

Carolina Children

120 YEARS of Believing in Families

For 120 years, Children's Home Society has remained dedicated to our mission to promote the right of every child to a permanent, safe, and loving family. Although family may have evolved, the need for families committed to providing a child a strong foundation continues to grow, and our resolve remains constant.

CHS was founded in 1902 when a group of visionary and compassionate businessmen, the Young Businessmen's Club of Greensboro (today the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce), was moved to address the issue of homeless children.

In our 120 years, more than 16,000 children have found their permanent, safe, and loving families through adoption. Last year alone, CHS touched the lives of over 23,000 children and families by providing the most effective array of services in the state to help children and families thrive.

Still going strong for more than a century, we remain steadfast in our belief that strong families and well-loved children create vibrant, healthy communities.

CHS Celebrating 120 Years!



The timeline features a central horizontal line with a silhouette of a child walking. Colored dots mark key milestones, each accompanied by a photograph and descriptive text. The 'Institute for Family' logo is prominently displayed on the timeline line.

- Early 1900s**
CHS pioneers adoption for older youth at a time when youth are growing up in orphanages
- 1930-1970**
CHS pivots to adoption for infants given post-war baby booms
- 1980s**
CHS pioneers adoption for foster youth, before federal policy addresses this need
- 2000s**
CHS goes upstream, acquiring Family Life Council and Youth Homes, integrating parent and youth education and family preservation
- 2016-2020**
CHS doubles impact, goes statewide with Wendy's Wonderful Kids to achieve permanency for foster youth most in need, and launches the Institute for Family to elevate family voice and well-being
- 2021-2026**
Grow prevention and influence capabilities to reduce the need for foster care, while still achieving permanency for youth in need

Our Mission: to promote the right of every child to a permanent, safe, and loving family.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

LEARN MORE about how our CHS families, supporters, and staff further our 120-year commitment to children and families.

Brian K. Maness
President & CEO

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This issue of *Carolina Children* brings with it reasons for great celebration...first and foremost, celebrating 120 years of serving North Carolina children and families. Just think of the number of lives touched throughout the state, and beyond, over our many years of commitment to our mission. While the landscape of our work has changed drastically from helping homeless children on the streets of Greensboro in 1902 to addressing the multifaceted needs of families today, our mission remains the same – to promote the right of every child to a permanent, safe, and loving family.



Brian Maness

We are also celebrating 24 years of SaySo listening to and empowering the voices of youth who have experienced out-of-home care. And we ended 2021 feeling very festive and grateful as more than 1,100 donors came together with friends and family to provide 7,500 Hope for the Holidays gifts delivered across the state, bringing joy to children in need.

Throughout the years, none of the celebrations like these would have been possible without the contributions of our staff, our volunteers, our corporate partners, or our generous donors. Thank you for joining us in the celebration of family!

My best,



Brian Maness
President & CEO

Children's Home Society

What a Great Place to Work!



We are pleased to announce that Children's Home Society has been recognized as a "Best-in-Class" employer by Gallagher, whose Benchmarking Analysis identified CHS as an organization that excels in optimizing employee and organizational well-being. Gallagher is a global consulting firm whose services include Human Resources and Benefits, and their Best-in-Class Benchmarking Analysis profiles attributes of top-performing employers.

It is an honor to be awarded this designation for our commitment to and investment in our people and their well-being. Thanks to each of our staff for making well-being an important aspect of their lives, allowing us to best serve our children and families.

CHS is always looking for talented employees to join our family. Visit chsrc.org/careers to learn more about job opportunities available at CHS.

In May, We Give *Special Thanks* To Our Foster Families Who Give All Year Long

Each May during National Foster Care Month, we take time to acknowledge foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other members of our community who help children and youth in foster care maintain and strengthen connections. We use this time to renew our commitment to ensuring a bright future for the more than 423,000 children and youth in foster care nationally, with over 12,000 here in North Carolina, and celebrate those who make a meaningful difference in their lives.

Unfortunately, the reality for many of the children in foster care is that there are not enough homes available to adequately fulfill their needs. This lack of families leads to children being placed in situations leading to unnecessary and additional trauma for a child removed from their home.

"We need you to help us change lives, not only the lives of the children we serve, but of families and communities across the state," said Jeremy Wagoner, CHS Director of Family Engagement. "Now is the time to be purposeful and dedicated to making the state's future a better place for all. Please consider fostering today - you can make a difference."

RSVP TODAY:
give.chsnc.org/aptch

A Place To Call Home Luncheon

Seen, Heard, Known, & Valued

With Guest Speakers: Jessica Crisp & Peter Mutabazi

April 28 | Charlotte
Charlotte Marriott City Center

May 5 | Raleigh
North Ridge Country Club

May 12 | Greensboro
Elm & Bain

Benefiting



Featuring their own multi-faceted family stories, **Jessica Crisp** – CHSNC foster and adoptive parent, and **Peter Mutabazi** ( @fosterdadflipper) – foster and adoptive parent and author, will join **Matt Anderson**, Director of CHSNC's **Institute for Family**, to explore how feeling "seen, heard, known, & valued" is fundamental to child and family well-being, and how storytelling can change families and communities.

Announcing the CHS Sunshine 5K & Family Festival



SATURDAY, JUNE 11
Country Park, Greensboro

5k Start – 8:00 am

CHS will host a fun-filled family day at the inaugural **CHS Sunshine 5K & Family Festival**, named to honor the first infant adopted through CHS. We will celebrate the importance of family while sharing more about our mission, the needs of children and families, and ways to get involved.

