2019 ANNUAL REPORT
THE MASONIC HOME FOR CHILDREN AT OXFORD
Making a Splash!
Riding the Wave

MHCO seeks to build on the successes of 2019.

Many positive developments occurred in 2019, including HDR Foundation’s grant to replace the farm road bridge and SECU awarding MHCO a grant to include a comprehensive Organizational Assessment. The Licensing Review was extremely positive. The children achieved at extraordinary levels as the promotion rate was 98% and the graduation rate was 100%.

The new pool was dedicated and opened in May. GM Hallman’s dedication featured benefits of a pool shared by Nettie Bemis in 1922 including improved health, confidence, and self-esteem. The pool is symbolic of the travels we have in life, more especially the children in care. Many children have not had the experience of being in a pool or been taught how to swim. For them the pool is a significant challenge, just like living away from home. But the colorful slides, cascading mushroom, delightful bubblers, and playful laughter helps them overcome their trepidation, just as the loving care, access to basic needs, medical attention, and school supports helps them overcome the adversity they are experiencing in their lives. I am amazed how the children progress in their swimming skills. I am more impressed in the progress they make in their journey in life at the Home.

MHCO seeks to build on the successes of 2019, incorporating recommendations from the Organizational Assessment, continuing to build program and capital from grant awards, and implement a Trauma-Informed Model of Care to help the staff and children better navigate the turbulent waters of life. As the children learn to swim life’s waters, they will go on to be lifeguards for others in difficult times.

Your help makes a big splash in the lives of our children.

Thank you.

Kevin Otis, MHCO Administrator

Performance

Quality Improvement

MHCO has been fortunate to receive significant grants in 2019.

Capacity Building Grant – SECU Foundation (assessing organizational strengths and growth areas, evaluate fundraising efforts, and appraise marketing strategies). Annual Giving – John William Pope Foundation. Bridge Grant – HDR Foundation (build a new, extended and elevated farm road bridge extended with the capacity to hold a fire truck full of water to allow safer access to the back of the property). HDR Engineering and Sanford Construction are providing additional in-kind donations of labor and expertise.

$40K Capacity Building Grant
SECU Foundation

$25K Annual Giving - John William Pope Foundation

$113K Bridge Grant - HDR Foundation

Additional capital grant funding will be sought with the SECU Foundation in the coming years toward ILP and transitional living development.

Applications for other grant opportunities have been submitted and staff are working to build relationships with foundations.

Other grants are in the proposal development and review process for a variety of campus projects and needs such as AED machines, scholarship funding, renovations to Gray and Parham Cottages, and more. Partnership development and grant acquisition will continue through 2020.
MHCO provides loving care for children and young adults.

The Direct Care Program cares for children from birth through 19 years of age and until they complete high school. The Independent Living Program provides support for youth ages 18 to 23 by providing assistance in achieving independence through educational and vocational opportunities.

DIRECT CARE RESIDENT ACTIVITIES IN 2019

- Public Service Appreciation
- Christmas Caroling at WhiteStone
- Summer Enrichment for elementary students
- Fishing Trip on Portsmouth Island
- Carolina Panthers Game
- UNC Football Game
- School and Community sports (Basketball, Football, Volleyball, Soccer, and Wrestling)
- Summer Academy for high school students
- Summer cottage trips and activities
- National Sojourners
- Galot Motorsports Tractor Pull
- Camp Gray Rock
- Girl Scouts of America

IN 2019, THE ILP PROGRAM HELPED RESIDENTS TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- To complete an education or vocational training program
- In finding and maintaining employment, career planning, and improving job skills
- In assessing current independent living skill needs and making service plans to achieve goals
- To access physical and mental health services
- In providing transportation and assisting the resident in obtaining driver’s education and a license, and planning for future

Children Served in 2019

91

Total Admissions in 2019

44

Average number of Children per day

50.42
Summer Enrichment & Education

MHCO seeks to enrich our residents through education.

Summer Enrichment took place for 32 participants in 2019 using an Academic Fitness theme. Tutors and the Education Coordinator provided 1,395.5 hours of academic support during the school year with residents.

- 12.8 Residents Average on AB Honor Roll
- 4.5 Residents Average or Above each grading period.
- 6.5 Residents Average with a GPA increase of 5 percentage points with a C average or better.

Workplace & Vocational Education

MHCO focuses on the development of workplace skills.

- Driving Instruction
  6 Residents Were Taught
  32 Instruction Hours In Total
- Summer Programs
  5th Annual Summer Academy
  3 Survival Skills Labs
- Kid$Earn Program
  8.5 Eligible Residents Employed on campus (monthly average)

Employment

- 12.3 Eligible residents employed off-campus (monthly avg.)
- 10.8 Employer sites (monthly avg.)
- 71.4% Percentage of eligible residents employed monthly

Chef Jillian with VGCC, providing cooking lessons to our ILP students.

