MHCO continued to manage and adjust to the Covid – 19 pandemic through 2021. The adjustments were a challenge for the children and their families, staff, and friends of MHCO as interaction continued to be limited. In spite of the challenges the children and MHCO had several wonderful accomplishments. We are extremely proud of the children’s academic and personal achievements.

Five students graduated High School for a graduation rate of 100%. Two of these graduates were the very first in their families to achieve this honor and recognition. Additionally, six students received certifications from VGCC. Our one UNC-C graduate received Cum Laude degrees in Accounting and Finance. The promotion rate for the remaining students was again 100% and the campus GPA at the end of the year was 84.6. Of the youth aged 16 and over, 89.7% were employed in the community. The children and ILP residents also participated in a variety of extra curriculars including Sports, Band, Girl Scouts, and ROTC. One student-athlete earned All-Conference in Football. We also applaud the efforts and support of the Houseparents, Tutors, and the entire staff to help encourage the children to be confident and achieve tremendous successes that help prepare them for a successful future. Well done everyone!

Several program enhancements and achievements were also accomplished in 2021. MHCO implemented the Cornell University CARE Trauma Informed Model. This several year process helps all employees recognize the impact traumas can have on children and guide staff to help address issues in a preventative, supportive, and reflective manner. This wonderful enhancement was made possible by a second grant from the Triangle North Healthcare Foundation.

Transitional Living Cottages were opened as an intermediary step before the Independent Living Program. Houseparents help each young adult understand their level of proficiency on several independent living skills and helps them work on any deficiencies to better prepare them for that important step toward independence. Additionally, MHCO was relicensed and received personal recognition that it was a “Really, really good review” from our Licensing Representative. MHCO was also reaccredited for three years through the Council on Accreditation.

MHCO was also Blessed to receive capital improvements from several friends of the Home. Walden University Mobilize for Good remodeled the gym lobby to be a place for the kids to hang out. This incredible gift was filmed and helps bring recognition of MHCO to others. Four MHCO employees have graduated or are enrolled in Walden’s MSW program. Cameron Honour of Old Timers Roofing and Dave Alligood provided materials and labor to completely replace the Walker Building’s roof.

The shingles were provided by Certainteed. Michael and Hilary Verville with Verville Interiors renovated God’s Half Acre by raising all the headstones to a uniform level and cleaning each headstone. These gracious acts provided much needed improvements that would likely not have occurred without their generous gifts.

These amazing successes continue to support the ongoing wonderful work being done for the children and their families as they seek to overcome their own challenges and become successful. MHCO is only able to accomplish all these achievements due to of the support, care, and love you share. Your recurring donations, planned gifts, grants, and gifts of talent, time, and treasure ensure the children’s lives are guided by your light toward a brighter future. Thank you for your prayers, positive wishes, and amazing gifts of yourself for our children.

Prayers and best wishes, Kevin Otis
MHCO provides loving care for children and young adults.

MHCO added an additional component to the programs this year by opening 2 Transitional Living Cottages. These cottages are part of the Independent Living Program and serves youth who are 17-19 as they learn skills needed for more independent living. The cottages are staffed 24/7 by Child Care Worker couples who provide supports and serve as a bridge between the Direct Care program before moving into the apartments in ILP. In 2021, all the ILP admissions were in the TLC cottages.

**DIRECT CARE RESIDENTS IN 2021**
- 29 Admissions
- 29 Discharges
- 40 Applications Received (60.6% return rate)
- 218 calls concerning placement
- 14.91 average age
- 1148.78 days average length of stay

**INDEPENDENT LIVING RESIDENTS IN 2021**
- 11 Admissions
- 10 Discharges
- 11 Applications Received (57.9% return rate)
- 28 calls concerning placement for ILP
- 19.07 average age
- 700.51 days average length of stay

IN 2021, 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
MHCO

EDUCATION

PROGRAMS

MHCO seeks to enrich our residents through education.

- 2 HS Graduates - 100% Graduation Rate
- 1 ILP Resident completed Truck Driving Training at VGCC
- Campus GPA 84.6% at end of 2021
- 5.3 Residents average on A honor roll
- 15.3 Residents average on AB honor roll
- 7.5 Residents average with GPA increase of 5 percentage Points with a C average or better

VOCATIONAL WORKPLACE & EDUCATION

MHCO seeks to enrich our residents through education.

