



2020-2025
Celebrating **5** Years



2020-2025 IMPACT REPORT



Reunite. Reconnect. Restore.

www.familyrootsforlife.org



Where Roots Hold Strong, New Futures Rise

Dear Supporters,

This year carried special meaning for Family Roots for Life, Inc.® as we celebrated our 5th anniversary as a youth and family serving nonprofit agency. This milestone reflects our growth and the unwavering commitment of our supporters, especially those who have walked with us since the beginning. Reaching five years shows what is possible when a community believes in strengthening roots so that futures can flourish.

We are deeply grateful to our donors, funders, and sponsors whose generosity has sustained our mission and expanded our reach. Your investment in youth and families has allowed us to grow with intention, respond with compassion, and build programs that create lasting impact. Thank you for believing in this work, sharing life-changing resources, and for standing with us and the lives we work to encourage and save every step of the way.

Reaching youth and families across Greater Houston takes us throughout Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties. We guide and educate vulnerable youth and emerging young adults ages 14–24, their family units, and other at-risk populations, especially those who have experienced foster care, the juvenile justice system, or other hardships in life.

Throughout the year, our dedicated team of staff, partners, and volunteers continued to stand with young people and families who are navigating complex systems. We offered mentorship, life skills, mental health support, and spaces where healing and connection could take hold. We expanded our reach, deepened our partnerships, and celebrated the resilience and determination of those we serve. Every story of progress reminded us why our mission matters.

In 2025, our guiding call to Reunite. Reconnect. Restore. remained at the center of everything we did. These words are more than a motto. They represent our promise to rebuild bonds, nurture belonging, and restore dignity for every child and family who entrusts us with their journey.

With sincerest appreciation,

Atasha M. Kelley-Harris

Atasha M. Kelley-Harris, M.Ed., CFLE, LCPAA
Founding President and CEO

Professional Memberships



OUR CORE VALUES

Ensuring Healthy FAMILIES

- We believe healthy families are at the core of thriving communities.
- Because family is the most basic institution of society, we understand the importance of taking care of families as a whole unit.
- We know children function best and thrive within the structure of a stable, healthy family.

Creating Lifelong CONNECTIONS

- We understand the instinctive need for children and youth to have individuals with whom they can rely on for nurturing and support.
- Having a connection to a trusting, lifelong support person is imperative to the success and well-being of young people.
- We connect the hearts and minds of like-missioned individuals and entities to achieve child and family well-being.

Performing the HEARTWORK™

- The work we do is central to the heart of people.
- Our work is emotional and touches the hearts of those involved.
- A healthy heart and mind are crucial for an individual to achieve full potential.

Cultivating COMMUNITY through COLLABORATION

- Developing essential networks and strategic partnerships are critical to ensure an overall well-functioning community.
- We believe an engaged and inclusive community is best for individuals and families to thrive.
- When entities within the community work together – collaboratively, everyone wins.



2025 LEADERSHIP

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Atasha M. Kelley-Harris, M.Ed., CFLE, LCPAA
Founding President and CEO

Yolonda Kelley, PMP
Founding Vice President

Katina Scott, BSW, MBA
Board Chair

Raquel Gallegos, BBA
Board Treasurer

Ingrid Montgomery, MBA, PE, PMP
Board Secretary

Shunta Land
Board Member

Afrika Spencer Porter, CPM
Board Member
San Antonio, Texas

David Daniels, BA
Board Member

Judge Linda Dunson, JD, LLM
Board Member

Dawn Diamond, PhD
Board Member
Sanford, North Carolina

Michael Van Swol, PE
Board Member

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Advisory Council Member
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Dr. Lena Jackson-Lynch
Advisory Council Member
Denton, Texas

Steve Browning, M.Ed., CLC
Advisory Council Member
Phoenix, Arizona

Dr. Asheeki Elmore
Advisory Council Member
Phoenix, Arizona

LaTika Jeffery, BS
Advisory Council Member
Fort Washington, Maryland

Janice Himes, MS
Advisory Council Member
Texas City, Texas

Rev. Ann Kathryn Bass-Lister, M.Div.
Advisory Council Member
Houston, Texas

OUR PURPOSE AND OUR REACH

OUR MISSION

Family Roots for Life, Inc. reunites, reconnects, and restores children, youth, and families through the provision of social, emotional, and behavioral health services to ensure child and family well-being.

OUR VISION

We envision a world in which every child and young adult has a secure, stable family enabling him or her to thrive and achieve his or her full potential.

