I find myself reflective in this, my last letter to all of you, in my role as President of the Board of Directors for the Center for Youth and Family Solutions (CYFS). To sum it up, I am quite simply in awe of this organization; its leadership and staff; volunteers; donors; and the children, senior citizens and families it serves. Together, we are realizing much. Survival. Resilience. Independence. Empowerment. Self-actualization.

The power of this team is immense. Rooted at its foundation is the CYFS staff. In fiscal year (FY) 2017, these dedicated individuals helped more than 17,000 people weather some of the worst trials imaginable. Trauma. Abuse. Neglect. Depression. Grief. Family Crisis.

CYFS delivers inspiring support to them all. These dedicated leaders are not only deeply committed to finding solutions that change lives but are always learning so that they can be at the forefront of innovations in the delivery of services. The goal is to always look to improve outcomes, leading to a better quality of life.

Just this past year, our Guardian Angel Residential Treatment program was one of only five such centers in Illinois selected to be part of an extensive training program on trauma sponsored by the Center for Child Trauma Assessment, Services and Interventions at Northwestern University. This training enables our front-line residential staff to respond effectively to the behavioral and emotional challenges unique to traumatized youth.

The CYFS adoption program is recognized as one of the best in Illinois, leading the way in finding permanency for children in foster care who long for loving, forever families. Committed to reducing the time it takes to finalize an adoption after parental rights have been terminated, CYFS staff shared their expertise in a statewide project tasked with streamlining the state of Illinois’ adoption process. When these changes were piloted last year, they effectively reduced the amount of time a child waited for a forever home by 73 percent. That’s 408 fewer days until they experienced the real sense of security a stable home affords.

These are just two examples of how CYFS effects change, not only helping people to heal, cope and thrive every day, but also in striving for excellence in the delivery of services to help children and families heal faster, cope better, and thrive for the long-term. I encourage you to read the rest of the CYFS FY ‘17 Annual Report to learn more about our clients’ outcomes and the related impacts to the communities in which we are located.

Finally, I want you to know how personally grateful I, the rest of the Board of Directors and each member of the staff of the Center for Youth and Family Solutions are for your support. Without it, none of these incredible outcomes would be possible. From all of us, thank you for being part of the solution and believing in the enduring strength of the human spirit. Together, we are changing lives and changing communities.

Janet Mathis
Board President
That’s the number of children our Adoption Program placed with loving adoptive families this year. It is our goal that every child we serve has a loving place to call home and a forever family.

17,372 people were impacted by CYFS programs. These are children, individuals and families who have experienced life changing trauma, abuse and neglect, or other significant life challenges. Our goal is to help each child and adult learn to cope with those experiences and help them achieve their fullest potential.

“Thank you CYFS for all of your positive support during the adoption process. We will never forget the role our adoption worker played in making our family complete.”

- CYFS Adoptive parent
Finding Solutions

325

Children in foster care experienced the stability of a lasting, safe and caring family through reunification or adoption.

97%

Of seniors served by New Day program continue to live independently. This program provides in home counseling and volunteer companion services to older adults who are facing such issues as depression, grief and loss and a feeling of isolation. The program prevents costly and premature nursing home care.

2,880

That’s the total number of snack packs our team provided to children in the Peoria area that may not be getting enough food at home.

93%

Of youth served in our Crisis Intervention Program are now off the streets and returned to a safe living environment.

Changing Lives

“I felt like there was no light at the end of the tunnel. Then I met my therapist, and there is a big light.”

Our Youth, Family and Community Outreach Services throughout Illinois are designed to help people in crisis find stabilization.
Our Behavioral Health Counseling program helps families and individuals address a wide variety of issues.

Strength

That’s the number of families CYFS helped find solutions so that they could heal, cope and thrive.

89% of individuals and families we helped reported that early in the process, they felt heard and understood by their therapist.

88% of individuals and families reported the services they received were effective in helping them resolve the issues that brought them into counseling and they maintained progress six months later.

"My therapist made me feel safe discussing everything with her. I really feel she saved not only my marriage, but my husband’s relationships with our children."

