

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

THE CARE HOUSE OF THE PEE DEE



THE
CARE
HOUSE
of the Pee Dee

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FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Summer is often the time of year when things seem as if they should be slowing down - kids are out of school, some families take vacations, and the air is too hot to do much of anything. In the midst of this, CARE House is moving forward full steam ahead adding new resources for families, and new programs for the kids in our community! I couldn't be more proud of our staff, board, volunteers and supporters, who together make happy childhoods for all children possible.

I hope that you will take time to review this report fully and take in the impacts for Pee Dee children. I often share that we aren't able to prevent the horrible things that people do to children (although I'm looking for funding for that!) but we can and do decrease their re-traumatization through quality investigative services. These services prevent children from having to tell their story multiple times, and our amazing advocacy follows families through this long journey educating them, walking alongside them and serving with compassion. The medical team gives families relief by assuring them their child's body is healthy, and our highly qualified therapists provide 5 types of evidence based treatment, which help children heal. Every service is needed and the quality with which they are provided can determine a child's future - and not one single piece of it would be available without you!



I am very excited about what lies ahead for CARE House and our community! The counselors are finishing training that allows righting the path for children who sexually act out, and we currently have 4 kids enrolled in our first group. With the help of the Farrah Turner Foundation and a generous individual, barriers for treatment are being broken down so that no family will have out of pocket cost as a reason that their child can't receive trauma therapy. An outdoor therapy, play and meeting space is moving from dream to fruition due to the Longleaf Fund and a local family's donation. I am thrilled and eager to look strategically at the needs of our communities and to find a way to meet those needs which align with our mission.

While looking ahead is thrilling, looking back at last year is so rewarding. The CARE House team and all the multidisciplinary members worked extremely hard and received National Accreditation. Over 1500 evidence based therapy sessions were held and more than 90 children received counseling services at CARE House for the first time. Protecting client information became even more of a priority with a new protected system for sharing video recordings of forensic interviews and the CARE House staff served over 700 children.

Thank you for your support, your prayers, and your love of our staff, our mission, and the children of our region who deserve wonderful childhoods full of only the happy memories. Please learn more about our work by visiting our website, following us on social media and by coming by for a tour. I want a day where child abuse services are no longer needed, but until that day, I feel blessed by the privilege to impact children through the CARE House.

Meg Temple

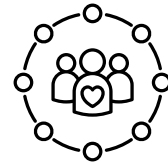
Meg Temple, Executive Director



WHO WE ARE



As a Children's Advocacy Center, the CARE House of the Pee Dee's mission is to promote help, hope, and healing in a nurturing environment to child abuse victims and their families through supportive services and prevention.



Collaborative & Trauma-Informed

Accredited by the National Children's Alliance, the CARE House is a safe place where children and their families can come after a reported allegation of abuse to receive high quality services. Many different agencies work together as a multidisciplinary team to investigate abuse allegations and provide support to children and families.



Backed by
National Children's Alliance®
Accredited Member



Promoting help, hope & healing

729 
Children Served

2209 
Services Provided

(Top) Child & Family Advocate, Faith Akins facilitates forensic interview. (Middle) Facility Dog, McGuffy provides comfort to a child. (Bottom) Clinicians Francheska Smith & Carrie Cooper complete training activity.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2021 - 2022



Board Chair
Elizabeth Poston



Vice Chair
Hart Smith



Treasurer
John Brand



Raymond Taylor



Jay Lee



Dr. Hunter Burch



Rita Farrell



Niki Sansbury



**Welcome to Our
Newest Member**
Adam Crosson

13,914 
\$ Raised at 2021 Board
Hosted Wine Tasting

WHAT WE DO

Our Services

Through investigative and supportive services, victims and their families can begin to heal from the trauma of abuse.



Clinician, Amanda Pelfrey with a child in CARE House Play Therapy Room.

