

# EVERY *family* HAS THEIR OWN STORY



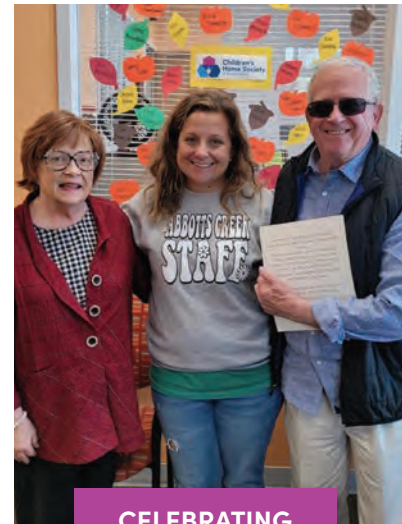
**STRENGTHENING  
FAMILIES**



**TRANSFORMING  
FAMILIES**



**REDEFINING  
FAMILIES**

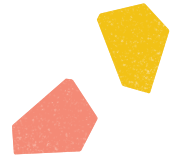


**CELEBRATING  
FAMILIES**



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

# A Year of STRENGTHENING FAMILIES



This spring at our A Place to Call Home events across North Carolina, we had the opportunity to introduce you to some amazing storytellers who shared the impact of family on their lives. The stories they shared were at times poignant, uplifting, funny, heart-wrenching, or hopeful – sometimes all at once. They reflected painful lessons learned and immense love experienced. They were multi-faceted – just like families we serve across our state.

Storytelling connects us with others, shares our experiences, and increases our sense of community. Family stories are a special kind of storytelling – the stories of our grandparents, our parents, our siblings, and other loved ones who shape who we are.

In this year's Annual Report, we are proud to share the words from four families whose lives have been touched by CHS. We are honored that these families are sharing their stories here, and they are at the very heart of our mission.

Just as these families grew in a variety of ways, our efforts in 2022 focused on growth. We saw growth in the caliber of our Foster Care to Permanency program, even as we continue to respond to a statewide shortage of licensed foster homes post-pandemic. We expanded our early intervention programs to help families before they ever become involved with the child welfare system, so that families can stay together whenever possible. And our ambitious strategic plan continued to guide our growth as we broadened our services for families across the state and made bold plans for the future of our organization.

Every family we serve has their own story just like the families who are sharing their stories in this Annual Report. All families have their strengths and challenges, and we know that no family is perfect, but every family is important and worth valuing and supporting. And that's why what we do with the support of our community is so critical.

Thank you for being a member of the CHS family, and thank you for your commitment to supporting children and families in our state.



**20,000**  
*children and  
families were  
served in 2022*



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

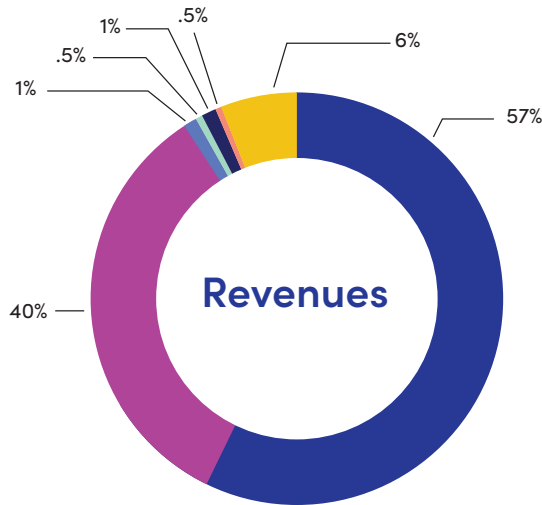


**David Shuford**  
*Chair, Board of Trustees*



# 2022 FINANCIALS

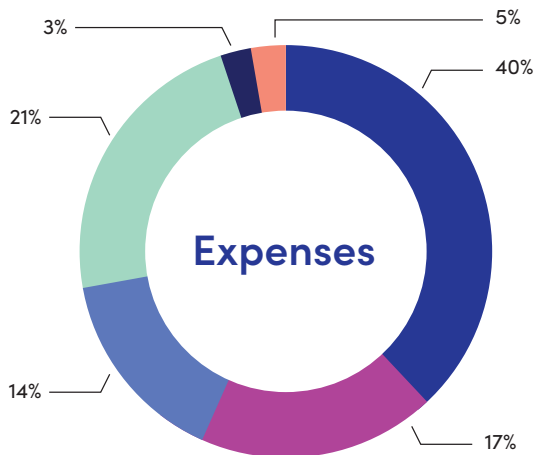
Children's Home Society of North Carolina, Inc.  
and Children's Home Society Foundation, Inc.  
Consolidated Statement of Activities  
for the Year Ended June 30, 2022.



