

CHILDREN'S
OF SOUTHWEST



NETWORK
FLORIDA, LLC

2020-2021
Annual Report

Transforming Families for over 18 Years

► A Message from Our CEO & Board of Directors, Chair

NADEREH SALIM, CEO

I truly hoped that my 2020/2021 Annual report would have no mention of COVID/COVID related information. But, as we all know, unfortunately we cannot always get what we want, so bear with me for some mention of COVID, amongst other things 😊.

For starters, our professional and dedicated team of professionals rose to all challenges presented throughout the year and never missed a beat. They visited our children in their home, worked with their families, and continued to serve our community as they have done for the past 18 years. Our stellar performance during this year is a testament to our Team. This remarkable team consists of our community stakeholders, our staff and colleagues, our partner agencies, our fantastic foster and adoptive parents, our amazing relatives and kinship caregivers, our faith-based partners, our volunteers and family mentors, our hard-working support, and administrative staff, and more. Being surrounded by such talent, dedication, and love of our community is one of our greatest blessings.

During this year, our adoptions soared, and 218 children found a permanent loving home to call their own and finally close a difficult chapter in their life. I am grateful to the angels who stepped forward to make these children's dreams of having a family come true.

We received many accolades and kudos from our community and one that topped them all was Lori Feige (Our Director of Licensing) being awarded the "Lee Pitts Live Person of the Year." Lori has dedicated her life to helping children in need and this was well deserved.

We also expanded our Board of Directors with some amazing community volunteers during this time. We are so fortunate to have Dr. Irwin Kash, Dr. Karen Nathan and Ms. Sally Brumfield join our governing board. They are truly an asset to our organization and will help guide our agency in our mission to service our community.

PS. COVID is still amongst us, and we continue with our ongoing precautions, providing PPE to our staff and families and managed to complete 466 COVID staffings to discuss cases involving 643 children and families afflicted by the Virus. Sorry COVID, this is all the mention you will get in this year's report 😊.

Thank you and God Bless



SANNESTINE FORTIN, ESQ. BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CHAIR

This year's challenges continued to grow as the Children's Network was able to support families and their children to live in a safe and stable environment. The leaders at the Children's Network have been able to work closely together to meet the issues involved with COVID19 as we move away from that crisis.

The Board, along with the management team, have worked together to maximize funding and benefits so that clients have been able to get the help they have needed. Employees have been rewarded with support and tools to enable them to meet the needs of their clients.

The Children's Network has improved and upgraded its technology to protect sensitive information. The agency's website and other social media have been continually updated so the community can appreciate the work done in the community to alleviate abuse and neglect.

I have enjoyed my tenure as board chair and the opportunity to work with my fellow Board members to make the Children's Network even more amazing this year. It has been a joy to participate in the annual events to raise community awareness.



“I'm glad I got this opportunity to thank our staff, our foster parents and caregivers and our community partners for the wonderful work they are doing every day to make the lives of children in Southwest Florida better.”

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► Children's Network Mission, Values & Vision



