



Children
First



Communities
In Schools

Buncombe County

2020-21

ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





Natasha Adwaters

All of us at Children First/Communities In Schools of Buncombe County are grateful to our supporters for their commitment throughout these unprecedented times. Thanks to our generous donors, we have sustained our services in the 2020-2021 school year and remain an anchor in the greater Asheville community for the children and families we serve. In a year with many challenges due to the global pandemic, including remote learning, lower school enrollment numbers, and the inability to have volunteers, we weathered through and adapted, emerging even stronger.

Our Student Support Specialists (SSS) connected with students in schools, in our Learning Centers, and through home visits. In addition to helping students with academic goals, SSS ensured they understood and addressed the full needs of each student, from basic needs like food and clothing to social-emotional needs. We served students from Johnston Elementary, Emma Elementary, and Claxton Elementary through "afterschool" enrichment programming in our community-based Learning Centers, expanding hours to support students with remote learning. Our Family Resource Centers at Emma Elementary and Estes Elementary continued to provide food, clothing, and cleaning and hygiene supplies, as well as Emergency Financial Assistance in the form of direct rent or utility payments to qualifying families.

In addition to our direct services and educational work, our advocacy team has remained a key voice for children and families in Western North Carolina. Our advocacy team works in collaboration with community partners to reduce persistent racial disparities in health, housing, wages, and education, utilizing strategies to reduce childhood poverty and disrupt the negative health, educational, developmental, and economic mobility outcomes overwhelmingly experienced by children in low-income households.

Despite the challenges all of us faced in the 2020-2021 school year, we are fortunate to be able to provide critical services to students and families while supporting and fighting for family-friendly policies as a community leader. We are most grateful to the individuals, faith organizations, government agencies, and foundations that make our work possible. Thank you for supporting Children First/CIS!

**564 N. LOUISIANA AVE.
ASHEVILLE, NC 28806**

828-259-9717

WWW.CHILDRENFIRSTCISBC.ORG

 CHILDRENFIRSTCISBC

 CHILDREN FIRST CIS OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY

 CFCISADVOCACY

STUDENT SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

TIER 1 SUPPORTS
(SCHOOL-WIDE)

2,128

STUDENTS SERVED

TIER 2 & 3 SUPPORTS
(CASE MANAGEMENT)

134

STUDENTS SERVED

ABC goals for case-managed students (Tier 2 &3)

100% Promoted to next grade

96% Progress toward or met **Attendance** goals

100% Progress toward or met **Behavior** goals

93% Progress toward or met **Coursework** goals

MS. BROOKE



MS. NICOLE



MS. MARY



40

students were served at two Learning
Centers in Pisgah View & Woodridge
communities

ADVOCACY

SUCCESS EQUATION

- Advocated for the City and County to prioritize rental assistance with early rounds of federal COVID relief funds made available to local governments
- Partnered with Pisgah Legal Services and Buncombe County DHHS to create and share an educational video on the Emergency Rental Assistance program available from federal COVID relief funds - <https://youtu.be/ADuXNfJR6is>
- Continued to advocate for affordable housing options for families with children with our Success Equation Housing Team partners
- Partnered with Mothering Asheville initiative to present advocacy curriculum to MAHEC Ob/Gyn residents as part of their annual didactic series
- Welcomed our newest Advocacy Specialist Alicia Fordham to the Advocacy Team



ALICIA

EARLY CHILDHOOD: BY THE NUMBERS

4

WNC Early Childhood Coalition expanded to include 4 new agencies, including 2 licensed private centers and 2 licensed child care homes

7

Seven WNC ECC member organizations deepened work with local caregivers and providers focused on building advocacy skills and increasing policy engagement

8

Members met with 8 NC legislators to advocate for targeted investments in the state early childhood education infrastructure through COVID relief funding

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER AT EMMA ELEMENTARY



373

backpacks of school
supplies distributed



381

food boxes
distributed, serving
1,615 individuals



268

children received
gifts during Holiday
Giving



33

families received \$15,510 in
Emergency Financial Assistance

TEAM 23 HIGHLIGHTS

PROJECT POWER AMERICORPS

200

K-12 students at area schools
and after school programs
served by the Academic
Enrichment Specialist

1,000

volunteers mobilized to
combat food insecurity,
homelessness, and domestic
violence by the Community
Resource Specialist

COMMUNITY PARTNER SITES

YMCA

Manna Food bank

Rainbow Community School

Asheville Poverty Initiative

The Jewish Community Center

Buncombe Partnership for Children

Helpmate

Homeward Bound

GREAT STORY:

The fence around the Garden at Asheville Poverty Initiative was falling apart. I had never built a fence before, so I spent a lot of the process being clueless. However, one day I had a wonderful conversation about fences with a long-time cafe patron named John. John spent his early career working as a chiropractor, but ended up struggling with addiction in his 30s and later experiencing homelessness. In recovery, he said he spent a lot of time doing contract work like building fences, digging ditches, and landscaping.

