



Children's Adoption Services



Changing The World
One Child, One Family
At A Time.

2025 Impact Report

Celebrating a year of
hope, healing, and
forever families.

Carolina Adoption Services 

Changing the World

One Child at a Time



Greetings Carolina and ABC Adoption Families and Friends,

As we look back at 2025, there are so many special memories. Each moment of **improving the life of a child** changes each of us. Some life-changing moments from 2025 included providing a loving adoptive family to an infant who had lived in a medical setting for the initial year of life. During his hospitalization he was surrounded by medical teams whose hearts expanded to love him, hold him and support him in healing. Eventually he was discharged and welcomed home by his forever family. His story, begins challenged by prenatal drug exposure, but now is thriving in a loving home of an adoptive family inspires our team to serve more children each day. We are amazed at **the difference that love brings to a child** who was living to survive but now blossoms and thrives.

This amazing change brought by the adoptive and foster families at Carolina and ABC are so numerous and the stories too many to share. Each day we are inspired by **our foster parent** who cares for a child with very challenging medical needs. The dedication never waivers, regardless of the hospitalizations, challenges and systemic demands, the heart and dedication are apparent to everyone encountered in the service to the precious child.

Families in the international adoption programs who face the unpredictable world challenges remain dedicated to securing the homecoming of their children. Each challenge fortifies their dedication and inspires our team to seek new solutions and advocacy routes to support the best possible future for each child and family.

As I reflect on 2025, CAS reminds me of the **large impact** one child, one family, one small agency can make in this world. I am honored to be part of the story of CAS and a witness to how love forever changes the future for children, families, our community and world. May 2025 be an inspiration to improve the lives of more children and support more families in the years to come. Join us in creating a pathway to serve more children and their best possible futures!

As always-
JOY in the JOurneY,

Phyllis Kay Stephenson

Phyllis Stephenson



Celebrating Adoption

Every adoption is a story of hope and love. Each foster care placement is a step toward stability, love, and family. Together, these milestones represent lives forever changed through Carolina Adoption Services and your support.



2025-2026 Impact Report



317

FAMILIES SERVED
through foster and
adoption services



99

FAMILIES APPROVED
and ready to grow
their families through
adoption



75

CHILDREN
in adoptive/pre-
adoptive placements



7,020

DAYS
children were
supported in foster
homes

Foster Care Journeys

Children in foster care take steps towards healing, hope, and reunification with their birth families. Our foster families provide the stability, love, and encouragement while they walk alongside them on their journey.

Supporting & Growing Families

For more than 32 years, Carolina Adoption Services has been a trusted partner for children and families. Our experienced team walks alongside families every step of the way, providing training, resources, compassionate guidance, and ongoing support to help them build strong, thriving families for years to come.

Financial Summary

Revenue & Support

(\$)\$1,698,211.00

Expenses

(−)\$1,552,909.00

Net Assets Change

(=) \$145,302.00

Family Review

"We have worked with CAS for two sets of adoptions (four children total) and have found them to be extremely organized, helpful and proficient throughout the adoption process, both domestically and internationally. We would recommend this agency and choose them again!"



Samek Family: Their Story of Adoption

We are the Samek family! Our family of seven became complete when we adopted our vivacious, outgoing, and athletic Maria—fourteen months after first seeing her face. For several years we had been feeling our hearts drawn to adopting a child with a heart defect and Down syndrome. When I saw Maria's sweet eyes in her photo, I felt a startling sense of recognition and heard the words:

"That's your daughter. Go get her." It was surreal, but it was unmistakably an answer to our prayers. Here was a child with a bleak future, belonging to no one except a country. She was waiting for someone to see her, find her, and become her shield, protection and forever family.

We were committed to bringing this precious little girl to her forever home, our home! We then poured all our energy into the adoption process. We leaned heavily on the expertise and guidance of our adoption agency, Carolina Adoption Services. They answered every question and provided patient help along the way. While the process seemed to take forever, we felt well-prepared. We never felt alone or overwhelmed.

Bringing Maria home to settle into the family was thankfully seamless and very happy! If you know Maria, you know she is always up for adventures and new friends, and she exudes confident joy wherever she goes! She loves going to school, reading Berenstain Bears books, playing basketball, singing and dancing to her favorite songs, and telling her brothers what to do. Raising children is never easy, and we have faced many challenges like any family, but being blessed to call Maria our daughter has impacted us all—individually and as a family—for good. She brings so much life, laughter, and impacts others with love and hope!

