

SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY IS HAPPENING AT FAMILY SERVICES



There is a quiet but unmistakable rhythm of people stepping forward in hope with courage, compassion, and conviction. This spirit shows up every day and is the driving force behind everything we do.

For 120 years, our organization has been shaped by a powerful belief: **when a community steps forward, families rise.** This truth has guided us from founder Annie Grogan's earliest acts of service to the transformational work happening today. It's a legacy written by people who refuse to turn away from hardship and instead continue to work to change it.

You are part of that legacy. Your support is creating a meaningful and measurable impact for children and families across Forsyth County. Every story affirms what we witness daily: when we come together, change takes root and multiplies. Your generosity, your advocacy, and your unwavering belief in this mission fuel every moment we share.

This spirit can be found in the people who embody our work. Volunteers and donors like Tom Moriarty remind us that giving is more than an act—it's a way of moving through the world. Parents like Chasidy, who gained confidence, connection, and new tools through our Strengthening Families Program®, are proof that resilience can grow even in the hardest seasons.

Their journeys show what becomes possible when we show up for one another.

At our new shelter, survivors escaping domestic violence will no longer face the heartbreaking choice of leaving their pets behind. Our partnership with local law enforcement now delivers proactive safety and support to those in life-threatening danger. Children experiencing

homelessness find stability and belonging through Early Head Start and Head Start. And across Forsyth County, momentum is growing to expand high-quality Pre-K access for generations to come. All of these are made possible by your steadfast support.

Your investment in our community did not just sustain our work; it propelled it forward.

As we look to the future, these stories inspire us to expand our reach and help those who lack access to the care and resources they deserve. This is not a departure from our mission, but the natural next step in a robust vision in motion since our inception: **go where the need is greatest and lift families up.**

We are proud to lead by resilience, compassion, and bold action. This moment is no different. You are opening doors. You are creating opportunities. You are helping families heal, rise, and imagine new possibilities.

Thank you for walking beside us. Thank you for believing in brighter futures. Together, we are building a community where every family can rise, heal, and dream again.

In gratitude,

Khari M. Garvin, M.Ed.
President & CEO
Family Services, Inc.



A HEART FOR GIVING

Staying Connected to People, Purpose, and the Community

Tom Moriarty spends most of his days guiding teams, solving problems, and navigating the demands of leadership as the CEO of Special Event Transportation, a division of the Concert Stuff Group, here in Winston-Salem. So, what does he turn to when he needs a break from the daily pressures of leadership? The answer might surprise you: it's giving back to the community.

Married for 36 years, Tom and his wife, a retired teacher, have built a life rooted in family and service. Together, they are proud parents of three daughters and one son, and grandparents to three wonderful grandchildren. Both share a deep commitment to caring for others, whether through family activities or volunteer efforts. When asked why he gives so much of himself, Tom's response is simple: "That's just who I am. I like to keep moving."

For Tom, staying active means staying connected to people, to purpose, and to his community.

Tom's volunteer work with Family Services includes providing transportation and preparing meals for guests at the emergency domestic violence shelter. His generous spirit, he says, was inspired by his mother.

Growing up in a household of 15 children, Tom admired the grace and organization with which she managed their family. Long before spreadsheets existed, she kept everyone on track with hand-made charts taped to the wall outlining responsibilities, expectations, and even Christmas gift assignments. "You always knew what was expected of you, and we all took care of one another," Moriarty recalls.



"We all took care of one another."

TOM MORIARTY



Volunteering Keeps Winston-Salem Close at Heart

Though Tom has lived in places from Virginia to Pennsylvania and enjoys traveling, especially his bi-annual gatherings with his brothers, he has always been drawn to the warmth and sense of community in Winston-Salem. One of his favorite volunteer experiences at the shelter is cooking on Tuesday nights alongside his friend and fellow volunteer, Darlene. Tom proudly takes on the role of "sous chef," happily following directions while Darlene leads. For him, it's the camaraderie, teamwork, and shared purpose that make volunteering so meaningful.

