

ANNUAL REPORT

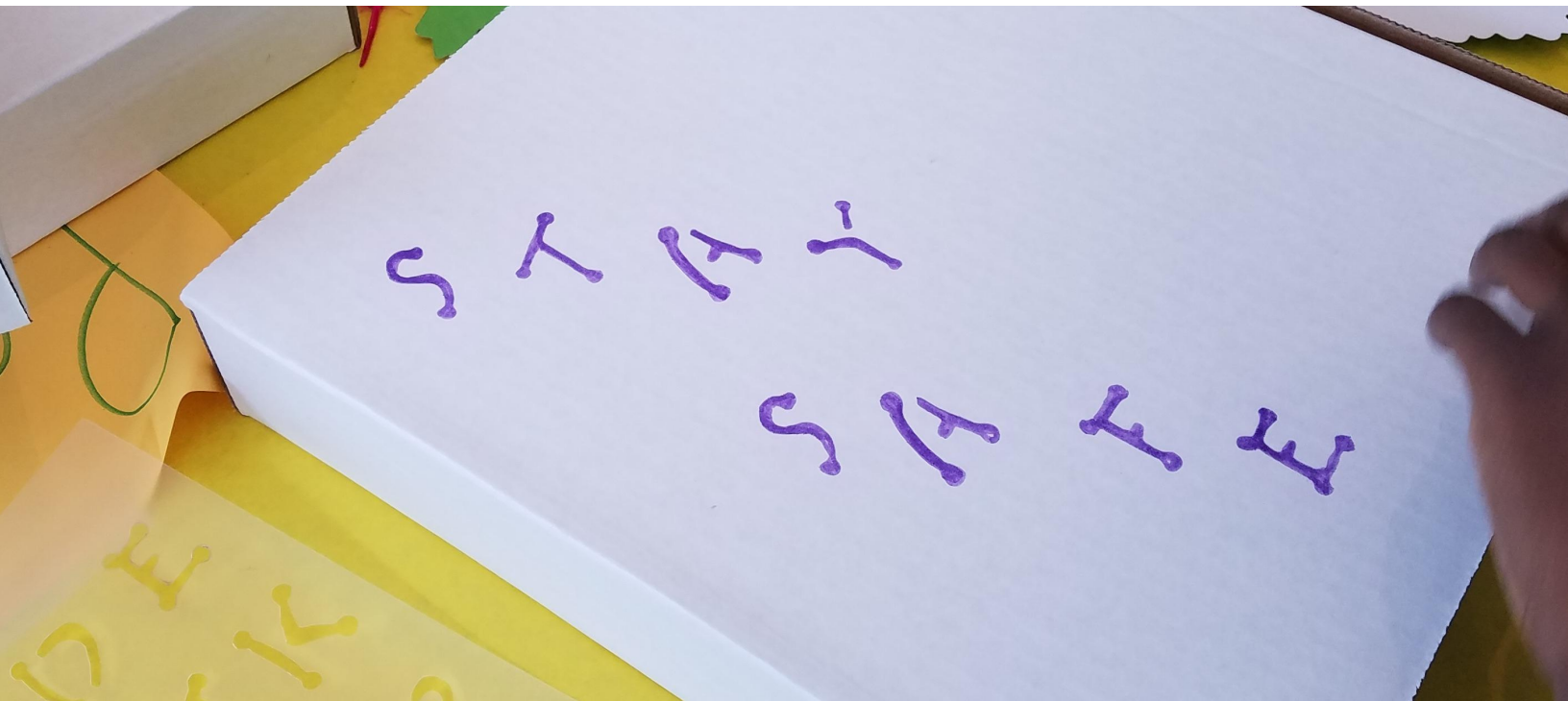
July 1, 2019
thru
June 30, 2020



This year's annual report is dedicated to the memory of John Robert Lewis, who said, "When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have to speak up. You have to say something; you have to do something." Congressman Lewis was right. We have advocated on behalf of children affected by parental incarceration for over three decades. This report captures our activities and efforts over the last year.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Board President's Letter.....	2	New COVID-19 Programs	
Programs July 2019 - February 2020		Connect Families Program.....	10
Youth Engagement Zone (YEZ).....	3	Emergency Food Distribution.....	10
Family Visitation Program (FVP).....	4	Black Rose Reading Program.....	11
Youth & Caregiver Events.....	5	Parent's Correspondence Project.....	11
Special Family-Centered Programs.....	6	New Remote Programs.....	12
Metro Re-entry Programs.....	7	Interns, Work-Study & Volunteers.....	13-15
Programs Canceled due to COVID-19		Board Events & Updates.....	16-17
Family Visitation Program (FVP).....	8	Staff Highlights.....	18
Spring Break Trip.....	8	Thank You!.....	19
Summer Camp.....	9		
2020 Back to School Party.....	9		





President's Statement

National Board of Directors (BoD)

June 2020 marked 33 years for Foreverfamily. In these three decades, the agency has faced many challenges, and we are still standing. Our founder Sandra Barnhill attributes our continued success to following the Serenity Prayer: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and wisdom to know the difference."

June 2020 also marked three months in a global pandemic that has hit Georgia, especially hard. Life, as we know it, including prison visitation, has been altered. In these changing and uncertain times, we have shifted to virtual and remote support for our children, their incarcerated parents, and family members through various new programs designed to connect and strengthen them throughout the difficult days ahead. Our first change was to provide communication support through phone call funds, email