

# Annual Report 2017/2018



**faison  
center**

*Pioneering Possibility*  
for individuals with autism and their families since 1999



Dear Faison Friends,

"How much longer are you going to talk?" This was an innocent question one of our students posed to a government official on a recent trip to the state Capitol. It may not have been the most polite question to ask, but it certainly was the question everyone in the room (myself included) was thinking. Nervous laughter echoed in the room. The question, though, had its intended effect as the speaker quickly concluded her remarks.

While this story is humorous, the question is powerful. We have all experienced a situation, whether in our personal or professional life, in which we get to a point when it is time to stop talking and to start doing. The Faison Center prides itself on moving from words to actions. We do not just talk, we bring ideas to life. Just this past year, we opened a new building so that we could serve an additional 60 students, we opened the Peninsula School in Newport News as we expand our services, we broke ground on a new Community Center and we created a unique and innovative early education program with a local pre-school. These are just a few examples of the progress we are making at The Faison Center so that we can continue to provide excellent services to more children and adults with autism throughout the Commonwealth.

We look forward to celebrating our 20th anniversary this year as we create and implement several more projects and programs. There will be multiple opportunities for you to join us in this celebration. If you have not visited our campus recently, please do so. Come by for a tour of our new facilities, visit our programs, see our plans for the future and, most importantly, meet the children and adults who we are fortunate to serve every day. For those of you reading this and saying to yourself "I keep talking about coming to see Faison," I refer you to the question above. I hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Brian McCann".

W. Brian McCann  
President & CEO





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Cover photo: Life Skills student on field trip at Bryan Park



*In 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new data on the prevalence of autism in the United States. This surveillance study identified 1 in 59 children (1 in 37 boys and 1 in 151 girls) as having autism spectrum disorder (ASD).*

## Community Access Training Program Driving Simulator.



Recognizing the barriers that prevent many with autism from ever getting to practice behind the wheel led Faison, with the support of Smithfield Foods, to acquire a state-of-the-art driving simulator and launch the Community Access Training program.

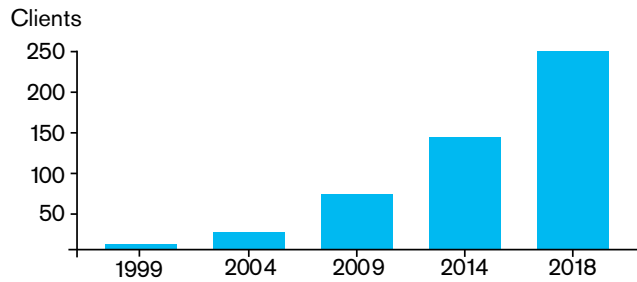
"It's awesome," Matthew B., a program participant, explained, "It has taught me what to expect when I'm actually on the road." Already, dozens have entered the driving program which builds skills from the bottom up with the goal of each participant being qualified to receive a Virginia Learner's Driving Permit and be better prepared to practice driving.

Adam Warman, Vice President of Program Development, has plans to expand the Community Access Training program beyond driving. "There are tons of ways we can train our clients to access the community. Along with driving, there's using the bus, taking an Uber, even flying. Greater access increases vocational opportunities, economic mobility, socialization, and community involvement. We work to help everyone we serve live a richer, fuller life."

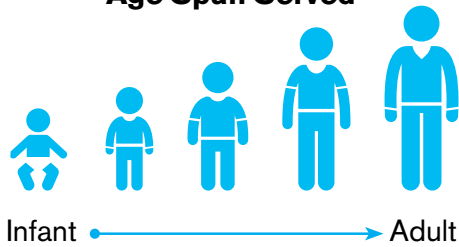
Many of us take driving for granted...we even complain about it! Imagine, however, all the places where you travel in a week and how limited your options would be if you could not drive. For many with developmental disabilities, like autism, who might be able to drive with the proper training, the chance to practice behind the wheel is rarely forthcoming. Because observational learning is a challenge for many with autism, the basics of driving must be broken down into granular activities. For example, understanding and feeling the distance between an accelerator and a brake can be simple for some of us and difficult for others.



