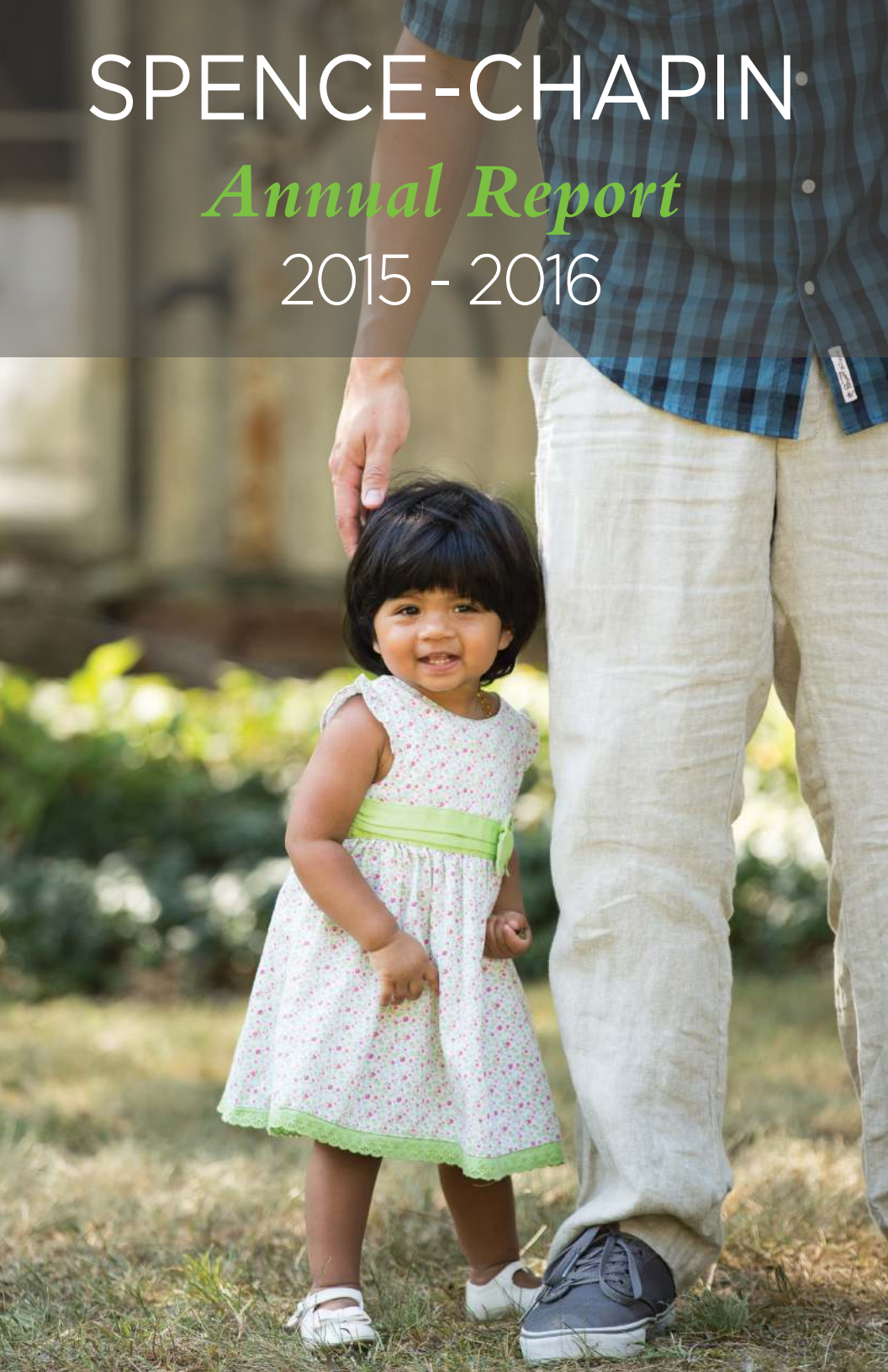


# SPENCE-CHAPIN

## *Annual Report*

2015 - 2016



# SPENCE-CHAPIN

## *Our Programs*

The mission of Spence-Chapin is to help find loving families for children whatever their needs or circumstances, and provide counseling and support for all children and the families to whom they have been born or entrusted.

### ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY SERVICES



Domestic Adoption



Special Needs Adoption



International Adoption

### MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMS



Healthy Women, Strong Families



Foster Care



Granny Program



Counseling & Community

Dear Friends,

Fiscal Year 2016 was focused on fulfilling Spence-Chapin's long-term mission, as embodied by our two core service areas: adoption and permanency services, and mental and emotional health programs.



Over the past years, we have explored how best to adapt to changes in the world of adoption, and to ensure a sustainable future. You will read about the conclusion we have reached within - to focus on our roots, and remain committed to the work Spence-Chapin has been pioneering for nearly 110 years.