stamps, and stationery supplies so families can stay connected with their incarcerated loved one. All of these efforts were made because we know how important it is for our children and families to stay connected, especially during COVID-19, when visitation has been suspended. We will be continuing this support as COVID-19 continues to limit in-person visitation.

As our families, especially the incarcerated parents, go through COVID-19, we offer the prayer to them as a mantra to live by. Many things are occurring in our world right now that are beyond our control. But we have a choice about HOW we face each day. We hope that they will face each of these days with a feeling of inner peace. We hope that the children, parents, and caregivers know that we'll always be there.

In closing, we thank Congressman John Lewis for his wise words and service by honoring his memory through our words and actions as we press forward.

"Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year; it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble."

DONOVAN DUNCAN
Foreverfamily, BoD President



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ZONE (YEZ)

Foreverfamily's Youth Engagement Zone is a combination of programs and events for all the youth enrolled in the agency. The YEZ Executive Committee is composed of four of the older program youth who hold positions as President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

They help to plan and implement activities.

Serving on the Executive Committee allows the officers to gain experience in leadership, decision-making, problem-solving, volunteering, and administration.

The President who interned with Foreverfamily during the summer of 2019 did the initial brainstorming for YEZ's program year with the Ff staff. Once the general concepts were approved, the President scheduled planning sessions and meetings with the other officers to discuss and finalize everything. As part of his administrative duties, he worked on the back to school party (putting together the elementary, middle, and high school packets, organizing the book bags, and preparing for the trip to Macon).

