Our mission is to create relational environments that evoke peace and purpose in self and others.
DEAR FRIENDS,

Thank you for taking the time to review our 2019 annual report. Goshen Valley is evolving. In the process we have scaled our ministry to reach the needs of children and families at the root cause. In doing so we have also diversified our service offerings and broadened our expertise in the areas specific to child welfare while maintaining our high standards. I am excited to share where our journey has taken Goshen in 2019, as well as where we see 2020 heading. In 2019:

- Goshen Valley successfully licensed 17 new foster homes focused on serving the needs of sibling groups
- Goshen Valley successfully opened the Goshen Therapeutic Services program, focused on serving the needs of children and families preventively
- Goshen Valley completed construction of the Goshen Community Wellness Center (The Well), established to provide a year-round facility focused on education, counseling and physical activity at the Goshen Valley Boys Ranch
- 9 Goshen Valley youth graduated from high school
- Goshen Valley privately raised over $2,000,000

Within this annual report, each of our programs will share further specifics on what happened in 2019 as well as a bit about where we are headed in 2020. As a whole, I am pleased to say that Goshen has a newfound emphasis on “team” in 2020. In past years I have personally emphasized organizational aspects like census, spend, safety, and scale. These will remain priorities to ensure that Goshen stays strong going forward, but we will also place an added emphasis on team: communication, motivation, expertise, and allocation. Healthy teams will lead to stronger morale, a more defined culture, higher retention, and, above all, better outcomes for the children, youth and families who we serve.

As Goshen grows, so does our need for partners to come alongside our mission. For Goshen to succeed in providing life-changing outcomes in the years ahead, we will need many of you to join our team. Foster parents, contractors, residential staff, companies employing our youth, donors, and more will all be needed as our team grows. We are thankful for those of you who have made our work to date possible, and we are excited to welcome more of you and your networks to our team in the coming future.

WITH PEACE & PURPOSE,

ZACH BLEND
GOSHEN VALLEY FOUNDATION, CEO
WE CARED FOR ~ 89 KIDS PER DAY

PROVIDED 32,331 INDIVIDUAL NIGHTS OF CARE

LATEST AUDIT SCORES

BASED ON A 100 POINT SCALE WITH UP TO 10 EXTRA CREDIT POINTS

GEORGIA AVERAGE FOR SIMILAR AGENCIES 87
OUR SCORE 106.7

BOYS RANCH 104.7
NEW BEGINNINGS 103.4
GOSHEN HOMES

SCORES INDICATE THAT KIDS IN CARE AT GOSHEN ARE EXPERIENCING EXCELLENT OUTCOMES IN PERMANENCY, SAFETY, AND WELLBEING.

WE CARE FOR YOUTH OF ALL AGES THROUGH OUR PROGRAMMING.

13% 15% 27% 41% 4%
27 KIDS AGES 0-4 31 KIDS AGES 5-9 56 YOUTH AGES 10-14 88 YOUTH AGES 15-19 8 YOUTH AGES 20-21
“NO MATTER WHERE I’VE GONE IN LIFE, ALL OVER THE STATE OF GEORGIA, ALL OVER EUROPE, ALL OVER THE PACIFIC, GOSHEN HAS BEEN FAMILY.”

WADE HEMBREE
In 2019 we started and completed construction of The Well! This building now serves as the center for physical, therapeutic, and educational wellness for the boys who live at The Ranch.
WITH THANKS TO OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS WHO PLAYED A SPECIAL ROLE IN THE WELL. THESE GENEROUS DONORS AND PARTNERS CONTRIBUTED $1,000 OR MORE TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WELL

**INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES**
- Dorothy Beasley
- The Blend Family
- The Coker Family
- The Freudenstein Family
- The Hermann Family
- Dr. Sharon Hill
- The Looney Family
- The Lieberman Family
- The Lindh Family
- The MacConnell Family
- Dr. Kina Mallard
- The Maxwell Family
- The McArthur Family
- The McDonnell Family
- The McGaffigan Family
- The Miller Family
- The Powell Family
- The Rosser Family
- The Sween Family
- The Williams Family

**BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS**
- Cherokee Impact Soccer
- Chick-Fil-A Canton
- Drennan Group Real Estate Services
- Engineered Earth Solutions
- Hillside UMC
- Latimer Construction
- North Point Ministries
- Northside Auxiliary
- Northside Hospital Cherokee
- Mark Robillard Architects
- South State Bank
- Southeast Restoration Group
- Universal Alloy Corporation
- Woodstock City Church
- YMCA of Metropolitan Atlanta, INC
- Zurn Plumbing

**FOUNDATIONS**
- Anonymous Friend of Goshen Valley
- Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
- Coker Family Charities Fund
- Joe L. & Hester M. Sims Family Foundation Inc.
- Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation
- The Martha and Wilton Looney Foundation
- Mary Allen Lindsey Branan Foundation
- Resurgens Charitable Foundation
- Tull Charitable Foundation, Inc
- The Waterfall Foundation, Inc.
Goshen Therapeutic Services

ENSURING EVERY CHILD HAS A HEALTHY FOREVER FAMILY

We are excited to announce that Goshen Valley Foundation launched our 4th program in 2019: Goshen Therapeutic Services.

Goshen Therapeutic Services was created to meet the needs of at-risk families. We exist to restore fractured families through a comprehensive therapeutic approach.

Goshen has become well known for creating positive outcomes for foster youth. We are now able to expand our reach and focus on families at-risk of experiencing a foster care placement, or those working to have their children return home. Our therapeutic team is specialized in walking alongside families as they navigate difficulties. We work with them towards a place of restoration and recovery. Thus far we have been able to hire therapeutic staff including therapists, psychologists, social workers, family support specialists, behavioral aides, transporters and drug screen collectors.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS

We were awarded 7 contracts from Department of Human Services. These contracts include Drug Screening, PUP, Parent Aide, Early Intervention, WRAP, Homestead and CCFA.

These contracts allow us to provide much needed services to families in our community. Services include parent aide and coaching, drug testing, counseling, clinical assessments, psychological evaluations, parental fitness evaluations, behavioral aide, supervised visitation, in-home case management, crisis intervention and transportation.

STATS

We have been proud of our therapeutic team as they have delivered services in a deeply caring and respectful manner.

In 2019 we were able to serve 143 families. We look forward to further growth as we build out our therapeutic team.
How we serve fractured families through Goshen Therapeutic Services

**PARENTAL GUIDANCE**
Parent Coaching/Teaching
Parent Aide: Individual sessions
Group Parenting Classes

**DRUG SCREENING**
Urine, Hair, Saliva testing

**EARLY INTERVENTION**
Parent Education
Behavioral Aide

**WRAPAROUND SERVICES**
Transportation
Crisis Intervention
(Counseling)
In-Home Case Management
Family Team Meetings

**PREVENTION OF UN NECESSARY PLACEMENT**
Counseling: Individual, Group or Family
Domestic Violence Assessments
Parental Fitness Assessments
Substance Abuse Assessments
Trauma Assessments

Behavioral Aide
Supervised Visitation
Home Intensive Clinical Therapeutic Services

Bonding/Attachment Assessments
Psychological Evaluations
Neuropsychological Evaluations
Individual Counseling Sessions
Behavioral Aide
In 2019 Goshen Homes achieved major milestones by licensing more families and serving more children in one year than ever before. A total of 17 new foster families were licensed and 62 children were placed within our agency. While most of our sibling groups range from 2 to 4 children, one of our families welcomed a sibling group of 11 children into their home! As a fostering agency, we work alongside DFCS in supporting case plans of reunification. In 2019 we were able to assist 28 children returning home to their biological families! There were also 7 children that were able to achieve permanency in their foster home through adoption or permanent guardianship.

MEET THE EBNERS

The Ebners began their fostering journey with Goshen Homes in June 2016. The couple struggled with infertility and felt that God used that as a catalyst for them to open their home to foster children. John’s aunt, who recently passed away in February 2020, was an inspiration to the Ebner family as she fostered children in her home for 15 years.

