

# STRENGTHENING FAMILIES



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

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

# *A Year of* **STRENGTHENING FAMILIES**

In a time of many challenges, today we celebrate finishing 2021 with strength and looking forward to the future. It is only with the support of many in our CHS community that last year 15,000 children and families were served, with almost 400 children leaving foster care to become a part of loving, permanent families. We also launched our next guiding strategy, a bold and ambitious 11-point plan envisioning a better future for many North Carolina children and their families.

Throughout the plan's creation, we emphasized and embraced our identity as a mission-driven problem solver. And that mission – to promote the right of every child to a permanent, safe, and loving family – is at the heart of all we do today and our continuing commitment to strong families long into the future.

Each of the families featured in this Annual Report has a story of strength. The strength to realize when you can't do it alone. The strength to let someone into your home and then into your heart. The strength that comes with the bonds between parents and children. The strength to focus on the good things, even while emerging from a crisis.

As we bring the vision of the strategic plan to life, we build on an already strong foundation. We will expand programs and outreach to give children, parents, and families the tools to build their own strong foundations, while also planning how to reach many more families even earlier in their challenges. And as a member of our CHS community, we also recognize how you bring strength to the foundations our families are building. Many, many thanks for all you do for family!



**15,000**  
*children and  
families were  
served in 2021*

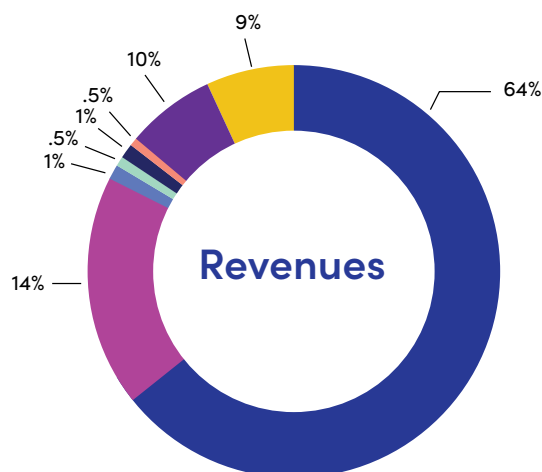


**David Shuford**  
*Chair, Board of Trustees*



**Brian K. Maness**  
*President & CEO*

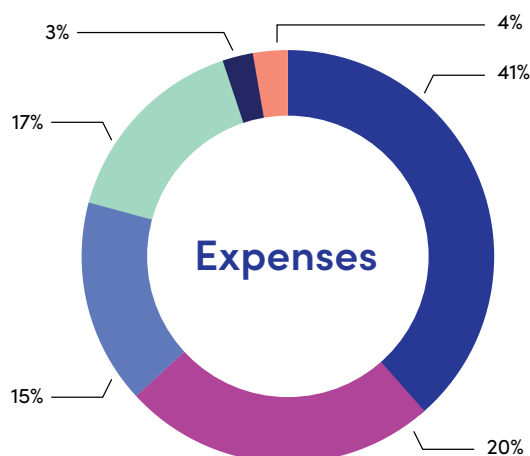
# 2021 FINANCIALS



● Governmental Contracts ● Private Foundations and Contributions  
● Other Income ● Payment Protection Program Forgiveness

## Revenues

Governmental Contracts	\$19,310,934
Private Foundations and Contributions	\$4,350,960
Program Fees	\$309,633
Events	\$145,937
Investment Income	\$311,159
Other Income	\$18,112
Paycheck Protection Program Forgiveness	\$3,131,800
Realized/Unrealized Gain on Investments (Net)	\$2,815,221
<b>Total Public Support, Revenue and Releases</b>	<b>\$30,393,756</b>



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

## Expenses

### Program Services

Foster Care	\$10,553,395
Permanency	\$5,099,429
Family Support	\$3,889,773
Education	\$4,254,772
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$23,797,369</b>

### Supporting Services

Administration	\$816,819
Fundraising	\$1,061,149
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>\$1,877,968</b>

**Total Expenses** **\$25,675,337**

# STRENGTH TO TEAM UP

## *Shared Parenting Leads to Reunification*

Youth who have been removed from their home and placed in foster care need positive connections with their birth parents and other family members to maintain the integrity of these relationships – in hopes that they will be able to return home.

