



Helping Children
and Families Shape
their Future One
Day at a Time

December, 2023

Meet Marie & Family

Dear [Name],

Over the past 4 years, children's mental health and well-being have increasingly become a major concern for many people living within the United States.

More and more children and youth are self-reporting their own experiences with trauma and mental health crises, often times without access to any support or treatment.

The Children's Center (TCC) helps children and families find a road to resilience by facilitating healing from traumatic life experiences. Trauma has a deeper impact on children and when it goes untreated a child's life and brain development may be altered forever. Every individual experiences trauma differently, and the trauma experienced by one family member often affects the entire family.

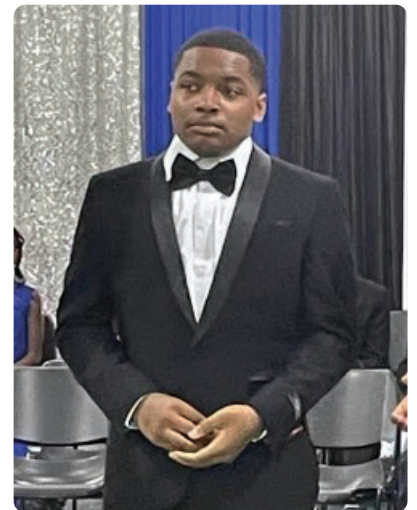
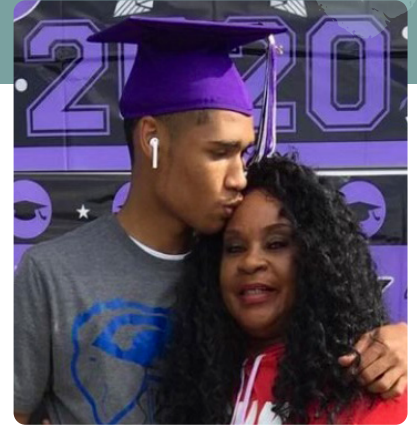
Marie, a grandmother of eight, promotes the importance of mental health in her own home.

Marie ensures her family is characterized by trust, honesty, and openness. One saying that Marie instills in her home is, "Despite the worst circumstances, nothing is impossible to overcome." Marie's time with TCC spans decades; she sought out help for her daughter in 1993 and has continued to grow confident in our services ever since. When her three grandsons, Asa, Nolan, and Kobe were faced with obstacles that some individuals would never encounter, she knew she could turn to The Children's Center for help.

Asa began treatment in 2018. When he was born, his mother suffered a stroke during childbirth, resulting in a traumatic brain injury. His mother's injuries

prevented her from being able to take on a parental role in his life. During a recent therapeutic appointment, a breakthrough revealed that Asa believed he was at fault for his mother's injury. Asa did not know how to interact, love, or process his emotions towards his mom. With the help of his therapist, Asa is now building a strong foundation for healing and working on rebuilding their relationship.

By age 15, Nolan was faced head-on with grief. The two men he was closest to were taken in the blink of an eye. His father was shot, and his brother was murdered. Nolan had to navigate the grief and trauma that accompanied these two catastrophic events. Although it has not been easy, Marie has stood by Nolan throughout the pain and tears the whole family has





The Child is the Center of it All.

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faced while navigating these losses together. After continuous encouragement, Nolan agreed to seek support at TCC and has learned how to cope with his emotions, grief, and trauma, finding the strength and perseverance to move forward into adulthood.

Kobe is a child who has dealt with trauma his entire life. He was placed in the care of his grandmother at age 5 due to his parents facing their own mental health crisis. He has since developed anger and frustration that left him guarded from both his family and others. Kobe recently underwent the trauma of losing his friend to suicide. Over the past 11 years, Kobe has received treatment from TCC to cope with his trauma and recent life experiences. He has gained acceptance over his life and has begun to open up, show behavioral improvements and learn how to manage his anger.

Marie is a pillar of support for her three grandsons, showing them unconditional love and acceptance.

By handling every challenge with grace and strength, she demonstrated that these boys could overcome any obstacle. She hopes to inspire other families facing similar challenges. She stated, “If you are a parent, I encourage you to hold yourself to the promise of raising your child to be great no matter what challenges arise.”

Marie leaves every appointment with the safety and security of knowing her grandsons are getting the support they need. These raw and vulnerable conversations don't stop at their appointments but continue in her home. “TCC is a saving grace to my family undergirding my grandsons with every obstacle they incur. These young men are growing into the brave and resilient souls they were born to be, thanks

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~ Marie

to you. I can confidently say, I will always be the grandparent that swings into action rather than not seeking help at all!” stated Marie.

While Marie's time with TCC has spanned decades and might be tearful to look back on, she is one example of a family that continues to navigate a path of healing. The need continues to grow, and we need your support in turning struggles into triumphs, tears into laughter, and fears into courage.

Your donation helps children overcome the traumas of their past by providing the tools and resources needed to navigate the hardest moments of their lives.

Nicole Wells Stallworth

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President & CEO

P.S. To read more about Marie's story, please go to:
TheChildrensCenter.com/ChangeAChildsLife/Marie