

YOUR Support Helps Children Flourish

Sabrina can't believe how far Ace has come! Ace wasn't always able to play outside with other kids because he has cerebral palsy. Until recently, he used a wheelchair. Sabrina worried about him. Then "Chef Ace" discovered his passion for baking and cooking while watching TV. "I saw some shows, and I went to [grand]mom and asked her if I could cook," Ace says. Sabrina explains, "He started telling me the recipes, and I said 'OK, let's go get the stuff.'"

Eight-year-old Ace spends hours in the kitchen, baking and cooking up a storm. He doesn't even write the recipes down. He recites them from memory! Ace delivers his treats to his HALOS family advocate, his teachers, and his doctors at MUSC. Cooking gives him a creative outlet and brings him joy. "When he's cooking, he's happy, he talks about his big dream kitchen," Sabrina said.

Recently, Ace learned to walk despite his disability. His dedication to being a chef hasn't dimmed even as he now plays outside with friends. He still enters cooking competitions and hopes to one day meet his inspiration, Gordon Ramsey.

Your support makes it possible for Ace to thrive. You are providing his grandmother Sabrina with the resources to meet her family's needs. Sabrina is a kinship caregiver to seven children! (over)



Sabrina was already raising her niece when she got the call to take in her two disabled grandsons, including Ace, seen here as a toddler. Your compassion has helped Ace, and the 6 other children now in his home, thrive!

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She adopted her niece 14 years ago. When her grandson Ace was six months old, Sabrina learned that he and his brother, who is also disabled, needed her. She took them in too. She now has four more relative children in her home. Parenting these seven children has become her life's purpose. But **raising young children with special needs and limited resources is a challenge.**

Sabrina explains how HALOS helps, "When I first got [Ace], [HALOS] helped with pull ups, wipes and even a baby bassinet. **They talk to you and get to know you, and you begin to be a family with them.**" She appreciates that her Family Advocate connects her to resources as the children grow and new needs emerge. **"You know with kids sometimes you get a little discouraged, but you keep on pushing. HALOS is about trust, faith, and love."** She gives all seven children the opportunity to pursue their interests, and they are thriving under her care.

Thank you for your kind support of families like Sabrina's. **Your generosity helps children like Ace flourish in safe and nurturing homes with family.**



***Chef Ace, now 8, is thriving!
He pursues his passion for
cooking and recently learned
to walk despite having
cerebral palsy!***

Scan to see and hear Chef Ace and Sabrina talk
about their journey



Chef Ace bakes for his MUSC team



Sabrina talks about HALOS and Ace



YOUR 2023 Impact

680 local kinship families served:

- 1,522 children with 751 caregivers
- 94% of caregivers are women
- 91% of caregivers are single
- 90% at/below 200% of federal poverty line
- 70% of caregivers are age 50+
- 68% of children/caregivers are African American
- 65% of children are under age 11

Families receiving services reported statistically significant* improvement in their access to these resources:



Two meals a day



Money for necessities



Clothing for family



Money for family entertainment



Dependable Transportation



Toys for children



Money to buy things for self



Money for children's supplies/equipment



Child/Day care for children



Dental care



Furniture

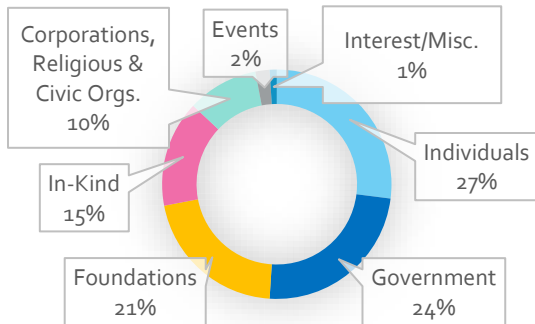


Time and money for travel/vacation

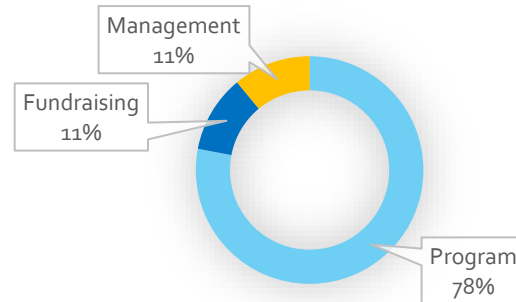
*Using an objective measurement tool called the Family Resource Scale to assess families' access to resources.

Financials for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

Revenue \$1,384,764



Expenses \$1,882,496*



*HALOS received multi-year grants and pledges that were booked as revenue in prior years while associated expenses were booked in the current year. In addition, strategic investments were made from cash on hand to increase infrastructure and capacity to better serve families. HALOS continues to maintain an operating reserve of \$500,000 to ensure financial security.

ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2023:

Beyond **providing critical services to kinship families**, which is the core of our mission, HALOS:

- Celebrated the pioneering leadership provided by outgoing Executive Director, **Kim Clifton**, who first saw the need for kinship services in the state and led the organization to become one of the **premier kinship-focused nonprofits in the country**.
- Hired a new Executive Director, **Jed Dews**, an experienced child welfare professional with a proven track record of success for South Carolina children and families. Jed brought a renewed **emphasis on evidence-based kinship services, state-wide advocacy for caregivers, and effective organizational growth**.
- Entered the second year of a **rigorous research and evaluation** project, which, with the support of The Duke Endowment and the SC Department of Social Services, seeks new insights into the **positive outcomes associated with kinship navigation services**.
- Conducted a successful pilot of an **innovative approach to connecting and supporting new kinship caregivers – mentorship!** Caregivers who opt into this service are matched with an experienced peer who is trained to guide and support kin who have stepped up to care for relative children.
- **Advocated for policies and regulations that create positive systemic change for kinship caregivers in SC**, including providing testimony at the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging and supporting SC's growing momentum to formalize fictive kin status and establish financial assistance for licensed kinship caregivers.