





# **Home Visiting Programs**

The Family Tree's three home visiting programs are instrumental in providing vital support to prenatal families, offering guidance and resources that contribute to healthier pregnancies and positive outcomes for parents and children alike.

#### **Healthy Families America**

Healthy Families America focuses on early intervention and prevention, delivering comprehensive home visiting services to at-risk families, both during the prenatal and postnatal periods. Trained professionals conduct regular home visits, providing education on prenatal care, child development, parenting skills, and access to community resources while empowering parents with the knowledge and support necessary to give their children a strong start in life. This fiscal year, The Family Tree's Healthy Families program enrolled **124** parents and children for these critical home visiting services and completed **371** home visits.

#### **Parents as Teachers**

Parents as Teachers underscores the significance of early childhood development by collaborating with parents to enhance optimal prenatal health and early learning experiences. Our home visitors provide personalized support tailored to the unique needs of each family, fostering positive parent-child interactions and nurturing the development of essential skills crucial for school readiness. This year, The Family Tree served **35** new children aged 0-3 under the model, supporting **30** families and completing **60** home visits.



#### Family Connects MD

Family Connects MD, a program developed at Duke University, upholds the belief that every family deserves support during the pivotal transition to parenthood. Through voluntary home visits to all families with newborns delivered at Sinai Hospital, regardless of income or background, the program ensures parents receive invaluable guidance on infant care, breastfeeding, and postpartum health. This proactive approach fosters healthy bonding and diminishes the risk of adverse childhood experiences. This year, the program provided services to **120** newborns and their families, supporting families during this critical phase of their journey into parenthood.



# **Baltimore City Child Care Resource Center (BCCCRC)**

- BCCCRC provided training and professional development to **725** early childhood professionals and fielded **1,538** requests for technical assistance thus far this fiscal year.
- Behavioral health consultation services were provided to 51 children in child care who were exhibiting behavioral differences or challenges. In addition, we worked with 34 early care and education programs/providers that were having difficulty managing the behavior of a child(ren) in their care. The program's goal is to help children with differences or challenges retain their child care placement and thus, their opportunity to learn. This fiscal year 98% of children receiving services have retained their placement.
- We hosted a Back-to-School Night in collaboration with the Maryland Book Bank supporting **33** child care professionals with **1,187** books donated.
- The Growing Opportunities for Family Child Care (GOFCC) program helped those interested in becoming family child care providers and eradicating child care deserts in Baltimore City. Currently, we are in cohort 3, with 15 participants on their journey to licensure. Since the program began, we have assisted 40 individuals with obtaining their Family Child Care License which will open 274 much-needed child care openings.
- Our Parent Leadership Specialist has helped **12** families get awarded the full-year Maryland Child Care Scholarship, which enables families to receive subsidized child care.
- Nature-based early learning opportunities were provided to 41 child care professionals through our STREAM in a Backpack program, which incorporates Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, and Math into nature-based and outdoor activities, plus our Infant and Toddler Little Explorers Baby STEM which incorporates Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.





# **Educating and Supporting Parents**

#### **Family Education Services**

Our 4-week Pathways to Success Parenting Curriculum provides parents with in-depth parenting education skills and techniques to develop an effective nurturing environment for their children, thus reducing and mitigating patterns of child abuse and neglect. Parents who finish the course report significant improvements in one or several areas of their parenting skills, including the use of positive reinforcement, consistency with rule setting, patience, spending quality time, and showing love and affection towards their children.

309

PARENTS SERVED THUS FAR THIS FISCAL YEAR IN OUR 4-WEEK PROGRAM 81%

OF PARENTS WHO ENROLLED IN THE COURSE COMPLETED THE PROGRAM

**76%** 

PARENTS REPORT SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR PARENTING SKILLS

#### **Anger Management**

Our 10-week Simple Techniques for Emotional Management (STEM) Anger Management program, facilitated by a licensed social worker, provides techniques to address anger management and reduce instances of escalating behaviors. The facilitator works to effectively engage with the participants and deliver the information in a manner that is easily acceptable and applicable to each participant's challenges.



