

Minute for Mission for Grandfather Home for Children:

Grandfather Home for Children was founded as an orphanage in 1914 by the Rev. Edgar Tufts, a Presbyterian minister. Our mission has always been to serve children in need. Thus the nature of our work has changed over our nearly 100 year history to respond to changing needs in our society.



Today, Grandfather Home for Children serves children who have survived significant family trauma including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse and extreme neglect. We offer a comprehensive continuum of care that includes residential treatment, education, therapeutic foster care, family foster care, and adoption services. We currently serve 270 children in our various programs.

The residential campus in Banner Elk provides children with a safe environment, loving caretakers, necessary medical and psychological treatment, and a fully accredited North Carolina Charter School with curriculum customized to meet the needs of each individual child. We are also in the process of building the new cottage to provide secure care for and treatment to children who have suffered severe trauma.

Our Community Services Programs care for children with special medical and psychological needs and places them with loving foster families. Most are in custodial care because of unsafe or unsuitable home environments. We provide a broad range of support services for those families who answer the call to become a family for these children. This year our foster family retention rate was 89%, one of the highest in the nation.

Baby Israel is one of our recent success stories. As an infant, he was the victim of severe shaken baby syndrome. Upon discharge from a hospital critical care unit one of our loving foster families agreed to take him despite the need for round-the-clock care and a grim prognosis that said he would never see or even crawl. The foster parents received intensive training in his care and rearranged their work schedules so one parent could always be home with the baby. Now, fourteen months later, Israel is a happy, healthy toddler who is able to see and is crawling! He is our miracle baby! This and all of our success stories are thanks to your support and prayers!

Grandfather Home has facilitated over 120 adoptions in three years. Most of these adoptions have been of older children or adolescents with special needs often overlooked by prospective adoptive families.

The congregations of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, Presbytery of Charlotte, and Salem Presbytery have supported the work of Grandfather Home for Children throughout its history and for this we sincerely thank you. Your partnership is needed to help us continue our essential work, especially in light of dramatic state budget cuts. Please contact us for more information on how you can partner with Grandfather Home to answer God's call to serve "the least" and most vulnerable children among us. Thank you.