YEZ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

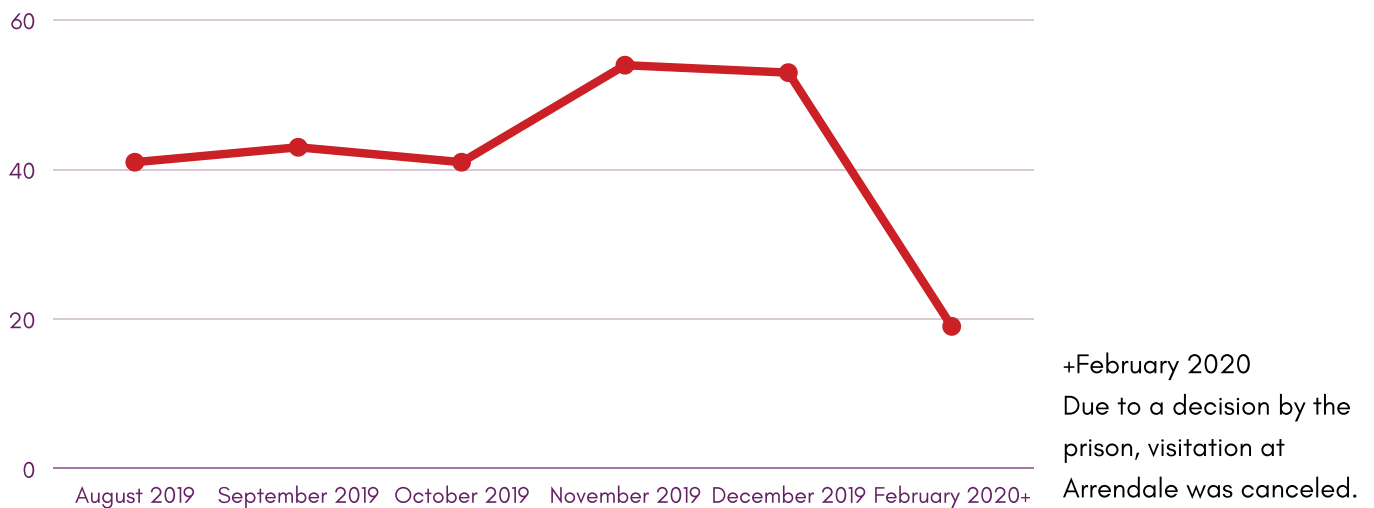
- **Gave leadership** at the Back to School Party in Macon at the Harriett Tubman Museum by interacting with the younger kids and leading them through the museum.
- **Talked about criminal justice and how children of incarcerated parents are impacted** with Falcon players and who members of the Falcons Social Justice Committee and the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation (AMBFF)
- **Attended leadership focused summer camps.** The YEZ President went to the STEM program at Morehouse College. The other three officers went to the Reconciliation House weekend camp. Each camp provided the officers with a chance to build skills, interact with other youth, and have fun.



FAMILY VISITATION PROGRAM (FVP)

FVP is Foreverfamily's longest-running program. We take the children on the second Saturday of the month to GA prisons for visitation, so they have a regular opportunity to connect with their parents face-to-face.

The graph below reflects the number of children and family members that attended FVP each month until visitation was suspended beginning March 2020 due to COVID-19.



THANK YOU TO OUR TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS

Special thanks to the following churches who provided buses and drivers each month to take our families to and from visitation!

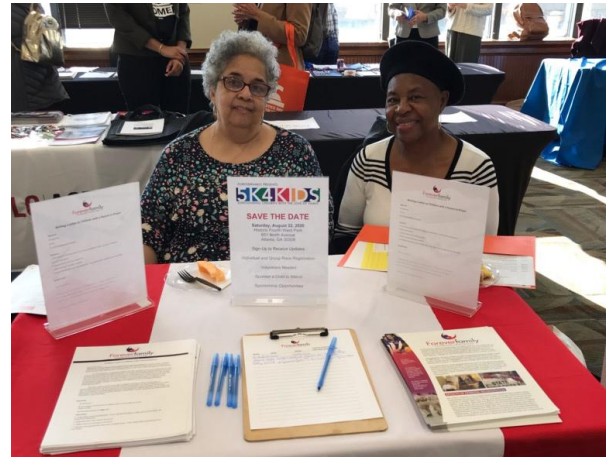
Mt. Olive Baptist Church, North Atlanta Church, Wesley United Methodist

YOUTH & CAREGIVER EVENTS

2019 BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY

Foreverfamily's Annual Back to School Party is a day of fun and educational activities that allow the youth to have new experiences and interact with each other outside of the monthly Family Visitation Program.

For the 2019 event, the youth went on a trip to the Harriet Tubman Museum in Macon, GA. This trip was planned and executed by the YEZ Executive Committee and Foreverfamily's staff. Volunteers from the Front Runnerz joined us at the event and engaged with the children in a range of activities that taught them about African American History, Art and Music. The motorcycle club shared the history of Black bikers and the philanthropic efforts of their club. We also distributed the children's school supplies and summer hygiene boxes during this event.



2020 JUSTICE DAY

2020 marked the 9th Annual Justice Day at the capitol hosted by the Georgia Justice Project. The event is designed to allow everyday people to learn about criminal legal reforms, build relationships with each other, and interact with elected officials and advocate for change.

