Helping people with disabilities and their families Believe in their dreams, Achieve their goals and Give Back to others since 1995.

Annual Report 2014-2015

Lifetime Connections Participants enjoy a Durham Bulls game on a spring day! Lifetime Connections builds Personal Networks of support for individuals with disabilities, and gives families planning tools and peace of mind regarding the future.

First In Families of North Carolina
3109 University Drive, Suite 100 | Durham, NC 27707
www.fifnc.org | Phone: 919.251.8368 | Fax: 919.400.4846 | Email: info@fifnc.org
FIFNC and the 13 Chapters in all 100 counties supported **2,163** families in FY 14-15 with:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Needs*</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other**</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities/Housing</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp/Respite Programs</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapy/Counseling</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Repair/Health &amp; Wellness</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Diapers, Clothing, Food  
** Legal fees, psychological evaluations

2/3 of families served had incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level

People we served experience:

- Autism: 25%
- Cerebral Palsy: 7%
- Developmental Delay: 11%
- Down Syndrome: 4%
- Intellectual Disability: 25%
- Multiple I/DD: 21%
- Traumatic Brain Injury: 3%
- Other I/DD: 4%

17% receive formal (waiver) support services
Quality of Service & Positive Impact on Life

What some of our families said about their experience with FIF...

“Everyone is always respectful and attentive. They allow me and my family members to maintain our dignity.”

“FIF has helped make life much easier and stress free in time of need for my family.”

“We had an amazing experience, it felt like the big picture was really sought after for the family in need, and there was true care and concern to be very mindful of our needs.”

“I am so thankful for First In Families. I am able to attend the YMCA and it has improved my life.”

“When we finally called First In Families, we were on the brink of emotional breakdown. I am so grateful for the kindness and care shown to us by staff.”

First In Families: A Complement to Managed Care

FIF has become an excellent resource for LME/MCO staff and providers to refer families for the many needs that are beyond the scope of formal services.

The FIF Model Complements Managed Care by:

- Utilizing business and other nonpublic funding sources to pay for needed items,
- Proving cost-effective crisis interventions for the 71% of adults with I/DD or TBI that live at home, in many cases preventing unnecessary placement into a more restrictive and costly care setting.
- Assisting the many North Carolinians who are not Medicaid Eligible.
- Encouraging person-centered planning and self-determination while supporting the entire family.

This year FIF began a three year initiative Funded by the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities, to build a network of support by and for siblings of people with disabilities.

For more information visitwww.meetup.com/ncsibs
During the period of July 1, 2014—June 30, 2015 FIFNC’s total revenue was $1,297,625 and total expenses were $1,282,218.
Give Back

18% of families previously served by FIF gave back by making either a financial contribution or by donating items such as clothing, household goods, appliances, furniture, and medical equipment to help meet the needs of other families.

$502,727 of in-kind contributions, donations and mini-grants were added to our state funding.

5,815 volunteer hours were logged to support FIF programs and initiatives throughout North Carolina in FY 2014-2015.

Volunteer
With the local FIF Chapter in your area

Donate
Online at ffnc.org or to the First In Families Legacy Fund through Triangle Community Foundation
Ask us about Planned Giving

Partner
Your business or community group can help First In Families serve more people

I volunteer because I love to give back to families because the community has given me so much encouragement.
I love that we help families in need —directly in the ways that they need.
No judgment. We meet them where they are.

Skip Byrd
Durham FIF Management Team Member
Dear friend of FIF,

A small group of inspired parents and allies once envisioned that if North Carolina could be First In Flight, then why not First In Families? This year we celebrate 20 years of grassroots, customer-driven support for over 35,000 NC families in all 100 counties. Like the Wright brothers in their epic NC years, these families believe in their dreams, achieve their goals and give back to others. Since the initial years in the 90’s, FIF has evolved well defined and specifically measurable outcomes, while not losing its signature “families as experts” approach.

The FIF model works because it utilizes and maximizes the inherent strengths of community, after listening to what families say they need. Requests are met by community based staff who work with customer-led management teams and local businesses. It’s a simple methodology. By pairing our belief that families are the experts on their own lives and needs – with our knowledge that the community is rich in resources- FIF offers solutions for families and the opportunity for individuals and businesses to “give back”.

FIFNC is a complement to Managed Care, providing tangible solutions to assist individuals to remain at home, avoiding costly and more restrictive settings. Moreover FIF is often the only resource for families impacted by developmental disabilities and/or traumatic brain injuries. This year, over 87 percent of families served received no formal services. Our Lifetime Connections program celebrates ten years of future planning education for families and professionals, and customized personal network building for individuals.

We are excited this year to be implementing a three year grant from the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities to build the first ever NC network of adult siblings, who will tell us what they need to know and do as they consider greater responsibilities in the future related to their sister or brother.

Your ongoing interest in First In Families is deeply appreciated.

Betsy MacMichael, Executive Director

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