



The Mary Elizabeth House Inc.
A MINISTRY

**THE
MARY
ELIZABETH
HOUSE, INC.
ANNUAL REPORT**

**20
19**

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FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD



Greetings,

I am delighted to share this report with you at the end of our seventh year of focused and diligent work, by highly qualified individuals, who committed themselves to a body of work that many had never done in their collective careers.

Our outcomes are commendable, when assessed by the organization and the organization's primary funders. As Chair of the Board, I am so very proud to be affiliated with the wonderful achievements and look forward to the year ahead, as we expand the early learning program, and add more formerly homeless mothers to the Transitional Program. Our reach will be strong and solid because of what we have learned over these past seven years.

The team often refers to their work as spirit-driven. I have come to make the same declaration, as I see tremendous things being done, and children and families flourishing and growing into gifts to the community. As I write, I am reminded of the words of Mary Church Terrell, who once said that "Children are human plants who require proper environments and care in order to develop physically, mentally and spiritually." We believe that The Mary Elizabeth House, Inc., provides the environment that allows our children and the young adults we support, to experience that kind of growth.

I invite you to join us in this work, as we continue to create environments where our children and young adults flourish, by becoming partners with us!

Let us love and support our children, so that they will create an earth where all who live, will love and show forth the light of true meaning.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carolyn Farrow Garland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Carolyn Farrow Garland
Chair, Board of Directors

FROM THE FOUNDER AND CEO



Greetings Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of The Mary Elizabeth House Inc., I am proud to share our **2019 Annual Report** with you. At the end of our seventh year, we joyously celebrate our commitment to the health and well-being of the young families we're graced to support.

We gratefully acknowledge your support as a valued partner in our mission. By supporting these young women's development, The Mary Elizabeth House lets them know that they are gifts to the world and can achieve amazing things!

As an enthusiast of The Mary Elizabeth House, you help to sustain us and those whom we gladly support. In 2012, we began our journey by preparing our staff and facilities for the arrival of a dozen children and young adults.

Today, The Mary Elizabeth House has a team of 29 staff members working to actualize our vision of supporting the healthy development of our young families. We embrace and affirm a vision of wonder, growth, and success for these young adults and their children who grace our community. Our efforts on behalf of these young women and their children have been transformational.

As our young mothers readied for study and work, the AsA Early Learning Academy became a nurturing and learning space for infants and toddlers. It is a daily reminder of our vision—a place where young children can be loved in abiding and lasting ways.

We believe The Mary Elizabeth House is a catalyst for lasting transformation for our young women and their children. Daily, we hope the supports we provide enrich their lives, bringing stability, opportunity, vision, and hope.

As a friend, sponsor, and partner of The Mary Elizabeth House, we recognize that you celebrate the achievements and accomplishments detailed in our annual report. We have confidence that you remain committed to our mission as we journey toward an even more fulfilling future for our young mothers and their children.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Carolyn Graham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Graham

President & Chief Executive Officer, Board of Directors

“ We believe The Mary Elizabeth House is a catalyst for lasting transformation for our young women and their children. Every day, we hope the supports we provide enrich their lives, bringing stability, opportunity, vision, and hope.”

THE MARY ELIZABETH HOUSE:

A Ministry of Opportunity

For nearly a decade, The Mary Elizabeth House, Inc. (TMEHI) has been transforming the lives of young, single women and their families, providing comprehensive support to empower at-risk women, improve lives, and advance future generations.

The TMEHI embraces the two-generation (2Gen) approach by addressing the needs of both children and parents concurrently. We support young mothers, between the ages of 18 and 24, in a comprehensive housing program, and we care for their children from 6 weeks to 3 years in a supportive early-learning environment.

The young women we support are either single pregnant or parenting mothers who are currently in or have aged out of the foster care system. All have experienced trauma, family disruptions, instability, and a host of other challenges that have substantially impacted their lives. We seek to improve lives and help to advance future generations through a structured living environment, and access to parental and life-skills development programs.

Our structured residential program, educational supports, mental health counseling, and guidance help to stabilize young women and their children

affected by weak community connections, trauma, neglect, and abuse.

