



# Keeping the *good* going

## 2020-2021 Impact Report





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# Providing Hope & Stability

For many of us, 2021 was another lesson in resiliency. It revealed the strength of our children, the determination of our families and the steadfast commitment of our frontline professionals who dedicate their days to creating brighter futures for others. As the COVID-19 pandemic's effects continued to take a toll on society – from personal losses and grief to growing mental health struggles, financial difficulties and societal unrest – Children's Home Society of Florida led the way to provide the hope and stability our communities have craved.

And while we delivered this hope – through our Family Support Warm Line, our Community Partnership Schools, our early childhood services, our mental health services, our child welfare programs, our mentoring services and so much more – we also took significant steps to plan for the future ... the future that will reshape the lives of hundreds of thousands of children over the next few years.

Of critical importance over the past year has been Children's Home Society of Florida's preparation for the implementation of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), which went into full effect October 1, 2021. This legislation is dramatically changing the way we – and all organizations throughout the nation – serve children and families in crisis.

With a focus on keeping families together – just as CHS has done for more than a century – the legislation offers more funding for in-home prevention services, such as parenting education, counseling, substance abuse treatment and more, with a goal of alleviating the need for foster care for more children. The alignment with CHS' vision is incredible; long before FFPSA, our CHS board dared to ask the question, "How might we work ourselves out of the foster care arena?" Since then, Children's Home Society of Florida has expanded our impact in promoting child well-being through growth in our preventive and behavioral health solutions. In fact, in our voluntary in-home prevention services, such as Healthy Families and Healthy Start, nearly 100% of families remain safely in tact!

The FFPSA legislation intends to "fund what works," investing in "evidence-based" services with proven impact. For more than a year, CHS has been actively training our team members in evidence-based practices (more than 700 trained so far), so we would be prepared for a successful rollout of FFPSA in Florida – and we are certainly seeing the fruits of our labor! Most importantly, though, is that we are seeing the positive impact this service delivery is having on children's lives, and it's why we will continue to prioritize service design and delivery as we look to have an even greater impact on kids.

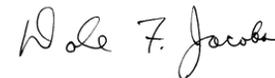
Yet, to have the greatest impact, we must also have the greatest, most active army of child advocates and ambassadors. That includes all of you ... and we must continue to grow. We need your continued support and advocacy to advance our mission to keep more families safe, strong and together. Visit [chsfl.org/getinvolved](https://chsfl.org/getinvolved) to learn how you can get involved by volunteering, advocating, connecting others with CHS and more. We can't do this good work without YOU.

As we look toward 2022, we plan to build upon last year's success in advocating for kids and families. CHS remains committed to ensuring our children are well cared for while striving for quality and excellence in all we do. And our priorities for the 2022 Legislature include expanding the Community Partnership Schools model and realigning the state's child welfare system in order to improve outcomes for children.

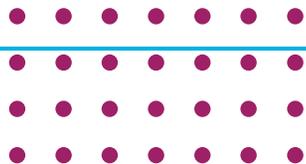
There's a lot of incredible work that's been done, but there's still more to do to help Florida's children realize their full potential and create brighter futures for families throughout the state. We are grateful for all you do to help more children cross bridges to success.



**Andry Sweet**  
President & CEO



**Dale Jacobs**  
Chairman of the Board



# Life can be hard – and no child, no family should face the tough times alone.

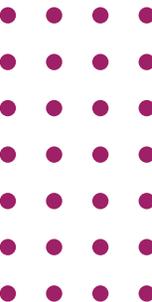
*Because of you – they don't have to.*



## In 2021, more than 61,000 children and families found safety, hope and opportunity.

Because of your support, we were able to meet them with the right solutions at the right time ... empowering kids throughout Florida to realize their full potential.

*With a "cradle to career" approach, we help children – and their parents – find strengths, confidence and opportunities through Early Childhood Services; Child Welfare, Counseling & Mental Health Services; Community Partnership Schools; and Mentoring, Outreach & Job Training.*



## Early Childhood Services

- Bridges
- Early Head Start
- Early Steps
- Family Preservation & Stabilization
- Healthy Start
- Healthy Families
- Infant Mental Health



## Community Partnership Schools

- Arthur & Polly Mays Conservatory of the Arts
- C.A. Weis Elementary School
- Dodgertown Elementary School
- Eccleston Elementary School
- Edward H. White High School
- Endeavour Elementary School
- Evans High School
- Homestead Middle School
- Howard W. Bishop Middle School
- Jones High School
- Keystone Heights Jr./Sr. High School
- Manatee Elementary School
- Miami Southridge Sr. High School
- Mort Elementary School
- OCPS Academic Center for Excellence
- Orange Park High School
- Sabal Palm Elementary School
- South Woods Elementary School
- The Webster School
- Wilkinson Junior High School
- Escambia County: Social Services Navigator Program

