At Last

THE WAIT IS OVER

THE CAMPAIGN

ForKids
Four years ago, we launched The Campaign ForKids in the midst of increasing need and aging, obsolete facilities. We knew it would be tough to raise the funds and even tougher to get the rezoning necessary for a new shelter. Our Board of Directors committed $2 million to the Campaign and Frank Batten, Jr, George Birdsong, Helen Dragas and Paul Hirschbiel joined our team as Campaign Champions. It started to look like ForKids might just be able to pull this off.

Three and a half busy years later, we dedicated the Suffolk Regional Headquarters on November 8, 2018 in the beautiful Birdsong Center for Families. Located in a perfect site for families and volunteers, it has already had a profound impact on services in Western Tidewater.

And at last, on September 5th we will break ground on the Center for Children and Families, a regional hub that will forever change ForKids and our work. Over the next 16 months, we will consolidate over 100 staff members from five sites and 50% more shelter families into a remarkable facility in the regionally central, historic community of South Norfolk.

Picture this: December 2020, our new kitchen manager is practicing with a small army of volunteers in a sparkling commercial kitchen designed for cooking classes. Our holiday toy distribution is happening in a welcoming, accessible facility where staff, volunteers and families don’t have to wear coats! Education staff is moving into offices next to a high-tech education center and preparing to welcome 120 students in afterschool programs. Hotline staff move to a 24-seat call center across from a new advocacy and research center. Our expanded services team settles into offices accessible to all parts of our region. Everyone prepares to welcome families relocating from Haven House emergency shelter, many of whom have been sleeping on the floor. As a bonus, new restaurants and shops are opening on historic Poindexter Street.

Yes, we can really see all of this happening thanks to you and the many people who have made this Campaign possible. We aren’t done yet. With $3 million more to raise we will be working hard through the next 16 months. But right now, we are celebrating. We hope you will join us September 5th!

Building Specs:

- 60,000 S.F (+ 4,000 s.f. roof garden)
- NEW RESEARCH & ADVOCACY CENTER
- 100% INCREASE IN HOUSING CRISIS HOTLINE CAPACITY
  (24 seats – doubling current capacity)
- TRANSFORMED EDUCATION CENTER
  (capacity for 120 children in 5 classrooms
  - including art and STEM classrooms,
  and 4 tutoring rooms)
- 20-FAMILY EMERGENCY SHELTER
  95 beds – doubling current capacity
- FORKIDS CORPORATE AND SERVICE HEADQUARTERS
  Staff capacity for 150
- COMMUNITY EVENT AND MEETING SPACE

Estimated Construction Timeline:

- LATE SUMMER 2019
  Hourigan Construction mobilizes to the site
- SEPTEMBER 2019
  Groundbreaking
- WINTER 2019
  Foundation poured
- SPRING 2020
  Erect structural steel elements/Beams Signing Ceremony
- LATE SPRING 2020
  Install windows and door systems
- SUMMER-FALL 2020
  Frame interior walls and building systems
- LATE FALL 2020
  Systems start-up and Hourigan closeout activities

Thaler McCormick, ForKids CEO
The new Center for Children and Families will do more than assist families in crisis. It will help ForKids increase educational programming, job training and support for children and their families. The need is extreme and ForKids is there to break the cycle for good.”  
— KELLY SOKOL, ForKids Board Chair

“I am excited it will allow ForKids to serve many more families and do so in friendly, cheerful spaces. The building will also provide a great workspace for the outstanding ForKids staff.”  
— FRANK BATTEN, JR, Honorary Campaign Chair

“ForKids is a great community partner helping those families who are less advantaged. Their new facility promises to offer much needed resources for the families they serve.”  
— JOAN BROCK

“We are excited about the opportunities the new Center for Children and Families will bring families from throughout our region. We also look forward to the positive impact the new center will have on Chesapeake’s South Norfolk neighborhood.”  
— DEBORAH M. DICROCE, President and CEO of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation.

“I am excited because we can turn on the AC and the children’s computers at the same time!”  
— ANGELA GRACIANI, Director of Education, ForKids

“I am excited because this project is really unique and the biggest South Norfolk has ever seen. You usually get one or the other – we got both!”  
— RICK WEST, Mayor, City of Chesapeake

“I am excited it will allow ForKids to serve many more families and do so in friendly, cheerful spaces. The building will also provide a great workspace for the outstanding ForKids staff.”  
— FRANK BATTEN, JR, Honorary Campaign Chair

“I am excited because we can turn on the AC and the children’s computers at the same time!”  
— ANGELA GRACIANI, Director of Education, ForKids

“I am excited because this project is really unique and the biggest South Norfolk has ever seen. You usually get one or the other – we got both!”  
— RICK WEST, Mayor, City of Chesapeake

“ForKids is a great community partner helping those families who are less advantaged. Their new facility promises to offer much needed resources for the families they serve.”  
— JOAN BROCK

“We are excited about the opportunities the new Center for Children and Families will bring families from throughout our region. We also look forward to the positive impact the new center will have on Chesapeake’s South Norfolk neighborhood.”  
— DEBORAH M. DICROCE, President and CEO of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation.
On November 8, 2018, we celebrated the Grand Opening of the $2.25 million Birdsong Center for Families. The Center serves clients across the 1,400 square mile service area of Suffolk, Franklin, Southampton and Isle of Wight Counties. The 7,000 square-foot trauma-informed building provides distinct classrooms, a donation distribution room, volunteer space, a room for community partners to offer services to families, and offices for educators, mental health professionals, case managers, job placement and housing specialists.

The Campaign ForKids is a $22.5MM campaign. Raised to date: $19.2MM

THE CAMPAIGN BUDGET:
- Center For Children and Families in Chesapeake: $16.75MM
- Suffolk Regional Services Center: $2.25MM
- GROW Campaign: $3.5MM
  - $1MM Service Seed Fund
  - $2MM Endowment Fund
  - $.5MM Infrastructure for Technology and Transportation

Total Campaign Budget: $22.5MM

I am excited about the synergies and efficiencies ForKids will gain by having all their resources in the same place and by replacing outdated, remote buildings. I truly believe that ForKids in the new Center for Children and Families will be a model for non-profits across the nation.

— RICK CLARKE, former ForKids Board Chair

I am excited that with this project, ForKids will be shaping the next generation of community leaders like it shaped me.

— WILL WHITE, former ForKids kid and current ForKids Housing Crisis Hotline staff member

Suffolk Regional Headquarters:

ForKids has grown very organically, but is quite sophisticated and filled with heart.

— ALISON N. YU, Program Officer, William Randolph Hearst Foundation, New York, ForKids’ first national grant award sponsor

I am excited that we won’t have to place families on the floor.

— SHIRLEY BRACKETT, Crisis Response Director, ForKids

The Campaign ForKids

ForKids.org
“It is heartwarming to me to know ForKids will soon be breaking ground for the new Center for Children and Families. These are exciting times for the dedicated staff of ForKids and for those they serve!”

— FRANK M. “PETE” CRAIG, ForKids Founder

What: The Center for Children and Families Groundbreaking Celebration

When: September 5, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.

Where: 1001 Poindexter Street, Chesapeake

Stay tuned for an invitation with all of the details!

ForKids.org