



BOARD OF CHILD CARE
of The United Methodist Church, Inc.



ENRICHING COMMUNITIES, ONE FAMILY AT A TIME



**2015 FISCAL YEAR
ANNUAL REPORT**



OUR CORE VALUES

SAFETY as a mindset

We value life, spirit, and health above all else and take action to maintain the safety of our workplaces, programs, and services.

Act with **INTEGRITY**

Openness and honesty with all stakeholders make for both the best program outcomes and team culture.

Listen and respond with **EMPATHY**

Empathy guides our programming and culture at all levels. A supportive work and program environment means possessing a desire to know and understand others.

IMPACT drives lasting change

We seek to make lasting change in the lives of those we work with by providing services that are durable, measurable, and sustainable.



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT & CEO, **LAURIE ANNE SPAGNOLA**, and BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIR, **JAN HAYDEN**

Dear Friends,

The 2014-2015 fiscal year is behind us and to call it memorable would be an understatement! We have accomplished a great deal, but there is still much to do.

Board of Child Care's Executive Leadership Team is implementing the early stages of a comprehensive, three-year Master Guidance Plan that will position BCC as a premiere provider of service and expertise in the mid-Atlantic.

Our number one goal is to transition the organization from a care provider to an impact maker, and we hope you will see in the pages of this report that we are well on our way. We have changed the metrics, methods and mission for the Board of Child Care. We have re-imagined what residential, treatment foster care, special and early education, and mental health services should look like. Most importantly, we are looking at all of BCC's programs and how they can work together to serve entire families, and their communities at large.

We are evolving in ways large and small. With over 140 years of experience at our back, our legacy is the wind in our sails. We are watching our youth and program participants grow, helping them face challenges, and learning from triumphs and failures on a daily basis.

We, the Board, and our staff want to say a very special thank you for the support and collective work made possible by BCC's volunteers and donors. This giving of your precious time, sharing your talents or expertise, or sending us financial support are tangible gifts and vitally important to our continued success.

With immense gratitude,

Laurie Anne Spagnola
President & CEO

Jan Hayden
Chair, Board of Directors



Laurie Anne Spagnola
President & CEO



Jan Hayden
Chair, Board of Directors



836

**TOTAL
CHILDREN
SERVED**



196 CHILDREN
SERVED IN THE PASADENA
OUTPATIENT MENTAL
HEALTH CLINIC,
A 6% INCREASE
FROM 2014

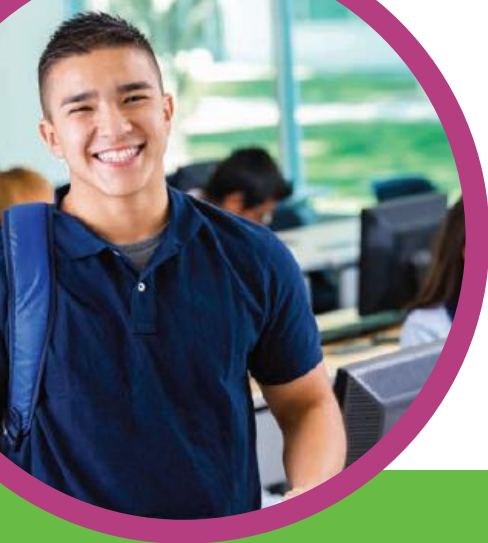


279 boys placed into private,
residential homes by BCC's Caminos
program upon 2015 closing

63%

of Baltimore
residential
participants
transitioned
into a lower
level of care





\$21,712

granted to residential alumni for continuing education



102
PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS

in the DC Early Learning
Program in FY 2015

8-4-2:

Of BCC's 14 Treatment Foster
Care discharges, 8 stepped down
in therapy intensity, 4 returned
home & 2 adopted



15,742

hours of employee training

284
DIFFERENT
COURSES
TAKEN





Ruben H.

A life reborn through belief

Hanging out with friends, listening to music, and playing sports - markers of typical teenage life - were things Ruben H. could only dream of in Honduras.

“It’s hard to make people understand what it’s like in Honduras, but I’m OK with telling it,” Ruben says. “I want to help people understand why I left.”

A RISK WORTH TAKING

Ruben escaped violent cartel drug trade, human exploitation and ransom kidnappings by walking from his village of Dolores in the Honduran state of Copán. He was just 14.

“Tell the truth and you’re in trouble,” Ruben says. “Because I saw people stealing things, other people wanted to kill me.”

Walking from Honduras, through Guatemala and into Mexico – a grueling trek of 800 miles by road or longer if by trail or field – Ruben and other migrants boarded the Ruta Golfo, a freight train running along Mexico’s Gulf Coast. Filled with migrants sitting in cargo beds or atop boxcars with no protection from the elements, the trains are rife with criminals seeking victims for kidnapping ransoms.

“One night I huddled for warmth with a stranger so I didn’t die from the cold,” Ruben says. “If I was crying or feeling sad, I asked God to take care of me.”

On August 1, 2012, wearing nothing but the clothes he traveled over 1,000 miles in, Ruben waded across the Rio Grande River into the United States.

