

THANKS TO YOU, OUR COMMUNITY IS BECOMING STRONGER, OUR FUTURE IS BECOMING BETTER.

JANUARY 15, 2018

At the Tipping Point of Possibility for Universal Pre-K



To address the wide range of issues, concerns, and aspirations that families and individuals bring to Family Services, our organization must work on two levels simultaneously. We serve families and children through our counseling, family violence, and child development programs on a daily, case-by-case basis. At the same time, we seek to improve community institutions and systems so that all families and children will have the opportunity and the resources to reach their full potential.

Community transformation is a daunting challenge. Four years ago, Family Services' Board of Directors pledged to make affordable, high quality Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) programs available to all four-year-old children in our community. Currently, there are no affordable, high quality Pre-K programs available for over 1,200 four-year-old children in Forsyth County who are eligible for public Pre-K programs. Most arrive at kindergarten unprepared to learn. Too many never catch up.

But how do you go about changing a system?

In 2014, Family Services convened a Steering Committee of ten local leaders in the early learning field to find a way to make quality Pre-K programs available to all children in Forsyth County. After more than three years of research, discussion, planning, and generous support from KBR's Great Expectations Initiative, donors, and volunteers, we have reached the tipping point at which community change becomes possible. This spring, we will launch a public engagement campaign to rally community support for a "universal Pre-K initiative" to give all four-year-olds an equal opportunity to succeed in school.

How did we get here?

We've made the **PATH** while walking it. Here are some of the markers along this journey that are worth celebrating, highlighted with a few words of wisdom.

*"Nothing great in the world has been accomplished without **PASSION**."* (Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel) Family Services' passion for early childhood goes back to the 1950s when we first provided daycare programs for working parents. Fifty years ago, we were called upon to

provide the Head Start program in Forsyth County, and in 2015, we added the first Early Head Start program. We've seen thousands of children benefit from these programs over the years, which led us to make the commitment to ensure that every child in our community has the same opportunity.

*"Figure out your passion. For your passion will lead you right into your **PURPOSE**."* (Thomas Dexter "T.D." Jakes) From the beginning, the Steering Committee decided that expanding Pre-K would be our sole purpose. By committing to a single goal, we established an achievable vision for our community's future that attracted others to join in the effort.

The ten Steering Committee members recruited and organized over 60 early learning professionals into eight work groups to develop guidelines and standards for expanding Pre-K programs that make sense for Forsyth County. Now we are prepared to launch a public education campaign to engage hundreds of parents, civic leaders, elected officials, and everyday citizens in a movement to bring universal Pre-K to Forsyth County. *"Never believe that a few caring **PEOPLE** can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have."* (Margaret Mead)

There have been many obstacles and detours along the way; challenges are to be expected when undertaking a goal of such magnitude. But each challenge has strengthened our collective resolve to reach our goal. *"**PERSEVERANCE**, the secret of all triumphs."* (Victor Hugo)

What's next?

*"A goal without a **PLAN** is just a wish."* (Antoine de Saint-Exupéry) The existing Pre-K "system" is a complicated mixture of funding streams, each with different eligibility requirements. Pre-K classrooms are located in the schools, at private childcare centers, and in Head Start. An expansion of this system requires careful, detailed, and comprehensive planning. To learn more about the details of our plan, go to <http://bit.ly/UpreKWSNC> to read the position paper, published in September 2016, which identifies the components, costs and benefits of universal Pre-K. (Continued on back page.)

JANUARY 1, 2018

School readiness, well-being are health issues



The American Academy of Pediatrics deems the medical arena as a critical location for promoting education, healthy development, and wellness across the family's life. That's why Family Services joined Imprints Cares and Wake Forest Baptist Health in the **Pediatric Holistic Health Initiative**. The initiative addresses all aspects of pediatric health: pre- and post-natal care; behavioral, emotional and mental health issues; child developmental delays; parenting stress; and family health and wellness. In doing so, the initiative ensures that young children are prepared for success in school and in life, beginning at birth.

