

Family Success Center 1 at Children & Families First

IMPACT SUMMARY – December 2023

A FAMILY SUCCESS STORY: Sandra Sellars

Sandra, her husband, and infant son moved from South America to United States—leaving family and friends behind—in search of better opportunities. Mr. and Mrs. Sellars both possess degrees from their home country, but Sandra’s high school and college credits would not transfer and she wanted to get US credentials. She searched and was referred to the Family Success Center from Learning Together, a family literacy program of Children & Families First, and they joined Family Success in August 2022. Their baby had never been in child care. Because this was her first baby, Sandra was a little apprehensive but allowed her son to attend the FSC’s on-site child care center. She was pleased how well he was taken care of there, which allowed her to study for her GED with no worries. The bond her son shared between the teachers and staff was simply priceless.

Sandra continued studying for months and meeting with her Success Coach Melvinie Turner regularly. They discussed other goals. She wanted to work in accounting but had had a hard time pursuing this position due to her degree being from outside the country. Coach Turner continued to support her in completing applications and practicing in mock interviews with staff. Sandra took Money Management and Job Readiness classes and passed all four GED tests this October, giving her a recognized high school equivalency credential.

In the meantime, the commitment and support of the Success Coaches, and especially her son’s childcare teachers, made Sandra recognize she had a passion for teaching. When a job opening came up in the Head Start program, she felt confident in applying due to all the coaching she had received. Sandra accepted the job as a Floating Assistant and now works in the same building as the FSC. Her next interest is becoming a Head Start Family Advocate, where she would work even more with parents and their children to improve the quality of family life and facilitate awareness of community services and resources.

The UWGG Family Success Center is Guilford County’s first integrated service delivery model focused on families living in generational poverty. With bundled services and supports in one location, along with long-term family-centered coaching, FSCs provide a holistic approach to ending poverty. Coaches and partners work together to equip, support, and cheer on members for career and life success, removing persistent barriers to engagement such as lack of transportation or child care, the distracting urgency of meeting basic needs, and the social isolation of poverty.

LAUNCHED March 26, 2015 at 1200 Arlington Street, Greensboro, NC 27406 with Lead Partner, Children & Families First, the UWGG-designed program now collaborates with human services partners in two FSC locations in Greensboro.

FSC1 figures from Dec. 30, 2023: 591 households served to date (870 adults, 973 children).

Employment

- **451 new jobs have been obtained by the approximately 80% of adults with employment goals, since they joined the Family Success Center.** About 20% are employed at intake.

- **74%** (adults in **435 households**) have completed on-site job readiness classes.
- **41** adults have completed on-site computer literacy classes.
- **39** members attend on-site job fairs this quarter.
- **13** members have participated in an on-site Driver's Ed study group.

Adult Education

- At intake, about 50% of FSC households have an adult who did not graduate from high school. **47% (140)** of those members needing a GED have spent time at FSC1 working toward it.
- **39% (54)** of GED students have passed the 4 tests needed to complete a GED.
- **47** of our members have gone on to continue their education at GTCC or vocational training providers; **51% (24)** of them completed their programs, so far. **20** are in college now.
- **3** FSC1 members completed a rigorous, paid vocational training program from Cone Health and obtained their Certified Medical Assistant licensures along with Cone Health CMA jobs at the end. Their pay increased, and they are all on a career track with a future. The next CMA Academy cohort will offer more members the same exciting opportunity.

Financial Capability

- **43% of members (255 households) have completed financial capability classes to date.** Individual and small group financial coaching are also provided.

Health & Wellness

- Our partnerships with Greensboro Power Yoga, Zumba by Velmy, and Elevated Dancers continue to allow members a popular, free opportunity to learn and be active.
- **289** individuals have received assistance from the on-site Cone Health Congregational Nurse.
- Kellin Foundation provides on-site behavioral health peer support, serving **45** members.

Family and Child Development

- **205** children have been served to date in the high-quality, on-site FSC child care.
- **191** school-aged children have attended summer day camp with FSC partners.
- **36** families have completed parenting classes.

INVESTMENTS: The annual budget exceeds **\$700,000** for one FSC. **Over \$8 million has been raised from over 170 individuals and organizations since March 2015.** UWGG will continue to acquire funding for Family Success Centers through grants from local and national foundations, government grants, direct support through donor-designated gifts, and through unrestricted annual campaign donations. Ongoing foundation grant requests are targeted toward those with program goals to invest in anti-poverty solutions, collaborative problem solving to build vibrant communities, and/or putting people to work through workforce development – education and training.

CONTEXT: The poverty rate in Greensboro overall is about 22%, and 30% for Greensboro children, meaning their household income is below the Federal Poverty Guidelines for their family size (e.g. \$31,200/year for a family of four). In the ZIP codes of the FSCs, the poverty rate is even higher. Poor economic mobility is associated with institutional racism, and the Southeast has the worst upward mobility statistics in the country. The Family Success Center is a demonstration of integrated service delivery as a key strategy to collaborate on long-term anti-poverty solutions for children and their parents. Learn more at www.unitedwayGSO.org