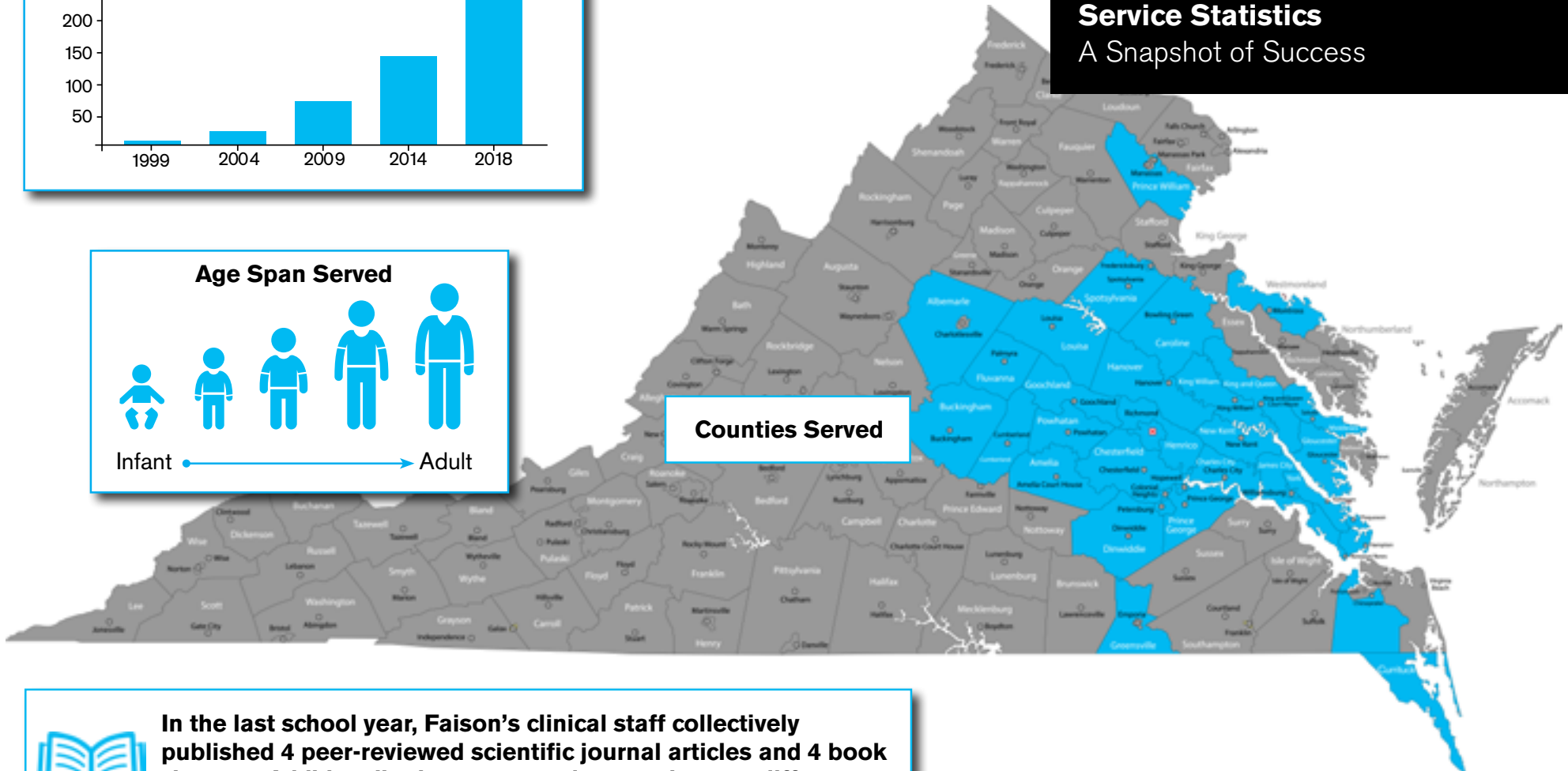
## 6,150% Program Growth



## Age Span Served



## Counties Served



## Service Statistics A Snapshot of Success



In the last school year, Faison's clinical staff collectively published 4 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles and 4 book chapters. Additionally, they presented research on 19 different occasions at various national conferences and conventions.



The Faison Residence is a housing model unlike any other in the country.





## Peninsula School at The Faison Center

Expanding Services.

**On May 1, 2018, The Faison Center announced the opening of the Peninsula School at The Faison Center. The new campus extends our services to individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities in Williamsburg, James City County, Newport News, Hampton, York, Poquoson, and Currituck, North Carolina.**