Foster parents, in particular, play a critical role in cultivating relationships with birth parents by supporting child and parent visitation to increase the likelihood of successful reunification.

### OUR FOSTER CARE TO PERMANENCY PROGRAM

*improves outcomes for children in foster care by being intensely focused on child well-being, including comprehensive care and lifelong permanency, whether through reunification with their family of origin, relative guardianship, or a permanent adoptive family.*

CHS FOSTER CARE  
SPECIALISTS SERVED:

1,129 YOUTH



## Braylen, Naveah, and Their Two Families

After living with a foster family for several years, Braylen and Naveah are now back home with their biological mother and father thanks to shared parenting. Through shared parenting, foster parents cultivate positive, supportive relationships with birth parents, which ultimately benefits the children. Braylen and Naveah are able to share smiles and enjoy experiences with both their foster parents and Mom and Dad.

"I made it my mission that I was going to do whatever I needed to do to make sure they were coming home with us," says mom Elizabeth. "I worked with foster mom Robbi, and we all made sure it happened."

It didn't take long before they established a relationship. They began sharing activities with the kids like school events, helping with school projects, and going to doctor appointments. They began having shared discussions on decisions about the kids like school matters and discipline.

"We saw how involved they wanted to be with their children," Robbi said. "We all make mistakes and go through different journeys in our lives. We saw the love for their children come though."

*"We have been so blessed for these kids to call us their foster parents. They are part of our family now, as well as their parents, and we look forward to seeing them grow up and sharing in their successes along the way."*

**Foster Mother Robbi**



# STRENGTH TO IMPROVE

## *Intensive Family Preservation*

Intensive Family Preservation Services (IFPS) are designed to prevent children from being removed from their homes by strengthening families before they reach a crisis.

These family-centered services empower, prepare, and equip families to safely care for, protect, and provide for their children. Our services focus on the family's specific needs, the safety of the child, and strength-based skills development.

### OUR INTENSIVE FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES

*provide in-home services to build connections and support systems  
that enable the family and the child to thrive.*

STABILITY WAS ACHIEVED FOR:

**96%** OF FAMILIES  
RECEIVING SERVICES





## Nick & His Daughters

Nick is Dad to three daughters, Lily, 10, Ehlana, 7, and Delilah, 6. The family came into our care for assistance with parenting skills, appropriate discipline, organization, and healthy decision-making.

Nick initially had reservations, specifically that visits would infringe on family time with the girls, disrupt their current routine, and interfere with his responsibilities as a parent. But our IFPS Specialist was able to develop a schedule with Nick that allowed him to maintain his routine, spend time with his daughters, and manage his parental responsibilities while actively taking part in the visits. Most importantly, a rapport was established that eased his initial reluctance to participate.

Nick and the girls were able to identify their family strengths and develop those skills even further. Whether driving home from school, playing outside, or preparing a snack for homework, Nick made time to talk with his daughters about their day, answer questions, or address issues that may have occurred at school. Over the course of the program, Nick experienced noticeable and steadfast growth.

*"Through multiple visits and interactions, I was able to see both the home and the hearts of the family."*

**Lisa McBroom-Johnson,  
Intensive Family  
Preservation Specialist**



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*"I found the program to be very helpful overall. It assisted me in identifying strategies and resources for helping my children and myself be able to communicate better. This helped with not just talking, but also behavior and consequences. My IFPS Specialist was wonderful with working within my time schedule and still allowing family time."*

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**Nick Ferguson**



STRENGTH TO

# CHANGE

*The Institute  
for Family*

By spotlighting family stories and innovation in the field, the Institute for Family exists to promote family as the number one determinant of child success and well-being. For this to occur, all families need support, resources, and opportunities for their children to thrive.