MHCO’s 2019 Scholarship recipients along with 2019 Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina, MHCO Director of Education, Dr. Linda Frederickson, and Administrator of MHCO, Kevin C. Otis.
We at SGA are committed to Quality and Service.

The School of Graphic Arts would like to salute two of our long term customers, each who have supported our mission for more than 15 years.

Merritt-Webb Law Firm in Durham, NC is our longest running general public customer having used SGA for their print needs for almost 18 years.

Altec Industries in Creedmoor, NC reached out to SGA about 15 years ago to supply them with all the necessary manuals that are included in each truck they assemble, and is currently our largest general public customer.

WE DO:
• Full Color Printing
• Books Of All Types
• Corporate & Masonic Printing
• 3-D Printing

COMPLETE PACKAGE INCLUDES:
Design, Printing, and Full Service Mailing
In 2019, MHCO received $117,789 in in-kind items, gift cards, and services.

MHCO’s staff has a heart for the children and a commitment to our MHCO Family.

- 7 Employees with 20+ years
- 13 Employees with 10-19 years
- 15 Employees with 5-9 years

Lodge donation information will be sent out via email to all Masters and Secretaries!

- $3.5 Million - Total Monetary Donations for 2019
- 3,002 - Total Monetary Donors for 2019
- 26% of Total - Masonic Donations
In 2019, we served 91 children.

Each time that I turn into the entrance of our Children’s Home, it seems as if I have come home again. Although I did not physically grow up there, my experiences through the people I’ve met as well as the beautiful angelic children residing there, have become a big part of who I am.

I find that many others have had similar experiences. Our tag line, “Growing Hearts, Brighter Futures” is real, and most who visit our home really feel it.

I hear the same story again and again, told by many of you in so many different ways. You hear the stories of the alumni when they talk about their brothers and sisters who grew up with them at the Home. You see the faces of the beautiful children light up when you take the time to engage them in conversation.

Truly, God’s Angels are amongst us at the Home, touching and growing our hearts. Visitors to our Home are changed forever and become a part of its history.

In 2019, we served 91 children, celebrated the graduation of four high school students, completed the pool project, reaped the success of another Great Landscape Day, and enjoyed the biggest crowd ever to attend our Homecoming.

Anyone who has truly experienced the Home knows in their hearts that their lives have been changed forever—not because of the beautiful facility and grounds we have, but because of the beautiful children we encounter as we spend time with them. We see in the little angels — little persons ready to be shaped to become the men and women God intended them to be. We have an opportunity to give to them, but will never be able to reciprocate what they give to us. There is no way to put a monetary value on what we receive. For each person (Mason or non-Mason) who comes to the Home and spends time with these little angels, your hearts will be shaped forever. Once you have been there and have experienced their love, you cannot get enough of the little angels.

In last year’s message, we talked about the sharing of our time, talents, and treasures. I hope this year you will make plans to visit our Home away from home, so you may discover in your heart how you can share a part of yourself in this ministry in service to God and His Children.

Dewey Preslar
Growing Hearts, Brighter Futures

OUR MISSION:
Providing a safe, nurturing home for children in need with opportunities to maximize their potential.

VISION STATEMENT:
MHCO is a safe haven where children flourish here and beyond.

QUALITY STANDARDS:
MHCO is committed to high quality care for children in need through:

• highly qualified personnel,
• continuously evolving evidence informed model of care, and
• active engagement with community and stakeholders.
THE MASONIC HOME FOR CHILDREN AT OXFORD, INC.
600 College Street
Oxford, NC 27565
919.693.5111
TOLL FREE 888.505.HELP (4357)
www.mhc-oxford.org

BENCHMARKS (www.benchmarks-nc.org)
CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA® (www.cwla.org)
ALLIANCE FOR STRONG FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES™ (www.alliance1.org)
NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR NONPROFITS (www.ncnonprofits.org)
ASSOCIATION OF FUNDRAISING PROFESSIONALS™ (www.afpnet.org)

The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, Inc. is a licensed, residential children’s home through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (www.dhhs.state.nc.us) and is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit registered through the Secretary of State of North Carolina (www.secstate.state.nc.us)

Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the Charitable Solicitation Licensing Section at 888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State.

Photographs in this publication courtesy of MHCO staff

Wheels4Hope® is a registered trademark of Wheels4Hope; Amazon® and Amazon Smile® are registered trademarks of Amazon.com, Inc. and its affiliates.