

THE CENTER FOR YOUTH AND FAMILY SOLUTIONS
2021 ANNUAL REPORT

#### A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



2021—yet another year testing our resilience. Think about it. To cope and

thrive in these difficult times, we draw strength from who we are and what's around us. It takes individual strength and community support to feel secure. That safe and enriching experience is what The Center for Youth and Family Solutions provides for every person we serve. We are focused on the well-being of our clients—helping them to heal, guiding them to discover their own strengths and the resources available, and cultivating their resilience to move forward.

CYFS plays a vital role in assisting children and families to meet their life challenges. We acknowledge their pain. We witness their struggles. We help them cope. Our caring professionals provide kids, teens, and families with the tools they need to heal from the trauma of abuse and neglect, cope with depression, recover from grief, and manage family crises. We help older adults live independently in their homes. We find inspiration in witnessing people of all ages persist and act with courage.

We are pleased and humbled to be a resource in our clients' success and a contributor to community well-being. This year we helped 438 youth in foster care secure a permanent, safe, and loving forever family through reunification, adoption, or guardianship. We were also instrumental in promoting healing with youth and families in our Community Outreach programs, including 969 persons served through our partnership with the Moline Police Department. In the community at large, our therapists guided 89% of those we served to significant improvement in their lives.

Throughout our FY 21 Annual Report, you will see additional examples of such healing, restoration, and rebuilding resulting from building relationships, dedicated staff, and innovative programs. We feel good about what we were able to accomplish. But one thing we know is that none of these accomplishments could happen without you—our donors, supporters, and

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volunteers. Your contribution has been and remains essential for CYFS to continue providing life-changing services to persons in need and to enhance community life. Thank you for being part of our caring community as we continue to achieve solutions together.

Respectfully,

Michael O'Melia

Michael O'Melia

## CYFS FY2021 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

All CYFS programs are committed to helping children and families heal from life-changing trauma, abuse and neglect, and other significant challenges. Each program provides strengths-based, family-centered, trauma-responsive, and inclusive programs, services, and interventions.

Last year, we helped **over 20,000** people build their resilience and coping skills—improving their overall well-being, strengthening their family system, restoring hope, and helping them be well and thrive.



9,000

FAMILIES ACHIEVE
SOLUTIONS





CYFS PROGRAMS
HAVE HELPED OVER
20,000
PEOPLE COPE,
THRIVE, AND HEAL

Strong families build stronger and healthier communities and are the foundation of our overall well-being together. CYFS helped **over 9,000** families heal and achieve solutions by being there when they were in crisis, advocating for equitable access to critical services, and providing evidence-based interventions to build stronger parenting skills and healthier relationships.



# YOUTH, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES

Our **Youth, Family and Community Outreach Services (YFCOS)** help stabilize children, teens, and families in crisis with prevention, diversion, and intervention services.

Our services reached over 4,000 children and adults during the year—stabilizing families in crisis, preventing young people from involvement in delinquent activities, and bringing about lasting change in families by successfully diverting teens from further involvement in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems.



"Our caseworker was so great for our son. He connected with him right away and really listened to what he had to offer. Our son is doing amazing now, because of the services we received."

Parent of a teen who was in crisis and received YFCOS services in-home counseling

4,000
CHILDREN AND INDIVIDUALS



## NEW DAY SENIOR SERVICES

A new day brings hope and CYFS does just that by providing in-home counseling, volunteer companion services, training, and outreach to isolated older adults coping with depression, grief and loss, and loneliness.

Addressing mental health challenges and isolation while seniors still live independently helps prevent costly and premature nursing home care.

of clients served by our program last year continue to live independently of the seniors participating in our community outreach learning programs gained new knowledge, skills, and behaviors that contributed to better physical and mental health.



"I love how my counselor really listens to me. Having her check in makes me feel not so alone."

> New Day Senior Services client who received in-home counseling

%
OF CLIENTS CONTINUE TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY



## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND COUNSELING

Twenty Twenty-One was a stressful year for many of us—not only were we on a rollercoaster ride with the pandemic, but inflation, economic uncertainly, increased isolation, and growing violence in our communities put increased stress on both individuals and their support systems. As a result, more people found themselves needing help due to increased anxiety, depression, grief, and loss, and strained relationships. But people also knew where to turn for assistance, and CYFS' Behavioral Health and Counseling program was there to help meet these growing needs in our communities.

