

# CELEBRATE

## *New Beginnings*



**Children's  
Home Society**  
*of North Carolina*

2020 Annual Report



# A Year of Accomplishment LEADS TO A YEAR OF *Hopefulness*

While 2020 will be remembered for many life-changing events, the new year brings hope in the new beginnings created during a tumultuous year. The year 2020 brought a number of noteworthy accomplishments for Children's Home Society through our support of more than 22,000 families by educating and preserving families, supporting children and families through transitions, and creating new families.

The new year also sees the launch of the new branding of Children's Home Society to propel the strength of the CHS brand into the next era for our organization. Under the positioning of Championing Family Well-Being, we are helping families grow healthy and strong by connecting them to the tools, skills, and knowledge critical for their well-being.

The pillars of our new branding are well demonstrated in the stories you will read. Cindy and Danielle began their journey with a dedication to foster care which resulted in a new forever family. Satoko put her trust in our family preservation support to keep her family intact and thriving, even through temporary homelessness as a result of COVID-19. Our HealthySteps team remained steadfast in their collaboration with one another and their pediatric partners to ensure a strong foundation is built in early childhood development. Adopted from foster care as a teen, Haven has found a passion in honoring the differences of and engaging with the elderly. After many years in foster care, 16-year-old Brandon was reluctant about adoption until he found just the right family. And Trestan, at 24, reimagined and reengineered his family when he adopted his 11-year-old cousin.

Thank you to each of these families for sharing their stories that bring us inspiration and hope in the coming year. And thank you to each of you who make these stories possible.



**Cathy Levinson**  
Chair, Board of Trustees



**Brian K. Maness**  
President & CEO

## Championing Family Well-Being

LEAD WITH  
EMPATHY

GUIDED BY  
EVIDENCE AND  
DRIVEN BY  
RESULTS

MAKE  
PROGRESS  
TOGETHER

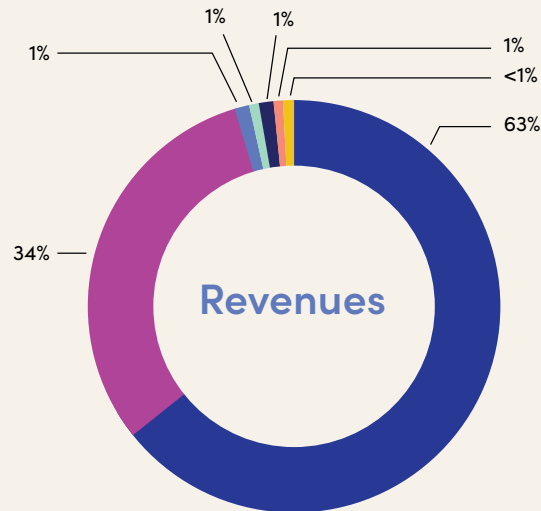
HONOR  
DIFFERENCES

NEVER  
SETTLE

REIMAGINE  
AND  
REENGINEER

# 2020 Financials

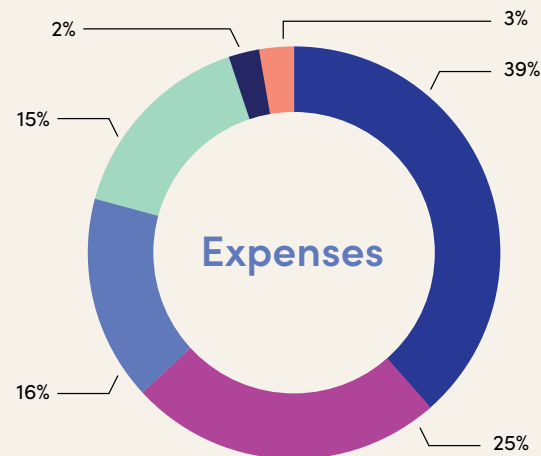
Children's Home Society of North Carolina, Inc.  
and Children's Home Society Foundation, Inc.  
Consolidated Statement of Activities  
for the Year Ended June 30, 2020.



