

TRANSFORMING

FAMILIES



CHILDREN'S  **NETWORK**
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, LLC

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO & BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CHAIR



Nadereh Salim, CEO

Fiscal year 2021-2022 reinforced the importance of Children's Network of Southwest Florida's mission of caring. As the restrictions brought by COVID19 lessened, and we enjoyed more opportunities to meet in person, one word came to mind: family.

We exist to serve the children and families of Circuit 20, and our staff, providers, partners, and board of directors compose a caring professional family dedicated to that purpose. Gathering together again this past year gave us a renewed opportunity to model the kind of family we wish for everyone. This includes embracing compassion, communication, mutual respect, partnership, and integrity.

As CEO, I am deeply honored to lead the incredible team of professionals we have gathered to serve our community. From placing over 200 children in adoptive forever families, to launching Children's Network of Hillsborough in Tampa, to preventing child abuse and neglect, the achievements of the past fiscal year flowed directly from our collaborative approach.

I invite you to explore this annual report to learn more about our work. We are grateful to everyone who shares the journey of hope and healing for families in Southwest Florida!



**Sannestine Fortin, Esq.
Board of Directors, Chair**

While challenges continued this year, Children's Network supported children and families to live in safe and stable environments. The leadership worked together very closely to meet and overcome COVID19 related matters. Thankfully, we are moving forward and away from the pandemic.

The Board of Directors and leadership worked hand in hand to maximize funding and obtain benefits so that the children and families we serve could receive the help they need. Employees were provided with support and upgraded technology tools, which enabled them to meet the needs of our families, while protecting sensitive information. The agency's website and social media have been continually updated so the community would be more aware and potentially help alleviate abuse and neglect.

It has been a joyful blessing to participate in the annual events to raise community awareness. I have enjoyed my tenure as board chair, and the opportunity to work with my fellow board members, to help make Children's Network more amazing.

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THANK YOU



**15-Year Supporter
of Child Abuse Prevention.**



“Our obligation is to always act in the best interest of the children and families we serve. At the end of each decision is a child who is counting on us. What we do matters, and we take that responsibility to heart every single day.

*Karen D. Turcotte,
MPA
Director of Staff
Development*

CHILDREN’S NETWORK OF SWFL

Mission

The Children’s Network of Southwest Florida is committed to working with the community to protect children and preserve families.

Vision

Building Strong Links for Children in Need.

Values

• Leadership • Integrity • Advocacy • Stewardship

WHO WE SERVED

1895 Children Served

1259 Children/Families Received IFST

17 High School Graduates

2 Youths Working Towards a Master's Degree

7 Youths Working toward a Bachelor Degree

35 Youths Working Towards an Associates Degree

18 Youths in Technical Programs

358 Children Reunified with Parents

214 Children Adopted

207 Achieved Permanent Guardianship

230 Families received Diversion Services

198 New Level 1 Licensed Foster Homes

121 New Level 2 Licensed Foster Homes

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sannestine Fortin
Chair

Gregory Masonick
Vice Chair

Sally Brumfield
Lt. John Heck, Jr.
Dr. Irwin J. Kash
Dr. Karen Nathan

Gary Nelson
Dr. Norine Roberts-Hemping
Paul Samerdyke
Parisima Taeb, M.D.
Barry Zell

