



The Board of Child Care
**ALTERNATIVES FOR
YOUTH AND FAMILIES
PROGRAM**

*Hope for the future,
power in the present.*



BOARD OF CHILD CARE
of The United Methodist Church, Inc.



Hope for the future, power in the present.

The Board of Child Care offers a unique continuum of services for children and families in Southern Maryland through the Alternatives for Youth and Families (AFYF) program. As a part of the Board of Child Care, AFYF offers Treatment Foster Care, Therapeutic Group Homes and Independent Living services for youth with individualized needs. These programs are licensed under the Maryland Department of Human Resources, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services.

Before becoming a part of the Board of Child Care, AFYF served Southern Maryland for more than 35 years. In August 2010, the Board of Child Care (BCC) acquired the program, providing leadership and resources for AFYF to enhance and grow its services and widen its relationship with the community and referring agencies. AFYF has retained its name and continues to primarily serve children in St. Mary's, Charles and Calvert counties, but also takes referrals from Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties, the Eastern Shore and the entire state of Maryland.

Treatment Foster Care

BCC's Treatment Foster Care (TFC) program in Southern Maryland through AFYF is a therapeutic, community-based service for children, ages 2 to 21, who need added supports for their growth and development within a nurturing family setting. The TFC program places children

with emotional, behavioral, or psychological conditions, or who are in need of high-level treatment. The program also places sibling groups if at least one child meets these criteria.

BCC staff provides 24-hour support for the youth, treatment foster parents and



respite foster parents, including emergency foster home placement for youth as an alternative to placement in hospitals, institutions or group shelters. For the child, social workers/case managers work with his or her family and other treatment team members to develop an individualized program that focuses on the child's strengths and addresses barriers to his or her reunification with family. For foster parents and respite foster parents, BCC provides ongoing training to educate them about creative and effective methods for engaging and managing the children in their care.

Together, BCC staff, treatment foster parents and the youth work toward the goal of permanency, either through reunification, guardianship, independent living or adoption.

Therapeutic Group Homes

BCC's Therapeutic Group Homes in Southern Maryland through AFYF offer caring, structured, community-based homes

designed to help youth cope with their circumstances and learn life skills. A full range of clinical and residential services help youth overcome severe behavioral and emotional issues at home, school or elsewhere in the community, while connecting them firmly with supportive resources.



The Lighthouse Group Home in Waldorf, Md., houses up to six girls ages 12 to 17. The TRIAD Home in Prince Frederick, Md., houses up to eight boys ages 12 to 17. Both homes offer:

- individual, group and family therapy,
- psychiatric evaluation and medication management,
- outpatient substance abuse treatment,

- educational, vocational and employment support, and
- recreational opportunities.

Youth who successfully complete the program receive an aftercare plan for a smooth transition to a less restrictive environment, such as their biological family, a therapeutic foster home, or an independent living setting.

Independent Living

BCC's Independent Living Program

serves males and females, ages 17-21, who reside with a roommate in apartments located in St. Mary's County, Maryland.

Independent Living Program staff provides on-site, round-the-clock support with independent living skills training, individual therapy and psychiatric care. The youth are required to pursue educational goals, maintain employment and participate in independent living skills groups.

The following are examples of the services and resources provided to the youth in the program:

- A licensed social worker and a case manager provide case management and psychosocial education.
- Psychiatric evaluation and medication management.
- On-site independent living skills classes.
- Monthly bus passes, monthly stipends for food costs, and fully furnished apartments with basic utilities (electric, water, home phone).

