LAST YEAR, FORKIDS TOUCHED THE LIVES OF 69,701 INDIVIDUALS
We know how important a home is...

After 32 years of providing services, we regularly hear from former ForKids families who lost everything and started over at ForKids. Their experience without a home left an indelible imprint and they relish their continued stability. In Fiscal Year 2019, ForKids helped over 425 families with 870 children restabilize in housing and start over with stronger foundations for success.

Four years in to The Campaign ForKids, we are delighted to be settling into our new home in Suffolk and watching new programs and services expand for families in Western Tidewater. As FY19 ended, we sent completed construction drawings to the City of Chesapeake for the new Center for Children and Families in South Norfolk. We are thrilled to watch this new center come out of the ground and plan for the great things to come.

Just as they do for our families, our new ForKids homes will create the foundation for a hopeful and productive future for ForKids and our community.

Thank you for your investment!

Thaler McCormick
Chief Executive Officer

Rick Clarke
Board Chair
MARY ANN POOL
Education Advocate

In the Fall of 2018, Mary Ann piloted STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) programming at ForKids in our Norfolk Education Program. She is excited that STEM is now being implemented across all ForKids locations for middle school students. During Beyond the Bell, children dive into STEM through project based learning. One semester, students created a business plan for a food truck, where they were able to create, calculate and collaborate together. Mary Ann is passionate about equitable education and STEM equity, believing that participation in STEM programming builds students’ skill sets to problem solve challenging situations. Mary Ann has her Master’s Degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University. Before coming to ForKids, Mary Ann taught middle school science with Teach for America in Dallas.
OPENING YOUNG MINDS TO STEM

Throughout the school year, the Education Team offered ForKids kids tutoring in our Beyond the Bell after-school program, as well as many enrichment opportunities - visits to create art at the Suffolk Cultural Arts Center, college tours and field day fun at local city parks.

Then came summer. And it was like no other, with more than 70 children participating in day camps, overnight camps and STEM camp.

Old Dominion University offered the first Hampton Roads Bioelectric Summer Institute on the university’s campus. Gymama Slaughter, the Director of the Research Center, was intentional in providing under represented students with a desire to pursue a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) an opportunity to attend the Institute and invited ForKids.

The one-week program was for rising 6th-11th graders and gave students exposure to information and research in various fields of bioenergy, materials engineering and medicine, with the goal of acquainting them with the requirements for pursuing a career in STEM.

Nine ForKids students attended this remarkable horizon-widening STEM camp at ODU, participating in real world problem solving, conducting research along with professors and teaching assistants investigating heart treatments and manufacturing a biosensor for lactic acid. At the closing ceremony, students presented their research and conclusions, answering questions about their projects.

“I didn’t think I would be able to speak in front of the group, but I learned a lot this week and really understood what we were researching, so it was not as hard as I thought,” said one ForKids kid. “Do I get to come back next year?”

409 children served in our education programs

159 students attended an after-school tutoring program

95% were promoted to the next grade level

85% of children improved their scores in reading and/or math
GROW:
AN EPIC GARDEN PARTY
18th Annual ForKids Art Auction

Once again, the ForKids Art Auction sparked the philanthropic spirit in our community, raising $1.1 million to help end homelessness for families and children in Hampton Roads. Over 600 guests adorned in extravagant floral headdresses, bumblebee costumes and vibrant-colored formal gowns gathered in the Norfolk Ballroom of the Norfolk Waterside Marriott at 7:30pm, Saturday, March 30, with a collective goal: to raise over 30% of ForKids’ annual fundraising goal in a single night.

For the next 90 minutes, paddles were raised high in competitive bidding on art created by children enrolled in ForKids’ programs, collaborative pieces done by the children with local artists, and several lifestyle packages. Auctioneer John Marshall and Master of Ceremonies Rick Rumble, from station WNOR, twice coaxed bids as high as $32,000. The average bid for a piece of children’s art was $13,000.

The excitement of the evening peaked when the purchasers of “Epipetric”, a collaborative piece by artist Matt Fine and ForKids kid Jeanecia, announced they would raise their $32,000 bid to $1.5 million to support The Campaign ForKids.
Chapter 2: Holiday
A PHENOMENAL FIRST YEAR AT THE SUFFOLK REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

What happens when you open a $2.5 million bright and cheerful services center with an education center, a computer lab, full-size kitchen, laundry, playrooms and a donation distribution center? A whirlwind of family and community involvement!

The Birdsong Center for Families in Suffolk officially opened on November 8, 2018. Since then, the building itself has become an important hub for families, community partners and volunteers. Families stop by to reconnect with staff. The trauma-informed design of the Center helps clients feel safe, and kids make a bee-line for the playroom. In less than a year, over 350 loads of laundry have been washed and dried and parents can work toward goals in the computer lab while the kids play. Healthy Eating Class offered in partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension grew into monthly interactive cooking classes where families try out new recipes for healthy eating and stretching their food budget. Wellness and Mindfulness classes soon followed.