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

## Revenues

Governmental Contracts	\$19,408,479
Private Foundations and Contributions	\$13,626,832
Program Fees	\$275,969
Events	\$159,534
Investment Income	\$392,929
Other Income	\$14,690
Realized/Unrealized Gain on Investments (Net)	(\$2,149,649)
<b>Total Public Support, Revenue and Releases</b>	<b>\$31,728,784</b>



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

## Expenses

<b>Program Services</b>	
Foster Care	\$11,048,933
Permanency	\$4,769,893
Family Support	\$3,899,573
Education	\$5,699,896
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$25,418,295</b>
<b>Supporting Services</b>	
Administration	\$694,986
Fundraising	\$1,224,929
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>\$1,919,915</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$27,338,210</b>



# *Building* A HAPPY ENDING

## A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESSFUL PARENTING

**INTENSIVE FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES (IFPS)**  
*are designed to prevent children from being removed from their homes by strengthening families. Our services focus on the family's specific needs, the safety of the child, and parenting skills development.*



*Preservation Services Strengthen Families:*

ONE YEAR AFTER THEIR CASES CLOSED, **94%** OF IFPS FAMILIES REMAINED TOGETHER.

# KACIE AND CHRIS'S STORY

*Kacie and Chris completed Children's Home Society's 28-day family-centered intervention program that equips families to safely care, protect, and provide for their children.*



## Kacie

Before the services began, as a stay-at-home mom, I felt a lot of pressure to keep the house clean, to be "perfect" - and not feeling present for the kids.

Added on top of that was managing a newborn while dealing with postpartum depression. Bedroom routines were off, and we needed help learning how to control tantrums and other situations that our toddler threw at us.

*Last year IFPS built connections and support systems for 1,086 children to remain with their families and thrive.*



## Chris

They were my actions. I lost my cool.

I was nervous about the services at first, but it was surprising how much I liked it. I was expecting judgment, but there wasn't any. Being a dad, I really needed it - parenting tips, ways to manage a three-year-old. It's a whole new way of parenting. It was a godsend.

Parenting is very hard. Before we were working against each other. Now we have the tools and knowledge to work together. Now we're more of a team.

Thank you. Thank you CHS. We thank you for the tools and knowledge you have given us.

# A Short Story TURNS INTO FOREVER

## FOSTER PARENTING

**FOSTER PARENTING** is about caring for children temporarily until their families are able to take them home or another permanent plan is determined for the child. About half of children in foster care are reunified with their families – most often within two years. Other permanent solutions include kinship care, guardianship, or adoption.



### *Foster Care to Permanency Provides:*

SCREENING, TRAINING, LICENSING, AND SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES INTERESTED IN PROVIDING TEMPORARY CARE FOR CHILDREN PLACED IN DSS CUSTODY. LAST YEAR CHS SERVED **1,103** CHILDREN IN CARE.

# KAREN'S STORY

My husband and I became licensed foster parents in 2020 – we finished our classes in February that year and had no idea the immense changes that year had in store between COVID and growing our family.

We got a call on a Friday in July 2020 to ask if we could pick up a 7-month-old from the hospital the following Monday. We were told it would be a “short-term placement” because of the family situation. We scrambled that weekend to prepare for picking up a little girl. When we brought her home, we were physically prepared with stuff for a little one, but we were not prepared for the emotional pull we felt immediately. Due to health issues, Kimberly needed to be fed every three hours, including at night, and had doctor’s appointments twice a week for the first six weeks.



