

2023



brightpaths

IMPACT REPORT



brightpaths

THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for your support of Brightpaths and our families this year! We know that your time, money, and influence are very valuable resources, and you chose to trust Brightpaths with them -- we are so grateful!

Just last week, I got a call from a mom ("P") in Athens that had recently left a partner who had been physically abusive to her new baby. She asked around and was immediately directed to Brightpaths. We were able to give her concrete resources like diapers & formula, offer support through our free counseling program, and connect her with a home visitor who will walk with her as she begins to raise her 9 month old in a safe and stable environment. Because of your partnership, families like P's in our community are stronger, children are safer, and we're one step closer to a community free of child abuse and neglect. Thank you for joining us in this mission!

Sallie Zehna Starrett
Executive Director & CEO





brightpaths

Our mission is simple:

to prevent all forms of child abuse and neglect in Athens and the surrounding areas.

We are strengthening families and brightening futures every day through our programs as we work toward a community free of child abuse and neglect by ensuring safe and stable families through education, connection, and support.



Education

200 FAMILIES SERVED THROUGH PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Through our parent education courses in both English and Spanish, our Elevate relationship course, and our partnerships with Acceptance Recovery and Women's services, our parents learned appropriate discipline, positive parenting skills, and how to strengthen the parent-child relationship.



1,492 FIRST STEPS SCREENS

We screened 1,492 newborns and made over 11,000 referrals to additional resources through our First Steps hospital program. We serve parents of all newborns born in Clarke county, residing in Clarke and surrounding counties. By providing educational resources and through early screening and intervention, we're able to provide additional support to parents of at-risk babies to prevent future maltreatment.



100+ COMMUNITY EDUCATION EVENTS

We consistently meet with other organizations, schools, medical professionals, churches, and businesses in our 7-county service area to provide education on abuse recognition and reporting, mandated reporting, safe sleep, understanding risk factors, partnering with parents, and more. We aim to equip our community with the knowledge and tools they need to support families.



“Brightpaths was such a big support to me in my time of need, and it helped me understand my child’s development.”

Connection



OVER 15,000 REFERRALS MADE

Our staff regularly refer clients to other organizations, supports, and programs like housing, employment, childcare, food insecurity, utility assistance, counseling, medical, and so much more. For many families, Brightpaths is the first step to a healthier, more connected future for their child.



48 COUNSELING PARTNERSHIP HOURS

Through our partnership with a local counseling agency, state funding, and our own in-house counselor, we are able to provide free therapy for our families and children on an as-needed basis. In just our first year of this program, we saw several successes and have a plan to expand next year!



42+ COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We work with over 40 community organizations in our 7-county service area, including government, faith-based, school systems, non-profits, businesses, and individuals. This allows our families access to all kinds of supports, not just what Brightpaths offers. We refer families to attorneys, health care professionals, community organizations, and more. We're proud to be trusted and respected by so many amazing organizations!

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My home visitor is now like a part of my family. She supports us in every way. Since I joined this program, I've moved from zero to 100 in becoming a better me, wife and mum. I love her so much and I love this program. Thanks for all you do. I'm super grateful.

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Support

198 FAMILIES PER YEAR ENROLLED IN HEALTHY FAMILIES

In our Healthy Families program, children are assessed on several levels, given developmentally appropriate toys and activities, safe sleep kits, and provided necessary support and parent education. This year, we completed 559 Ages & Stages Questionnaires(ASQ) and Social-Emotional ASQ screens, 81 Edinburgh maternal depression screens, and 70 intimate partner violence follow-up screens.



2,801 HOME VISITS

During our weekly to quarterly home visits, Family Support Specialists complete developmental screens, lead parent-child activities, and educate and support parents. We visit families in their homes in an effort to offer comfortable, non-threatening support and to support and strengthen the child's environment through our nationally-accredited Healthy Families curriculum, interpersonal violence and maternal depression screens, and more.



