

Carolina Children

CHS Charts Strategic Direction To Advance Child And Family Well-Being

At Children's Home Society we believe that family is the number one determinant of child well-being and success. With that as our motivation, we have launched our new five-year strategic plan.

Children and families in North Carolina face numerous challenges:



102,718

children had investigated reports of possible abuse and neglect in North Carolina in 2019.*



17,039

children were placed in foster care in 2019.*



60%

of foster care entries are due to reasons of neglect.



1.5

years is the average length of stay in foster care and likely to increase.



450+

youth age out of foster care every year.

We envision a world where every family is supported by trusted resources that lead to equitable opportunities for enduring family success.

To that end, we have set two goals:

- 1) keep children safely with their families whenever possible, and
- 2) support children in foster care to achieve excellent outcomes.

Our plan will focus on 3 key areas:

Expand high quality direct services to children and families

Influence systems to advance prevention and family preservation

Strengthen CHS

Our plan will directly improve the lives of over 100,000 children:

Strengthening families
95,000 CHILDREN

Preserving families
5,000 CHILDREN

Helping foster youth achieve permanency
3,000 YOUTH

*Source: Prevent Child Abuse NC

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

LEARN MORE about how our CHS families, supporters, and staff remain committed to our children now more than ever.



Brian K. Maness
President & CEO

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During a year that continues to present challenges, the important work of our staff and community partners continues. We are excited to share the launch of our new Strategic Plan, which focuses on strengthening families and improving child well-being. Family is an integral part of supporting a child's physical, emotional, and cognitive health. Within our plan, we will work to support families before instability leads to crises. We will continue to be a mission-driven problem solver that not only helps families thrive but champions the understanding that stronger families create stronger communities.

In this issue of Carolina Children, you will read more about our focus on family-strengthening and prevention. It is our vision that every family is supported by trusted resources that lead to equitable opportunities for enduring family success. We know that more can be done to support families earlier so that children can safely stay with their families whenever possible. Our newly implemented Community Navigation program works with parents who are expecting and those who have children up to age 3 to support healthy early childhood development. Our youth led SaySo program provides a support group and educational resource for teens in the foster care system to prevent the negative repercussions of aging out. And we will continue our commitment to support children in care, like Ella, to achieve the best outcomes with thoughtful solutions like shared parenting.

CHS is ready for this challenge – with organizational and community leadership, a clear plan, and alignment with stakeholders, we will positively impact the lives of over 100,000 children.

Thank you, always, for your support of our work on behalf of children and families.

My best,

Brian Maness
President & CEO



Brian Maness

November is National Adoption Month

National Adoption Month seeks to increase awareness of adoption issues, bring attention to the need for adoptive families for older youth in foster care, and emphasize the value of youth engagement.

Each year, awareness-raising efforts are focused on an adoption-related theme to help support professionals working each day to find permanent families for children and youth in foster care in their community. This year's National Adoption Month theme is "Conversations Matter." Promoting youth engagement can start with a simple conversation. Listen to what the young person has to say, what their goals are, and how they feel about adoption. Create an environment where they can be honest and ask questions, and feel they have a say in making decisions about their life.

Take Ella, who came into the care of foster parents Darcy and Will. Shaken and unsure coming out of an unstable

family situation, she was still yearning for the life she imagined with her birth family. "This was a connection that needed to be honored," says Will. "So, we have embraced shared parenting. We want her to maintain her identity and her history."

"We have now adopted Ella but maintain an ongoing relationship with her birth mother," adds Darcy. "We have a shared album where we can post photos of Ella's activities and art projects, and Mom can post photos of her time with Ella."

Children's Home Society has celebrated more than 16,000 adoptions since 1902. With over 12,000 children in foster care in our state, and 450-plus aging out each year, we continue to work tirelessly in our mission to promote the right of every child to a permanent, safe, and loving family.