To break the generational cycle of poverty, TMEHI provides support for both young women up until the age of 21 and who are still in foster care as part of its traditional residency program. Young women between the ages of 21 and 24 participate in the transitional program because they are no longer in foster care, but they are not educationally or economically secure enough to live independently in the community. The housing units are exactly the same, but the women in the transitional program pay a program fee, which is 30 percent of their income. After they leave the program, the fee is returned to them. This process is intended to teach them what a commitment paying rent will be once they leave the transitional program. Still, TMEHI program fee is nowhere near actual rent. It is a process we want the youth to internalize.

In 2019, TMEHI served 17 young women and their children. All of our residents were in school, working, and participating in the organization's Community (the onsite-learning program). TMEHI had families who aged out of foster care and embarked on their own success journeys: three were



working full-time and had moved to community-based housing; one was in college at the University of the District of Columbia; one had shifted into the TMEHI's Transitional Housing program; and one new mother was in the In-Care program and was enrolled in the Maya Angelou Adult Charter School. Not a traditional religious ministry, TMEHI elevates the work of transformation by providing at-risk families with the full support they need to transcend their backgrounds and challenges. The objective is to prevent the next generation of children from entering into the foster care system.

TMEHI provides residential housing, life-skills training, therapeutic support, educational services, and parenting and counseling services that aim to make young women socially, emotionally, and economically self-sufficient. Our independent living facility and all of the programming provided to participants during their stay is underwritten by several funding strategies, e.g., government, foundation, and individual donors.

Beyond supporting the positive development of young women who are parenting, TMEHI also provides support for their children through the AsA Early Learning Academy, which provides early learning for infants and toddlers. (See page 4.)

The goal of our program is to ensure young mothers are empowered to transition into the world with the necessary skills to become self-directed adults

with skills in home management, employment, educational attainment, and supportive parenting.

The program works to provide young women with the resiliency they need to survive normal but problematic life events, from searching for an apartment to finding a job to completing their GEDs. This is especially critical because many of the young women have significant educational, emotional, and behavioral issues.

The skills development range from basic self-care, such as how and when to go to the doctor, to financial, including how to create a household budget or sign a lease. TMEHI also helps young women determine their career interests, as well as preparing them for job interviews and attending job fairs.

The life outcomes for youth emerging from the foster care system, especially pregnant or parenting youth, can be bleak. Research shows they are less likely to graduate from high school, and more likely to be unemployed and homeless. TMEHI is committed to reversing the trends caused by neglect and disinvestment and to empowering and strengthening young women to build self-sustaining families and meaningful lives.

“As we were putting together our programs, we knew we had to find the best way for us to develop young women’s courage, character, and strength, so they can stand against the forces and winds that will come up against them throughout their lives.”

–Dr. Carolyn Graham, founder of The Mary Elizabeth House

AsA EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY:

A Solid Footing at the Earliest Ages

The Mary Elizabeth House Inc.'s AsA Early Learning Academy (AsA) provides early learning and family development opportunities to teen and young adult mothers and their children whose needs are unique because of their status as either in the foster care system or homeless.

The AsA is a licensed child development center in the District of Columbia, and is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), a U.S. group that certifies childhood development programs. The AsA is licensed to serve 18 children, age 6 weeks to 3 years, with a certified staff of six.

The AsA uses the Creative Curriculum segment of the Abecedarian Approach, which is designed to ensure learning readiness. The AsA regularly assesses infants and toddlers, measuring knowledge of colors, shapes, and early forms of language. Every year, the AsA holds a Promotion Day for its 3-year-old pupils leaving the program for pre-K 3.

The Abecedarian Approach is a proven program that integrates the basic principles of human

learning and development into a fun, affordable, and effective approach to early childhood education. It has become synonymous with the positive, long-term effects of high-quality early care and education, particularly with regard to the power of early intervention to surmount some of the disadvantages of poverty.

