

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

to the St. Charles County Community



STCHARLESCOUNTYKIDS.ORG



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear St. Charles County Residents:

The COVID pandemic continued to produce challenges for families and for our service providers in 2021. While vaccines enabled staff to operate more safely, staffing challenges hindered our partners' ability to meet the demand for services as quickly as they were able to before the pandemic.

In response, the CCRB was able to fund rate increases for many of our partners, and because sales tax revenues grew significantly in the past two years, the Board approved numerous program expansions and new programming requests for 2022 and 2023.

In 2022, we plan to update our local child well-being data, and conduct our biannual Needs Assessment. These efforts will allow us to get a better picture of how our local children and youth have been impacted by the pandemic. This information will help drive future service priorities as we remain poised and in a strong financial position to respond accordingly.



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The Community & Children's
Resource Board
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Our Vision

Preparing all youth and families to realize a brighter tomorrow.

Our Mission

Maximizing community resources to build and sustain a comprehensive system of services for children and families in need.

About

The Community and Children's Resource Board (CCRB) collaborates with and funds nonprofit agencies to provide mental health and substance use treatment services which improve the quality of life for children, youth, and families in St. Charles County.

For every dollar spent in St. Charles County, 1/8 of a cent is dedicated to services for resident children and youth up to 19 years of age. The CCRB oversees the administration, allocation and distribution of funds from this local sales tax.

Funding Categories

- Counseling
- Crisis intervention
- Home and community-based
- Outpatient psychiatry
- Outpatient substance use treatment
- Respite
- School-based prevention
- Teen parents
- Temporary shelter
- Transitional living

News & Awards

Welcome Matt Pirtle to the Board of Directors

In October, Matt Pirtle was appointed to the CCRB Board, replacing member Allison Onder. Matt has been in the fitness industry for 20 years; 14 years as the owner of *Emerge Fitness Training* in St. Charles and Wentzville. Matt and his staff also operate two nonprofits, *Emerge EveryOne* and *Re-Emerge*, which provides no-cost services to exercisers with intellectual disabilities and veterans.

Matt and his wife Angie are the parents of four children, ages 6-11. He earned a degree in Journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a Masters in Communication from the University of Texas-Austin.



The CCRB Honored for Advocacy Work



The CCRB was honored as the 2020 Child Advocate by the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Charles County in August. The 2020 awards were delayed due to COVID-19.

United Services for Children honored the CCRB as Champion for Children at their gala in August. The CCRB staff and board members attended the galas and accepted the awards on the agency's behalf.



FINANCIALS

REVENUE

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sales Tax | \$8,797,980.71 |
| Investment | \$13,852.39 |
| Fundraising | \$418.36 |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | \$17,794.82 |
| Total Sales Revenue | \$8,830,046.28 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Accounting Services | \$14,100.00 |
| Administration | \$385,793.66 |
| Service Contracts | \$6,867,177.90 |
| Total Expenses | \$7,267,071.56 |

ASSETS

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Checking Account | \$138,244.53 |
| Services Fund | \$3,989,808.48 |
| Sales Tax Receivable | \$1,116,365.45 |
| Capital Assets | \$113.15 |
| Deposit | \$1,385.00 |
| Total Assets | \$5,245,916.61 |

LIABILITIES

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Accounts Payable | \$434,260.04 |
| FED/FICA Payable | \$3,368.12 |
| Total Liabilities | \$437,628.16 |

NET POSITION

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Investment in Capital Assets | \$113.15 |
| Unrestricted | \$4,808,175.30 |
| Total Net Position | \$4,808,288.45 |

EXPENDITURES



Counseling
\$1,195,843.30



Crisis Intervention
\$431,735.25



Home & Community
\$2,900,599.12



Outpatient Psychiatry
\$3,877.53



Outpatient Substance Use
Treatment \$349,467.71



Respite Care
\$515,156.44



School-Based Prevention
\$968,444.97



Teen Parents
\$128,698.13



Temporary Youth Shelter
\$164,685.45



Transitional Living
\$208,670.00

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POPULATIONS SERVED



100,361 Children*



4,013 caregivers



1,992 professionals



2,696 families

**many youth received services in multiple programs*

Funded Agencies and Programs



Youth Connection Helpline

Amount Spent
\$76,928.69

Clients Served
750

A 24/7 access point for youth, aged 18 and under, and their families to access crisis intervention and other behavioral health services. Youth can call, text, webchat, or meet face-to-face. Licensed mental health professionals and specialists provide assessments and follow-up case management to clients.