The Ebners received their first placement of two girls the very same day they were licensed. The Ebners began transitional visits with the children in July, and they were officially placed in their home in October 2016. In May 2018, the Ebners accepted placement of a third sibling that came to live with them after spending the first four weeks of her life in the hospital. The Ebners cared for the sibling group of three until they reunified with their biological family in July 2019.

In September 2019, the Ebners served as an emergency placement for four children from a group of six siblings. These children remained in the Ebners home for six weeks until they were able to be placed in another foster home with their other two siblings. A week after their discharge, the Ebners began transitional visits for their current placement, who they plan to officially adopt in the summer of 2020.

The Ebners stated that they could not have made it this far without the support of their family and friends. Melissa noted that fostering really is a group effort, and the highs and lows of the adventure are felt by all involved. As with anything in life, this chapter of their lives had its challenges, but the Ebners couldn’t be happier that they weathered those storms and have such an exciting outcome on their horizon.

In under four years, the Ebners have served a total of ten children in their home. Ten children’s lives have been touched by this family all because they decided to respond to their calling and say “yes” to fostering.
“Fostering changed our family for the better.”

- MELISSA EBNER
Goshen Valley Boys Ranch

GOSHEN VALLEY BOYS RANCH IS DOUBLING DOWN ON THE FAMILY MODEL. WHILE MANY YOUNG MEN ARE GROWING UP IN ENVIRONMENTS FULL OF REGULATIONS AND RED TAPE, ENVIRONMENTS THAT FOCUS MAINLY ON MANAGING BEHAVIORS, THE RANCH STANDS APART DUE TO PRIORITIZING CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT AND THE FAMILY MODEL.

This approach allows us to balance best practices in mental health and individual growth with a normal life full of play, affection, and family. One way we moved towards this in 2019 was with a return to having seven youth in each home. This allows each of our boys to receive more individual attention, and each home to feel more like a family.

Over Christmas, we witnessed a beautiful picture of what the family model means to our youth. Many young men who formerly lived at Goshen Valley Boys Ranch came back to visit peers, houseparents, and staff. They talked about how Goshen was home for them and how much they appreciated looking back on the piece of their childhood spent here.

IT WAS A POWERFUL REMINDER THAT GOSHEN IS SOMETHING MORE THAN A PLACE FOR A CHILD TO LAY HIS HEAD AT NIGHT; WE ARE MANY OF OUR KIDS’ GREATEST SOURCE OF CHILDHOOD MEMORIES.

In our boys’ lives, they can look back on many difficult memories that most of us cannot even imagine. They have often witnessed and/or survived violence, drug use, and abuse. They have all experienced being removed from their families and placed in a strange place with strange people and new expectations. To listen to the boys who visited talking about playing basketball and kayaking and eating “Ms. Gwen’s delicious cooking” was a reminder of what an honor it is to fill their memory banks with something new. We get to fill it with “brothers,” some of whom they will be bonded with for life, with houseparents that they can still call for advice or come to for a homecooked meal, and with positive, exciting activities including church and recreation that teach them there are healthy ways to have fun. What an honor!

We were able to expand our capacity for positive memory-making and physical health in 2019 due to the addition of our new Wellness Center. In this space we have a beautiful basketball court, a family visitation area, a space for tutoring and family counseling, a large training room for our staff, and a medical office. This multi-use space has transformed our ability to provide these services for our boys, their families, and our staff. We are so grateful to the community for their generosity. Thanks to our partners, this space was completed 100 percent debt-free!

As we say hello to 2020, we look forward to continuing to pursue our ultimate goal of providing a space of peace and purpose and pointing our boys to the abundant life for which they were made!
Q&A with Houseparents Gwen and Willie

Q: WHY DID YOU BECOME HOUSEPARENTS?
A: We saw a need and a door opened that allowed us to do what had been in our heart all along. We love working with disadvantaged young people.

Q: WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF HOUSEPARENTING?
A: Seeing the child transform while here. There is a gap in preparing kids for the world—we get to fill that gap with kindness, grace, mercy, structure and understanding.

Q: WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF HOUSEPARENTING?
A: Finding a balance between your family and the boys. You have to keep your marriage and your relationships with your biological family healthy while also being very invested in the boys.