CHS Implementing New Early Childhood Development Program

Children's Home Society has been selected to be the lead implementing organization for a Guilford County-wide Community Navigation program to work with expectant parents and parents of children birth to age 3 to connect them with resources that support healthy family relationships and early child development.

A team of Community Navigators is being hired to work at obstetrician offices and other community sites to meet with and listen to families, conduct assessments to clarify family needs when appropriate, and provide connections to resources. CHS is also partnering with other organizations to coordinate delivery of Navigation across programs to support the important relationships families have with their obstetricians.

This work is being done as part of Ready for School, Ready for Life (Ready Ready). Ready Ready is working to create systems change for young children in Guilford County by helping connect services and scale effective programs to meet all the needs in the community.

The CHS HealthySteps program is also part of our early work in collaboration with Ready Ready. HealthySteps provides parent education in Guilford County pediatric practices to help parents learn strategies to promote healthy development and growth.



Much of this work is supported by the Duke Endowment, which is funding and involved in developing this innovative approach to early childhood development. This collaboration is exploring how a community-wide, coordinated effort can create lasting community-level change.

"The Community Navigation Program is just one way we are collaborating to provide innovative support to families," said Rebecca Starnes, CHS Vice President of Programs. "This program identifies what services families need, what is available and how it is accessed, and how to connect families to these services, all in an effort to keep families healthy and thriving to support early child development."

Event Brings Family and Friends Together To Sip & Support CHS

Christie Luckenbach has been a member of the Children's Home Society family from an early age when Dr. Harry and Peggy Killian adopted her as an infant through CHS. The family ties only deepened when the Killians added to their family again, adopting her brother, Matt, through CHS three years later.

A tight knit family, the Killians have been a strong foundation for each other. The Killians' extended family grew even further through CHS when CHS helped Christie and her husband Eric with the adoption of their two sons. "I was once again welcomed in as a part of the CHS family," Christie shared.

The Killians and the Luckenbachs know from their experience how a family can grow, thrive, and flourish through CHS and how they will be emotionally and practically supported along the way. The enduring love and vital foundation of



Hosts Christie, Jen, and Eric

a family resulted in a special gathering to honor Christie and Matt's late father, Dr. Harry Killian, his generous spirit, and his passion for wine.

Christie and Eric, along with Jen Parrish of *Jen Parrish Wine Merchant* in Asheboro, were hosts of a lovely evening of wine sampling and a silent auction from Dr. Killian's private collection benefiting CHS. The Asheboro event raised enough funds to complete four adoptions. That's four children who will find their permanent, safe, and loving families thanks to the generosity of their guests.



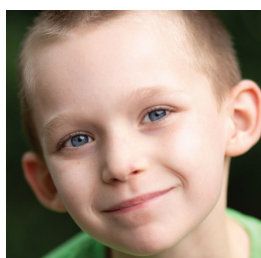
Thank you to our hosts who created this evening for their friends. If you have an idea with your friends to benefit the children and families of CHS, please contact Arianna Bannerman at abannerman@chsnc.org.

CHILDREN AWAITING ADOPTION

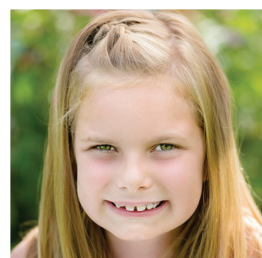
Please visit www.chsnc.org for more information about these and many other children who are available for adoption.



Alex, 14
outgoing and creative



Austin, 11
funny and energetic



Cassy, 11
unicorns, glitter
and rainbows



Julissa, 16
enjoys exploring
new places

KidsCare4Kids Hosts Fundraiser at Ben & Jerry's to Support SaySo Youth

KidsCare4Kids is a nonprofit that partners with CHS's SaySo Program to provide scholarships to youth in the SaySo program. The scholarships are distributed once a year during our annual event called SaySo Saturday.