-Marriage Counseling Client

23,207 hours were spent by our volunteers selflessly helping CYFS achieve solutions. Whether teaching a child to read, visiting a lonely senior, or mentoring kids, our volunteers are an essential part of the work we do. We are simply inspired by their unwavering commitment in sharing their gifts.

7,106

That’s the number of families CYFS helped find solutions so that they could heal, cope and thrive.

Inspiring

"I love to volunteer at CYFS because it gives me a chance to help plant some positive seeds in the next generation."

-CYFS Volunteer

Opportunity
Jami Bollinger
Andrea Bomelyn
Bon-Ton Stores
Angela Boyer
Doug Braun and Nancy Braun
Property and equipment
3,353,346
TOTAL ASSETS
$7,062,582
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS
Accounts payable and accrued expenses
2,170,815
Unrestricted net assets
2,248,225
TOTAL NET ASSETS
$2,684,349
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS
$7,062,582

Our Donors

Advantage Auto Sales
Alan J. Novick, Attorney at Law
Chelsey Allaman
Allied Plumbing and Heating
Allstate Insurance
Jarred Amato
Amy Helperstell Foundation Fund
Marla and Stephen Andich
Tammy Aring
Arlingtons
Mary Ann Armbruster
Art Defined
Chris Atkinson
Shawn Atwater
Johnathan and Kathleen Ayler
Bachrach
Warren Barnum
Glen Barton
Becky’s Crafts
Elisa Beneze
Crystal and Anthony Bentley
Randal and Elizabeth Berardi
Meagan Berlin
Deborah and Roger Bertschi
Timothy and Janet Bertschy
Tiffany Beschomer
John Biembaum
BJ Grand Salon and Spa
Brian Blair
Jami Bollinger
Andrea Bomelyn
Bon-Ton Stores
Angela Boyer
Doug Braun and Nancy Braun
Alice and James Bremner
Steve and Carey Brewer
Lori Brown
Paul Brown
Daniel Bruce
Paul Budzinski
Buffalo Wild Wings
Terry and Laurie Burch
Amy Campbell
Susan Canty
Patrick Carlson
Carpenters Local 270
Casey’s General Store
Robyn and Christopher Cashen
Cassady Martial Arts Academy
Jamie and Amy Cassidy
CEFCU
Christ The King Catholic Church
Chubby’s Inc.
Connie Clague
Andrea Clayton
Colchester State Bank
Steve Collins and Heidi Huiskamp-Collins
Commerce Bank-Peoria
Community United Church of Christ
Jennifer and Kevin Coppersmith
Kim Corcoran
Karen Cordes
Suzette and Kevin Cravens
Kimberly Croxton
Jennifer Cruise
Loyd and Katherine Cutrer
Sheila and Mike Dalton
John Dare
Data Power Technology-Illinois
Cary David
Barbara Davidson
Robert & and Tara DeBlaey
Cynthia Degnan
Martha Delzell
Carrie Depoy
Depoy Auto Service
William D’Hondt
Dick Taylor Collision Services
Dawn Dieckgrafe
Digital Copy Systems, LLC
Discover
Pamela and Scott Dixon
Sharon Dodd
Alice Doehring
Lela Donaldson
William and Jennifer Donarski
Judith Donohue
Doris and Victor Day Foundation
Joanne Dorn
Cecily Dorsett
Shannon Doubet
Carrie Drake
Michael and Mary Drymiller
Brittany Dunn
Jennifer Durbin
East Central Illinois Community Action Agency
Donald and Judith Eckman
Christine Edwards
Mary and George Eigl
Teresa Emken
Engraving By Lin
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
Chilli’s
Mary Gawald
The F & M Bank
Ronald Fanning
Mark Favetti
Kaylee Fofil
Reginald and Teresa Folmar
Mary and Glen Forck
David and Marilyn Formhals
Get Involved
Volunteering is a way to share your gifts, gain experience, and give back to your community. Our volunteers make a difference everyday in the lives of our clients. Find out about volunteer opportunities at cyfsolutions.org/get-involved/volunteer or call 309.323.6600.

Donate
Your generosity truly matters! Our services aren’t possible without your donation. Please consider a tax deductible gift to CYFS to your program of choice or a general designation.