Through service, family, and leadership, Tom continues to live out the values instilled in him from an early age, proving that sometimes the best way to recharge is by giving to others. At Family Services, we believe we are only as strong as our partnerships. The work we do to support children and families in our community is made possible through collaboration and the generosity of committed individuals like Tom. We are deeply grateful for his dedication to volunteering and for his membership in the Grogan Society.



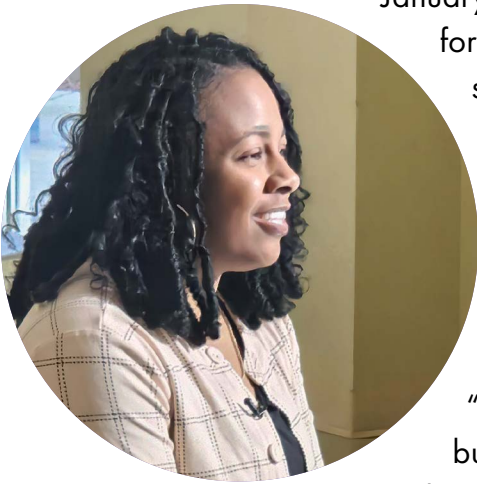
Learn about how you can get involved as a volunteer [here](#).

Get information about joining the Grogan Society, honoring annual gifts of \$1,000 [here](#).

OUR IMPACT

2024 – 2025

BECAUSE OF YOU, PARENTS AND CHILDREN GROW STRONGER, TOGETHER



January and February often see an increased demand for mental health services as individuals seek support and coping strategies following the holiday season and the onset of winter. Families are no exception to this. Parents like Chasidy have relied on community services, including those offered by Family Services, even before their oldest son was born.

“I keep [him] busy. You have to keep them busy. They have so much energy,” she explains.

Chasidy has two children, and she came to us to strengthen not just their bodies but also their minds.

“I wanted to strengthen my family,” she expressed. As part of this commitment, Chasidy and her son decided to attend the Family Services eight-week Strengthening Families Program® (SFP) to build a stronger parent-child connection and use the evidence-based tools learned in the sessions.

SFP is a nationally and internationally recognized family skills training program for both high-risk and general population families. Available to parents and youth ages 7 to 17, the sessions feature fun, interactive activities and learning games to build on family strengths, encourage appreciation for one another, and improve parents’ relationships with their children.

Since attending SFP with her son, Chasidy has learned useful tools in working with her son. “[The counselor] would ask me... ‘What are some things or areas that you want to work on? Any concerns? What can I help you with,’” she shared. “She would give me tips and tricks that were helpful. For example, with emotional regulation.”

Because of the classes they attended together, Chasidy, her son, and the coach developed ways to reward her son for good behavior and a code word they could use to let each other know when an action needed to change. Family Services has provided vital support for Chasidy and her son, enhancing their connection and communication. However, our counseling services extend beyond this for so many clients.

“We have a reputation for providing high-quality counseling services for a multitude of concerns, including relationship issues, depression and anxiety, mood disorders, and especially trauma,” shares Administrative Director of Clinical Services Courtney Perry.

Guided by our highly qualified staff of compassionate, caring therapists, clients are welcomed into a safe space for Telehealth and in-person counseling, as well as educational programs that help children, adults, and families cope with life's challenges. We appreciate our generous funders and donors, who make programs like this possible to support families like Chasidy and many others in need.

Portions of this story previously appeared on FOX 8 News earlier this year.

Learn about our [Strengthening Families Program](#) [here](#).

Learn about our [Individual, couples, or family counseling](#) [here](#).