*There are currently more than 12,000 children in foster care in North Carolina, but only 5,000 total licensed foster homes statewide – not nearly enough to take in all the children who need care. Both CHS and local Departments of Social Services (DSS) across the state face this immense challenge and are partnering to spread awareness of the current shortage and the need for more foster families to care for these children.*



We learned more about her situation and that she had a biological brother who was 3 years old and with another foster family. It became apparent that the “short-term placement” was not an accurate description. We facilitated virtual visits with her brother and once COVID restrictions eased, we would meet him and his foster family at parks and other outdoor settings. As the situation with the biological family changed, the goal became to reunite the siblings, and we were so happy to have Richard join our family in October 2021.

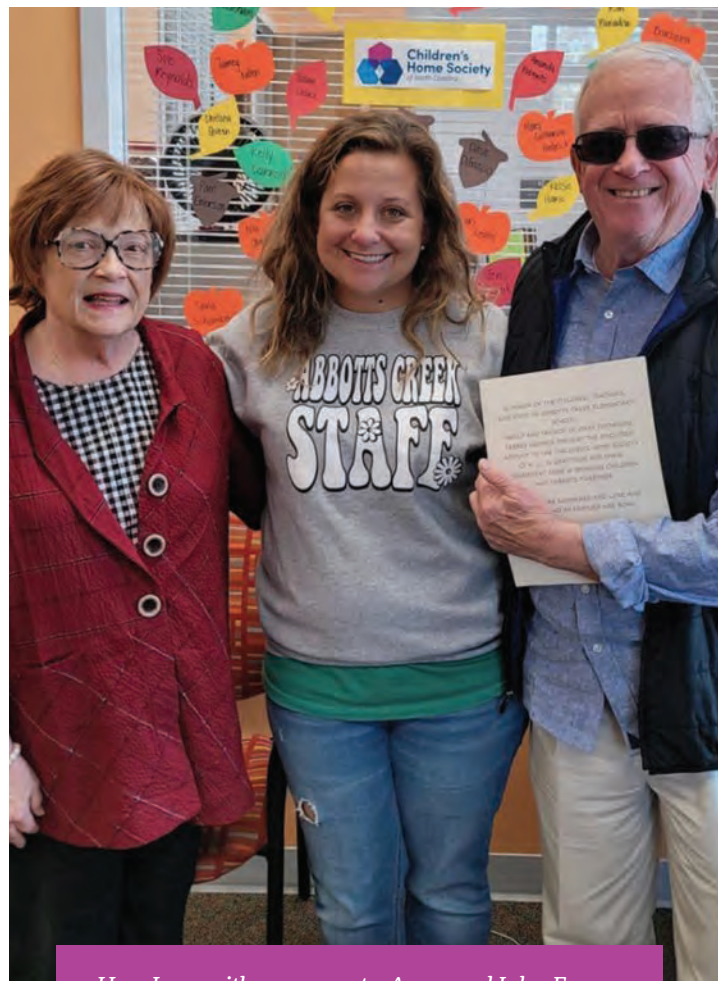
We are now close to finalizing adoption for both Richard and Kimberly. Honestly, the journey of being a foster parent has been bumpy at times. For us, there was an emotional attachment that occurred quickly and deepens with each day. That deep emotional connection with both children sustains us on days the stress starts to rise. We have friends and acquaintances who say, “I could never be a foster parent – I would get too attached.” I think that is exactly the point – get attached. Even if the situation changes and the child reunites with their biological family, every child deserves to see someone cry when they leave. Being foster parents is not for the faint of heart, it is for those willing to go all in with their whole heart.

# A Story Written ON THE HEART

## ADOPTION LEADS TO GENERATIONS OF SUPPORT

### WAYS OTHERS SUPPORT OUR MISSION:

- Organizing a fundraiser like Mary Catherine did.
- Conducting a gift card, school supply, or duffle bag drive for children in foster care.
- Inviting CHS to a company, faith-based, or community event to share more about becoming a foster or adoptive parent.
- Fulfilling a child's wish list during our Hope for the Holidays toy drive.
- Sponsoring and attending an event such as A Place to Call Home.
- Making a financial donation to help where it is most needed.



*Here I am with my parents, Anne and John Ferree, who came to surprise me at school with money raised by friends and family.*



*Since our founding in 1902,*

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY HAS COMPLETED MORE THAN **16,000** ADOPTIONS.

