



# Helping Children Thrive

The Family Tree is dedicated to helping children grow up in safe and nurturing environments free from abuse. We do this by providing information, education, and support in the form of parenting classes, home visits, support groups, and a help/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.

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

We're pleased to report what we've been doing in the first half of this fiscal year. As always, we welcome your questions, comments, and involvement.

familytreemd.org

#### **MID-YEAR IMPACT REPORT FY 2023**



### Prenatal through Early Childhood

#### Parents as Teachers

In November, The Family Tree became an affiliate site for Parents as Teachers. 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.

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

- Provided training, technical assistance, and support to over 4,261 early child care professionals in Baltimore City.
- The recently launched Growing Opportunities in Family Child Care (GOFCC) program has engaged 34 participants interested in becoming family childcare providers and eradicating child care deserts in Baltimore City.
- Twenty-five family child care professionals who are working to secure their Child Development Certificate (a nationally recognized certification) have received support and preparatory assistance. Of those program participants, eight are in the final stages of the program and are getting ready to take the standardized CDA exam.
- We held three community events serving a total of 102 early child care professionals. They included a "Materials Giveaway", book distribution event (in collaboration with the Maryland Book Bank) and a "Winter Gathering", whereby participants networked and partook in fun and enriching activities.
- Behavioral health consultation services were provided to 27 children in child care exhibiting differences or challenges and 27 early care and education programs/providers having difficulty managing the behavior of a child(ren) in their care. The goal of this program is to help children with differences or challenges retain their child care placement.
- The Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) consultants hosted a Wellness Retreat that promoted self-care for child care providers. Sixty persons participated.
- Our Family Resource Specialists helped 204 families find child care using LOCATE: Child Care. Twenty-three families also received help completing the Maryland Child Care Scholarship Application, which enables families to receive state paid scholarships or "vouchers" for child care.



#### MID-YEAR IMPACT REPORT FY 2023



#### Baltimore City Child Care Resource Center (BCCCRC), continued

- The Maryland Family Child Care Boost program is providing business training and coaching to 17 family child care providers. This includes building a website and computerizing their program.
- Nature-based early learning opportunities were provided to 27 child care programs through our STEAM in a Backpack program which incorporates Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math into nature-based activities.

## **Educating & Supporting Parents**

#### **Family Education**

- Group-based Family Education services were provided to a total of 474 parents through our parenting education program, anger management classes, and family life workshops. In conjunction with Morgan State University, we provided a 4-week parenting workshop series in partnership with Union Baptist Church in Baltimore City.
- Also, we successfully collaborated with the Dickey Hill Elementary and the Gardenville Elementary School, providing parents with informational workshops and family engagement activities.
- In November, we reimagined our in-person family engagement nights at The Family Tree. This year, we hosted a Science Night which provided 15 adults and 25 children with a meal and fun, family engagement opportunities that that incorporated science.

**Kids Care Plus (KCP)** This one-of-a-kind program provided 3,412 hours of free, temporary, drop-in child care and respite (up to 4 hours a day) for families with children 2 to 12 years of age. KCP periodically hosts special events including its annual end of summer event providing fun activities, resources, and free snowballs to 54 children and families.

#### Parenting HelpLine

The 24-7 Parenting Helpline fielded a total of 709 calls and online chats. During these calls, referrals were made to help those who required resources and, compassionate support was offered to those in need. Assistance was also provided to families who were wanting to register for Family Tree programs.

# **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**

In partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and local community organizations, we provided ACE Interface training to 921 educators, professionals, paraprofessionals, and government employees. These trainings enable participants to understand the tremendous hidden challenges many children face and help promote vital conversations within communities in order to promote resiliency from childhood adversity and bring about change.

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## **Building Community Awareness Through Events**

- Our 3rd annual Brent A. Rosenberg Lace Up to End Child Abuse 5k and 1.5-mile Family Fun Walk, took place at M&T Bank Stadium with a loop around the stadium and Camden Yards. Participants also had the option to participate virtually so the event was not limited to the Baltimore area. This family and community engagement activity help to raise over \$75,000 for The Family Tree.
- Through community engagement activities such as resource fairs, community block parties, events at local colleges, and national nights out, we reached 2,140 people with information about The Family Tree and our programs and services.

## **Looking Forward**

Our primary goal is for children to grow up in safe, happy and healthy homes. We reach that goal, one family, caregiver, and professional at a time. As we forge ahead, we are grateful for our Family Tree friends and partners who help make it possible.





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# 24-hour Parenting HelpLine 800.243.7337











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