JANUARY 8, 2018

New home for Domestic Violence support



Safe on Seven, which has helped victims of domestic violence obtain restraining orders and other services for the past 12 years, has moved from the Forsyth County Hall of Justice to the Behavioral Health Plaza (725 N. Highland Avenue, 336.776.3255). The east-downtown location will enhance the center's visibility and enable Family Services to expand services for victims. Proximity to the Departments of Social Services and Public Health will provide adults and children direct access to critical services in an environment that is less intimidating. SOS partners will continue to work together to assist with risk assessment, safety planning, legal assistance, referrals for counseling, emergency shelter, and protective orders, including the new Electronic Protective Order System launched last fall (see p.2).

NOVEMBER 1-2, 2017

The tough truth about our future



Our community is still talking about Geoffrey Canada's visit to Winston-Salem for Family Services' *Raising Every Child* events, attended by nearly 600 people. Over two days, the outspoken educator, children's crusader, social activist, author and Founder of the Harlem Children's Zone didn't hold back as he challenged our community to embrace the tough work and long-term commitment to ensure that all of our kids reach their full potential.

"If you're born into poverty and are in the third grade, you are already two years behind. ...Science has proven that this can be turned around with early development, education, and school readiness. ...But the work is complex. Other broken systems must be addressed at the same time.

Our community is responding!

Family Services and the *Raising Every Child* host committee are grateful for the generous investments from corporate, agency and individual sponsors that brought Geoffrey Canada to Winston-Salem and **raised \$110,718.50** that will strengthen:

- Programs and services that elevate the social and emotional well-being of young children and their families
- Community efforts to ensure that all people can live free from the threat of family violence, and
- A pathway to school readiness for every child in Forsyth County.

We have to roll up our sleeves and get in for the long haul," said Canada.

Armed with the staggering statistics about Forsyth County's youngest children who live in poverty, Canada shared the hard facts about their future – our community's future – if their circumstances are not addressed. His messages – on place-based organizing, early childhood development, and the competency and support of teachers – affirmed the work of our community champions who are committed to closing the opportunity gap that keeps one-third of Forsyth County's children under age 5 on the far side of school readiness.



Photos (top to bottom) Geoffrey Canada challenges 500 champions at the *Raising Every Child* luncheon.

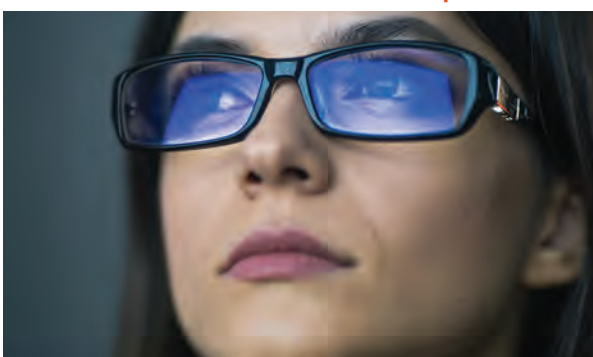
- J. Walter McDowell, Chair, BEST NC; Eric Tomlinson, Chief Innovation Officer, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center and President, Wake Forest Innovation Quarter; Mark Johnson, NC Superintendent of Public Instruction; Canada; Bob Feikema, President & CEO, Family Services; and Rogan Kersh, Provost and Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Wake Forest University.
- Johnson and Canada take a selfie.
- Head Start teachers welcome Canada to Winston-Salem.

With appreciation to the leadership and support of the *Raising Every Child* Host Committee

Shelby Chaden
Woody Clinard
Nancy Dunn
Tom Koontz, MD
J. Walter McDowell
Charles Turner, MD
Laura Turner

SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

Electronic filing encourages more victims to seek help



Family Services implemented an Electronic Protective Order System for victims of domestic violence in Forsyth County. Video conferencing software enables judges to remotely hear and consider approving a 10-day emergency restraining order, also known as a "50B." Offered at the new Safe on Seven location, the service decreases the processing time and reduces the intimidation of going to court to obtain the protective order. At the same time, it increases the amount of time a victim is able to spend with an advocate around safety planning and other supports, expanding the likelihood that more victims will seek help.

OCTOBER 21, 2017

The art of family violence prevention



Art is a powerful vehicle for engaging people around difficult topics. During Domestic Violence Awareness Month the Arts Council of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County, a partner in our Family Violence Prevention Initiative, sponsored a series of events to generate participation in creating a community in which all people can live free from the threat of family violence. At one event, artist Marianne DiNapoli-Mylet directed a multi-generational outdoor mural that unveiled the hidden nature of domestic abuse and the transformation that is possible when a community comes together to eliminate it.