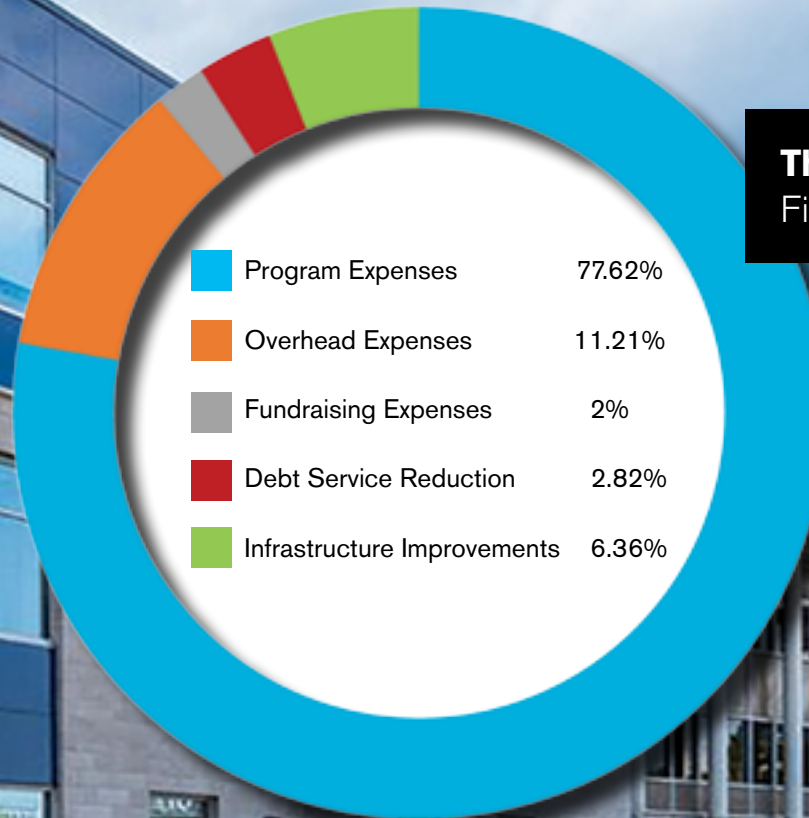
“There is a tremendous need for autism services across the life-span in the Peninsula region,” says Brian McCann, President and CEO of The Faison Center. “Peninsula School at The Faison Center will grow to serve more students as we look to offer early education and adult service programs to serve every age. We are very grateful to the Board, staff and donors at The Peninsula School for Autism, who provided extraordinary leadership and guidance over the last seven years to that school. With their continued support and enthusiasm, Faison looks forward to expanding our services to communities on the Peninsula.”

Combined, The Faison School and Peninsula School serve nearly 200 students from over 36 school districts. With autism on the rise, the demand for our educational services is greater than ever.

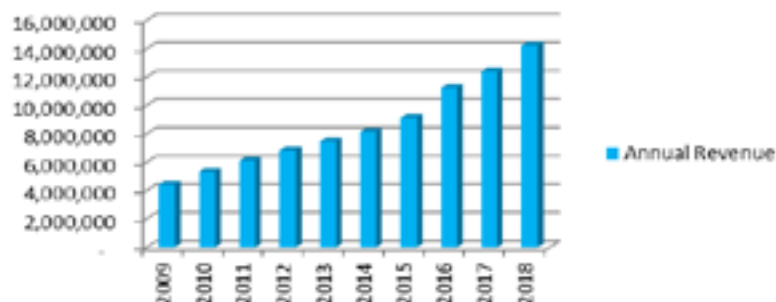


## The Faison Center Annual Report

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018



### Program Revenue Growth



### The Faison Center Operations (in millions)

Program Revenue	\$14.2
Net Funding from Fundraising*	\$0.5
Rental Income	\$0.8
Program Expenses	(\$12.2)
Overhead Expenses	(\$1.7)
Debt Service Reduction	(\$0.5)
Infrastructure Improvements	(\$1.0)
Net Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/18	\$0.1

\* Forward into the Future Campaign funding is not included



**Forward into the Future**  
Campus Expansion. Service Enhancement.







In 2008, Faison purchased and renovated its main academic building on Byrd Avenue with the idea that the school could grow to 50 students. Over the next nine years, Faison leased additional space in two buildings around campus as our student enrollment reached capacity of 160. With the high demand for all of our services, Faison embarked on an ambitious plan to grow all of its programs and build the facilities necessary to accommodate the growth.

In May, Faison celebrated the opening of the expansion to the newly named Kirshner Mihaloff Hall. This three-story 18,000 square foot expansion will allow Faison to enroll over 60 additional students on its Richmond campus.

The building houses a state-of-the-art Life Skills program for students ages 15-22 and includes eight additional classrooms. We were honored to have many guests, including the Governor of Virginia, attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



On the same day that Faison celebrated the opening of the new academic wing, we broke ground on the soon-to-be Flo and Tony Guzman Community Center. This 11,000 square foot facility will allow us to enhance our physical education programs for everyone we serve on campus—in our schools, adult programs, and clinical services.

We will also be able to hold our annual autism conference and other national conferences on issues related to the field of autism in the new space. We look forward to opening the facility to others in the community to use for their programs and meetings.

*"To measure the success of our societies, we should examine how well those with different abilities, including persons with autism, are integrated as full and valued members."*

*UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon*

## The Faison Fund

Recognizing All Gifts Received

7/1/2017 - 6/30/2018 to the Annual Fund,  
Art for Autism Gala, and Endless Summer Party.

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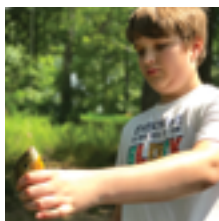


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