► Who We Served

2,378
Children Served

1259
Children/Families
received IFST

6
Youths Graduated
from High School

3
Youths Earned an
Associates Degree

2
Youths received
Bachelors' Degrees

10
Youths in
Technical Programs

407
Children Reunified
with Parents

218
Children Adopted



262
Achieved Permanent
Guardianship

208
Clients received
Diversion Services

258
New Level 1 Licensed
Foster Homes

121
New Level 2 Licensed
Foster Homes



Photos: Graduation Adoption

► Our Performance

Score Card Measure Reference	Measure Description	Standard	CNSWFL FY 20-21			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
M01	Rate of abuse or neglect per day while in foster care.	8.5 or less	8.18	7.60	8.08	7.95
M02	Percentage of children who are not abused/neglect during in-home services.	≥95.0%	96.57%	96.17%	96.00%	96.00%
M03	Percentage of children who are not neglected or abused after receiving services.	≥95.0%	96.41%	96.46%	96.89%	96.66%
M04	Percentage of children under supervision who are seen every thirty (30) days.	≥99.5%	99.96%	99.97%	99.93%	99.95%
M05	Children exiting foster care to a permanent home within twelve (12) months of entering care.	≥40.5%	42.63%	40.77%	41.45%	42.86%
M06	Percentage of children exiting to a permanent home w/in 12 months for those in care 12 to 23 months.	≥43.6%	60.89%	63.75%	60.06%	54.18%
M07	Children who do not re-enter foster care within twelve (12) months of moving to a permanent home.	≥91.7%	90.13%	89.06%	89.76%	89.00%
M08	Children's placement moves per 1,000 days in foster care.	4.12 or less	3.42	2.96	2.87	3.30
M09	Percent of children in out-of-home care who have received medical services in the last twelve (12) months.	≥95.0%	97.70%	98.03%	98.42%	98.84%
M10	Percent of children in out-of-home care who received dental services within the last seven (7) months.	≥95.0%	95.57%	96.56%	95.99%	96.75%
M11	Percent of young adults in foster care at age 18 who have completed or are enrolled in secondary education.	≥80%	90.38%	88.89%	92.16%	87.50%
M12	Percentage of sibling groups where all siblings are placed together.	≥65%	68.37%	64.69%	64.08%	64.19%



Congratulations to Lori Feige on her 'Person of the Year' award from Lee Pitts Live! Lori received the 'Guardian' award for her 25 years of service with children and families in our community.

► Counties & Services Array



Therapeutic Linkage



Administration & Oversight

Adoption



In Home Intervention



Family Mentor Program

Training & Staff Development



Kinship Care



Diversion/Prevention



Independent Living Services

Caregiver Support

► Meet Some of Our Heroes

Mentor Rob

“After spending my working years in the health care field helping others improve the quality of their health and hence their lives, I needed an avenue to continue helping others. What better way than to seek out organizations that support families that are the cornerstone of our communities.”



Foster Parent Yolonda has been a foster parent for the past 3 years. She works with the agency to keep siblings together and is open to providing a child a permanent home if reunification is not an option. Yolonda has focused on opening her home and her heart to teens in care.

Foster Parents Carrie & Steven have been licensed since 2018 with Lutheran Services Florida. They are open and willing to work with birth parents as they value the connection between a child and their birth family and continue to be a resource and support beyond reunification. This dedication to children extends to providing a forever home if in the child's best interest.



*Thank you all for your
continued service & commitment
to our families!*

► Meet Some of Our Heroes



Sarah and Justin have been licensed foster parents since April 2016. They first decided to open their hearts and home to foster care almost 6 years ago as they saw a huge need for children in care. Since they have been licensed, they have gone above and beyond for the children placed in their home. They have been exceptional with keeping siblings together and always putting the children best interests in mind. They are open to mentoring relationships with biological families, helping with transportation, and just representing what it truly means to foster children in need. Sarah and Justin are humble, loving, caring, generous, and kind – even their biological children have been involved in helping children in need feel loved and welcomed in their home. It has been wonderful partnering with this family in the last several years and we are excited to see how much more they will accomplish with their never-ending, gracious attitude.

Thank You Sarah & Justin. We Appreciate your Dedication and Commitment.

► Meet Some of Our Heroes



Intern Michelle Cooper through FGCU's Social Work Program

"As an intern, I shadowed a highly skilled IFST Case Manager named Ofelia Alvizuris. In this position, I learned about case management including but not limited to safety planning, family services, and family assessments. I had many meaningful experiences with the families we serve. These experiences prepared me to take on a position as a family safety worker in the same unit. Ray Fischer ensured that we were being shaped by very skilled professionals who were always willing to give us new experiences. Above all, he has instilled in us the confidence to serve our clients as interns becoming future social workers."