Q: WHAT WAS MOST UNEXPECTED OR SURPRISING?
A: I immediately LOVED houseparenting. I was in 7th heaven. I invested all my time in the boys and loved every minute of it. However, I soon realized that I got on the roller coaster, but forgot my partner. She was trying to find her place in the house with the boys and I was telling her to come over instead of taking her hand, supporting her, and leading her there.
A: The depth of relationships we have with kids. We have made lifelong connections with children we worked with many years ago.

Q: WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU HAVE FOR SOMEONE CONSIDERING HOUSEPARENTING AT GOSHEN?
A: You must BOTH desire to do this work. It is not babysitting. You will be challenged and stressed beyond what you can imagine, but the joy of the Lord can be your strength. It is a labor, but if you know WHO is driving you, you can be used by God and find such purpose in the work.
Goshen New Beginnings

At Goshen New Beginnings (GNB) our mission is to help youth achieve lifelong thriving independence. We work with young men and women age 18-21 who have not been adopted or reunified with family and who decide to remain in foster care. We focus on the core areas of education support, employment assistance, and life skills as development areas for our youth.

Out of the many goals of this program, two that stand out are ensuring that youth graduate high school and equipping young adults to have a healthier family in the future than the one they were raised with. 2019 presented excellent examples of both of these goals.

A high school diploma is one of the biggest indicators of future success for a youth in foster care. Unfortunately, around 50% of youth who turn 18 in the foster care system never achieve this milestone. GNB is happy to report that in 2019 all 9 of our eligible youth graduated high school! We are incredibly thankful for the teachers, tutors, life coaches, and all who invested their time and effort into guiding these 9 youth towards a brighter future, and we are so proud of these graduates’ achievements!

We are also so proud of a young man in our program who is breaking the cycle and ensuring that his children grow up with a stronger family than the one he had in his childhood. Dylan came to Goshen in March 2017 and moved to GNB that same December. When he moved to GNB, he made the decision to move into an apartment in order to do life with his now wife Christen and their son, Landyn. Over the past two years, we have seen Dylan learn how to manage his apartment, finances and maintain a full-time job all while being a great dad and husband. Dylan has worked in the landscaping field and is currently employed with the Mountain High Mulch Company in Marietta, GA.

In 2019 Dylan and Christen made the decision to take their relationship to the next level and got married. They also welcomed their second son in early February of 2020. Dylan loves to spend time with his boys and wife and looks forward to one day buying a home of their own. We are confident that these two boys will grow up knowing the love of their father, and we are so proud of the man that Dylan has become!
Our 2019 Graduates

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: SEAN, WILLIAM, JASHA, DARRELL, EMILY, CHRIS, CHRIS, AND ROBERT
TOTAL INCOME
$7,184,574

69%

Program Per Diem Reimbursements

$4,942,905

17%

Fundraising: Operational

- Program Grants: $273,066
- Goshen Valley Classic: $179,965
- Unrestricted Donations: $746,638

14%

Fundraising: Capital

$1,042,000

These donations, combined with funding secured in 2018, were used to build the Goshen Community Wellness Center debt-free!
You likely know that we receive funds from Georgia for each child who is with us, but donors like you allow us to go above and beyond for the youth we serve. In 2019, our above and beyond cost of care per child was: $184 per child per day & $13,447 per child per year.

Goshen Valley values transparency. We believe that by investing in Goshen Valley, you have a right to know how your money is being used. While every non-profit has administration and development expenses, we are pleased to report that our numbers are below the industry standard 25%. This means more of your donation is going directly into our program services, ensuring that our kids are given every opportunity for a brighter future.
With thanks to our donors and partners

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Celebration of Grace Lutheran Church
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Woodstock Furniture Outlet
YMCA of Metropolitan Atlanta, INC
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Our Board of Trustees

JOHN W. BLEND III, FOUNDER AND BOARD CHAIR

John W. Blend, III is founder and chair of the Goshen Valley Foundation. John began his career at IBM, then moved on to building technology companies, while serving on numerous public and private Boards of Directors. John is a past president and chair of Together Georgia, a statewide association of over 100 leading national and local child welfare providers. John is a past Trustee at Muhlenberg College and serves as a Lifetime Council member at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.