Adoption is core to who we are as an agency, and our Domestic Adoption Program is growing. In 2016, we worked with more than 100 women seeking unbiased expertise, thirty of whom ultimately moved forward with an adoption plan. Simultaneously, we maintained our fully subsidized Special Needs Adoption Program, through which ten children with a wide range of medical challenges were placed in loving families across our country. Our International Adoption Programs in Colombia, Bulgaria, and South Africa accomplished historic achievements; we were proud to play a role in some of the first LGBTQ and single-male adoptions from South Africa, and to continue serving vulnerable children in each of our partner countries.

Mental and emotional health programs are transforming our office into a growing resource for the local community; in 2016 we expanded our clinical capacity to serve more families and a growing network of community organizations. These services range from post-adoption counseling, to mentorship for teens, to providing personal adoption histories, to roots tours, among many others.

Looking forward, we remain focused on the guiding principle of our work, that every child deserves a family. With a focus on stability and improvement, we will refine existing programs, remain open to the possibility of piloting new initiatives, and measure our successes to guarantee impact.

Read on. We're excited to share our progress.

Samantha Chadwick  
Board President

Adam Cotumaccio  
President



## Domestic Adoption

Established: **1908**

2016 Impact: **30 children placed**

Still as vital today as it was in 1908, Spence-Chapin identified families for 30 infants this past year through the Domestic Adoption Program. In addition to work in New York and New Jersey, Spence-Chapin expanded and is now licensed to serve women, men, children and families in Connecticut.

“We are so thankful to Spence-Chapin for helping us grow our family in the most amazing way.”



## Healthy Women, Strong Families

Established: **1953**

2016 Impact: **111 women supported;**  
**43 children in interim care**

Spence-Chapin provided options for more than 100 women and couples who were unsure about parenting last year.

- Through free, unbiased options counseling, healthy futures were planned by thoughtfully considering all options — including termination, parenting, placing the child with extended family, and adoption.
- Children who were cared for in our Interim Care received pediatrician and specialist services, formula, diapers, and more while their mothers developed a permanency plan. These services are provided at no cost, regardless of the resulting plan.

**65%**  
of the women who sought our help last year ultimately decided to parent their child



*Baby Samuel, adopted through the Domestic Program, is snuggled for the first time by his father.*





Abigail was placed through Spence-Chapin's Special Needs Program.



## Special Needs Adoption

Established: **1995**

2016 Impact: **10 children placed**

In the United States, 3 out of every 100 infants are born with some type of special need<sup>1</sup>. When families are unable to care for these children, they are at risk of being neglected or institutionalized, and may be placed in foster care, where it can be extremely challenging to achieve permanency.

In 2016, Spence-Chapin found loving families for 10 children with varied special needs. Spence-Chapin is the only private agency in New York to subsidize 100% of the costs of Special Needs adoptions, including professional services fees and interim care for children.

**0%**  
**disruption  
rate**  
No child  
placed through  
this program  
has ever been  
moved from  
the family we  
identified.



## Foster Care *PILOT PROGRAM*

Established: **2015**

2016 Impact: **424 children impacted  
through clinical interventions  
and case planner trainings**

There are more than 8,000 children in foster care in New York City<sup>2</sup>, of which 40% have a documented medical condition and 46% have a developmental disorder. Only a quarter of these children receive appropriate services at any given time<sup>3</sup>.

Last year, Spence-Chapin provided two vital levels of support:

- Licensed, trained clinicians provided direct support to the most complex families within the foster care system with a goal of creating and securing permanency plans
- Staff members trained partner agency teams to assess family needs and create strategies for action

<sup>1</sup> [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/data.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/data.html)

<sup>2</sup> [www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/about/data-policy.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/about/data-policy.page)

<sup>3</sup> [www.childrensrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/2009-11-02\\_long\\_road\\_home\\_full\\_report\\_final.pdf](http://www.childrensrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/2009-11-02_long_road_home_full_report_final.pdf)



## International Adoption

Established: **1975**

2016 Impact: **24 children placed**

Spence-Chapin has a rich history of helping children from all parts of the world find stable, loving families. Today, Spence-Chapin's International Program operates in Bulgaria, Colombia, and South Africa, with a goal of finding families for those least likely to find permanency in the country of their birth — including school-age children, sibling groups, and children with special needs.

In 2016, Spence-Chapin connected 24 children from partnering countries with loving families across the United States. To lower the financial barriers for adoption and to increase the likelihood of permanency for children, Spence-Chapin eliminated professional service fees for families who adopt through this program.



## Granny Program

Established: **1998**

2016 Impact: **54 children received individualized care**

The Granny Program provides individualized care and attention to 54 children and young people living in long-term care facilities in Colombia and South Africa, ensuring their emotional health and ability to create attachments. Volunteer "Grannies" engage children in activities that stimulate physical and emotional development during near-daily visits to provide children with individual love and attention.

In 2016, Spence-Chapin began the process of establishing a Domestic Granny Program, working in partnership with Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center in Yonkers, New York.

The program will fully launch in 2017, affording children in long-term care facilities with individualized love and attention.