Outcome: 90% of youth with suicidal or homicidal ideation who participated in the follow-up program obtained a safety plan.



Safe Families for Children

Amount Spent
\$9,720.60

Clients Served
13

Safe Families for Children extends community support by hosting vulnerable children and strengthening their families in crisis through a network of volunteers motivated by compassion.

Outcome: 100% of children in Safe Families program remained free from child abuse and neglect following their return home.



Mentoring

Amount Spent
\$22,626.75

Clients Served
184

Young people, aged 5-17, are served in various mentoring programs designed to:

- Pair children and teens in 1:1 relationships with adult mentors.
- Bring together other supporting adults to provide any additional support and assistance.
- Develop positive relationships with parents and peers.

Outcome: 96% of mentored youth avoided other risky behaviors (skipping school, aggression toward others, etc.).



The Formula for Impact: Project Learn

Amount Spent
\$117,112.37

Clients Served
458

A comprehensive structure of programming aimed at serving the holistic well-being of youth. Services are provided through a mentorship lens and focus in three priority areas: Academic Success, Character Development, and Healthy Habits. Services are offered after school and during the summer.

Outcome: 99% of students participating in Triple Play: Soul, Junior Staff or Career Launch followed school rules and remained in school.



1. Family Support

School-based individual counseling for youth with suicidal ideation and/or mental health conditions.

2. Signs of Suicide

School-based suicide prevention and mental health literacy presentations.

3. Social Emotional Well-Being

Students from grades K-12 are matched with a Social Emotional Mentor and meet weekly for 30 minute sessions which focus on social emotional learning skills.

Amount Spent
\$112,281.28

Clients Served
11,385

1. Outcome: 76% of youth presenting with depression reported a reduction in symptoms of depression.

2. Outcome: 87% of students who showed little to no confidence in knowing the warning signs of depression and suicide showed confidence after the presentation.

3. Outcome: 81% of youth who completed at least two modules will gain improvement in understanding of self-management as evidenced by an increase in stress management and improved coping skills.

Program Impact...

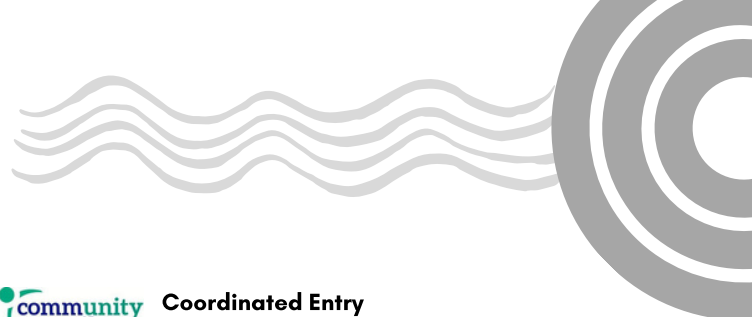
For over 20 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) has proudly connected young people ("Littles") with adult volunteer mentors ("Bigs") in St. Charles, helping them achieve their goals and successfully transition to adulthood.

BBBS is excited to highlight one of their longtime mentoring matches! In 2022, Little Brother and Big Brother will graduate from the mentoring program and celebrate 9 years of being matched. Little Brother is excited to transfer to the Big Futures program; in which BBB will continue supporting him through age 25. He was recently accepted into college; his Big Brother even wrote his recommendation letter for admissions.

Little Brother is an avid soccer player and received a scholarship to play soccer at Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis! Big Brother and his family attended almost every game, pre-COVID, and they are excited to watch Little Brother play in college.

Their favorite annual tradition is going to the "Ice Races" in St. Charles County. They often describe themselves as "family", and they truly are. They are there for each other in all occasions – whether it's celebrating Little Brother's academic/sports success, or Big Brother and his family bringing over dinner/dessert to comfort Little Brother and his parent after their dog passed away.

They see each other on holidays, have regular family dinners, attend all birthday parties for family members, stay in communication weekly, and are very close. Big Brother's family is Jewish, and Little Brother is Christian, so they celebrate Hanukkah AND Christmas together. They have a bond that will last forever!



Amount Spent
\$228,489.85

Clients Served
34,137

1. Counseling

Children aged 2-18 participate in evidence based, trauma-informed therapy to reduce the harmful effects of the trauma they have experienced.

