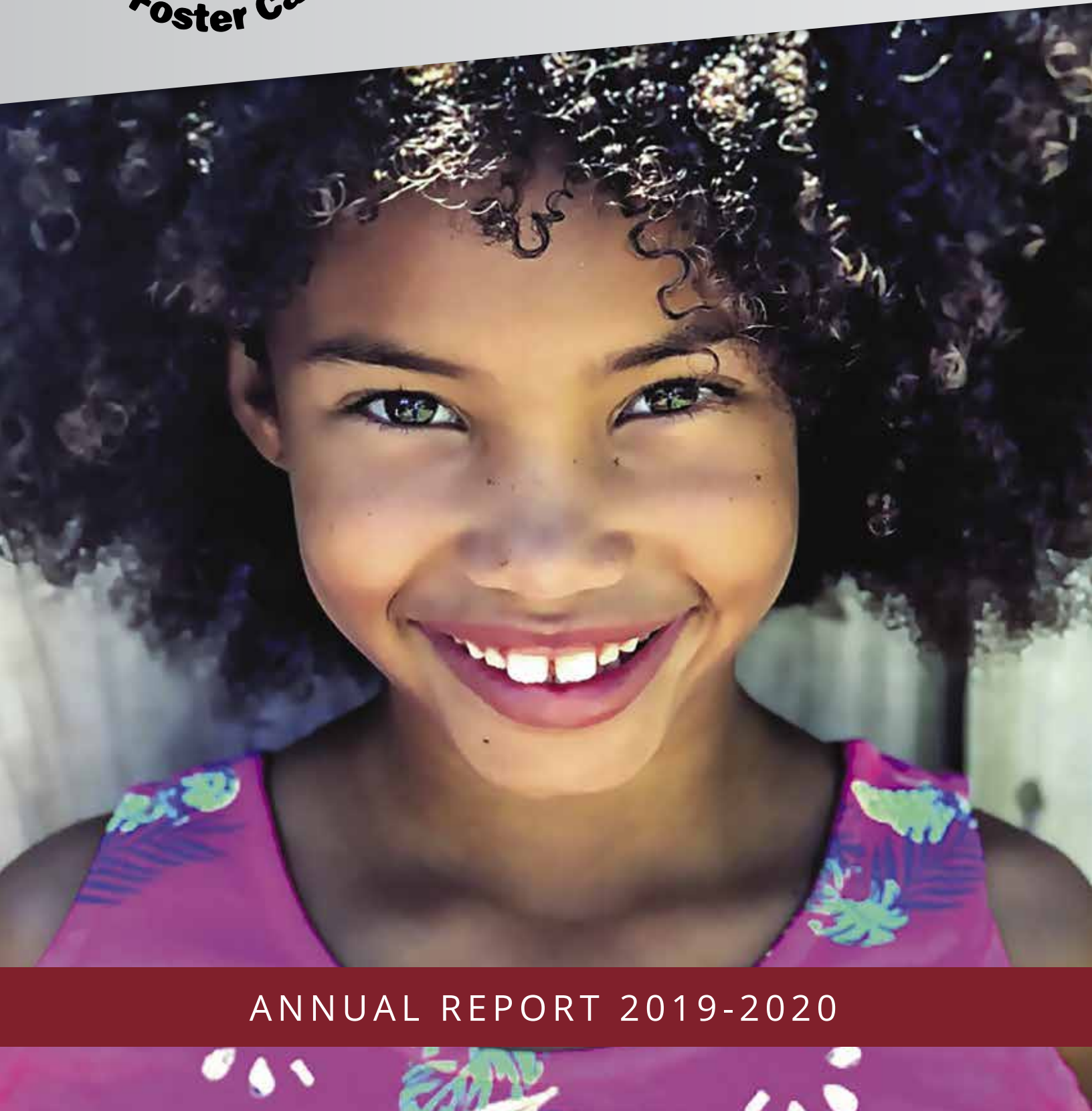




# Tidewater Friends of Foster Care



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



# Tidewater Friends of Foster Care 2019–2020 Annual Report

## Our Mission

Tidewater Friends of Foster Care (TFFC) is committed to enriching the lives of foster children in our community, because we believe that every child deserves an opportunity to thrive! Due to the inherent instability in family environment, foster children often miss out on key elements of a healthy and happy childhood, such as consistent family routines, enrollment in a single school system, and participation in enriching activities. Consequently, these children struggle emotionally and academically, with outcomes reflecting this strife.

**Through our philanthropy, TFFC strives to ensure that children in the foster care system have access to resources that afford them the opportunity to thrive.**

- Letter from the President .....4**
- Our Board & Officers .....5**
- The State of Foster Care .....6**
- Programs Update**
  - Tutoring .....8
  - Outreach ..... 10
  - Special Events ..... 12
  - Training ..... 12
  - Extracurricular Activities ..... 13
  - Gifting Projects ..... 14
  - Camps ..... 14
- Development & Investment ..... 16**
- Donors & Supporters ..... 17**
- Thank You to Our Sponsors ..... 20**
- Outlook for the Future ..... 21**
- Thank You Notes ..... 22**







# LETTER *from the* PRESIDENT



Audra Bullock  
President

Over the past year, the world has changed in profound ways—some great, some tragic, many unforeseen—and without a doubt, things will likely never return completely to the way they were. Throughout these changes, we have worked hard to ensure our mission moves forward and that our initiatives and tools evolve to meet the varying needs of youth and families in foster care. It certainly has been a challenge, but this year’s work has felt meaningful in ways that truly matter more than ever before.

The population we serve is a vulnerable one, with many inherent challenges stacked against them and yet, they are a group who have strengths beyond most—principally born out of past adversity and the resilience required to navigate it. In a time when it is imperative to stand up and reaffirm that Black Lives Matter, we must also reaffirm that the lives, wellbeing and rights of these children matter. To that end, we have put every ounce of our energy into ensuring the children we serve are afforded access to those things they need, get the equity they deserve and have advocates to protect their rights and amplify their voices.