“It’s hard to make people understand what it’s like in Honduras, but I’m OK with telling it.”

*Michael Ciesielski
Photography*

TOURING AMERICA

Almost immediately, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) took Ruben into custody, kicking off a 26-month, five-state tour of residential foster care facilities.

In October 2014, Ruben entered Caminos, BCC's program for unaccompanied children. Titled to honor the Spanish translation for "journey," Caminos offered short-term shelter, medical care and case management support while youth awaited reunification with family or a sponsor.

BCC's challenge initially was paperwork – without citizenship papers or a birth certificate, Ruben could not apply for a visa – and because he wasn't 18, he could not stay in the United States. Viviana Camacho, Ruben's BCC case manager, called the Honduran State Department several times a day for two weeks to unravel Ruben's riddle.

Camacho had to get creative, too. "We drew a map, discovered Ruben's hometown and ran an announcement on a local Honduran radio station," Camacho says. "Someone heard it and told his mother. That was the break we needed."

"That was maybe the best day of my life," Ruben says of hearing his mother's voice for the first time in three years. "My mother was so happy to hear me."

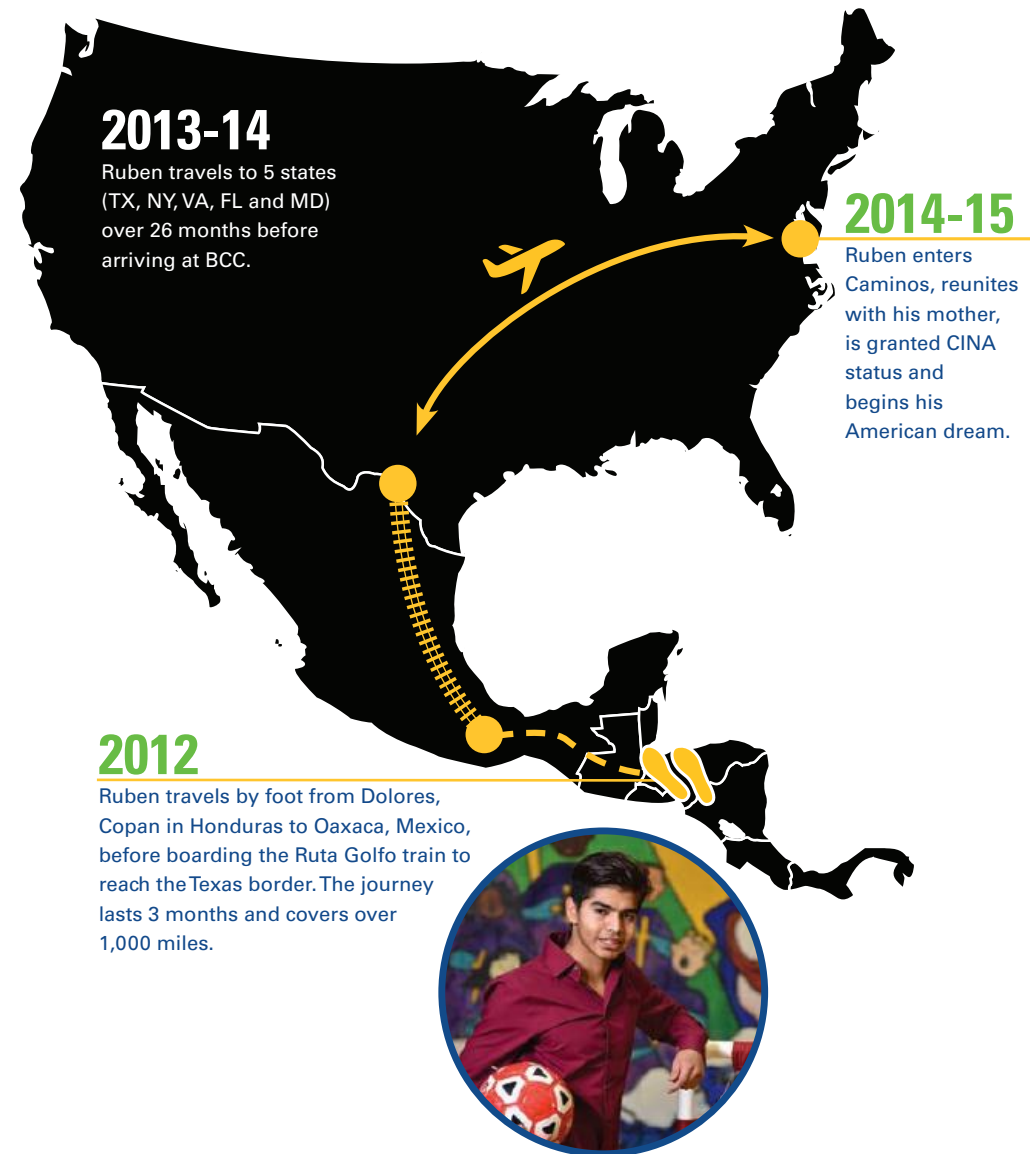
FINALLY, SOME GRACE

Armed with his birth certificate and with help from a DC law firm, Capital Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR), BCC helped Ruben qualify as a Child In Need of Assistance (CINA). That meant Ruben could stay in the United States instead of banishment back to Honduras when he turned 18.

