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[www.familycornerstones.org](http://www.familycornerstones.org)  
Chrissy Pugh, Executive Director

## Case for Support

Investment = Partnership

*Working together to strengthen our community*



Travis became a father when he was only 16. At 18 he was the father of two young girls. He and the girls' mother lived together but he felt lost and unsure when it came to being a dad. While he was physically present, he only minimally engaged with his daughters and left most of the parenting decisions to their mom...

*...until the family joined Starfish...*

At a home visit today, Travis can be found sitting on the floor with his girls reading books and participating in activities. He is interested in their development and learning about the milestones they should be accomplishing as they grow.

As her daughter approached middle school, Maria felt like she was on an emotional rollercoaster. Maria and her daughter struggled to communicate and rarely saw eye-to-eye. It seemed as though overnight her sweet child became an independent, limit-testing teen. As a single parent, Maria and her daughter both felt isolated and misunderstood...

*...and then they participated in Transitions...*

Maria and her daughter graduated from Transitions and are communicating much better. They both know there will still be struggles as their relationship changes, but they also recognize the importance of maintaining a close relationship and have learned tools and strategies they can use to help them overcome the hurdles.



## Ways to Give

The work of Family Cornerstones can only continue with the help and support of our donors and partners. There are a variety of ways that you can contribute to this vital mission. Please join us to strengthen families for a stronger community!

### • Financial Investment

- Monthly/Annual cash donations
- Sponsor a Starfish Child (\$75/month)
- Become a Medallion Sponsor
- Asset investment into the Endowment

### • Volunteer Investment

- Office Help
- Special Events
- Serve on the Board of Directors
- Display Family Cornerstones brochures and information at your business

*For more information about Sponsorship levels or volunteering please call Chrissy Pugh, Executive Director, 423-559-1112. Donations can be mailed to Family Cornerstones, PO Box 5404, Cleveland, TN 37320 or via credit card at [www.familycornerstones.org](http://www.familycornerstones.org)*

# Evidence of Need:

## ***Kids Count Data for Bradley County (from Annie E. Casey Foundation)***

- 49.3% of children are eligible for Free and Reduced lunch (2015).
- 23.8% of children live in poverty (2015).
- 49.9% of third to eighth graders were below proficient in reading and language skills (2015).
- 44.5% of third to eighth graders were below proficient in math (2015).
- 16.9% of children had chronic absences (2016).
- 40.1% of births were to unmarried females (2015).
- 40% of children did not receive adequate prenatal care (2015).
- 9.4% of teens have STDs (2016).
- 6.6% of children under age 18 were reported victims of child abuse (2016).

## ***Parents as Teachers***

- Nearly 90% of brain development takes place in a child's first five years of life.

## ***National Mentoring Partnership***

- The more risk-factors a child has, the less likely he/she is to informally connect with a positive adult mentor.

## ***University of Nevada***

- 61% of adults believe that young people are facing a crisis with their values and morals and only 20% of youth feel they are valued by the adults in their community.

# Evidence of Outcomes:

## **Starfish**

- 95% of Starfish parents report growth in their parenting skills.
- 100% of Starfish parents report a high level of satisfaction and would recommend Starfish to a friend.
- Parents involved in a *Parents as Teachers* program (like Starfish) read more frequently to their children and are more likely to enroll their children in preschool, both of which are positively linked to school readiness and school achievement (<http://www.parentsasteachers.org/results>).

## **Transitions**

- 90% of Transitions parents report growth in their parenting skills after participating in the program.
- Families who participate in a *Strengthening Families Program* (like Transitions) demonstrate a reduction in youth substance abuse, family violence and anti-social behaviors; as well as an increase in academic success (<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/sfp10-14/research>).

## **ITLT**

- ITLT students completed almost 500 community service hours in the 2016-2017 school year.
- 95% of ITLT students reported growth in their leadership skills after participating in ITLT.
- Youth who volunteer one hour a week or more are 50% less likely to abuse alcohol, smoke, become pregnant or engage in other destructive behaviors (<http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/cd/2003/fs0323.pdf>).

## **BTG**

- At-risk youth paired with a mentor are more likely to aspire to attend and later enroll in college, participate in extracurricular activities, take on leadership roles in school and volunteer in their communities ([www.mentoring.org/program-resources/mentor-resources-and-publications/the-mentoring-effect/](http://www.mentoring.org/program-resources/mentor-resources-and-publications/the-mentoring-effect/)).