It takes a big village to care for these children and I am personally grateful for all the people who have come together in support of our foster care population—parents, social workers, guardians, judges, advocates, sponsors, volunteers, and friends. Caring and compassion is what it’s all about and it makes an immeasurable difference for children and families in our community who have fallen on hard times. We must never forget that our community is a fabric of individuals and families woven together and if we allow this fabric to fray at any point, the entire community weakens.

To all who have supported us this year in our mission to make a difference for children and families in foster care, I send you my heartfelt thanks ... together we are making a difference!

Sincerely,

**Audra Bullock**  
*President, Tidewater Friends of Foster Care*

# OUR BOARD & OFFICERS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Audra Bullock**  
*Board Chair, Executive Director,  
and foster/adoptive parent, Norfolk*

**Mary Bonsby-Brock**  
*Wells Fargo and adoptive parent, Chesapeake*

**Liza Delpierre**  
*Community Leader and former CASA, Norfolk*

**Diane Angelos Johnston**  
*Community Leader, Virginia Beach*

**T. Richard Litton, Jr.**  
*Harbor Group International  
and foster/adoptive parent, Norfolk*

**Robert E. McCartney**  
*The Barry Robinson Center, Norfolk*

**Ken Shewbridge**  
*Community Leader and foster/adoptive parent,  
Virginia Beach*

**Tracy Keller**  
*Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast and foster/  
adoptive parent, Chesapeake*

**Lakysha Laing**  
*Cox Communications and foster care alum,  
Chesapeake*

**Joy Rios**  
*Connect With A Wish and foster/adoptive  
parent, Virginia Beach*

## OFFICERS

**Audra Bullock**  
*President*

**Liza Delpierre**  
*Vice President*

**T. Richard Litton, Jr.**  
*Secretary, Treasurer*

**Thomas R. Litton, Sr.**  
*Assistant Treasurer*

## ADVISORY BOARD

**Kimberly Baskerville**  
*Resource Manager  
Chesapeake Human Services*

**Jennifer Bond**  
*Foster Care Supervisor  
Virginia Beach Human Services*

**Camille Campos-Wilson**  
*Office Manager  
Norfolk Human Services*

**Stefanie Fabrizio**  
*Senior Family Services Supervisor  
Portsmouth Social Services*

**Denise Gallop**  
*Assistant Director of Human Services  
Norfolk Human Services*

**LaCora Harris**  
*Reunification Manager  
Spotsylvania Human Services*

**Felicia LaGarde**  
*Family Services Specialist  
Chesapeake Human Services*

**Kimberly Lewis**  
*Programs Manager  
Norfolk Human Services*

**Karen Opie**  
*Resource Manager  
Norfolk Human Services*



# The State *of* Foster Care

As of the end of May, there were 5491 children in the foster care system in Virginia—a number virtually unchanged from the previous year at that time. Across the state in 2019 there were over 4200 substantiated cases of neglect and/or abuse out of the nearly 40,000 cases received and accepted by Child Protection Services. Of the children in foster care, approximately 50% reported neglect, 30% reported parental drug abuse, 15% reported physical abuse, 7% reported incarceration of a parent, 5% reported sexual abuse and 15% reported inadequate housing (note multiple factors may be reported for any given foster care case). Foster children range in age from newborn to 20 years old (through the Fostering Futures Program, youth can stay in foster care in VA until their 21st birthday), with the two largest populations by age range being one to five years old and 16 to 18 years old. Children are spending an average of 19 months in foster care in Virginia, with the shortest average stay in care being approximately 10 months for those who are returning home to birth parents and the longest stay in care being approximately 30 months for those who are adopted.

No matter how you look at the numbers, this is a hard circumstance for children ... 10 months, 19 months, 30 months is an enormous amount of time in the life of a child! And in those months the quality and stability of care they experience can make or break their outcome. That's why it's so important to have a caring community of people around them, not just foster parents and social workers, but also advocates, supporters and volunteers who make it possible for those on the front-lines to show up day after day, sending these kids the message **"You are important."** Without that message, without that consistency, these children carry self-doubt, blame, insecurity, and mistrust to home after home. Nearly 60% of children in foster care in Virginia

have three or more homes while in foster care and 14% have six or more homes—Yes! Six or more messages that they are to blame for their circumstance and they are not worthy of unconditional love.

What about race and ethnicity? While it is uncomfortable to think about, it is important to understand that racial disparities exist within the foster care system. In the Eastern Region (Tidewater area) of Virginia, just under 50% of the children in foster care are Black, 37% are White, 11% are multiracial and 7% are Hispanic. This distribution does not parallel the population and consequently, Black children are approximately three times more likely to be involved in the foster care system than White children in this region. Given the aggregate outcomes of young adults who have been involved in the foster care system—exceedingly low high school graduation rates (between 25% to 60% depending on the length of time spent in care), homelessness and incarceration (nearly 50% for those aging out of foster care), early and single parenthood (as high as 96% for young women without high school degrees) and the long-term health impacts of childhood trauma (significantly increased risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer, and diabetes)—it is evident that the foster care system can and has disproportionately pervaded the Black community in spite of best efforts to avoid doing so.

Systems have a tendency to do this from time to time, especially when implemented through subjective decisions driven by highly emotional choices. The very system whose intention is to protect the vulnerable and minority groups, sometimes serves to entrap an even larger amount of people within this group by failing to break the cycles that spiral inward on future generations. Of course, this is not by design or desire, it is a matter of good intentions convoluted by process systems. Is there a systems solution where foster care eventually ceases to exist? Maybe; in fact, for the sake of anyone involved in the foster care system, hopefully so. Is our current foster care system moving in that direction? We believe that it is. And while the tides are moving in a positive direction, truly lasting change will take significant community involvement to build momentum for individual, family and community healing.