60,000 DIAPERS, WIPES, AND OTHER CONCRETE RESOURCES GIVEN

Through our family resource closet and other services, we've given out 60,000 diapers, over 300 packs of wipes, dozens of strollers, carseats, pack n plays, and countless baby clothes and other essentials. Sometimes, all a family needs to give their child a healthy childhood is a few concrete resources! Our Resource Closet volunteers make this happen all week long.



“ The resources and diaper and wipes are incredibly helpful and the support is priceless to a new parent! This program is so wonderful!

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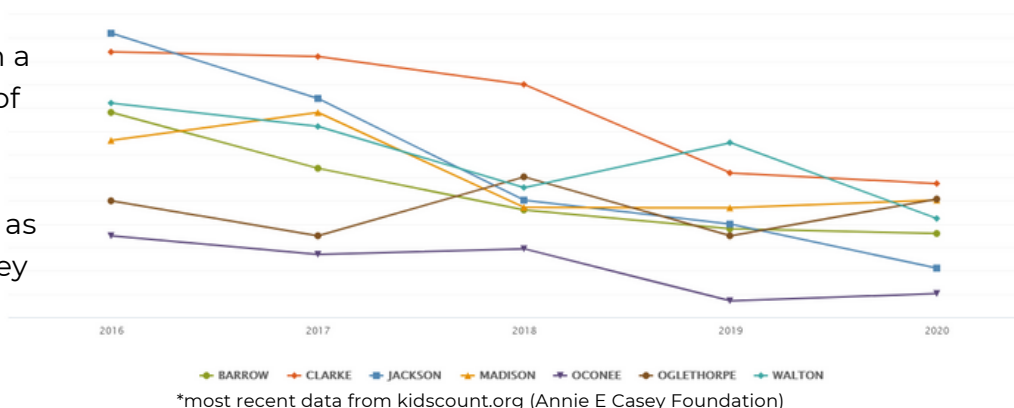
Prevention Works!

54%

DECREASE IN ABUSE & NEGLECT CASES

In our service area, we've seen a 54% decrease in the number of children with a substantiated case of abuse and/or neglect over the last five years period, as measured by the Annie E Casey Foundation, the industry standard for maltreatment reports nationwide.

CHILDREN WITH A SUBSTANTIATED INCIDENT OF CHILD ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT (PER 1,000)
(RATE PER 1,000) - 2016-2020



\$210,000

SAVED PER CHILD

The Total Direct Cost for ONE Child Maltreatment Victim's Lifetime is about \$226,822. The cost to the agency per family to participate in Healthy Families is about \$4,200 per year, making the total cost over 4 years in the program \$16,800 per family (multiple children may benefit from a single family's enrollment).

*DHS, KidsCount, DPH. Learn more at <https://abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/child-abuse-neglect-statistics-in-georgia>

70%

REDUCTION IN PREGNANCY COMPLICATIONS

Moms who enroll in Healthy Families program prenatally have 70% fewer pregnancy complications, leading to healthier pregnancies, safer births, higher birthweights, and more positive outcomes for our kids.

49%

FEWER CPS REPORTS

In all Healthy Families cases across the nation, first time moms who enroll in Healthy Families are 49% less likely to experience a Child Protective Services report. Furthermore, our program prevents the recurrence of child maltreatment by 33% among families who have already had CPS involvement.

30-40%

DECREASE IN INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

We meet with each family that we serve to discuss and potential intimate partner violence, and provide appropriate resources, services, and education. Our Healthy Families participants report a 30-40% decrease in interpersonal violence.



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Brightpaths gives parents the hope, confidence, and resources they need to cultivate strong families in any circumstance. By providing parents with the support and education they may not find otherwise, Brightpaths is making an impact on the communities it serves for generations to come. I serve and give to Brightpaths because I can see my contribution changing the trajectory of a family's life for the better...and that's a beautiful thing.

**Emily Boswell,
Board President**

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We volunteer at Brightpaths as students and members of the Psychology Department at the University of Georgia. Our work with children and families fuel our desire to find ways to make an impact in our local communities and Brightpaths is the perfect place for that. We work in the Family Resource Closet every week, providing families with free diapers, clothes, bottles, and more, while establishing relationships with each person that comes through the doors... We love helping Brightpaths and hope to continue making positive impacts on the Athens community.