Two of our caregivers, along with two of our staff members, attended. They set up a table to inform participants about Foreverfamily and gave leadership to the community service project, writing letters to children of incarcerated parents. The event included many excellent speakers who covered a range of different perspectives on the criminal justice system. We are proud to co-host this event for the second year, along with many other organizations that support incarcerated and returned citizens.





SPECIAL FAMILY-CENTERED PROGRAMS

August 2019 through February 2020, we were able to celebrate special moments in the lives of our children by providing gifts and helping our families enjoy family-centered holidays.

BIRTHDAY GIFTS & CELEBRATIONS

Every month after the children return from FVP, we celebrate the children who had birthdays that month. They receive a card signed by our staff and volunteers, a cupcake, a hand-picked gift, and everyone singing Happy Birthday and eating cake!

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Giving thanks each year and providing food to our families so they may also celebrate is an integral part of Foreverfamily's culture. We have several volunteers that help with the sorting and distribution.

HOLIDAY GIFTS & VISIT FROM SANTA

We believe that every child should get the opportunity to celebrate the holidays with their own gifts. This year we were able to provide each child with a number of gifts, which were donated by individuals, companies, and churches and were lovingly distributed by Santa and his elves in the office!



METRO RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS

As part of our commitment to strengthening families and supporting returning citizens, we partnered with the Metro Transitional Center for Women. We provided several programs for the women and their children. This transitional center is for women nearing the end of their incarceration and preparing to return home.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

We provided school supplies for the children, which were distributed at a Back to School Party at the Transitional Center. The party allowed the children to visit their mothers in a fun and interactive environment outside what is available during regular visitation, such as face painting, carnival snacks, and prizes! These types of events help build and maintain connections between the mothers and their children.

BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM

Visitation is important to incarcerated parents, and the administration and mothers at Metro wanted to provide a more visually welcoming environment for the children while they are visiting. We partnered with them and David Ayoung, owner of Knockout Garden Services, to fill their gardening beds and islands with a variety of flowers and flowering shrubs that will bloom every year.

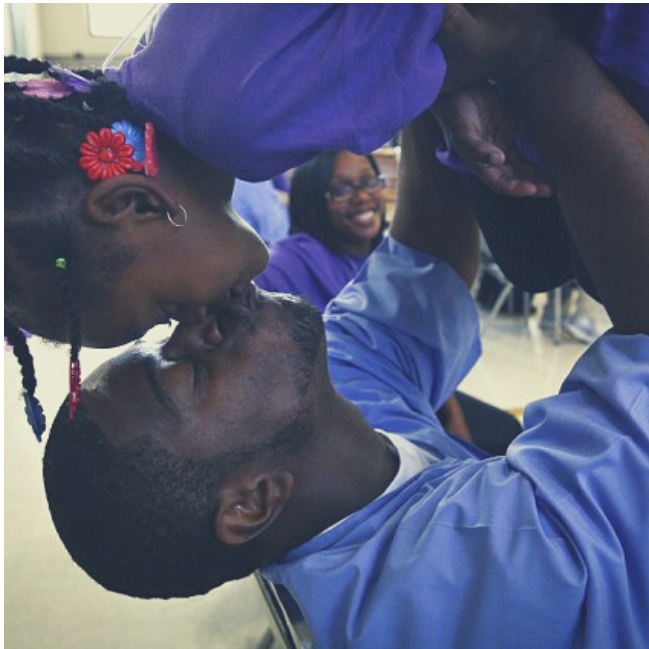
MOTHERS' PROGRAM

To better prepare the mothers for their return home, Foreverfamily provided many seminars on Self Care, Parental Rights, and Responsibilities, and Reclaiming Who You Are. Additionally, we partnered with the Dogwood City Chapter of the Links to provide an all-day Career Empowerment Seminar and clothes closet, which contained work outfits and professional clothing for the women to choose from to assist them with getting and maintaining employment.