Lifetime Board Advisors

Mark Geisler
Chair Emeritus

Victor Arias
Paul Morrisette
Dr. John Ritrosky

Board Advisor

Kent Ellert

OUR PERFORMANCE

| Score Card Measure Reference | Measure Description | Standard | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|------------------------------|---|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| M01 | Rate of abuse or neglect per day while in foster care. | 8.5 or less | 6.76 | 6.66 | 9.66 | 8.69 |
| M02 | Percentage of children who are not abused/neglect during in-home services. | ≥95.0% | 96.70% | 96.39% | 95.73% | 95.09% |
| M03 | Percentage of children who are not neglected or abused after receiving services. | ≥95.0% | 97.60% | 97.04% | 96.88% | 96.75% |
| M04 | Percentage of children under supervision who are seen every thirty (30) days. | ≥99.5% | 99.85% | 99.80% | 99.90% | 99.80% |
| M05 | Children exiting foster care to a permanent home within twelve (12) months of entering care. | ≥40.5% | 36.82% | 38.20% | 42.25% | 43.43% |
| M06 | Percentage of children exiting to a permanent home w/in 12 months for those in care 12 to 23 months. | ≥43.6% | 58.21% | 56.13% | 52.48% | 53.16% |
| M07 | Children who do not re-enter foster care within twelve (12) months of moving to a permanent home. | ≥91.7% | 98.68% | 91.69% | 91.08% | 87.92% |
| M08 | Children's placement moves per 1,000 days in foster care. | 4.12 or less | 4.82 | 4.58 | 4.35 | 3.8 |
| M09 | Percent of children in out-of-home care who have received medical services in the last twelve (12) months. | ≥95.0% | 96.44% | 97.72% | 97.12% | 96.35% |
| M10 | Percent of children in out-of-home care who received dental services within the last seven (7) months. | ≥95.0% | 93.92% | 94.60% | 95.25% | 95.50% |
| M11 | Percent of young adults in foster care at age 18 who have completed or are enrolled in secondary education. | ≥80% | 91.50% | 87.26% | 87.92% | 90.20% |
| M12 | Percentage of sibling groups where all siblings are placed together. | ≥65% | 59.00% | 59.24% | 62.50% | 64.86% |

COUNTIES & SERVICES ARRAY



Charlotte, Hendry,
Lee, Glades,
Collier &
Hillsborough
Counties



“ My family mentor is one of the many mentors who has impacted my life. Who is very understanding about my situation. Who has gave me courage to achieve my goals. Someone who I can talk to without being criticized. And she is one of the people I can trust to be honest to and who can be honest with me.

Lupita E.

MEET SOME OF OUR HEROES



Jason & Holly have been licensed foster parents since September 2021. The family felt they were called to foster and help children in need as well as their birth families. Jason & Holly have been open to mentoring relationships with biological families, just representing what it truly means to foster children in need.



Guy & Caroline have been licensed foster parents since June of 2014 specializing in fostering our male teens. They treat these boys as they would their own children and make sure they feel included and loved as an important part of their own family.

Thank You Families!

“In my 18 years at the Children’s Network I have been continually amazed and impressed by the care and compassion of our employees. Everyone is committed to improving life for the children and families in our care.”

*Bette Mclean,
Provider Relations Manager*



Mentor Roz volunteered for the youth division of MARC, for people with intellectual problems and found that she loved being a volunteer and helping others in need. Years later after volunteering at several agencies, she was introduced to the Children's Network and the Family Mentor Program. Roz has become a valuable part of our mentor team.



The year 2021 was spent by the **Wells family** taking care of a five-year-old foster child who had siblings in another home. As she got situated in the Wells household, she was having problems sleeping, experiencing nightmares, and was prone to wander off during family outings. The Wells worried she was not comfortable, so they got in contact with her biological family and everyone worked together so she could be safely reunified with her family. Both families still spend holidays together. We are so lucky to have the Wells as a part of our team.

We appreciate you all!



Family Mentor Renee



Foster Parents Richard & Yanet

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

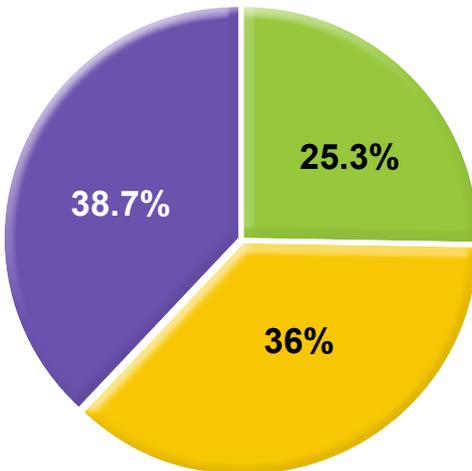
Statement of Activities

Revenues

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Service contracts | \$61,078,487.00 |
| Contributions | \$348,078.00 |
| Total budgeted revenues | \$61,426,565.00 |

Expenses

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Budgeted Expenditures (includes operating costs for lead agency) | \$15,570,177.00 |
| Subcontracts (Direct costs for service delivery) | \$22,055,241.00 |
| Pass throughs (Direct payments to families) | \$23,801,147.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$61,426,565.00 |



Expenses

Budgeted Expenditures

Subcontracts

Pass throughs



TRAINING & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

1037 Staff, Providers & community Members participated in our In-Service Training

7 Interns

220 Total Certified Staff in the System

34 Pre-Service Classes

50 Mentors

ANNUAL EVENTS & SUPPORTERS



Princess Day



Princess Day



National Adoption Awareness Month

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 make-overs 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 16th Annual Walk to Prevent Child Abuse was held virtually due to COVID19 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.

