING & REUNIFICATION

CHS has worked in partnership with Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago to develop a leading-edge practice model to build on the strengths of its Foster Care to Permanency program. A CHS and Chapin Hall team, as well as foster parents, birth parents, and youth with foster care experience, partnered to develop this practice model with the goal of improving stability, permanency, and well-being outcomes for the children in our care, and beyond. This work has led CHS to a focus on a few specific areas including shared parenting and reunification.



*Jaquia Wilson and Matt Anderson*

At CHS, we believe that children do best when they grow up in a family, and that the goal of our program is to create the best opportunity for children to leave foster care and transition to a permanent family, whether it be through reunification, guardianship with relatives or fictive kin, or adoption.

"Our work in developing the practice model and creating an intentional process for what's best for the child in the system we work in has prompted a shift in our role in reunification," said Matt Anderson, CHS Vice President of Programs. "Since we began this process, we have seen a significant increase in the number of our youth reunified with their families of origin. We want to continue to partner with others to lead a shift in practice that supports birth parents in their goal to reunify with their children."

Reunification is the first desired outcome for children and their families involved in the foster care system. When children are removed from their family of origin, they experience a tremendous loss. They are

separated from not only their family, but their friends, their school, their community, and their culture. By prioritizing reunification and shared parenting, we can create opportunities for the birth family to remain engaged with their children while they are placed in out-of-home care. Foster parents become partners with birth parents in the everyday care of their children, helping them to remain connected, dignified, and empowered in their role as a parent.

"Families come in all shapes and sizes, and blended families are important," said Jaquia Wilson, alumni of foster care and SaySo (Strong

Able Youth Speaking Out) Community Engagement Coordinator. "Young people in foster care should have more rather than fewer people in their lives. Youth shouldn't be forced to choose between foster parents and birth family. They should be helped to learn how to navigate all of the complicated, important, and even unhealthy relationships in their lives."

Additionally, the children can see their birth parents and foster parents work in partnership to meet their needs. Foster parents can also play a mentoring role to birth parents as they work to reunify with their children. CHS is fully committed to supporting the successful reunification of children in foster care to their families, and shared parenting is an excellent way to strengthen these efforts.

"It's about finding the best solution for the child and their family, and how we keep them intact with all the meaningful relationships they have, have had, and will have," Anderson added.

## CHILDREN AWAITING ADOPTION



*Amber, 17*

*"I've always wanted to be a veterinarian...I believe that behind every animal is a person that you can help."*



*Christopher, 17*

*"I have a lot of shoes. Probably about 15 pairs. When I'm older I'd like to have a hundred pairs."*



*Jataeviz, 11*

*"I LOVE basketball, and I want to be a basketball player when I grow up."*



*Kamry, 13*

*"I want to be a dancer, I want to be a lawyer, I want to be a judge...I want to be the president!"*

Please visit [www.chsnc.org](http://www.chsnc.org) for more information about these and many other children who are available for adoption.



Children's Home Society  
OF NORTH CAROLINA

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# EVERY CHILD DESERVES A LOVING HOME.



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### MISSION

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

### VISION

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

### CORE VALUES

Compassion. Integrity. Excellence. Innovation.