

HopeSparks



CREATING LASTING CHANGE

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

Thank you for an incredible 2017! Families come to HopeSparks looking for a safe space to heal from trauma, overcome adversity, and have their basic needs met. We see firsthand every day the amazing work that happens and what is possible for families as they move from crisis to stability. This incredible work could not be done without your generous support of our mission to strengthen families.

HopeSparks exists to meet the needs of the resilient children and families who live in our communities, while also working hard to address the challenges and barriers that still exist for those we serve. Our priority is to provide the highest quality care while demonstrating respect and providing a dignified, inclusive, and caring experience for those who walk through our doors.

We believe:

- All children deserve to feel safe and secure, and can reach their full potential
- Building parent/caregiver capacity leads to the best outcomes for children and families
- Those who face trauma can reconcile their past, look to the future with hope, and learn new skills to thrive
- Cycles of abuse and neglect can end if we provide access to services for families early in a child's life
- Treatments and programs should be evidence-based and combine both art and science

In 2017, we served a record number of children and launched into phase two of our Kids Can't Wait Capital Campaign to expand children's mental health services. HopeSparks continues to innovate within the healthcare arena, and is partnering with physical health providers to integrate care and service delivery. Last May we embedded our children's mental health therapists into the Child Advocacy Center at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital. As a result of this extraordinary partnership, each child is able to receive the critical, therapeutic recovery services they need to heal.

We are working with children earlier and earlier in life, and are responding to the ongoing need for relative and kinship families to be supported through the opioid epidemic. We strive to keep children out of foster care by strengthening the kinship families who have bravely taken on the task of raising children not theirs by birth.

We could not be more appreciative of the support we are receiving from our donor family to make this work possible. It's because of you that we are able to make a far and reaching impact in our community and in the lives of those we serve.

Enjoy reading about our incredible work in this 2017 Annual Report!

Warm regards,



Joe LeRoy, LICSW
President & CEO



Nori A. Roman, CFP, SVP Columbia Bank
Board Chair



Why start tomorrow when you can start today

As a single mom, Charity often found herself stressed out and overwhelmed with taking care of her three kids. When she started getting phone calls from her daughter Emily's school about disruptive behavior, she felt torn between needing to be at work so she could pay the bills and needing to pick Emily up from school. Emily's behavior at school was just one of Charity's many challenges—raising three kids by herself had left her feeling uncertain about the future. The pressure she was feeling to hold everything together by herself was negatively impacting her relationship with her kids. At that point, the school counselor introduced Charity to Family Support Worker Tamela from HopeSparks.

Together, Tamela and Charity advocated for Emily's educational needs, and Emily now has an Individualized Education Program that supports her social-emotional development in the classroom. Charity completed two parenting programs, and both she and Emily started seeing a therapist at HopeSparks to work on strengthening their relationship. With the support of Tamela and the Family Goal Plan that they created together, Charity applied

for a housing subsidy and moved from a small trailer into a safe and comfortable home, and completed her high school education. Although she didn't have much free time, she started volunteering at her daughter's school. The principal noticed her dedication to the children in the classroom and offered Charity a permanent position as a paraprofessional.

Today, Charity is proud of how well her children are doing in school, and she has plans to continue her own education to become a paralegal. With the additional income from her new job and the subsidy on her rent, she is now able to engage in fun activities with her children such as family movie nights and going out for pizza. Charity's message to other single parents is to make goals and pursue them even when it feels difficult. "It's not always easy, but I can make the best of it and be the best that I can for my kids. It's not what you're going through right now, it's how you come out of it. We're getting there one day at a time."



community impact

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

We have partnered with Mary Bridge Children's Hospital to provide mental health services on-site at the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) to children who have been sexually abused or assaulted. Through this partnership, we are strengthening our outreach to the community and creating further access to mental health services for our most vulnerable. Since the start of our partnership, we have been able to serve every client who has come to the CAC for counseling.

