

Celebrating our Journey
LEADING WITH INNOVATION
Strengthened by Your Support

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



We cannot underestimate the impact of an organization like The Center for Youth and Family Solutions — a place that people throughout our communities count on to be there in a crisis and to restore hope; an agency committed to affirming the dignity of all people, meeting people where they are at, and building on strengths to achieve solutions together. We are an organization that believes those we serve deserve our very best and that drives us to find new ways to be present and help build better tomorrows.

During FY 22, CYFS celebrated our 10-year anniversary, and we took time to reflect on the tremendous impact we have made since our inception. It's rewarding to know we've assisted thousands of families in crisis, successfully advocated for equitable access to critical services, and matched evidence-based intervention with the innovation needed to help our client build stronger and healthier relationships in the real-world.

Over the last year, The Center for Youth and Family Solutions continued to lead the way in developing and delivering inventive programming and solutions for children, families and individuals facing a variety of life challenges. Our caring and compassionate team of professionals illustrated their commitment to coming up with creative solutions to the difficult problems people face and looking at new ways to support those coping with abuse and neglect, depression, loneliness, grief, and the disruption of family systems.

Throughout our FY 22 Annual Report, we share some incredible outcomes grounded in both our strengths as a helping organization and our commitment to always be listening, learning, and responsive. You will see how our family-centered, inclusive, trauma-responsive, and strength-based approach to our work helped nearly 20,000 individuals to heal, cope, and thrive in new and innovative ways.

One thing we know for certain, none of these accomplishments could have happened without you — our donors, supporters, and volunteers. Your contributions have been and remain essential for CYFS to continue providing impactful and life-changing services. Thank you for being part of our caring community as we achieve solutions together.

With Gratitude,

Julie Hohulin, Board President

Julia A. Hohulin

CYFS FY2022 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CYFS is dedicated to helping children and families heal from life-changing trauma, abuse and neglect, and other significant challenges. Grounded in our innovative "F.I.T.S." approach, we achieve solutions together by approaching our work from a Family-Centered, Inclusive, Trauma-Responsive, and Strength-Based perspective.

Family-Centered: with each child, family and individual we serve, we recognize that their family system is central to their development, identity, and relationships and that strengthening families and the communities that support them is imperative to creating lasting change.

Inclusivity: we embrace the distinctive skills, experiences, and perspectives of everyone, and work actively to remove systemic barriers, challenge inequities, and ensure equal access to resources and opportunities.

Trauma-Responsive: we recognize that often behaviors and symptoms are the result of traumatic experiences, and we promote healing and recovery by infusing and sustaining trauma awareness and knowledge into our practice.

Strength-Based: we affirm that every person has inherent worth—identifying strengths builds resilience and helps empower people to see potential solutions.

9553

FAMILIES ACHIEVE SOLUTIONS TOGETHER





CYFS PROGRAMS
HAVE HELPED NEARLY

20,000
PEOPLE HEAL,

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

COPE, AND THRIVE

Strong families build stronger and healthier communities and contribute to our overall well-being together. CYFS helped 9,553 families heal and achieve solutions.





ADOPTION

This year, our Adoption program matched **167 children**—infants, toddlers, sibling groups, and teens—with loving forever families.





167 CHILDREN

"My Adoption Specialist has always answered my questions right away and gave me encouragement and strength through it all."

Adoptive Parent Who Now Has a Forever Family

GUARDIAN ANGEL RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

Guardian Angel Home in Morton offers young boys an opportunity to heal from significant trauma, abuse, and neglect and learn new coping skills. Last year, Guardian Angel residential program provided 16 boys aged 6 through 12 with a safe and supportive living and learning environment.

"They make me feel cared for and safe."

Guardian Angel Resident,

Age 9





BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND COUNSELING

More people in the United States are living with mental and emotional distress than ever before, and the demand for mental health assistance in the communities we serve has increased.

Children, individuals, and families facing anxiety, depression, and strained relationships found help working with our caring, compassionate, and skilled therapists.



9 out of 10 clients we served reported having stronger relationships with loved ones, and felt better able to cope with the life stressors facing them.