Our caring, compassionate, and licensed therapists supported the healing of over community members. **Nine out**of 10 clients we served reported feeling better, having stronger relationships with loved ones, and felt better able to cope with the life stressors facing them.

"Meeting with my therapist is oftentimes the best part of my week, I feel listened to and appreciate the feedback I receive. I leave therapy feeling lighter than when I went in."

Former Counseling client

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION SERVICES



When an abused or neglected child is referred to our foster care program, it is a scary time and relatives or caring foster families step-in to provide a safe and loving temporary home. We provide and link parents to services that help them make critical changes—such as domestic violence counseling, substance abuse treatment, housing, jobs, and in-home supports to strengthen their capacity to care for their children. We also provide support to families after reunification to help ensure lasting change. And when reunification is not a safe option for a child, we find them forever families through adoption or through guardianship with relatives.

"My caseworkers really took the time to understand my family. She made me feel like a valued person and didn't make me feel like I was being judged."

> A mother who was reunified with her children



Our Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention program is the largest in central Illinois and recognized year after year for achieving some of the best long-term outcomes for children. Our mission is to make certain that every child we serve grows up in a safe, stable, loving family. We saw a concerning 10% increase in the number of children referred for our services this past year. Through successful reunifications, adoptions, and guardianships, we ensured 438 children found a permanent, safe, and loving forever family with adults they trust to care for them for a lifetime.

> CHILDREN EXPERIENCED **PERMANENCY**

## GUARDIAN ANGEL RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

**Guardian Angel Home** in Morton offers boys who are coping with emotional, behavioral, or mental health issues an opportunity to heal from significant trauma, abuse, and neglect and learn new coping skills.

"They keep us safe and are really caring."

Guardian Angel resident Age 10

Last year, our Guardian Angel residential program provided **20 boys** with a safe and supportive living and learning environment.



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Volunteers and interns provided **17,682 hours of compassionate service helping** CYFS carry out our mission throughout the communities we serve. We applaud our volunteers' flexibility as we pivoted many of our activities to remote interactions—whether it be virtual tutoring for a youth in care, videos of volunteers reading children's books, or initiating telephone calls to lonely seniors.

As a learning organization, **CYFS** is a proud partner of over 14 colleges and universities and offer internships in multiple areas of study. Last year, CYFS provided a total of 43 interns an enriched hands-on experience in the human service field providing a critical foundation for the next generation of social workers.



It is our goal that every child we serve has a loving place to call home and a forever family. This year, our Adoption program matched Children in need—infants, toddlers, sibling groups, and teens—with loving adoptive families.

160 **CHILDREN** 



"When you go through infertility, you think your dreams of a family are over. Not so. CYFS gave us hope and ultimately our son." A CYFS Adoption Parent

## CYFS STEPS UP IN 2021

This year called for responsiveness, creativity, and perseverance on the part of human service agencies to meet the growing and changing needs of our communities. CYFS rose to the challenge in a number of areas—stepping in to help, stepping up when needed, and championing critical system change. At CYFS, providing equitable services to all community members is embedded in all we do and drives our advocacy for those we serve. In our last Annual Report, we provided an overview of why equity, diversity, and inclusion matter in our work, to those we serve, and to us all. Here are some project updates reflecting our unwavering commitment to strengthening all families and addressing systemic issues facing those we serve.

SUPPORT TO 968 INDIVIDUALS

## MOLINE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND CYFS SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP

Our partnership with the Moline Police Department entered its 2nd year pairing police and social workers together for enhanced services to the community. The program allows for a quick response when a social work intervention is appropriate. Youth who come to the attention of the police may be runaways or locked out of their homes; children who have observed something traumatic benefit from having a social worker on-site; sometimes the police are responding to situations involving adults in need of mental health services or shelter—whatever the situation, CYFS is there to help. Providing social work interventions alongside the Moline



police, we offered support to **968** individuals and provided **1200 hours** of casework, referral, and behavioral health counseling. Progressive initiatives like this are not possible without the support of involved and interested community members. We are especially grateful to our generous donors, Heidi Huiskamp Collins, Stephanie Acri and Ancel Glink, The Moline Foundation, and the United Way Quad Cities for believing in the mission of this project and the positive impact it will make for the Moline community.