2. Forensic Services

Interview and advocacy services for children who have experienced sexual abuse or violence.

3. School-Based Prevention

Education programs designed to teach children about appropriate boundaries and empower victims to disclose abuse.

1. Outcome: 93% of children learned at least three coping skills to increase resiliency.

2. Outcome: 100% of the children interviewed displayed a reduction in anxiety and/or fear by the end of their sessions.

3. Outcome: 97% of Pre-K - 4th grade students knew the Body Safety Steps (say no, get away, and tell a trusted adult.)



Amount Spent
\$28,361.64

Clients Served
1,510

Coordinated Entry

Assessment, crisis counseling, linkage with resources, and case coordination for persons experiencing a housing crisis in St. Charles County. Staff assist with finding safe shelter for children in the household; reducing parent stress, and stabilizing families in permanent housing.

Outcome: 91% of families with children found permanent housing within three months of their initial assessment.



Amount Spent
\$69,786.24

Clients Served
14

Respite Center

Periodic weekend relief for families whose child has significant behavioral challenges. Providing weekend respite results in reducing the intense amount of stress families cope with daily, thus reducing the risk for abuse and neglect.

Outcome: 100% of families utilizing the respite program maintained or improved their ability to cope with behavioral issues of their children.

Program Impact...

After one of The Child Advocacy Center's *Sexual Abuse Prevention* programs, a high school student asked if she could stay behind and ask a question. The student disclosed sexual abuse by asking if what she described was the same as the example in the program. She asked if that "counted." She was able to identify with the examples provided and realize what she experienced was sexual abuse and assault. This student added she had never told anyone before because she was afraid of getting in trouble.

The student's disclosure was reported to Missouri Children's Division and the student was connected to her school counselor.

Program Staff Feedback...

As a budding counselor-in-training working for Compass Health Network's *Partnership With Families* program, I am eager to implement theoretical modalities and intervention strategies, I had no idea what to expect coming into my role as an Integrated Health Specialist in the *Partnership With Families* program. Everything you learn in a Master's level counseling program provides a good foundation for hypothetical client encounters, but it cannot fully prepare you to have the words to say when a client expresses active suicidal thoughts, or when a guardian shares intimate details of ongoing parenting struggles. Those moments require something more.

In reviewing client safety plans and building wellness plan goals, I brought together my theoretical training and community support. I learned to meet my clients where they are using a person-centered approach. Compass cares enough to make this a possibility for all clinicians - to effectively demonstrate their skills while developing a rapport with clients. This work environment is positively unique, and definitively so during an ongoing global pandemic stretching resources paper-thin.



Amount Spent
\$1,915,791.48

Clients Served
37,162

1. Partnership With Families

A "system of care" built to serve children who are diagnosed with a Serious Emotional Disturbance. The program coordinates services from all agencies involved in treatment of the child.

2. Pinocchio Program

Early identification and intervention for grade K-3rd students who have school adjustment concerns.

3. School-Based Mental Health Specialists

In-school mental health services, direct therapeutic intervention, and supports for children diagnosed with a Serious Emotional Disorder.

4. School-Based Violence Prevention

Interactive programming that educates, heightens awareness, and teaches anger management, conflict resolution, bullying, internet safety, and critical thinking skills to students in grades K-8.

1. Outcome: 95% of youth served remained in their own home/community setting, out of residential placement, psychiatric hospitalization, juvenile detention, or Division of Youth placement.

2. Outcome: 97% of classroom teachers reported an improvement in student behaviors at school, within one school year.

3. Outcome: 93% of youth remained free from critical incident events such as violence toward others or suicide attempts.

4. Outcome: 98% of youth reported being able to recognize at least two signs of inappropriate responses to anger in themselves.

Funded Agencies and Programs



Amount Spent
\$542,806.48

Clients Served
1,763

Family Empowerment

The program uses a trauma-informed framework, utilizing evidence-based and therapeutic interventions to help families move beyond crisis to stability.

Respite

A 24/7 short-term, safe haven for children birth through age 12, whose families face an emergency caused by illness, homelessness, domestic violence, or overwhelming parental stress.

Outcome: 98% of parents reported using one or more new coping strategies after receiving services.

Outcome: 98% of children avoided out-of-home placement when discharged from respite care.

Program Impact...