PETER MCGAFFIGAN, VICE CHAIR

Peter is a Managing Director at Wells Fargo and brings a wealth of knowledge and insight to the day-to-day operations of Goshen Valley as well as the financial support needed to create best outcomes. Peter received his BA in economics from Lawrence University and his M.B.A. with a focus in finance from Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management. As a father of teenagers, Peter has had a commitment to helping other teenagers in need for a number of years.

PAUL FREUDENSTEIN, FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

For 33 years Paul worked as a teacher for the Fulton County School System. After retirement Paul worked for Redeemer Lutheran Church as Director of Operations. Paul desired to continue impacting the lives of young people and made a commitment to serve Goshen Valley through his various skills including volunteer and facilities management.

ALLISON SMITH, CORPORATE SECRETARY

Allison is a Client Engagement Manager for Aderant Technologies and has worked in the Information Technology and Financial Services industries for more than 26 years. Allison has a Bachelor’s of Science in Mathematics and a Minor in Economics from Colorado State and a Master of Business Administration and Management of Technology from Georgia Tech. Allison brings her business experience as well as her passion for helping the hurting to Goshen Valley.

PAUL HERMANN, OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Paul Hermann has a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of California and a degree in law from Harvard Law School. Paul has practiced law for 47 years with various firms and currently owns his own private practice. Paul has a keen eye for risk management, policy and procedure, and general legal matters. His unique professional abilities, combined with his passion for supporting those in need, have aided Goshen Valley in better navigating the legal system.

WITH THANKS TO

Our Goshen Community Council

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DON MCDONNELL, DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Don McDonnell is a 25 year energy technology entrepreneur who presently serves as the Head of Worldwide Power & Utilities markets for Amazon Web Services. Don holds an M.B.A. from Georgia State University. He previously served as a US Navy lieutenant and also served as a member of the board of stewards of Roswell UMC. While Don’s passion for Goshen took root back in the late 90’s, in 2006 he helped organize and launch the first annual Goshen Valley Classic, which is now in its 15th year.

RICHARD KENNEDY, OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Richard Kennedy is a power industry executive and professor at Kennesaw State University. He is a leader in the community and at his church, First Baptist Church of Woodstock. Richard has been invested at Goshen Valley since 2010 when he led his church in a 3-day, 300 person service event. Richard works in the power industry and serves as a mentor for many people in the community.

DR. SHARON HILL, OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Dr. Hill is a Clinical Associate Professor at the Andrew Young School of Policy at Georgia State University. She has her Ph.D. in Public and Urban Administration. Dr. Hill has served as the Director of the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) for the state of Georgia. Since the summer of 2016 Dr. Hill has brought a group of the Mandela Washington Fellows- Young African Leaders Initiative to visit Goshen Valley and learn about private/public partnership and non-profit management. She joined the Board in 2017 and has guided Goshen in matters relating to policy and data collection.

CHASE CHITWOOD, OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

An alumnus of Goshen Valley, Chase has a BA in Business Administration from Reinhardt University. Chase is a Lance Corporal in the United States Marine Corps and works for Universal Alloy Corporation in the HR department. Chase has served as a foster care advocate within MAAC (Multi-Agency Alliance for Children) and hopes to improve outcomes for youth in foster care through mentoring relationships and his role on the Board of Trustees.

MELISSA LINDH, OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Melissa is the CFO of Universal Alloy Corporation (UAC) and has been a part of their team since 2011. Melissa began volunteering for Goshen Valley in 2014 when UAC became a strategic community partner. Guided by a great compassion for intervening early in the lives of kids from hard places, Melissa mentors youth and alumni employed at UAC and serves Goshen Valley in various areas including finance and strategic management.

