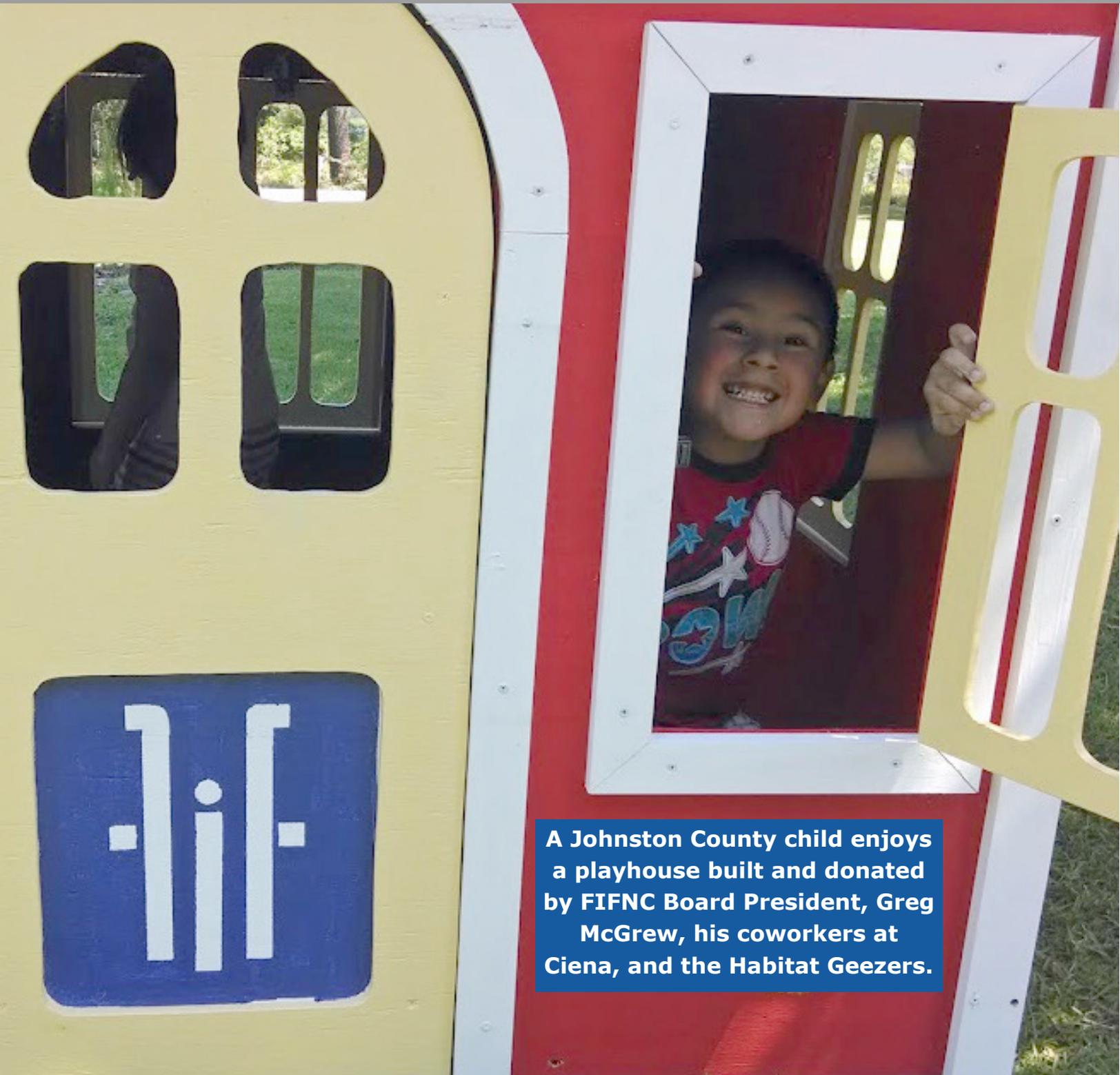




# First In Families of North Carolina

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



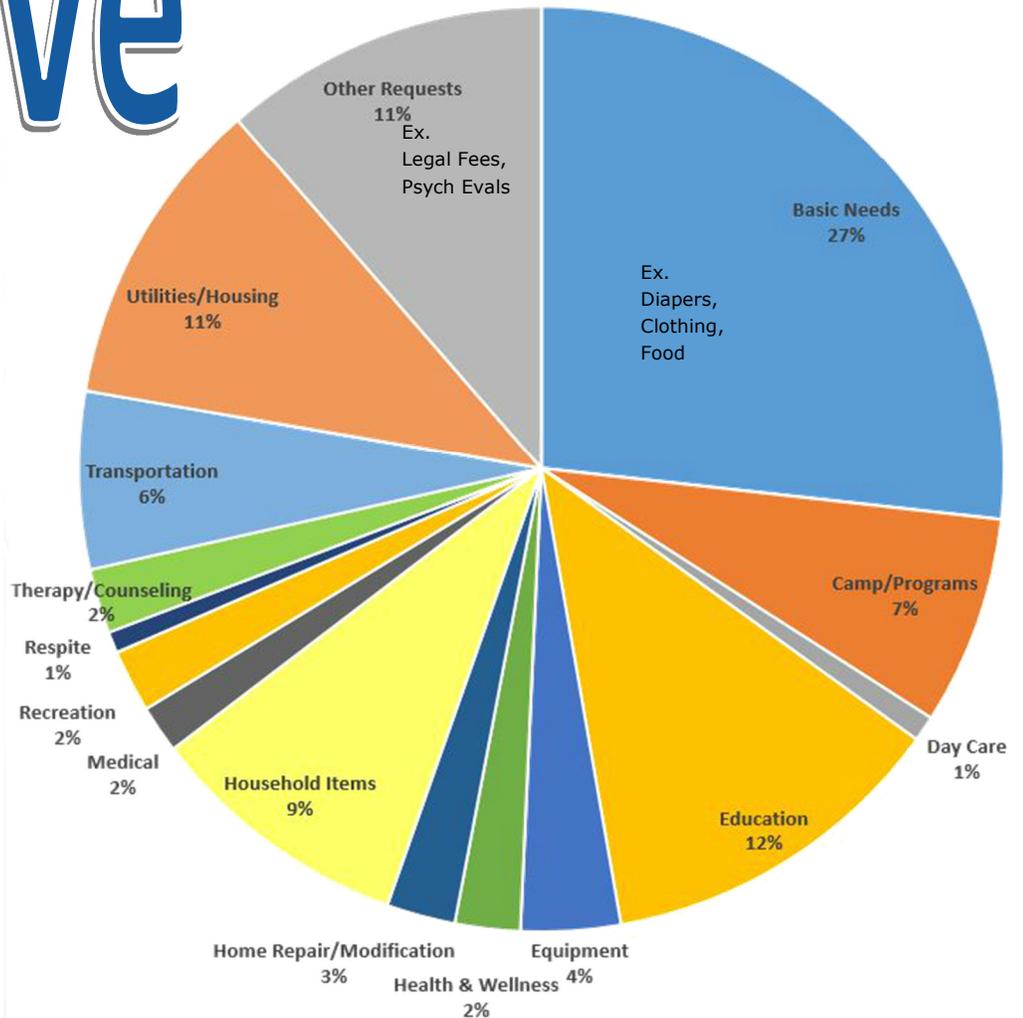
**A Johnston County child enjoys a playhouse built and donated by FIFNC Board President, Greg McGrew, his coworkers at Ciena, and the Habitat Geezers.**

# believe

FIFNC and the 13 Chapters supported 2,321 families in FY 13-14 with:

**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.**



# achieve

What some of our families said about the IMPACT of FIF assistance:

- **“My daughter was able to continue with her social program that would have otherwise been unaffordable. She really looks forward to this and needs both the social skills and the relaxation.”**
- **“We can travel to the doctors, therapist, etc., without worrying we might have a tire go out on us.”**
- **“My son now has the ability to communicate in another way.”**
- **“We now have a bed to sleep on.”**
- **“Our son was able to continue occupational therapy despite our insurance deductible.”**

***Giving to First In Families helps strengthen networks, communities, families and their members. Keep up the great work!***

***- FY 13-14 Donor***

## Additional FY 13 - 14 Accomplishments

- 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](http://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.

## Achieve with Us

### Donate

- Online at [fifnc.org](http://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

# give back



\$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.

