



Families First

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT
2022-2023

Message from the CEO

One hundred thirty-three years ago, our legacy began with one woman's compassion and care for an abandoned child left on her doorstep. Where are we now? I am proud to say this year we served over 21,000 people across all Families First programs and services.

In 2023, we revamped our signature fundraising event "Loving the Legacy" and celebrated several former program participants' journeys toward their own personal legacy of success. The event's incredible energy was largely due to our honoree, Lucy C. Vance, a longtime supporter of Families First, as well as to Honorary Chair, Ambassador Andrew Young. We deeply appreciate all our sponsors, including our Century Level sponsors: Lucy C. Vance, William Vance and Nicole Liddon, John Wieland, Norfolk Southern and the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation.

This was also a year of executing key Families First initiatives. Wrapping up our second year of Crisis to Career, a Gwinnett County partnership with Families First, Georgia Center for Opportunity, and Impact 46, we responded to the behavioral health, housing and employment needs of 1,295 Gwinnett County residents, and 67% demonstrated an increase in resiliency. Our behavioral health clinicians were trained in Functional Family Therapy (FFT), an evidence-based



counseling model designed to treat at-risk youth and their families. We accomplished 85% of our three-year Strategic Plan goals and extended the plan for two additional years to reach 100%. With an award from The Atlanta Women's Foundation, we expanded our capacity to serve more TAPP (TeenAge Pregnant and Parenting Program) families. Funded by a five-year federal grant, and administered by the City of Lawrenceville, Resiliency in Communities after Stress and Trauma (ReCAST) successfully met all of its targets and finished a second year of intensive family support services for Lawrenceville residents.

I write in gratitude, incredibly proud of our accomplishments, confident in the future and inspired by our amazing Families First employees and Board of Directors! I am extremely honored to lead Families First where all our employees, Board members, partners, and supporters repeatedly rise to the challenge of strengthening resiliency and helping families move from surviving to thriving. With this Annual Impact Report, we take time out to celebrate where we are now, while planning for an even better next year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Moody".

Paula M. Moody, LCSW, MS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FY 2022-2023 Board of Directors

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2ND VICE-CHAIR Kirk Rich

TREASURER Tripp O'Connor

SECRETARY Yvette Humphries

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Blake Winters *Managing Director, Wealth Investment Executive, Truist Wealth*



WE THANK OUR

Loving the Legacy Century Sponsors

FOR SUPPORTING OUR LEGACY OF SERVICES AND SUCCESS:



The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation

Norfolk Southern

Lucy C. Vance

William Vance & Nicole Liddon

John Wieland

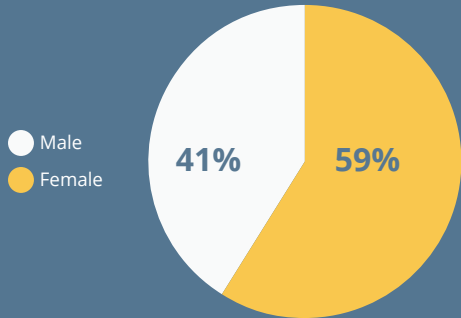
2022-2023 FINANCIALS

Families First would like to thank our supporters and donors for your help in fulfilling our mission of building resilient families so all children can thrive. For financial information please visit www.guidestar.org.

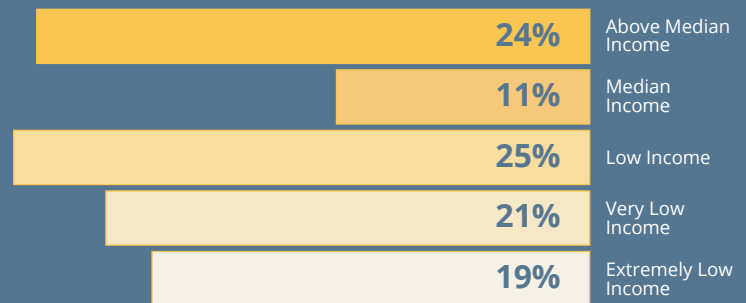
Demographics

Families First served **21,614** families, individuals, youth, and children throughout Georgia. We proudly welcome people of all backgrounds and walks of life.

