

Carolina Children

Creating a Legacy of Giving Back —— Meet Ellen Linton ——

For CHS adoptive parent, donor, and CHS Board member Ellen Linton, creating a planned gift to CHS was deeply personal and exemplifies her belief in the importance of family. Ellen and her husband Bill's estate gift, and many other gifts, will mean that our community's children and families will be cared for and supported for many years to come.

Honoring CHS's mission to promote every child's right to a permanent, safe, and loving family, through giving her time, treasure, and talent, Ellen's legacy will change the lives of children and families for generations to come. Here she shares why she has chosen to make this gift.

Q: *Why did you decide to support CHS with an estate gift and what do you want your gift to do?*

A: I believe passionately in the mission and work of CHS, and I wanted to honor my daughter Christine who was adopted through CHS. My hope is to support and enhance the work of CHS and of other organizations that directly impact children and families.

Q: *Why do you believe it's important to consider legacy giving?*

A: Today's economy affects negatively an increasingly larger percentage of the population. It is incumbent upon those who have been blessed with more than they require to share it.

Q: *What do you wish everyone knew about CHS?*

A: I want the public to know how many children would benefit from the kinds of services CHS provides, and how desperately they and their families need nurturing, loving guidance and direct care services. Every gift, no matter the size, matters and is genuinely appreciated. This organization is skillfully managed and directed, staffed by passionate and experienced professionals, and utterly committed to bettering the lives of those they serve.



Ellen Linton and daughter Christine Poindexter



Christine with the CHS bassinet where she was first met by her loving, new adoptive parents

Have questions about how to leave an estate gift?

Read our FAQ on page 2 or reach out to our Philanthropy team at 336.369.3812 with any questions or to find out how you can make the most of your gifts.

**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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A recent gathering of those of us with anniversaries of 20 or more years of service with CHS was cause for celebration as well as for reflection. I can't help but think about the growth we've experienced to serve more children and families and the advancement of services to adapt to their changing needs. It also brought back fond memories of the many who have impacted our work over those years and gave us an opportunity to share a laugh or two over some of the anecdotes.

It also reinforced our unwavering commitment to our mission to promote the right of every child to a permanent, safe, and loving family. This has been at the heart of our work, not only through my 20 years, but throughout the 120 years that CHS has been in existence.

That commitment is exemplified in this issue of *Carolina Children*. Ellen Linton expresses her belief in the importance of family through her volunteer service to CHS and her financial support. Child First demonstrates our focus on innovative new efforts to build stronger families to preempt further family crisis. Caitlin Stay represents the leadership commitment, vision, and talent of our growing staff that is the foundation of our best-in-class organization.

Thank you for recognizing the importance of our mission and supporting this commitment. Every child deserves a permanent, safe, and loving family. You help to make that possible, and we are deeply grateful for your support.

My best,



Brian Maness
President & CEO



Brian Maness

Planned Giving FAQs



What is a planned gift?

Planned giving is a way to make a thoughtful gift to your favorite charity or charities through financial or estate planning. Often these gifts may provide benefits like estate, capital gain, and income tax savings to the donors and their families, making these gifts even more attractive.

Why is a planned gift different from a gift I make with a check or cash?

Planned gifts typically involve some form of planning and financial advantage for the donor. Examples are outright gifts of assets like appreciated stock, real estate, or life insurance or gifts payable after a donor's death through wills, trusts, or retirement accounts. Donors often use a combination of outright and future gifts to maximize the impact of their support.

What's the first step in making a planned gift?

The first step is talking with one of our Philanthropy team about how you can help the children and families we serve now and in the future. With your interests and priorities in mind, we can then propose a variety of ways that you might structure your support. We will work with you and your financial and legal advisors about how to best make your planned gift come to life.

What is the easiest way to make a planned gift?

One of the easiest and savviest gifts you can make is listing Children's Home Society as one of the beneficiaries of your retirement account. It can usually be done online or with a simple form from your plan administrator. A retirement account gift can be of any size and importantly, may provide a significant tax savings for your estate and family after you are gone. Let us know if you'd like to learn more.

How will my planned gift help children?

By making planned gifts to Children's Home Society, our donors are supporting children in our communities for many years to come, keeping a river of support flowing to them long after a donor is gone. We have been making sure that children have permanent, safe, and loving families for 120 years, and we will continue to do so far into the future, but only with the support of our much-appreciated donors.

Who is the best person to speak with at CHS about planned giving?

Please reach out to our Philanthropy team at 336.369.3812 with any questions or to find out how you can make the most of your gifts.



A Whole Lot of Sunshine with our first Sunshine 5K & Family Festival



The inaugural CHS Sunshine 5K & Family Festival was held in June at Country Park in Greensboro bringing together families for a fun-filled morning to raise awareness and support for the needs of children and families. Almost 200 enjoyed the 5K Walk/Run, the Kids' 100-Yard Dash, live music with Big Bang Boom, and food trucks, local vendors, games, activities, and more.



6th Annual Holiday Soirée

Saturday, December 3, 7pm

Join Us In-Person at Bazal Gallery Nightclub, Charlotte, NC

Heavy Hors D'Oeuvres & Open Bar • Charlotte's Favorite Emcee Flyty • Diamonds Direct Mystery Box Raffle • Silent & Live Auction, & more!



