



brightpaths
IMPACT REPORT
2024

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.



A Message from our CEO

To our incredible village:

Your support of Brightpaths and our families this year has blown me away! We know that your time, money, and influence are very valuable resources, and you chose to trust Brightpaths with them -- we are so grateful!

If I could sit across a cup of coffee with each of you, I'd tell you story after story of the life change we get to witness first hand. Moms who are the first generation to get to raise their babies, dads who are learning what it truly means to be a father for the first time, families setting - and achieving - big goals: housing, graduations, child reunifications, financial stability, citizenship, and so much more. The work you all are supporting is making generational impact.

Take sweet mom "C"* for example. At 18, she aged out of the foster care system, a survivor of child abuse herself. Pregnant, she was determined to be the kind of mother she wished she had. She walked miles every single day to get her baby to a safe child care provider, then walked to school to finish her GED. During the day, she worked a full time job. During the evenings, she was enrolled in our Healthy Families home visiting program and dedicated herself to learning appropriate discipline, parent-child interaction, and child developments. Weekly, she came to Brightpaths for free mental health counseling and child care. This Fall, she graduated with her GED and celebrated with her Brightpaths family.

C* is just one example of the thousands of lives your support had an impact on this year. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU for your critical support. When I think of all the many things I'm thankful for this year, you are sincerely at the top of my list. To witness the extraordinary cycle-breaking support first hand is an honor. I hope this holiday season is full of joy for you and yours.



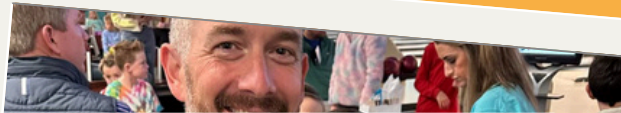
Sallie Zehna Starrett
Executive Director & CEO



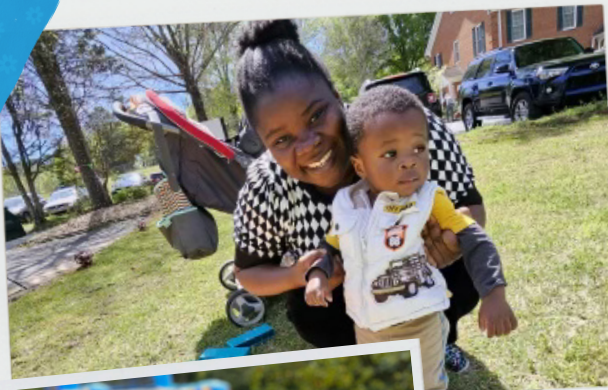
brightpaths

Our Year

2024



Pins for Prevention



Child Abuse Prevention Month Kick-Off



Spring Fling



Brightpaths' Child Abuse Prevention Month Kick-Off was an impactful experience where I saw firsthand the impact a community can have on individual families. At my station, we made maracas with Easter eggs, beans, spoons, and duct tape. It just shows that developmentally appropriate toys are accessible to even low-income families, it just takes more creativity.

- Bowen Corley,
volunteer





I got to experience the community coming together and seeing how this event and organization impacted families. Children and parents got to interact in a celebratory, joyful environment and learn about the resources available to them through Brightpaths. Children learned about emotional regulation and played developmental games, while parents learned about safe sleeping for infants and couples counseling. This event was truly special, and I'm thankful to have been a part of it.



- Mieke Brink, volunteer



Graduation



Concert on the Lawn



Trunk or Treat



brightpaths

**Connect.
Support.
Serve.**



connect

OVER 5,000 PROGRAM 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 towards a healthier, more connected future for their child.

98 FREE COUNSELING SESSIONS

This year we launched a full counseling program on-site. With your support, we're able to see clients in a non-threatening environment, offer free childcare during sessions, and transportation vouchers to and from each session. Parents are experiencing breakthrough in their own lives that is creating healthier, safer childhoods for their own children.

*learn more about our
counseling impact here*



42+ COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We work with over 40 community organizations in our 7-county service area, including government agencies, faith-based groups, school systems, non-profits, businesses, and individuals. This network provides our families access to all kinds of supports, beyond just what Brightpaths offers. We refer families to attorneys, healthcare professionals, early intervention specialists, domestic violence support, community organizations, and more. We're proud to be trusted and respected by so many amazing partners!



One word to describe the work that we do is connect. We are connecting on multiple levels- we're connecting with our families, and we are connecting families with outside resources to make sure they have everything they need.

- Community Member

Support

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, car seats, pack 'n plays, and countless baby clothes and other essentials. Sometimes, all a family needs to give their child a healthy start is a few concrete resources! Our Resource Closet volunteers make this happen all week long.

check out how to support the FRC



2,902 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 to offer comfortable, non-threatening support and to strengthen the child's environment through our nationally accredited Healthy Families curriculum, interpersonal violence and maternal depression screens, and more.

213 FAMILIES ENROLLED IN HEALTHY FAMILIES

In our Healthy Families program, children are assessed on several levels, given developmentally appropriate toys and activities, provided with safe sleep kits, and provided necessary support and parent education. This year, we completed 583 Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) and Social-Emotional ASQ screens, 91 Edinburgh maternal depression screens, and 81 intimate partner violence follow-up screens.



I can't imagine our community without Brightpaths! Brightpaths provides such thoughtful, loving, and important services for families in our community. Parenthood is the most difficult job in the world, and it's one you can't do without support. By providing that support, Brightpaths is strengthening families and improving the lives of children all across our community.