# Our Program Updates

## TUTORING

Certainly, the 2019-20 academic year will be one that goes down in the history books and unfortunately for many it will be the lost academic year. Fortunately, that is not the case for students in our tutoring program. As the pandemic began to shut down the school systems in mid-March, we quickly revamped our tutoring program to be conducted entirely in the virtual realm. For those students without computers to participate in Zoom-Room tutoring sessions we supplied ChromeBooks—more than 65 to date—and our tutors began the process of working one-on-one with students through video conferencing. Virtual tutoring worked better for some than others, but we maintained 80% of our existing tutoring relationships and we enrolled more than 30 new students during the school shutdown.

We also quickly recognized that our standard allocation of one to three hours per week of instruction would not suffice to help students navigate their new “home-school” curricula. So, we increased our allocation of tutoring up to 10 hours per week. Many took advantage of the additional support and our “contact” hours nearly tripled over the remainder of the school year.

We are so proud of our tutoring staff who managed the program seamlessly through this transition and we are also very proud of all our tutors who took on new methods in pedagogy to deliver instruction to meet the needs of our clients. And within this new normal, we have added a very important element to our tutoring program going forward—virtual tutoring.

For students in foster care, the most important element to educational success is stability. Unfortunately, children in the foster care system move homes and school systems at a rate of more than five times their non-foster-care peers. Foster youth are twice as likely to have excessive absences and three times more likely to be expelled than their peers. By 18 years old, over one-third of foster youth have experienced more than five school changes.

One of the most important tenets of all our programs and especially our tutoring program is providing consistency and stability in the lives of the children we serve. We incentivize our tutors to follow their students through moves within the foster care system and through exiting the system (back to birth family). Some of our tutors are able to accommodate this, driving an extra 60 miles for each tutoring session to maintain the important relationships they forge with their students. Others, however, are not. With the new virtual component to our tutoring program, following students and maintaining relationships is now easier than ever. And those relationships can become a lifeline for a young person who through no fault of their own becomes overwhelmed with tumultuous change. Out of adversity and strife arises a new opportunity to help these children succeed!

## TUTORING SUCCESS STORY

Bella, a ninth grader, was working with her tutor once a week on math and organizational skills, before COVID changed everything. With schools shut down, and our tutoring program moving to virtual sessions only, her tutor began meeting with her two to three times a week between one to three hours per session to help her navigate the new home-school environment. Together, tutor and student got through school assignments, usually picking one subject matter per day as the focus. While some of the content was difficult to address virtually, they worked diligently to persevere, which paid off with Bella passing all her classes! Recounting their time together, her tutor said, “I am really proud of all of the hard work she put into passing everything this semester.”



## THANK YOU TO OUR TUTORING SUPPORTERS

Thank you to this year’s tutoring program sponsors: Sue Cook-Winfrey Fund and Community Leadership Partners of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, Beazely Foundation, American Borate Company, Wells Fargo Foundation, Connect With A Wish, Chesapeake Bay Wine Classic Foundation, Norfolk Rotary Charities and Kiwanis Club of Norfolk, along with all our individual donors who support this program. Lives are changing for the better because of you!



## A LETTER OF GRATITUDE

Dear Audra Bullock,  
I wanted to thank you for allowing me to tutor for this extraordinary program that you preside over. In my 28 years of experience of teaching, I can see that Tidewater Friends of Foster Care is a well-run program where the foster students get real time benefits that help them succeed.  
I find it so emotionally overwhelming what some of these children go through on a daily basis, and it is awe-inspiring heartfelt to continue to see how this tutoring program lightens these children's load, and creates a sense of purpose, and goals within each student.  
In all of my years of teaching I have not been able to see growth of this kind at every level that a student would require. To give these children the time they need to learn, the assistance with skills, and even computers has brighten these children and their foster family's lives. Mostly, this has made me very happy to be a part of this family centered organization.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Roberto  
Teacher/Tutor