In August, KidsCare4Kids hosted a fundraiser at Ben & Jerry's where a portion of all the ice cream sales benefited the SaySo scholarship fund. In addition to the ice cream fundraiser, the group also sold raffle tickets for items such as a wine basket, gym passes, massages, and jewelry.

During set-up and over the course of the day the owner of Ben & Jerry's at Friendly Center in Greensboro dropped in "undercover" to find out what was happening, buying ice cream and raffle tickets. We didn't know until the end of the event that he was the owner.

SaySo, Strong Able Youth Speaking Out, is a statewide association of youth who are in or have experienced out-of-home care. SaySo works to improve substitute care by educating the community, speaking out about needed changes, and providing support to fellow youth in foster care.



Ben & Jerry's owner Antonio, second from left back row, joins KidsCare4Kids and SaySo volunteers to celebrate the success of the event.

Looking for a way to make an impact for children and families across NC?

Visit chsnc.org/get-involved or email philanthropy@chsnc.org to discover how you can share your unique time, talent, and treasure with Children's Home Society.

Benefiting



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

5th Annual

Holiday Soirée

Saturday, December 4, 7:30pm
Join us virtually – in your home or with friends!

More to Follow...

Save the Date



Hope for the Holidays

For the more than **650 children** living in foster care with Children's Home Society of NC (CHS), many are not able to celebrate the holidays with their families. CHS is working hard to ensure that all children in our care have a reason to celebrate. It has never been more important for CHS to collect and distribute gifts and we need your help!

How You Can Make A Difference:

Beginning **November 1**, select a child(ren) from our **Hope for the Holidays** web page and fulfill the child(ren)'s wish list(s) by spending a pre-determined amount for each child based on age. We also welcome the donation of gift cards (preferably Visa, Target, Walmart, or general retailer) so that a parent or child can select the perfect gift. In light of COVID-19, we are making modifications to the program to ensure the safety of our donors, families, and staff.

We suggest the following gift amounts, based upon the child's age:

Infants (0-2) _____	\$75	Elementary (6-12) _____	\$150
Preschoolers (3-5) _____	\$125	Teenagers (13-21) _____	\$175

chsnc.org/hopefortheholidays

Don't have time to shop? You can make an impact in a child's life by making a monetary donation, please visit:

chsnc.org/donate



We Believe In Families | chsnc.org | 800.632.1400

FAMILIES *are our* FUTURE



For years, communities have come together to support our mission through The Little Red Stocking Fund.

The number of NC children in foster care continues to rise. Join us in ensuring all children have a permanent, safe, and loving family.

CHS PUTS CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE ON A PATH TO:
reunification with their family of origin, relative guardianship, or an adoptive family.

*We have been here for families
for 120 years.*

**OUR FAMILIES. OUR FUTURE.
DEPEND ON YOU.**

DONATE

to the Little Red Stocking Fund:
chsnc.org/lrs



CHS is Always Looking for **TALENTED STAFF** *to Join Our Family*

With the bold plans outlined in our new Strategic Plan and our aggressive goals to expand our high quality services to children and families, we are looking to build on the strong foundation of the staff we have in place. The work that we do encompasses preventative education, preservation of families, reuniting immediate or extended families, and creating new families.

If you are, or know of, a professional with experience in one of these areas, please visit: chsnc.org/careers to learn more about job opportunities available at CHS.



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

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*There are some pretty
awesome children out there
waiting for the love and
care you can provide.*

Become a Foster Parent.



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

Children's Home Society of NC (CHS) provides families with the support and resources they need to be a forever family, whether by offering **family-centered services** that equip families to safely care for their children, or by creating new families through **foster care** and **adoption**.

Find Out More Today: chsnc.org | 800.632.1400



MISSION

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

VISION

*Every family is supported by trusted
resources that lead to equitable opportunities
for enduring family success.*

CORE VALUES

*Compassion. Integrity.
Excellence. Innovation.*

Asheville • Burlington • Charlotte • Fayetteville • Greensboro • Greenville • Morganton • Raleigh • Wilmington • Winston-Salem