CREATING ACCESS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

HopeSparks has completed phase two of our "Kids Can't Wait" mental health expansion. In the second and final phase of this expansion, we have transformed our physical building by adding 11 new office spaces, increasing access to mental health services for an additional 500 children per year. Through this project, we are responding to the urgent and critical need for mental health services in Pierce County.

VISION

A world where children and families are safe, secure and stable

MISSION

We strengthen families by inspiring courage and confidence to make a lasting change

program reach



In 2017, HopeSparks served a total of 3,343 children and families living throughout Pierce County

1,743 

HEALING HEARTS COUNSELING: provides preventive and accessible mental health care for children, teens, adults, couples and families using evidence-based practices in a safe and dignified environment

223 

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES: offers home-visiting programs that maintain the stability of at-risk families by providing parent training and education

880 

CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES: provides crucial early intervention including education and specialized therapy for children from birth to three years old with developmental delays

361 

RELATIVES RAISING CHILDREN: keeps families intact by providing resources and advocacy to kinship and relative caregivers who are raising children not theirs by birth

136 

EATING RECOVERY: offers hope, counseling and dietitian support for individuals who struggle with life-threatening eating disorders as well as those who are challenged with other food-related issues

outcomes

82% of children, youth and families report an improvement in behavior and a reduction of symptoms and stress

82% of parents report improved relationships with their children through strength-based home visiting services

90% of children demonstrated improvement in social and emotional language improvement

90% of kinship families demonstrated improved stability keeping children with family instead of foster care

80% of teens and adults report an improved relationship with food and a more healthy sense of self



We are strong

Jack came into the world at just 28 weeks gestation, and after a long 3 month stay in the neonatal intensive care unit, he came home with an NG feeding tube. Jack's parents, Zephyr and Brian, felt helpless as Jack vomited often, choked on the feeding tube, and had to be held down to put it back in place through his nose. "There were days I didn't think I could do it. I couldn't even sleep because I was afraid he would start choking." Even after the decision was made to surgically place a G-tube directly into his stomach, he continued to vomit and wasn't making progress toward getting nutrition orally.

After traveling to Seattle for feeding support for the first year of Jack's life, they found the Children's Developmental Services program at HopeSparks and started seeing Sonya, a Speech Language Pathologist, in their home for feeding therapy. Having home-based services was a huge relief for Zephyr; Jack was able to relax and feel comfortable with Sonya right away while they tackled his sensory and feeding needs in the familiarity of his own home. "I just felt so at ease the second I met Sonya, she's so empathetic and really looked at Jack as an individual. She took her time with him and made their activities fun and playful." Occupational therapy and home educator services were added to his plan to support his development and to prepare him to enter preschool in the future.

Through a sensory-based approach with his early intervention team, Jack has gained new feeding skills, as well as new play and behavior skills. Focusing on Jack's sensory needs has made it easier for him to participate in activities with his family that were a struggle in the past. During occupational therapy sessions, Jack got to practice touching sand so that he could enjoy a family vacation to the beach. Zephyr has learned new activities and games that support Jack's behavior and social-emotional needs. Through home-based support, Jack is meeting more milestones and getting stronger every day.

"I felt like I had a whole parenting team helping me through this. I don't know what I would've done without them, they helped me find my strengths."

financials

revenue
\$5,183,168

CONTRACTS
\$2,983,415

57%

FEE FOR SERVICE
\$1,402,105

27%

CONTRIBUTIONS
\$770,248

15%

UNITED WAY
\$27,400

1%

expenses
\$5,133,557

CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

\$2,221,084

43%

HEALING HEARTS COUNSELING

\$1,693,899

33%

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

\$435,524

9%

ADMINISTRATION

\$433,469

9%

RELATIVES RAISING CHILDREN

\$230,631

4%

EATING RECOVERY

\$118,950

2%

CREATING LASTING CHANGE

thank you



HopeSparks



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