Geared toward the entire family with music, activities, and games, the event will also provide the opportunity to partner with local businesses to bring the community together.

ENJOY THE FESTIVAL THROUGHOUT THE DAY:

5K Walk/Run

Kids' 100-Yard Dash

Live Music



**Food Trucks,
Local Vendors,
Games, Activities,
AND MORE**

REGISTER TODAY!



CHSNC.ORG/5K

CHILDREN AWAITING ADOPTION

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



Abby, 13
outgoing, spunky, enjoys trying new things



David, 14
quiet until he gets to know you, then as talkative as they come



Ryker, 12
friendly, nice, and funny



Zahniya, 15
a big foodie, especially sweets

Corporate Partnerships

Ensure Children and Families Thrive



Every day, Welcome Federal Credit Union partners with its members and its neighbors. And this past December, in the truest holiday spirit, Welcome invited others to join them in partnering for the children and families served by CHS.

Reaching out to their trade association, The Tarheel Chapter of the Carolinas Credit Union League, and to the League's charitable arm, Carolinas Credit Union Foundation, Welcome brought together a strong triumvirate to raise funds to help children and families in need. And bringing their employees into the spirit of the season, they agreed to match employee contributions to CHS. All in, the group made a gift that would fully cover the costs associated with a child's adoption from foster care.

Noting what a special opportunity it is to be able to help change the life of a child and a family, Welcome Federal Credit Union

President and CEO Stacey Mills expressed his respect for everyone's deep commitment.

"We always appreciate the opportunity to give back to our community," Mills said. "We anticipated our employees responding well to the donation match, but this is even more than we expected. It's an honor to be a part of supporting the good work of the Children's Home Society."

Corporate partnerships can play a vital role in bettering the communities where their employees, clients, and customers live. It also can benefit their business – 70% of millennials report that they will spend more on a brand associated with charitable causes. Additionally, it can positively engage employees who report "very positive cultures" when volunteer and charitable engagement opportunities are part of a company's identity.

HOW CAN YOUR COMPANY BECOME A PARTNER WITH CHS TO BENEFIT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES?

1

ORGANIZE

a gift card, school supply, or duffle bag drive for children in foster care or host a volunteer activity to create celebration kits for children or youth in care.

2

BRING

CHS to your office to learn more about foster care, adoption, and the importance of strong families and how your employees can help – maybe even double any contributions made to such a worthy cause!

3

CREATE

a team to fulfill children's holiday wishlists during our Hope for the Holidays event.

4

TALK

to us about creative cause marketing ideas that can multiply the benefits to all.

5

SPONSOR

and attend an event such as A Place to Call Home to tell the community that you care about families.

SaySo Saturday Celebrates 24 Years of *Hearing Youth Leadership & Advocacy Voices*

SaySo Saturday, presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield, was held in Raleigh on March 5, where SaySo members and alumni gathered to “speak out today, while making changes for tomorrow.”

This year’s membership conference, themed *Tied Together 24/7*, was filled with workshops, informational and motivational speakers, and opportunities to meet new people and share ideas. The theme represents the celebration of SaySo’s 24th birthday and the connectedness SaySo allows 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

SaySo (Strong Able Youth Speaking Out) is a statewide program for youth aged 14 to 24 who are or have been in the out-of-home care system. Youth-led, SaySo improves the substitute care system by educating the community, speaking out about needed changes, and providing support to youth who are or have been in substitute care.



SaySo began in 1998, and today the organization boasts 29 local chapters across North Carolina and a membership of over 750 young adults in foster care and alumni who remain committed to elevating youth voice. For more information about SaySo, visit www.saysoinc.org.



SaySo Partners with Blue Cross NC *to Launch Housing Fund for Youth in Foster Care*



SaySo, in collaboration with Healthy Blue, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina’s (Blue Cross NC) Medicaid managed care plan, is launching a housing Flex Fund to support youth transitioning out of foster care across the state. The fund will address barriers to obtaining housing by helping youth in need with deposits, short-term or partial rental assistance, and acquiring essential furniture.

“Every year, hundreds of youth age out of North Carolina’s foster care system, and too often, fall through the cracks of

the system,” said Jesse Thomas, VP of Medicaid and Chief Executive Officer of Healthy Blue for Blue Cross NC. “Funding this program is critical to supporting the health and well-being of these young adults and ensuring they have the resources and tools needed to thrive and successfully transition into independent adulthood.”

“After reaching the age of 18, 20 percent of youth who are in foster care will become instantly homeless,” said Ms. Carmelita Coleman, SaySo Program Director. “With Blue Cross NC providing this funding, we are helping to reduce the rate of young people in North Carolina who may have to experience eviction, homelessness, or go without the essential housing items they need.”

Studies have shown that many youth in foster care struggle when transitioning to adulthood. Compared to their peers who aren’t in foster care, they often lack the essentials needed to become self-sufficient and care for their whole health. The Flex Fund program aims to address these needs to help support their overall well-being.



Children's Home Society
of North Carolina



Hope for the Holidays 2021

The impact of your support

-  **1,100+**
Donors
- 7,500 GIFTS**
DELIVERED ACROSS NC

-  **813**
Children served,
a 25% increase over
last year
-  **\$67,000**
Total amount raised
-  **Served children across the state of NC**

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For more corporate philanthropy opportunities, please contact: philanthropy@chsnc.org



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

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Because every
child deserves a
safe & loving family.

Become a Foster Parent

We provide 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**. To find out how you can make a difference in the lives of children across NC, visit us today:

chsnc.org/foster | 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.*