The AsA also provides meals for its pupils, helping convey to their mothers the importance of having nutritious and age-appropriate foods. It provides the critical guidance for mothers in facilitating their understanding of what foods are appropriate at the different stages of their children's development.

The Abecedarian Approach emphasizes learning the "basics before the basics" for infants and babies, such as encouraging them to move on their own, teaching them to search for hidden objects, and having them sit up. This is key for the children of young parents who may not be aware of the importance of directed play.





DADS ON DUTY:

Inaugural Year a Success

In 2019, The Mary Elizabeth House Inc. turned its focus on fathers with its Dads on Duty initiative. The fledgling initiative was successful in inviting fathers to spend time with their children in the AsA Early Learning Academy (AsA) classroom and on the playground.

The goal of the program wasn't instructional but rather to give dads the time to get to know their children in a low-stress, welcoming environment. The program allowed them to come into the AsA at times that accommodated their school and work schedules, and the fathers were encouraged to assist with lunch, playtime, academic tutoring, and putting their children down for a nap.

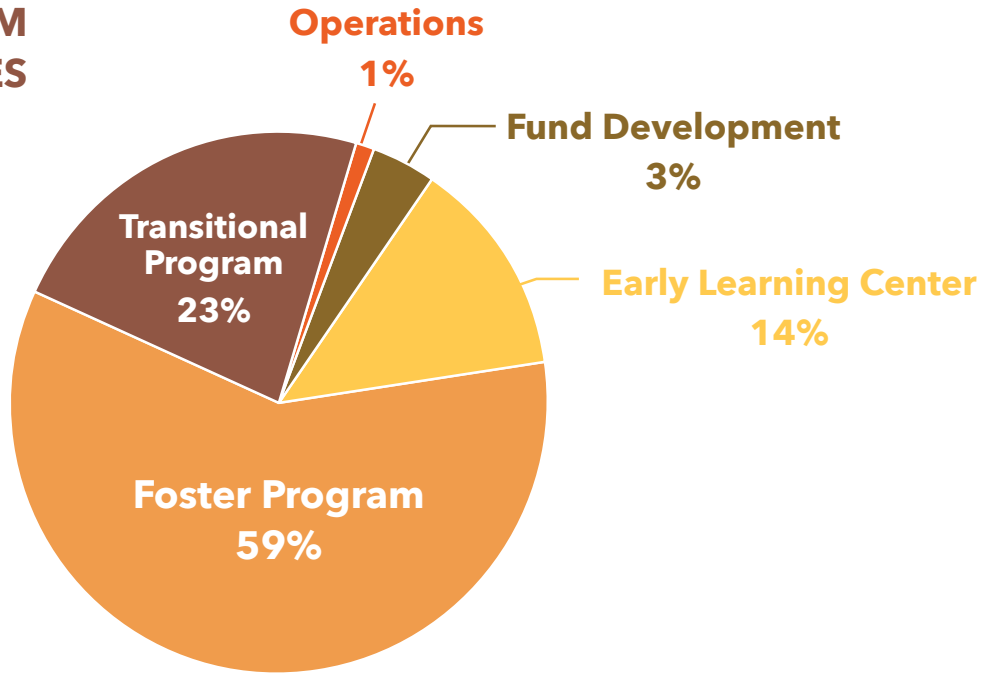
Because dads rarely have one-on-one floor or play time, they are often ill at ease with their infants and toddlers. This program gives them the time they need, sometimes as short as 20 to 30 minutes, to develop a level of comfort with their children. Returning in 2020, the Dads on Duty program hopes to expand the number of participants and the programming for fathers.

The initiative was prompted, in part, by the work of Eileen Hayes in her learning program, The Responsible Fatherhood Curriculum, which helps fathers to better fulfill their roles as parents and partners.