11,000

INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES SERVED



722

CHILDREN SERVED IN EARLY HEAD START AND HEAD START



876

CRISIS LINE CALLS TRIAGED



4,815

KEPT COUNSELING SESSIONS



463

GENEROUS DONORS



20

GENEROUS PLANNED GIFT DONORS

IDENTIFYING RISK, SAVING LIVES

Lethality Assessment Program

When first responders arrive at the scene of a domestic violence call, the moments that follow hold the potential to change lives profoundly. Enter the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). Designed to identify those at the highest risk of lethal violence, the program's goal is to connect individuals in crisis to the essential support they deserve, right when they need it most.

"Officers trained in the LAP utilize an evidence-based set of 11 questions that enable them to assess whether a victim of domestic violence is at significant risk of harm," explains Crisis Response Coordinator Abi Fairfull.

When a victim is identified as "high-risk," officers collaborate with agencies like Family Services to provide immediate access to a trained advocate through our crisis hotline, empowering survivors to obtain safety planning, emergency shelter, and legal advocacy. "LAP transforms the conversation from 'Are you ready to leave?' to 'Your life may be in danger, and support is available right now,'" Fairfull explains.

This connection between the Winston-Salem Police Department and Family Services is just one of many statewide that have joined this important initiative supported by the North Carolina Department of Justice to prevent domestic violence homicides.

By looking beyond visible injuries, LAP seeks to emphasize crucial risk factors before they happen by identifying threats of escalating violence.

"These have been demonstrated to correlate with intimate partner homicide and help equip officers with a clear, trauma-informed approach that helps recognize the risk while enabling them to take decisive action with community partners to be able to actively help," explains Fairfull.

Now, more officers are calling the Family Services crisis line from the field, signifying increased awareness and a shared commitment to connect victims to life-saving resources during critical moments.

"Because the LAP was used, an officer was able to help uncover serious medical issues and identify that the safety of young children was at stake for a survivor," Fairfull shares. "Our crisis line was able to help them facilitate a compassionate and supportive experience that prioritized the survivor's wishes and needs every step of the way." Through these strong community partnerships, we continue to raise awareness about domestic violence, offering proven solutions that pave the way for a safer future – one life at a time.



A SAFE PLACE FOR PETS, TOO

For many survivors of domestic violence, the decision to leave an abusive situation is complicated by the presence of a beloved pet. Abusers often use animals as tools of control, and victims may fear that escaping will mean abandoning their companions to harm. “When I was trying to leave the abusive relationship I was in, my number one priority was saving my dog Duke. I couldn’t imagine leaving him behind, knowing he would be treated poorly and used to control me,” survivor Thea* shares.

Hearing stories like these is unfortunately common. That’s why Family Services, with support from two generous donors, is establishing a 72-hour pet holding area at our new emergency Domestic Violence Shelter. While operating a full-scale animal shelter is not feasible due to zoning, staffing, and regulatory limitations, a short-term holding area offers a practical, meaningful solution.