OCTOBER 17, 2017

Movements matter

#MeToo shines a light

The #MeToo social media movement brought to the public square an important conversation: the right to healthy relationships. Family Services is committed to promoting the rights of all to live and work in a safe, non-threatening community. The more we are able to raise awareness and action, the greater our ability to change community norms and bring domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and many forms of family violence out of the shadows, eliminating them once and for all. Keeping this vision in motion depends on the entire community.

The first 5 years.

Why brain architecture matters.

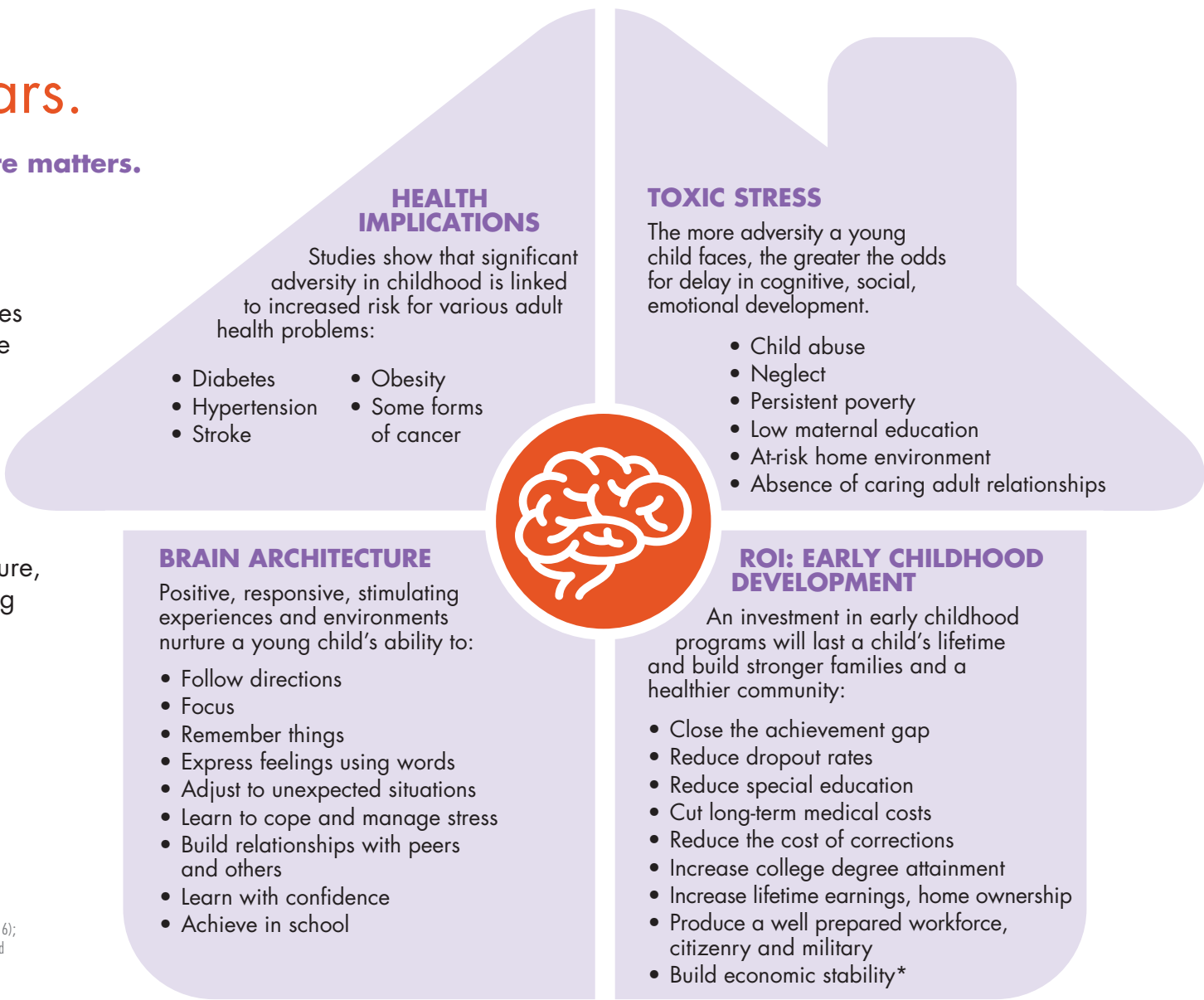


Early experiences affect the development of brain architecture, which provides the foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health. Just as a weak foundation compromises the quality and strength of a house, adverse experiences early in life can impair brain architecture, with negative effects lasting into adulthood.**



*Nobel Prize winning economist James Heckman estimates long term savings of \$7 for every \$1 spent on early childhood education. This return is even greater in North Carolina due to the high quality of the NC Pre-K program.