THE NEED IN OUR STATE

- When a youth in foster care turns 18 in Texas, they may face challenges related to aging-out.
- Statistics indicate that 70% of females who have aged out of the foster care system become pregnant by the age of 21 and 60% of aged out males have been convicted of a crime.
- Further research shows that 20% of aged out youth become instantly homeless, approximately 80% experience mental health challenges, and 50% are likely to be unemployed by age 24.
- State and federal laws are in place to protect foster youth until they turn 21, thanks to the 2008 Fostering Connections Act.

OUR REACH

21

PARTNER SITES

13

COUNTIES*

*Family Roots for Life, Inc. also supports individuals virtually, extending our services far beyond our local geographic area.

10

STAFF

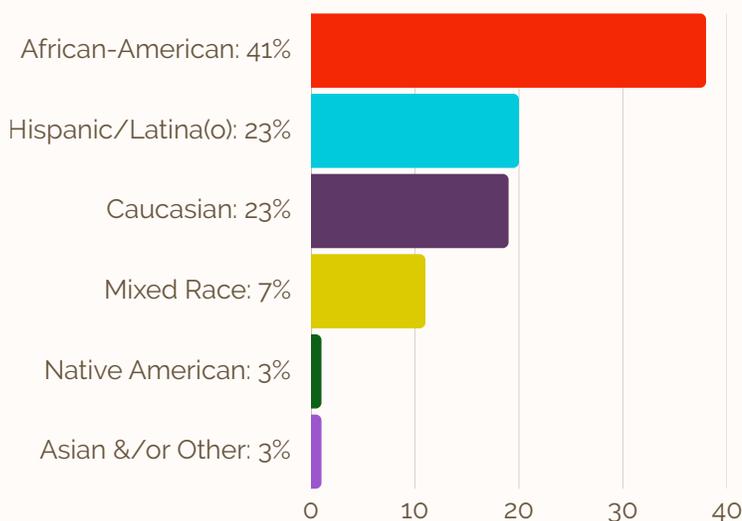
80

VOLUNTEERS

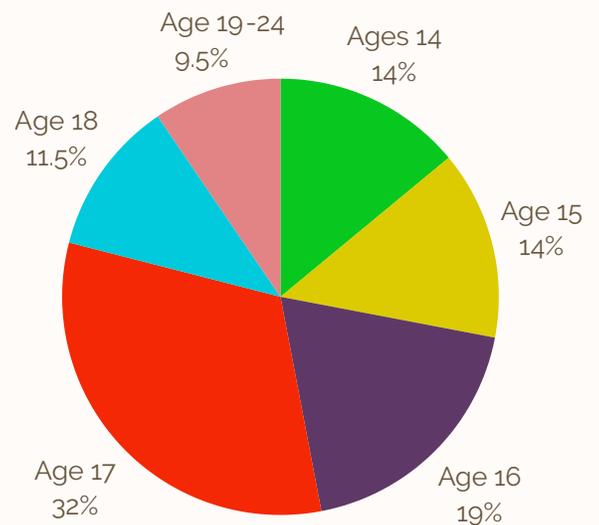
1,092

VOLUNTEER HOURS

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DEMOGRAPHICS (%)



PARTICIPANTS AGES (%)



90.5% of Participants are Youth (14-18 years old)

BUILDING STRONG ROOTS TOGETHER

Helping Youth Imagine What's Possible

The Hopes and Dreams Program equips youth and emerging young adults with practical tools and meaningful experiences that build confidence, independence, and a sense of direction. Life skills workshops give participants hands-on learning in areas they will rely on throughout adulthood. Activities such as CPR and First Aid training, financial basics, communication skills, job readiness and preparation, and everyday problem-solving help young people feel prepared to navigate real-world situations safely and successfully.

Vision boarding workshops complement these skills by helping participants imagine and articulate their future goals. A vision board is a creative collage of images, words, and ideas that represent a person's hopes, dreams, and long-term aspirations.



Through this process, young people learn to set intentions, identify their strengths, and visualize the pathways they want to pursue. Together, these workshops support youth in building both the practical skills and the personal clarity needed to move toward a stable, fulfilling future.

Learn more about the Hopes and Dreams Program at familyrootsforlife.org/programs.