We truly cannot imagine how sad it would be if we had missed the amazingly beautiful path to open our hearts and home to this miraculous person. It really is true that no child is unwanted - they have only yet to be found. It is our undying desire that every child who has seen the inside walls of an orphanage will one day be enveloped into their forever family who knows that child is invaluable, irreplaceable, and has a beautiful life ahead to share.



Overview of Programs

Celebrating Adoption



Carolina Adoption Services – Where heart, expertise and ethics connect to welcome children home!

Why we exist:

To support children and youth living in foster care, as orphans or in need of adoptive services to permanently join their forever family.

Who We Serve:



Expectant parents who choose life for their unborn baby, although they are unable to parent.



Relatives seeking to adopt family members domestically and internationally.



Families seeking to be approved as Adoptive Parents for children and youth.



Families and individuals seeking training and support for their adoption, fostering and post adoption journeys.



Our communities locally and internationally with the delivery of our vision “to create opportunities for children to develop in loving, caring families and safe environments”.



Children living as orphans, foster youth or legally free foster children still dreaming of a forever family!



Carolina ABC Adoption Services Provides:

32 years

Serving children and families since 1993.

A professional team with dedication to support children and families through foster and adoptive services.



Hague & CARF
Accredited

International Adoption

International adoption services for children, youth, siblings, and children with special needs. International programs include Armenia, Bulgaria, Ecuador, Ghana and Haiti.

Domestic Adoption

Domestic adoption services for children and youth, including relative adoption services. Domestic services are provided in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

Choices

Choices Adoption Program supports expectant parents, birth parents and adoptive parents in creating forever families for infants and young children domestically.

Foster Care

CAS Family Foster Care in North Carolina provides training, state licensure support, matching and placement support for foster families and the children in placement.

Family Services

CAS Family Services partners with pre adoptive families in preparation for their adoption journey. This includes preparation through training, home study and support after placement.

Resources, Counseling, & Support

CAS supports include training, counseling, resource referral and engagement in our Connections group.

Every child deserves a loving forever family.

From your first question through post-placement support, Carolina Adoption Services is here every step of the way.



Community Engagement

Stronger Together



Our mission comes to life through the incredible support of our partners, volunteers, and community. Thank you to everyone who showed up, gave back, and helped create meaningful experiences for children and families.



Share the Love: Black Mountain

In February 2025, we were proud to partner with Black Mountain Children's Home for their Bear Bowl Classic! CAS brought decorations, food, drinks, and plenty of fun to make this children's football game a memorable experience after the devastating effects of Hurricane Helene.

GIA Pasta Making Class

In March, we hosted a fun and interactive pasta-making class in partnership with a local restaurant, GIA. This intimate, hands-on experience not only raised funds to support our mission, but also gave us the opportunity to connect with our community and build relationships with future volunteers and supporters.



Kendra Scott

In August, we partnered with Kendra Scott for a giveback event where a portion of purchases supported CAS. It was a great opportunity to share our mission and connect with new faces. Our staff always enjoys these events, and Kendra Scott continues to be a generous and supportive partner.

Blue Jeans & Pearls Gala

In September, we hosted our annual Blue Jeans & Pearls Gala at the Canterbury School in Greensboro, NC. The evening brought together families, friends, and supporters for a memorable night of dinner, entertainment, auctions, and mission. Thanks to its success, the event helped further support CAS in finding children their forever families and supporting reunification with birth families.



Holiday Hope for Homes

In December, CAS hosted its Holiday Hope for Homes event, where children and families had the opportunity to meet Santa and the Grinch, take photos, enjoy games, and light refreshments. It was a great chance to connect with our staff and learn more about CAS and its mission. We also collected gifts for children in foster care and distributed them to make the holiday season a little brighter.

OUR STAFF

Phyllis Stephenson
Chief Executive Officer

Alexis Thurman
Executive Director of Adoption

Molly Mathews
International Program
Specialist

Leigh Ann Parrick
SC Assistant Director

Mary Ashley Moody
Family Services Compliance
Team Lead

Cindi Rager
Family Support Administrative
Specialist

Amy Terry
Clinical Family Engagement
Specialist

Sally Umbdenstock
Family Support Resource

Mary Page
Family Services Clinical
Specialist

Sara Nolette
Quality & Special Projects
Coordinator

Sharon Holbrook
Executive & Quality
Administrative Assistant

Debbie Cox
Quality & Administrative
Assistant

Kirsten Maynard
Adoption from Foster Care &
Foster Care Director

Julie Gantt
Foster Care Supervisor

Donitra Daye
Foster Care Quality Placement
Lead Supervisor

Tracey Starling
Foster Care Quality Family
Licensing Lead Supervisor

Kaitlyn Allred
Marketing & Events Coordinator

Adoption Workers

Foster Care Coordinators



Thank you for making a difference in the lives of children and families. 