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 a community collaborative that provides holiday gifts for children in the child welfare system and continues to grow. More than 2,000 children received gifts from generous community donors.



Operation Santa

MARCH

We joined our partner **Adoption-Share for March Matching Madness**. In this friendly competition, adoption teams across the state of Florida competed to match waiting children with waiting families!



Safe Kids Day

APRIL

Safe Kids Day 2022 was held at **Golisano Children's Hospital** of South West Florida. Safe Kids Day is a time to celebrate kids, prevent injuries and save lives.



MANicure Movement

The Children's Network also participated in the **MANicure Movement** raising awareness for the prevention of child abuse. Statistics show that 1 in 5 children are victims of abuse before the age of 18.

JUNE

The **Children's Light Foundation** and many wonderful donors came together at the **First Annual Children's Light Foundation Gala** to support enrichment activities for children in foster care. The love and generosity demonstrated for our kids is absolutely amazing. A grand total of \$40,000 was raised at the Gala to help pay for activities such as summer camp, music lessons, sports, and other extra-curricular opportunities.



Light Foundation Gala



Here are just a few examples of Our Supporters in action...

- **Girl Scout Troop 367** collected and donated diapers, wipes and pull-ups.
- **Comfort Cases** donated 200 Comfort Cases.
- **Moose Lodge 2199** donated 112 Easter baskets.
- **Elaine and Gateway Trinity Church** donated handmade quilts.
- **Baking A Difference** made cake kits for birthdays of kids in care.
- **Sunflower Discount Market** donated 170 Easter baskets.
- **Katie Golden Foundation** donated gift cards every month to our children for their birthdays.

Supporters in Action Cont.



Thank you **Lee Pitts Live** for the wonderful donation of free airtime allowing us to highlight the needs of our foster children, as well as loving, committed foster and adoptive parents. Thank you Lee for the many years of your partnership, support, and advocacy.

Thank you **Calusa Golf Course Superintendents Association** for your amazing support for the children in need. Through your generosity, youth at our group homes had an unforgettable Christmas, filled with love, kindness, compassion, food and gifts.

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

Thank you Supporters & Donors

for all your time, generosity and believing
in our Mission. We are blessed and
grateful for you all.

DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Adoption-Share

Arborwood Preserve POA

Around The Clock Fitness

Baking A Difference

Best Day Care Children Center

Bonita Springs-Estero Elk Lodge #2753

Busey Bank

Calusa Golf Course Superintendents

Children's Light Foundation, Inc.

Comfort Cases

Connecting Joy, LLC

Dedicated Artists of SWFL

Donate For Kids

Elks of the USA

Excel Cleaning & Restoration Supplies

Ft. Myers Beach Lodge #362

Ft. Myers Lodge #1288

Ft. Myers Metro-McGregor Kiwanis

Foster Care Advisory

Gateway Trinity Church

Girl Scout Troop 367

Goodwill Industries

Cont.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a white envelope. The envelope is slightly open, and a list of names is printed on it. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a person's face.

Katie Golden Foundation
Lamb of God Lutheran Episcopal Adventure
Lee Pitts Live
Midwest Food Bank
Mitzvah Ladies
Moose Lodge #2199
Officer Joe Angelini
Pilot Club of Ft. Myers FL INC
Punta Gorda Police Department
Publix
Sew& Sews, Inc.
Sunflower Discount Market
Somero Enterprises
The Sterling Center
United Way of Charlotte County
United Way of Lee, Hendry & Glades Counties
Valencia Bonita Community
Andrew & Dorothy Nicholas
Daniel & June Lenzo
David Wild
George Kozol
Harry & Luba Grossman
Juliana Alfano



If you would like to:

CHANGE A LIFE FOR GOOD,

please call
1 (855) 933-KIDS (5437).

**Or fill out our Foster Care and Adoption
Initial Assessment Form on our Website.**

**239-226-1524
childrensnetworkflorida.org**



United Way of Lee,
Hendry, and Glades