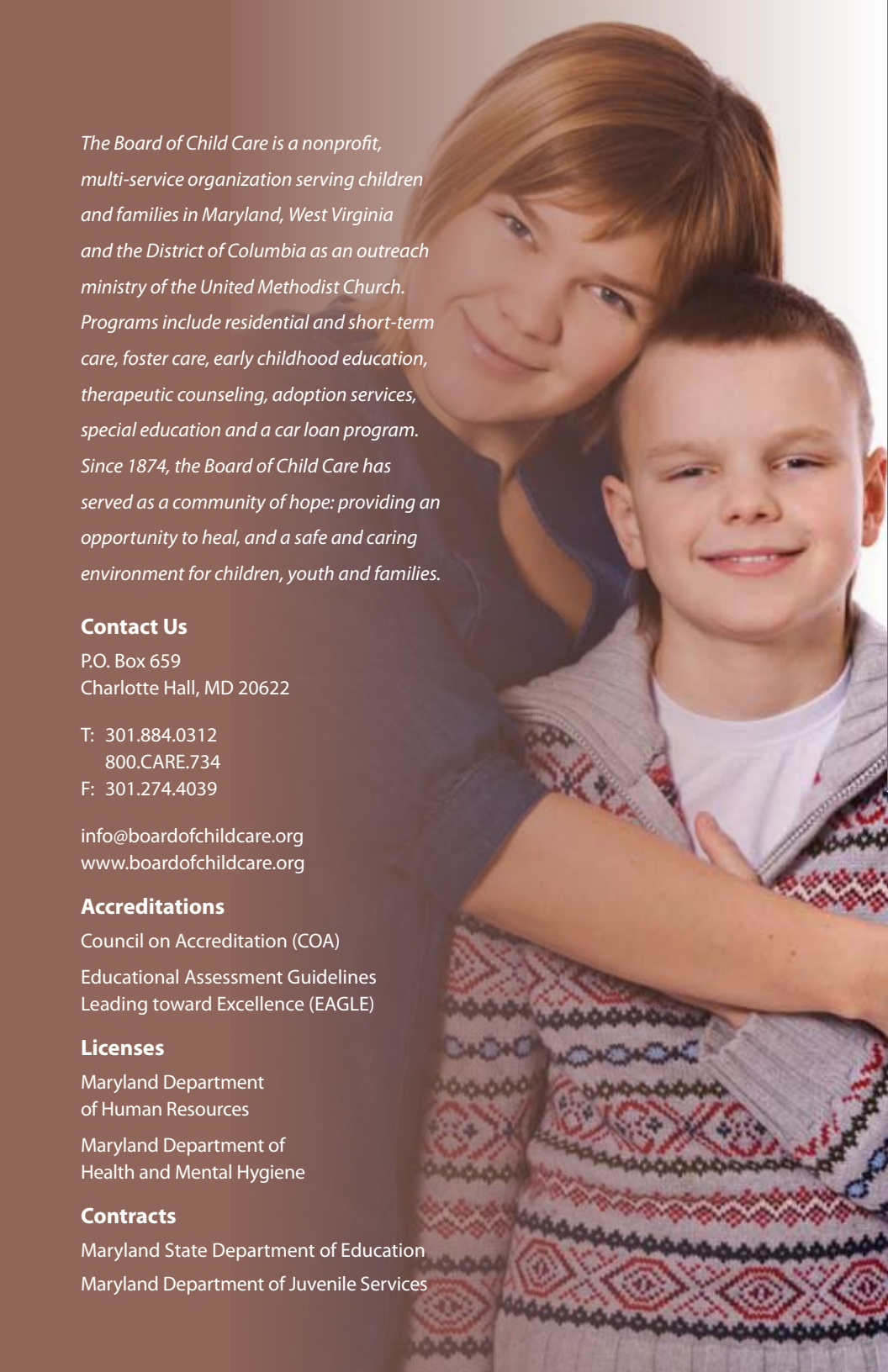
To be eligible for the program, youth must have the following:

- Near completion of high school education (12th grade), or pursuing their GED or college education.
- Some measure of success in other placements, interest and motivation to pursue future goals and the ability to function in a community setting.
- Commitment to learning to live successfully on their own and a desire to develop a positive adult identity.
- Psychiatric and medical stability and free of substance abuse or a willingness to enroll and participate in a substance abuse treatment program.

Referral Process

Referrals to the Board of Child Care's Alternatives for Youth and Families program can be made by calling 410.922.2100, or faxing 410.922.4830 or 301.274.4039.





The Board of Child Care is a nonprofit, multi-service organization serving children and families in Maryland, West Virginia and the District of Columbia as an outreach ministry of the United Methodist Church. Programs include residential and short-term care, foster care, early childhood education, therapeutic counseling, adoption services, special education and a car loan program. Since 1874, the Board of Child Care has served as a community of hope: providing an opportunity to heal, and a safe and caring environment for children, youth and families.

Contact Us

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Accreditations

Council on Accreditation (COA)
Educational Assessment Guidelines
Leading toward Excellence (EAGLE)

Licenses

Maryland Department
of Human Resources
Maryland Department of
Health and Mental Hygiene

Contracts

Maryland State Department of Education
Maryland Department of Juvenile Services



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