Foster Parents Angelica & Anthony are one of our newly licensed foster parents that deserve recognition. Angelica and Anthony were welcoming and supportive of a sibling group of three into their home. Angelica and Anthony have demonstrated their ability to provide the children love, support, encouragement, as well as assisting them in obtaining all of the services that are needed. Thank you Angelica and Anthony for all that you have done and continue to do.

We appreciate all that you do for our families!



Mentor Sandra

"I am a believer, mother, grandmother, entrepreneur, mentor, and friend. I mentor because I want to see people win. I want others to know that they can do anything that they set their minds to do and that it's never too late to start. I like mentoring through the Family Mentoring Program because I've been on the opposite end as a foster parent, and I've seen what children goes through mentally when they have been removed from the home. I like supporting the parent by offering my advice and by making helpful suggestions so that the child can remain in the home permanently."

▶ Annual Events & Supporters

AUGUST

Children's Network partnered with Goodwill Industries to provide back-to-school supplies and other essentials for youth and adolescents. Every child received a backpack filled with notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons and everything needed to start the school year.

SEPTEMBER

Donate For Kids coordinated Princess Day at Cross Point Church in Cape Coral For a 4th year girls in foster care experienced a fun day of glam makeovers where each received a gown, pair of shoes, and had their hair and nails done. Once everyone was dolled up the girls were ready for a tea party, followed by a fun ride in a horse drawn princess carriage; the perfect end to a fairy tale day!



OCTOBER

The 15th Annual Walk to Prevent Child Abuse was held virtually due to COVID concerns. An option for small groups across Southwest Florida to walk in their communities contributed to community awareness of the issue. The Walk raised \$25,700 for use in helping families in emergency situations.

OCTOBER

Children's Network is forever grateful to State Representative Spencer Roach for his fundraiser in October for our foster children. At his recent Birthday Celebration he asked his guests to donate a child's toy in lieu of gifts for himself. Many of our children were recipients of his heartfelt generosity. Thank you Representative Roach for all you do each and everyday for our children and families. We are so grateful to have your support.



▶ Annual Events & Supporters

NOVEMBER

During **National Adoption Awareness Month** 53 kids were adopted and now have their forever homes.



DECEMBER

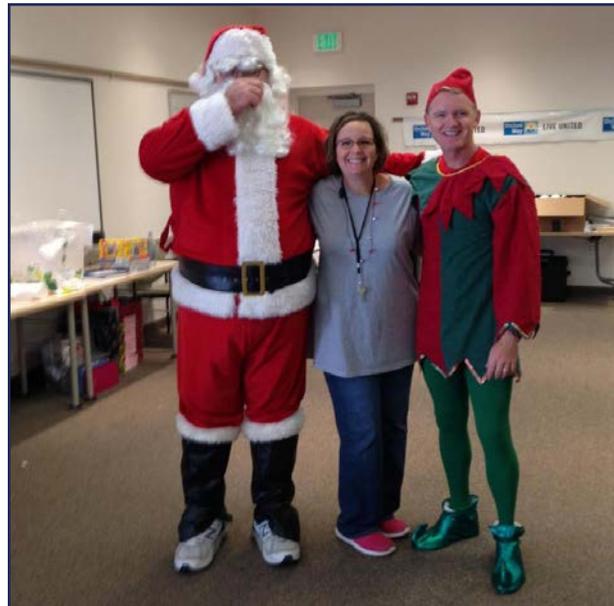
Officer Joe Angelini with the Punta Gorda Police Department hosted for a 5th year, a drive-through event where 100 foster parents and their families received Christmas gifts and all the families received a gift card from Publix to purchase the holiday dinner.

DECEMBER

Operation Santa is an annual community collaborative that provides holiday cheer for children served in the child welfare system. In 2021, nearly 2,500 children received \$100,000 worth of gifts, due to the generosity of local donors.