Investigative Services:

- Forensic Interviews
- Medical Evaluations

Supportive Services:

- Advocacy Services
- Evidence Supported Counseling
- Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Collaboration
- Prevention & Education



2021 Overview:

637



Forensic Interviews

10



Counties Served by Victim Advocates

162



Medical Evaluations

1572



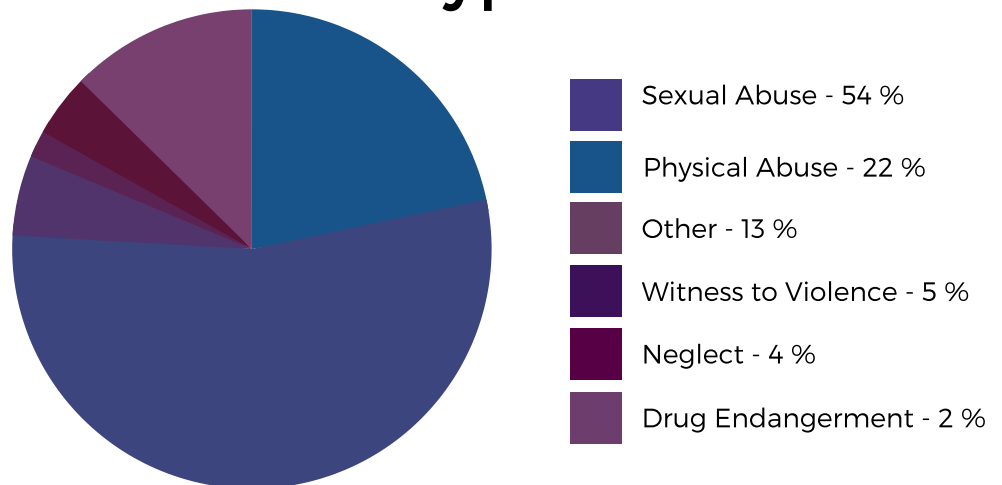
Counseling Sessions

WHO WE SERVE

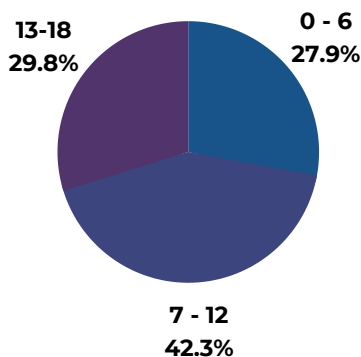
The CARE House serves children and caregivers throughout the Pee Dee, primarily within Florence, Dillion, Marion and Clarendon Counties. These children and families are often referred by Law Enforcement of the Department of Social Services following allegations of child maltreatment and trauma.

In 2021, We Served...

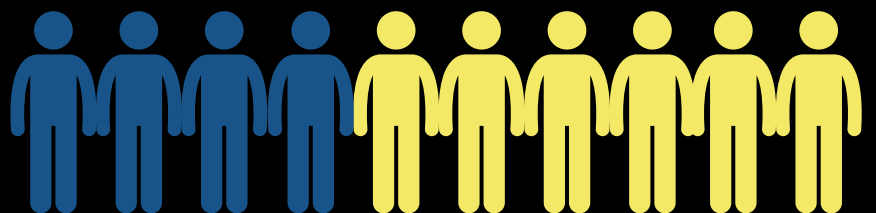
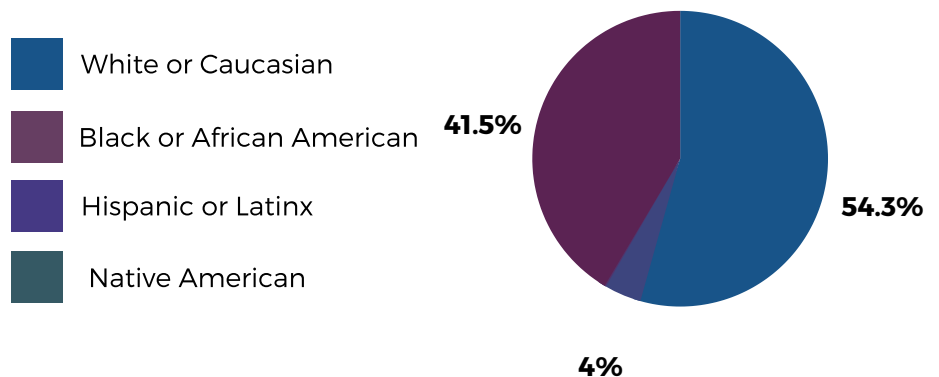
Types of Abuse