● Governmental Contracts    ● Private Foundations and Contributions    ● Program Fees    ● Events  
 ● Investment Income    ● Other Income    ● Realized/Unrealized Loss on Investments (Net)

## Revenues

Governmental Contracts	\$19,417,422
Private Foundations and Contributions	\$10,646,819
Program Fees	\$266,123
Events	\$165,373
Investment Income	\$443,309
Other Income	\$42,382
Realized/Unrealized Loss on Investments (Net)	(\$97,563)
<b>Total Public Support, Revenue and Releases</b>	<b>\$30,883,865</b>



● Foster Care    ● Permanency    ● Family Support    ● Education    ● Administration    ● Fundraising

## Expenses

### Program Services

Foster Care	\$9,766,098
Permanency	\$6,189,597
Family Support	\$3,937,243
Education	\$3,826,336
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$23,719,274</b>

### Supporting Services

Administration	\$649,547
Fundraising	\$887,008
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>\$1,536,555</b>

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$25,255,829</b>
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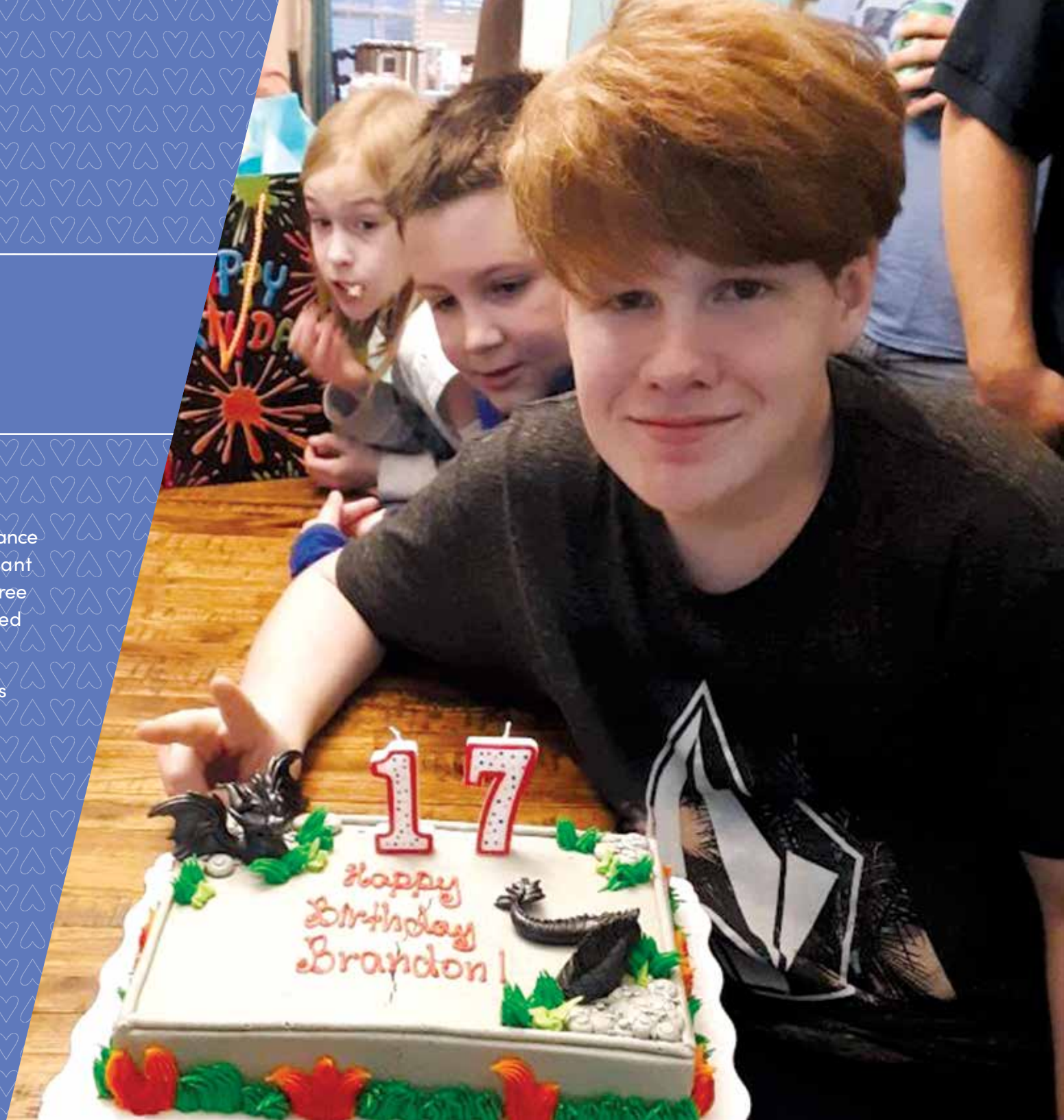


**Brandon**

## *Grounded by New Relationships*

Brandon entered care at 3 years old due to parental substance abuse, parental mental health issues, and significant neglect. After a number of foster care placements and three failed adoptions, he was referred to our Child-Focused Recruitment program as a teenager in 2019.

