



 PALMER HOME FOR CHILDREN
IMPACT REPORT **2020**





DEAR FRIENDS,

Palmer Home for Children is celebrating 125 years of caring for children and families in need. While 2020 was not the year any of us expected, we had much to be thankful for at Palmer Home. We are grateful to report that, due to the generosity of selfless donors like you, we served more children and families last year than ever before.

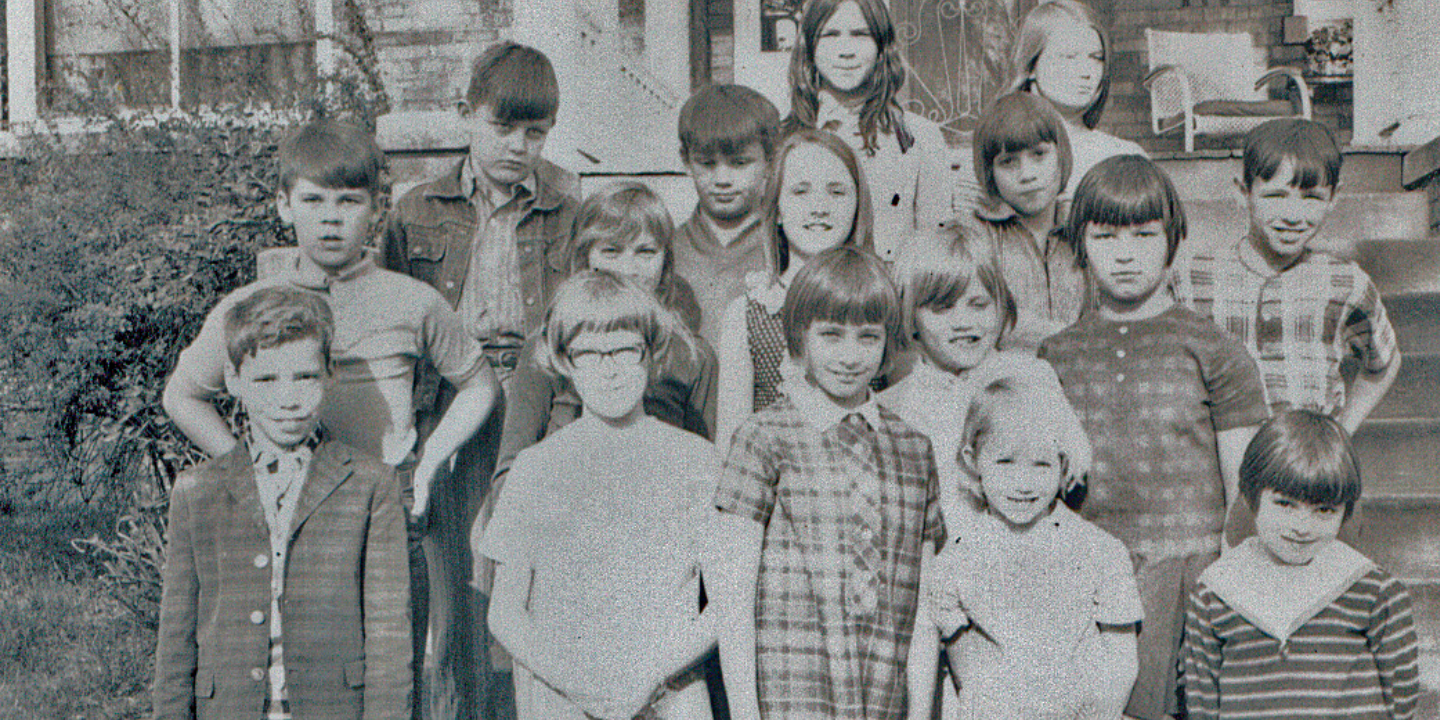
Behind these record numbers are incredible stories of healing and transformation, some of which are highlighted in this report. Your contributions to our mission are making real-world differences in the lives of vulnerable children.

We know from our history that the need for our services will increase in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and I believe God's hand has a firm grip on Palmer Home. What's required today, as it was in 1895, is the faith and grit to press on. We're forging ahead, working tirelessly to bring hope, peace and healing to more children and families. We hope you'll continue on this journey with us.