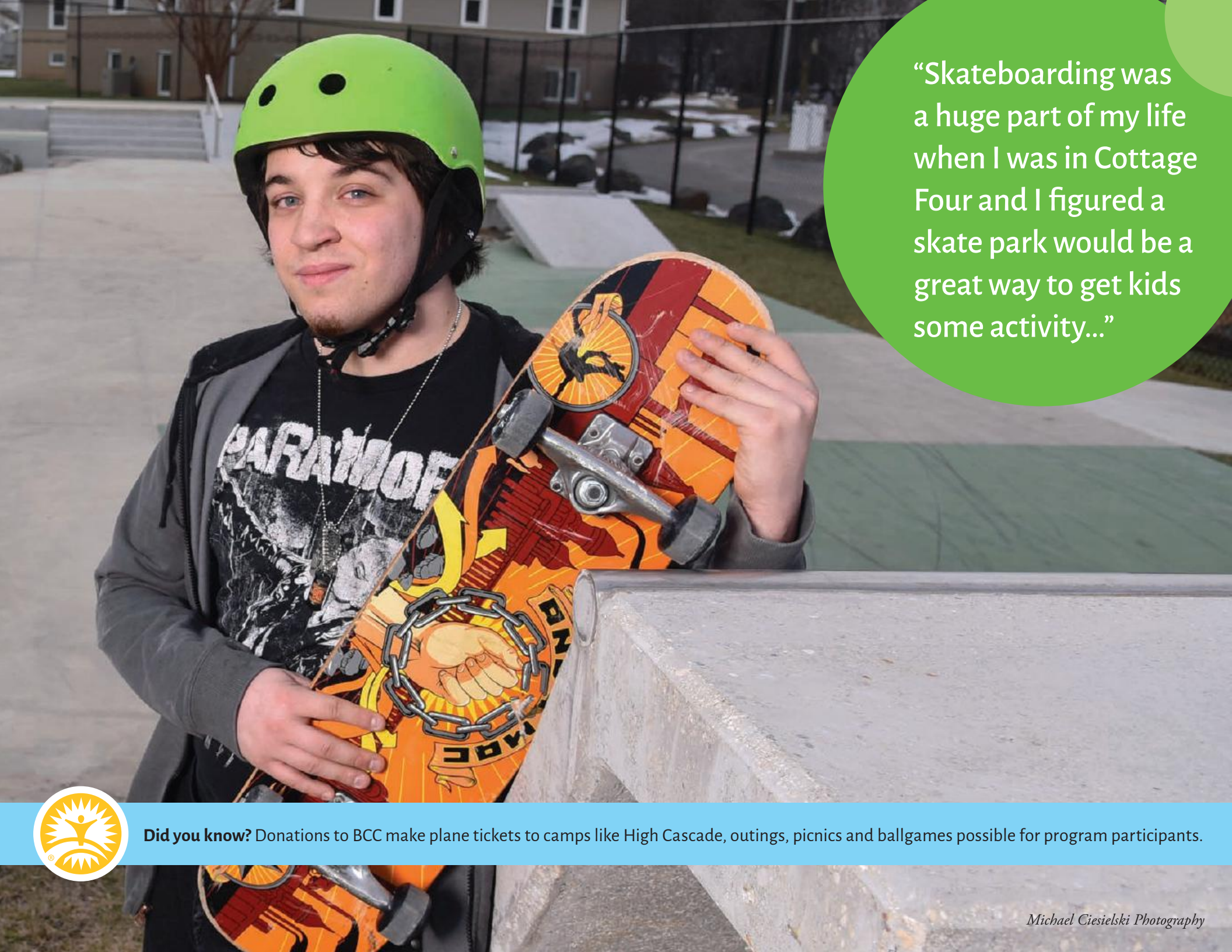
Ruben embraced American culture. He played striker on his Baltimore County high school soccer team. He has made friends while taking hold of American culture. He learned to text in English, and has written close to 70 songs in Spanish.

Ruben believes his life has purpose thanks to the Board of Child Care.

"In America, I'm not facing the danger I feared in Honduras," Ruben says. "I've already done the hardest part. I'm at BCC because I believe God wanted me to make a good decision."



Did you know? The Board of Child Care placed 279 Caminos participants into homes in 32 states and DC in just 504 days!



“Skateboarding was a huge part of my life when I was in Cottage Four and I figured a skate park would be a great way to get kids some activity...”



Did you know? Donations to BCC make plane tickets to camps like High Cascade, outings, picnics and ballgames possible for program participants.

Michael Ciesielski Photography

Ricky F.

Skating past obstacles

The way Ricky F. arrived at the Board of Child Care in 2007 will look nothing like how he will leave.

“We had stopped at McDonald’s for dinner and I was in the car with a cup of sweet tea held between my knees. We hit the speed bump by the front gate and the cup smashed and spilled all over my pants,” Ricky said with a smile. “I had to change in the bathroom right by the front desk.”

