



Dear Friends,

As we leap into a new year, we have much to celebrate. The merger of Genesis Home and DIHN to create Families Moving Forward just two years ago continues to bear fruit for the families and children that we serve. As you'll see below, we have continued to expand our programmatic offerings to both adults and children while maintaining and exceeding community outcome goals for both our NEST emergency shelter program and our Branching Out aftercare program. We hope that you take pride in our collective accomplishments.

As a stakeholder in our work, you deserve to know how we achieve our vision of, Every family thriving in a permanent, stable home. This Annual Report summarizes our work and provides strong evidence that we are helping our families to lead happy, healthy, productive, and prosperous lives. Highlights from the last year include:

- Developing and approving an ambitious Strategic Plan for the years 2017-2019, with targeted goals and detailed action steps to
  improve employment training and placement, children's needs and services, on-site mental health counseling, physical space, revenue,
  and affordable housing in Durham.
- Launching the Chefs for Change Series, our new signature fundraising series of "fine dining with a purpose" dinners with the help of Iron Chef Ricky Moore, Chef Seth Gross, Chef Billy Cotter and Chef John May. At our December Gala, we announced our 2018 chef line-up and new sponsors.
- The creation of a full-time Children's Services Coordinator position to address the needs of our youngest guests, link children to needed services and interventions, and ensure that our kids are successful in the classroom.
- The 2016 expansion of our facilities has increased our capacity to serve more families up to 90 families annually including 150-180 children making Families Moving Forward the largest housing and services provider for homeless families in Durham. Working together as staff, board, volunteers and guests we are creating a path to stability and self-sufficiency for our families through personalized services and ongoing community support.

Thank you for your interest in, and support of, Families Moving Forward. With your partnership we can end family homelessness in Durham.

Sincerely,

Ryan J. Fehrman, Executive Director

John W. Hardin, 2017 Board Chair



# SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Staff and volunteers work with families to find housing quickly, then support them for a year with programs aimed at maintaining stability.

## The NEST

Neighbors Experiencing Success Together

The NEST (Neighbors Experiencing Success Together) is our core program that transitions families to stability and self-sufficiency. It helps our guests identify and overcome the root causes of their homelessness while teaching essential life skills like financial literacy, employment strategies and family health/wellness. We work with parents to find jobs and to secure and sustain affordable, permanent housing. In July 2016, FMF transitioned to an emergency shelter model serving up to 21 families at a time with a goal of families exiting in 90 days or less. FMF offers intensive case management and a variety of programs.

In 2017, the NEST program provided 23,272 shelter nights to 266 individual men, women, and children, nearly a two-fold increase over five years ago. 79 families were served in The NEST last year, compared to 67 in 2016 - - an increase of almost 18%. With consistent and sufficient support, 66 families in 2017 exited into permanent housing, compared to 37 in 2016.

# In 2017 84% of households exiting The NEST entered permanent housing; well above our community goal of 75%.



## **BRANCHING OUT**

**Building Relationships to Anchor Our Transitions** 

Branching Out encompasses the second phase of support we provide after guests move into their own homes. We deliver services for up to 12 months after our families exit our emergency shelter program, making us better able to ensure our guests' long-term stability and prevent returns to homelessness.

Families Moving Forward offers a professional support network including highly trained staff and strong community partners. Case managers develop customized action plans for each family and maintain ongoing support in-person and by phone. Branching Out helps families eliminate barriers to maintaining stable housing and build the skills and community connections that they need to stay stably housed.

Self-sufficiency is the ultimate goal for our families. Our aftercare program helps make that goal a reality. Last year, FMF served 73 families through Branching Out.

100% of families in our
Branching Out aftercare
program retained their housing
for at least 12 months.



# OUR TWO GENERATIONAL APPROACH

Our two-generational approach to ending family homelessness starts with the parent while engaging the child in order to break the cycle of generational poverty.