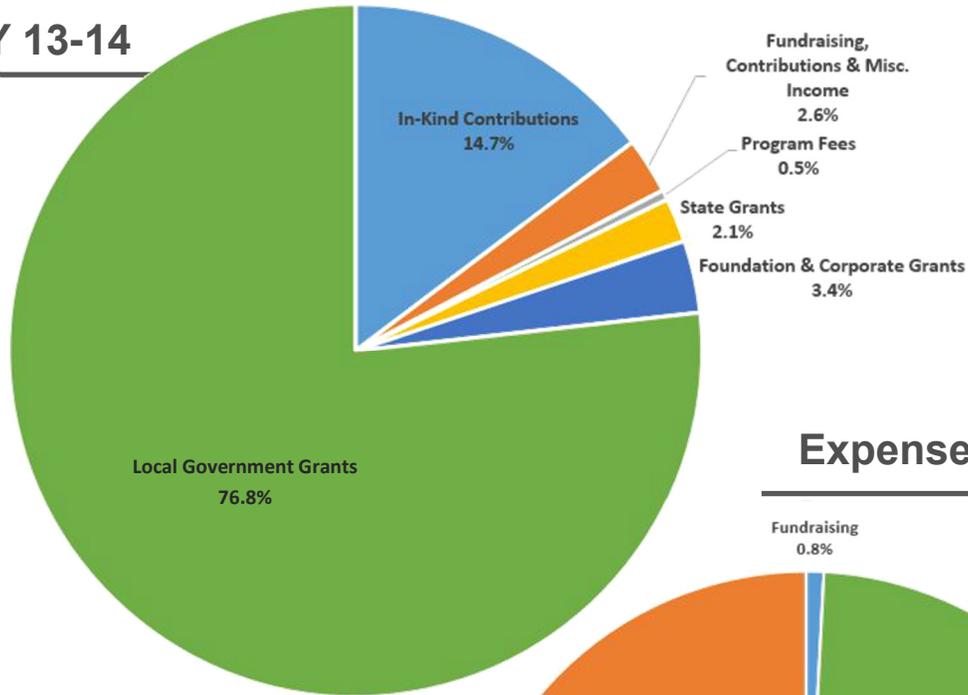


FIFNC Chapters and the Lifeline Project met 1,359 needs of local families.

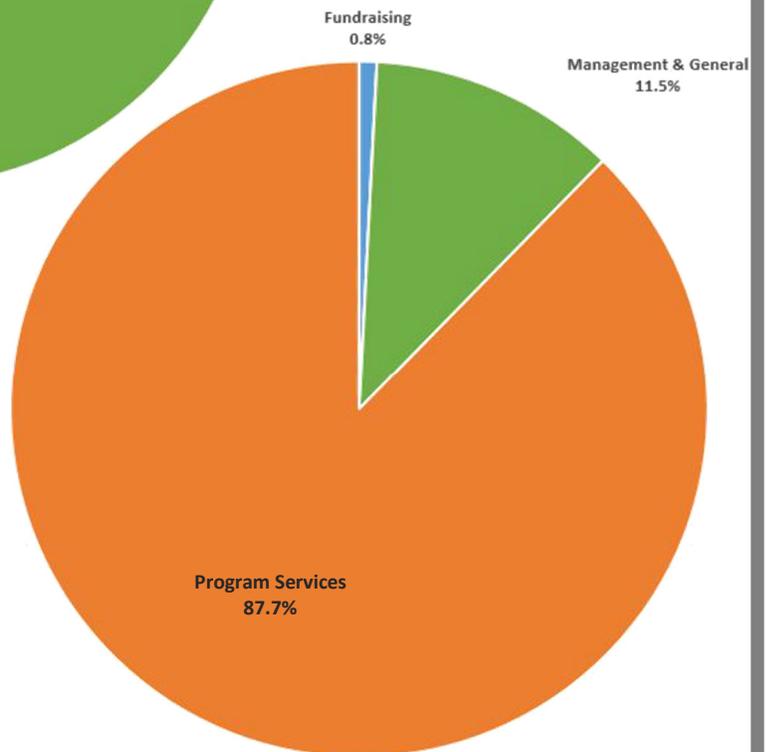


\$37,983 in volunteer services were used to support our activities.

## Income FY 13-14



## Expenses FY 13-14



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.



## LIFETIME CONNECTIONS

*"We are thrilled at the progress. As it gets harder and harder for us with our medical problems, it has become more and more our goal to get Jeremy truly a connected and functioning part of the community."*

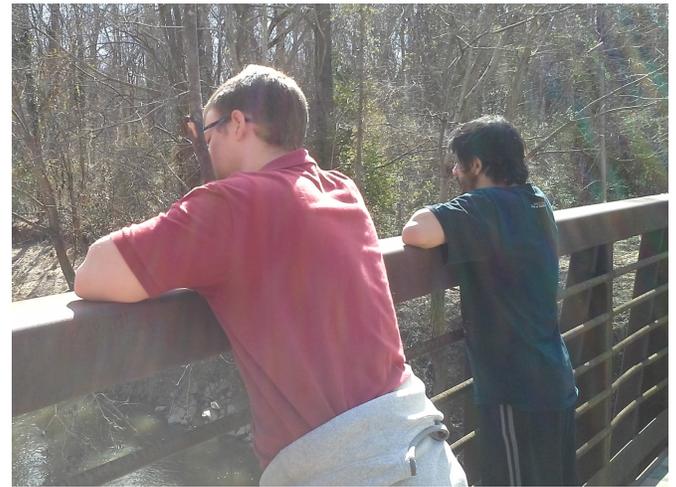
*— Berta and Larry Hammerstein,  
Lifetime Connections Members*

### 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.

## Volunteer with FIF



***Lifetime Connections offers unique supports and future planning services to people with all types of disabilities and their families. We provide an alternative or addition to traditional services, through a membership based set of services tailored to each individual or family.***

*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.*

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 a 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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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