Brandon's recruiter reached out to several family members and past connections but received little response. So, the recruiter began efforts to identify a family who was interested in adopting and who would be the best fit for him. Brandon was very engaging with his recruiter but was reluctant about the idea of adoption.





## Brightening Futures with Child-Focused Recruitment

Child-Focused Recruitment is a model that connects children in foster care to extended family – sharing genetic, legal, or social relationships – or an adoptive family uniquely suited for the youth. By helping older children experience the joy of family, we can give them the opportunity to grow, learn, dream, and imagine a brighter future ahead.

# 825

youth served by the CHS Child-Focused Recruitment program, which focuses on finding adoptive families for the oldest and longest-waiting children in foster care. 82% in the program were placed with families.



Older children served in this model are 3x more likely to be adopted.

*"I was happy to find him a mother who was strawberry blonde and has freckles just like him. That meant a lot to him."*

Brandon's Child-Focused Recruiter

## Finding Family with an Instant Connection

The Nelson family made an inquiry on the CHS website about a 16-year-old named Brandon. But they were told by his recruiter that he did not want to be adopted. They all agreed that if Brandon was willing, they could at least just get to know him and be a source of support. After meeting Brandon for the first time, the Nelson family felt that they had an instant connection.

The family understood that Brandon needed to go slowly, and they let him decide when and how long visits would be. The Nelsons never put any pressure on Brandon to be placed with them or to be adopted. During his visit in March 2020, Brandon asked if he could stay with the Nelsons and not return to his group home. DSS approved a long respite placement. After the respite, Brandon knew that the Nelsons were the perfect family for him, and that he wanted them to adopt him. His adoption was finalized in December 2020.





## Pierre-Louis Family

### *New Ways to Parent in Difficult Times*

Satoko Pierre-Louis is a mom to four. She needed support with her two adolescents to help her implement effective discipline skills. Initially, Satoko was reluctant to discuss her children with the Intensive Family Preservation Specialist. However, the Specialist was able to establish a rapport with the family. Through multiple visits, the Specialist learned more about the family dynamics in the home and the relationship between Satoko and her teenagers.

While working with the family, the Specialist identified and focused on strengths and addressed needs as well. Satoko was committed and diligent in her goal to better her relationship with her children and learn better parenting techniques.





## Keeping Strong with Family Preservation Services

Family Preservation Services improve family functioning with a goal of keeping children with their own family. By strengthening families, we can prevent children from being removed from their homes. Through this program, preservation services are provided for a period of 28 days, 10 hours per week, with a minimum of 40 service hours to address the specific needs of the family.

# 98%

of families remained intact  
at case closure.



465 families and 1,167 youth  
received support from Family  
Preservation Services in 2020



*"I loved working with my Specialist. I really liked how she was there for me. I felt cared about and empowered. The program saved my life. I went from being homeless to obtaining stable housing and learned how to discipline my children safely. I'm grateful for all the resources and assistance."*

**Satoko Pierre-Louis**

## Homeless from COVID Leads to Help

During their time in the program, the family became homeless due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Specialist and Satoko were successful in locating housing for the family, therefore, eliminating a stressor on the family. Together, the Specialist and Satoko created a budgeting and savings plan so that she would be prepared for the upcoming payments on the apartment and other bills.

The Specialist successfully helped the family reach their goals and ultimately prevented the youth from entering foster care. Satoko shared that she will continue to practice the things she learned and is grateful for the experience.



# HealthySteps

## *Early Support for New Arrivals*

A CHS Prenatal Community Navigator met a pregnant mom who also has a 3-year-old child. The mother mentioned having some concerns about her 3-year-old's development. So, she was connected to one of the CHS HealthySteps Specialists at her pediatrician's practice to discuss 3-year developmental milestones.

The mom had concerns about her daughter's speech because she often speaks very quickly and what she says is not understandable even to her parents.







## Starting out on Healthy Steps

For children up to age three, we partner our HealthySteps specialists with pediatric providers to offer information and support to parents during the first few years of their child's life. From meeting with parents during pediatric well-visits to offering guidance on feeding, sleep, behavior, and adjusting to life with a little one, we help parents feel confident in their child-rearing abilities.