While we work with our families to build self-esteem and independence, we also convey through our culture that each person is loved and respected. We encourage our guests to build strong support networks, and to think of FMF - both staff and volunteers - as part of that network. As we have expanded our Adult Enrichment to include workforce development, continuing education, ready-to-rent workshops, onsite counseling, advocacy training, etc.

While services for parents are essential, it's also critical to serve our youngest guests. The days of educating parents in hopes that the interventions will trickle down to the children is over. We're spending more energy and funds expanding our services for children so that we can not only minimize the long-term effects of homelessness, but build a foundation of support through education, early interventions, and fostering resilience.

We are also acutely aware of the potential short and long term impacts of ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and recognize that by virtue of being unstable and in the crisis of homelessness, many of our children are experiencing toxic stress. We are doing everything in our power to put in place a program that reduces stress, helps build resiliency, and mitigates the impact of ACES on the children coming through FMF by focusing on their educational, socio-emotional, and physical health needs. All three components are crucial to a child's growth and future success as adults.

Statistically, homeless children are nine times more likely to repeat one or more grades. 75% of children experiencing homelessness under the age of 5 have a developmental delay. We work with our young people to make sure that they are meeting appropriate developmental milestones and are not falling behind or "through the cracks" because of the instability of their housing. Upon entry, all children not yet in kindergarten are referred for developmental and socio-emotional screenings.















"I still miss my mama, but I know there are people here that care about me and my kids, and love us. It's not just care, they love us. And they show me that they love us."

- Tia, mom of three and current Branching Out guest

# PHANESSA FINDS HER WAY



"Moving to Families Moving Forward was reassuring for me and my babies because I didn't have to worry where we were going to sleep at night."

Phanessa is no stranger to Families Moving Forward. When she was a teenager, she lived for a time in what was then Genesis Home's transitional shelter program. Generational poverty is at the root of many of the families who walk through our doors. Now as an adult, she moved back to Durham with her two children after living in New York as a live-in caretaker for an extended family member. She and a friend co-leased an apartment they later learn was infested with bed bugs, but her friend to moved out and she was left unable to afford the rent on her own. After brief hotel stays, couch surfing with friends and sleeping in her car, she went through the Coordinated Intake process at Durham County DSS. Working part-time, pregnant and with no luck finding safe affordable housing, she was referred to our NEST emergency shelter program in October of last year.

Phanessa loves to read and to cook. Her two older kids are wildly different - her daughter is reserved and prefers to be around adults and her son is gregarious and loves living in a communal setting with his new friends. Brooke Lockett, Phanessa's Family Services Coordinator here at FMF, describes her as proactive and an advocate. Phanessa now has a Housing Choice Voucher and is able to begin looking for housing for her family, and Brooke has no doubt that she has the drive to gain self-sufficiency. It's just helping her take that first step to her independence. Even through the rain, Phanessa sees the sun. She realized that she has a gift working with the elderly and wants to become a CNA after she and her family get settled in their new home.

# **VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS**

Becoming self-sufficient does not mean being alone without social support. Once you walk in our door, you become part of the FMF family. These supports often mean the difference between staying housed or returning to homelessness.

We have a strong base of volunteers and partners who are committed to working with us to support our families during and after their stay - to provide life skills for the adults, enrichment for the children, and hospitality and social support for the entire family. By collaborating with our community partners to develop an end-to-end system that works together seamlessly and effectively, we can focus on our role in the system which was designed to use each agency's strengths. Last year, volunteers provided 10,388 hours of volunteer service.

With our utmost gratitude, we'd like to recognize those congregations and partner organizations that devoted significant service to Families Moving Forward in 2017. Thank you for being part of the FMF team!