## OUTREACH

### Foster Care Aware

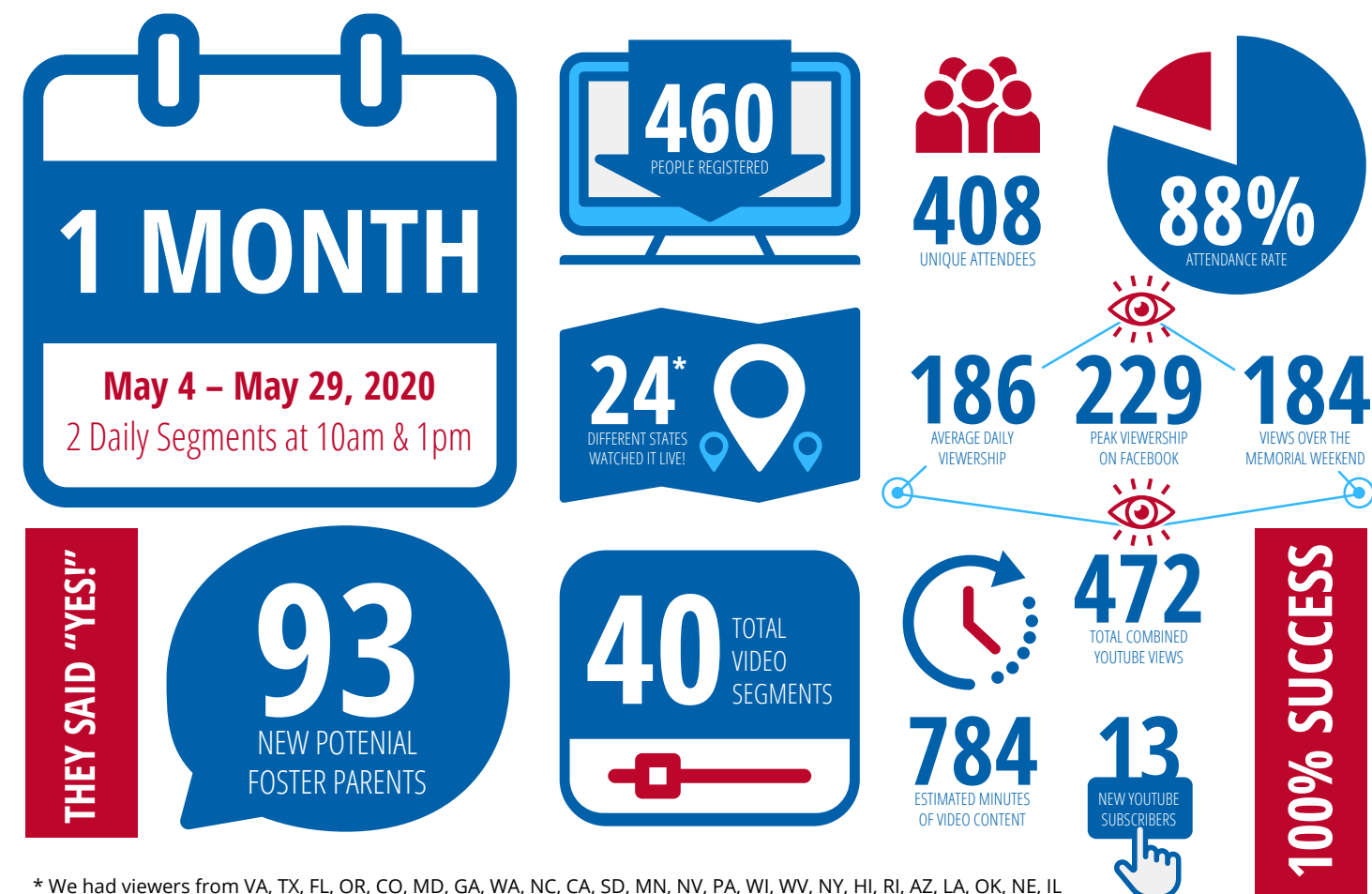
This year more than any in the past, we have promoted the importance of community engagement in foster care. There is no doubt that the daily stressors (economic pressures, lack of daily childcare/schooling, feelings of overwhelming anxiety, depression and despair) that track with the causes of children entering foster care are more pervasive in our communities and families than ever before. And since the shelter-in-place order, the vast majority of us have been behind closed doors, out of view. This sets up the conditions for a surge of children entering foster care both now and once the normal state of affairs resumes. We feel it is critical to be proactive in helping to prepare the foster care system with an army of parents ready and waiting to care for these children in the event they do enter foster care.

This was the focus of our Foster Care Aware Event in May 2020. And with the COVID shutdown, like everything else, we took this initiative into the virtual realm, holding a month-long Summit on foster care. It turned out to be the most incredible and impactful event of the four years we've been hosting Foster Care Aware!

The 2020 Foster Care Aware Virtual Summit provided 40 daily segments on all aspects of foster care from local foster care agency features to nationally recognized experts in foster care. The content can be accessed through our Foster Care Aware Guide at [tidewaterffc.org/fcanextsteps](https://tidewaterffc.org/fcanextsteps). It was an incredible production put together by a power duo—Erin Lindstrom and Derek Munn—in true heroic style.

We had over 460 people register for the Summit, 408 people attended, we had an average viewership of 186 people each day with a peak engagement of 229 people—we even had a huge Memorial Day turn out at 184 people present. Individuals joined in from all over the US, with 24 states in total represented: (VA, TX, FL, OR, CO, MD, GA, WA, NC, CA, SD, MN, NV, PA, WI, WV, NY, HI, RI, AZ, LA, OK, NE, IL). Through the Summit we have seen an enormous surge in volunteerism, supporters, and advocates and most importantly of all we had 93 people say YES to foster care parenting. Simply AMAZING!

Of course, we missed getting all the families together for a day of fun like we usually do at the Harrison Opera House and we missed hosting our Art Auction and Gala. All things considered, the Foster Care Aware Summit was an overwhelming success and a must do for next year!



\* We had viewers from VA, TX, FL, OR, CO, MD, GA, WA, NC, CA, SD, MN, NV, PA, WI, WV, NY, HI, RI, AZ, LA, OK, NE, IL





## NEW INITIATIVES

### Prospective Parent Program

In conjunction with Foster Care Aware, we launched the new Prospective Parent Program to help guide people through the decision process. The Prospective Parent Program is our way of supporting people who are considering fostering by providing them with emotional support and accountability they need to thrive through the process. Through our program, prospective parents join a Parent Pod where they learn skills and tools to help them navigate the system, choose a licensing agency, and connect with other people on similar journeys. Prospective Parents have their questions answered by professionals and other parents, and are paired with a personal coach so they can talk through the ups and downs and get the support they need throughout the whole process.

Our goal is to bring more people into the sphere that cares for these children and their families and support them throughout this incredibly important journey.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

We had several amazing community-led special events this year. It started in November 2019 with the Bears and Bags Drive by The Danny Show on iHeart Radio's Movin 107.7. They collected hundreds of back packs and teddy bears to comfort and help foster children through the holiday season. It was incredible to see!

In February 2020, we received an incredible donation from Western Branch Philanthropy Group. Over 200 duffle bags, hand decorated and filled with toiletries, blankets, stuffed animals, coloring books and all kinds of things children entering foster care would need, were lovingly provided to help ease one of the toughest days in a child's life.

## FOSTER YOUTH TRAINING

As most things this spring, the Independent living training was cut short and our cooking lesson, banking class, and shopping on a budget challenge will be pushed into next year. However, we did offer some exciting training opportunities for teens in foster care. This year's curriculum included an exercise and wellness class at the YMCA where the youth learned about fun ways to keep fit and then participated in a group workout. A big thanks to Seth Cottom of Blocker Family YMCA for coordinating this exceptional class. We also had a two-part series on Leadership and Goal setting led by Camica Credle, who engaged the



## PROFESSIONAL AND FOSTER PARENT TRAINING

participants in team activities to introduce concepts of strengthening leadership, responsibility and success. We followed this series with a College Fair, with nine local organizations discussing post-secondary options for our high-schoolers.

