



The Family Tree

Raising families up.

Fact Sheet

Mission: The Family Tree leads Maryland in preventing child abuse, connects caring communities, and builds strong families to improve society for generations.

Vision: All children are raised in safe and supportive families and communities.

The Problem of Child Abuse

- Child abuse is a serious public health issue in Maryland. There are almost 64,000 reports of child maltreatment each year in our state, which translates to one every 10 minutes. For every reported case of child abuse, two go unreported.
- The consequences of child abuse can last a lifetime. It can alter brain development and cause mental illness, substance abuse, juvenile crime, and teenage pregnancy.
- Adults who had adverse experiences during childhood are more likely to have chronic health problems, be unemployed or incarcerated, and live in poverty. In Maryland, the cost of treating the long-term effects of child abuse is estimated at \$1.5 billion per year.
- Child abuse and neglect are devastating and affect every demographic.
- The good news is that Child Abuse Can Be Prevented!

Our Programs

- Our goal is to stop child abuse before it starts and end it where it exists.
- The Family Tree educates and empowers parents to help them make good decisions when raising their families — the ultimate result is to help children. Our proven, research-based programs and services range from a single conversation to a supportive relationship that can last a lifetime.
- Our trained family educators teach families alternative methods of discipline, anger management, problem-solving, coping, and communication. As a result, parents feel more confident in managing parenting – and better equipped to handle life situations.

Basic Facts

- Budget of \$3.9 Million – 1/3 from local government, 2/3 privately raised
- Serve 25,000 caregivers and children each year
- 60% of families who come to us are court ordered, referred by the Department of Social Services and Parole and Probation
- Program participants are predominantly female with an average income of less than \$15,000
- We are the Maryland Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America and Parents Anonymous, and national affiliate of The National Exchange Club.
- Headquartered in Baltimore City with offices in Harford and Prince George's Counties

Our Results

- Two years after completing our Parenting Education:
 - 94% of families remained intact, with their children living at home with their parents
 - 84% did not have subsequent reports of child maltreatment to Child Protective Services



The Family Tree

Raising families up.

Elevator Speech

- The Family Tree is the **ONLY statewide organization** focused on the prevention of child abuse.
- We served **25,000 caregivers and children** last year.
- Our programs are all about **education**. TFT offers parenting classes, support groups, home visitation services and a 24/7 Parenting HelpLine, among other services.
- **We teach** parents effective discipline, communication, problem solving, anger management and healthy coping.
- 60% of families who come to us are court ordered. They are good people who never learned how to raise children – they are raising their kids the way they were raised.
- Our proven, research-based programs strengthen families and **break the cycle of abuse**.
- **Our programs are effective**. Two years after completing our Positive Parenting Program (now called Parenting for Success), 94% of families remained intact and 84% did not have subsequent reports of child abuse or neglect to Child Protective Services. We keep families together and children out of the system. This alone saves the State \$70K per child, per year.
- Child abuse is a serious issue. It is devastating for the child and has lifelong consequences, including mental illness, teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, poverty, and juvenile crime – **treating these issues costs Maryland taxpayers \$1.5 Billion each year**.
- Our work builds **strong families**, which will lead to **strong communities** and a **stronger Maryland**.
- We need help with organizing our events, experts on our committees, adopting a child over the holidays, or building awareness for our parenting classes.

Call-to-Action

- Parenting is one of life's most rewarding experiences. It can also be one of the most challenging. Whether you're a parent struggling with the day-to-day, a professional seeking advice, or a legislator promoting policies that protect children, TFT has the resources to help.
- Ways to get involved – donate, spread the word, volunteer, or advocate
- Every \$1 spent on our cause of prevention saves the state \$15 in later costs
- If you know anyone who needs support, call the 24/7 Parenting HelpLine at 410-247-7337
- **Strong Families = Stronger Communities = A Stronger Maryland**