Nine years later, he prepares to leave BCC – with clean pants this time, he assures us – ready for living independently. “I was angry at leaving home and having to come live in a home,” Ricky recalls, “but I think a lot of maturity comes with age if you try to grasp it.”

SETBACKS TURN INTO COMEBACKS

“When I met him a year ago, school wasn’t working out the way he hoped and no one was calling him back for the various jobs he applied to,” says Grace Rudatsikira, Ricky’s clinical social worker at BCC. “(Then) everything seemed to align – there was a definite “click” moment.”

What clicked was Ricky’s ability to process what was going on around him. Instead of roller

coasting through peaks and valleys, he steadied himself by controlling his emotions.

Now living in BCC’s Colesville, MD group home, Ricky is an accomplished skateboarder and snowboarder. He taught himself how to play guitar – first learning small riffs – before moving on to a few chords and eventually entire songs. His music has been a steady fixture at BCC campus gatherings, holiday parties, and Thanksgiving meals.

FONDEST MEMORIES

Ricky earned a scholarship to High Cascade Camp in Oregon, a week of learning from and interacting with professional snowboarders.

“You’d be up 10,000 feet above sea level, the clouds would roll in and you couldn’t see 10 feet in front of your face,” Ricky says. “We’d go down the tail at 30 mph. Amazing.”

“I also still remember my first paycheck...it was \$115.36. I bought a wireless router and an X-Box Live subscription,” Ricky says.

When asked what he is most proud of during his time at BCC, Ricky’s answer comes without hesitation. “Being there to cut the ribbon for the skateboard park on campus,” he says quickly.

An avid skateboarder (and we must assume an excellent salesperson as well), Ricky’s advocacy for the construction of skateboard parks at the

Baltimore and Martinsburg campuses pushed those projects to the finish line in 2014.

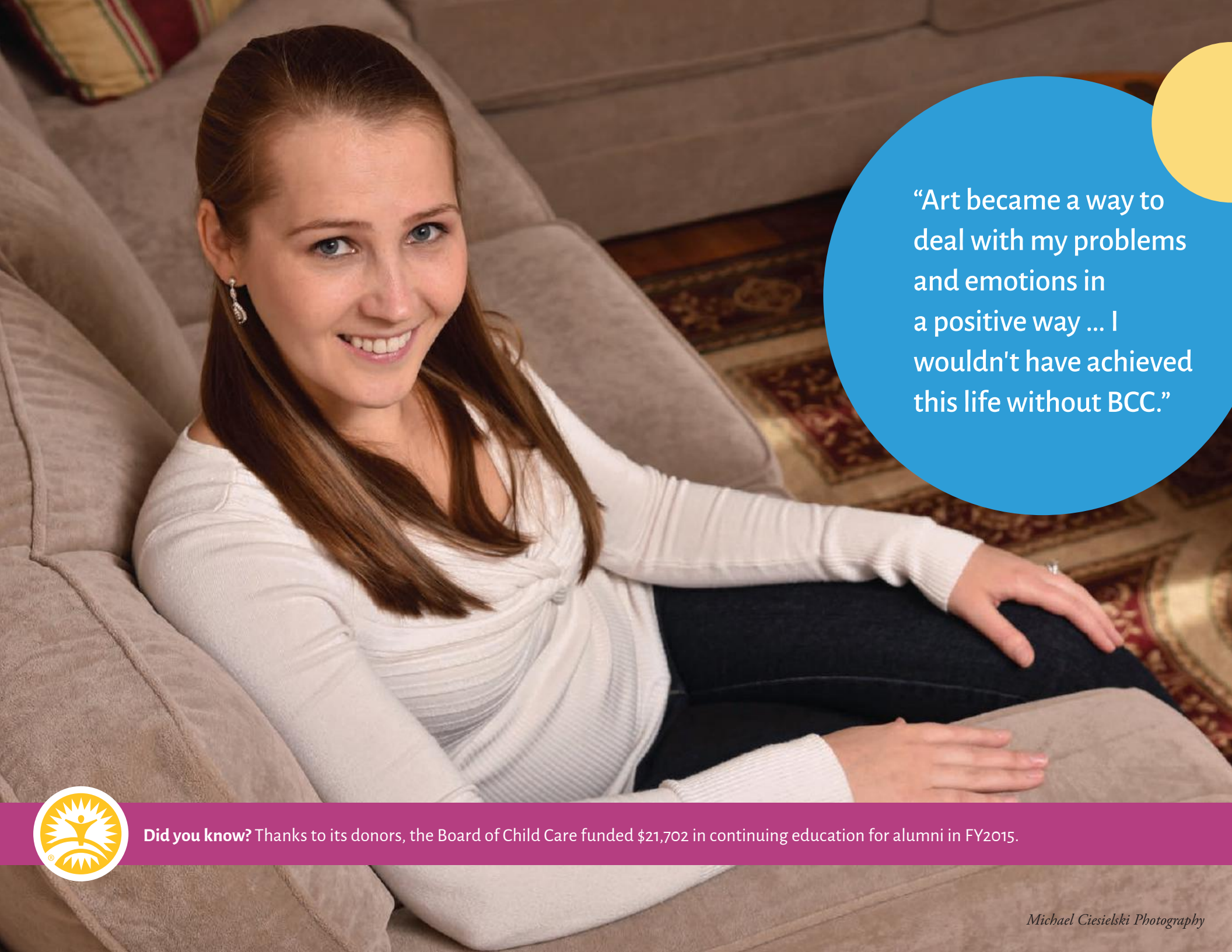
“Skateboarding was a huge part of my life when I was in Cottage Four and I figured a skate park would be a great way to get kids some activity, get them out of the way of cars,” Ricky says.