**Carson Soliday, UGA Latinx
Families Project volunteer**

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**Our Board of Directors and Volunteers
keep us moving forward. Thank you!**

Thank you to all of our Corporate and Event Sponsors and Individual Donors!

Your support makes prevention possible



ROYAL & CROSS, LLC

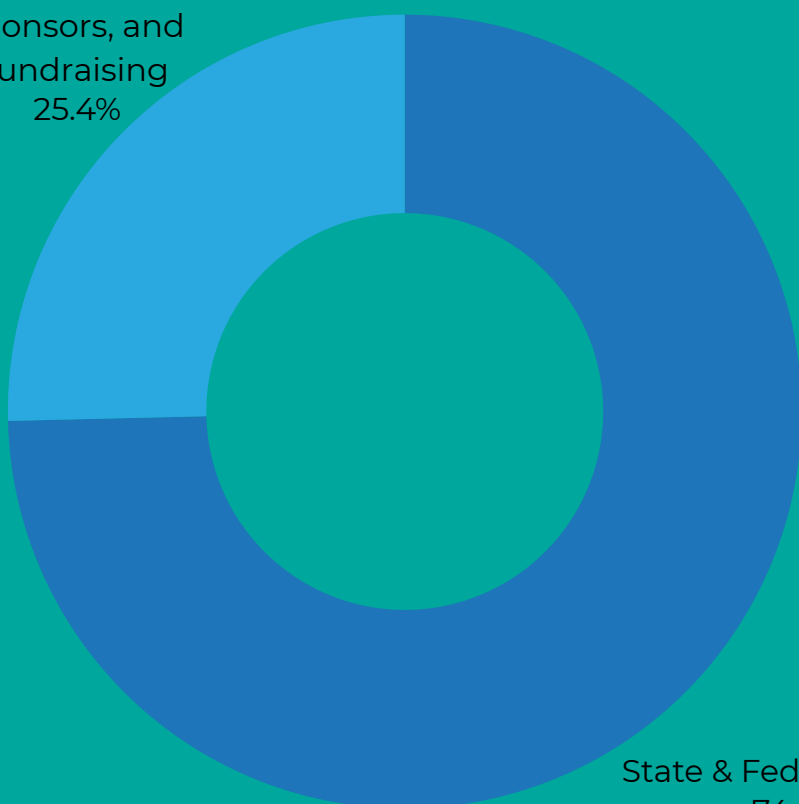
A FAMILY LAW FIRM

2023

**Corporate
Sponsor**

Funding Sources 2023

Private
Foundations,
Individual
Donors,
Corporate
Sponsors, and
Fundraising
25.4%



State & Federal Grants
74.6%

Scan to learn
more about
sponsorship
opportunities



Scan to make
an individual
donation



We're not done yet!

Be a part of a brighter future in 2024.

Spread the Word!

Know a family that could use some extra support? Send us a referral! Can you connect us with likeminded organizations, donors, or volunteers? Let us know!

Contact us at info@pcaathens.org



Help grow our Impact

We have plans to create a safe outdoor space for parent-child interaction, supply even more concrete resources in our resource closet, and expand our parenting program with topical workshops and support groups. Can you help us grow?

brightpathsathens.org/donate

Join us at an event

Pins for Prevention, Starry Starry Night, and Our Concert on the Lawn are coming up -- we hope you'll join us! Make sure to follow us on social or join our email list for dates and info.

@brightpathsathens
brightpathsathens.org/get-connected/newsletter





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"I got involved with [Brightpaths] because I wanted to be sure all my child's milestones were being met, so I wanted the extra encouragement."

"I've learned a lot from this program...it's not only somebody I can talk to and confide in, but somebody that helps me be a better mom...learning how to better empathize with my child, and better understand him and his signals and his signs, and that helps with me being able to help him."



"My Family Support Specialist was so nice and patient. I was exhausted and lost but she was a smiling face I looked forward to seeing and talking to each week...every day that passed I learned new things very important for my baby that I did not realize with my other two girls."



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