CAREGIVERS' PROGRAM

When a mother becomes incarcerated, it is often the maternal grandparents or another elderly family member who becomes the caregiver of the children. To honor the unsung work of caregivers, we held a reception in honor of Grandparents' Day, where we provided cake and punch so that families could celebrate together during visitation.

CANCELED PROGRAMS*



FAMILY VISITATION MARCH-MAY

Beginning in March 2020, visitation was suspended at all of the Georgia prisons due to COVID-19. This continued past May 2020, which is usually our last trip before the children's summer vacation. Once the prisons reopen to visitation, we will determine when FVP may be reinstated based on CDC guidelines and other factors, including the reality that many of our children's caregivers are elderly and have compromised immune systems.

SPRING BREAK TRIP

During the first week of April 2020, we were scheduled to take our children and their caregivers in the Caregiver Advocacy Program on a Spring Break Trip to Savannah and Tybee Island, Georgia. Our Spring interns had planned bus activities, events, community service, and learning opportunities for the children. The caregivers would be given the rare opportunity to vacation and relax while we cared for and supported the children throughout each day. We are sad that the trip could not happen, and we hope that it can be rescheduled sometime in the future.



CANCELED PROGRAMS*

SUMMER CAMP

Each year, Foreverfamily partners with several day and overnight summer camps to allow our children to participate in a mix of educational and fun activities. Due to COVID-19, the requirements to shelter in place, and the closing of summer camps, we had to cancel this program. The hygiene products that were usually provided to the kids for camp were instead sent home to the families.



2020 BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY

Annually, we choose an event that is both fun and educational to usher the children back into their school year. Although the 2020 Back to School Party would have occurred during the 2020-2021 fiscal year, it is planned months in advance. The decision to cancel because of COVID-19 was made toward the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

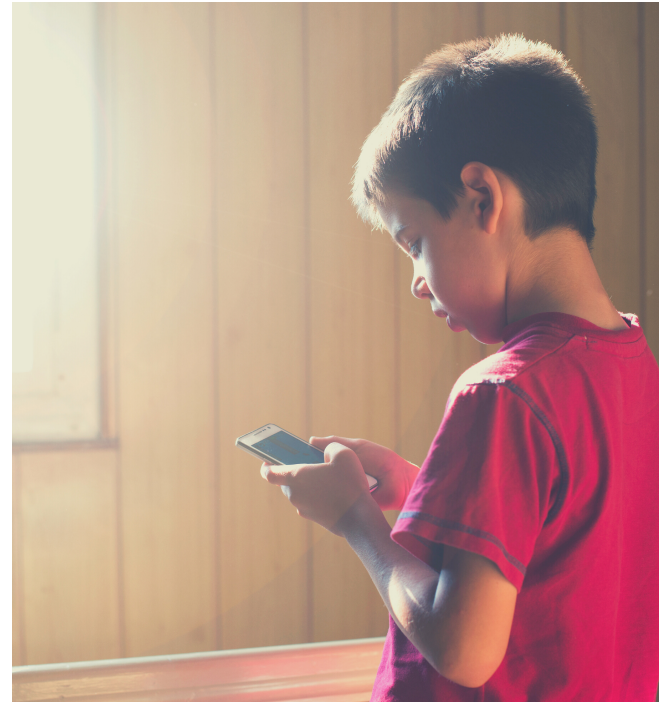
NEWLY CREATED PROGRAMS*

CONNECT FAMILIES PROGRAM

In order to keep our families connected while visitation was suspended, we have provided them funds and supplies to stay in touch including:

- Stamps for JPay Emails
- Stationery, Envelopes, and Stamps
- Funds for Securus Tech Phone Calls
- Video Visitations

During May, our Young Professionals Board (YPB) covered the cost of Mother's Day calls for children.



EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

As COVID-19 hit Georgia, some of our families needed additional assistance as jobs ended, and grocery store shelves were empty. In March and again, in April, we distributed food. Generous donations from individual donors and members of our BoD and National Advisory Board (NAB) increased our ability to provide two weeks' worth of food.

