

*The Relatives*



# **WE ARE ALL RELATIVES**

The Relatives' Annual Family Report 2017



# GUIDING OUR YOUTH IN CRISIS TO SAFETY AND INDEPENDENCE

**Forgotten.** That describes so many of the young people who come through our doors at The Relatives.

And now a recent, first-of-its kind study on youth homelessness in America confirms what we see every day at The Relatives: most people don't understand the pervasiveness of the issue. If youth aren't at shelters or on the streets, most people don't see the problem or understand the need.

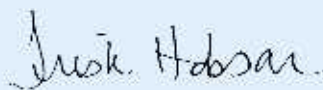
The study, *Voices of Youth Count*, harnessed data from young people who have slept on the streets or in shelters, ran away from or were kicked out of their homes, or "couch surfed" - staying temporarily with friends and family.

You will see the findings throughout this report but it is important to point out that *1 in 10 young adults aged 18-25, and at least 1 in 30 youth aged 13-17, experience some form of homelessness over the course of a year.*

Prevention and early intervention are essential. Most adults who become homeless were first homeless before the age of 25. If the cycle can be stopped before that point, chronic adult homelessness can be prevented and real opportunities for young people to reach their fullest potential can be provided.

Your vital support of The Relatives makes it possible for us to be a family to about 6,000 young people each year. Your gifts provide programming to help prevent and end youth homelessness. As you read this report, you'll see more staggering statistics and the faces of those who are no longer forgotten because you stepped up to Be a Relative. We sincerely thank you.

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# BY THE NUMBERS

**Our Mission:** The Relatives keeps kids safe, families together, and prepares youth and young adults to be healthy, productive, engaged members of our community.



Youth and young adults served at our 3 locations



**653**

Safe Place sites in Charlotte region



**179**

Young adults were placed in employment



**31**

Young adults were placed in housing



**317**

Youth staying at our crisis center transitioned to a safe, stable environment



*The Relatives is where I come every time I need help or a safe place. They have always been there for me.*  
-Thomas.

THE RELATIVES IS OUR FAMILY



Walk into our resource center and it's likely you'll see Armon and his mom Carolina lighting up the room with their cheerful smiles. At three, Armon doesn't understand the significance of The Relatives in his life, but Carolina does.

At 16, Carolina was brought to our crisis center by police officers who found her after a domestic abuse incident with her boyfriend at the time. It took our counselors a few hours to get Carolina to open up about her family because she struggled with trust issues. Once she did, it was clear Carolina did not have a supportive family – they had a history of abuse and drug use. Our counselors wrapped an array of services around Carolina, including our program for young adults which allowed her to immediately access assistance with school, finding a job and locating other natural supports.

Carolina was stable and doing well but, at 21, she found herself struggling again after having Armon two years before. She was couch surfing with her baby while she tried to maintain employment. "I wanted a better life for my son, so I knew I had to come back to The Relatives. It's the only place I feel encouraged and truly get help."

Armon and Carolina come to The Relatives at least once a week to check in with her transition specialist. While Armon plays with some of the other clients and staff, Carolina is working on her resume with our employment specialist and working through our GED course. "If it wasn't for The Relatives, I don't know where I would be right now. More importantly, I don't know where my son would be. To me, The Relatives is the family I never had. They love me unconditionally."

*"Nationally, unmarried parenting youth had a 200% higher risk of reporting homelessness."*

– Chapin Hall's Voice of Youth Count



• Carolina and Armon enjoy a board game while at The Relatives.

## A NO-JUDGEMENT ZONE



*"No one here has ever judged me."*

Proteus syndrome is characterized by overgrowth of the bones, skin, and other tissues. Organs and tissues affected by the syndrome grow out of proportion to the rest of the body. Only one in a million people worldwide have the syndrome.

Iya has been challenged by this rare syndrome her whole life. As a young adult she also found herself homeless after leaving an unstable home. She found out about The Relatives after meeting one of our staff doing outreach at the transit station. Since then, she has come to our program to receive help with her health issues, employment, and housing.

"My whole life, people have stared at me because of my enlarged limbs and that has always made me feel very uncomfortable. But at The Relatives, I've never felt that way. I've always felt accepted. Everyone who comes here has something going on in their life. Everyone is going through their own issue. What I love about The Relatives is that it's a non-judgmental environment," said Iya.

Young adults like Iya who visit our resource center get help in these FIVE AREAS:



**Housing**



**Education**



**Employment**



**Health and  
Safety**



**Community Life  
Functioning**

# A COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER TO END HOMELESSNESS

Last July marked one year since we began our housing program. After seeing many of our youth sleeping on the streets, The Relatives decided to make housing our young adults a priority.

The Relatives is grateful to the *Joey Logano Foundation* and *The Duke Endowment* for aiding the work we are doing to house Charlotte's homeless youth. With the funds from the Joey Logano Foundation and the Duke Endowment, The Relatives can now expand their services to meet the needs of young adults who don't qualify as homeless under federal standards or who are aging out of the foster care.