The next day he drew up a diagram for a beautiful wood gate and low-cost plan for installing a fence. We now have a tall, beautiful white gate that John built himself.

Now that the fence is done, he has directed his attention to making the garden a more welcoming space. I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve at an organization that utilizes its community members to get projects done. We are better when all members of a community contribute to its success.

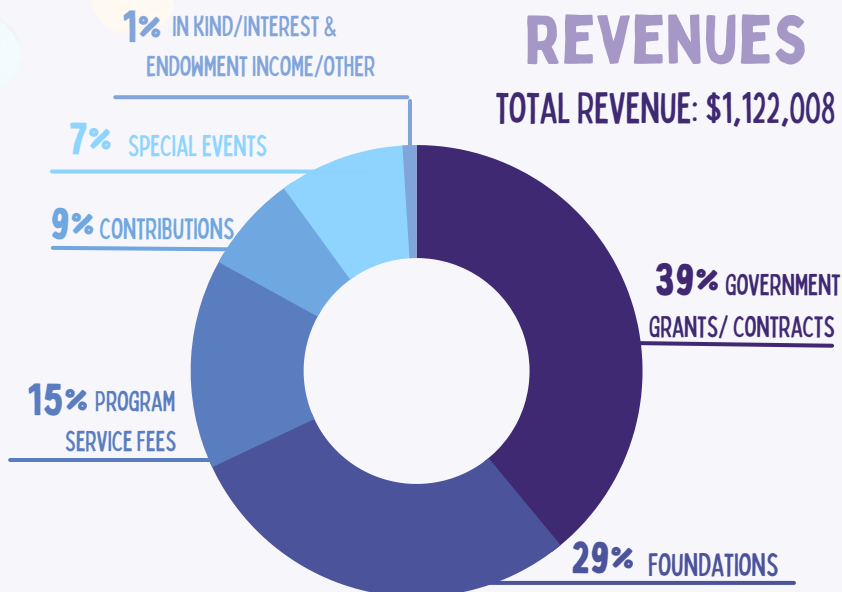
BY: KLARI, PPAC MEMBER

SERVING AT ASHEVILLE POVERTY
INITIATIVE

2020-2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

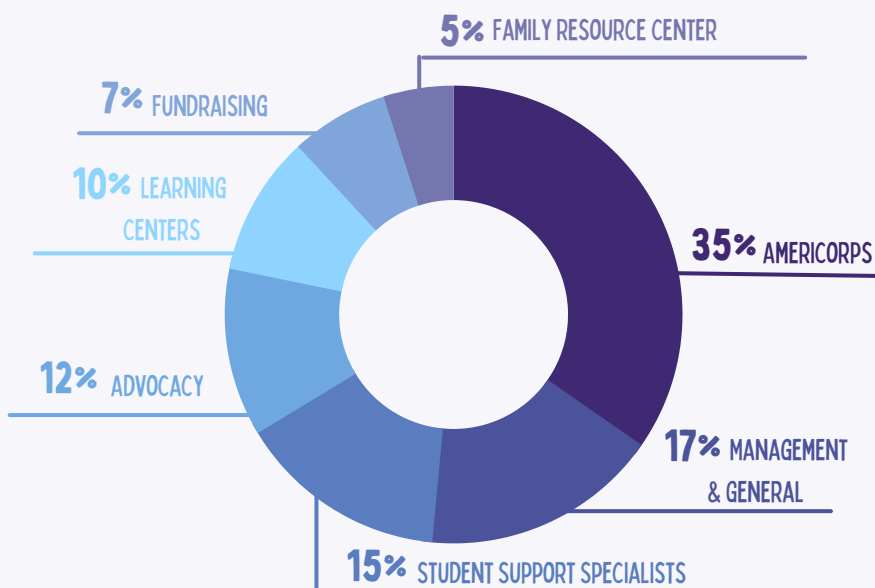
REVENUES

TOTAL REVENUE: \$1,122,008



EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,143,116



Children First



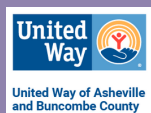
Communities
In Schools

Buncombe County

EMPOWERING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES TO REACH
THEIR FULL POTENTIAL THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND SERVICES.

© Buncombe County Schools

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!



FIRST CITIZENS BANK HI-WIRE BREWING CHARLEYS KIDS SCHOENHOLZ FOUNDATION
BLUE RIDGE ORTHODONTISTS CIS OF NC AMERICAN ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION
CAROLINA OPHTHALMOLOGY KLUNK FAMILY FOUNDATION JUBILEE! COMMUNITY
SELF HELP CREDIT UNION BEATTIE FAMILY FOUNDATION CATHEDRAL OF ALL SOULS
WNC MOUNTAIN REALTY TD CHARITABLE FOUNDATION TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
HARTMAN CHIROPRACTIC HUISKING FOUNDATION FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST