

**MIDYEAR
IMPACT
REPORT
FY 2020**



**The
Family
Tree**

Raising families up.

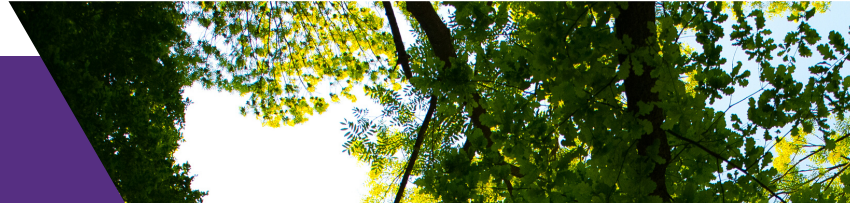


During the first half of Fiscal Year 2020, The Family Tree continued its mission to engage communities and educate parents and caregivers about child abuse prevention strategies. Through our programs, trainings, outreach campaigns, 24-hour Parenting HelpLine and online Live Chat, we are changing minds and transforming lives.

We are proud to share this midyear report with you.

familytreemd.org

MIDYEAR IMPACT REPORT FY 2020



Investing in Children, Prenatal through Early Childhood

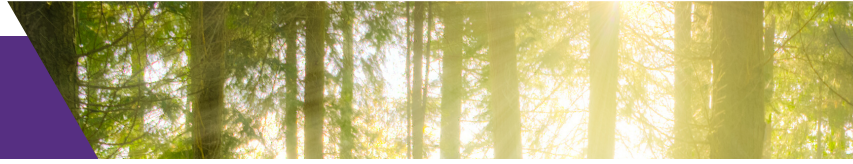
- The Family Tree acquired the **Baltimore City Child Care Resource Center (BCCCRC)**, which provides training and technical assistance to child care providers in the City and to individuals wanting to become providers; also serves parents, the business community, and others interested in early care and education. The center brings current educational best practices to enhance the learning experience of children in care.
 - With seven staff members, BCCCRC served over 2,100 early care and education professionals in the first half of the year, providing technical assistance to early childcare programs through on-site visits, telephone and email contacts.
 - The center also provided Early Childhood Mental Health Consultations to 27 children. The BCCCRC brings a new level of expertise to our system of service and quality of care to our City's children.
 - In November, the center sponsored an Emotional Wellness Conference, inspiring and educating over 200 people in the field of early care and education.
 - The addition of the center has deepened the level of expertise at The Family Tree and has created the opportunity for outside partnerships and new avenues of support.
- **Family Connects Maryland (FCM)**, our home visiting program that links Baltimore City mothers (who deliver at Sinai Hospital) and their newborns to needed resources, received sustainable support from the Maryland Department of Health. Modeled after the Duke University program, FCM offers care to parents regardless of income. During the first half of the fiscal year, the program served 307 mothers and their young families. With FCM successfully established, the University of Maryland at Baltimore commenced research on the program, studying its impact and effectiveness in Baltimore.
- **Healthy Families America (HFA)** underwent an extensive and rigorous re-accreditation process. We received positive feedback from the reviewers regarding our highly competent and compassionate staff.

Educating Parents and Supporting Families Where They Are

- In our **Family Education program**, classes and workshops remain strong. We continue to provide parenting education classes in both the 4- and 10-week formats. Overall, 450 people were served in the first half of the fiscal year. The 4-week program boasts an 80% completion rate.
- Several years in the making, our new **Kids Care Plus** childcare and respite program was launched. It provides safe, nurturing and FREE childcare for up to four hours a day so parents can attend to personal business without the distraction of their children (in order to go to job interviews, doctor's appointments, etc.). It also provides a break that every 'stressed-out' parent needs without putting their children at risk.
- **Expanding our reach** – We enhanced our accessibility to parents by making our website mobile friendly and added a Live Chat feature on the website, giving parents instant access to information without having to make a call.



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Building Stronger Communities through Partnerships

- The **ACE Interface** initiative continued to disseminate information to the community about **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**, the biological foundation of stress, and the impact it has on later social emotional and health wellbeing. ACEs include a host of childhood family functioning and stability indicators like abuse, intimate partner violence or growing up in a household with substance use or mental health disorders among others. The initiative also explores how families and communities can build resilience by promoting relationships and environments that help children grow up to be healthy and productive adults.
 - We conducted three Train-the-Presenter Cohort Trainings, building our group of Master Trainers & Presenters to a total of 122. As a result, we were able to reach 1,748 people across the state through 64 trainings, so far this year.
 - We developed supplemental ACE program materials as part of a “reduction of harm” effort for the opioid crisis in Baltimore. These materials were made available to professionals in the substance abuse field and the educational system who may interface or work with children affected by substance abuse in the home.
 - We also partnered with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to train cohorts of Master Presenters who work in the educational system in order to provide a more trauma-responsive system to children across Maryland. This partnership helps bridge an important gap between the community and the school system.
- **Launched Penelope**, The Family Tree’s new cloud-based system for tracking and reporting our outcomes with families. Penelope enhances our ability to see what is working well and what needs revision.

Making Families and Children a Priority Through Advocacy

- In partnership with Maryland Essentials for Childhood, MD State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary and Senator Antonio Hayes, we sponsored a **legislative round-table on ACE Interface** (Adverse Childhood Experiences) to educate elected officials on how policy can support families, reduce stress and heal trauma. Speakers included Frank Kros, neuroscience expert, and Melissa Merrick, PCA President and CEO and former senior epidemiologist for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In addition to educating the legislators on ACEs and its supporting science, attendees learned about current action being taken in other states from speakers on the National Council of State Legislatures, First Lady of Delaware Tracey Quillen Carney, and Mary Rolando, ACE Innovations Director in Tennessee. There were 49 attendees, including 9 legislative members and 3 staff to a legislative member.
- The Family Tree’s Executive Director Patricia K. Cronin was appointed to the **Child Fatality Review Team (CFR)** which is tasked with reviewing child deaths statewide as most unexpected childhood fatalities are preventable. The team works on reducing child deaths by understanding their causes and partnering with other state and local agencies to advise the governor and legislature on policy changes and strategies for preventing childhood fatalities.

Looking Ahead

Only through your generous support can we remain at the forefront in the field of child abuse and prevention. Our deepest gratitude goes to our Board of Directors, donors and public and private funders who make our work with families and children possible. With your help, we are transforming the lives of Maryland children.