In partnership with the Barry Robinson Center, TFFC brought in Mary McGowan, a nationally renowned expert on Attachment and Trauma in Children, to provide the Hope For Healing training for social workers and foster parents. This intensive training provided evidence-based insight for those struggling with problem behaviors, with humor, grace, and researched neuroscience. Participants learned about adult and child attachment styles, arousal levels linked to survival mechanisms in the brain, behaviors associated with attachment difficulties and developmental trauma, as well as strategies for attachment-focused parenting and teaching.

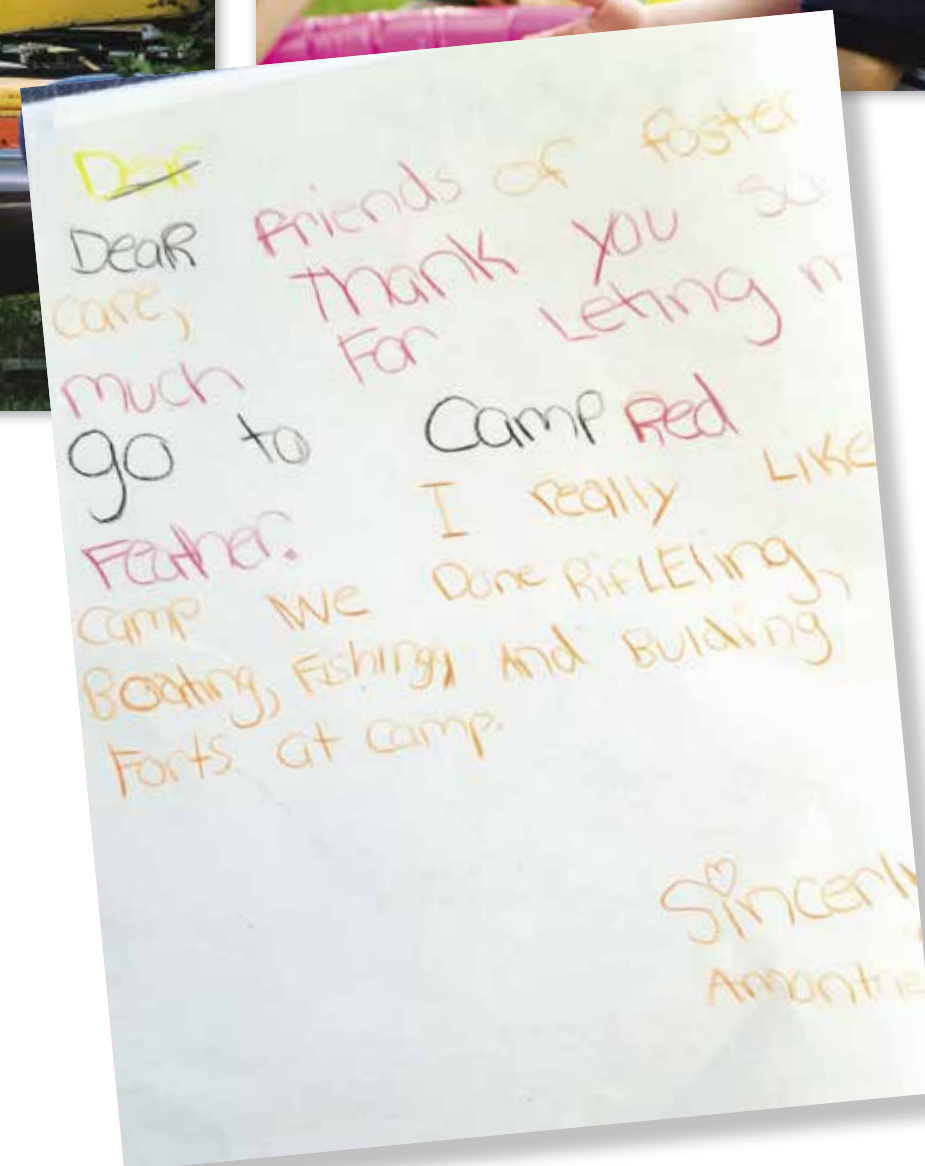
## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Even though the year was cut short for activities, we supported 119 separate activities for kids in care of all ages. From Mommy and Me swim lessons for infants, to singing lessons for tweens, to driver's education and intellectual pursuits for young adults, we've helped foster kids engage in healthy and enriching activities that will benefit them over the long run.

Also this year, we expanded our YMCA partnerships to include the YMCA of the Virginia Peninsulas! With 14 locations, this is going to really help foster children and families across the Peninsulas.

Throughout the pandemic, the YMCA of South Hampton Roads offered robust virtual programming for our foster care members (more than 260 strong) that made a difference for families sheltering-in-place while schools were out.





## GIFTING PROJECTS

The 2019 Holiday Project was simply unbelievable—535 children were served through the amazing generosity of our sponsors: a 40% increase from last year! This increase in support allowed us to reach out further across the region, serving more children and families than ever before.

Through the birthday project, 350 children had their birthday wishes granted over the past year. It is so important to acknowledge these special times for children, especially while they are away from their families. While COVID changed everything, it didn't stop our volunteers and supporters from going the extra mile to make the children we serve feel extraordinary on their birthday—a birthday parade is the next best thing to a party and nothing beats hand-made birthday cards!

Thank you to our sponsors and volunteers for making this possible!

## CAMPING

Summer camps have been particularly challenging this year, however, through our partnership with the YMCA, we have offered safe access to two regional day camps – Camp Red Feather and Camp Arrowhead. In times like these, the opportunity to get out of the house and safely play with friends at camp can be particularly impactful! One of our campers reached out in a special way to say “Thanks!”