ForKids’ Suffolk Center is now an important link for other organizations looking to connect families in crisis to needed services. New Vision Youth Services, Virginia Legal Aid Society, Healthy Families, Minus 9 to 5, Suffolk Literacy, the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services and more have provided hours of support services to families as they work toward self-sufficiency.

The education center with its well-equipped classrooms and abundant computer stations is an ideal place for the education team to boost students’ knowledge and equip them with 21st century skills. ForKids is now serving more students every night of the week in afterschool programming and successfully completed the first year of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, a 3-year grant award from the Virginia Department of Education, providing academic enrichment activities to students and their families.

With increased visibility, the increase in donations has been staggering! From food and clothing to school supplies and toys, the “Mini Mojo” donation center and food pantry stores it all in one convenient location for distribution to families in need.

Volunteers are an integral part of operations at ForKids and they provide a steady stream of help at the new Center. High school students from Isle of Wight come every week to sort and organize donations. Other volunteers sort food, man the front desk, help with special events and tutor students, help with homework and supervise projects and recreation. We can’t thank our friends at Main Street United Methodist Church, Harper’s Table, Celebration Christian Church and others enough for providing dinner for our hungry students before they head home for the day!
DONOR SPOTLIGHT:
STARR MOTORS

When ForKids opened its highly visible Suffolk Regional Services Center in 2018, the community support for our work grew and new partners rapidly emerged. Starr Motors led the way. As part of their annual community anniversary event in 2018, their employees chose to organize a food drive for ForKids families. It was wildly successful and the seeds of a strong relationship between our two organizations were planted. Just a few months after first partnering with us, Starr Motors collected toys to support the 2018 ForKids Holiday Toy Drive, assisting us in helping our families give their children holiday memories. The White Family, owners of the company, have been most generous in their financial support of The Campaign ForKids’ Suffolk Regional Services Center project. We look forward to many years working alongside Starr Motors to improve the lives of families and children in need in Suffolk and Western Tidewater.

If you’re interested in being a ForKids landlord, visit forkids.org/landlords.
HOMELESS WITH A YOUNG CHILD, SHE HITCHHIKED TO FIND A BETTER LIFE

Jasmine was homeless when she became pregnant. After her son David was born, survival continued to be a struggle. Eventually Jasmine, with young David, hitchhiked her way from North Carolina to Western Tidewater, sleeping in abandoned buildings along the way.

When Jasmine and her son came to ForKids, she was profoundly traumatized, had difficulty expressing herself and was confused about dates, times and memories. She was visually impaired, couldn’t read, had no identification and couldn’t remember if her son had vaccinations. Three-year-old David couldn’t walk and was clearly developmentally delayed. It seemed this family might be better off apart.

Staff settled the family in shelter and began connecting them with services. An eye exam found that Jasmine was nearly blind and her new glasses were life changing. With her vision restored, we helped Jasmine complete a psychological evaluation which diagnosed her intellectual disability and qualified the families for Supportive Housing where they began to thrive. Aided by her case manager, Jasmine began taking literacy classes, mastering public transportation and attending mindfulness and cooking classes. David received occupational therapy, got glasses and began HeadStart.

With help, Jasmine rewrote her story, one where there are no nights spent in abandoned buildings, no rides hitched from strangers, a story where, remarkably, she and her son David now read together each night, at home.
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

ForKids had an extraordinary year. Having completed my first year as Treasurer, I am honored to share our financial performance. Not only does this illustrate who we are and what we do at ForKids, it is accompanied by our 28th consecutive clean audit opinion.

When I reflect on the year’s accomplishments, what stands out to me is that 83% of our $7.2 million operating budget (almost 50% of which was from community support) was spent directly on our core program services, including Crisis Response, Housing and Critical Services, and Children’s Education.

We had a successful year raising funds (over $8.4 million this year!) towards our capital campaign, *The Campaign ForKids*, which will allow us to build a new centrally located headquarters and shelter in the South Norfolk section of Chesapeake. The campaign also seeks to fund an endowment to help us prepare for the future as the availability of affordable housing diminishes. With a successful capital campaign, ForKids will be positioned to provide services to more of those in need for years to come.

We are humbled and inspired by your support. Your generous donations enabled us to serve more people than ever before and fulfill our mission of breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty for families and children. Together, we LIFT children, families, and communities. Together, we thrive.