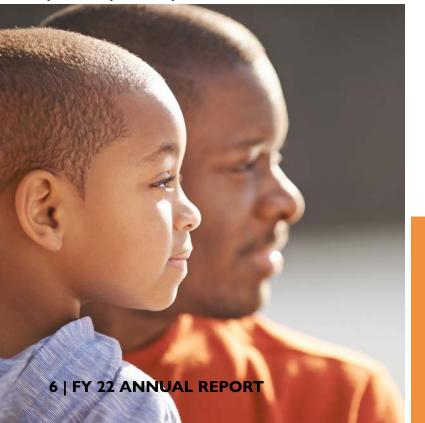
"My therapist always gave me ideas and tips as we went along in our sessions each week. I feel much less anxious and now have tools to use in any situation."

Counseling Client



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

Our services reached over 5,000 children and adults last year and brought about lasting change by successfully diverting teens from further involvement in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems.



5,000 CHILDREN AND INDIVIDUALS

"Our Caseworker went above and beyond to try and help our family. She was able to give understanding and compassion in our difficult situations. It's because of her that we are better."

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

NEW DAY SENIOR SERVICES

A new day brings hope. CYFS provides inhome counseling, volunteer companion services, training, and outreach to isolated older adults coping with depression, grief, loss, and loneliness.

99% of clients served by these programs last year continue to live independently and 100% of seniors in our community outreach programs learned new skills that contributed to better physical and mental health.





99%

CLIENTS CONTINUE

TO LIVE IN THEIR

OWN HOMES

"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

100%

SENIORS LEARNED

NEW SKILLS FOR

THEIR HEALTH

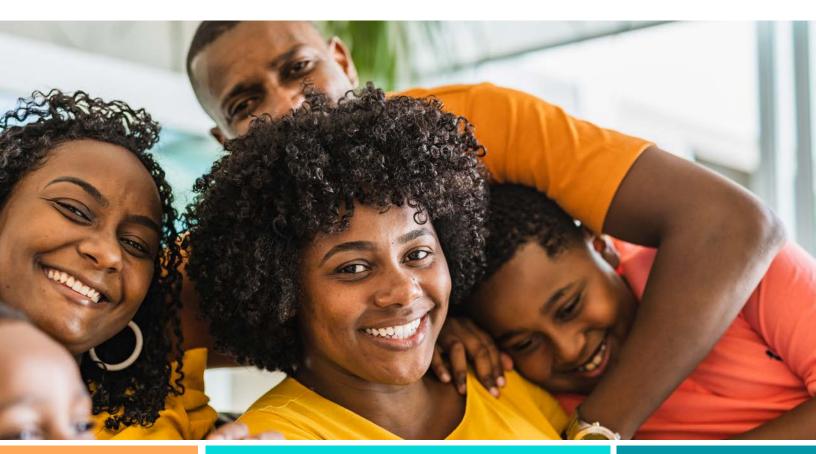


CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION SERVICES

Our Intact Family Services program is designed to provide families with the linkages, support, and resources they need to make changes and prevent out-of-home foster care placement for their children. Our services **helped 657 families** strengthen their capacity to protect and care for their children.

When an abused or neglected child is referred to our foster care program, CYFS provides a safe and loving temporary home with relatives or licensed foster parents. We provide and link parents to services that help them make the changes necessary to provide a safe and nurturing home for their children – such as domestic violence counseling, substance abuse treatment, housing, jobs, and in-home supports. **720 foster families** provided safety, security, and support to **1,570 children** in foster care in FY22.

Our mission is to make certain that every child we serve grows up in a safe, stable, loving family through successful reunification, adoption, and guardianship. This year, we ensured 440 children found a permanent, safe, and loving forever family with adults they trust to care for them for a lifetime.



"She changed my life. She helped me stay strong and focused on my goals so I could get my children back."

A mom who was reunified with her children





CHILDREN EXPERIENCED
PERMANENCY

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Last year, volunteers and interns provided 20,578 hours of compassionate service—tutoring, reading, and mentoring youth in care; visiting isolated seniors; and assisting with administrative tasks that help support the children and families we serve.

CYFS is also a proud partner with over 14 colleges and universities and offers internships in multiple areas of study. Last year, CYFS **provided** a total of 51 interns with an enriched hands-on experience in the human service field providing a critical foundation for the next generation of social workers.

20,578 HOURS



CYFS LEADING THE WAY WITH INNOVATIVE SERVICES

This year called for creativity, persistence, and innovation to meet the growing needs in our communities. Here are some project updates reflecting our unwavering commitment to strengthening all families with innovative programming.



HELPING CHILDREN MOVE BEYOND TRAUMA WITH SCIENCE

One of our most innovative approaches we use to promote environments of healing and recovery for children who have been severely affected by trauma is the **Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT)**. Our four certified NMT clinicians are trained in completing a "brain map". This assessment provides information on how well a child is functioning with things like self-regulation, relational functioning, and cognitive functioning, and a treatment plan is developed that will meet the child's needs.