One notable success in the 11th Circuit Family Court's *Therapeutic Supervised Visitation Program* is the progress between a father and two siblings who have been meeting for joint visits more recently. While they haven't completed the program yet, the progress made since starting has been significant. Near the beginning, one child stated in an activity about being on a hypothetical bridge between the past and present, "I jumped off. I don't want to be on the bridge." Recently, they revisited this, and he said, "I climbed back on the bridge and am in the middle of it." This is normal for many youth who are in a situation that is not their fault and not within their control.

The therapist worked hard to build rapport and trust, helping them realize they do have control over their choices and responses. Their sibling shared recently that they were feeling differently about their relationship with dad, stating, "I jumped off the bridge a while ago to swim to the other side and I'm just waiting there." This demonstrates the complexity of working with siblings in the TSVP since they are often working through the reunification process in their own way.

Success with this family thus far is the commitment and effort of all parties involved. The father is consistent in attendance and has been open to coaching and adjusting in parenting skills. The children are dealing with the tough feelings that arise with rebuilding their relationship with dad.

Finally, the mother has consistently brought the children to appointments and supported reunification despite initial concerns. The therapist is confident this family will continue to grow in their relationships.



Amount Spent
\$43,775.00

Clients Served
73

Eleventh Circuit Family Court - Therapeutic Supervised Visitation

Co-joint parent-child therapy conducted by a licensed mental health professional that enhances parenting knowledge and skills in order to "normalize" the parent-child relationship. The goal is a relationship without restriction or limits. Services are contracted to Youth In Need.

Outcome: 93% of parents demonstrated improvement in meeting the emotional needs of their children as evidenced by appropriate communication and behaviors.



Amount Spent
\$94,525.88

Clients Served
116

Family Support Network

Weekly, intensive home-based family counseling and psychoeducation for children up to age 13.

Psychological Services

Outpatient psychological services including comprehensive psychological evaluations and follow-up case management services.

Outcome: 100% of families increased their family strengths that promote resilience against child abuse and neglect.

Outcome: 100% of clients and/or caregivers gained knowledge about their mental health conditions.



Amount Spent
\$333,748.94

Clients Served
1,508

Parent Partner

As part of Compass Health Network's Partnership with Families program, F.A.C.T.'s Parent Support Partners use a peer-to-peer model to support families who have a child diagnosed with a mental health condition. Parent Support Partners help caregivers find local resources, social support, and navigate education systems; increasing resiliency and family stability.

Outcome: 98% of children at risk of out-of-home placement remained with their families after six months of service.



Amount Spent
\$161,218.50

Clients Served
80

Counseling

Individual, family, and group counseling is provided with special attention given to strengthening parent-child relationships. Children and their families are evaluated and matched with the appropriate therapeutic intervention to meet their needs.

Outcome: 100% of children/youth participating in services had no out-of-home stays for 90 days after treatment.



Amount Spent
\$22,654.94

Clients Served
681

Trafficking Prevention

Breaking the Chains of Human Trafficking raises awareness about human trafficking through information, networking, and community resources. The program prepares and empowers the community to better understand human trafficking and how to report a potential situation.

Outcome: 94% of participants increased their knowledge of types of trafficking and at-risk populations.



Amount Spent
\$82,607.79

Clients Served
59

1. 30 Days to Family

A short-term intervention to diligently search for a child's relatives and kin in order to identify potential placement options and supports.

2. Educational Advocacy

Serving students impacted by foster care who have mental, emotional, or behavioral health concerns. Education advocacy assists with special education plans, enrollment, and/or suspensions.

3. Family Works

24/7 support to foster/adopt/guardianship families to increase parent capacity and placement stability for foster/adopted youth. Families receive education about complex trauma and connect with long-term supports.

1. Outcome: 95% of youth remained in a stable familial situation 30 days post conclusion of services.

2. Outcome: 100% of children and youth served reported achieving at least one of their educational goals.

3. Outcome: 100% of families increased self-efficacy after receiving services.

Program Impact...

Sam was in foster care for seven long years when the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition received his referral. Like too many kids, he'd been labeled unadoptable. Twelve-year-old Sam experienced significant trauma throughout his life. Because of that, he functioned at the developmental age of a seven year old. He learned behaviors before entering care that helped him survive, but hurt his ability to function in family, social, or school settings.

After finding his forever family through the Coalition's *Extreme Recruitment*® program, Sam was referred for support to the Coalition's *Educational Advocacy* program. Taryn, Educational Advocate, was assigned to his case. Sam had an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in place, but he still struggled with behavioral issues.