GIVING BACK

The young boy covered in sweet tea is now a young man who sees himself as a role model for younger residents. Helping them make the same small steps he once struggled with is what makes Ricky smile.

“Having someone to answer questions big and small means a lot,” Ricky says. “You’ll always have more chances to progress forward no matter what situation you’re in but what makes the biggest difference is what you do while you’re here.”





“Art became a way to deal with my problems and emotions in a positive way ... I wouldn't have achieved this life without BCC.”



Did you know? Thanks to its donors, the Board of Child Care funded \$21,702 in continuing education for alumni in FY2015.

Michael Ciesielski Photography

Maria H.

Hope drove her to succeed

Maria H. can describe her experience at Baltimore's Board of Child Care with just one word.

Hope.

BORN A SURVIVOR

To understand Maria's journey, you first have to acknowledge her reality. After spending her first nine years with biological parents, she spent the next five years of her life in a large orphanage in Siberia. After her two sisters were adopted in 1998, a Maryland family from Baltimore County adopted Maria in 2001.

A survivor of a throwaway culture, however, her struggles would continue for some time. Maria spoke little English and, almost immediately, found difficulty adjusting to her new life with her adopted family. "I moved in with a foster care family temporarily. My adoptive parents wouldn't take me back in, so I was transferred to foster care permanently and that's how I arrived at BCC," Maria said.

"I was young, emotional, and not very happy," Maria admits. "I was upset."

ART BECAME AN OUTLET

Maria turned to art as an outlet to cope with her new reality. "I'm crafty; I like to make things," said Maria, who continued to take classes at

the nearby Staub art school in Catonsville, MD while living on the Baltimore campus.

"Art became a way to deal with my problems and emotions in a positive way," she says. "It kept my mind busy. Instead of thinking about the sad things in my life, I turned my feelings to art and that made me feel good about myself."

FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

Realizing she had to finish high school if she wanted to succeed, earning her diploma became Maria's main goal in her late teens.

"An education meant that I would have a future, that it would lead me to be successful," she says. "I didn't know what I wanted to do after high school, but I knew I needed to finish."

While completing high school, Maria took a job at Crown Trophy in Owings Mills. After graduation, she went to school to become a dental assistant through a program offered at Howard Community College. The license took six months to acquire; she started working in the field shortly after.

"Maria always knew what she needed to do, and she set her sights on being independent and following through on her goals," says Nicole Smith, BCC's Vice-President of Residential Services, who worked with Maria during her time at BCC. "Once she had her skill set in place, we could all see she was going to flourish."

LIFE TODAY

10 years have passed since Maria graduated from high school, moved away from BCC and launched her career as a dental assistant. Now married, she is advancing her career through BCC's alumni grant program, going back to school to become a licensed dental hygienist. Perhaps most importantly, Maria looks forward to starting a family of her own one day.

"We don't have kids yet, but we definitely want them," Maria said. "We're waiting for the right time to begin our family."

The ability to circle a goal, chart a path to achieve it and execute the plan is something she credits Board of Child Care for teaching her, and she plans to fully utilize the skill.

"The program's helped me to set goals when I needed them the most," Maria said. "I wouldn't have achieved this life without BCC."





Teacher takes starring role

When she applied to teach at Strawbridge three years ago, Kari Svrjcek had certification in early childhood and special education. But Angela Chambers, then BCC's Vice-President of Educational Services, saw a star-like potential in Svrjcek and moved quickly to hire her.

"She had the passion for a Therapeutic Pre-K program and she jumped at the opportunity after we did the legwork to put it in place," Chambers said. "Kari designed the indoor sensory room, found the best research-based approaches, and was awarded a grant to make it happen."

Svrjcek previously taught Strawbridge's certificate class, designed for students who cannot earn a diploma due to cognitive disabilities. The state of Maryland inquired about a Therapeutic Pre-K program, and Svrjcek's success in launching it allowed Chambers to expand Strawbridge's minimum enrollment guidelines. The non-public private school accepts students from pre-K through age 21.

"Kari is proof when you dream, dream big as the sky is the limit," Chambers said. "She took the ball on this program and ran with it."

Strawbridge serves residential and day program participants. It is licensed by the Maryland State Dept. of Education and accredited through the National Commission for the Accreditation of Special Education Services.