Thank you for your steadfast support and prayers,

Drake Bassett
President & CEO





 **125**
YEARS OF SERVICE




CHILDREN SERVED



OUR MISSION

Palmer Home provides superior care for children while introducing the love of God through our service to each individual child. Palmer Home ensures restorative environments where children feel safe, connected and supported.

OUR SERVICES



**CAMPUS
CARE**

Children live on campus in a Christ-centered family atmosphere connected to trustworthy adults and supported as they grow and develop.



**FOSTER
CARE**

Children receive support and the connection of a family through Palmer Home's certified foster families.



**FAMILY
CARE**

Infants of mothers in prison receive nurturing care with the goal of reunification. Staff and caregivers also offer support for mothers in prison and after release.



**TRANSITIONAL
CARE**

Young adults receive guidance and coaching designed to build educational, career and life skills needed for independence.

Want to get involved? Visit palmerhome.org/get-involved



2014

**91 CHILDREN
SERVED**

2015

**107 CHILDREN
SERVED**

2016

**145 CHILDREN
SERVED**

2017

**163 CHILDREN
SERVED**



2018

204 CHILDREN
SERVED

2019

220 CHILDREN
SERVED

2020

270
CHILDREN SERVED

"We are not only serving more children, but we are better meeting each child's unique needs at that particular time in their life."

- **RAVEN PONDS**, LMSW, Director of Social Services



A Year of Pivots, Prayer and a Pandemic

Like the rest of the country, Palmer Home was thrown a curveball in March 2020 with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. But in our line of work, shutting down wasn't a possibility. We still had children to care for, families to serve, caregivers to recruit and funds to raise. The question was: how could we do it all safely and effectively?

Our priority is always the safety and wellbeing of the children in our care and our employees. "At the beginning of the pandemic, we took swift action to protect their health: we enacted quarantines, suspended visits with outside guests and enabled remote work for certain employees. We prayed constantly. We exercised the utmost caution while still allowing the children to play, learn and have fun," says our President & CEO Drake Bassett.

"God's favor was with us: we have not had a cluster of cases on our campus or in our transitional homes, and overall, our foster care and family care families have remained healthy."

Since the pandemic unfolded, we have welcomed several new children, including sets of siblings, into our care. We welcomed home our Transitional Care students who were affected by the closure of college dormitories. We also provided support for needs like diapers and groceries to our Foster Care families and Family Care biological parents who lost their jobs as a direct result of COVID-19.

To recruit new potential caregivers, we began hosting interest meetings virtually via Zoom. We had no idea what to expect - it was the first time we'd ever hosted interest meetings in this format - but each meeting attracted more and more potential caregiver couples.

The pandemic presented new challenges to fundraising as well. Traditionally, our most successful events are large, in-person gatherings filled with food and fellowship. Completely canceling our events - which raise vital funds for our mission - would have drastically impacted our presence in the community. But how could we host them safely? Would sponsors even want to be a part?

Thanks to God's grace, the creativity of our team, and our tremendous partners, we were able to press on

with our signature events. The events featured the same amazing cuisine and packages as before, but with a socially distanced twist. Instead of hosting in-person gatherings, the tickets included to-go coolers so supporters could share the meal with family. “We hope to gather again soon, but this year taught us that we are able to successfully pivot and come up with creative strategies instead of cancelling outright,” says Bassett.

“Since our doors opened in 1895, we’ve overcome many crises, from World Wars to the Great Depression to the pandemic of 1918. In fact, many children found their way to Palmer Home as a result of these historic trials,” he adds.

As the past has taught us, we anticipate COVID-19 will result in an influx of children needing a place to call home. Many families across our nation were already on the brink of personal disaster – living paycheck to paycheck, overcome by alcohol or drug abuse or facing the consequences of past decisions. Unfortunately, during the stresses and losses inflicted by this pandemic, many of these fragile situations will crumble.

“Palmer Home stands ready to help. God’s hand is steady, and, with His providence, ours will be as well,” says Bassett.

To learn more about our services, please visit palmerhome.org/what-we-do.