A Lotta Love Abundant Hope Christian Church Activate Good Aldersgate UMC Alliance Behavioral Health Alpha Zeta Omega Chapter of AKA America Reads America Counts Americorps Vista Assistance League of the Triangle Baynes Family Farm Beth El Synagogue Blacknall Presbyterian Church Bohio Fine Art Photography **Bouncing Bulldogs** Calvary UMC Capella University Chapel Hill Service League Christ the King Moravian Cole Mill Road Church of Christ Community Empowerment Fund Congregation at Duke Chapel Dept of Social Work at NCCU Dept of Social Work at NC State Dept of Social Work at UNC **Duke Divinity School** Duke Engage

**Duke Memorial UMC** Duke Partnerships in Service Duke University School of Nursing **Durham Academy** Durham Alumni Chapter of ZΦB **Durham Bulls** Durham Chapter of the Links, Inc. **Durham Crisis Response Center Durham Housing Authority Durham Public Schools Durham Social Services** Durham Tech Continuing Education Durham TechCenter for College and Community Service Durham's Care Coordination for Children Durham's Partnership for Children **Epworth UMC Exchange Family Center** Faith Assembly First Presbyterian Church Fuqua on Board Girl Scout Troop 260 Greater Love Worship Center Holy Cross Catholic Church

Holy Infant Catholic Church

Hope Valley Baptist Church Housing for New Hope Immaculate Conception Catholic Institute of Art Therapy Interfaith Food Shuttle Judea Reform Congregation Lambda Omega Chapter of ΔΣΘ Legal Aid of NC McMannen UMC Morehead Avenue Baptist Mt Bethel Presbyterian Church Mt Bethel UMC Mt Sylvan UMC Nasher Art Museum NC Museum of Life and Science NCCU ACSLP (Service Learning) NCCU Aspiring Eagles **New Creation UMC** Open Eye Creative Pausback Advertising Peacehaven Farms Playmakers Theater Raleigh Little Theater Reinvestment Partners Salvation Army Scrap Exhange

Shepherd's House UMC Social Justice Story Time Southern Harvest Catering Co. St Phillips Episcopal Church StepUp Durham Syngenta Temple Baptist Church The Paiama Proiect The Refuge Church Thrills from the Grill Triangle Ninjas **UNC Clinical Psychology Dept** Union Baptist Church Urban Ministries of Durham Vintage Church Walltown Children's Theater Watts St Baptist Weatherby Healthcare Welcome Baby Westminster Presbyterian Church Wheels4Hope Whitsell Innovations Woodcroft Women's Club Woodforest National Bank World Overcomers Christian Yates Baptist Church



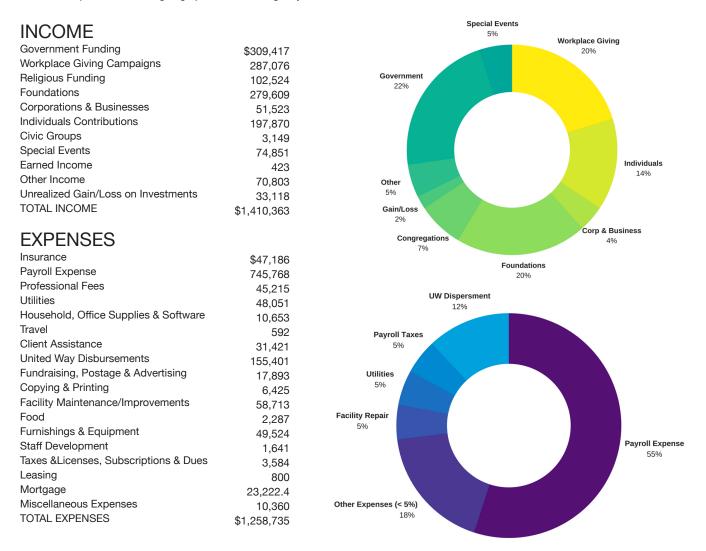
# **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

Charlotta "Lotta" Sjoelin, founder of A Lotta Love, came up with the concept of beautifying guest rooms in homeless shelters when she was asked to make a donation of pillows to a local shelter in the Triangle. As an interior designer she was shocked at the state of the rooms of that shelter, and decided she had enough drive and social capital to do something about it. In 2014 she started her organization supporting one local shelter but in 2016 she expanded her reach and became a partner with Families Moving Forward. Today A Lotta Love works at 6 different shelters in the Triangle and is growing by starting chapters. A Lotta Love's mission is to create a dignified experience for families, women and children transitioning through homelessness back into society. Lotta believes that just because someone is without a home does not mean they should stay in a place that does not feel like a home. "It's not only stuff, pretty furnishings and paint on the wall; but we are giving them a place where they feel safe and can stay to build themselves up".