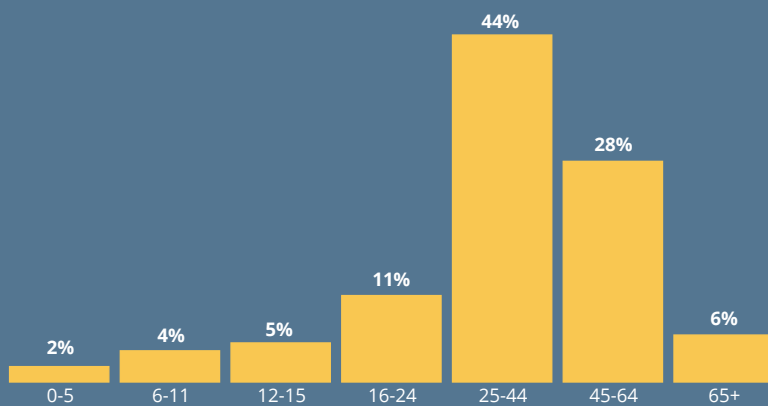
GENDER



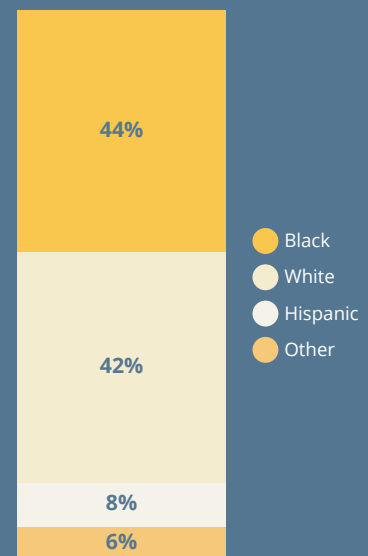
INCOME



AGE



ETHNICITY



Behavioral Health Services

Provides psycho-therapy treatment to families, individuals and youth within the community or those receiving services from a Families First program.

92%
of 144 clients with treatment plans exhibited progress on their goals.

20
Master-level students enrolled in a behavioral health internship

2,190
mental health sessions were provided to 325 individuals.

Parenting & Adoption Support Services

Families First provides a variety of parenting and adoption support services, including parenting classes, family reunification, foster support and comprehensive support to help families and children thrive.



REUNION REGISTRY

Facilitates search, reunion, and access to historical information for families impacted by adoption.

Helped 107 family members impacted by adoption gain information about their families.



IMPACT HUB

Offers IMPACT pre-service classes for potential foster families and individuals.

1,060 individuals successfully completed IMPACT training.



GEORGIA CENTER FOR RESOURCES & SUPPORT

Provides a comprehensive support network of post-placement services to strengthen Georgia's adoptive/foster families.

3,174 adoptive families and 12,993 foster and other families served.



PARTNERS IN PARENTING

Access and Visitation: Provides education and resources on Georgia Access and Visitation Laws and increases parenting time with both parents, including monitoring supervised visits.

Active Parenting: Offers co-parenting classes to divorced and separated parents and their child(ren), focusing on teaching parents to effectively parent within the best interests of the child(ren).

103 parents increased their parenting time.

Community Navigator

Connects families with external community resources and helps strengthen their resiliency with intensive support.

Provided clients with a total of **2,867** community referrals, with nearly **999** referrals for basic needs.

Increased perceived social support and connectedness by **23%**.

A decrease of **17%** of clients reported they often or very often are food insecure.

An increase of **18%** of clients reporting they have high housing security.

96% of clients showed moderate or high resiliency in their access to basic needs.



Program Navigator

Navigators work with diverse families, including families enrolled in a Families First program.

TeenAge Pregnant & Parenting Program (TAPP)

Supports pregnant teens in delivering a healthy birthweight baby, graduating from high school, preventing subsequent pregnancies, and attaining the skills to be effective, nurturing parents.

99% of teens delayed a subsequent pregnancy while enrolled in TAPP.

Second Chance Home

Ensures the safety, wellbeing, and permanency needs for pregnant and parenting young mothers in foster care.

86% of the young mothers served in Second Chance Home eligible for discharge exited to safe, stable housing.

Chispa

Ensures the success of school-age children by supporting and engaging parents and caregivers in early learning programs.

Of the **40** parents trained in the Parents as Teachers Program through Chispa, **95%** made good progress or achieved their parent interaction goal, and **93%** achieved their child development goal.

Chispa

Sparking early learning and school readiness

Families who are not native English speakers often face a disadvantage in getting their children school-ready. Chispa two-generation early learning services build early learning skills, teaching parents how to teach their children and setting children on a path to success by age five.

Chispa empowers families and builds strong, resilient communities via education, early childhood development and parent leadership. It utilizes Parents as Teachers (PAT) and an evidence-based home visitation model to ensure school readiness and achievement among pre-school age children.