2020 AT A GLANCE



9

PROFESSIONS
of faith

28

REUNIFICATIONS
to biological families



9

ADOPTIONS
into forever families



16

MENTOR FAMILIES
investing in children



43

MOMS EQUIPPED
to ensure safe homes
for their infants

6

HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATES



72



CAREGIVERS PROVIDING
guidance & support



13

COLLEGE STUDENTS




7

YOUNG ADULTS
IN THE WORKFORCE

1

YOUNG ADULT
IN THE MILITARY





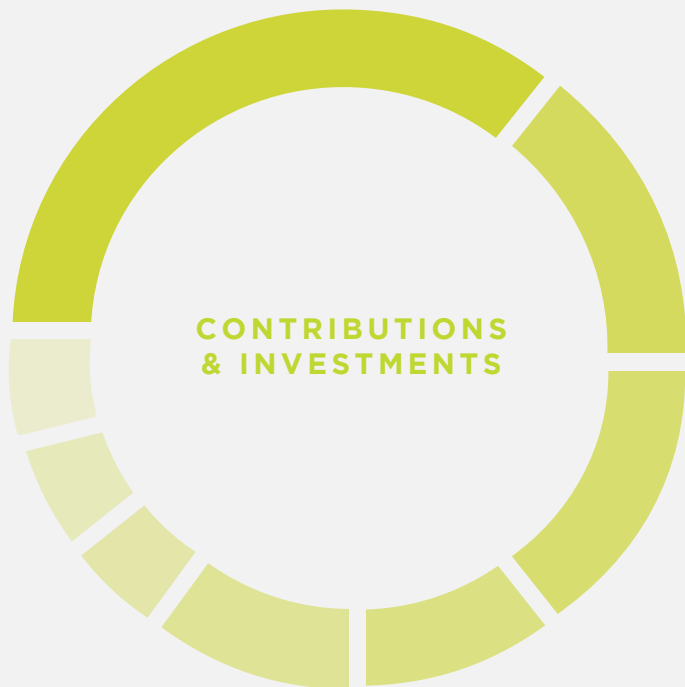
“During my time at Palmer Home, I’ve never felt more at home. I came from a large family and moving away from them wasn’t easy for me and Palmer Home knew that. They welcomed me with open arms and I knew that this is where I belong.”









Savannah
Transitional Care





FUNDING FOR THEIR FUTURE



	INDIVIDUALS	35%
	ESTATES	16%
	FOUNDATIONS	15%
	BUSINESSES	12%
	CHURCHES	6%
	INVESTMENTS/OTHER	6%
	SOCIAL EVENTS	5%
	THRIFT STORE	5%



CHILDREN'S SERVICES	65%
SUPPORT	35%

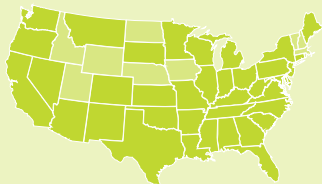


CAREGIVERS*	57%
DEPRECIATION	10%
FOOD, CLOTHING, SUPPLIES & OTHER	9%
HOUSING	8%
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	6%
TRANSPORTATION	6%
EDUCATION & HEALTHCARE	3%
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES	1%

*Caregivers include individuals in direct care with children. This includes houseparents, case managers, counselors, educational specialists, etc.



DONOR REACH



2,621 DONORS
FROM 40 STATES

"I want to give back to those sweet kids in need of a family!"



LEE ANDERSON BARNETT, Washington, D.C.

"My parents always taught me to GIVE what God has blessed me with...an ad on K-LOVE introduced me to Palmer Home for Children...what an answered prayer! Amazing God's perfect timing, especially when your spirit is open & willing to GIVE!"



SONIA EVERSON, Nashville, TN

"Here at the Southeast Produce Council, we contribute to Palmer Home through our SEPC Cares initiative which helps educate others about the benefits of healthy eating and habits. Through our participation in the annual Palmer Home Radiothon fundraiser, we are able to donate matching funds to aid in the Palmer Home Agricultural Literacy Program. Plans are now underway for a Hope Grows Garden."



