

A photograph of two women smiling and standing in front of a brick wall. The woman on the left has long, dark blue braids and is wearing a dark top. The woman on the right has short, wavy grey hair and is wearing a dark top with a blue and white patterned scarf. The text 'Families First' is overlaid in the top right corner of the image.

Families First

Where Are They Now?

Together we can build resilient families so all children can thrive

CLIENT STORY

Princess

As one of fourteen children born to a mother who struggled with addiction, my childhood was difficult. My sisters and I were born with drugs in our systems. From the beginning, it felt like the deck was stacked against me.

When my mom became unable to care for me, I went to live with my aunt and uncle. Unfortunately, they were abusive. After leaving their home, I grew up in foster care. It was so hard to move from house to house and state to state without a permanent caregiver or home.

Thanks to Families First, I'm enrolled in college again, working toward a degree in clinical and forensic psychology. On weekends, I work in a hospital teaching phlebotomy courses - and I started a business, a residential and commercial cleaning service!

To help us reach our goal, please contribute to our 2023 Annual Fund by visiting www.familiesfirst.org or contacting us at give@familiesfirst.org

When I came to Families First, I finally found stability and hope. During my first semester of college, shortly after my 4-day-old son passed away, I met Troya Jackson, Director of Navigator Services. A little while after meeting Troya, I became pregnant again. It was an exciting but challenging time. When Troya didn't see me around for a while, she reached out. In fact, Troya persisted in connecting with me, even when I dodged her calls.

As Troya says: "Once you're a part of Families First, you're a part of our family for the rest of your life!" I'm honored to be a part of this family with you and to have a thriving family of my own, as my beautiful 4-year-old son melts my heart each day.

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Give a gift that will brighten the lives of families in metro Atlanta!

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Join us for Loving the Legacy 2023!

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CHISPA INTERNATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Chispa International Day is a day of celebration and acknowledgment, an opportunity for intercultural exchange and understanding of differences to be recognized and honored.

It is part of National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrated from September 15 - October 15. The histories of culture and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Children and adults were in attendance. Celebrating traditions is perhaps the most important aspect of keeping heritage alive for children growing up in a different culture.

Each year, the Chispa Program celebrates International Day to fully experience and educate the community in celebrating differences and common interests to promote and support unity, and educate each other in the diverse heritage/ culture. Activities included a wide variety of foods, clothing, cooking, accessories, flags, shoes, drinks, and so much more. It offered learning

opportunities and unique experiences for everyone. Thanks to the hard work and efforts of everyone involved, the Chispa International Day celebration was successful!

Kudos, Chispa!



FAMILIES FIRST PINK DAY



Pictured: Families First staff supporting Breast Cancer Awareness Month on October 19th



This holiday season, give a gift that will brighten the lives of families in metro Atlanta!



The holidays can be an especially difficult time for many of the children and families we serve.

Our "Gift-a-Family" program (formerly known as "Adopt-a-Family") connects supporters like you

with our clients in need. Join us in supporting a family for the December holidays and sharing holiday cheer!

Last year, with the help of friends like you and hundreds of volunteers, we provided meaningful holiday experiences to 357 families (1,185 individuals).

Visit familiesfirst.org to browse family profiles and detailed holiday wish lists. Then, select the family that resonates with you and make a donation to fund their holiday wish list. Or, purchase gifts directly from their registry.

Gifts must be delivered to the Families First main office (80 Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard, NW, Atlanta, GA 30314) by Thursday, December 8 at 7 p.m. Families First staff will deliver the gifts to families.

Thank you for helping to brighten the holidays for a family in need!

SAVE THE DATE

LOVING *the* LEGACY

Where are they now?

March 30, 2023
Atlanta History Center

Our new signature fundraising event!



80 Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard, NW
Atlanta, GA 30314-3421
familiesfirst.org

A Note from Paula M. Moody, CEO

The generosity and goodness of our Families First community never cease to amaze me.

After nearly a decade of working with Families First, I have been fortunate to see firsthand, over and over again, the magic that happens when our family comes together for a cause. As we approach the season of gratitude, we are especially thankful for YOU.

I'm also thankful for the opportunity to lead this amazing organization! This past September, I had the honor of being named CEO of Families First, a role I held in an interim capacity since May 2022. My



vision for Families First is that we are always prepared to respond to everyone who seeks out our services - and I am excited for all of the good work ahead.

In partnership with our Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, community stakeholders and partners, and friends like you, Families First will continue to build resilient families so all children can thrive.

With gratitude,

Paula Moody

Paula M. Moody, LCSW, MS
CEO, Families First