Taryn quickly began advocacy work. The school changed their approach, taking time to get to know Sam to help him succeed. Once the school learned about his needs, they worked with him through these situations. During the case, the family moved and Sam was expected to switch schools. Taryn advocated for Sam to remain in the same school. Keeping his best interest in mind, the school agreed.

Taryn worked with Sam's adoptive mother to help her become his best advocate. When Sam was bullied or faced challenges, Taryn encouraged her to reach out to school staff and she gained the confidence to build a strong support system around her son.

Thanks to CCRB's support of Taryn's advocacy, Sam's educational goals were achieved and he's thriving.



Amount Spent
\$62,353.60

Clients Served
5,561

Suicide Safety

This school-based prevention program provides awareness, and intervention presentations for middle and high school students; parent and teacher education; and suicide intervention training for professionals to help prevent loss of life to suicide.

Outcome: 78% of students completing pre/post surveys reported greater recognition of warning signs of emotional distress and/or suicide.



LINC
St.
Charles
County

Amount Spent
\$45,899.20

Clients Served
879

Crisis Intervention

Services that address the needs of at-risk youth and the needs of the family as a whole. Supports include individual counseling, music therapy, case management, and wraparound services for parents/caregivers and their children in crisis.

Outcome: 100% of the families receiving wraparound services remained in their home for at least 30 days.



Amount Spent
\$194,002.06

Clients Served
284

Counseling

Licensed professional counselors with extensive experience working with children and adolescents. They offer guidance to youth dealing with issues that affect their mental health and well-being. Services are for youth 5-19 years with office and school-based services.

Outcome: 78% of children who presented behavioral problems showed improvement in behavior at home or school.



Amount Spent
\$39,573.75

Clients Served
44

Resource Center Counseling

Promotes resiliency and recovery among youth and their families who are negatively affected by bullying and cyberbullying by establishing a network of support, mental health counseling, and mentorships. Methods are short-term, solution-focused, and strength-based.

Outcome: 100% of children and youth served experienced an improved level of functioning in the home and/or school, within 6-10 weeks of services.



Amount Spent
\$87,691.31

Clients Served
187

Nurse Home Visits

In-home nursing visits to infants, prenatal women and families. Clients are case managed by a Registered Nurse with experience caring for women and infants.

Outcome: 100% of mothers completing the program accessed one or more community resources appropriate to their needs.

Funded Agencies and Programs



Amount Spent
\$38,928.31

Clients Served
3,087

1. Basics Presentations

Presentations are provided to professionals and the community to help participants better understand mental health conditions and fight stigma.

2. Crisis Intervention Training

Training for law enforcement officers to recognize and respond effectively to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.

3. Ending the Silence

Mental-health-focused presentations for middle and high school students, professionals, and caregivers that includes warning signs, facts and statistics and how to get help for themselves or a friend.

1. Outcome: 100% of participants attending workshop presentations reported a less judgmental view of people with mental illness.

2. Outcome: 100% of officers will demonstrated how to intervene with individuals who are suicidal.

3. Outcome: 93% of Ending the Silence student participants indicated that they knew the early warning signs of mental illness at the conclusion of the presentation.

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Amount Spent
\$123,448.13

Clients Served
32

Family Strengths

A long-term residential program for women who are pregnant and homeless, along with their children. Services include child developmental assessments, parent mentoring, advocacy, and wellness programs which secure the mental, emotional, physical, social, and educational well-being of the children and mothers.

Outcome: 100% of mothers showed progress in parenting and life skills after 60 days of residency.

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Amount Spent
\$536,428.65

Clients Served
4,153

Outpatient Substance Use Treatment

A client-centered & strengths-based approach which includes therapies and relapse prevention programs, such as counseling, psychiatry, and case management.

Team of Concern

School and community-based substance use prevention programing, which includes professional development, individual services, and linkage to referrals.

Outcome: 100% of youth had no further drug-related involvement with the legal system.

Outcome: 89% of youth receiving services had improved school engagement and performance.

Program Impact...

Over the course of a year, the women who are served at Our Lady's Inn are varied in their backgrounds, their journeys, and their goals. The staff believe that all women gain something from their time at the shelter.

Amy and her two children came to Our Lady's in April from a domestic violence situation; she was also pregnant with her third child. During her brief time at Our Lady's Inn, Amy secured employment, graduated from prenatal and parenting class at Our Lady's Inn, regularly attended Celebrate Recovery, saved for and purchased a car, and is attending all medical appointments for herself and her children. She worked closely with the staff at Our Lady's Inn to achieve all of the goals she has established for herself.