NEWLY CREATED PROGRAMS*

BLACK ROSE READING PROGRAM

In February 2020, Foreverfamily, in collaboration with The Black Rose Foundation for Children, rolled-out a new monthly reading program to coincide with the FVP trips. All of our children on the February trip participated, by being given a book and interacting during the bus book club. The third graders also gained additional benefit by receiving weekly in-home instruction from a reading coach that continued even after COVID-19 suspended the in-person book club.



PARENTS' CORRESPONDENCE PROJECT

Foreverfamily regularly communicates with our parents during the months of the FVP trips. Since visitation was suspended, we knew keeping in contact and providing updates about the outside world, their families, and our support was vitally important. We did this by sending regular updates and wellness information (meditations, yoga poses, mental exercises, etc.) via email to the mothers. We also provided them with email stamps that they could use to respond to us or contact their family.

NEW REMOTE PROGRAMS

We continue to assess and meet the needs of our children and families as COVID-19 continues. Although we cannot serve them in person, we have designed several new programs to begin in Fall 2020.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

- VIRTUAL VIDEO VISITATION
- VIRTUAL TUTORING
- PEN PAL PROGRAM
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
- VIRTUAL SERVICE PROJECT

CAREGIVERS' & PARENTS' PROGRAMS

- TECHNOLOGY TRAINING
- VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS
- POETRY WRITING
- GRANDPARENTS DAY GREETINGS



INTERNS & WORK-STUDY

Interns and work-study students from colleges and universities around the Atlanta area provide an important service to Foreverfamily in that they augment our small staff. We work to **provide a mutually beneficial relationship** based on each student's individual career goals and aspirations. The students work on a variety of tasks that allow them to gain experience in leadership, planning, case management, marketing, and much more!

We also **provide access to learning opportunities** throughout each semester which include:

- Monthly Trainings
- Career-Related Seminars & Job Fairs
- Informational Interviews

Thank you to the students for their time and hard work and to all of the administrators and professors at the colleges and universities that support these students and Foreverfamily!

INTERNS

- Ebony Davis
- Ahmari Graves
- Isabella Johnbull
- Taylor Jordan
- ChungHyun Lee
Work-Study Student
- Tyshawn Tucker
- Debbreyonna White



VOLUNTEER IN-KIND GIFTS



Life Coach Jeri Ross hosted a book signing for her novel *See you in the Sky: A Memoir of Prison, Possibility and Peace*. She donated the proceeds from the event to Foreverfamily. Additionally, she donated copies of the books for each of our incarcerated mothers.

The Davis family created a database for enhanced case management. Casey Davis, who has worked at Foreverfamily for over two years, her father Marshall Davis, and uncle Mark Davis (not pictured) worked together on the project.