Take for instance Riley, who experienced a high level of trauma during her infancy due to insufficient bonding with her biological mother and domestic violence in the home. Now in foster care at 8 years old, Riley was exhibiting violent behaviors, couldn't calm down, and resisted therapeutic interventions.

Her brain map assessment indicated she had areas of her lower brain that had been affected by the lack of connection and dysfunction in the home. Our NMT specialists developed an intervention plan that promoted bonding with her foster family and increased Riley's coping skills. She was able to stabilize and began to participate in therapy geared to her developmental level. She is now doing well in her foster home, excelling in school, visiting her family regularly, and participating in therapy.



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM ADDRESS GAPS IN PROVIDING QUALITY FOSTER CARE SERVICES

Throughout the United States and here in Illinois, there are fewer foster homes which means fewer options for youth who need a safe, nurturing foster home experience. To address this growing need, CYFS developed our Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention program and licensed 50 new homes last year. This team is not only focused on recruiting more foster parents but also helping

to support all foster families we partner with.

We also stepped up to help meet the needs of youth who needed a safe interim placement. Sometimes the intense trauma youth referred to our foster care program have experienced



results in challenging coping behaviors complicated by multiple moves from one foster home to another. To help meet the needs of these youth, the CYFS Transitional Foster Home program was developed. This program provides a short-term transitional home environment for youth when conventional foster care did not work. Foster parents in this program receive additional training and support and function as part of the professional foster care team. Current Transitional Foster Home parent Lois Bennett stated, "These kids are not "throw away" kids, they just need a little extra help to figure out what the next best step is for them. This program gives them that chance."

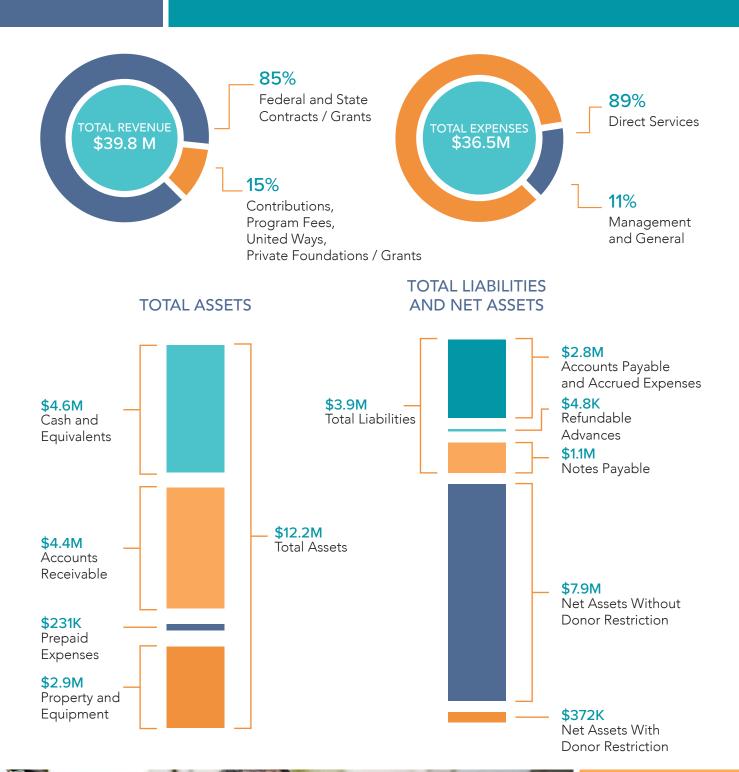
MOLINE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND CYFS PARTNERSHIP ENTERED ITS 3 RD YEAR

CYFS and the Moline Police Department continue 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, and 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. This year, our staff offered support to 655 individuals and provided 572 hours of casework, referral, and behavioral health counseling.

FY 22 FINANCIAL POSITION





CYFS is STRENGTHENED BY

THE CENTER FOR YOUTH AND FAMILY SOLUTIONS IS TRULY GRATEFUL TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED OUR MISSION OVER THE LAST YEAR.

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Thousands of children in Illinois need a stable, consistent, and loving place to call home. fostering a future. Start your journey today by calling Jesse Rodriguez-Hammond at 815.223.4007 or emailing irodriquez-hammond@cyfsolutions.org.



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