Each family comes to Our Lady's Inn with their own unique struggles and allows Our Lady's Inn to work with them in partnership to secure the skills and resources that are needed to take care of their children, their unborn child, and themselves.

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In November of 2021, St. Charles County police officers were dispatched to a residence for a report of a suicidal juvenile female who was armed with a knife. When officer arrived on scene they were able to use de-escalation techniques learned through NAMI St. Louis' *Crisis Intervention Team Training* program. The juvenile dropped the knife and asked for mental health support.

Afterward, the officer followed up with a Youth Behavioral Health Liaison to ensure the juvenile and family were connected to services. With this connection, the Liaison was able to connect the family to additional resources and no additional law enforcement contact has been reported since the original incident.



Amount Spent
\$171,799.82

Clients Served
435

1. Counseling

Office-based individual, group, and family counseling services, and Love and Logic parenting skills classes.

2. Crisis Interventions

School-based counseling to children and their families when a crisis interferes with their academic process.

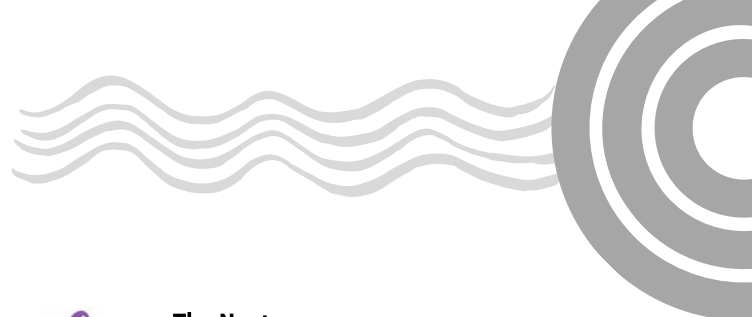
3. Outpatient Psychiatric

Psychiatric evaluation, consultation, and ongoing medication management for children, in collaboration with therapeutic treatments.

1. Outcome: After three counseling sessions, 79% of children & youth participants demonstrated stability or a reduction in mental health symptoms.

2. Outcome: After three counseling sessions, 90% of children & youth participants developed a positive relationships with caring adults in the therapeutic process

3. Outcome: 88% of clients demonstrated improved functioning as evidenced by medication compliance.



Sts. Joachim & Ann Care Service - Children & Family Development

Amount Spent
\$109,111.88

Clients Served
516

Wraparound services aimed at addressing the immediate and long-term needs of families with children who are homeless, on the verge of homelessness, or in crisis. Mental health, physical, basic, and educational needs of the child and family are assessed.

Outcome: 88% of children served showed improvement in one area of the physical and emotional well-being assessment within 12 months.



The Nest

A long-term housing option for pregnant teens, offering wraparound services that empower young moms and their children to realize their full potential. Services include counseling, case management, and education and parenting support.

The Sparrow's Nest did not provide services in 2021.



Best Choice Program

Amount Spent
\$80,655.74

Clients Served
4,334

Provides Missouri statute - compliant, medically accurate, culturally sensitive information and activities to encourage youth ages 12-18 to eliminate risk through practicing sexual abstinence/delay until marriage or a long-term, committed, monogamous relationship.

Outcome: Students reported an 8% increase in behavioral intention regarding the delay of sexual activity until marriage or a long-term, committed monogamous relationship.



Equine-Assisted Therapy

Amount Spent
\$3,475.00

Clients Served
2

Equine-assisted activities and therapy is an experiential therapy process focused on client goal achievement through interacting with horses in a variety of ways, ultimately helping clients develop positive patterns outside of the therapy session.

Outcome: 100% of youth reported a reduction in psychological symptoms.



Psychological Assessments

Amount Spent
\$173,647.06

Clients Served
267

Provides a full range of psychological evaluation services to children aged 3 to 18 who are in need of an psychological evaluation due to a suspected or previously diagnosed mental health disorder.

Outcome: 100% of youth or their caregivers understood how their child's condition affects their child's daily life.



Building Blocks—Intensive Behavioral Intervention Classrooms

Amount Spent
\$186,309.05

Clients Served
48

Provides educational, therapeutic, and behavioral supports to children ages 18 months to 3 years who have been diagnosed with a developmental delay, disability or behavior disorder; many of whom also have Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Outcome: 90% of children participated in 75% of group activities with prompting as needed, after 3 months of services.