We served 54 families this year, and we have tracked the same families for more than six years. Parents display improved knowledge of age-appropriate child development in cognitive, language and literacy, social emotional, and motor domains. Parents also learn interaction with children that enhances age-appropriate development and improves child attachment and parenting practices.



Community Medicaid Provider

In 2023, Families First reached a successful achievement of officially becoming a Tier II Community Medicaid “Core” provider. As a Community Medicaid Provider, Families First clients will have a “choice and voice” when receiving Core services such as mental health counseling, nursing and psychiatric care, drug treatment and peer support services. As a Core Provider, Families First will shift from crisis-driven services to a prevention-focused continuum of care that provides sustained behavioral health support, and is based in the strengths, wellness and goals of the person in need of treatment.



In photo from left: Sakina Huffman, Behavioral Health Program Manager; Dr. Edward Valentin, Director of Clinical Services; Betsy Crane, Director of Continuous Quality Improvement.

Nelis

A 22-year-old mother of a precious 4-year-old daughter is an inspiring success story.

Nelis became pregnant while in high school and dropped out due to medical issues. Following the birth of her daughter, she joined a mother's group in the TeenAge Pregnant & Parenting program offered at Families First.

The Families First TAPP program puts young mothers on a path to success by offering support in delivering a healthy birthweight baby, completing their education, preventing subsequent pregnancies, and attaining the skills to be effective, nurturing parents.

Once Nelis received her high school diploma, her TAPP counselor discussed her career opportunities and how to achieve her goals. She always wanted to work in the dental field and decide to pursue certification as a dental assistant. When she shared her goals with our team, she was encouraged to apply for a scholarship to cover dental school tuition and expenses. Through Families First, Nelis was awarded the Carol Dunlap Scholarship and received her certification.

Nelis has survived many storms in her young life, yet is determined to always “seek the rainbow.” She is currently a pediatric and orthodontic assistant. This career affords her the ability to enroll her daughter in a pre-K program – and now, both are on a path to success, thanks to the guidance and support of her TAPP Navigator and the generous funds awarded through the Carol Dunlap Scholarship.

As we celebrate Nelis and her determination, she shares that she is forever grateful to Families First for the guidance and support and for the beautiful life she can now provide her daughter.



2023 Loving the Legacy Recap

On March 30, 2023, Families First hosted its inaugural Loving the Legacy fundraising gala at the Atlanta History Center!

With the theme “Where are they now?,” the evening celebrated past clients’ journeys as they shared their stories of resilience and success.

Honoree Lucy C. Vance was recognized for over four decades of service to Families First. Ambassador Andrew Young was recognized as Honorary Chair for his many contributions to our work and decades of activism. Groundbreaking and renowned local broadcaster Monica Kaufman Pearson kept guests entertained and informed as emcee.

The evening featured a reception and delicious dinner, special performance by the Atlanta Women’s Chorus, dazzling live auction and more. Families First looks forward to the next Loving the Legacy gala on March 21, 2024!



Loving the Legacy Honorary Chair Ambassador Andrew Young sharing about his experiences with Families First and thanking others for their support.



Families First CEO Paula M. Moody, Immediate Past Board Chair Courtney Showell, Sr., and Loving the Legacy Honoree Lucy C. Vance holding a photo of the Leonard Street Orphans’ Home, where Families First began.

Major Events

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH

JULY 2022

A community-focused event that helps prepare our families for a successful back-to-school season by providing educational, family health, and food resources.



GIFT-A-FAMILY

HOLIDAY SEASON 2022

An opportunity to empower our families by providing their holiday wishes with the support of our community and corporate partners.



“Those of us who are Families First volunteers aspire to help build families and communities through service and advocacy - to be a part of transformation. I can say with certainty that this work has definitely transformed me.”
- Lucy C. Vance

HONORING
Lucy C. Vance



At the Families First Loving the Legacy gala in March 2023, honoree Lucy C. Vance was recognized for over four decades of devotion to Families First and helping underserved children and families.

As a former Families First Board Member and Chair, Lucy is an unwavering advocate for families and children in our community. She has worked tirelessly over decades to help Families First realize its mission of *building resilient families so all children can thrive*.

Lucy's philanthropic endeavors extend throughout Atlanta and beyond, as she has earned recognition for her ongoing work with and support of many beloved causes. On behalf of all of us at Families First, we celebrate Lucy for her years of dedication, her warm demeanor, and her invaluable positive impact on the families we serve!