## Child Welfare

- Acute Intervention Team
- Adoption
- Buckner Place Teen Parenting Program
- CARES Services
- Child Protection Team
- Children's Advocacy Center
- CHS FIRST (In-Home Support Services)
- Comprehensive Adoption Services
- Dependency Case Management
- Family Life Education
- Family Visitation Center
- Foster Parent Recruitment & Support
- Independent Living
- Parenting Education
- Parents as Partners Support Group
- Partners 4 Safe Families
- Post-Adoption Support
- SafeHarbor Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Living Programs
- Wraparound Services



## Counseling & Mental Health Services

- Ashley Offerdahl Counseling Program
- CINS/FINS
- Counseling
- Dyadic Therapy
- Family Crisis Coordination
- Family Services Planning Team
- Infant Mental Health
- Mobile Response Team
- Targeted Case Management
- Telehealth
- Therapeutic Visitation Services
- Trauma therapy



## Mentoring, Outreach & Job Training

- DJJ Prevention Services
- MODEL Mentoring
- Project 18 Mentoring
- Project Safe Place
- Safe Harbor Shelter
- SPARK of Duval
- Street Solutions Team
- Teen Life Choices
- teenspace
- WaveCREST Emergency Shelter
- Wyman's Teen Outreach Program
- Youthworks





# Early Childhood Services

When Velkies moved to the Florida panhandle with her husband and two children, she was also expecting their third child. With her husband at work all day, Velkies found herself feeling isolated in her new home. She didn't speak English, and felt alone, as she was still trying to adapt to the new culture, too. But she was determined to overcome these barriers to see her children succeed.

When Velkies found Children's Home Society of Florida's Healthy Families Program, she also found Elaine who became a trusted coach and support. A Family Support Worker, Elaine not only spoke Spanish but was connected to the Latino community in Escambia County.

With Elaine and CHS, Velkies found a support system to help her reach her goals. Elaine assisted Velkies to find health care and insurance as well as resources to provide her family with healthy foods, child care and a community to support her emotionally. Today, Velkies is employed, feeling supported and stable in her community, and – most importantly – watching her children thrive.

As parents seek to raise their children in healthy, happy homes, Children's Home Society of Florida Healthy Families is there to support them along the way. Velkies will soon graduate the Healthy Families Program and we are tremendously proud of all of her successes.

All CHS early childhood services are free to the families we serve. If you or someone you know could benefit from this support, please call your local office to learn more.

**Primarily serving families in poverty, we empower families to create safe, strong, solid foundations so their children can grow up in healthy, nurturing homes.**

**In 2021, 18,399 children and family members participated in early childhood programs.**



“

We have weekly activities and can stay connected through our Facebook group. I have learned a lot, but it's also fun. I feel my baby bonding with me from the techniques I have learned, and the activities embrace my older children as well – things we can all do together as a family. I'm also a member of Women Helping Women – a community we have built through BRIDGES to encourage each other. It gives me an opportunity to be social and connect too.

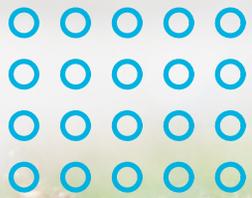
**Tanica, mom participating in Bridges**

”

**100% of toddlers participating in our Early Head Start program in the Space Coast met or exceeded benchmarks for Social Emotional, Physical, Language/Literacy/Communication, Creative Arts, and Science and Technology.**

**98% of families participating in our Northeast Florida Healthy Families programs improved or maintained self-sufficiency, building stronger foundations for their children.**

**100% of families participating in our Healthy Families program in the Suncoast remained free from abuse or neglect a year after completing the program**



# Child Welfare

When families become involved in the child welfare system, we help to ensure kids have safe, stable homes while we help them through their trauma.

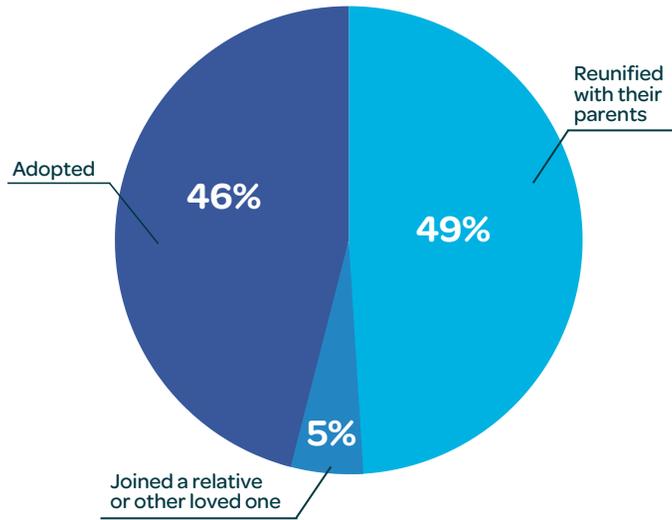
We also work with parents to overcome challenges that led to involvement in the foster care system so they can bring their children safely back home. If that's never possible, then we find forever families for children through adoption.