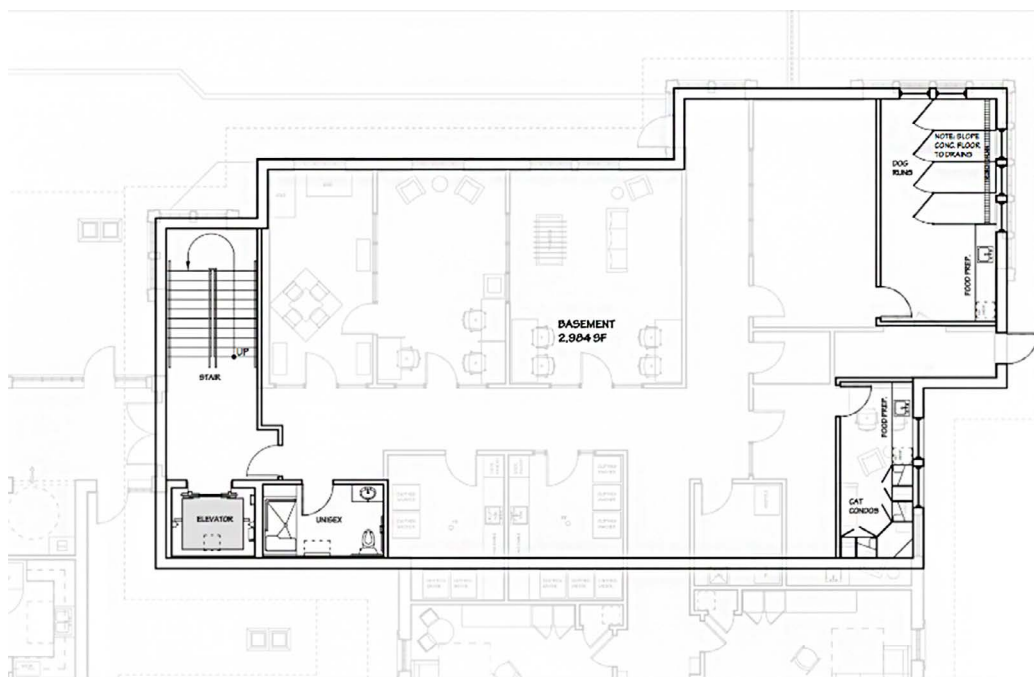
The dedicated space will help survivors and staff find long-term housing for their pets with trusted friends, family, or Family Services’ network of committed foster care partners. Our foster network understands the unique challenges families face in crisis. “During this transition period, families will also be able to care for and spend time with their pets,” explained Major Gift Officer Becca Essick. “This allows our staff to reassure survivors that their pets are in compassionate hands and know that everyone – both human and animal – is finally safe from their abuser.”

Designed in collaboration with Fuller Architecture, the proposed area reflects thoughtful attention to comfort, safety, and dignity. Separate rooms for dogs and cats feature high windows that allow natural light to fill the space, connected by a secure central corridor. For survivors like Thea, this initiative represents far more than a practical resource – it is a lifeline.

“I was so excited to hear of a future space for pets to stay at the shelter,” Thea exclaimed. “Our pets are family, and to know they have a place to feel safe is so important. I believe this will help so many more women feel the confidence to leave and not feel the stress of finding a separate place for their pets.”

For survivors like her, Thea’s story reflects a truth we hear often: safety for survivors must include safety for their pets. By creating this 72-hour holding space, Family Services is removing a major barrier to escape and offering survivors the reassurance they need to take their first steps toward freedom.

*Not her real name



WHAT THE NEW 72-HOUR PET HOLDING SPACE WILL INCLUDE



Space for 4 dog crates



Space for 6 cat condos



An outdoor dog run



Storage space for animal care items



A utility sink



A unisex bathroom



Elevator access for increased ADA-compliance and accessibility



Learn more about our new shelter being built at giveonestepcloser.org

ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Among a surprising group, homelessness is rising nationwide: infants and toddlers. At Family Services, this shows up in our Early Head Start program, which enrolled twenty-two children experiencing homelessness in fiscal year 2024 – 2025. The year before? Only one. Moreover, this does not reflect the 77 Head Start children, up from 30 the year prior. These are just the children we know.

They are children like Sasha*.

“I first learned about Sasha and her family’s situation during the family assessment process,” Family Advocate Kimberly Conner shares. “We identified their goals, strengths, and needs for support. Securing stable housing was the primary goal.” Conner worked together with Sasha’s mother to create a family partnership agreement, focusing on applying to a HUD income-based apartment community that didn’t require an application fee.

Early Head Start and Head Start programs help families by providing immediate, free, and comprehensive services, including education, nutritious meals, developmental screenings, and health services. Experiencing housing instability can have a lasting impact on children, affecting cognitive and social-emotional development. Early intervention can help prevent this, regardless of a family’s financial or housing situation.

“I noticed growth in my child not only developmentally, but emotionally and socially as well,” Sasha’s mom said. “The support we received...was life-changing and gave me a sense of hope and direction when I needed it most.”

Conner continues to work with the family to ensure they remain engaged and supported until program completion at Family Services, through close collaboration with teachers and program staff. As a Family Advocate, she plays a central role in the educational experience, answering questions, helping with eligibility and expectations, and guiding them through available services, while building trust.