This essential program provides youth, ages 18 to 24, who are homeless, at-risk of homelessness, or fleeing domestic violence with short-term financial assistance tailored to their individual needs.

Mike, currently in our housing program, feels blessed. "Starting at the age of 12, I have been in and out of the judicial system and during those 10 years I was homeless many times when I wasn't in jail. I knew when I decided to change my life I needed to come to The Relatives. It is the only place that has ever supported me."

Along with financial subsidies, youth receive intensive and individualized case management services for six to 12 months that focuses on life-skills development, lease compliance, community and life functioning, employment readiness, health and safety, and educational attainment. The ultimate goal of the housing program is to prepare youth for permanent housing and economic self-sufficiency.

*"When I was homeless, I felt numb."*



In the first year of this housing program we housed **19**



**YOUNG ADULTS WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY HOMELESS**



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Dave Burns

After joining my granddaughter on a tour of The Relatives, I was planning to come twice a week to help teach GED math, but quickly discovered many more opportunities to help these young adults with reading, interview skills and simply listening to them open up about their issues. Volunteers at The Relatives get to help build competence, confidence and meaningful relationships.

Day after day, kids come in with some sort of struggle. Here's what The Relatives teaches them: stop digging when you're in a hole because with the right people around you, you can build a ladder, rung by rung, that will help you climb out. I am proud to be part of The Relatives' Family of Giving. The Relatives offers a unique opportunity to support a better future for youth in crisis, but also a better future for our community.

*Dave Burns, new volunteer and supporter*

## FAMILY OF GIVING

Thank you to the donors who have joined our Family of Giving. They have ensured the sustainable future for the Relatives by committing to a five-year pledge of at least \$1,000 each year.

### Circle of Life

**\$50,000+** commitment

Vickie and Gene Johnson  
Leigh-Ann and Martin Sprock

### Circle of Dreams

**\$25,000 to \$49,999** commitment

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*Our 2017 breakfast was huge success because of all our supporters, especially those who joined our Family of Giving. Thank you to all our donors for Being a Relative and growing the organization's sustainability*

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*Thank you to all of our Corporate, Foundation and Organization supporters. Through employee matches, grants and sponsorships you helped us make our family stronger.*

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## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

*Our donors make a difference in the lives of children served by The Relatives. We are thankful for their generosity and recognize them for their gifts made from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017.*

### \$5,000 and above

Sandi and Henry Agusti  
Leigh and Rob Edwards  
Patrick O'Leary

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At this year's breakfast, Sally shared how *The Relatives* saved her life in 1975.

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*We have so many volunteers and community partners, but we would like to especially thank these partners for their continued support.*

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 Trips for Kids  
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 Sunflower Bakery

### FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

#### Revenue, Gains, Losses & Other Support

Fees for Services	\$287,961
Government Grants	\$978,208
Private Contributions	\$1,087,884
Investment Income	\$132,623
Change in Value of Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trusts	-
Other Income	<u>\$94,946</u>
	<b>\$2,581,622</b>

#### Expenses

Program Services	\$1,520,270
General & Administrative	\$152,110
Advancement	\$387,869
Depreciation	<u>\$47,620</u>
	<b>\$2,107,869</b>

**Net Revenue/Expense**      **\$473,753**

## THE RELATIVES: YESTERDAY AND TODAY

In 1974 a group of concerned Charlotteans came together in the basement of Dilworth United Methodist Church to be a voice for homeless and runaway children in crisis. They started The Relatives, a place where kids with nowhere to go could find safety.

From the small, nine-bed crisis shelter they started on East Boulevard, The Relatives has grown into a vital community resource providing a full continuum of services for at-risk and homeless youth. Throughout this growth, our mission has remained constant – to keep kids safe, families together, and to prepare youth and young adults to be healthy, productive, and engaged members of the community.

Today we serve more than 6,000 youth, young adults, and families each year, empowering them to become self-advocates and find viable, long-term paths to success. Our three locations include the youth crisis center serving runaway and homeless youth ages 7-17, a transitional living home for young adult males aging out of foster care and a resource center for young adults ages 16-24.



*It all began at the youth crisis center. Today we serve youth in crisis in three locations.*

## WAYS TO BE A RELATIVE

### Meet The Relatives

If you would like to learn more about how your support is making a difference, please consider joining us at one of our monthly mission tours on the first Wednesday of the month. You can register at [TheRelatives.org/trevents](https://TheRelatives.org/trevents).

### Become an Ambassador

Join us as a champion for our cause. Help us grow our presence in the community by introducing The Relatives' mission and programs. Host a tour at one of our facilities or your church or business.

### Volunteer

The Relatives has a variety of opportunities for volunteers – both for individuals and businesses interested in working directly with youth and those who just want to “help out around the house.”

### Give Today

Your unrestricted gift or corporate sponsorship towards general operating funds contribute to the programs and services we provide to help support the youth and young adults in our community and ensure a sustainable future for The Relatives.



## THE RELATIVES

119 East 8th Street, Charlotte, NC 28202  
development@TheRelatives.org | 704.344.1111  
[www.TheRelatives.org](http://www.TheRelatives.org)