Since the partnership, groups such as Whitsell Innovations, The Rotary Club, Durham Academy, Alpha Chi Omega at UNC and a lot of private donors have beautified family rooms at Families Moving Forward. After a room makeover, one guest described her room as one out of a magazine; another stated that she felt like she was on the show Extreme Home Makeover. A Lotta Love volunteers make sure that each room is designed with care, and with the family in mind. Lotta serves not only to beautify the temporary homes for our families but to also bring awareness to people around the issue of homelessness. She believes anyone can help a family in need, and partners with youth to corporate executives to become involved. A Lotta Love provides dignity, hope, and a sense of home to families in the crisis of homelessness, one room at a time.

# **2017 FINANCIALS**

Our 2017 annual budget was in excess of \$1.4 million dollars. Last year, our fundraising and administrative percentage is 12% meaning that 88 cents of every dollar raised goes directly to our programs. Transparency and accountability are important to us. You can be confident that your investment in Families Moving Forward goes towards changing the lives of families here in Durham. Any fund balance at year end is added to an operational reserve fund that helps ensure the ongoing operation of the agency in the event of an economic downturn.



## WE'RE IN GOOD COMPANY

Families Moving Forward works in collaboration with partner agencies toward shared goals in our community. In 2015, we formed the Durham Collaborative to End Family Homelessness to streamline our approach and stretch our community assets farther. In addition to FMF, the Collaborative's membership includes Urban Ministries of Durham, Housing for New Hope and Durham's Partnership for Children.

As a collaborative, we take great pride in delivering excellence to the 150+ families who need us, and in setting the example for other agencies to follow, to reap the myriad benefits of working together. FMF worked in partnership with our Family Collaborative, the City and the Durham County DSS to develop our local Coordinated Intake process for families well ahead of HUD deadlines. We were also a key player in getting the Durham Housing Authority to prioritize homeless families for Housing Choice Vouchers (formerly Section 8).

Members of the Collaborative were invited to share our success as presenters at the National "2018 Beyond Housing" Conference and the NC "2017 Bringing It Home" Housing Conference. In the sessions, the Collaborative leaders discussed the methods and successes of our collaborative process to develop an end-to-end system for reducing family homelessness in Durham. We also provided strategies on ways to utilize volunteers and partners to empower families. Our strength's based approach is helping shape the culture and future for CoCs around the country.

Other collaborations are happening throughout the scope of our work. The Community Empowerment Fund (CEF) provides onsite one-on-one financial coaching. We have expanded our partnership with Duke's School of Nursing and Durham Public Schools to improve the short and long-term health and social determinants of families experiencing homelessness and the effectiveness of our interventions. These partnerships have expanded into collaborations through shared grantwriting and funding, allowing us to increase our capacity to offer more services onsite.

# **TOP DONORS**

We are grateful for all donations, large and small. Although we cannot list all cash donations in 2017, please know that every monetary and in-kind gift was gratefully received! Donors with an asterisk were sponsors of the Chefs for Change Series..

#### Donors \$100,000+

City of Durham

United Way of the Greater Triangle

#### Donors \$25,000-\$99,999

County of Durham
Fox Family Foundation
GlaxoSmithKline Foundation
HUD
Kristina Johnson
Oak Foundation
The Leon Levine Foundation
Sandra and Leon Levine
The Stewards Fund
Triangle Community Foundation

#### Donors \$15,000-\$24,999

Bank of America
BIN Charitable Foundation
Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian
Church
Immaculate Conception Catholic
Church
Open Eye Creative\*
State of North Carolina
Westminster Presbyterian Church

#### Donors \$10,000-\$14,999

C.M. Herndon Foundation
Chaya Albert Genesis Fund
Durham County Government
John and Jane Hardin
Kevin and Paris Laliberte
Carolyn Rodwell Lontz
Cecile and Marc Noel
Pacific One Bank/Square 1 Bank
Rust Foundation
Martin K. Smith

#### Donors \$5,000-\$9,999

American Party Rentals\*
Anonymous Fund @ TCF
Congregation at Duke Chapel
Empire Distributors\*
Linda and Michael Frawley
Robert Glenn and Connie Winstead
Don and Mary Haile
Donald and Patricia Hardin
Macy's Foundation
Anne and Mark Paulson
The Rickhouse\*
Southern Harvest Catering Co.\*
US Foods\*
Watts Street Baptist Church
Chuck and Jean Wilson

Yousuf Zafar and Fatima Rangwala

#### Donors \$2,500-\$4,999

Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC Bohio | Fine Art Photography\* Dennis and Becky Carignan **CBC/WRAL Community Fund** Catholic Diocese of Raleigh Kyle and Christina Chenet Peter and Ramona Cvelich **Duke Memorial UMC Duke University** First Presbyterian Church Elizabeth Forshay Stephen and Margaret Griffin Harris Beverages LLC\* Carol Hewitt Jim and Cindy Kinney John and Patrice Lynch Mt. Svlvan UMC Ninth Street Flowers\* Novartis Old Peak Financial\*

Parker & Otis\*
Samuel Poole
Catherine and Joachim Pleil
Research Triangle International
William and Jennifer Shingleton
Suntrust Foundation
Temple Baptist Church
Whole Foods Market
Yates Baptist Church

#### Donors \$1,000-\$2,499

Acme Plumbing & Heating Co.\* Aldersgate UMC Lori Bowersox John and Ginny Bowman Thomas and Marjorie Busch George and Deb Christie Courtney Cooper Community Partnership, Inc. Croasdaile Village Residents Assoc. CT Wilson Construction Co.\* Joshua and Amanda Dixon Eno River Unitarian Universalist Epworth UMC Kurt and Betsv Euler First Calvary Baptist Church Kimberly and Stephen Fraser Nicci and Martin Gafinowitz Gateway Building Company\* Caroline and Bart Haynes Richard and Lonna Harkrader Sloane and Mark Heffernan Katherine and John Heller Holy Infant Catholic Church Hope Valley Baptist Church Insurance People\* Tom and Margaret Keller Jennifer Lischer and John Froelich Allan and Lauren Logan

Donald Long Julia and Robert Love Roger and Leta Loyd Carol Mansfield and Dave Mountain Kava Manson Maxwell, Freeman & Bowman, P.A.\* Jennifer McGovern and Steven Unruhe McMannen UMC Carolyn and Douglas Norry Kimberly O'Neil Robert and Jennie Orr Pilgrim United Church of Christ Dorothy Powell Rev. Luke and Gail Powery Andy and Mary Pleil Gene and Grace Oddone The Redwoods Group Foundation Joe and Tamara Rice Grace Jones Richardson Jonathan Robie Rick Sanchez and Alex Tolstykh St. Luke's Episcopal Church Christopher and Suyapa Silvia Soto IP Consultants\* Kimbie and Justin Sprague John and Molly Stanifer Matthew and Patricia Stiegel Nina and Esther Swim-Wright Temple Baptist Church Trinity Ave Presbyterian Church Ann Tropiano and Steve Gray Gordon Whitaker and Bob Hellwig Heather Whitson and Ben Maynor Andrew and Virginia Widmark A.D. "Tony" Williams Sr. Charles and Katherine Wood Zarazua Paintino\*

Autrice Cambell Long and

# CHEFS FOR CHANGE SERIES

Durham has an incredible food scene. It also has a significant problem with family homelessness. Featuring some of Durham's most talented chefs, our series of unique, ticketed fine dining events raises money for Families Moving Forward's programs and services for families experiencing homelessness.

Each dinner in the Chefs for Change Series includes a "cocktail" hour with passed hors d'oeuvres and a seated three or more course meal paired with complimentary wine and beer. Please join us for the remaining events and visit: fmfnc.org/ChefsForChange for more information.