AS OF MIDYEAR, 35 NEW PARTICIPANTS ENROLLED IN THE STEM PROGRAM



86% OF PARTICIPANTS
COMPLETED THE
10-WEEK PROGRAM



90% OF GRADUATES
REPORTED IMPROVED ANGER
MANAGEMENT

#### **Kids Care Plus**

Kids Care Plus (KCP) continues to provide access to free, 4-hour licensed childcare for children ages two to twelve within Baltimore City. By offering drop-in child care in a safe and nurturing environment, we can relieve parents of deep stressors so they have a chance to take a breather and refocus or go to appointments. To date this fiscal year, the center has delivered over **3,500** hours of free childcare.

KCP staff also supports the parents who use the program by directing them to resources for food, housing, and entitlements. Additional activities for the entire family enable the program to connect with families on a personal level while demonstrating that The Family Tree cares about their entire family's wellbeing. KCP stays connected to the local community through outreach and engagement efforts.





#### **Parenting HelpLine**

The Family Tree's Parenting Helpline continues to provide an essential service and serve as a resource hub for parents not only within Baltimore City, but also across the state. Fiscal year-to-date, the highly trained and skilled professionals at the Parenting Helpline have fielded over **1,500** calls, 24/7. Calls range from general questions about The Family Tree's services to calls requiring assistance from crisis intervention professionals.

Concerted outreach efforts are underway to enhance the visibility and awareness of the Parenting HelpLine in Maryland. Already the HelpLine offers parents a safe, secure, and trusted resource 24/7 so they can receive whatever support they need and secure initiation of those services. The Family Tree's staff are working to identify additional parent needs and new services to address them. The goal is to make the Helpline into a "one stop shop" for individuals who use it.

#### **Adverse Childhood Experiences Training (ACEs)**

The Family Tree facilitated its first ever Everything ACEs conference in November at Arundel Mills, Maryland. The goal is to train professionals on the impact of adverse childhood experiences, and to provide those professionals with the needed skills to mitigate repeated progressions of trauma. The highly successful conference trained **67** participants in ACEs. The Family Tree's partnership with Dr. Renee Neely and Maryland State Department of Education has proven to be a winning combination. To date this fiscal year, The Family Tree has trained over **150** professionals in ACEs and is gearing up to expand its efforts for collaborative relationships with potential partner organizations on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Prince Georges, and Carroll County Maryland. These agencies would like to partner with us to train their employees. At least three more ACE Interface trainings are scheduled within the next six months.

#### **Building Stronger Communities through Partnerships**

The Family Tree is committed to building stronger and lasting partnerships within Baltimore City and surrounding counties. The Department of Social Services (DSS) has partnered with us to refer participants for our Parenting Education and Anger Management Programs. The Family Tree has also fielded increases in referrals from local attorneys and the Courts. These referrals encompass participants needing family support services and a reputable organization that can assist the patron with The Family Tree services, resources, and information sharing. Our Kids Care Plus staff has completed several outreach initiatives within the first half of this fiscal year. KCP staff have been out in the community visiting with potential community partners, providing information about our free, licensed childcare services and other services of interest at The Family Tree. These engagement initiatives are part of our plan to increase visibility within the community and highlight the many programs and services that address the needs of varying communities.

#### **Building Community Awareness Through Events**

In September, we gathered at the Maryland Zoo for The Family Tree's Brent A. Rosenberg Family Walk at LifeBridge Health's Race for Our Kids. The combined event had over **800** walkers; and raised over **\$70,000** for The Family Tree and its programs.

### **Looking Forward**

Parents face multipronged challenges to providing a safe, nurturing environment for their children. The Family Tree provides many services directly to parents, child care providers and the community, plus partnerships to enhance the range of services. Our donors, Board Members, volunteers and community partners make this possible. Your help is making a huge difference in the lives of children.





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# THANK YOU FOR BEING A KEY PART OF THE FAMILY TREE.

With donors like you by our side, we will continue to build safe, happy and healthy families and communities.

# WANT TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING THE FAMILY TREE?

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24-hour Parenting HelpLine 800.243.7337











familytreemd.org