***With CHS, more children in foster care find safety and stability.***

“All of the children that have come through our door these past eight years were successfully reunified with their biological families. People always say the hardest part of fostering would be to say "goodbye" and it is, but it's also a very rewarding experience – seeing their parents work to overcome challenges and witnessing the entire family become stronger with your support.

**Allison , foster parent**”

**1,419**  
children and teens found stability and exited foster care into permanent homes.



**302**  
caring adults became CHS foster parents.



**9,710**  
family members partnered with CHS' dependency case management programs to work through challenges that led to involvement in the foster care system.

## Because of you...

**97% of children remained abuse-free a year after successfully completing the CARES program, designed to keep families safely together after reunification.**

*CARES helps keep families safe, strong and together by providing twice-weekly intensive counseling and support services to families that are at risk of entering the foster care system and those that have recently been reunified after spending time in foster care.*

**97% of children participating in Comprehensive Adoption Services achieved permanency with their adoptive families.**



# Counseling & Mental Health

For Lucas, the weight of the world felt unbearable. His depression became so overwhelming that he started to self-harm – desperate to relieve some of the pressure he was feeling.

Lucas’s mom, Theresa, felt helpless. She reached out to several mental health providers, but none could connect with her son on the level he needed – until they found CHS.

Branden, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with CHS, began working with Lucas through regular counseling sessions. Even in a pandemic, the pair would get together using Zoom or following safe, COVID-19 precautions.

Branden helped Lucas understand and gain control of his emotions. He began to feel stronger and more confident as he found new hope for himself and his future.

“As a mother, I felt hopeless and didn’t know what to do,” said Theresa. “For Lucas to have someone to go to and be able to express his feelings was amazing. With [Branden] being there and being a role model, Lucas is night-and-day different to what he used to be. He is more social and is with his friends more. It was a total blessing for someone to be there to help him.”

Lucas said, “I didn’t see the light at the end of the tunnel, but now I feel like I have a future.”

“

**I didn’t see the light at the end of the tunnel, but now I feel like I have a future.**

Lucas, teen who found hope and healing through CHS’ counseling program

**Mental health issues can significantly impact children's educational, mental, social and physical well-being, as well as their family peace and stability.**

**We provide personalized treatment and support to equip children and families with tools, coping skills and connections so they can find hope, stability, and opportunities for happiness and success.**



I was a single parent raising three children alone without having any support ... it made my life seem so hopeless. I didn't know where to turn or who to talk to ... and then I discovered CHS. CHS has made a major impact on my life because there was so much that I needed to be reminded of. Counseling taught me my worth and made me look at life very differently. I am so proud to say thanks to CHS for reminding me of my value, my worth, and reminding me how there are always boundaries that need to be kept in life. Thank you!

*Keli, CHS mom of three*



**Because of you, nearly 12,000 children, teens and adults took steps to brighter futures with counseling and other mental health services in 2021.**



100% of youth remained crime-free while receiving services through CINS/FINS.



CHS provides onsite counseling support at more than 200 schools throughout Florida.



Since its inception in 2020, the Family Support Warm Line has provided immediate access to trauma-informed counseling and support to more than 5,500 kids, teens, adults and their families.



# Community Partnership Schools

**By addressing barriers to learning – poverty, mental health struggles, homelessness and others – Community Partnership Schools bring together high-quality academic supports, health care, counseling, mentoring and more.**

**Community Partnership Schools improve student behavior, increase academic gains and graduation rates, and enhance parental involvement, offering equitable learning opportunities for all students.**

**Because of you, more students in marginalized communities receive support to achieve academic and life success.**

“ I learned so much from the Community Partnership School. I learned it is OK to ask for help. It is OK to be vulnerable to other people. If you aren't being vulnerable, they can't effectively help you!

***Amari, 18***

# From Out of Control to Honor Roll: Aden's Story

For Christy's son Aden, the behavior issues started in kindergarten. "He would throw tables, chairs, knock stuff off the desk. He was out of control," she said.

The behavior continued into the first grade, where he was suspended and removed several times from the school bus.

Aden's teacher worked with school leaders to address his unique barriers to learning. Through the Community Partnership Schools™ model, Aden started seeing a Children's Home Society of Florida counselor, and CHS' Community Partnership School Director matched Aden up with a mentor.

