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ForKids Receives Bezos Day 1 Families Fund Grant to Help Solve Homelessness ***Day 1 Families Fund grants \$X million to X nonprofits working to help families experiencing homelessness***

Norfolk, VA – November 21, 2020 – [ForKids](#) today announced it has received a \$2.5 million grant from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund to help build and provide expanded services in the nonprofit's *Center for Children and Families*, currently under construction in the community of South Norfolk in Chesapeake, Virginia.

"This is one of those emails you always hope you will get as a nonprofit exec. I am ecstatic for our families, my team and this community," said Thaler McCormick, CEO of ForKids. This grant brings ForKids another step closer to completing a \$25MM Capital Campaign funding two new regional centers and expanded services for the non-profit. "New buildings do not, by themselves, help families stabilize long-term. We have to put services in them and that is what this grant does."

ForKids, which began as a grass roots shelter in the Ocean View neighborhood of Norfolk over 31 years ago, now touches 70,000 individuals a year through its data-informed holistic services, remedial education programs for children and a housing crisis hotline that serves as the service connection hub for 14 urban and rural municipalities across Southeastern Virginia. Over 50% of ForKids' operating budget is funded through community contributions, and ForKids has been working to identify new funding sources to support the new, larger facility. The Bezos Day 1 Families Fund grant will fund shelter construction as well as shelter services, rapid re-housing, and system improvements to the Housing Crisis hotline, allowing ForKids to increase capacity from the first day in its new Center for Children and Families, expected to be complete in early 2021.

ForKids Board Chair, Kelly Sokol, said the ForKids Board celebrates Day 1 recognizing the strength of ForKids and the project in South Norfolk. "So many people in this community have worked incredibly hard to get ForKids to this moment and supported this project. We are proud to bring national funding into Hampton Roads to expand services for families."

"Our hope is that these grants will shine a light on and support these organizations that are working hard to provide assistance to and break the cycle of homelessness for families in communities across the country," said Jeff Bezos. "As experts in their field, we're empowering these organizations to determine how best to deploy the funds to make a real difference for families in need of support."

The Bezos Day One Fund was launched in 2018 with a commitment of \$2 billion and a focus on two areas: funding existing non-profits that help homeless families, and creating a network of new, non-profit tier-one preschools in low-income communities. The Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to

organizations and civic groups doing compassionate, needle-moving work to provide shelter and hunger support to address the immediate needs of young families. The vision statement comes from the inspiring Mary's Place in Seattle: no child sleeps outside. For more information, visit www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund.

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[ForKids, inc.](http://www.forkids.org) is a non-profit agency founded 31 years ago with a mission of breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty for families and children. ForKids has evolved into one of the largest service providers to homeless families in Virginia. ForKids' programs assist over 290 families and 580 children each day, touching the lives of over 70,000 individuals each year. The agency's 100 employees provide housing, education and wrap around services for families experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness. For more information, please visit www.forkids.org, call (757) 622-6400 or follow them on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/for.kids).