Age



Race



Male 36 %

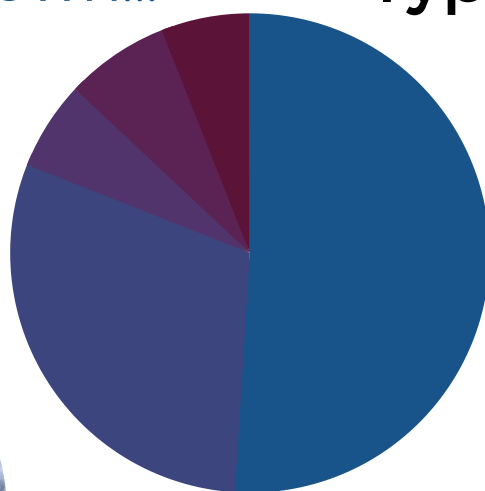
Female 59 % *Undisclosed 5 %

OUR FUNDING

The CARE House of the Pee Dee receives funding from a variety of sources including federal funding, such as Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA), community grants, private donations and fundraising, in addition to compensation for billable services from public and private coverage. As we continue to see cuts to VOCA funds, we rely more heavily on the generosity of our supporters to ensure that these critical services are available throughout our community.

2021 Breakdown...

Types of Funding



Events



In 2021, Victim of Crime Acts (VOCA) funding was cut significantly throughout the country, resulting in a \$40,000 reduction in funding to the CARE House.

YEAR AT A GLANCE

2021



Ribbon Cutting

The CARE House publicly celebrated our move to new Second Loop location.

January

Child Abuse Prevention Month

CARE House kicked our community engagement into high-gear to raise awareness regarding abuse throughout the Pee Dee.

CAPEs for Kids

10th Annual CAPEs for Kids Race & Fun Run raised over \$18,000 for CAC services.



April

May

June



CARE House Voted 2021 Best Trauma Counselor in the Pee Dee.



September

Legislative Update

Governor McMaster signed SC Child Abuse Response Protocol Act, standardizing all responses to child abuse and giving more children access to CAC services.

Toss 'N' Taste

CARE House hosted record-breaking Chili Cook-Off & Cornhole Tournament, raising over \$19,000 to support child abuse victims.

October

November

National Accreditation

CARE House earned accreditation from the National Children's Alliance for delivering high quality and effective services that put the needs of abused children first!



THE GOLD STANDARD - NATIONAL ACCREDITATION



2021 was a year full of accomplishment and significance. There is no denying that CARE House staff, volunteers and multidisciplinary partners worked tirelessly to make the mission of help, hope and healing a reality. Perhaps most significant in this year of accomplishment is accreditation by the National Children's Alliance for delivering high quality and effective services which put the needs of child victims of abuse first!

The CARE House of the Pee Dee was awarded accreditation in November following an extensive application and site review process. As the accrediting agency for Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) across the country, the National Children's Alliance awards various levels of membership to centers responding to allegations of child abuse. Accreditation is the highest level of membership with the National Children's Alliance and denotes excellence in service provision.

"Accreditation with the National Children's Alliance validates the hard work that has been taking place at the CARE House. Our staff and referral sources work tirelessly to make sure that children receive the best care in a comfortable environment. We aren't able to change the horrible things that happened, but we can make the process easier and healing possible. The accreditation process can seem daunting but the staff and multidisciplinary team were up for the challenge," said Meg Temple, CARE House Executive Director.

The National Children's Alliance awards Accredited Membership based on a CAC's compliance with 10 national standards to ensure effective, efficient and consistent delivery of services to child abuse victims. These standards, which are updated every 5 years based on the latest evidence and practices, include expectations regarding utilizing an effective multidisciplinary team approach to work collaboratively in child abuse investigation, prosecution and treatment. The National Children's Alliance also considers standards regarding a center's cultural competency and diversity, forensic interviews, victim support and advocacy, medical evaluation, therapeutic intervention and child-focused setting. As a newly Accredited Member of the National Children's Alliance, the CARE House remains dedicated to providing comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate services to victims of child abuse!

