



STAND UP

for

Children

the Campaign for

CHILDREN'S PLACE



Children's
PLACE, INC.

High Risk  High Hope™



Nola Grant and the group of friends she grew up with at Children's Place have highly successful careers. As children, they were all considered high risk. Children's Place was their common denominator—the reason they are thriving today.

NOLA GRANT is proof that Children's Place works.

At age 31, she became the City of Aiken's Human Resources Director. Before that, she was Miss Black South Carolina and went to college on a full basketball scholarship.

"Children's Place is the reason for my success," explains Nola.

Nola's father moved away when she was young. Her mom had to work long hours to support three children. "The streets will swallow up kids like us if you let them," says Nola. "Right outside our house, I saw boys my brother's age being recruited to sell drugs. Young girls being targeted by old men. ***If it weren't for Children's Place and the lessons I learned there, I'd be a statistic.***"

Of Nola's friends, the ones she grew up with at Children's Place are the ones thriving. ***"One has a Ph.D., one is an engineer at GE, one is head of security for a large corporation, and another is a finance officer in Charlotte. We all faced the same struggles, we all came from poverty and disadvantage. Children's Place was our common denominator."***



Your chance to give a child **H O P E**

Think back to your childhood. Chances are good someone—your parents, your teacher, your minister—was your advocate. They fostered your potential and taught you right from wrong. They did everything they could to make your future bright.

Right here in Aiken, too many children need someone standing up for them. Their future has been stolen by drug abuse, violence, or broken homes. ***Without an advocate, they have very little hope.***

Will you **STAND UP** for them?

Children's Place is one of Aiken County's best chances for a healthy community.



We give children and families hope, healing, and a path towards a productive life. But we're at capacity.

Instead of turning families away, you can help us turn them around.



With your investment in the **\$1.5 MILLION** **STAND UP for CHILDREN** campaign, we can move to a bigger facility and:

INTERVENE EARLIER

when children are still infants.

HARNESS TALENT

by uncovering the potential in more at-risk families instead of wasting it

PERMANENTLY HEAL

more emotional scars and behavioral problems.



Three of Rachel's children today. Rachel's father sexually abused her when she was young, so when Rachel had twins Crissie and Carrie at age 19, she was terrified she would hurt them. She credits the parenting skills she learned at Children's Place for teaching her to be a good mother and ending the cycle of abuse in her family.



RACHEL'S story

It's difficult to fathom the sexual abuse Rachel suffered as a child by her own father. When Rachael had twins at age 19, she was terrified. "I was messed up; I knew I'd hurt them just like my father hurt me. His way was the only parenting I knew."

Like Rachael, so many parents want to be good parents, they just don't know how. That's when Children's Place steps in.

"I thank God for Children's Place because they showed me a better way. They taught me parenting skills—how to nurture my children and help them make good choices."

"So many of my friends have children who are in jail, on drugs, or have given up their own children to foster care," says Rachel.

"But my children have good jobs; they are taking care of themselves with the skills we learned at Children's Place. Any cycle of abuse that existed in my family has ended. "



Why Children's Place MATTERS

Even if your family never needs its services, Children's Place is critical to our community. Abuse and neglect are widespread in Aiken County, where the child death rate is twice the national average.¹

The lifetime cost of a single maltreated child who doesn't receive help is \$210,012.² These costs—healthcare costs, criminal justice costs, and the value of lost productivity—are crippling to a community like Aiken's.

Childhood Foreshadows Adulthood

Will you STAND UP for CHILDREN to turn around these statistics³?



71% of all third graders in Aiken County test below state reading standards



62%

of South Carolina adults report having had at least one traumatic childhood experience.⁴



In 2015-2016, there were 472 cases of child abuse and neglect in Aiken County—nearly half were in children under age 5

¹ National KIDS COUNT: US rate is 16 deaths per 100,000 children between age 1-14 in 2014 (most recent year available); Aiken County's rate was 31.9 in 2015; South Carolina's rate was 20.4 in 2015.

² "Economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention" (Fang et. al.), published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Child Abuse and Neglect, The International Journal, February 2012.

³ Sources: Annie E. Casey National KIDS COUNT Statistics; Department of Social Services.

⁴ 2014-2015 Children's Trust of South Carolina.



Left unchecked, the effects of abuse contribute to some of Aiken County's most troubling statistics:

NEARLY TWICE AS MANY

Aiken County children failed grades 1, 2, or 3 than the state average.

MORE THAN 10%

of teens 16-19 are not working and not in school.

SINCE 2011

the number of child maltreatment cases in Aiken County has risen by 50%.⁵

*If not addressed at a young age,
the cycle continues.*

**Fortunately, there is a place
that can improve these odds.**

*Children's Place has, for decades, been a bright
spot in our community making a difference.*

⁵ The number rose from 312 in 2011 to 466 in 2015. South Carolina Department of Social Services Child & Adult Protective Services System: Children in Founded CPS Investigations.

A Real SOLUTION

Since 1968, Children's Place has provided therapy-based preschool, after-school programs, parent skills-building classes, and counseling. For these children and families, *high risk became high hope.*

But as Aiken's population grows and its rates of child abuse and neglect remain high, Children's Place has run out of space. Today, more than 140 children and staff share a 5,000-square-foot facility—the size of a large house. That's why **we have to turn away families desperate for help.**

Over the past two years, the Children's Place board has analyzed community need and opportunity. Recognizing

that **we have the expertise to help many more families than we do today,** we secured a new facility six blocks from our current location in downtown Aiken.