#### CYFS RECOGNIZED BY HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FOUNDATION FOR LGBTO INCLUSION EFFORTS

2021 RIGHTS CAMPAIGN **YOU ARE** WELCOME Pesented by all children-all family

We are proud to be one of 44 organizations nationwide who received certification of **Solid Foundation for Inclusion** this year from the Human Rights Campaign's All Children All Families program. CYFS was recognized for having essential elements of LGBTQ inclusion in our policies and providing affirming practices. We greatly value ongoing learning and improvement at CYFS and together with our Human Rights Campaign partners we reviewed our policies and practices to ensure our services and interventions go beyond basic nondiscrimination protections to intentional inclusiveness in every interaction—fully welcoming all with dignity and respect. As part of this year's certification, we also specifically reviewed, assessed, and strengthened our interventions with youth and parents and invested in employee training and supervision to make these improvements in our practice sustainable for the long term.

#### CYFS JOINS THE ILLINOIS SAFE HAVEN CONSORTIUM

Our Adoption and Pregnancy Counseling Programs are consistently recognized for illustrating excellence of service and integrity in our practice. That is why we were invited to join the Safe Haven Consortium this year. The Consortium consists of 11 top performing licensed adoption agencies in the state who provide

critical services as part of the Illinois Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act. This law allows for new parents concerned about their ability to care for their newborn, to legally relinquish their infants without negative consequences at a hospital, emergency medical care facility, police station, or firehouse, where a referral to the Safe Haven Consortium can be initialed.

Prior to CYFS joining this consortium, there were no local agencies identified in the Central or Southern part of the state to respond to a Safe Haven referral. In



2021, our Adoption and Pregnancy Counseling program stepped up by assisting in two Safe Haven situations and were able to provide a safe and loving forever family for those newborns.

#### CYFS AWARDED FUNDING FROM AMERICORPS TO IMPLEMENT COVID RECOVERY INITIATIVES

When CYFS learned that AmeriCorps Seniors had funding opportunities through the American Rescue Plan to help support local communities recover from the COVID-19 Pandemic, we knew this opportunity closely aligned with our mission and sought funding. This past November, we received a two-year \$250,000 grant providing us the opportunity to take an active role in developing and securing resources to assist in the COVID recovery efforts in underserved populations of Peoria and Tazewell counties. Our priority is recruiting 100 volunteers who will provide relief support in two primary areas. The first will be assisting local health departments, health care providers and health service organizations in promoting and providing vaccinations, boosters, and health education programs. The second is to recruit volunteers to assist food banks, food pantries, and agencies providing meals to individuals in neighborhoods experiencing a lack of food resources due to the pandemic.

While the program is invested in recruiting individuals over 55 years old, there are also opportunities for all adults. Individuals, and community groups are welcome to help support this program. And, CYFS has a variety of volunteer opportunities for all ages to support our other programs too!

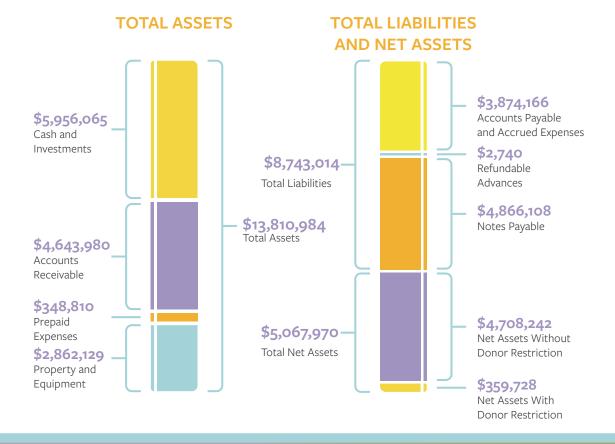


opportunities that you can help with **COVID RECOVERY** all in the comfort of your home while doing something you love!

Contact **jllee@cyfsolutions.org** or by calling her at 309.868.3957 and become a volunteer in the CYFS COVID Recovery Program and help conquer COVID!

## 2021 FINANCIAL POSITION







## CYFS IS SUSTAINED BY YOUR SUPPORT

THE CENTER FOR YOUTH AND FAMILY SOLUTIONS IS TRULY GRATEFUL TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED US DURING FY21 (JULY 1, 2020- JUNE 30, 2021).

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#### **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.



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



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