Building Futures Through Mentorship

At Family Roots for Life, Inc., mentorship begins with a simple belief: every young person deserves someone who shows up. Guided by the African proverb, **"The child who is not embraced by the village will burn it down to feel its warmth,"** Founding President and CEO Atasha M. Kelley-Harris, M.Ed., CFLE, LCPAA grounds the Roots and Wings Mentorship Program in steady, caring relationships. Youth and young adults who are nearing adulthood or aging out of foster care find encouragement, guidance, and a sense of belonging.

Research shows that mentored youth experience stronger mental health, higher educational aspirations, and greater leadership involvement. Without supportive adults, young people face increased risks of homelessness, involvement with the justice system, and chronic mental health challenges.



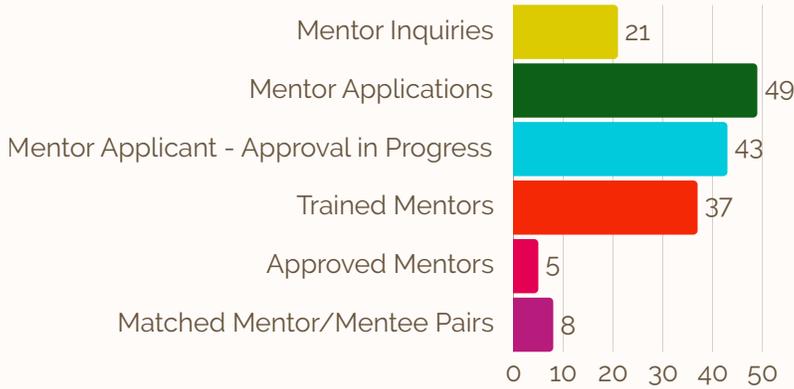
The impact is reflected everyday. Family Roots S.A.F.E. Trained Mentor Lance Rogers describes mentorship as "small acts of kindness that can change a young person's path." Atasha and her husband, Marc Harris, recall the joy of helping to prepare and then driving their mentee to senior prom. This is a reminder of how being valued can transform a life.

Learn more about the Roots and Wings Mentorship Program at familyrootsforlife.org/become-a-mentor.

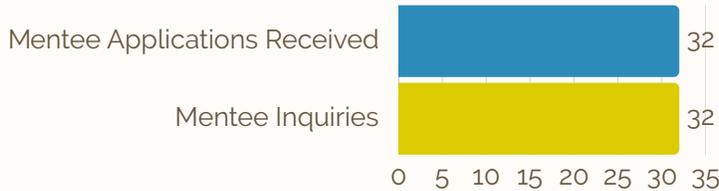


2025 PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Roots and Wings Program - Mentors



Roots and Wings Program - Mentees



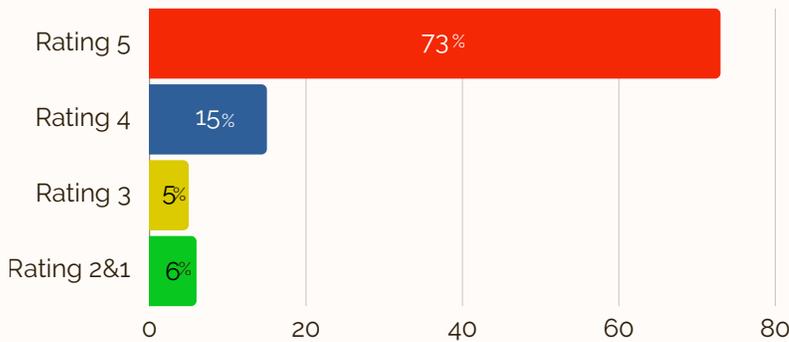
227
Total Roots & Wings
Program Individuals
Served (Duplicated)

Youth and Family-
Serving Partner
Organizations
17



Hopes and Dreams Program

Life Skills Classes - Participant Satisfaction (%)



92
Hopes and Dreams
Program Workshops

963
Total number of Hopes
and Dreams participants

88%
Hopes and Dreams Program
Life Skills Class Participants
Rated the Class at 4 or 5

Heart Strings Family Finding and Support Services

13
Inquiries

13
Birth Parent Attendees

18
Resources & Referrals

Heart Strings Family Finding and Support Services

Heart Strings is currently in its pilot stage, offering resources and referrals, family-finding services, light case management, support groups, brief placement supervision, reunification support, and other ongoing supportive services for birth parents who have involuntarily lost parental rights to their child(ren).

The program provides learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate student social work interns and has a dedicated volunteer workgroup comprised of master's level social work professionals and lived experts who guide program model design and development, practices and protocols.

