



# Families Moving Forward™



**2022 Annual Report**



## Letter from Our Executive Director and Board President

Dear Friends,

Families Moving Forward (FMF) eagerly embraced the possibilities despite the obstacles in our path during the last year. As community challenges continued to rise around housing insecurity, the lack of living wages, residual effects, and continued challenges with the COVID-19 virus, FMF listened, learned, and stepped up. We launched our first-ever Rapid ReHousing Program to more quickly rehouse families residing in our emergency shelter and unsheltered families living on the street. When the temperature dropped to 32 degrees or below, FMF opened its doors as a White Flag partner to help bring families off the streets and into a warm sanctuary.

We also worked to make our emergency shelter safer for the families who live there. We installed a new security system, windows, smoke alarms, and carbon monoxide detectors. ADA ramps were built to ensure the shelter is accessible to all guests. FMF replaced

its hot water system, lighting, and flooring to provide a more inviting place for families experiencing homelessness to call home.

To provide greater integrated care for FMF's guests, a Multi-Disciplinary Team Approach—The Family Empowerment Team—was developed to empower families to create greater financial stability, secure jobs, learn vocational skills, and find permanent housing. We are taking the lead role in providing family services among our community partners and building better futures for the children and teenagers who are experiencing homelessness.

Families Moving Forward is incredibly thankful to you, our dedicated supporters, our committed volunteers, our faith community, and our community partners who enable us to do this crucial work. Thank you for helping us to empower families experiencing homelessness and for supporting our staff during a pivotal time in our history. We are forever grateful to all of you.

With appreciation,  
Executive Director Tammy  
Laurence and Board Chair  
Mark Paulson



*I began volunteering with FMF around a year ago, and the experience has been incredibly fulfilling. I enjoy spending time with the young children, playing with them, and seeing them happy. Volunteering with FMF allows me to contribute to the community and make a positive impact on the lives of children and their families.*

-Dorsa Motevalli, Volunteer

*After learning about FMF and attending Chefs for Change dinners, I knew I wanted to do more. I wanted to meet the families where they are and help bring some joy. The Kids Store has been a good fit for me as I enjoy seeing the kids have fun and obtain toys of their own with points that they have earned through attending programming. I have also learned a lot more about FMF, those that work there, and how volunteering really does make a difference and is needed just as much as resources. I value the opportunity to be a part of these families' lives, if only for a brief moment.*

-Laura Schwark, Volunteer (photo above)

*I volunteer for FMF because I want to see better opportunities for everyone in my community. FMF makes a difference in families' lives, and it's an honor to play a small part in helping to support their work.*

-Brad Hinkle, Volunteer



# Sharing the Stories of Our Families



## *Durant's Story*

Durant was a full-time parent of two, sharing custody of a third child, and desperately trying to support his family. Working as a substitute teacher and accepting landscaping work whenever available, his income was not enough to keep his family housed. After becoming a guest at FMF, he quickly connected with all of the resources and programming offered and was able to secure permanent housing for himself and his children. Once in his new home, he enrolled in a licensure program to become a certified teacher and was hired as the landscaper for his housing complex.

Durant described his time at FMF as a learning experience where having structure and community support helped him to adopt a positive and healthy outlook. He attended programs such as “Landlord Tenant Rights”, “Cash Flow” to assist with budgeting and organizing his finances, and the youth programming for his kids. In reflecting on his experience, he described his transition to permanent housing as “a movement and not a move”. He credits the staff and community at FMF who supported him and truly invested in him for his success and the confidence to change his life.



## *Kimberly's Story*

Kimberly and her son Noa had previously been guests at FMF and she was discouraged when they returned for a second visit due to circumstances beyond her control. Things quickly took a turn for the better when she secured a job working from home with good pay and benefits, which made her eligible for the Rapid ReHousing program. During this time, she also learned that she needed to relocate to Lumberton, NC to be close to her terminally ill dad. Working closely with our Rapid ReHousing team, she was able to identify and secure a beautiful three bedroom, two-and-a-half bathroom home with a huge backyard and a beloved pecan tree. Upon signing her lease, Kimberly expressed her gratitude to the team for helping her to obtain housing within forty-five days and shared how thankful she is to Families Moving Forward for believing in her and giving her hope. She believes that without FMF, obtaining permanent housing and achieving her goals may not have been possible.