SOUTHEAST PRODUCE COUNCIL, Millen, GA

PALMERHOME.ORG/DONATE



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**CHILDREN WITH
FOSTER CARE
FAMILIES**

Kevin's Story: A Beautiful Picture of Our New Model of Care

As you may remember, in 2019 we made a historic decision to expand our care settings to include Family Care, Foster Care and Transitional Care. This development not only allows Palmer Home to serve more children and families, but also means we can provide an expanded scope of care that evolves with each child's needs. While each care setting is unique, they all include loving caregivers, dedicated case managers, and the stability and consistency children have come to trust from Palmer Home.

“Our ultimate goal at Palmer Home is and always has been to provide a safe home for children in need,” says Anna Brooke Warren, Palmer Home’s Vice President of Children’s Services.

“Our new model of care propels our mission forward by allowing us to serve more children and serve them better. It’s designed to be flexible and responsive to each child’s unique needs, whether the child is a toddler in need of an emergency placement or a 21-year-old trying to navigate adulthood.”

Most children who arrive at Palmer Home are placed in a cottage on our campus staffed by loving houseparents. A permanency plan is created for each child; research shows that children thrive best when transitioned into



smaller, secure family units such as our certified foster families, or ideally, back to their own biological family. If reunification with the biological family is not possible, our certified foster parents welcome the child into their home as a new member of their family.

Once the children in our care turn age 18, they progress to Transitional Care if they have not yet been placed with a certified foster family. We operate one transitional home for young men and another for young women, and similar to the campus cottages, both are equipped with houseparents and case managers. While in Transitional Care, the young adults learn the skills necessary to lead healthy, independent lives.

A beautiful picture of our new model of care is the story of Kevin. Like many children, when Kevin first came to Palmer Home, he was placed on our campus. He blossomed in the loving, supportive care of his houseparents and adapted well to life in his cottage with his houseparents and siblings. When he turned 18 years old, he progressed to Transitional Care and moved into the men's transitional home. A high school senior, Kevin decided he wanted to earn extra income and soon found a part-time job. Our dedicated staff was there every step of the way,

helping him learn important, "grown up" skills such as budgeting, saving and balancing the demands of work and school.

After a few months, we received a call from potential foster parents who had a heart for fostering an older child. It was clear right away that Kevin was a great fit for their family. He has now been in their family for several months and is absolutely thriving.

"He's a totally different young man than he was when he first came to Palmer Home," says Warren. "He is completely at home with his new foster family and has a newfound confidence in himself."

Kevin is stepping into the man God created him to be. His foster parents are his biggest cheerleaders, and he is succeeding in academics, athletics and at work.

It's because of your generous support that stories of life-changing transformation like Kevin's are possible. We are excited about this new chapter in Palmer Home's history and know that the Lord is using our ministry to lead incredible changes in the lives of vulnerable children.

To learn more about Foster Care, please visit palmerhome.org/what-we-do.



 **1,830**
THERAPY HOURS



THE PALMER HOME DIFFERENCE



whole child initiative

Whole Child Initiative, our proprietary approach to care, seeks to help vulnerable children overcome trauma and position them to thrive in home, school, and community life by providing organizations a trauma informed, holistic and relationally centered foundation. At Palmer Home, *Whole Child Initiative* guides all that we do through these four core principles:



WHOLE STORY



WHOLE CHILD



WHOLE TEAM



WHOLE CAREGIVER

When organizations take time to understand the **Whole Story**, work to address the needs of the **Whole Child**, partner with the **Whole Team**, and care well for themselves as the **Whole Caregiver**, we find that restorative environments are possible and children who have experienced harm in the past gain hope for the future and begin to thrive.

“ We have a limited window of time to make an impact in the lives of the children we serve: Whole Child Initiative is designed to bring the most out of all our resources, in order to bring the best out of each child. ”

Drake Bassett
President & CEO



PALMER HOME
FOR CHILDREN

“Your support changes lives.”
- **Drake Bassett, President & CEO**



CAMPUS
CARE



FOSTER
CARE



FAMILY
CARE



TRANSITIONAL
CARE

For more information, visit
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