2025 PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Opportunity Youth Workforce Development Endeavors

 Youth Served
34

CPS PAL Aging-Out Seminars and Teen Conference Presentations

6 

Level-Up and Learn Participants Served

 **116**

Adults ages 25+ Served Fort Bend Women's Center Shelter & Regions Bank Financial Wellness Series

 **104**

Living Legends Centenarians Recognized

 **2**

Coaching, Consulting, and Training Presentations

 **6**

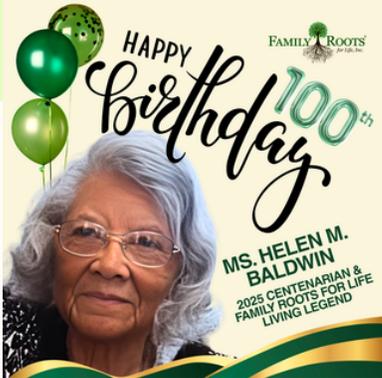
My 1st Apt./Dorm Room Project Recipients

 **10**

Big Day Birthday Box Recipients

 **2**

CREATING ROOTS FOR THE FUTURE



Where Legacy Strengthens Our Roots

The Living Legends Program at Family Roots for Life, Inc. stands as a heartfelt tribute to those whose lives have shaped families, neighborhoods, and communities for a century or longer. Celebrating centenarians allows us to honor the wisdom, resilience, and lived history they carry and to recognize the extraordinary impact of their stories across generations. This recognition holds special meaning for us because centenarians embody the values the organization seeks to uplift. In 2025, we proudly recognized Ms. Vander Caldwell Haynes (Galveston) and Ms. Helen M. Baldwin (SC) whose journeys reflect these ideals.

Here is a featured story on centenarian, Ms. Helen M. Baldwin who was born on August 26, 1925, in Chatham County, North Carolina. Helen grew up in a home filled with faith, laughter, and the steady rhythm of a large family. As one of twelve children, she learned early that love, responsibility, and togetherness could carry a family through any season. After completing the 8th grade, she stepped into the workforce being hired by Mr. William Friday, the first President of the University of North Carolina System, then at Belk, Chapel Hill, and later at the University of North Carolina. She witnessed nearly a century of change and embraced each new era with grace, curiosity, and hope.

Helen's greatest joy has always been her family. She raised her son, Roy Baldwin, with deep devotion and continues to cherish her grandchildren and great-grandson. Her welcoming home in Graham, North Carolina reflects her generous spirit. Family Roots for Life proudly honors Ms. Helen M. Baldwin as a Living Legend whose life of love, resilience, and faith continues to inspire all who know her.

Learn more about the Living Legends Program at familyrootsforlife.org/living-legends-program.

Supporting the First Steps Into Independence

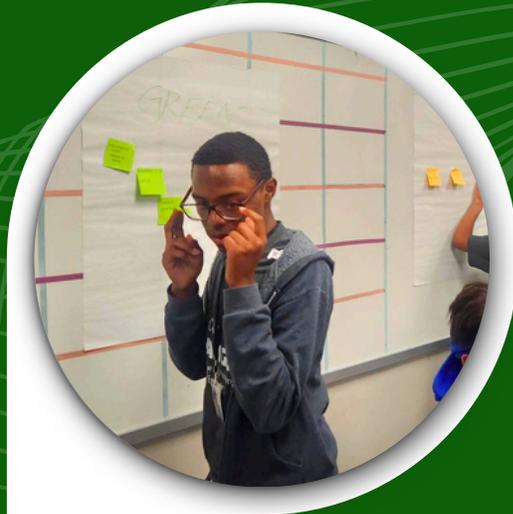
The My First Apartment/Dorm Room Project supports young adults who are stepping into independence, many for the first time. For youth, especially those aging out of foster care or navigating adulthood without consistent family support, securing safe, stable housing can feel overwhelming. This initiative helps ease that transition by providing essential items needed to furnish a first apartment or college dorm room, reducing financial strain and the uncertainty that often accompanies such a major life change. Through donated gift cards, independent living supplies, and community partnerships, Family Roots for Life, Inc. empowers young people to feel prepared, confident, and proud as they establish their new homes.



Learn more about the My First Apartment/Dorm Room Project at <https://tinyurl.com/1stApt1stDorm>.



Learn More. Get Inspired.
Grow the Family.
www.familyrootsforlife.org



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