## *Aarona's Story*

Since COVID started, my family and I have been trying to stay afloat during these tough times. Coming to Families Moving Forward was something that my family was not keen on, but realized that we needed help and encouragement. Our time here was an adjustment, but with the help of staff members and volunteers, we stayed positive. They also helped with restoring our confidence in ourselves and our decisions. I went from feeling unsure about my path to loving myself and pouring that love and confidence into my children. The many different classes we attended helped to envision our future, which before seemed uncertain. FMF has also strengthened our family bond, especially during meal times, and helped to create a routine for my kids. Leaving FMF we have more of a positive mindset and feel we have the tools and connections to navigate this rocky road called life. We love and appreciate everyone from FMF who has talked, cried, laughed or just provided a listening ear. Somehow, someday, someday we will find a way to pay it forward.





# Our Programs

## 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 homelessness, while teaching essential life skills such as financial literacy, employment strategies, and family health and wellness. We work with parents to find jobs and to secure and sustain affordable, permanent housing. We know that moving families into permanent housing quickly yields better long-term results and allows us to maximize the impact of limited budgets to improve the lives of our families.

In 2022, the NEST accommodated a total of 112 families, or approximately 300 individuals (adults and children). To break the cycle of generational poverty and homelessness, FMF offers intensive case management and a variety of programs run by our collaborative group of staff, volunteers, faith-based organizations, and partner agencies throughout the community. Volunteers play a crucial role by providing warm hospitality and loving support, serving meals and hosting evening programming for both adults and children.



## Rock the Block

*Volunteer repair and maintenance projects*

Our first annual Rock the Block event took place on Saturday, May 21, 2022 and was a tremendous success. This day of celebration and service supported us in accomplishing many urgent projects in the residential facility, throughout the property and landscaping, and on the exteriors of our buildings. As most of our funding is designated for families and the programs and services we provide, these projects might not be completed without the generous support of our volunteers and the greater community.

In 2022, over 60 volunteers donated their time as part of Rock The Block, we received in-kind donations from many local businesses and corporate sponsors, and we completed a variety of important repair and maintenance projects, including painting interior hallways, staining fences, mulching the property, and rejuvenating our community areas and gardens.

This year's Rock the Block event is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, 2023 and we look forward to seeing you there! We also welcome any donations.





# Our Programs

## Chefs for Change

*Fundraiser Dinner Series*

Chefs for Change is a fundraising dinner series that pairs the burgeoning Durham food scene with the needs of families experiencing homelessness. At each event in the series, a distinguished chef serves three or more courses at a ticketed dinner with the proceeds benefiting Families Moving Forward.

The 2022 CFC Series was especially successful thanks to the creativity of our talented chefs and the support of our local restaurant partners:

*March 15: Chef Matthew Kelly (Mateos, Mothers & Sons, and Vin Rouge)*

*May 16: Chef Trenton Shank (Plum Durham)*

*July 11: Chef Vimala Rajendran (Vimala's Curryblossom)*

*September 12: Chef Todd Whitney (Rue Cler)*

*December 2: FMF Annual Dessert Gala, in partnership with The Cookery*

We are excited for the 2023 Chefs for Change series and thrilled to bring you some very unique culinary delights and one-of-a-kind experiences!



## Behavioral Health and Community Resilience

*Building mental and emotional health*

FMF is working to build a resilient community, through our words, behaviors, and actions. The mental and emotional health of FMF guests is a priority to all staff and to our larger community. As such, we have worked to create a path for families to immediately access services which address internalized trauma and emotional health. Shelter guests have opportunities to attend programming focused on these areas, including monthly art therapy sessions with local therapist Lindy Chiocola. Onsite therapy is also provided to all guests thanks to a partnership with Gilmore Counseling and Consulting; at least twice a month, workshops are scheduled which focus on emotional health management and self-care. As FMF continues working toward our goal of preventing future episodes of homelessness, these programs and services will allow guests to learn different management skills which can be applied across many life experiences for years to come.





# Our Programs

## Rapid ReHousing Program

*City of Durham grant project*

Last year FMF launched its foundational Rapid ReHousing program, thanks to designated grant funding from the City of Durham, and created a two-track system to identify and move families experiencing homelessness into housing within 90 days. FMF's Family Empowerment Team utilizes a Multi-Disciplinary Team approach to case management services, which produces more significant results for both families in the emergency shelter and those who take part in the Rapid ReHousing Program.

