



Mississippi Families
for Kids

Impact Report

2021 Year In
Review





MFFK SUPPORTERS,

As I embark upon a new year, I am excited about my new position as the Executive Director of Mississippi Families for Kids. I stepped into my role in January, and already the work with other partners has been extremely exciting. I am looking forward to continuing the collaborative relationships we have with the Early Childhood, Infant Mental Health, and Help Me Grow state teams. This work will greatly enhance the lives of the state's children ages zero to eight years old.

I am tremendously honored to be in a position to lead the agency in achieving its mission, goals, and objectives. It is our mission to foster and improve the well-being of children and families through building strong families and communities. We are dedicated to fostering the safety, permanency, and well-being of children in the foster care and adoption system. Social services and mental health are top priorities for the agency as we strive to make sure families and communities have the support they need. Amid these challenging times, MFFK continues to provide services and support to caregivers and respite families across the state of Mississippi.

President Hays Collins along with the founder and former Executive Director Dr. Linda West, and with the support of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Wendy's franchisees, private funders, and individual donors, have ensured that we continue to serve all of our families impacted by the pandemic. We have not only continued to provide existing services, but have been fortunate to enhance and increase the quality of service provision through multi-program growth. The agency was able to adjust the way we provide services through utilizing innovative methods such as telehealth and videoconferencing, which allowed us to reach and stay connected to our families and communities in ways we could never have imagined.

In 2021, MFFK received a grant from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER), to implement behavioral health programs to respond to the impact of COVID-19. Through the Children Are Reaching Expectations (CARE) program, we have already reached over 500 children, families, and educators. Our partnership with the MS Department of Health allowed us to provide needed support to families of children with disabilities across the state. The Outreach Program received an unexpected donation from the Dr. and Judge Chapman family to assist families in rural Hinds County and the Leslie Alexander Foundation in Florida to provide specific assistance to families in need. I am also enthusiastic about our newest Workforce Development partnership with Wendy's franchises and the MS Department of Child Protective Services that works to connect youth in foster care with jobs at Wendy's restaurants. This program provides stipends for training and retention and is meant to support youth transitioning from foster care as they become independent. We continue to work with children and youth as well as families to find and maintain permanency through adoption services, counseling, parent and professional training, developmental resources, kinship care, respite services, and other outreach efforts.

MFFK continues to grow and has doubled the staff over the past year, employing professionals specializing in social work and child development. It is the support of our stakeholders, like you, that make this possible. Thank you for joining us in creating a more healthy, inclusive, and empowering Mississippi that will make a difference for generations to come.



SINCEREST THANKS,

Nadeane Cattrell

**NADEANE CATTRELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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OVER

5,000

CHILDREN &
FAMILY
SERVICES
COMPLETED

OUR HEART

Vision

To make a large impact on the permanency and well-being of Mississippi's families and children

Values

- Inclusiveness
- Compassion
- Transparency
- Innovation
- Collaboration
- Dependability
- Empowerment



Our mission

Since our non-profit inception in 1998, we've had the same goal: **provide Mississippi with free or at cost permanency planning programs that promote stronger families and a more engaged and informed community.**

MFFK offers educational development opportunities, training, activities, and support like counseling to families and children so children can stay in their family of origin or find a forever home.

The "normal" family model isn't so normal after all.

Families can look like:

- Kinship Care
- Foster Families
- Adoption Families
- Mixed or Blended Families

Policy Advococation

- **Black Family Summit**
- **Early Childhood Development Initiative**

OUR SERVICES



Adoption & Foster Care Training & Placement

- **Wendy's Wonderful Kids** adoption program
- **Adoption and Foster Care** licensing and support



Family & Child Counseling & Support

- **Respite Care**
- **Children Are Reaching Expectations Program (CARE)** for ages zero-eighteen
- **Incredible Years Therapeutic Program** for three-five year olds to teach conflict resolution
- **Relatives Raising Others' Children** kinship care services
- **General counseling** for individuals, families, and groups with children ages three-twenty-one