Did you know? Up to 50 percent of children demonstrating the need for and receiving early intervention services move on time into general education Kindergarten.

Michael Ciesielski Photography

DC Early Learning Program a ‘beacon’ for parents

The Board of Child Care calls it the Early Learning Program (ELP), but nestled in southeast DC, it has become a beacon for parents looking for excellent student-teacher ratios, curriculum taught in small group settings, and diversity within the learning experience.

Able to accommodate up to 70 students daily, the ELP maintains a waitlist fed primarily by word of mouth referrals. Teachers like Kenisha Toye, Mayra Ramirez, and Sheree Settle are primary drivers of the program’s loyal parent following.

“Our grandson’s learning experiences have all been shaped by BCC and we are completely satisfied – delighted, actually – with the progress we see,” says Carolyn Brown, grandmother to three-year-old DiMaggio Lonan. “In the age of working parents, we definitely recommend BCC to other families.”

The ELP collaborates with the Quality Improvement Network to provide an instructional coach and family support worker to program participants. The ELP accepts students six weeks to five years old.

“The average stay for our students is almost three years so it speaks to the quality within

our programs and curriculum,” says Krystina Johnson, Assistant Program Director.

It is for reasons like this Victoria Moshiaswili, mother to two-year-old twins, recommends the ELP to her friends and neighbors.

“I go to work and know they’re thriving,” Moshiaswili says. “I see the skills they learn, the ability to do things for themselves, and I recognize I didn’t teach them ... they learn these things because they’re engaged with the ELP programs and teachers.”

“Board of Child Care has been a blessing to our family. The children have fun, make friends, learn social skills ... We have recommended BCC to several friends.”

— Sarah G.



Did you know? 57% of ELP enrollment comes from private pay parents; 43% utilize subsidy vouchers from the Dept. of Health and Human Services.



A Childhood Restored

Kendra M. never received the childhood every little girl deserves until she came to the Board of Child Care.

Abandoned by her mother at two years old, Kendra's father struggled with substance abuse. Often transient and sometimes homeless, it was not until Kendra was 11 when someone notified Child Protective Services. Neglect was confirmed; Kendra was placed into foster care.

Kendra was welcomed to BCC by a small army of support staff and responded very well to the program. With an individualized treatment plan in place, Kendra was able to work through her past trauma, make academic progress, and blossom through the healing relationships she experienced at BCC.

Kendra's transformation led her to BCC's community-based group homes in Martinsburg, WV. She became an honor roll student, a regular at spiritual worship, and advocated for herself and others at "The Landing," a local teen recovery ministry.

After almost four years of many laughs — and a few tears, too — Kendra bid BCC farewell. Bittersweet because it meant saying goodbye to a recovery filled with good memories, but celebrated as she continues her march towards happiness and independence.

"A story like Kendra's is the reason we do this work," says Jacqueline Columbia, BCC's Director of West Virginia Operations. "Helping change a child's life positively not only impacts the child, but has a positive impact on an entire community."

— *Editor's note: the name of the program participant has been changed to protect confidentiality*



Did you know? Due to past success, the Martinsburg group home added another cottage in FY 2015.

Jacksons (plus) Five

Perhaps because he grew up as a foster child, Willie Jackson and his wife, Sabra, are the model of ideal foster care parents.

The Jacksons have welcomed five children from the Board of Child Care's Treatment Foster Care (TFC) program. The last two, a pair of 14-year-old twin Hispanic sisters, were legally adopted by the Jacksons in 2015.

"The Board of Child Care goes beyond just providing care," Willie Jackson says. "The way BCC treats these kids is why we welcome these children into our home."

For many years, Willie has mentored Baltimore's gang populations while Sabra taught etiquette to disadvantaged children, but it was ultimately Sabra who pushed the couple to do more. Now it is a cookout, or a ballgame at Baltimore's Oriole Park at Camden Yards, or a trip to Ocean City, MD with their extended, nuclear family.

Pat Wilson, BCC's Treatment Foster Care director, describe families like the Jacksons as TFC's "lifeblood."

"Driven to serve others," Wilson says of the ideal foster parent. "They're willing to work with

a young person to help them achieve their life goals."

Willie Jackson isn't shy about telling perspective foster care parents what to expect.

"You'll need patience, understanding and love. In return, BCC gives you a kind ear, a sounding board and understanding," Jackson says. "The staff at Board of Child Care have become part of my family. Pat Wilson and her team treat us like family, so that's how we treat them."

"The staff at Board of Child Care have become part of my family. Pat Wilson and her team treat us like family, so that's how we treat them."