In this new building—as physical environment that matches the level of care we are known for—we can offer our services to more children and families. This building is specially designed for the families we help... a building of excellence, not extravagance.





81%

of children served by Children's Place
meaningfully met the goals of their treatment plans

IN
2016

100%

of children who completed Children's Place
programming were with stable family caregivers

In a larger space specially designed to help children and families with emotional and behavioral challenges, **Children's Place will make an even bigger impact on our community.**



With your investment in the **STAND UP for CHILDREN** campaign, this new facility will be a place to:



1 INTERVENE EARLIER IN THE LIVES OF INFANTS

Right now, we can only serve children ages 2 and older. **We are missing the opportunity to intervene when children are infants—the years we can make the biggest difference.**

Our new facility will feature space for 18 infants. Eighteen opportunities to begin life full of opportunity and free from the effects of abuse and neglect.

2 UNCOVER POTENTIAL IN MORE AT-RISK CHILDREN AGE 2-12

Children’s Place’s therapeutic preschool is the only option in Aiken County for children with behavioral and emotional problems. Without preschool, these children are behind before they even begin kindergarten; many will never graduate from high school.

The **STAND UP for CHILDREN** campaign will make preschool and afterschool elementary programs possible for 25% more children each and every year. **Over time, this increase has the potential to make a sizable impact on graduation rates.**

3 PERMANENTLY HEAL MORE EMOTIONAL SCARS AND BEHAVIORAL PROGRAMS

Our current building’s open layout means a less-than-effective healing process because families are hesitant to share private, sensitive information. There is no dedicated space for children who need our speech, physical, or occupational therapy.

The new facility will mean better outcomes with private therapy, meeting, and counseling rooms. Classrooms will have specially designed alcoves that maximize the effectiveness of speech and other critical therapies.

In addition, there is no more space available to handle the enormous growth in our family services. Parenting classes, support groups, and empowerment programs will now have designated places to meet **in hopes of keeping families together.**



NANCY ANDERSON: Missed Opportunity

Nancy finally escaped her abusive husband.

The bruises were gone, but the effects of abuse were still raw, especially in her children.

Tonya, her fourth grader, could barely read at a kindergarten level. She was starting fights at school. No preschool would take Jaden—his behavior was out of control.

Nancy had reason to worry. Without intervention, she knew her children would be far more likely to commit crime, drop out of school, or become abusers themselves. Nancy was desperate to find help for them.

She came to Children's Place with hope in her eyes. She had heard that children, as well as parents like her, began to thrive after receiving our trauma-based therapy, therapeutic preschool, and family counseling.

Sadly, we couldn't help Nancy or her children. Our preschool was already over capacity; our elementary school programs were full, too.

We have the knowledge and the experience to serve families that need a second chance. We just don't have the room. That's why it's so important that you and I **STAND UP for CHILDREN** like Nancy's.



Aiken's children need YOU

Children's Place is the only agency in Aiken County that focuses on the whole family to develop productive children and parents. It's where families come when there's no place else to turn.

The organization is led by one of the area's strongest Boards; Executive Director Peggy Ford, a tireless advocate, was named 2016 Aiken Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year. The organization is fiscally sound, with a long history of balanced budgets and a proven track record of impacting lives.

To determine community support for an expanded Children's Place, we commissioned a planning study. The study indicates that you, and our entire Aiken community, recognize the importance of early intervention. On behalf of the high-risk children who need extra help,

thank you.



Ninety-four percent of you have an excellent or above average perception of the work Children's Place does, and 93 percent are in favor of a campaign to help more families in a larger facility.

We invite you to make real and lasting change in the life of a vulnerable family. **STAND UP for CHILDREN is one of the wisest investments you can make for the health and safety of the entire Aiken community.**



STEERING COMMITTEE

BEVERLY + BILL CLYBURN
Honorary Chairs

SCOTT HUNTER
Co-Chair

RONNIE MAXWELL
Co-Chair

SALLY BRADLEY
NOLA GRANT

STEPHEN HALE

CHARLIE HANSEN

ANNE LAVER

NANCY LOONEY

LUKE + SUSAN MABRY

JANICE NIX

GERRY OWEN

JOHN PAVEGLIO
In Memoriam

RYAN REYNOLDS

CARL SMITH

JANE PAGE THOMPSON

CRISTI WILLIAMS

SARA WOOD

PEGGY FORD
Executive Director



JOHN PAVEGLIO
(1952 - 2016)

John was a long-time advocate and supporter of Children's Place. He diligently served with a group of volunteers to help secure the building where we will move. We know he would have given his all to help this campaign be successful in order to serve more children. We remember him fondly and miss him deeply.

“

“There is a strong correlation between abuse as a child and crime as an adult. I know first-hand that if we don't intervene early, it always gets worse.”

BARBARA MORGAN,
retired 2nd Circuit Solicitor

“Without Children's Place's parenting classes and intervention programs, a lot more Aiken children would be in foster care.”

LIEUTENANT VICKY GASKINS,
Aiken County Juvenile Division

“My goal was to keep my children from being abused because I was abused. Children's Place stopped the cycle... 100 percent.”

RACHEL GLANTON,
Mother

“You can do amazing things with children, but if you keep sending them back to an abusive or broken environment, you stunt their progress. Children's Place is successful because it fixes the problem at the root—the family.”

NOLA GRANT
Director of Human Resources,
City of Aiken

”



Children's PLACE, INC.

310 Barnwell Ave, NE
Aiken, SC 29801

TEL: (803) 641-4144
(803) 641-4145

FAX: (803) 641-4147

childrensplaceinc.org