The RRH program has become remarkably successful with only one family returning to the shelter out of 45 families placed in permanent housing. The program is truly making a difference in helping to transition families experiencing homelessness into stable housing and sustainable life paths.

The City has asked FMF to scale the RRH program to include more families experiencing homelessness and with a history of domestic violence. With this expanded program, FMF can move more families into safe, permanent housing as long as there are landlords who are willing to accept these families, and additional partnerships may be developed with new landlords and housing agencies.



## Branching Out

*Aftercare Program: beyond temporary shelter*

“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.

FMF offers a professional support network for families once they leave the NEST, 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. Through our network of committed staff, partners, and volunteers, including volunteer-driven Circles of Support, we help to empower families with the life skills and tools they need to become self-sufficient. In 2022, over 90% of our families participated in the “Branching Out” program after securing permanent housing.







# Partnerships

Families Moving Forward partners with the City of Durham in providing casework to families experiencing homelessness, with Housing for New Hope in securing housing and referring families to programs such as RISE, with Urban Ministries of Durham in workforce development programming, and with Durham's Partnership for Children on EC development and support with connecting our kids with Early Head Start and Head Start.

In 2023, FMF will launch its Ambassadors to End Family Homelessness program to educate community members on the causes, myths, and truths about family homelessness, and to provide networking opportunities structured to equip the community to help us end family homelessness. We continue to build new partnerships and enrich existing relationships in order to provide thoughtful approaches towards community collaboration.

**New program partners:** Jewel's Outreach, Wall Street Juniors, IamMe Girls, Goodwill Industries (specifically STEAM activities for our youth).

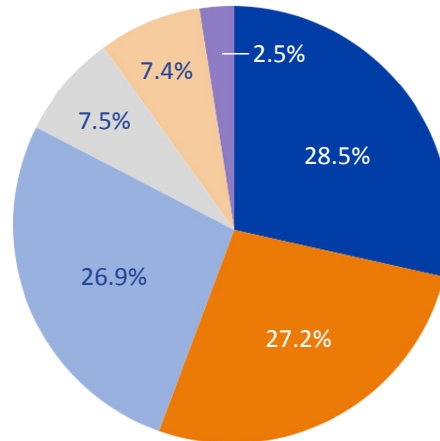


# Financial Overview

Families Moving Forward navigated an unprecedented time in our history thanks to the support of our community and dedicated partners. Significant support from Goodwill Industries of Eastern Carolina, the Leon Levine Foundation, the Oak Foundation, Christ The King Community Church, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Jacob and Annie Klapper, the Moses Kimball Fund, the Triangle Community Foundation, and Duke University helped us maintain a solid foundation and balance variable income streams in other areas.

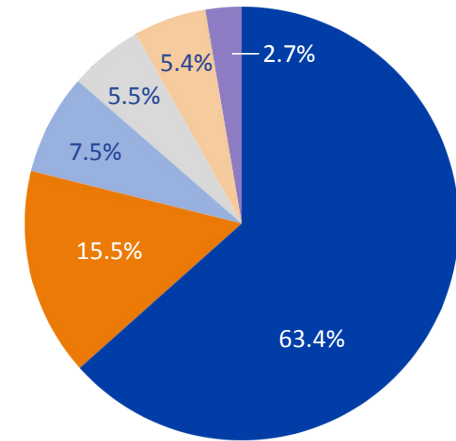
Our loyal donor base also showed committed support throughout the year and helped us to achieve strong year-end engagement, as well as raise the funds needed to cover the expense of a new sprinkler system for the facility.