“At Children’s Network, we believe in saying ‘yes’. If you want to help us serve the community with your talent, time or treasure, we welcome you. There are never too many people to love a child.
 Karen D. Turcotte, MPA
 Director of Staff Development
 CNSWFL



▶ Annual Events & Supporters

Baking A Difference, Valerie Simms and her kids make these cake kits for the birthdays of kids in care. They believe cakes are what makes an occasion a special one. A cake signifies that the day is extraordinary enough to be celebrated in a proper manner. Any party would seem empty without a cake, especially birthdays. A birthday is considered the single most important day of the year in any person's life & the Simms' family want to ensure everyone gets to celebrate with a cake!



Once again, our Partners at the Calusa Golf Course Superintendents Association show their amazing support for the children in need. Through their generosity, youth at our group homes will have an unforgettable Christmas, filled with love, kindness, compassion, food and gifts. **Thank you all & God Bless you as you have blessed us.**



Thank you again to Excel Cleaning & Restoration Supplies and all their associates for the outpouring of love you showed to the children in our community. We are very grateful for your partnership and due to their efforts, Operation Santa was able to bring happiness to children during the Christmas holidays.

► Financial Overview 2020-2021

Statement of Activities

Revenues

Service Contracts	\$48,143,484
Contributions	\$267,624
Total Revenue:	\$48,411,108

Expenses

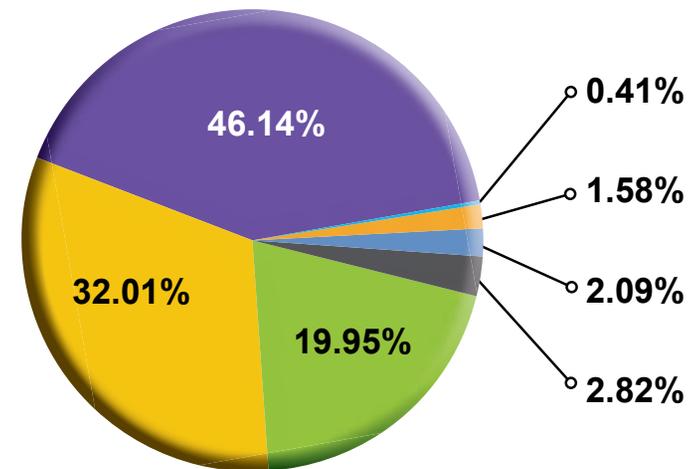
Program Services	\$47,969,211
Support Services	\$197,334
Total Expenses	\$48,166,545

Change in Net Assets

Total	\$244,563
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Expenses by Category

Payroll	19.95%
Other Program Expense	41.14%
Foster Parent Payment	32.01%
Administration	2.09%
Facility Expense	2.82%
Direct Support to Clients	1.58%
Fundraising Expense	0.41%



“ I wanted to leave my children a legacy that involves helping others. I feel I am in the process of doing that.

Raymond Fischer

Chief Operating Officer CNSWFL

► Training & Staff Development

52
Pre-Service Classes

15
Mental Health First
Aid in Adults

4 MSW
Interns

24
Car Seat Certification

50
Initial Child Welfare
Professional
Certifications



4,312
Foster & Adoptive
In-Service Training

293
Foster & Adoptive
Pre-Service Training
(PRIDE)



54
In-Service Classes

29
Mental Health First
Aid in Youth

120
Mindful Presence
Classes

4 BSW
Interns

82
Child Welfare
Professional
Re-certifications

“ Every child deserves to feel safe, secure, and loved no matter what is going on with the adults in their lives. Finding Quality Foster parents for our children is my passion so these children can have the security and love they need while the adults in their lives work to get better.

Lori Feige

Foster Care Licensing Director CNSWFL



If you would like to:

**MAKE A
DIFFERENCE
IN THE
LIFE OF A CHILD**

Please call
1 (855) 933-KIDS (5437)

Or fill out our Foster
Care & Adoption
Initial Assessment Form

239-226-1524
www.childnetswfl.org

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