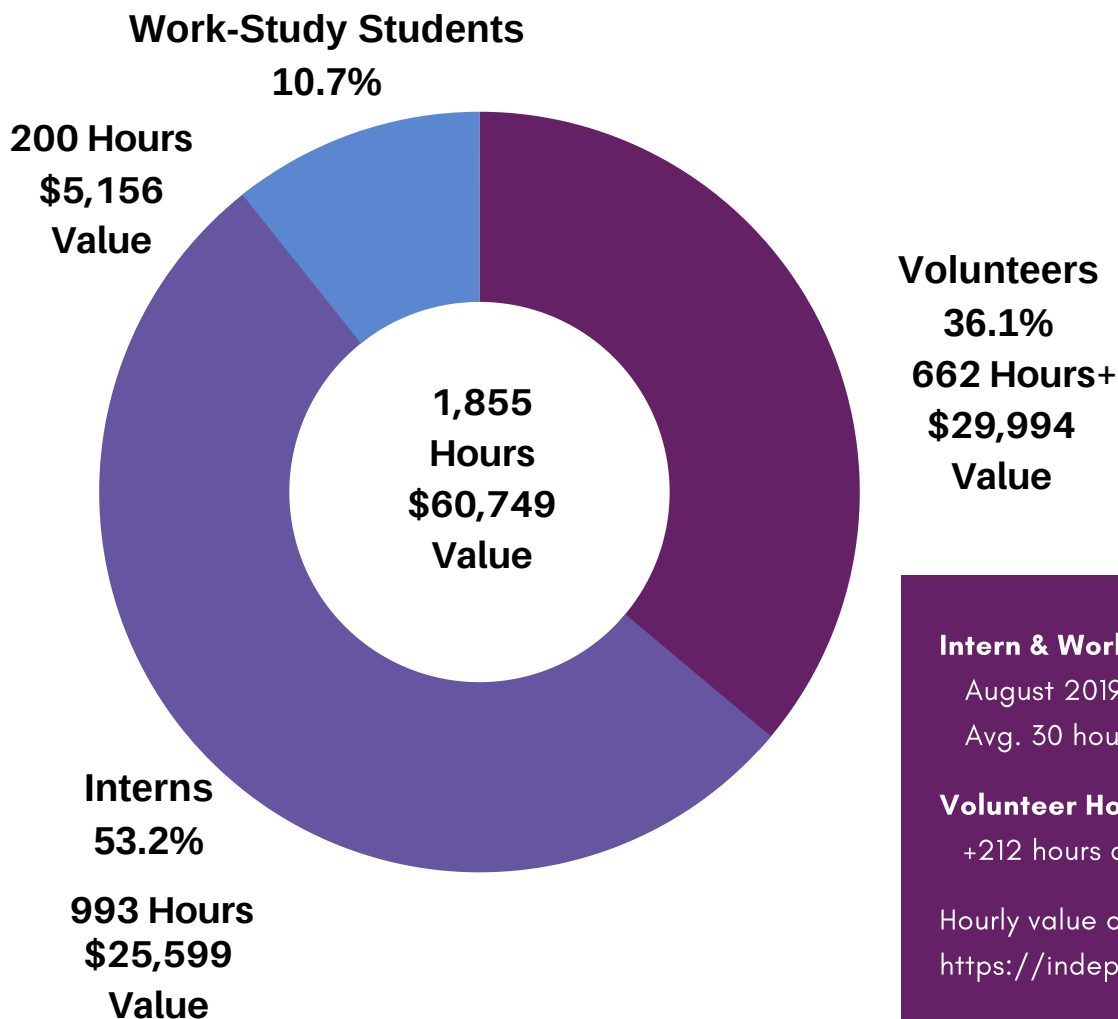


The Dogwood City Chapter of the Links provided several in-kind donations over the year. They hosted a Career Empowerment Seminar for the women at Metro Transitional Center, provided monthly snacks for the children to enjoy on the bus during FVP, as well as, school supplies, and illuminated the holidays at Thanksgiving with turkeys and at Christmas with a huge in-kind donation of food and gifts for the families and children.

Thank you to the many folks who donated food, legal representation, and countless hours on projects! Your work and expertise is invaluable to Foreverfamily.

VOLUNTEER HOURS & VALUE

Interns, work-study students, and volunteers provide administrative and programmatic support to supplement the small staff that Foreverfamily employs to provide the best services to our children and families.



Intern & Work-Study Hours

August 2019 - July 2020

Avg. 30 hours a week

Volunteer Hours

+212 hours database creation

Hourly value calculated based on <https://independentsector.org/>

"Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives."



BOARD HOSTED EVENTS

Every year each of Foreverfamily's boards hosts one or more events. They are a mix of fundraisers benefiting the organization and educational events educating the community, and advocating for our mission.

5K4KIDS

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

August 2019 marked the National Board of Directors (BoD)'s 7th Annual 5K4Kids. The event is Foreverfamily's largest fundraiser and raised over \$20,000 this year. It took place at the Old Fourth Ward Park on the Beltline behind Ponce City Market. The 2020 5K4Kids took taking place on August 22-29, 2020, virtually due to COVID-19.

MLK DAY LECTURE

NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

In celebration of MLK Day, the National Advisory Board (NAB) hosted their annual MLK lecture at Georgia State University. The keynote speaker was Pamela Winn: an anti-prisoner shackling advocate and formerly incarcerated mother. She, along with author Jeri Ross and Brian Núñez (the Digital Organizer at Georgia Shift), participated in a policy panel discussion following her speech.

