

A FAMILY EXTENDER

Once a week, **Sandra Barnhill** (B.S. '81), founder and national president of Foreverfamily Inc., joins three dozen children and volunteers for a home-cooked, family-style dinner. They congregate in Foreverfamily Atlanta's multipurpose community room, which bears the name of the late Asa Hilliard, one of Barnhill's mentors from her undergraduate political science studies at GSU.

Foreverfamily is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving children of incarcerated parents by providing counseling, tutoring, transportation and a network of support, reinforced by family meals like these.

Barnhill discovered her calling as a young attorney in Atlanta working on class-action lawsuits against prisons to improve conditions. The female prisoners she met told her that, more than anything else, they were worried about their kids on the outside. Barnhill left the legal profession in 1987 to carve out her new career.

"I decided, 'OK, who I want to be in the world is a woman who takes seriously the issues of justice and fairness,'" Barnhill says. "[Foreverfamily] got birthed because I was interested in women's empowerment and children's well-being."

In 2007, the organization expanded its mission of support to include incarcerated fathers and their kids. Now in its 25th year, Foreverfamily is in Atlanta, Louisville, Ky., and Austin, Texas.

"As an agency we have an important role in helping to shape society, policy and also to influence people," Barnhill says. "When I talk about who we are, we're not an agency that just helps children with parents in prison. We're a youth development organization."

When she isn't raising money or awareness for Foreverfamily, Barnhill is working on a book on for young leaders, to be released later this year. She's also planning the Foreverfamily Homecoming for this fall to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

Georgia State has been important to Foreverfamily since its inception. Professors from Barnhill's undergraduate years, like Hilliard, have served not only as inspirations, but as board members and advisors. Current women's studies professor Layli Phillips Maparyan chairs Foreverfamily's research committee, and the board chair and half of the Foreverfamily staff are students or alumni of GSU.

Barnhill hopes that as children in Foreverfamily Atlanta interact with volunteers from GSU's School of Social Work, College of Education or Department of African-American Studies, where Barnhill will establish a research fellowship, they will see both college and GSU as a natural home. "I'm hoping I'm going to be part of a pipeline to Georgia State for our students," she says.

As Barnhill joins the board of visitors for the College of Arts & Sciences this year, she wants to be a resource for emerging leaders on campus. "I'm impressed with the strategic plan and very much see myself and my organization as a part of carrying that out," Barnhill says. "I'm very excited to be a part of helping Georgia State move into the future."



Steve Thackston/Staff

BY KATHLEEN POE ROSS

2000s

Stacey Sinclair (B.S.W. '01) was recently appointed to clinical liaison for the Southern Crescent Hospital for Specialty Care in Riverdale, Ga.

Charles Sterne (M.S.W. '07) was recently promoted to director of basic needs for the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, where he had previously served as investments manager.

Rachel Tobin (M.A. '07), a former reporter for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and the recent president of the Atlanta Press Club, joined Jackson Spalding's communications team in December.

Delores Varner (M.S.W. '01) has been promoted to a children and families program specialist for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Atlanta, where she has been 20 years.

2010s

Robert Hay Jr. (M.P.A. '10) recently accepted the position of chief administrative officer for the Hi-Hope Service Center, a nonprofit organization that serves adults with developmental disabilities located in Lawrenceville, Ga.

Maurice Jackson (B.A. '11) is the founder and president of The Jackson Consulting Group in Decatur, Ga. His firm specializes in strategy mentoring, research and analysis, strategic planning and education consulting.

Timothy Libby (M.P.A. '11) was recently promoted to project manager at the Atlanta Housing Authority where he has worked for five years.

Erin A. Marsh (M.S. '11) is in the Ph.D. program in Criminology and criminal justice at Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. She presented two papers at the Southern Criminal Justice Association Conference in Nashville, Tenn. She is also scheduled to present at the American Criminal Justice Services conference in New York.

Wanda Rainey-Reed (M.S.W. '10) was named vice president of operations at CaringWorks, Inc., a nonprofit social service agency that supports residents of affordable housing properties in Atlanta. The organization has been featured on "TBS STORYline."

Anna Tam (M.S.W. '11) has been appointed to program coordinator for the Center for Pan Asian Community Services in Chamblee, Ga.

Randall Wynne (B.S. '10), a Professional MBA candidate through the J. Mack Robinson College of Business, is a revenue analyst for TriBridge Residential, LLC, a full-service multi-family real estate operating platform in investment, management and development that is headquartered in Atlanta.