First In Families of North Carolina
Helping people with disabilities and their families to believe in their dreams, achieve their goals and give back to others since 1995

Annual Report 2013-2014

A Johnston County child enjoys a playhouse built and donated by FIFNC Board President, Greg McGrew, his coworkers at Ciena, and the Habitat Geezers.
People We Served Experience:
I/DD: 38%
Autism: 30%
Multiple Disabilities: 23%
Cerebral Palsy: 7%
Developmental Delay: 5%
Traumatic Brain Injury: 4%
Down Syndrome: 4%
Other: 5%

FIFNC directly manages 7 Chapters, Lifeline Project, Lifetime Connections, and other special projects.

It also provides statewide training and quality oversight to all 13 chapters to ensure best practices in supporting families. On customer feedback surveys 98% of families served say that they would recommend FIF to a friend.

In FY 13-14 FIF implemented a new outcome measurement to identify families served who have subsequently given back directly to the organization through time, talent, or financial contributions. 9% of families served invested their abilities directly in serving other FIF families.
• We completed the two year initiative “Family Support: Coming of Age” to identify supports necessary for individuals with I/DD and their aging caregivers. Final Report available at www.fifnc.org

• We received funding for a three year grant initiative to mobilize adult siblings of people with I/DD throughout North Carolina.

• We invested in our future, opening an endowment through Triangle Community Foundation.

• We participated in systems change initiatives to further employment opportunities for people with I/DD, advise emergency preparedness efforts, and promote medical health homes for better and safe integration of services for people.

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<th>Achieve with Us</th>
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Donate
- Online at fifnc.org
- or to the First In Families Legacy Fund through Triangle Community Foundation
- Ask us about Planned Giving

Volunteer
With the local FIF Chapter in your area

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

Connect
Like us on Facebook & Follow us on Twitter for the latest news
During the period of July 1, 2013—June 30, 2014, FIFNC’s total revenue was $1,332,609 and total expenses were $1,275,659.

$245,741 of donated goods, professional services, and monetary contributions directly benefited families served by FIFNC.

43 cents return on investment added per public dollar.

FIFNC Chapters and the Lifeline Project met 1,359 needs of local families.

$37,983 in volunteer services were used to support our activities.
Lifetime Connections Networks at a Glance

Logan is a 25 year old young man living in Garner with his parents and two of his three siblings. Logan cannot drive and had never held a job due to his TBI so he didn’t have many relationships outside his immediate family, which fueled his pessimistic outlook. Because of his Lifetime Connections network, Logan now holds a meaningful job at NC State working three days per week, and regularly interacts with his network for collaboration and companionship.

Wiley is a 30 year old visual artist who has autism and lives in Raleigh. Wiley’s parents live nearby and have been the primary source of transportation and entertainment for Wiley since his brother died in a motorcycle accident three years ago. Wiley lives in his own apartment and he sees paid staff daily but would like to have more meaningful relationships in his life. Wiley’s network affords an opportunity to meet new people, and work on his growing social skills in a safe environment.

Jeremy is an adult living with autism who is fascinated with every aspect of physics and ecology. Jeremy and his facilitator, Gaines, are building his network around what he loves most. While still hesitant about meeting new people, Jeremy is getting to know and enjoy his neighbors and has started work part time, tending to gardens around town.

Photo Caption Above: Jeremy (right) and a friend relaxing after a hike near his home.

Volunteer with FIF

Thank you for:
⇒ volunteering your time
⇒ sharing your talents
⇒ donating items
⇒ making a financial contribution

Why do I volunteer?
“To see a smile on people’s faces.”

Teedy Edwards
Durham FIF Management Team Member
Dear Friends,

This year has truly demonstrated how supporting families also makes good sense for the government, for the community, and for an individual family member who experiences a developmental disability. Supporting families through First In Families is not Family Support as a service definition. It is and always has been an opportunity for the community to assist, for families to offer to give back after receiving help, and for generous public funders to be a partner, but not the sole answer.

One of our favorite examples this past year demonstrated a crisis intervention, and a bridge back to formal support needed by a teenager with cerebral palsy. A Wake family had a serious bug bed infestation, causing loss of services to their daughter. FIF negotiated a full donation of exterminator services, but the home was too crowded with items to ensure a successful treatment. FIF negotiated a discount on an outdoor shed to store mobility equipment, and secured three donated new beds. A local temple donated sheets for all three beds and a church provided a comforter set for the master bed. Waiver services were restored, and a costly out-of-home placement avoided, all for very little money.

We are approaching our 20th year and are grateful to those who believe in us, and helped us establish the Legacy Fund for a sustainable future. Please join us in celebrating First In Families, a vibrant partner in supporting over 30,000 North Carolina families (so far) to believe, achieve and give back to others!

Sincerely,

Betsy MacMichael, Executive Director
Greg McGrew, Board President

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**Board of Directors FY 13-14**

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3109 University Drive, Suite 100, Durham, NC 27707 919.251.8368 www.fifnc.org