To Purchase Tickets: give.chsnc.org/soiree



Home is Where the Family is.

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

CHILDREN AWAITING ADOPTION

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



Darrious, 13

is an active, engaging,
fun-loving young man
who has a great smile



Hannah, 16

plays guitar and is a good
student, proud of always
making AB Honor Roll



Tianza, 13

loves singing, dancing,
playing basketball, and
being outside

Child First Builds Strong Loving Family Relationships To Heal & Protect Young Children

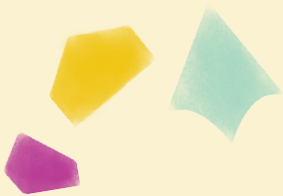
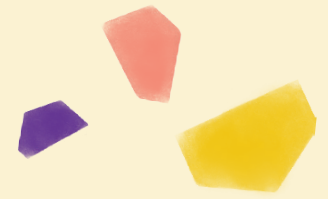
Children's Home Society has been selected to implement the new and innovative Child First program, designed to improve childhood emotional health and increase learning success, initially in Mecklenburg County.

Child First is an evidence-based, intensive, early childhood model that works with the most challenged young children and their families, helping them heal from the damaging effects of stress and trauma.

"Child First has been identified by CHS as a key program demonstrating our commitment to keep children safely with their families whenever possible, a primary goal of our current strategic initiatives," said Rebecca Starnes, CHS Chief Program Officer. "Child First builds on our breadth of service offerings and provides significant opportunity for us to lay the groundwork for success with the program and future growth."

Child First supports young children (age zero through five) and their families in the home. Referrals come from both families and providers throughout the community system of care, including early care, education, pediatrics, early intervention, and child welfare.

"We are pleased to have been chosen to launch Child First in Mecklenburg County, and we are poised for further expansion statewide," Starnes added.



Kristen Cooper at CHS foster family event

Triangle Family Picnic

North Carolina First Lady Kristen Cooper attended our Triangle Foster Family Picnic this summer and helped our Philanthropy and Foster Care to Permanency teams distribute over 30 backpacks filled with necessities to youth in foster care.

The annual Family Picnic is one in a series of statewide events held throughout North Carolina to celebrate the guardians and families who are dedicated to supporting the state's children in the foster care system.

"Roy and I are incredibly grateful for organizations like the Children's Home Society in North Carolina. As a Guardian ad Litem, I have worked with families in the foster care system and know the impact of community-driven projects like this one. It's an honor to join efforts today!" First Lady Cooper shared at the event.

The prepacked backpacks were provided by Comfort Cases and Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina's Healthy Blue Medicaid plan.

Our Own Caitlin Stay

Inspire: Celebrating Women's Leadership Woman of the Year

We are so proud of our Regional Director of Philanthropy Caitlin Stay who was named the Inspire: Celebrating Women's Leadership Woman of the Year for Guilford County by the Greensboro News & Record.



The Inspire awards celebrate women who have truly excelled, not only in their professional lives, but as leaders and role models. These women share a strong sense of self, a success-driven work ethic, and the extraordinary accomplishments to show for it. Their commitment, vision, and talents make them true leaders. Congratulations on this well-deserved award Caitlin!

CHS Employees Celebrated *for Years of Service*

CHS recently hosted a special tribute to honor those with more than 20 years of service with CHS. Teammates gathered for a fun-filled celebration to express appreciation, share fond memories and stories both touching and funny, and recognize the contributions of this loyal group who have been committed to our work for anywhere from 20 to 36 years!

With this event, CHS launched its new Service Award Program to recognize our valued employees who give their best to the children and families we serve day-to-day throughout the years.



Thank you to our valued 20-plus year teammates!

Growth in CHS Services *Spawns Increased Hiring Statewide*



With increased expansion in the breadth and depth of our innovative services, CHS is seeking talented professionals to join our team.

As part of CHS's recently launched five-year plan outlining a better future for North Carolina children and families, we will experience significant growth across the state in several key program areas such as Foster Care to Permanency, Child First, and Child-Focused Recruitment.

Working for CHS means being a member of a family of co-workers who share a dedication to helping families stay together and build resilience to navigate difficult life circumstances.

CHS was recently recognized as a best-in-class employer for excellence in optimizing employee and organizational wellbeing.

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.



Hope for the Holidays

For the more than **850 children** living in foster care with Children's Home Society, 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.

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

Infants (0-2) _____ \$100

Elementary (6-12) _____ \$175

Preschoolers (3-5) _____ \$150

Teenagers (13-21) _____ \$200

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



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

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November is NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH



During November, CHS and the broader community acknowledge those whose lives have been impacted by adoption and those who facilitate the process. This month helps spread awareness and encourages all to learn more about adoption.

National Adoption Month celebrates the families who have grown through adoption. It also recognizes the journey of the many children who are still waiting for their destined families. It further highlights the thousands of children nationwide in need of adoption, and how easy it is to make a difference even if you cannot adopt.

During National Adoption Month, we hope you will take the opportunity to spread the word about the more than 12,000 children here in North Carolina who so longingly hope for a permanent, safe, and loving family of their own, and offer them your support.

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.*