Program Impact...

When Nicole came to Saints Joachim & Ann Care Service's *Children and Family Development Center* she was fleeing from her violent husband. She had three small girls and temporary respite with her family was no longer an option. Nicole was working full-time making minimum wage, but it was not enough to pay a deposit or the first month's rent on a new, safe place for her children.

Nicole was assigned to Care Service Social Service Worker (SSW) Emily who advocated to landlords on her behalf. SSW Emily helped Nicole search for affordable housing and worked on an attainable budget with the family. When housing was found, the Care Service was able to assist with the security deposit and first month's rent of the apartment. The family was also enrolled in the Care Service weekly food pantry, and SSW Emily helped Nicole sign up for food stamps to stretch her grocery budget.

Since the family was moving into a new home with nothing, SSW Emily was able to secure new beds, furniture, and household items to get them started. SSW Emily helped Nicole enroll the girls in school. Each child received a backpack stocked with new school supplies from the Care Service and coordinated with the school district to assist Nicole in attaining an individualized education plan (IEP) for her first-grade daughter who was struggling. With an IEP in place, the daughter started to excel in school.

After settling into her new home, Nicole found a higher paying job. SSW Emily helped her adjust her budget to accommodate savings and referred her to free legal services to assist in obtaining an order for child support and custody agreement. Nicole and her girls say they feel safer and happier then they have been in years and no longer live in fear. The family is thriving!

Funded Agencies and Programs



Amount Spent
\$765,351.72

Clients Served
816

1. Counseling

Comprehensive individual, family, and group counseling, support groups, and in-school services.

2. Crisis Intervention

Immediate access to services for youth who are experiencing homelessness, abuse, or neglect.

3. Teen Parent Program

Services to pregnant and/or parenting teens including counseling, support groups, and education.

4. Temporary Shelter

Therapeutic services and emergency housing for youth 10-19 years of age, including counseling, life skills, crisis intervention, and other support services.

5. Transitional Living

Assists youth in the development of skills they need to live independently and maintain employment as they transition from the program to long-term housing in the community.

1. Outcome: 78% of children and youth showed an increase in well-being and a decrease in emotional and physical symptoms of distress.

2. Outcome: 100% of youth and families who requested services via Safe Place or the Youth Connection Helpline participated in service linkage, safety planning, or received referrals to address their crisis issue.

3. Outcome: 95% of clients progressed toward completing an education degree or program as evidenced by regular participation and attendance.

4. Outcome: 93% of youth clients lived in a safe, stable living situation with family or an alternative solution in the community, subsequent to receiving services.

5. Outcome: 94% of clients increased life skills, including budgeting and money management, self-care, housekeeping, nutrition, transportation, and use of community resources in order to live independently.



Program Impact...

Recently, The Child Advocacy Center *Forensic Services* program worked with a young mother of three little boys who had endured an evening of terror by their biological father. They told of the horror of seeing their father yell at their mother, drag her around the house, and even shoot at her. To show his power and control, the father called each child, one by one, into the room for them to say good bye to their mother.

All of the children talked about how they thought this was going to be the last time they saw their mother alive. The trauma of the events washed over them and the fear was present.

While the children were being interviewed, the mother spoke to an Advocate about what the family needed to start the healing process, the mother wondered about making repairs to things that were broken that night ... a broken window, the door where the bullet hole landed, and some holes in the wall from his fist. They seem like simple repairs, but to this family they were reminders of what happened and what possibly happened many times before.

These repairs are still in progress, and the family is moving forward. All three boys are in therapy, mom is working at a new job she loves, and the father is being prosecuted for the crimes he committed that evening.

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Tamara reached out to the Saint Louis Crisis Nursery's 24 Hour Helpline one evening in late fall. It was the first really cold day of the year and she had gone to the library with her two young children to stay warm. After missing some work due to illness, she was short on money for the extended stay hotel they had been living at and had nowhere to go. Tamara didn't want to sleep in their car with the kids in the cold but didn't know what else they could do. She sobbed with relief as Nursery staff let her know the kids could come immediately to the Crisis Nursery for respite care.

While the children enjoyed a safe, warm place to play, Tamara spent the next few days working with the Nursery's *Family Empowerment* staff. Her FEP counselor worked with another agency to secure a week-long motel stay after discharge, and agreed to work alongside her on the steps she needed to take to get into stable housing.

