



# HOME IS EVERYTHING

In 2020 not having a place to call home took on even more significance. Our work ensuring that youth aging out of foster care have safe and stable housing has never been more important.





*"The Hope Center has been a light for me. They have given me access to so many resources and people I can depend on."*

Tatiana S., Hope Center Client

## This year has been like no other. We want to share how The Hope Center has risen to the challenges in this unprecedented time.

**At the beginning of the pandemic, 50% of our clients lost their jobs.** Of those who remained employed, 33% experienced a drastic cut in hours. Because of our support, through it all 93% maintained their housing. **Then, by the end of August, 94% of our clients were employed!** We've also seen an increase in enrollment in post-secondary education. In April, 36% of our young adults were pursuing post-secondary education. **Today 48% of our young adults are enrolled in school for the fall!** We are so proud of our clients' perseverance.

**Our commitment remains the same.** Our Teen Programs prepare 13-17 year olds in foster care with critical life skills, support youth through the challenges they face, and celebrate with youth as they thrive. Our Transition Program, serving 18-24 year olds who were in foster care over the age of 13, connects youth with needed resources, supports youth when they need it the most, and empowers youth to reach their self-sufficiency goals.



## TEEN PROGRAMS

Our work begins in our Teen Programs. Normally we build relationships through our tutoring, mentoring, internships, and life skills programs. We adapted to pandemic life by creating new, innovative programs. While the type of challenges we faced were new, our commitment to meeting the needs of foster youth remained the same.

**Change:** Interns could not work at area organizations.

**Same:** Provided work force preparation through virtual workshops.

**Change:** Could not meet weekly for life skills classes and fun events.

**Same:** Combating isolation with door to door deliveries and weekly virtual programs.

**Change:** Tutors could not meet face to face with the students.

**Same:** Continued to support academic growth through virtual tutoring and virtual STEM summer camps.

In 2019-20 we served 70 teens, 37% of the teens in foster care in Wake County. Our work continues when many of these same youth enter our Transition Program.



*"The work of The Hope Center is more important than ever. I'm inspired by the resilience of young adults aging out of foster care and am thankful that they have the support they need to thrive because of The Hope Center."*

Kristin Cooper, First Lady of North Carolina

## TRANSITION PROGRAM

Our Transition Program helps former foster youth achieve and maintain safe, stable housing and guides participants as they work towards their self-sufficiency goals.



### HOUSING

Nationally 43% of former foster youth experience homelessness by age 21, often multiple times.

**94%** of our clients were successfully maintaining their housing at the end of the program year.



### EDUCATION

Nationally 56% of former foster youth report having a high school diploma or GED by age 19.

**91%** of our clients have their HS Diploma or GED!



### EMPLOYMENT

Nationally only 50% of former foster youth will be employed at age 24.

**94%** of our clients were employed at the end of the program year.

Stable housing is the foundation our clients need. 100% of the clients we housed 2 years ago are still living in safe, stable housing! Over the course of this program year, 81% have advanced in the workplace and 97% have shown measurable growth towards their self-sufficiency goals.

Total people served in our Transition Program: 60

- Clients without kids: 23
- Clients who are parenting: 16
- Children of clients: 21



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*I love my apartment so much, and I am grateful my daughter and I have our place that we can comfortably call home. Hopefully this apartment will be our stepping stone into owning a home one day soon.*

”

Marisha T.  
Hope Center Client



# MISSION:

The Hope Center at Pullen connects young people aging out of foster care in Wake County with the resources and support they need for a successful transition to adulthood.

## DEMOGRAPHICS OF OUR CLIENTS

130 Individuals Served

Female: 64%  
Male: 20%

33% of Transition Program clients have disclosed that they identify as LGBTQ+



- African American: 63%
- Caucasian: 19%
- Latinx: 6%
- Asian: 2%
- Multi-Racial: 10%

## 2019 FINANCIAL INFORMATION



- Foundations - 42%
- Contributions - 30%
- Government - 18%
- Special Events - 10%



- Transition Program - 47%
- Teen Program - 31%
- Management & General - 14%
- Development/Fundraising - 8%