JOHN ZACHARY BLEND, CEO, EX-OFFicio

Zach has served as CEO of the Goshen Valley Foundation since 2016. Zach earned his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Rollins College, a Graduate Certificate from Fuller Seminary and his M.B.A. from Reinhardt University. Zach serves on the Board of the Cherokee County Educational Foundation, Cherokee County YMCA and Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce. Zach also acts as an Adjunct Professor within the McCamish School of Business at Reinhardt University. Zach was named to the Georgia Trend Magazine Top 40 Under 40 in 2015.

CHASE CHITWOOD, OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

An alumnus of Goshen Valley, Chase has a BA in Business Administration from Reinhardt University. Chase is a Lance Corporal in the United States Marine Corps and works for Universal Alloy Corporation in the HR department. Chase has served as a foster care advocate within MAAC (Multi-Agency Alliance for Children) and hopes to improve outcomes for youth in foster care through mentoring relationships and his role on the Board of Trustees.

MELISSA LINDH, OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Melissa is the CFO of Universal Alloy Corporation (UAC) and has been a part of their team since 2011. Melissa began volunteering for Goshen Valley in 2014 when UAC became a strategic community partner. Guided by a great compassion for intervening early in the lives of kids from hard places, Melissa mentors youth and alumni employed at UAC and serves Goshen Valley in various areas including finance and strategic management.

JOHN ZACHARY BLEND, CEO, EX-OFFicio

Zach has served as CEO of the Goshen Valley Foundation since 2016. Zach earned his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Rollins College, a Graduate Certificate from Fuller Seminary and his M.B.A. from Reinhardt University. Zach serves on the Board of the Cherokee County Educational Foundation, Cherokee County YMCA and Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce. Zach also acts as an Adjunct Professor within the McCamish School of Business at Reinhardt University. Zach was named to the Georgia Trend Magazine Top 40 Under 40 in 2015.

GARRETT HOLCOMBE, HORIZON PLANNING GROUP & ADOPTIVE GOSHEN HOMES PARENT

SHEILA KEEFFE, HIS HANDS CHURCH

HEATH MATIACK, MATIACK FOUNDATION

TOMMY PINYAN, MAJOR AT CHEROKEE COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

CHRIS SIZEMORE, ROYTEC INDUSTRIES

ROBERT TIDWELL, TIDWELL STRIMBAN PERSONAL INJURY LAW

BRIAN VANDINE, QUINTUS CORPORATION

BRIAN VENABLE, DEPUTY SHERIFF AT CHEROKEE COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE

AARON VINCENT, VINCENT FINANCIAL GROUP

NATHAN WEATHERS, ECONORIDES SHUTTLE SERVICES
“As Miss Georgia 2019, I have traveled all across the state of Georgia supporting and encouraging all to meet the needs of precious children experiencing foster care. I have been so impressed by the absolutely unbelievable work that many agencies are doing as they serve children in Georgia. Goshen Valley is by far one of the most unbelievable organizations with an awe-inspiring mission of providing PEACE and PURPOSE to youth in foster care. Not only do they love the child with a holistic approach, they are also now able to provide licensed, therapeutic services to the families of foster youth. Would you please consider fostering with Goshen Valley or donating to this most worthy and amazing organization? I wholeheartedly endorse Goshen Valley and ask you to consider supporting their great mission of providing Peace and Purpose.”

VICTORIA HILL, MISS GEORGIA 2019 AND FIRST RUNNER-UP MISS AMERICA 2019
Ways to Partner with Goshen

**GIVE**
On top of what we receive from the state, it costs Goshen $13,447 per child to provide a year’s worth of support and services. With over 90 youth in our care, your donation ensures that more youth will experience the peace and purpose that abound at Goshen.

**SERVE**
Goshen hosts over 2,500 volunteers each year through service days. Bring your family, small group, or business for a day of landscaping, light construction, and other tasks that make our kids feel at home.

**LOVE**
If you have a little extra room in your heart and your home, the biggest need for vulnerable youth in this community is a loving family. Whether you are able to occasionally babysit, take on a part-time respite fostering role, or become a full-fledged foster family, there is a place at Goshen Homes for you.

LEARN MORE AT GOSHENVALLY.ORG/DONATE
LEARN MORE AT GOSHENVALLY.ORG/SERVE
LEARN MORE AT GOSHENVALLY.ORG/HOMES