Last year, we sent 43 kids to a total of 138 weeks of camp and while this year will likely not have the same level of demand because of the pandemic, there are sure to be a lot of kids who made the best out of a summer we'll never forget.

It reads:

“Dear friends of foster care, thank you so much for Letting me go to Camp Red Feather. I really Like camp We Done Rifleing, Boating, Fishing, And Building Forts at camp.

Sincerely ( heart above letter i)  
Amontae,”





# Development & Investment

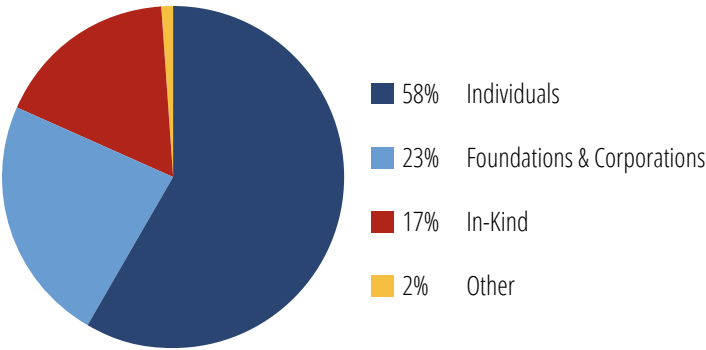
Our programs are made possible through the unbelievable kindness of our donors, sponsors and supporters. Our commitment is that for every dollar given to TFFC, we invest at least 90% in programs that directly benefit foster youth. We rely heavily on volunteers to ensure our administrative costs are as low as possible and our impact in the community is maximized.

In Fiscal Year 2019, we invested 93% of all donations in program services!

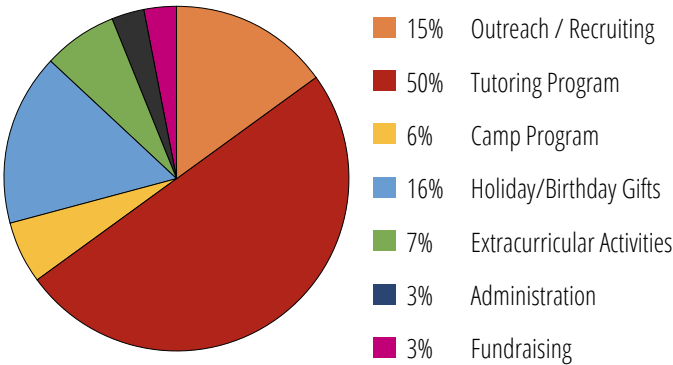
As we continue to grow, we are committed to keeping our pledge of efficiency and efficacy in serving foster children and families across Hampton Roads. The TFFC President, Audra Bullock, continues to serve on a voluntary basis and all our other program leaders, officers, and board members also donate 100% of their time to make sure that every dollar donated is a dollar invested to improve the outcomes for youth in foster care.

Here’s how we are investing in our foster youth:

DEVELOPMENT



INVESTMENT



# Our Donors & Supporters

## FOUNDING SPONSORS (\$25,000 and over)

Hampton Roads Community Foundation - Sue  
Cook-Winfrey Fund and Community Leadership Partners  
Hertz Management, LLC  
The Landmark Foundation

Mr. T. Richard Litton Jr. & Dr. Audra M. Bullock  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Philbin  
Shearwater Foundation, Inc.

## FOSTER FRIEND FELLOWS (\$10,000–\$24,999)

American Borate Company  
Connect With a Wish (Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Rios)  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Dunne  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Johnston  
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent J Mastracco

Newmark Knight Frank  
Suburban Capital  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
The Windward Foundation

## MIRACLE MAKERS (\$5,000–\$9,999)

The Barry Robinson Center  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Cathlina  
Chesapeake Bay Wine Classic Foundation  
Mr. E. G. Middleton III  
Media Communications

SACT Officer’s Partners Club  
Mr. Mark Sheggeby & Ms. Kristin Sparks  
The Virginia Beach Nobleman  
Williams Mullen Foundation

## DREAM CATCHERS (\$2,500–\$4,999)

Mr. & Mrs. David Delpierre  
Optima Family Care

Mr. & Mrs. William Roohan  
Mr. & Mrs. James Sparks

## TUTORING CHAMPIONS (\$1,000–\$2,499)

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Bryant  
Mr. Robert E. Childers  
Mr. & Mrs. James Izard  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Jensen  
Kiwanis Club of Norfolk  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Livingston  
Hon. Joseph & Mrs. Alice Massey  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Mersel

Norfolk Rotary Charities, Inc.  
PNC Financial Services  
Mr. & Mrs. Shawn Rosenthal  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Shewbridge  
Sinclair Communications  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Stoner  
Virginia and John L. Sinclair Foundation

## CAMP LEADERS (\$500–\$999)

American Online Giving Foundation Inc.  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Brock  
Ms. Mary Copeland  
CrossRoads Church  
Kaufman & Canoles, P.C.

