

# ANNUAL REPORT

THE FAMILY  
PLACE OF  
TRANSYLVANIA  
COUNTY



**970 Old Hendersonville Hwy.  
Brevard, NC 28712  
828-883-4297**

**88 Chestnut Street:  
Rosman, NC 28772  
828-884-6273**



## To Our Valued Family Place Supporters, a note from our Executive Director:

On a normal day at The Family Place, you can find children laughing and running in our Learn and Play areas, immersed in wondrous and imaginative worlds of their own making. One child may be a baker of broccoli and marshmallow pies, another a master builder of block skyscrapers, and still another a burgeoning artist whose medium is glittery bits and fuzzy baubles. While all this exciting and interactive activity is taking place, it is additionally a time of development.

The children are learning to share items and ideas, take turns, develop relationships, listen, follow instructions, and maintain focus. Meanwhile parents and caregivers are forging new friendships and peer support systems through socialization and activities. As part of their time with The Family Place, the children and their parents come together to have a healthy snack, create a special craft, enjoy a story, and engage in conversation. The Family Place is where children and families come together to grow together.

Now we are facing the Covid-19 pandemic, including all the changes and challenges that this has brought to The Family Place and our families. Our play areas are quieter as we manage capacity mandates, however, this means that the need for connection has become even more crucial. We are observing families juggle multiple schedules, finances, socialization needs, school, work, etc. while also trying to find safe and engaging activities for their children apart from technology. This is one of the many reasons why The Family Place is such a vital service to the community.

Our Playgroups and children's programs set the stage for the development of necessary social and life skills for many young children in our community. As families acclimate to new dynamics our platforms for parents to network with one another and develop supportive peer relationships through our Circle of Parent groups, Incredible Years Parenting Classes, and Circle of Security groups are imperative.

Like you, we too share the vision that our community is one day filled with diverse, thriving, and resilient families, where everyone is protected from the pressures that can often adversely affect families. Our shared goal is to create stable foundations for families by providing positive parenting and communication programs for adults and developmentally appropriate, Kindergarten readiness play for their children.

Thank you for your participation, support and partnership!

Sincerely,

Erin S. Drew  
Executive Director

# HISTORY

In December of 1995, a group of parents and family resource professionals recognized the need in Transylvania County for a centralized family support center. They envisioned a location where parents and children could meet one another and learn about other services offered in the community. From that vision emerged The Family Place, a child and family service organization that brings together resources from government agencies, non-profit groups, and private businesses to meet the needs of community members. Through direct involvement with families and other service organizations, The Family Place recognizes the ever-changing community conditions and family needs by readily adapting and initiating vital programs to strengthen our community.

In 2006, The Family Place launched a pilot/sister program in Rosman (an underserved area with no other regular child and family resources at the time). These free programs are available to lower and middle-income residents. The services are in addition to existing programs offered in Brevard and, at this time, are entirely funded through private grants and contributions.



## BOARD MEMBERS:

**Leah Bush** - Board Chairwoman

**Jason Trent** - Vice Chairman

**Susie Taylor** - Treasurer

**Rebecca Jackson** - Secretary

**Catherine Clary** - Retired/Business

**Tony Gillman** - Retired Attorney

**Rachel Vandegrift** - Business

Representative

**Gillian Bee** - Parent Representative

## MISSION STATEMENT

Strengthening families through education, support, and community development.

Protecting children by strengthening family foundations through positive parenting and communication programs.

Strengthening families through positive parenting and communication education, support, and community development.

# PURPOSE

To provide family-based programs and services for parents/caregivers to:

- Aid in the development of new knowledge/skills to strengthen the family structure
- Increase the capacity of caregivers to care for their children
- Improve caregiver-child relationships
- Help children develop healthy coping mechanisms
- Ready children for school
- Access community resources

## THE NEED

Transylvania County has 1,737 children ages 0-6. Out of those there are 364 children between the ages of birth and five that are in licensed childcare centers and 0 are in licensed family childcare homes. In May 2019, there were 135 children that participated in the state subsidized childcare programs and 109 eligible children were on the waiting list for subsidized childcare. (<https://repo.childcareservices.org/documents/ECUseTransylvania2019July.pdf>) Our half day preschool programs in Transylvania County can accommodate 261 children (numbers gained through Smart Start of Transylvania County).



## THIS YEAR THE FAMILY PLACE HAS SERVED:

### The Family Place (Overall)

- Adults - 3638
- Children - 4457
- New Adult Attendees - 149
- Unique Attendees - 954

### The Family Place Rosman

- Adults - 663
- Children - 577
- Unique Adult Attendees - 129
- Unique Child Attendees - 196

# OBJECTIVES

The family support objective is to positively affect households through the evidence-based programs within the Protective Factors Framework. This encompassing curriculum has been shown to improve family success by decreasing the prevalence of common stressors. Focus is placed on strengthening the following components: one's knowledge base of parenting and child development, social and emotional competence, concrete support of basic needs, social connections, and resilience to stress. Reinforcement in these areas has proven to provide caregivers with the ability to create safe and positive living environments for children.