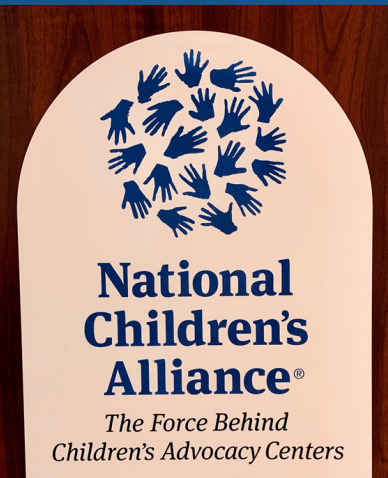
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"The CARE House of the Pee Dee is to be commended for its excellent work serving victims of child abuse. As the national association and accrediting body for Children's Advocacy Centers across the country, our goal is to ensure that every victim of child abuse has access to high quality services that result from professional collaboration," remarked Teresa Huizar, Executive Director of the National Children's Alliance.

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(Middle) Florence Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meets to staff client cases & coordinate comprehensive services.



Accredited Member

The CARE House joins 924 other NCA member Children's Advocacy Centers across the country in offering quality services to child abuse victims and families.



Backed by
National Children's Alliance®



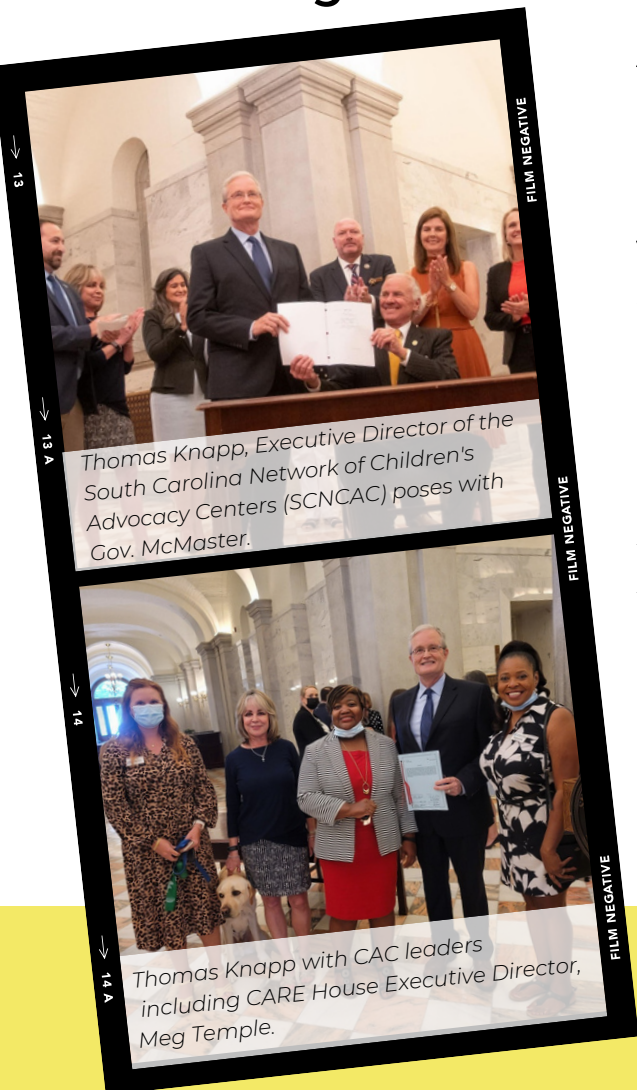
South Carolina Network
OF
**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY CENTERS**

IN OTHER NEWS...

Gov. McMaster Signs Child Abuse Response Protocol Act Increasing Access to CAC Services

A victory for children's advocacy centers and abused children across the state, the Child Abuse Response Protocol Act establishes a coordinated statewide response to child abuse in South Carolina. The bill, which was signed into law by Governor McMaster on September 9, 2021, standardizes the response to child abuse cases by requiring law enforcement and child protective services to work in partnership with CACs.

"Our children are our state's most precious resource," said Gov. Henry McMaster. "When one of them is subjected to the heinous crime of child abuse, we must use every tool at our disposal to protect their physical, mental and emotional well-being. This important piece of legislation ensures that investigations into child abuse will be thoughtfully and deliberately conducted by specifically-trained professionals and that the child's health will be prioritized throughout."