Mr. & Mrs. Ray King  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Lipscomb  
Mr. & Mrs. William Monroe  
Mr. & Mrs. Jordan Slone  
Wilbanks, Smith & Thomas Asset Management, LLC

## EXTRACURRICULAR HEROES (\$250–\$499)

Mr. & Mrs. John Broderick  
Ms. Amy Brotman  
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Burgess  
Ms. Mary Hays

Mr. & Mrs. Matthew A. Jones  
Kiwanis Club of Virginia Beach  
Mr. L. Robert Layton  
Ms. Ann Shank



FAMILY FINDERS (\$100–\$249)

Ms. Nancy Adelman  
Mrs. Jennifer Ardit  
Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Bleakhorn Foundation  
(Mr. & Mrs. Richard Barry)  
Mrs. Linda Bowers  
Ms. Anne Calabrese  
Mr. Martin Champaco  
Commonwealth Catholic Charities  
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Davis  
Embrace Treatment Foster Care  
Mr & Mrs Daniel F. Emerson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Ferguson  
Mr. Philip Ford

Ms. Beverly Gibson  
Hollomon-Brown Funeral Home, Inc.  
Intercept Health  
Mr. Frederick Jacobs  
Ms. Tracy Keller  
Mr. & Mrs. George Kello  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kinyon  
Knox Presbyterian Church  
Mr. & Mrs. David Kushner  
Ms. Amanda Letterman  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Limerick  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R Litton, Sr.  
Lutheran Family Services of Virginia  
Mr. & Mrs. L. G. McConnaghy

Ms. Hattie McFarland  
McGuire Woods LLP  
Ms. Silvia Moran  
Mr. Thomas Neill  
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Parker  
Mrs. Brenda Roberts  
Roland Vaults, Ltd.  
Mr. & Mrs. Jason Schwalbe  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Tedesco  
United Methodist Family Services  
Ms. Melissa Venable  
Mr. Paul Wilcox  
Ms. Angela Wilson

OUR GIFT SPONSORS

American Borate Company  
Lorri Abdolahzadeh  
Alycia Adams  
Lauren Amendolare  
Whitney Antor  
Alex Avril  
Zachary Baker  
Megan Baluyot  
Kaylee Barnett  
Brandi Baron  
Lynne Barrett  
The Barry Robinson Center  
Julie Beck  
Michael Belka  
Tasha Beverly  
Nash Bilisoly  
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church  
Gerry Bolton  
Courtney Booth  
Tara and Paul Brabenec  
Alonzo Brandon  
Michelle Brodie  
Christina Brooks  
Sameerah Brown  
McKenzie Brunson  
Audra Bullock  
Jenn Burken  
Maria Burroughs  
Jenifer Byrd  
Adam Carll  
Laura Cathlina  
Deanna Clay  
Annalisa Close  
Colonna’s Ship Yard  
Sharon Coontz  
Laura Cope  
Mary Copeland  
Chantal Costen  
Megan Cowles  
Cox Communication  
Vandlin Creekmore  
Bruce Crooks  
Kim Curtis

Krista David  
Leigh Davis  
Liza Delpierre  
Kelsey DePorto  
Michelle Dieges  
Dominion Enterprises  
Lakeeissa Drakeford  
Megan Dreis  
Wendy Dunlap  
Lauren Eady  
William Emerson  
Shari Epps  
Leslie Finch  
Brandi Fisher  
Erica Flack  
Robert & Alicia Friedman  
Susan Funk  
Theresa Garber  
Theresa Gibbons  
The GlassLight Marriott  
Stephanie Gorham  
Kelsey Graupner  
Chuck & Cindy Gray  
Ron Green  
Laura Grimes  
Chelsea Grizzle  
Anke Hacker  
Donna Hall  
Mia Halla  
Royce Hankins  
Regina & Randy Harrington  
Kathryn Haywood  
Russell Held  
Meghan Higgins  
DeAnna Hilton  
Laurie Holman  
Kabria Hughes  
Kim Hurst  
Clair Isley  
Charlie James  
Gail Jimenez  
Mihcelle Johnson  
Diane & Tom Johnston  
Hannah Jones

Arliss Kastner  
Wendy Koelsch  
Lakysha Laing  
Kate Leser  
Pam Lettervau  
David Lindley  
Frances Loyer  
Nicole Luminelli  
Lindsey Madara  
Cheryl Mansfield  
Holly Manson  
Mary Marley  
Krista Marshall  
Brandon Marshall  
Amy Marthal  
Sue Martinez  
Vince Mastracco  
Kara Matzko  
Natalie McFadden  
Janet McGraw  
McGuire Woods LLP  
Lisa McKenzie  
Tom McNally  
Detra Means  
Andrew Mears  
Sean Meehan  
Jennifer Metzger  
Erin Miller  
Rebecca Mooney  
Rebecca Moore  
Silvia Moran  
Julie Morgan  
Carrie Mosser  
Mark Mulvaney  
Bobby Nance  
Chelsea Nelson  
Debbie Nevitt  
Katie Nolan  
Norfolk Attorney’s Office  
Norfolk Sherriﬀ’s Office  
Taresa Nunn  
Suzanne O’Donnell  
Ashley Ottaway  
Bethany Papacostas

Brittany Parham  
Dave Parker  
Danielle Phillips  
Jillian Puritt  
Jenny Radford  
Iris Radom  
Candice Rambo  
Joanne Reel  
Melissa Reese  
TJ Reid  
Ann Rivenbark  
Robyn Robles  
Brianna Rowley  
Sean Samuels  
Misty Schneider  
Michala Schupp  
Patsy Schutte  
Julie Shrodes  
Jeff Silverman  
Laurie Slone  
Mateo St.Remy  
Deborah Stearns  
Dee Sterling  
Randy Stoker  
Rebecca Stovall  
Suburban Capital  
Angela Tagert  
Tidewater Home Funding, LLC  
Nora & Daryl Thomas  
Nicole Torres  
Trader Interactive  
Kevin and Lauren Tremper  
Laine Vermeersch  
Virginia Beach Noblemen  
Alyshia Walker  
Velvadine Wallace  
Naomi Wanner  
Katelynn Weinschel  
Linda Welsh  
Debbie Windt

GIFT GIVERS (\$10–\$99)

Mrs. Kathleen Banfield & Mrs. Jessica Duggan  
Mrs. Jane Batten  
Mr. & Mrs. David Berkman  
Ms. Susan Bernard  
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Bullock  
Mr. Mike Cathey  
Mrs. Alvah Chapman  
Ms. Freida Cooper  
Mr. Brian Dubuque  
Mrs. Shauna Epps