Jennifer Pfitzner, CPA
Treasurer

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
YEAR-END JULY 2019

ASSETS
Cash & Cash Equivalents $9,280,637
Other Assets 1,146,512
Pledges Receivable 7,182,532
Property & Equipment 5,243,758
Investments 477,984
Total Assets $23,331,423

LIABILITIES
Current Liabilities $461,406
Total Liabilities $461,406

Total Net Assets $22,870,017

* Includes $14,819,601 for The Campaign ForKids

USE OF FUNDS  FY19
Management & General $507,131
Fundraising 763,268
Program & Services 6,394,292
Total $7,664,691

Fundraising, Management and General 17%
Program & Services 83%
Total 100%

Federal Government 2,510,437
State & Local Government 775,502
Contributions & Fundraising 2,952,689
Contributed Property 312,713
United Way 194,885
Rent & Program Fees 109,431
Thrift Store 274,032
Other Income 138,537
Total Support & Revenue $7,268,226.00
FORKIDS REGIONAL HOUSING CRISIS HOTLINE RECEIVED 53,775 CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE THIS YEAR

The Regional Housing Crisis Hotline, operated by ForKids, is the central point of contact for all persons experiencing a housing crisis across 14 cities in Greater Hampton Roads. In addition to responding to families and individuals experiencing homelessness, the Hotline connects individuals to our community’s extended network of resources for assistance to prevent them from falling into homelessness whenever possible.

LIVING IN A TRUCK WAS HER “READY, SET.” NOW IT’S TIME TO GO!

Brenda’s marriage had deteriorated beyond repair. The family’s home was in her husband’s name, a fact he held over her head when deciding, day to day, whether to allow her to stay there. Then came a domestic violence incident, and Brenda made the courageous decision to leave the home and the marriage.

She moved into her truck and called the ForKids hotline. With no available shelter space that night, Brenda was connected to Molly Ozee, Outreach Specialist, to explore a path forward.

Molly remembers the day she met Brenda. “Her demeanor and body language portrayed her sense of defeat.” The two women spent a long time talking. Molly learned that Brenda had a part-time job and two teenage daughters she had been forced to leave with her husband. They strategized about the steps Brenda might take next. Landing a second part-time job. Saving money. Searching for an affordable apartment. Brenda left the office with a few toiletries, a bag of food and a determination to land on her feet.

Shortly after, Molly began receiving texts from Brenda seeking housing leads. She stopped by the ForKids office to do some laundry. She lined up a job interview for seasonal work at a big box store. And things began to change.

As this annual report goes to print, Brenda got that second job. She just signed a lease on an apartment and will be moving in, with her daughters, in a few weeks. With two jobs, her life won’t be easy, but Brenda won’t need anyone’s permission to come home at the end of a long work day.

Karen Snipes
Intake Specialist II
Karen’s role in the ForKids Regional Housing Crisis Hotline is to receive calls from people experiencing a housing crisis. The people calling in for help are understandably under tremendous stress. That’s why Karen takes a moment each morning, before walking into the office, to say a prayer. “I always want be kind,” says Karen. “Mine might be the only kind, gentle voice that person hears all day.” Karen has been working for the Hotline since July 2016 and has answered approximately 16,500 calls, each with grace and understanding. Karen grew up in St. Louis and she and her husband have four children.
THE MARVELOUS MS. NINA

If you walk into the ForKids Suffolk Regional Services Center on any given day of the week, you assume Nina Matukewicz is a staff member. She spends so much time in the office we often forget she’s a volunteer.

Ms. Nina, as the Beyond the Bell (BTB) tutoring kids fondly call her, has volunteered with ForKids for 4 years. When the new Suffolk Center opened in 2018, in a highly visible location that required a receptionist to respond to the high volume of drop-in visitors, Nina quickly offered to be there every Friday.

The new Center touts a professional kitchen to help us feed the BTB children dinner when our community partners need a night off. We can’t keep Ms. Nina out of that kitchen. She does Taco Tuesdays where all the children get their own customized taco. When she overheard one child say he had never had a Philly cheesesteak, guess what was on the next week’s menu? The kids participated in an end-of-year survey, including this question: “What is your favorite thing for dinner?” It was no surprise that the response heard overwhelmingly was, “Whatever Ms. Nina cooks!”

Ms. Nina’s gift for cooking is just one of many. If the Suffolk pantry gets a little messy, the “Mini Mojo” donation room has unsorted donations piling up or the BTB programs in Norfolk or Chesapeake are short a volunteer, that is where you will find Ms. Nina. She also keeps an eye out for our families and frequently donates things she sees they need to get back on their feet, from toasters to towels and everything in between. And all that cooking Ms. Nina does for the kids? Magically, there is always enough left over to feed the staff. We love you, Ms. Nina!
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Kelly Sokol
Vice Chair
Jenn Pfitzer
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Thaler McCormick
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Owen Griffin
Randy Guiler
Anne-Randolph B. Harrell
Nita Jain
Rozalyn Klein
Duff McDuffie
Charles “Chuck” Monroe
Charlene A. Morring
Kim Austin-Peterman
Cline Reasor

Jane Short
Lloyd Taliaferro
G. Randolph Webb, Jr.

Newly Elected Directors
2019-2020
Stuart Birkel
Jill Broome
John Stein

We’d like to extend our sincerest thank you to our outgoing board members:

Karen Crawford
Martin Einhorn
Rozalyn Klein
Duff McDuffie
Charlene A. Morring
Lloyd Taliaferro

FORKIDS FOUNDATION
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