

YEAR END IMPACT REPORT FY 2023



The Family Tree

Raising families up.



Raising families up.

Giving children the childhoods they deserve

Every child deserves to grow up in a home free from neglect and abuse, kept safe and healthy physically and emotionally so they can thrive. Families, caregivers, schools, and communities face so many obstacles to making this a reality for far too many children.

The Family Tree tackles these challenges through a variety of strategies. Our core approach is to provide parents with the tools, information, and resources they need to nurture their children. We do this through parenting education classes, workshops, home visiting programs, web presentations, plus our helpline and chatline.

We also connect parents and caregivers to needed resources, provide training and technical assistance to child care providers in Baltimore City and other professionals throughout the state, and advocate for child-friendly legislation. Our programs reached over 29,000 people in FY23.

This could not be done alone. The Family Tree staff, board, donors, community partners and volunteers work together toward our mutual goal of keeping children safe and helping them thrive.

Here is the Impact Report for Fiscal Year 2023. As always, we welcome your questions, comments, and involvement.

familytreemd.org

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Prenatal through Early Childhood

Parents as Teachers

This year, The Family Tree became an affiliate site for Parents as Teachers (PAT). PAT is a national, evidence-based home visiting program designed to serve families prenatally through the child's 5th birthday. The goal of the program is to increase parent knowledge of early childhood development, improve parenting practices, provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues, prevent child abuse and neglect, and increase children's school readiness and success.

Healthy Families America

In April, we hosted a Healthy Families America (HFA) graduation to celebrate nine (9) families who successfully completed the 3 year home visiting program. This program provides pre-natal and peri-natal medical care support, parenting education and skill building resources, housing support, financial literacy, and connections to community-based programs. The graduation was held at a local hall where families were able to invite their entire family and friends. The event included food, music, awards, face painting, and a special appearance from Baby Shark. Graduating families received a plaque and an award to acknowledge their hard work and growth.

Baltimore City Child Care Resource Center (BCCCRC)

- BCCCRC provided training and professional development to 2,018 early childhood professionals and technical assistance to 8,852 such professionals this fiscal year.
- The recently launched 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. Of 40 participants in this rigorous and lengthy program, one has already become a licensed family child care provider, nine are close to licensure and the others are making significant progress.
- Behavioral health consultation services were provided to 62 children in child care who were exhibiting behavioral differences or challenges. In addition, we worked with 37 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.
- Family Resource Specialists provided child care referrals to 312 families seeking care for their young children. The Resource Specialists also helped 166 families complete the Maryland Child Care Scholarship Application, which enables families to receive subsidized child care.



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Baltimore City Child Care Resource Center (BCCRC), *continued*

- The BCCRC's Family Child Care Boost program has 17 family child care professionals in the 2nd cohort. The participants receive business training and coaching. This includes help building a website for their programs, using the child care management software system, and strengthening their business practices. Eighty-two percent (82%) of the participants successfully created a budget for their program as well as a website. And we launched a similar program for a small group of child care centers in Baltimore City.
- Nature-based early learning opportunities were provided to 31 child care programs through our STEAM in a Backpack program, which incorporates Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math into nature-based and outdoor activities.

Educating & Supporting Parents

Family Education

- Over 1,200 individuals attended our parenting classes and workshops. Parenting classes covered self-awareness & care, stages of development, behavior management, effective communication, discipline, and parenting styles and more. Workshops covered topics such as age-appropriate discipline, effective communication, talking to kids about grief and loss, cyberbullying, and parental stress. Some of the feedback included statements such as, "The class made me feel less lonely"; "people can express how they feel and not be judged"; and "the class material is relatable and gives you good tools to use".
- We partnered with 2 schools in Prince George's County, District Heights Elementary and Gwynn Park High School, to offer Girls Circle. Girls Circle is a youth development program for girls ages 9 -18 years of age. The model uses the support group circle to provide a safe space for teens to explore and discuss thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, and give/receive support.

Kids Care Plus

- KCP provided over 5,096 hours of free child care to parents and families in need of short term emergency care. In addition, the center hosted numerous family engagement events throughout the year to promote community involvement, family time, and the importance of healthy living and eating. In January, we held a nutrition workshop where parents received information and resources from a Registered Nurse about healthy eating habits for children. March had a "community helper" week in which nurses, police officers, and postal workers presented age-appropriate information about their jobs and how they help the community. Mother's Day and Father's Day event to promote family and parent-child bonding.



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Making Families and Children a Priority Through Advocacy

This year, with support and advocacy with partners of Essentials for Childhood, abuse survivors, and elected officials, the Child Victims Act of 2023 (HB01/SB0686) was passed into law by the Maryland legislature. This law, which goes into effect on October 1, 2023, will eliminate the statute of limitations for claims of sexual abuse thereby allowing any person sexually abused as a minor in Maryland to file a claim regardless of when the injury occurred. Given the nature of child sexual abuse, victims are often unable, too afraid, or too ashamed to report at the time and even long into adulthood, so the statute of limitations enabled perpetrators to remain hidden and institutions to ignore the problem. The timely signing of this bill served as a victory for survivors in the wake of the Attorney General's report on child sexual abuse within the Baltimore Archdiocese. Despite intense opposition to the legislation, The Family Tree and its partners continued to push for this legislation for over twenty years, knowing the lasting impact it would make on the issue of child sexual abuse in Maryland.

Building Community Awareness Through Events

Our outreach programs build awareness of our programs within the community.

- Throughout the year, The Family Tree continued to present extensively at a variety of venues: colleges, day care centers, and government agencies. These activities carried the message of The Family Tree services deep into the communities we serve.
- In April, we hosted our first ever Family Block Party on Charles Street in front of our Sherman Family Center in Baltimore. Each year, we host an event with the dual purpose of offering a free, fun filled day of activities for children and families while providing information about available resources in the community. This year, using the entire 2100 block of Charles Street, we were joined by over 600 people, with over 30 community vendors sharing information about their services. Partners included Baltimore Connect, Infinite Legacy, and Johns Hopkins Institute for Clinical and Translational Research.

In addition to the above community involvement activities, The Family Tree held two successful fundraising events. These events, which also serve to engage and educate the public, included our:

- 3rd annual Brent A. Rosenberg Lace Up to End Child Abuse 5k and 1.5-mile Family Fun Walk. This event which took place at M&T Bank Stadium, had a walking/running loop around the stadium and Camden Yards. This family and community engagement activity helped to raise over \$75,000 for The Family Tree.
- 31st Annual Great Chefs' Dinner, which always features fine dining prepared by an award-winning James Beard chef, raised an impressive \$931,000 through ticket sales, sponsorships, and live and silent auctions. This event is critical to raising needed support for our programs and our Family Tree organization.



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Looking Forward

Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, happy and healthy home. We work to make this a reality one family, caregiver, and professional at a time. We are deeply grateful to our Family Tree friends and partners who help make this possible. Our recent affiliation with LifeBridge Health expands our partnerships and extends our reach in dramatic ways as we move into the new fiscal year.





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24-hour Parenting HelpLine
800.243.7337



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