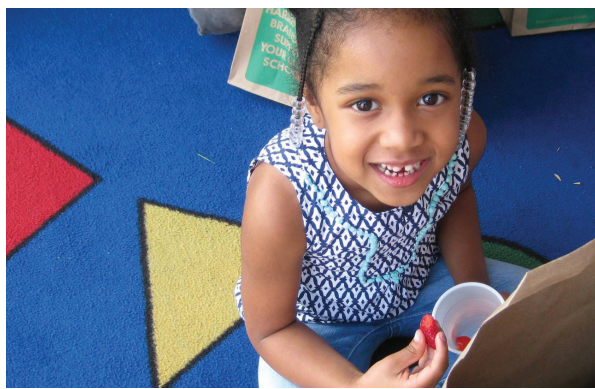
Sources: Family Services Universal Pre-K Initiative Position Paper (September 2016); Center on the Developing Child, Five Numbers to Remember About Early Childhood Development (Brief, 2009). **Brain Architecture (2017). Retrieved from www.developingchild.harvard.edu



SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

Extending support for school readiness

The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust has extended its support of Family Services' school readiness project for young children from financially disadvantaged families. The Forsyth County School Readiness Project began in 2015 as part of the Trust's Great Expectations early childhood development initiative. In the first two years, 250 preschoolers and their teachers benefitted from the Forsyth County School Readiness Project and its focus on the social-emotional development of 3- and 4-year-olds.



SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

Momentum for Universal Pre-K

A grant of \$237,875 from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust is strengthening the momentum for Universal Pre-K by assisting Family Services and the Universal Pre-K Steering Committee to expand its capacity to study, plan and engage the community in making quality early childhood development and school readiness accessible to all four-year-olds in Forsyth County. As a first step, Family Services hired Leslie Mullinix, MSW, to serve as the Universal Pre-K Project Coordinator. In addition to supporting the work of the committee, she is helping to develop engagement strategies for all sectors of the community.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

Helping families become self-sufficient



Family Services received a grant of \$75,000 from the Charlotte-based Leon Levine Foundation, Sandra and Leon Levine, to support the agency's on-going work of helping families resolve crises, protecting victims of family violence, and providing resources that enable them to set goals toward self-sufficiency. The Foundation is committed to creating environments in which everyone can succeed, especially people who will benefit from emergency support and intervention. With a focus on improving the lives of children and families,



the Leon Levine Foundation grant affirms the Family Services Women's Shelter for victims of domestic violence and the Child Advocacy Center, which ensures children and families have access to trauma-based therapy and support in incidents of child abuse, sexual assault, and other forms of family violence.

NOVEMBER 16, 2017



What happens by age 5 will last a lifetime.

Four-year-old Everett Hunter III dazzled us with his ear-to-ear grin as he walked with confidence to the front of a packed auditorium and accepted his prize from the Forsyth County Public Library. Everett, a preschooler in Mrs. Kirby's Head Start classroom at Family Services Child Development Center, submitted his original artwork in the Library's 40th annual Bookmark Contest, winning in the preschool division. Contestants, students up to 12th grade, entered black and white designs that interpreted something from a favorite book or why they love the library and reading. Everett's design expressed how books make him happy.



Your support in motion

We are delighted to share this brief impact report that highlights how your gifts are creating opportunities for children and families to reach their full potential and ensuring the vitality of Forsyth County. Thank you for participating in a community of solutions and building a better future for every child and family — for all of us.

Follow your impact





EVENTS THAT SUPPORT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WHO LIVE IN POVERTY



We're walking AND RUNNING to help more children, ages 0 – 5, succeed.