Developmental Care Services

- **Help Me Grow** developmental screenings and support funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation
- **Rated Positive Girls** six-twelve year old program for youth development
- **Real (Realizing Excellence Among Leaders) Fly Guys** leadership support group for six-twelve year olds

BY THE NUMBERS

Family & Child Counseling & Support



600

Total parents and grandparents served through Relatives Raising Others' Children, counseling, support groups, and more

500

Children, families, and educators served through the Children Are Reaching Expectations (CARE) program

2,700 hrs

Of counseling given

Developmental Care Services



220

Children served through Help Me Grow

100

Developmental screenings done through Help Me Grow

120

Children served through Respite Care

1,000 hrs

Of respite care given

1,000 hrs

Of training given to caregivers, providers, and educators

Adoption & Foster Care Training & Placement



1

New initiative- Wendy's Workforce Development Program, a partnership between MFFK, Wendy's, and MDCPS to serve youth in foster care aging out of the system

1

Reunification

15

Families being served to foster or adopt

7

Children/youth matched with potential families

5

Families licensed

Policy Advocacy



1

New initiative- a partnership with Early Childhood Networking to develop a system to address early childhood development with a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the child welfare system

80

Attendees at the Black Family Summit



MFFK SERVICES IN ACTION

For over 11 years, MFFK has helped me and my grandson live a better life while creating a stronger relationship with each other.

At the time of his birth, his mom abandoned him, while his father was not known. Nadeane, MFFK's director now, helped me through many tough and long days filled with paperwork and meetings to gain custody of my grandson. I was one of the first Kinship Care parents MFFK served.

It was no easy road, but she was able to provide guidance, support, and offered me the hope I so disparately needed to adopt him. MFFK did not require me to pay anything for reunification.

Nadeane knew that reunification with a family member would be beneficial for us both. It didn't stop there, though.

Since then, MFFK has offered counseling and financial support (like giving Christmas gifts) to me and my (now) son.

At each stage of our lives, MFFK has been there as both a cheerleader and a sounding board, which is hard to find when you are put in some of the situations we have been in.

They have made a big difference for us. I am so grateful that they are a resource for Mississippi's families.

**SHIRLEY LEAK - MFFK
PARENT**





WHERE OUR DOLLARS WENT

MFFK IMPACT REPORT 2021

Help Me Grow

43%

(dedicated grant money included)

Counseling

22%

**Outreach,
Events, &
Advocacy**

20%

**Adoption &
Foster Care**

15%



"Serving as President of the Board at MFFK has been one of my great pleasures. The mission of MFFK to foster the safety, permanency, and well-being of children in the foster care and adoption system through social services and mental health support are directly in line with my own personal and professional values.

It is why I have worked so closely with the MS Department of Child Protective Services to develop the Wendy's Workforce Development initiative whereby older youth in custody have job opportunities and career support. It is also why I have fully supported all of the work of the organization over the past 10 years.

I am especially pleased with the direction the organization is headed and the growth it has experienced over the last year. I look forward to working to build quality programs that support families in the permanency process."

Hays Collins
President
Wendy's/ Perimeter Foods



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shun Hatten-Secretary
Jackson Convention & Visitor's Bureau

Addy Keith- Member
Community Bank

Anthony McInvale-Member
McInvale Heating, Plumbing & Gas

Chris Gray Sr.- Member
Hinds County Government

Greg Odom-Member
NAPA Auto Parts

Larry Leggett-Member
United Johnson Brothers of MS

Martha Ulmer-Member
Carlisle Corporation

Supriell Hodges-Member
BankPlus

Tamicalyn Foster-Member
Regions Bank

Willie Abston-Member
Abston Law

Yolanda Wilson-Member
Jackson Pediatric Associates

CELEBRATING DR. LINDA WEST, FOUNDER OF MFFK

Dr. West has spent the last 28 years as Founder and Executive Director of Mississippi Families for Kids. During her tenure as a social work administrator, she has served in numerous positions, which include adjunct professor at Jackson State University and Tougaloo College as well as Associate Director of Mississippi Children's Home Society, Canopy Solutions, Good Samaritan Center, and Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Center. She has been a constant contributor to the social service community by serving on local and national boards and volunteering at numerous organizations. She has contributed to the development of young people in all of the places she has lived: Detroit, MI, Washington, D.C., Memphis, TN, and finally in Jackson, MS.