As a CAC, we know that a coordinated and multidisciplinary approach is what's best for families. It streamlines investigative and support services, allowing children to complete a single forensic interview by professionals trained to reduce re-traumatization and fosters collaboration between multiple disciplines for effective and efficient coordination of services.

Without CACs



With CACs



WHY IT ALL MATTERS

Survivor Stories

The Randall Family, was referred to the CARE House by their local County Sheriff's Office following allegations of abuse by an extended family member. Jamie, a mother of 3, was concerned when she found explicit content on the family's shared tablet. When she approached her children (ages 5, 7, and 13) about it, her youngest describe what Jamie understood to be sexual abuse perpetrated by her children's uncle.

From the moment that Jamie and her children arrived at the CARE House, they were met by supportive and experienced staff, who talked each child through a non-leading forensic interview before recommending counseling and other supportive services. CARE House staff worked in partnership with a multidisciplinary team representing many different agencies (including law enforcement) to investigate the allegations and support Jamie and her family – all within a safe and nurturing environment.

"Staff have been nothing but great!" Jamie said. "They work around our schedules and my work schedule. They understand the importance of my children's activities, including sports, and make sure we get the support we need." Jamie's children received evidence supported, trauma informed therapy from licensed Master's level counselors as they began the process of healing.



"My children have always felt heard and supported at the CARE House," reported Jamie. "When given the option to receive counseling closer to home, [my children] made it clear that they'd never want to transfer services."

Now as Jamie and her family prepare for their upcoming trial, they are supported by a Child & Family Advocate, familiar with the lengthy legal process. "Anytime I need to talk, or if we have a court appearance coming up, Nicole is there. She is always kind and helpful," expressed Jamie. She and her family still have a long road ahead and the CARE House will be by their side each step of the way. Jamie wants other families like hers to know that healing is possible and that the involvement of a Children's Advocacy Center like the CARE House has been an integral part of that process.

Names have been changed to protect the privacy of the family involved as their legal process continues.

STORIES OF HOPE & HELP

Volunteer Spotlight

Deborah learned about the CARE House at a community event in 2019 and immediately fell in love with the mission. Now she can be found in the office almost weekly supporting staff and clients alike.

As a dedicated volunteer, Deborah is a Jack-of-All Trades around the office, assisting with administrative projects, making appointment reminder and follow up calls to families and even burning CDs of Forensic Interviews recordings to be used by law enforcement in court.

"Children are our future," said Deborah. "We need healthy adults to run this world. Children aren't able to heal themselves, they need support through that process...and that's what the CARE House does."

Deborah finds joy in helping others and being part of something larger than herself. In addition to the benefit of connecting with new people, especially as someone who works from home, Deborah knows that the time she spends at the CARE House is essential to the organization's mission. "Even if all I do on a particular day is appointment reminder calls, I know



"I'm helping a busy parent keep their calendar straight during a challenging time," Deborah said.

Deborah wants others who are considering volunteering with the CARE House to take the leap! "Do it," she said. When she's not volunteering her time, Deborah enjoys spending time outside with her dog, Missy, and being creative. She is a talented DIY-er, painter and jewelry maker and a beloved member of the CARE House team!



Staff Spotlight

Casey Wilkes joined the CARE House in the summer of 2021 as a Therapist & Forensic Interviewer, but her passion for supporting others as they heal from trauma started much earlier. As a

Licensed Professional Counselor and graduate of Francis Marion University with a BS in Psychology and MS in Applied Psychology, Casey spends her days listening to children – to their stories and

experiences during Forensic Interviews and to their needs, fears and hopes as she helps them navigate their trauma, build coping skills and work towards healing during counseling sessions. While she is quick to admit that the role is not for everyone, Casey finds her motivation in being the person that she needed as a child. "I believe that children deserve to live in a safe world," Casey shared "and when that

world is turned upside down, they deserve a place where they can receive advocacy, support and healing.” Casey encourages those who are interested in pursuing a career with a Children’s Advocacy Center or in a trauma-focused environment to be sure they have the heart for it. “It’s hard listening to what some children go through,” Casey shared, but she finds meaning in being an encouragement, in bearing witness to the progress that children make as they transform through healing and in seeing all that therapy can do.