(<https://cssp.org/our-work/projects/protective-factors-framework/>)

"I have gained an awareness of how to better support and delight in my children. This class has given me so much insight into how to respond to, deal with and accept my children's emotions and needs. Any parent or caregiver would benefit greatly from this class. The tools presented to help build security and emotional stability in our children are invaluable." - **JC (Circle of Security Spring 2020)**



The early childhood education objective is to prepare children ages 0-6 for school readiness through specialized interactive parent-child programs that focus on the four developmental domains of: cognitive, socio-emotional, language and literacy, and fine and gross motor skills. Overall:

- Build upon parenting skills, boost confidence, and creating secure attachments within the family unit
- Increase knowledge and understanding of child development
- Establish a family health and well-being support network
- Reinforce participation with children in educational play
- Developing resiliency to the lasting effects of trauma





"Getting to interact with my friends at the family place has helped me keep my sanity during the quarantine. Through the online chat I have been able to keep my "village" that is helping me through motherhood. I can still go to them for advice, to vent, or to share ideas with. Sharing our daily struggles, and our victories has helped me to feel connected and supported. I don't know what I would have done without the continued efforts of Family Place to help me through this time!" - **KS (Brevard Parent Chat Fall 2020)**

## METHOD

Integrating quality caregiver-child activities within the local community's service array.

### Methods used are:

- Facilitation of evidence-based and informed parent and children's programs and tools
- Providing local and national resources and referrals for family support, including crisis intervention
- Offering specialized community events



# PROGRAMS

## Circle of Parents

- Our Neighborhood Chat
- Foster/Adoptive/Kinship Chat
- Haven Chat
- Grandparent Chat
- Dads in Action
- Brevard Parent Chat
- Rosman Parent Chat
- Navigating Needs Chat
- Bilingual Chat

## Parent/Child Play

- Brevard Stay & Play
- Rosman Stay & Play
- Brevard Playgroup
- Rosman Playgroup
- The Learning Garden

## Parenting Classes

- Circle of Security
- The Incredible Years

## Collaborations

- Connect
- Community Playgroups



**DENISE GONZALEZ**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



**BREE BAILEY-WATSON**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



**DIANA CLEMENTS**  
CHILDCARE COORDINATOR  
BREVARD



**MELISSA HEYWOOD**  
CHILDCARE COORDINATOR  
ROSMAN, CIRCLE OF PARENTS



**NIKKI PARKER**  
CIRCLE OF PARENTS, CIRCLE OF  
SECURITY



**SHEILA MOONEY**  
CIRCLE OF SECURITY



**BECKY COLUMBO**  
INCREDIBLE YEARS, CIRCLE OF  
PARENTS



**FELICE ST. JOHN**  
INCREDIBLE YEARS



**CHARLOTTE DAVIS**  
CONNECT



**WES PARKER**  
DADS IN ACTION

# OUTCOMES

"In the year since my initial class, I find myself yelling less and falling back on the things I learned. I now have many "tools in my toolbox" to use and try if one thing doesn't work."

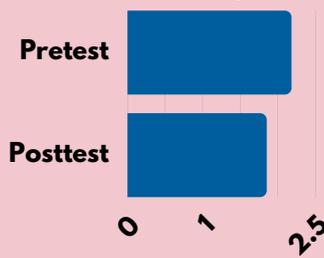
- **Mother of 6-year-old twins (Parenting Class Fall 2020)**

"My kids are so happy to be around other kids again and I get my bucket filled at parent chat. Being around other mamas is such a blessing during this period that has been so isolating. . ."

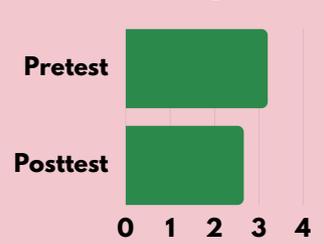
- **MT (Rosman Parent Chat Fall 2020)**

## THE INCREDIBLE YEARS OUTCOMES:

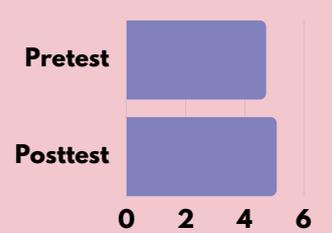
### Harsh Discipline:



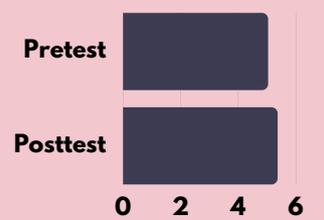
### Inconsistent Discipline:



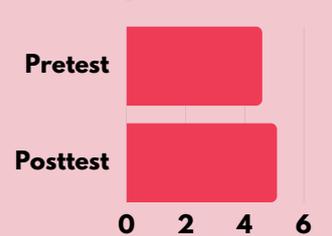
### Appropriate Discipline:



### Positive Parenting:



### Clear Expectations:



## CIRCLE OF PARENTS OUTCOMES:

### Family Functioning/Resiliency



Average Scale Score

### Social Emotional Support



Average Scale Score

### Concrete Support



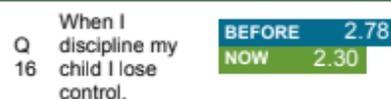
Average Scale Score

### Nurturing and Attachment



Average Scale Score

### Child Development/Knowledge of Parenting



Average Ratings Score