#### Our 2018 Chef Lineup and Dates:

- March 12 Chef Charlie Deal, JuJu and Dos Perros
- May 14 Chef Scott Howell, Nana's, NanaTaco, and Nanasteak
- July 9 Chef Phoebe Lawless, The Lakewood and Scratch
- September 10 Chef Aaron Benjamin, Gocciolina
- November 16 Season Finale Dessert Gala

Thank You to our amazing 2017 Chefs for Change Series Chefs: Ricky Moore, Seth Gross, Billy Cotter, and John May and to our generous sponsors. You have made our inaugural year a great success and we couldn't have done it without you!



## **OUR VISION**

Every family thriving in a permanent, stable home.

## **OUR MISSION**

Families Moving Forward offers a temporary home to families with children in the crisis of homelessness. Working together, we create a path to stability and self-sufficiency through personalized services and ongoing community support.

## **OUR HISTORY**

Genesis Home (1989) and Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network (1993) saw a way to serve more Durham families, to be more efficient and to improve the lives of children who need a safe and stable environment.

Now, as Families Moving Forward (est. 2016), our volunteers and staff can help local families stay together in a loving and enriching setting, while they work toward becoming self-sufficient.



Thank you to our Board of Directors and dedicated staff for your commitment to serving families with children experiencing homelessness.

## 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Hardin, President Autrice Campbell Long, Vice President Kimbie Sprague, Secretary Elizabeth Forshay, Treasurer

> Aaron Anderson Rico Blackmon

John Bowman Alison H. Edie

Monica Evans

J. Graham Fitzsimons

Jim Hewitt \*

Jim Kinney

Tom Meyer

Jeanne Murray

Kim O'Neil

Mark Paulson (began June)

Dorothy Powell

Luke Powery (began December)
Fuller Sasser (through May)
A.D. "Tony" Williams Sr.

# JAMES T. HEWITT DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD\*

Our dear friend, longtime board member and past board president, Jim Hewitt, passed away in January, 2017. Jim was instrumental in the merger and posessed an unwavering commitment to homeless families.

To honor Jim's memory, we established the James T. Hewitt Distinguished Service Award, which was presented to Kimbie Sprague at the Chefs for Change Dessert Gala in December. Kimbie is another longtime volunteer and board member who has exemplified Jim's leadership and enthusiasiam.



"Jim's legacy is one of living life to the fullest, being an active member of your community, generosity and gratitude. I never take for granted that I have been bestowed a platform to create compassion ripple effects with future leaders."

## **2017 STAFF**

Samantha Busch (through August) AmeriCorps VISTA

Shana Carignan, MPA Development Director

Scott Davis (through August)

AmeriCorps VISTA

John Green, Jr., MS Program Associate

Asia Elzein, MPA Aftercare FSC

Ryan Fehrman, MPA Executive Director

Peggy Hargrove, M.Div. *Program Associate* 

Tim James
Facility Manager

Rachel Johnson, MS (through Feb) Program Development Coordinator

Brooke Lockett, MA (began August) Family Services Coordinator

Ykeisha Lunsford Program Associate

Bridie McDonough (began August) AmeriCorps VISTA

Kevin McNamee, MSW Family Services Coordinator

Sarina Melvin
Family Services Coordinator

Tasha Melvin, MA Community Engagement Coordinator

Jennifer Morehead (began January) Team Associate

Annie Paylor *Program Associate*  Catherine Pleil, MS Director of Partnerships and Programs

Toni Rover (began January) PT Aftercare FSC

Amanda Sale (through August) Family Services Coordinator

Desiree Simpson Program Associate

Erik Springer (began August) Development Associate

Rachel Taylor, MSW (began July) Children's Services Coordinator

Aubrey Thorlakson (through July)

Development Associate

Ann Tropiano, MSW Director of Residential and Support Services



## **CONTACT US**

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Families Moving Forward would like to thank the members of our Durham Collaborative to End Family Homelessness:

Urban Ministries of Durham Housing for New Hope Durham's Partnership for Children