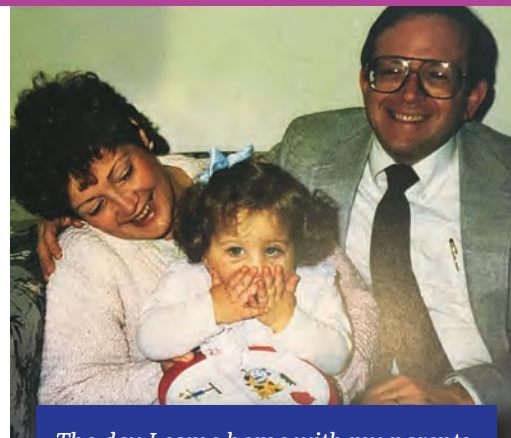
# MARY CATHERINE'S STORY

I was adopted by a Methodist minister and Christian educator in the 1980s at 14 months old. When I became their daughter, not only did I gain parents and a family, but church families. When I came home, the entire church family celebrated, and I became the "church baby." As an adult many still call me their "church baby."

No, they are not blood, but they have loved me and celebrated me and been there for every major event in my life from dances to homecoming court, to college and master's graduations, wedding, baby showers...they're family.

As my family moved across Western North Carolina, we were able to share our story of adoption. We have met many amazing people who shared similar stories. We have met many people who were able to learn the joys of adoption as we openly shared our story with church families. After seeing the completeness adoption gives to both parents and children, a few families decided to adopt through CHS. As an adult adoptee, I feel it is important to continue educating those less familiar with adoption.

My mom always says, "You were created in my heart." This to me is the very definition of family.



*The day I came home with my parents.*



*The day I came home and everyone from church came to welcome me.*

To read more of Mary Catherine's story visit:



*"As an adult, I became an educator. Our school staff donates to a different charity each month, and in return those who donate get to wear jeans on Wednesdays. This is a wonderful way to give back to our community and bring awareness to a variety of local organizations. What started as a school jeans donation to CHS turned into a mini fundraiser. When I mentioned it to my parents, they shared it with some friends who offered to donate as well. By the end of the month, we had school staff and personal family and friends donate over \$4,000 to support children finding their forever homes. As a product of adoption, it is touching to see so many people care about a worthy cause to bring families together."*

**– MARY CATHERINE**



# *Becoming the* **HERO OF YOUR OWN STORY**

## **SAYSO YOUTH ADVOCACY**

**SAYSO, STRONG ABLE YOUTH SPEAKING OUT,** is a youth-led program of CHS with 29 chapters statewide whose mission is to work to improve 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 garners support for issues affecting its youth through collaborations with partners such as:

JIM CASEY

HEALTHY BLUE

KATE B. REYNOLDS

UNC-CH SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



*Last year in North Carolina...*

**MORE THAN 400** YOUTH AGED OUT OF FOSTER CARE.

# MILIZHIA'S STORY

At the age of 14, I entered the foster care system. It was not the best experience for me as I was taken away and separated from my younger siblings. I struggled a lot with self-harm and finding my worth with not having a family anymore.

Through the hardships I endured, I was connected with a LINKS\* coordinator who pursued a relationship with me, encouraged me to keep going, and connected me with a program that has helped change my life for the best. That program was SaySo.

SaySo became a support system and a family for me. When I didn't see why I needed to keep going, SaySo showed and encouraged me otherwise. I may not have a family I can call mom and dad, but I have my family with SaySo.



*At SaySo, we are Strong Able Youth Speaking Out! We want you to know that you have a voice. Be a part of a family that will give you support, life skills, and training to be an advocate for yourself as well as the substitute care system.*

If it wasn't for those who used their voices, I wouldn't be here. If it wasn't for my church community who walked with me through the darkness, I wouldn't have hope. Most importantly, if it wasn't for SaySo, I wouldn't have the family and support that I have today. I wouldn't have foster alumni friends who create safe spaces for us all to share our life experiences. I wouldn't have others who get it. I wouldn't have CHS.

*Milizhia Mills is Talent Acquisition Specialist for Children's Home Society*

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*\*NC LINKS, a program of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, serves youth and young adults between 13 and 21 years of age who are or have been in foster care to assist with education, employment, pregnancy prevention, and other support needs.*

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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.*