A CHS initiative, the Institute for Family is reaching and engaging with policymakers, funders, and child welfare leaders to help improve families' lives.

## OUR APPROACH



### NARRATIVE STRATEGY

Use multimedia communication and storytelling to shift mindsets and compel action



### ACTION STRATEGY

Design policies and practices that lead to better conditions for families



### IMPACT

Obstruct the path to overburdened families and pave the way to family well-being



# Spoken Word Poet Slam and Her Mom Lillie

After aging out of foster care, Slam has rebuilt a relationship with her mother Lillie. Slam and Lillie's story is one that elevates the need for prevention services and supports designed to relieve root causes of stress.

Slam is a spoken word poet whose poem, "My Need for Change," details her experiences with the system. It has become an anthem for the family well-being movement and has empowered Slam to reclaim her narrative around her time in foster care.

To hear Slam and Lillie engage in an emotional conversation that demonstrates the strength of family bonds, listen to this episode of our *Seen Out Loud* podcast: <https://podcasts.instituteforfamily.org/>



*"What if we didn't have  
to wait until bad enough?  
And why didn't they  
help my mother?"*

**From Slam's Spoken  
Word Poem**



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*"Building a better future for kids  
and families that ensures they have  
what they need to thrive starts with  
listening to people's stories and  
learning from their experiences."*

**Matt Anderson,  
CHS Vice President, and  
Director, Institute for Family**

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# STRENGTH TO DISCOVER

## *Navigation Begins at the Start of a Child's Life*

Our Community Navigators connect parents with individualized information, local classes, and support services to help address the social needs of parents and families. A fully trained and experienced Navigator is paired with an obstetrician's office to assist with every pregnant patient.

A pilot program, with funding from The Duke Endowment, Navigation is a free and universal service provided to all prenatal Guilford County residents. Navigation is implemented through a partnership with Ready for School, Ready for Life, an organization focused on building a connected system of care for Guilford County children and their families, and Children's Home Society.

### COMMUNITY NAVIGATION

*is a coordinated system of care that connects families, caregivers,  
and providers to expand accessibility of community resources.*

**80%** OF BRAIN GROWTH HAPPENS BY THE TIME CHILDREN REACH  
AGE 3 AND SETS THE FOUNDATION FOR ALL FUTURE LEARNING.



# Community Navigator Hillary Bennett Speaks About Her Client

I have to share this heartwarming story. I just had a third trimester call with one of my clients who had previously experienced a significant crisis situation. She wanted to talk about happy news, and I wanted to hear it. We spent 15 minutes talking about ALL the good things happening in her life right now, like her baby's name and seeing his face on the 3-D ultrasound.

Our community partners have completely wrapped around her. Mom called out by name three nurses that she's in touch with regularly. She plans to stay in touch after her baby boy is born because she feels she needs all the support she can get. She also has ongoing support from her maternity care manager and behavioral health provider in the obstetrician's office.

Her boyfriend has enrolled in fatherhood classes and is very excited. Her mom is now more actively involved and plans to buy diapers and have small things on hand for the baby.

I am elated for this 19-year-old mom-to-be! From the tone of her voice, she sounded great today. I feel so fulfilled that prenatal Navigation has made a difference in this family's life.

*"I greatly appreciate your help when I needed guidance. I am thankful your willingness to take the time to listen to the challenges I was facing and help me find solutions. Thank you so much!"*

**Obstetrics Client to her Community Navigator**

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*"I think one of the greatest moments as a Navigator is when we hear from the parents, and we get to celebrate with them in the birth of their child. When they send us newborn pictures, and they let us know how they are doing, and how helpful we were to them during their pregnancy. That is how I know that Navigation can be life changing for a lot of our families."*

**Mary Connor-Hill, CHS Navigation Supervisor**

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## 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.*