CHEERS4KIDS

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD

April 2020, the Young Professionals Board (YPB)'s sixth Annual Cheers4Kids was postponed due to COVID-19. This fundraiser is customarily held as a night of food, drinking, and games and has historically raised over \$15,000. Please stay tuned for Cheers4KIDS later this year.

BOARD MEMBER TRANSITIONS

NEW MEMBERS

Carlton Mackey - Former member of NAB, joined the National Board of Directors

Creative Director of 50 Shades of Black & Creator of Black Men Smile

Director, Arts & Ethics Program, Center for Ethics, Emory University

Michael McAfee - Joined the National Board of Directors

President and CEO of PolicyLink

Vett Vandiver - Former member of NAB, joined the National Board of Directors

Owner VKV Communications

Director of Marketing and Communications, Achieve Atlanta

Clinton Boyd, Jr - Joined the National Advisory Board

Post doctoral fellow at Duke University

Asantewaa Darkwa - Joined the National Advisory Board

GSU Sociology Ph.D. student

Beth Wettlin Githuku - Former member of YPB, joined the National Advisory Board

Community Engagement Director at GPAC

Maci Hall - Joined the Young Professionals Board

Principal Consultant for Blue Blood Consulting

Founder of The Society ATL

Malcolm Sinkfield - Joined the Young Professionals Board

Student at Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Thank you to all of our board members for their commitment to furthering Foreverfamily's vision and mission! We look forward to working with the new members. We appreciate our retiring members' years of service.

RETIRING MEMBERS

Callen Aten - Ended a 1 year term on the Young Professionals Board

Akiya McKnight - Ended a 3 year term on the National Board of Directors

Michelle West - Ended an 8 year term on the National Board of Directors as the Chair of the Strategic Directions Committee

Michael Owens - Ended a 6 year term on National Advisory Board and was inaugural convener of the MLK Lecture

Nicci Williams - Ended a 3 year term on the National Board of Directors as the Chair of the Communications & Technology Committee

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

MARKETA HARRIS PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Marketa Harris started as an intern with Foreverfamily in 2016 and was soon hired as a Program Coordinator for FVP. She worked closely with the children and families as well as the prisons and other staff members to ensure visitation was the best it could be! She was promoted to Senior Program Coordinator within two years, and most recently, she has been promoted to the position of Program Director. She works closely with Founder and CEO Sandra Barnhill to continue building and supporting Foreverfamily's children and families.

AMBER LEVISTER FVP COORDINATOR

Amber Levister began with Foreverfamily as an intern in 2018. After completing her internship, she was brought on as an FVP Coordinator to lead the children and volunteers to visitation at one of the prisons each month. We deeply appreciate her nearly two years of service to our children and families. We hope to be able to work with her again once FVP is back.

CASEY DAVIS PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Casey Davis started with Foreverfamily in 2016 as an AmeriCorps VISTA. After completing her year, she left to pursue a Master's Degree in Conflict Management. In 2019, once her schooling was complete, she returned as Volunteer Coordinator and was recently promoted to permanent staff as a Program Coordinator. She utilizes her variety of skills to coordinate volunteers, interns, events, and marketing for the organization.

JADA SLADE FVP ON-SITE COORDINATOR

Jada Slade began as an intern with Foreverfamily at the beginning of 2019. After completing two semesters, she was brought on as a Program Coordinator to oversee the office and be the on-call person during FVP each month. We appreciate her dedication to our children and families over the past year. We hope to continue to work with her in the future when FVP can be reinstated.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Foreverfamily is sustained through our dedicated staff, generous donors, committed volunteers and interns, and devoted board members.

First, we'd like to give special recognition to our corporate, faith-based, and civic organizations that provide monetary and in-kind donations as well as volunteers each year.

Next, we'd also like to thank the colleges and universities that partner with us to ensure we have interns each semester.

Finally, thank you to all our individual donors and volunteers for your financial support, time, and energy.

Every dollar given and hour spent goes to further connecting and strengthening the children and families of incarcerated parents that we work to serve each day!!!

FOREVERFAM.ORG