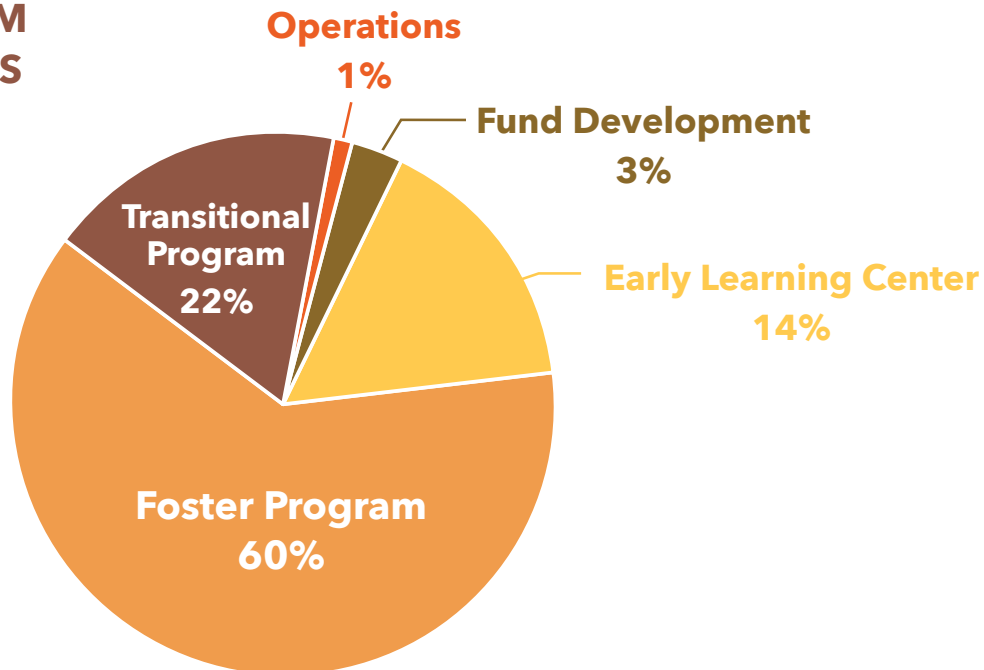


2019 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRAM REVENUES



PROGRAM EXPENSES



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dr. Carolyn N. Graham
President &
Chief Executive Officer
Board of Directors



Carolyn Farrow Garland
Chair
Board of Directors



Phyllis Brunson
Board Vice President
Board of Directors



Carolyn Gullatt
Secretary
Board of Directors



Emily Rinner
Board of Directors



Freddie Archer Lewis
Board of Directors



Tanya Curtis
Board of Directors



Cynthia Turner
Board of Directors



Kali Hague
Board of Directors



Geri Feaster-Bethea
Board of Directors

The Mary Elizabeth House List of

CURRENT AND HISTORIC FUNDERS

African American Women's Giving Circle

Amazon Smile

AT&T

Day Spring Community Church

District of Columbia Child and Family
Services Agency

District of Columbia Department of Housing and
Community Development

District of Columbia Department of
Human Services

District of Columbia Office of the State
Superintendent of Education

Duke University Divinity School
Leadership Institute

*Eugene and Agnes Meyer Foundation (\$50,000)

*Freddie Mac (\$250,000)

*Greater Washington Community Foundation
(formerly known as The Community Foundation
of the National Capital Region - Sharing DC
Funds) (\$10,000)

Jane Bancroft Robinson Foundation

John Marshall Bank

KaBOOM!

*Local Initiatives Support Corporation (\$1million)

Message Therapy Foundation

*M&T Bank (\$1.3 million)

*P&C Bank (\$10,000)

Peace of Peace Church

The Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. Washington, DC
Alumnae Chapter

United Bank

Unity of Washington, DC

Walmart Foundation

*W.K. Kellogg Foundation (\$250,000)

*Seed Funders

DONATING IS EASY

Support the work of the The Mary Elizabeth House Inc., A Ministry,
by making your tax deductible contribution today.



ON THE WEB

Visit maryelizabeth.org and click the "Donate Today" button
at the bottom of the homepage.



BY TEXT

Text "Give" or "Donate" to 240-249-0234, then follow the link.



BY CHECK

Send a check, payable to The Mary Elizabeth House, Inc. to:
200 55th Street NE Washington, DC 20019.



ON AMAZON

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MEHI FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MEHI FORM 990



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