Several months later, Tamara is working full time while the children attend a local daycare, and they are now living in their own apartment!

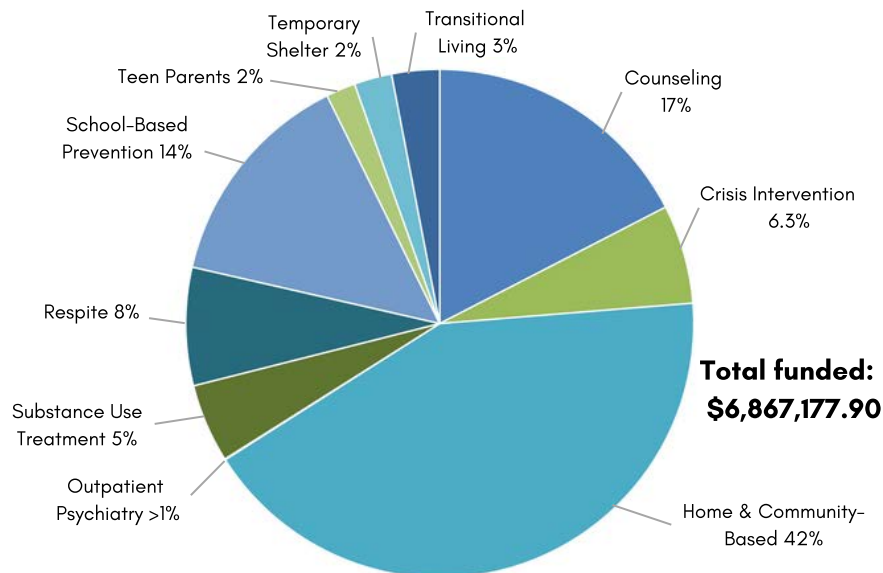
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One of the most fulfilling moments about being a *Thrive Best Choice* Program Facilitator is going into schools and facilitating conversations with the students, is their vulnerability. There is often a point where the students take time to stop and talk or ask questions after class is over. Often they express what is uncomfortable to say in front of their peers or to their parents. Whether it be to express a concern, ask for relationship advice, or to simply vent, knowing that they see a facilitator as a confidant makes give my work more purpose.

I realize that being a sound voice in a world that is run by the media and surrounded with peers that are also trying to figure life out makes it hard to express natural curiosity sometimes. This is why I believe we encourage "The Talk" with parents and close, trusted adults. To normalize their children approaching them with questions and concerns instead of media, which is solely to entertain and not educate. Vulnerability is a great step towards sexual integrity.

Additional Service Data

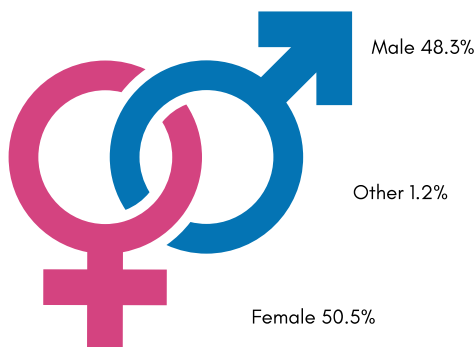
Funding by Service Category



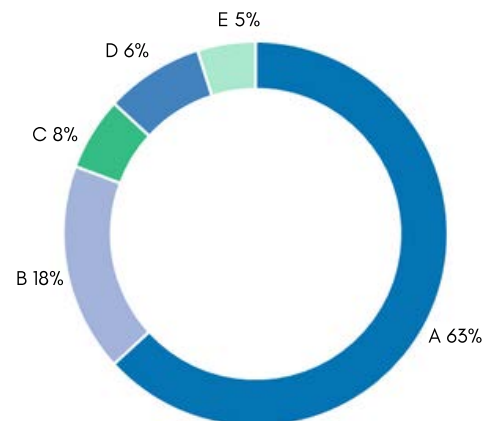
Number of Programs

- Counseling 10
- Crisis Intervention 6
- Home & Community 18
- Outpatient Psychiatry 1
- Outpatient Substance Use Treatment 1
- Respite 3
- School-Based Prevention 7
- Teen Parents 3
- Temporary Shelter 1
- Transitional Living 1

Populations Served



- A** White/Caucasian
- B** Black/African-American
- C** Hispanic/Latinx
- D** Two or more races
- E** Other



A total of 8,881 individuals provided data

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31658



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