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

Doug Davis

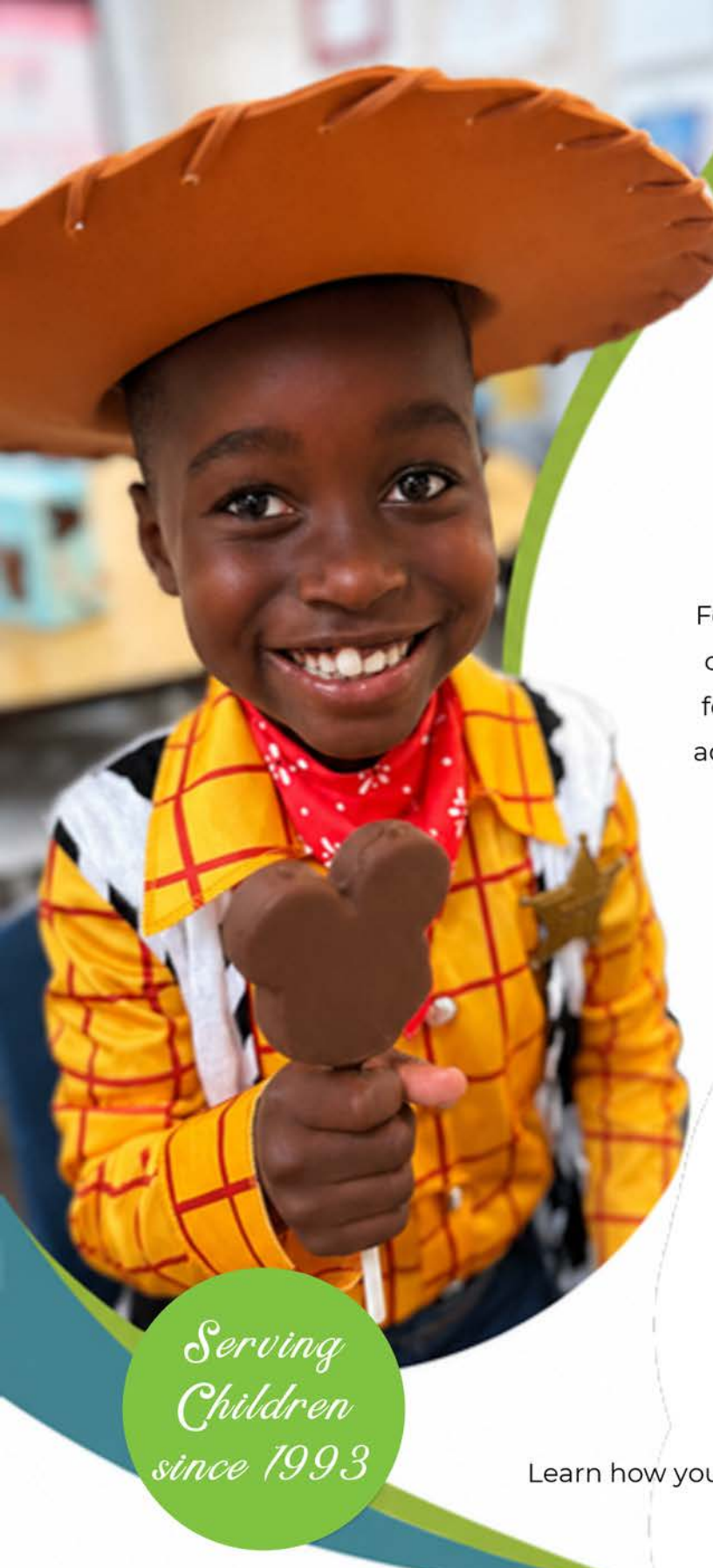
Angela Fuller

Robert Garren

Kendra Parker

Kathryn Lindley

James Kenerly



Changing The World One Child, One Family At A Time.



For 32 years, Carolina Adoption Services has helped children find the love, stability, and belonging of a forever family through international and domestic adoption, adoption from foster care, and foster care services. Together, we can continue making a difference.

You can make a difference.



Give

Support
CAS
programs.



Volunteer

Share your
time and
skills.



Advocate

Be a voice
for
children.



Share

Help more
children
come home.

*Serving
Children
since 1993*

Learn how you can get involved at childrensadoptionservices.org



Local: 336.275.9660
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Nonprofit Agency