"Leaving my beloved Mississippi Families for Kids evokes mixed emotions," says Dr. West. Reflecting over the past 40 years will certainly bring back memories of the struggle to establish and sustain an organization. You can't invest 40 years into a profession and not have some emotions when leaving." Meeting with colleagues, patients, students, and business people is the thing she will miss the most about working at MFFK. She expresses gratitude to have been privileged to work with so many outstanding people all over the country.

"I will certainly miss the daily interactions with staff, collaborative partners, the board of directors, and colleagues. Those interactions and relationships are at the core of MFFK." She values the importance of guiding and assisting the organization in making giant strides during its growth and development. "It gives me great satisfaction knowing that I was a part of making a difference in the lives of so many families and children here in Mississippi and nationally. I end this chapter of my profession to look forward to the next chapter of my life, which will include lots of rest, relaxation, reading, and travel."

Cheers to 40 years of service and new adventures!



Pictured from left -
Nadeane Cattrell - Executive Director
Dr. Linda West - Founder
Fredniki White - Clinical Services Director

OUR STAFF

There is something special at MFFK. Threaded through our staff's DNA is the ability live out MFFK's values. They are professional, knowledgeable, supportive, welcoming, and a breath of fresh air for children and families that are put in unthinkable situations.

We've seen tremendous growth in our non-profit, which has led us to expand our team. We are excited about offering more programs and services to families now that we have added more licensed therapist, child specialists, and social workers.



50%

STAFF GROWTH IN ONE YEAR





DONOR SPOTLIGHT



MFFK IMPACT REPORT 2021

Whether you are giving as an individual, group, or business, you make our services possible. Each dollar directly funds our services, programs, and events.

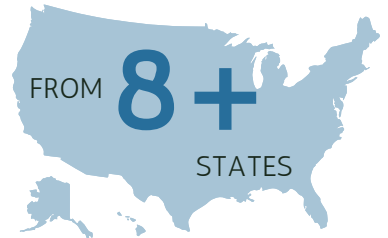
Thank you for your commitment to Mississippi families in 2021!

170

TOTAL DONORS

Leslie L. Alexander Foundation

We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the Leslie L. Alexander Foundation out of Delray Beach, FL. They made a generous donation of \$20,000 to fund the growth of our agency through child service programs.



Levon Owen's Community Service Fund

Judge Clyde and Dr. Jasmin Chapman contributed \$10,000 to establish the Levon Owen's Community Service Fund. These funds will be used to assist families and children who are experiencing hardships in the Terry, MS and rural Hinds County communities in honor of their brother's legacy.

TOTALING

100K



W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION™

Corporate Partnerships

Thank you to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Wendy's (Carlisle Corporation & Perimeter Foods), Mississippi Department of Health, and Community Bank for their continued support of our fundraising events and outreach opportunities.



Community Bank
Corporate Partner of the Year



Wendy at Wendy's
Golf Classic



Our "Homes for the Holidays" for children in our programs was a huge success!

\$9,500+ given for Christmas gifts

WAYS TO SUPPORT



General Giving

You can give a one-time donation through our website and choose which area of MFFK you want your donation to go to. You can also set up a fund at MFFK by contacting us.

Sponsorships

We host numerous events throughout the year that you or your business can sponsor including our Youth Leadership Camp, Wendy's Golf Classic, Winter Gala, Homes for the Holidays, and more. Check out our website or social media for more information.



mffk.org/donations



Referrals and third-party giving

Donations don't have to be monetary! We'd love your support by following us on social media, sharing our content, or referring our services to a friend.

You can also choose MFFK as your preferred charity through Amazon and Kroger to support us while you shop, at not cost to you. More information on our website.

Volunteering

We love our volunteers! Your time can make a huge impact. Contact us to learn more.





Mississippi Families
for Kids

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT.
HERE'S TO CHANGING
LIVES IN 2022!

Would you consider donating \$10 to
cover the cost of this publication?



mffk.org | 601.957.7670 | info@mffk.org



Learn more