“I read to her. She may not understand the story, but sometimes she'll smile when I'm reading.”

– Spence-Chapin  
Granny



*Asher was welcomed home from South Africa this year.*





## Counseling & Community

Established: 1990

2016 Impact: **1,045 clinical sessions;**  
**87 events and webinars**

Spence-Chapin's Modern Family Center provides birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoptees of all ages a supportive community and a connection to professionals who understand the unique aspects of the adoption lifecycle.

Last year, our range of clinical and other services included:

### THERAPEUTIC AND PEER SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Workshops  
Mentorship  
Parental coaching

Post-placement counseling  
Personal adoption histories  
Small group discussions

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cultural celebrations  
Global family day

Halloween party  
Monthly forums for young families

### OFF-SITE PROGRAMMING

Roots tours  
Internship programs

School and camp partnerships  
Community education

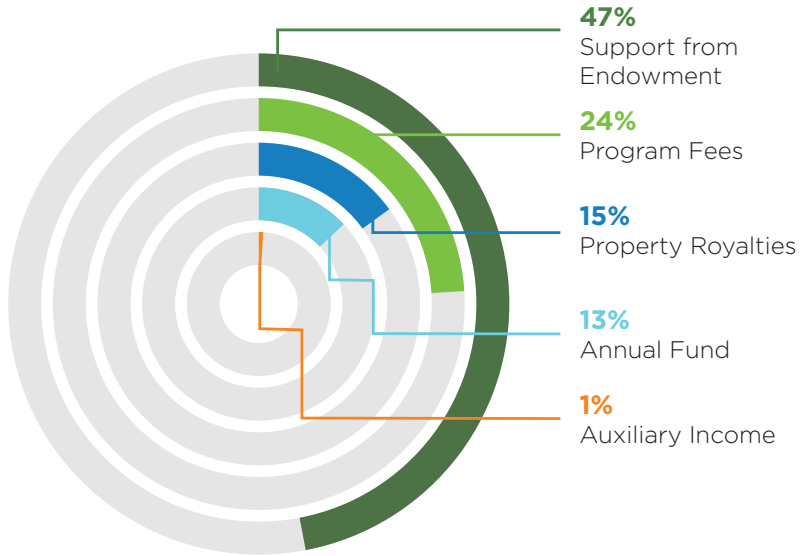
“ She’s blossoming so beautifully. It’s like watching a time lapse video of a flower; each session she opens up a little bit more. ”



# 2015-2016 Operating Results

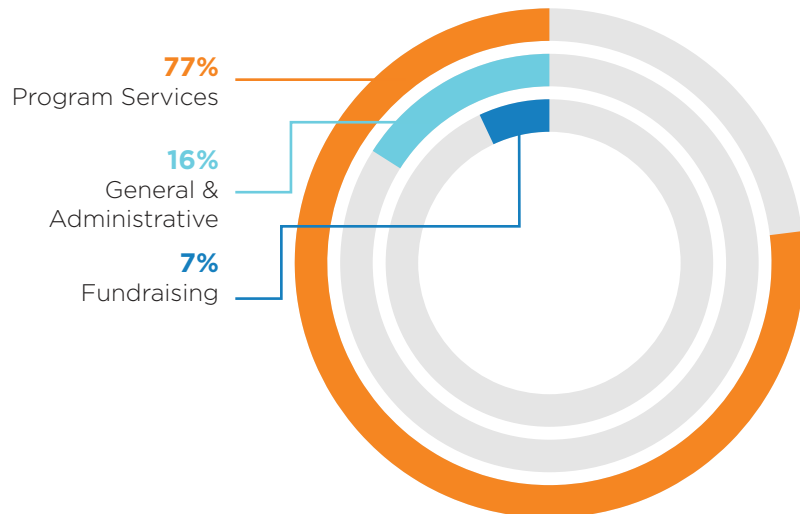
**\$6,267,295**

REVENUE



**\$6,387,133**

EXPENSES



The **Spence-Chapin Annual Fund** is the driving force of gifts to help the agency meet critical programmatic and operating needs and keep Spence-Chapin true to its mission. Each year, our ability to impact the community and find families for children is limited by our finite resources.

On the following pages, fiscal 2016 donors are recognized for the extraordinary role they played in ensuring that many of our services are provided at no or low cost to those who need them, including but not limited to:



**Free** options counseling



**Free and low cost** clinical counseling sessions for adoptive families



**Free** interim care for babies while parents make a permanency plan



**Free** personal adoption narratives for individuals seeking information about their history



Donors who join the 1908 Society by contributing \$1,908 annually are able to make a remarkable impact through our Annual Fund each year.

Members of the 1908 Society are honored each fall at a reception hosted by Spence-Chapin.



# Thank you to all our supporters!

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New York City  
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Spence-Chapin's Annual Report celebrates gifts made during the fiscal 2016 year, from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

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**Cover photo:** Ella, adopted through Spence-Chapin's Domestic Program, and her dad.