### 2022 Income



- Individuals
- Government
- Foundations
- Religious
- Corporate
- Miscellaneous

### 2022 Expenses



- Payroll
- Miscellaneous
- Facility Maintenance
- Family Assistance
- Professional Fees
- Utilities





# Programming Highlights

63

families served in 2022

57/62

single parent HHs / single parent HHs  
54 were between the ages of birth  
and 5 years

132/57

females / males



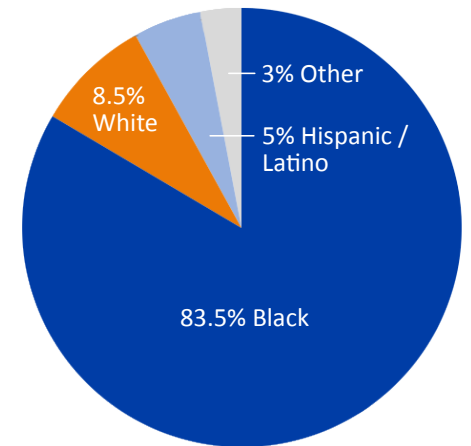
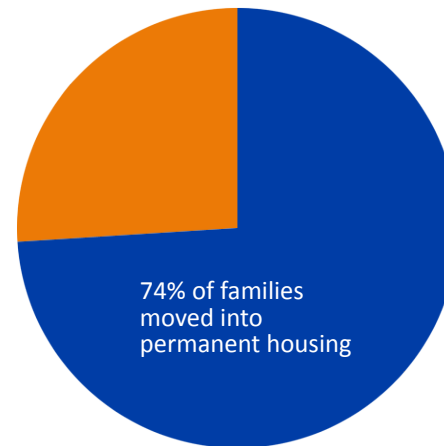
Increase in Study Buddies attendance and engagement-weekly average of 4-6 youth daily on a consistent basis.

Increase in the number of our guests who completed the Renting Smart Series, Art Therapy, Parenting workshops.

Required and non-required workshop attendance increased.

Our youth participated in Durham County Main Library's summer reading.

75% of clients took part in FMF programming in 2022.





# Our Supporters

Thank you to all our donors who supported us in 2022 and helped us to come through the pandemic even stronger and more resilient. We are grateful for everything you do for us and all of your contributions helped us to make a difference in the lives of families experiencing homelessness.

## **\$50,000 or more**

Goodwill Industries of Eastern Carolina  
Division Aging State of North Carolina  
The Leon Levine Foundation

## **\$20,000-\$49,999**

Oak Foundation  
Christ the King Community Church  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Jacob and Annie Klapper  
Moses Kimball Fund

## **\$10,000-\$19,999**

Triangle Community Foundation  
Duke University  
Allan and Lauren Logan  
Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church  
Sam Poole  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Congregation at Duke Chapel  
Andy and Ginny Widmark  
Bo and Connie Glenn  
C.M. Herndon Foundation  
Chaya Albert Genesis Charitable Fund  
Kevin and Paris Laliberte

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

Watts Street Baptist Church  
RTI International  
Jeanne and Brian Murray  
Evelyn D. Schmidt Charitable Trust  
Don and Traci Hoover  
Yousuf and Fatima Zafar  
Will and Jennifer Shingleton  
John and Ginny Bowman  
Parker & Otis/ Ladybird  
Laurie and Philip Muzzy  
Eugene A Stead Society, Duke Physician Assistant Program  
Monique Kowalik and Kenneth Jackson  
Bre Torrione  
Durham Merchants Association  
Richard and Lonna Harkrader  
S & C Harvest Foundation  
Trinity Park Association





## Our Mission

Families Moving Forward helps families in the crisis of homelessness find their way home. We provide temporary housing, case management, skills education, and connection to community resources to help parents and children thrive in stable homes.

## Our Vision

Every family thriving in a safe, stable home.

## FMF Leadership Team

Tammy Laurence  
*Executive Director*

Tasha Melvin  
*Director of Programs & Residential Services*

Amanda Sosebee, MAC  
*Director of Finance & Administration*

Caleb McCluskey  
*Facilities Manager*

## FMF Board

Mark Paulson  
*President*

Jeanne Murray  
*Immediate Past Pres.*

Xavier Cason  
*Vice President*

Jeffrey Reichard  
*Treasurer*

Kimble Sprague  
*Secretary*

Tammy Baggett  
Steve Baynes

Dr. Stephanie Cord

Bruce Hoof

Ken Jackson

Carol Mansfield

Regina Mays

Dominic Mitchell

Lindsey Morgan

Catherine Pleil

Fuller Sasser

William Shingleton

Minoka Yonts

Tammy Laurence  
*Executive Director*



**Families Moving Forward**  
300 N. Queen Street  
Durham, NC 27701

(919) 683-5878  
contact@fmfnc.org  
www.fmfnc.org