# 6,092

families supported through  
8 pediatric sites



## Connecting Parents to Resources that Work

The Specialist sent mom resources on developmental milestones, and after a detailed discussion, it was determined that there could be cause for concern with communication. They agreed the best next step would be to share notes from the conversation with the primary care physician to prompt further discussion.

The primary care physician contacted mom to discuss options and provided a referral for speech therapy. Thanks to collaboration among CHS team members and partnerships with pediatricians, education in early childhood development is setting the foundation for future success.



*"Our parent education teams work collaboratively to bring their experience and knowledge together, along with our community partners, for comprehensive support for children and families. With thoughtfulness and intention, our parent educators coordinate efforts in providing prevention-based parent education and promoting healthy child development."*

**Lori Pelletier**  
Parent Education Program Supervisor

Early intervention, maternal mental health, and early child care were areas of need that most benefited from HealthySteps.

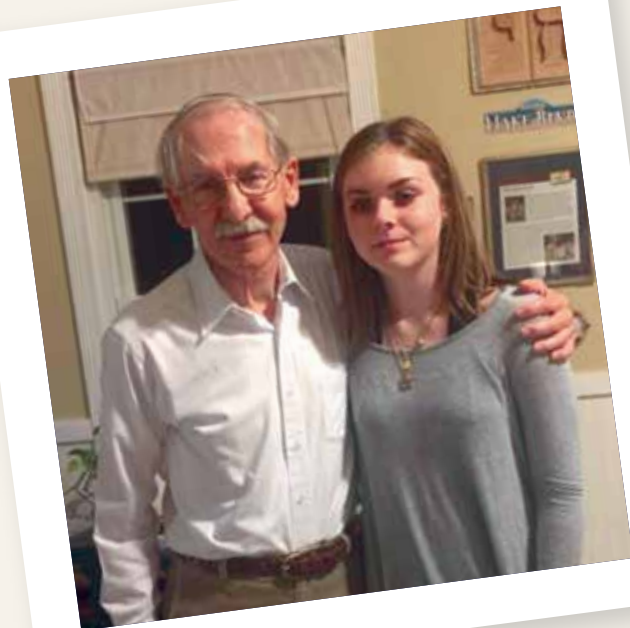
**Haven**

## *A New Start & Fresh Perspective*

Haven and her adoptive mom have a common passion – witnessing the joy on the faces of senior adults when they spend time engaging with younger folks. What started as participation in a program that introduces teens to the benefits of intergenerational relationships with seniors by visiting senior living facilities, has blossomed into a real area of interest for Haven – one that brings her tremendous peace and joy.







Since 1902, CHS has placed more than 16,000 children with their permanent, safe, and loving families.

# 1,753

clients have been helped through recruitment of foster and adoptive parents, pre-placement assessments, and training and preparation of families.

## Starting a New Chapter with Fresh Awareness

Being placed in foster care at 12 and adopted at 14, Haven who is now 15 years old, has already overcome more challenges than most face in a lifetime, yet she chooses to look at the bright side and to spend time adding joy to the lives of others. She maintains a sunny disposition, is grateful for opportunities to connect with her community, and enjoys performing acts of kindness.

*"Yes, there are differences between people who are elderly and me. But those differences are small in comparison to our similarities. Because we can learn so much from one another and enjoy being together, I know the world really is a better place."*

**From Haven's prize-winning essay written about her experiences connecting with seniors**



*Haven and her Permanency Specialist Samantha Seabock the day after her adoption*



## James and Becca

### *Thrilled to Be a New Family*

When James, 7, and Becca, 4, came into our foster care program, in an effort to find just the right family for them, they were placed with Cindy and Danielle. Cindy and Danielle had previously had a foster care placement of two children who were reunified with their birth family, and due to their great work with those children, they were seen as an ideal foster care and potential adoption fit for James and Becca.







Our support services begin with a 30-hour intensive training program that helps possible foster parents decide whether fostering is right for them.

Foster Care services were provided to

# 1,088

children, putting them on a path to reunification with their family of origin, relative guardianship, or a permanent adoptive family.