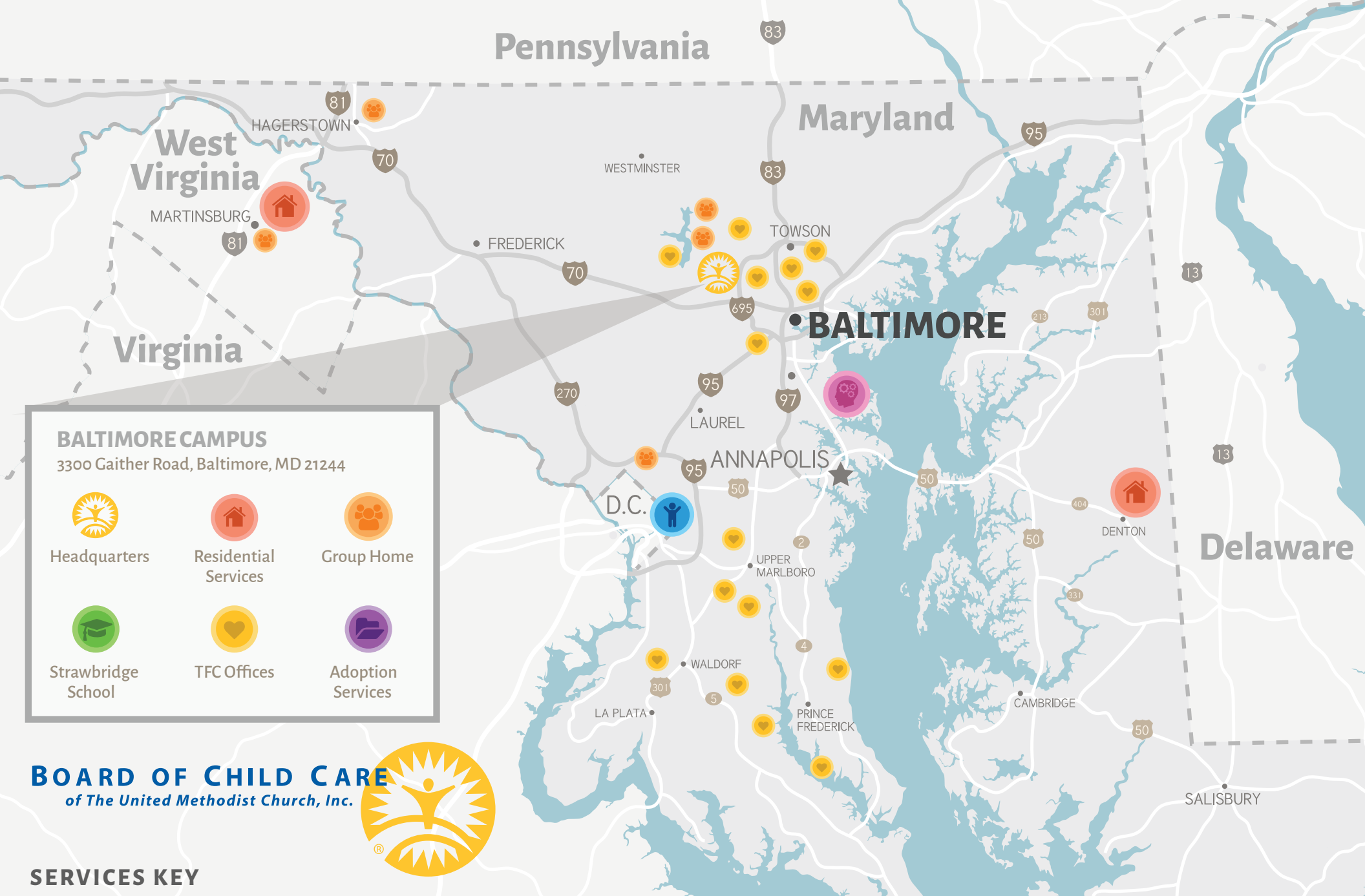
— Willie Jackson



ADOPTION DAY: Willie and Sabra Jackson (back row) pose with their newly-adopted daughters, Kitiara and Savanna, along with Montgomery County Circuit Court Associate Judge Cheryl A. McCally.



Did you know? 96 percent of parents recommend BCC's TFC program to friends and family – 2015 Overall Customer Satisfaction Survey



BCC PROGRAMS



Residential Services Campuses provide engaging experiences for youth within a safe, structured setting. Multi-disciplinary team comprised of medical, clinical, recreational, spiritual, and program staff design and implement a comprehensive, customized treatment plan for each child in care.



Group Homes Residents stay integrated within the community and attend public school while also acquiring independent living skills. Four homes in Maryland and one in West Virginia.



Strawbridge School is a nonpublic special and regular education school serving preschool through age 21 in a therapeutic environment. The school specializes in serving youth with autism, as well other learning, health, emotional, and behavioral disabilities.



Treatment Foster Care Homes Provide therapeutically structured home environments for youth ages 2 to 21. Specially trained foster parents and BCC's professional staff work to ensure youth are nurtured in a safe and encouraging home setting.



Mental Health Clinic Licensed clinical therapists and a child psychiatrist help children and their families navigate difficult times. Individual and group sessions provided for youth ages 3 to 18 and their families.



Early Learning Program Provides quality childcare focused on the growth and development of children, ages 6 weeks to 5 years, from different socio-economic and racial backgrounds.