- Driving Instruction
  No Residents were taught due to Covid-19 Restrictions
- Summer Programs
  None due to Covid-19 Restrictions
- Kid$Earn Program
  10.7 Eligible Residents Employed on campus (monthly average)

- Employment
  10.6 Employer Sites (monthly avg.)
  10.2 Eligible residents employed off-campus (monthly avg.)
  89.7% Percentage of eligible residents employed monthly

Thomas Boyd talking to kids in the Print Shop
School of Graphic Arts

We at SGA are committed to Quality and Service.

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

COMPLETE PACKAGE INCLUDES: Design, Printing, and Full Service Mailing

The SGA Print and Design Center is here to serve your printing needs. We provide a full range of print services while providing instruction to children in our work and earn program.

Our knowledgeable and talented staff looks forward to working with you. Visit our website and check back often for exciting changes coming soon! www.schoolofgraphicarts.com
In 2021, MHCO received in-kind items & gift cards valued at $45,490 and in-kind services valued at $35,740.

MHCO DEVELOPMENT

2021 Hayes Neal Society Inductees

BenEFactor
Lowell B. Bushong
Elizabeth A. Shawver
Josephine P. Pruitt

Legacy
Mary Elizabeth Daniels
Doris S. Hux
William Jones
Ralph O. Davis
James B. Barnard
Hazard Cannon
Audrey Jones

Silver
Robert J. Chaffin
Emma Pearl B. Simpson
Odessa C. Thompson
Edith F. Lee
John A. Spillman

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

2021 MHCO REVENUE

2021 MHCO EXPENSES

1. 39.8%
2. 15.6%
3. 14.2%
4. 7.7%
5. 6.2%
6. 5.6%
7. 2.9%
8. 0.9%
9. 0.8%

MHCO FINANCE

• $4.5 Million - Total Monetary Donations for 2021
• 3,234 - Total Monetary Donors for 2021
• 26% of Total - Masonic Donations

PERSONNEL

EXPERIENCED

QUALITY SERVICE

4. Hires - Support & Administrative Staff
3. Resignations
1. Retirements
7% Turnover Rate

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FINANCE

HUMAN RESOURCES

PERSONNEL

FINANCE

DEVELOPMENT

HUMAN RESOURCES

PERSONNEL

FINANCE

DEVELOPMENT
In 2021, we served 58 children.

As my term on the Board as Chairman expired at the end of 2021, this is my final letter to be included in the annual report.

I ask that you indulge me a bit as I share some thoughts of my cherished memories of the Home.

I remembered vividly my first visit to the Home as a young boy and the effect that it had on me as the cafeteria was filled with children having lunch.

I think about the first time that my wife and I visited together and her emotional reaction to the baby cottage.

I think about the introduction to God’s Half Acre and seeing the work that needed to be done around the cemetery.

And I think about the many times that I have spent at the Home over the years and remember all of the life experiences.

My love, time, talent, and treasure if you will, is enduring to the end.

I appreciate and acknowledge the breakthrough thinkers that caused the outcome of the new cottages, the pool, and the outdoor basketball court.

I am thankful to all that have and will continue to serve God and His children at our beloved Home.

I also want to thank the Staff, the Board, and all of you that have supported our Home.

But I want to thank especially our Children, both our alumni and the children that currently reside at the Home for their love and support.

The one honor that I cherish most was the alumni making me an honorary alumnus of our Home. I tell people often that I didn’t physically grow up at the Home, but in my heart and soul, it has helped me to become the person that I am today…….God truly meets us wherever we are.

Time spent with children teaches us the unwieldy truth that everything that we do and say is being observed carefully. They look to us for answers, what is right, what is wrong, how to speak, how to love, and whether we deserve it or not, they believe in us passionately.

In a couple of years, we celebrate the 150th anniversary of our beloved Home and I believe that we are well positioned to continue to operate our Home well into the future.

I close with my favorite Scripture, But Jesus called the children to Him and said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these”.

God Bless and God’s Peace my brothers, sisters, and friends.

Dewey

God’s Peace,
Dewey Preslar
Luke 18:16

ANNUAL GIVING

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

VISION STATEMENT:
MHCO is a haven where children and young adults develop and flourish here and beyond.

QUALITY STANDARDS:
MHCO is committed to high quality care for children and young adults 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)
SOCIAL CURRENT (FORMERLY, THE ALLIANCE FOR STRONG FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES AND COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION)™ (www.social-current.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 MHC0 staff