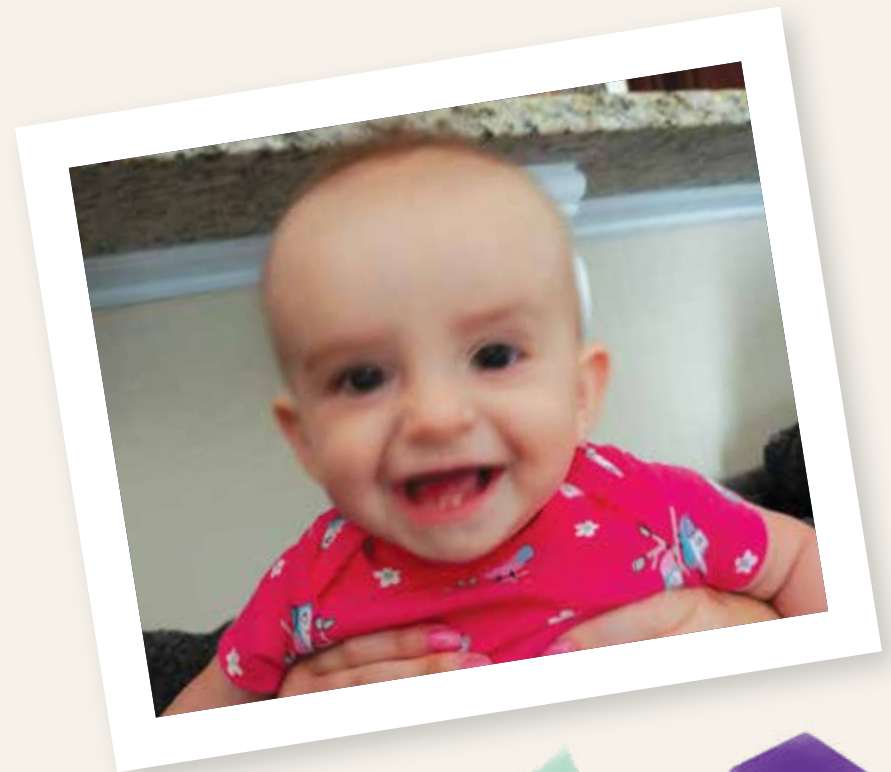


## Turning Fostering into Adoption

These foster moms have done a wonderful job in helping the children process not being able to return to their birth mother and have ensured their contact with her continues. Through the foster care process, it became evident for all that they were an ideal adoption fit as well, and James and Becca's adoption was completed in October.

*"Cindy and Danielle are a perfect example of parents who stand by their children in the hardest moments, showing them nothing but patience and kindness."*

**Jessica Frisina**  
CHS Placement Specialist





**Trestan**

## *Building a Family with New Energy*

Trestan was only 24 years old when he found out his 11-year-old cousin Tyreal was living in a group home. Tyreal's father had recently passed away and his mother was struggling and unable to care for him. At the time, Trestan and his girlfriend were raising their 6-month-old daughter and living what he describes as a "pretty normal life." He felt compelled to step up and take action, so he began putting the pieces in place to start the adoption process. He traveled every other weekend to visit his cousin in the group home and began a journey that would forever change his life.







## Bridging Families Through Kinship

Relative Care, or Kinship Care, refers to children who are placed in the home of a relative or close family friends after they are removed from their parents' care. By keeping children with adults they already know and trust, we can ease the transition to a new family and help preserve their existing, meaningful relationships.

# 2,240

North Carolina youth in Kinship placements last year. Relative Caregivers are a critical resource for children and teens in our state. Research has shown that relative placements help minimize trauma and strengthen family bonds.

## New Challenges Create Deeper Bonds

Not long after going through with the adoption, Trestan unexpectedly became a single parent, and he noticed the challenges facing Tyreal as he adjusted to the new situation. As long as he knew Tyreal felt wanted, Trestan felt he was succeeding as a parent. The two began to bond over common interests like video games, but for Trestan, the most important thing was having open communication.

When Trestan decided to adopt Tyreal, he had no experience caring for an older child, but he did not let that stop him. "I knew I was the person who had to step up. Tyreal needed to be with family. If I didn't do it, who else would?"

*"No matter your age, if you know that you can do something for a family member or another person, do it. It puts a smile on their face, and they will know that they are wanted."*

Trestan



Please visit [instituteforfamily.org](https://instituteforfamily.org) to read Trestan's full story, as well as other transformative and inspiring family stories.



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Brian K. Maness  
*President & CEO*

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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.*