Adoption Services Referral and counseling assistance is provided to families both pre and post adoption. Home study and post-adoption search and reunion services are also both available.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

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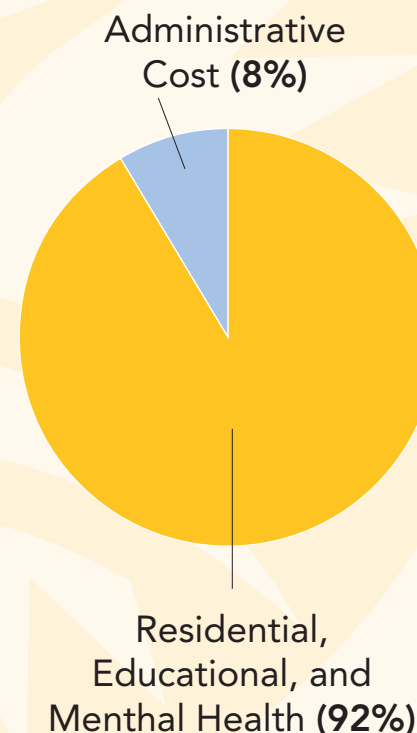
Arthur R. Ransom, Jr.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

ASSETS	June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014
Cash, Accounts Receivable and Other Assets	12,729,774	11,622,485
Property and Equipment, Net	42,420,490	42,024,453
Investments	120,372,452	120,856,293
TOTAL ASSETS	175,522,716	174,503,231
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts Payable, Accrued Expenses and Other Liabilities	2,804,783	3,931,492
Line of Credit	32,567,312	30,721,112
Net Assets	140,150,621	139,850,627
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	175,522,716	174,503,231
REVENUE AND SUPPORT		
Program Revenue	21,938,288	25,249,913
Gifts, Grants and Contributions	562,259	426,117
Other Income	102,697	70,265
Net Investment Income and Other	8,472,439	17,372,623
TOTAL REVENUE, GAINS AND SUPPORT	31,075,683	43,118,918
PRIMARY EXPENSES		
Program services:		
Residential	21,532,682	21,719,078
Strawbridge	4,931,364	4,850,321
Community-based Services	1,871,232	1,675,631
Administrative	2,440,412	2,397,280
TOTAL EXPENSES	30,775,690	30,642,310
NET INCREASE (DECREASE)	299,993	12,476,608
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	299,993	12,476,608

USE OF OPERATING FUNDS



Did you know? A complete 990 tax statement is available at boardofchildcare.org via the 'About Us' dropdown menu.

BY THE NUMBERS: LOOK AT OUR DEVELOPMENT TEAM

92¢

OF EVERY \$1 RAISED
GOES DIRECTLY TO
BCC PROGRAM
SERVICES

174

CHURCHES
PARTICIPATED IN OUR
2015 CHRISTMAS
APPEAL

222

HONOR/MEMORIAL
GIFTS

1,764

NUMBER OF
DONORS

PLANNED GIVING CORNER

You can create a lasting legacy for children, youth, and families at Board of Child Care!

In loving memory of the following supporters who left us in their long-term plans in 2015.

Mrs. Mildred Rebecca Stephen Martin

Mrs. Evelyn Ruth Hess

Mrs. Hazel May Beard

Mrs. Doris Virginia Barnes

Ms. Virginia M. Hamner

**Mrs. Maude Malinda (Boggs)
Sauerhammer**

57

CAMPUS VISITS
AND TOURS

6,050

RED STOCKINGS SENT
TO 141 CHURCHES

29

GUEST PREACHING
EVENTS

\$562,259
TOTAL AMOUNT OF
DONATIONS

In Loving Memory of Jim Mathis

On July 21, 2015, the Board of Child Care said farewell to Jim Mathis, who served as the ultimate advocate and volunteer for BCC during his lifetime.

Mathis, 78, left a legacy of giving that included his time, his expertise, and financial support. Accompanied by his incredible wife, Lois, the pair was a constant presence at graduations, Christmas celebrations, and generally around the Baltimore campus and office hallways.

“For all the times they have answered our call for help, Jim and his family are assets I would describe to others as irreplaceable,” said BCC President and CEO, Laurie Anne Spagnola. “I really miss seeing Jim on campus.”

Jim grew up in the Strawbridge Home for Boys in the 1950's. As an adult he volunteered for 19 years on BCC's Board of Directors, which included leading several committees and a term as Chair.

The Jim and Lois Mathis Award For Service to the Community scholarship is given each year to a program participant, and Jim and Lois were honored in 2012 by having one of the Baltimore residential cottages named after them.

BCC is forever grateful to Jim, to the entire Mathis family, and the Mathis's home congregation of Oakland United Methodist Church for their incredible and ongoing support of BCC's programs.



Did you remember Board of Child Care in your estate plan?
Get started now at boardofchildcare.org

Outpatient Mental Health Clinic
Alumni Programming
Treatment Foster Care
Denton
Leaving A Legacy
Charlotte Hall
Hagerstown
Martinsburg
Pasadena
Donations
Volunteer Auxiliary
Colesville
Gateway
Nicodemus
Early Learning Program
Campolina Way
Health Suite
Social Work
Adoption
Baltimore
Strawbridge
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