Ms. Sarah Frey  
Mr. & Mrs. John Gauldin  
Ms. Rhonda Hana  
Mr. & Mrs. Willie Hill  
Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Hudgins  
Mr. Carl Jackson  
Ms. Elizabeth Kessler  
Ms. Carol Kraus  
Ms. Kitty McMaster  
Ms. Kathryn Mitchell

Norfolk Botanical Gardens  
Mrs. Suzanne Puryear  
Mr. Robert Reid  
Ms. Kristina Royster  
Mr. Charles Terrell  
Mrs. Tracey Trimyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Vigneault  
Mrs. Jackie Wilson

EVENT & IN-KIND SPONSORS

The Barry Robinson Center  
Bearly Art  
Blocker Norfolk Family YMCA  
Chesapeake Human Services  
Coleman Place Elementary  
Connect With A Wish  
CrossRoads Church  
Dollar Tree  
Empires With Erin  
Entrusted Network  
Families First of Virginia  
Girl Scouts of the Colonia Coast  
Girl Scouts Troops 585 & 396 (Norfolk)

Hertz Investment Group, LLC  
Hund’s Recycle Factory  
iHeart Radio  
Intercept Youth Services  
JT’s Camp GROM  
Kids, Kin ‘n Caregivers Inc  
Lutheran Family Services of Virginia  
Mister Munn  
Norfolk CASA  
Norfolk Department of Human Services  
Norfolk Fire and Rescue  
Old Dominion University  
Optima Health

Portsmouth Social Services  
REACH  
SACT Officers Partners Club  
Sinclair Communications  
Suburban Capitol  
United Methodist Family Services  
Virginia Beach Human Services  
Virginia Beach Noblemen  
Virginia One Church, One Child  
Western Branch Philanthropy Group  
Wilbanks, Smith & Thomas  
YMCA of South Hampton Roads  
YMCA of the Virginia Peninsulas

**Disclaimer**      *We sincerely apologize for any inadvertent omissions or errors.  
Please contact Tidewater Friends of Foster Care Development Office at 757-227-4187 for corrections.*



# Thank You *to* Our Sponsors



If you are interested in becoming a Tidewater Friends of Foster Care sponsor,  
please contact us at [info@tidewaterffc.org](mailto:info@tidewaterffc.org).



## Outlook *for the* Future

As we look forward, we are fueled by the incredible response we received from our call-to-action during the COVID crisis. Individuals from all across the country stepped up and said “Yes! I want to be a part of the solution.” We had volunteers helping us ensure birthday gifts were still delivered on time to children, despite the shutdown. We had over 460 people sign up to learn how to get involved in helping children and families in the foster care system. We had sponsors providing laptops for kids who needed them to continue in their new home-school environments. We had tutors completely shift their pedagogy to the virtual realm so they could maintain the relationships and academic progress of their students. We had sponsors assemble and distribute Easter Baskets, not just to foster children, but all children in our local foster homes. We have Girl Scout Troops and community groups create homemade birthday cards to make sure the kids we serve felt special on their birthdays. And we had donors step up their pledges and donations in the midst of a financial crisis, so that the families we help don’t fall back into the realm of being unseen and unserved.

So even with much uncertainty ahead, we believe the future is bright! Now more than ever, our faith in the community—a community who cares—to partner with us in making a difference is strong. With this remarkable support, we will continue to expand our services to reach more children and families across Hampton Roads. With the safety of all those we work with in mind, we will continue our virtual and non-contact services until the pandemic is under control. We will take lessons from the efficiency and utility of our virtual services and plan to fold them into our in-person services on an ongoing basis in the future.

We are very optimistic about our Prospective Parent Program as well. There are a thousand reasons to say “No” to foster parenting. Through our Prospective Parent Program, we are giving people the reasons to say “Yes,” along with support to complete the journey through the decision process, be successful in choosing a licensing agency, and feel confident in parenting foster children. Also for those who decide that now is not the right time, we connect them with avenues to advocate for children and families in foster care.



# Thank You Notes

I thank you so much for the tablet you gave me for my birthday. I really love my gift. Thank God for you. Merry Christmas!

Dear FFC @  
Blessed Sacrament Church

Thank you so much for your gifts, The Necklace, gift Card to hat & game.

It made Christmas Special to receive them.

Thank you so much for supporting both our little girls this Christmas. The toys were absolutely perfect and they enjoyed opening and playing with them. Thank you again for your generosity.

Blessings,  
Amanda

"Thank you" for making Jasper's birthday extra special ♥

Jasper's  
Foster ♥  
family

Thank you for my amazing Birthday Presents, I loved them all. I am lucky to have them. I already started coloring and I think the Discovery Gemstones gift was very interesting.

Thank you  
again



Thank you so much for helping to make Makynzie's Xmas a wonderful time for her. She was so happy for her Barbies. 😊

Thank you Very Much, I was so Happy. Thank you Again, LOVE YOU

Makynia

My husband John & I wish to say Happy New Year to you & yours - And to Thank you for your abundantly thoughtful, sweet, & generous gifts to our little Josiah. He is 2 1/2 and your gifts are perfect. His favorite is the school toy - he attends a little preschool 2 mornings a week (& loves it) - so he loves this toy!! The tool bench & legos & cube book & golf set!! So fun!!

You love just poured out of your beautifully wrapped & sweet presents. He had a lovely Christmas season, with friends, his "extended family" (us), and lots of walking to see neat Christmas lights ("Ho-Ho's")! We love him beyond words.

Thank you for spreading your love & joy of the season to Josiah, & to

us.

All the best always,

John & Jol



999 Waterside Dr., Suite 430  
Norfolk, VA 23510

## Enriching the Lives of Foster Children in Need

---

757-227-4187  
[tidewaterffc.org](http://tidewaterffc.org)

 [@tidewaterffc](https://twitter.com/tidewaterffc)  
 [@tidewaterffc](https://www.instagram.com/tidewaterffc)  
 [/tidewaterffc](https://www.facebook.com/tidewaterffc)