- Board Member



serve

120 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 have learned appropriate discipline, positive parenting skills, and how to strengthen the parent-child relationship.

1,447 FIRST STEPS SCREENS

We screened 1,447 newborns and made approximately 3,000 referrals to additional resources through our First Steps hospital program. We serve parents of all newborns born in Clarke County and those residing in Clarke and surrounding counties. By providing educational resources, as well as 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 regularly 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. Our goal is to equip the community with the knowledge and tools they need to support families.

While volunteering at Brightpaths, I helped at the face-painting station and was able to bring to life the different designs that children wanted to show off. Being able to bring smiles to their faces after they see their pink and purple butterfly and run to show it off to their parents was such a rewarding experience. I loved that what seems such a simple task brought so much joy to their day.

- Volunteer





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, as measured by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the industry standard for maltreatment reports nationwide.

\$210,000

SAVED PER CHILD

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

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).

70%

**REDUCTION IN
PREGNANCY
COMPLICATIONS**

Moms who enroll in Healthy Families program prenatally experience 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 we serve to discuss any potential intimate partner violence and provide appropriate resources, services, and education. Our Healthy Families participants report a 30-40% decrease in interpersonal violence.



Brightpaths' mission is to prevent all child abuse and neglect by creating healthier, safer homes for children and families. Telecom Innovations was founded by a Mom and a Dad who understand the importance of support and help in parenthood. Brightpaths not only hosts parenting classes but goes into hospitals and homes to educate, encourage and assist families when they need it most. Telecom Innovations is proud to sponsor. Thank you Brightpaths for all you do in our community!



Emily Poole, Board Member & Corporate Sponsor, Telecom Innovations



The Athens Area Diaper Bank has been partnered with Brightpaths since 2018. Our diapers are delivered alongside the extensive support and resources that Brightpaths provides. Our diapers are an important basic need for families, but we've heard that the diapers also help open the door for Home Visitors to support a family. And when that door opens for a Brightpaths Home Visitor, magic happens. We are lucky to be a small part of this magic.

Erin Campbell, Community Partner, Athens Area Diaper Bank

Our Board of Directors, Staff, Partners, and Volunteers keep us moving forward.

thank



brightpaths

We received a “very clean” financial audit once again this year!

We maintain the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid.

We have an exceptionally high liquidity rate of 11.1 and maintain over 9 months of operating expenses in reserves.

*For our full financials and most recent 990, please visit our website.

you!

to all of our Corporate & Individual Donors, and Event Sponsors

Your support makes prevention possible



Scan to make a donation



From our partners

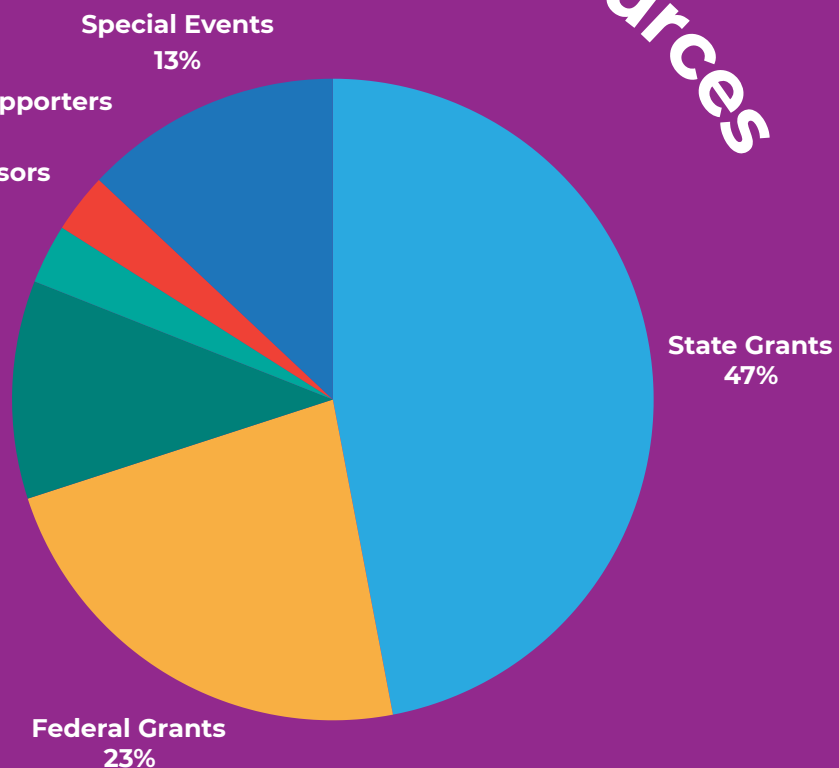


At Hall & Collins Injury Law, our commitment to justice extends far beyond the courtroom. We proudly stand up for the "underdog" in all aspects of our work. Whether we're representing seriously injured clients or advocating for local children, we strive to champion those in need and make a positive lasting impact on our community. By supporting Brightpaths and its mission, we are helping to create healthier, safer homes for children and families, contributing to the fight against child abuse and neglect."

- Hall & Collins Injury Law



Funding Sources





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."

We're not done yet!

Be a part of a brighter future in 2025.

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!

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.org/get-connected/newsletter

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 workshops & support groups. Can you help us grow?



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