Because of this strong partnership, both mother and daughter are flourishing. Sasha’s mom feels comfortable working during program hours and is pursuing a pharmacy technician program to further her career. “The teachers created a loving, safe, and supportive environment where I felt confident leaving my child each day,” mom said.

Thinking about why she loves the work she does for Family Services, Conner looks to families like Sasha’s and shares: “The support, guidance, and encouragement I provide plant seeds in parents and children that can lead to meaningful change.”

**Not her real name*

SAVE THE DATE

**TOGETHER
WE RISE**

A WOMEN’S LUNCHEON

Friday, May 15, 2026



Forsyth Country Club

For more information, contact development@familyservicesforsyth.org

CONTINUING THE POWER OF PRE-K

For over ten years, Family Services has been a proud convener and collaborator in The Pre-K Priority, a commitment to improving access to and the quality of early childhood programs available for children in Forsyth County. Of the nearly 4,500 four-year-olds in our area, only a third are enrolled in publicly funded Pre-K.

This stark reality highlights the significant challenge facing our community: limited funding for additional Pre-K slots, teacher shortages, low educator pay, and the high cost of early childhood education. “We started as a coalition because we knew we were stronger together, and we wanted to strengthen the capacity of all the agencies,” explained Leslie Mullinix, project director of The Pre-K Priority, housed at Family Services for the past eight years as part of a shared commitment to increasing access to high-quality Pre-K.

With the support from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust’s 10-year Great Expectations initiative, The Pre-K Priority has continued to foster and champion a shared vision among its coalition partners and families. In 2023, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners and the City of Winston-Salem invested over \$4 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in a two-year, proof-of-concept initiative to show the benefits of investing public dollars in high-quality Pre-K.

The initiative was to raise specific quality components across 30 existing Pre-K classrooms, extending beneficial outcomes to those children, their families and the teachers. Family Services’ Child Development division played a vital role in the 2-year model cohort, providing Family Advocates to strengthen connections between families, classrooms, centers and Pre-K students.

Positive findings continue to inform next steps to align and engage with other local coalitions to build a healthy and economically prosperous community, cradle to career. Partnerships with the Forsyth County Grade Level Reading Campaign, the Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Caregiver Network, Forsyth Family Power, and Thriving Together are bringing together diverse stakeholders to streamline the interconnectedness of early childhood education and amplify its importance to the broader community.

“The Pre-K Priority is about empowering people [in our community] to lean into their advocacy. That gets other people on board and helps us grow the coalition to a place where our civic leaders want to be a part of this project and increase the funding that comes from the state, the city, and our local county funds,” Mullinix said.

The importance of this work remains urgent for Forsyth County’s youngest learners. They are not just the future, but will drive tomorrow’s society and economy, which will be here before we know it.

THE
PRE-K
PRIORITY



DID IT WORK?

**The proof is in the positive results.
Students in cohort classrooms:**

- Achieved growth 2–3 times the NC Pre-K state average, despite many starting with significant developmental gaps.
- Met or exceeded proficiency levels for typical populations.
- Closed wide achievement gaps within just a single year.



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**LESLIE MULLINIX, PROJECT DIRECTOR OF THE
PRE-K PRIORITY (HOUSED AT FAMILY SERVICES)**



**Office of Philanthropy
and Public Relations**

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SMALL EFFORT **BIG DIFFERENCE**



Just a small effort on your part can make a big difference for Family Services.

When you take the small step of naming the Family Services Foundation in your will or as beneficiary of your investment, checking or savings account, you help continue our legacy of important work serving children and families.

A gift like this won't affect your current lifestyle but it does make a tremendous impact on those we serve, leaving your legacy for years to come. Plus, you can keep your loved ones in mind as you make your plans.

To learn more about taking the next step, call (336) 778-7053 or e-mail mspeas@familyservicesforsyth.org



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