Save the Date

August 25, 2018

Bailey Park

8–11am

Become a Sponsor: www.WakeUpWalk.org

IT'S WORKING.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

We're serving a robust introduction to Family Services and sharing the good news about how working with our community is creating life-changing opportunities for our most vulnerable children and families who live in poverty.

Let's stir up a community conversation about a more sustainable Forsyth County.

RSVP for one of the following dates.
Lhiggins@familyservicesforsyth.org
or 336.778.7054

FEB 9 | MAR 14 | MAY 3 | JUN 13
8–9:00 AM



WHEN THE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER, GREAT THINGS CAN HAPPEN.

In 1905, a dedicated group of community leaders joined our founder, Annie Grogan, to form the Associated Charities of Winston – the city's first charitable organization – known today as Family Services. In 2014, fourteen individuals inaugurated the Grogan Society, a sustaining circle of private support dedicated to ensuring that all Forsyth County families and children are safe, secure, and able to reach their full potential.

Annual unrestricted financial support helps maintain critical services in a volatile public funding arena and simultaneously enables Family Services to plan for the future with confidence. As we provide essential services and programs to meet the daily needs of children and families in crises, **annual giving accelerates the progress we are making toward addressing the complex issues** that prevent them from thriving.

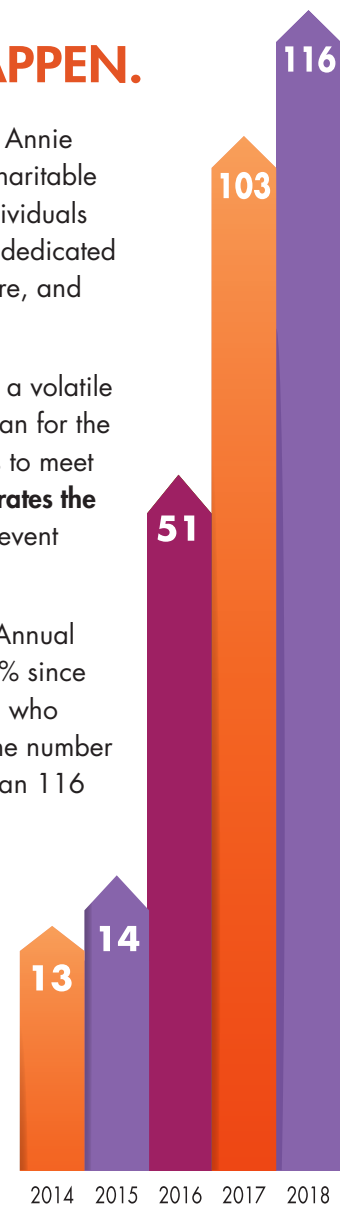
Family Services inaugurated an annual giving program in 2012. The Annual Fund has experienced an average growth of 25% each year and 144% since its inception. We attribute this to the growing community of champions who believe that strong families create healthy communities. Since 2014, the number of champions in the Grogan Society has increased from 14 to more than 116 individuals and couples today.

Join the Community of Solutions

Members of the Grogan Society contribute \$1,000 or more, per year, to the annual campaign at Family Services. They invite you to join them and become a life-changing champion for our most vulnerable children and families and participate in cultivating a community of solutions and a better future for all of us.



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Grogan Society Membership Growth

At the Tipping Point of Possibility for Universal Pre-K

(Continued from front page)

With our plan in hand, we are preparing to launch a **PUBLIC** education campaign in the spring of 2018 to garner community-wide support for expanding Pre-K. We cannot do this alone. Community change is dependent upon community engagement. "Investing for the poor requires **PARTICIPATION** from the entire community." (Bill Gates) "Once public will is mobilized, we will have the power needed to transform our community. And "**POWER** has only one duty – to secure the social welfare of the People." (Benjamin Disraeli)

The future vitality of our community is at stake. It depends on the tools we provide our parents and educators to construct the architecture of the mind during the early years of a child's brain development. Success in school and later life is the product of investments made in the early years. "Our **PROGRESS** as a nation can be no swifter than our **PROGRESS** in education. **The human mind is our fundamental resource.**" (John F. Kennedy)

We are grateful for you and the many partners who are working with us to ensure that our next steps on the path to universal Pre-K will bring us ever closer to closing the opportunity gap and creating a better future for our community.

Thanks to you, **IT'S WORKING!**



Bob Feikema,
President and CEO