As a strong advocate of mental health, Casey wants folks to know that mental health is just as important as physical health.

“There is no shame in asking for help,” Casey offered. To those resistant to counseling or other mental health services, Casey encourages folks to “give us a chance” and to be open to “exploring your own resistance.” For Casey, her role at CARE House is “not just a job”. She is grateful to work with a team committed to the CARE House mission, who genuinely loves what they do.



Board Spotlight



Adam Crosson, an active member of the Florence community with a heart for service, reached out to the CARE House to assist with a promotional video for Toss 'N' Taste in October of 2021. When he came in to film and

received a tour of the facilities, he realized that the video was just the tip of the iceberg.

"I learned in that initial visit so much about what goes on at the CARE House and I wanted to get even more involved," said Adam. As the President & CEO of Crosson & Co. - a local real estate firm - Adam realized

that in addition to his marketing experience, he could make an impact as a member of the CARE House Board of Directors. In November, Adam submitted his application and in December officially joined the Board. "It's not fair for kids who really don't yet understand the world around them to have to navigate the process of healing from trauma without a CAC. It's tragic that abuse exists in any form and victims deserve a safe place to heal."



Are you passionate about the CARE House Mission and looking to deepen your involvement? Consider joining our Board of Directors! Contact Executive Director, Meg Temple for details.

JOIN OUR WORK

Be A CARE House Hero

Become A Volunteer

Our mission of help, hope and healing is not possible without the dedication of kind and compassionate volunteers. Volunteers contribute to our team in a variety of ways...



Event Committee Member Barbara Davis (Left) & Volunteers Deborah Cress (Center) & Steven Curry Gallego (Right) serve as Chili Judges at 2021 Toss N Taste Event.

Volunteers Assist With...

- Administrative Projects
- Greeting Children & Families
- Events & Fundraisers
- Grant Writing
- Community Outreach
- ... and much more!

For more information, visit us at www.thecarehouse.com/volunteer.

Ways to Give:

- Financial Support
- In-Kind Gifts
- Amazon Smile
- Host a Donation Drive
- Attend our Events
- Event Sponsorships
- Adopt a Family for Court

For more details visit us at www.thecarehouse.com/be-a-hero

Become A Supporter

Whether you share financial resources, donate snacks for clients or sponsor an event, your support has an immediate and lasting impact on child abuse victims and their families throughout our communities.

2,866 

Volunteer Hours Donated

16 

Interns Equipped

PARTNERS IN SUCCESS

To All Our Multidisciplinary Teams Members...



As a Children's Advocacy Center, our success is inextricably intertwined with the tireless efforts of the professionals and agencies which make up our multidisciplinary teams throughout our service area. Thank you for your commitment to serve the children and families that come through our doors each year!



Chrysalis Center
Residential Treatment for Women with Children

ThermoFisher
SCIENTIFIC



Farrah Turner Foundation

ZAXBY'S



2021 Community Partners



Wilkes Trucking, LLC.



Dr. Howard & Rita Farrell



ASSURANT®



THE PHARMACY

Thank You



To All of Our Staff, Interns, Volunteers, Donors & Friends, Thank You! You are True CARE House Heroes!

ALWAYS REPORT ABUSE

If you suspect that a child or vulnerable adult is being abused or neglected, don't keep it to yourself! Make a report to the appropriate local authorities and let the investigators worry about a detailed investigations.

Suspect a Caregiver of Abuse? Report to the Department of Social Services where the child resides.

Suspect a Non-Caregiver of Abuse? Contact local law enforcement where the incident occurred.



(843)669-3354 (Select 5) - Pee Dee Regional Intake Line
1-800-4-A-CHILD - National Child Abuse Hotline

Visit **www.thecarehouse.com** for a full list of local contact information.

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If a child discloses abuse, do not attempt an in depth interview.
Conduct a Minimal Facts Interview:

- **WHO?** Names of victims & suspects
- **WHAT?** General information about what happened
- **WHERE?** Where did the incident occur?
- **WHEN?** When did the incident occur?
- **WITNESSES?** Were there any witnesses to the incident?



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