"We connected the dots when the dots needed to be connected and got Aden some of the services he needed," explained his CHS Community Partnership School Director.

Those connected dots started to change Aden's behavior at school. The calls home from school stopped. Aden now uses the coping skills he learned in counseling to calm himself down and ask the teacher if he can take a break.

Aden is now in the 3rd grade and everyone can see a positive difference. He almost made A/B Honor Roll this year.

Christy doesn't know where Aden would be without the help from the Community Partnership School.

"We would have been pretty defeated," she said. "It took a team of people to come in and sit down with him and make him see, aside from his mom, that people care."



## Nearly 19,000 students benefit from high-quality academic supports, health care, counseling, mentoring and more, all available at our 20 Community Partnership Schools.



Graduation rates at Evans High, A Community Partnership School increased from 64% to 98% since becoming a Community Partnership School in 2012.



C.A. Weis Elementary, A Community Partnership School has increased access to health care, family education and after-school activities while reducing discipline referrals by over 90% and out-of-school suspensions by nearly 94% from 2016 to 2020.



Students at The Webster School, A Community Partnership School demonstrated an increase in learning gains in FSA math from 21% in 2018-2019 to 67% in 2020-2021.



89% of students participating in the Acceleration Program - a program to support students behind their peers academically - at Howard Bishop Middle, A Community Partnership School successfully completed middle school in two years and are back on track with their peers.



## Mentoring, Outreach & Job Training

**Youth and young adults at the crossroads of struggles and success receive services and practical guidance to make positive decisions and pursue opportunities that can lead to lifelong success.**

Meeting my mentor three years ago has shaped me into an amazing, independent, confident young woman. CHS has set me up with not only a mentor but a lifelong friend who will always be consistent in my life.

Jada, teen mentee

*Because of you...*

**more youth are finding stability and success.**



In 2021...

**56**

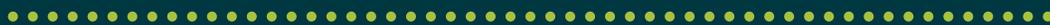
children and young adults received formal mentoring from 53 mentees.

**644**

teens found strength and stability in independent living programs.

**800+**

young adults received guidance and support in outreach, job training and transitional living programs.



**80% of youth participating in CHS mentoring programs maintained or improved in math and English.**



**81% of youth participating in CHS job training programs secured stable employment, earned their GED or diploma, or began post-secondary education.**



**Our SPARK program has a 99.24% success rate in preventing teen pregnancy.**





# Awards & Recognition



## Florida Network COVID Heroes

Kelly Barnett, WaveCrest Residential Supervisor



## Florida Coalition for Children Case Manager of the Year

Katherine Hiers, Lead Dependency Case Manager



## Outstanding Leadership Award by the Florida Coalition for Children

Wade Lijewski, Senior Vice President of Practice Integration



## University of Western Florida College of Education and Professional Studies Outstanding Community Partner Award

Jean Stout, Volunteer Coordinator



## Healthiest Employer Award

South Florida Business Journal and Orlando Business Journal

## CHS North Star Awards

*Our North Star awards recognize and celebrate four STAR team members who exemplify our “true north,” representing all we aspire to be for ourselves and for those we serve in the areas of Program Operations, Support Teams, Direct Service and Leadership.*

### Direct Service

Jill Gellibert  
Dependency Case Manager

### Support Team

Maria Sosa  
Talent Engagement Specialist

### Leadership

Jennifer Walck  
Director of Organizational  
Development & Change

## CHS President's Award

*Our President's Award, personally selected annually by CHS CEO and President Andry Sweet, recognizes a team member whose impact exemplifies GOOD in all they do.*

Angie Rodriguez, Dependency Cast Manager

# Sharing the GOOD News

Our GOOD was shared through 412 media stories in 2020-2021

## Five years in, the C.A. Weis experiment is changing the trajectory of students

Madison Arnold Pensacola News Journal  
Published 6:01 a.m. CT March 17, 2021 | Updated 10:36 a.m. CT March 24, 2021



pensacola news journal  
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

“

Since its inception in the first year, the clinic has grown from having an average of 60 patients a month up to an average of 100 to 150 visits per month this year. Only about 20% to 30% of those are students at the school, and the rest are siblings of students, children under age 3 or just any other child in the community.

## The Miami Herald

“

Being a parent is tough in the best of circumstances, let alone parenting a toddler or little one in the midst of a global pandemic. At CHS, we believe it takes a village – and we weren't going to let the virus stand between us and the families we serve. By shifting our early childhood services to virtual settings, we continued to act as a lifeline to parents – helping to manage their stress and create new, safe routines for their families. Together, we made it through.

## Children's Home Society helping families stay strong through stressful times of COVID | Opinion



## Nonprofit executive empowers Black students to excellence

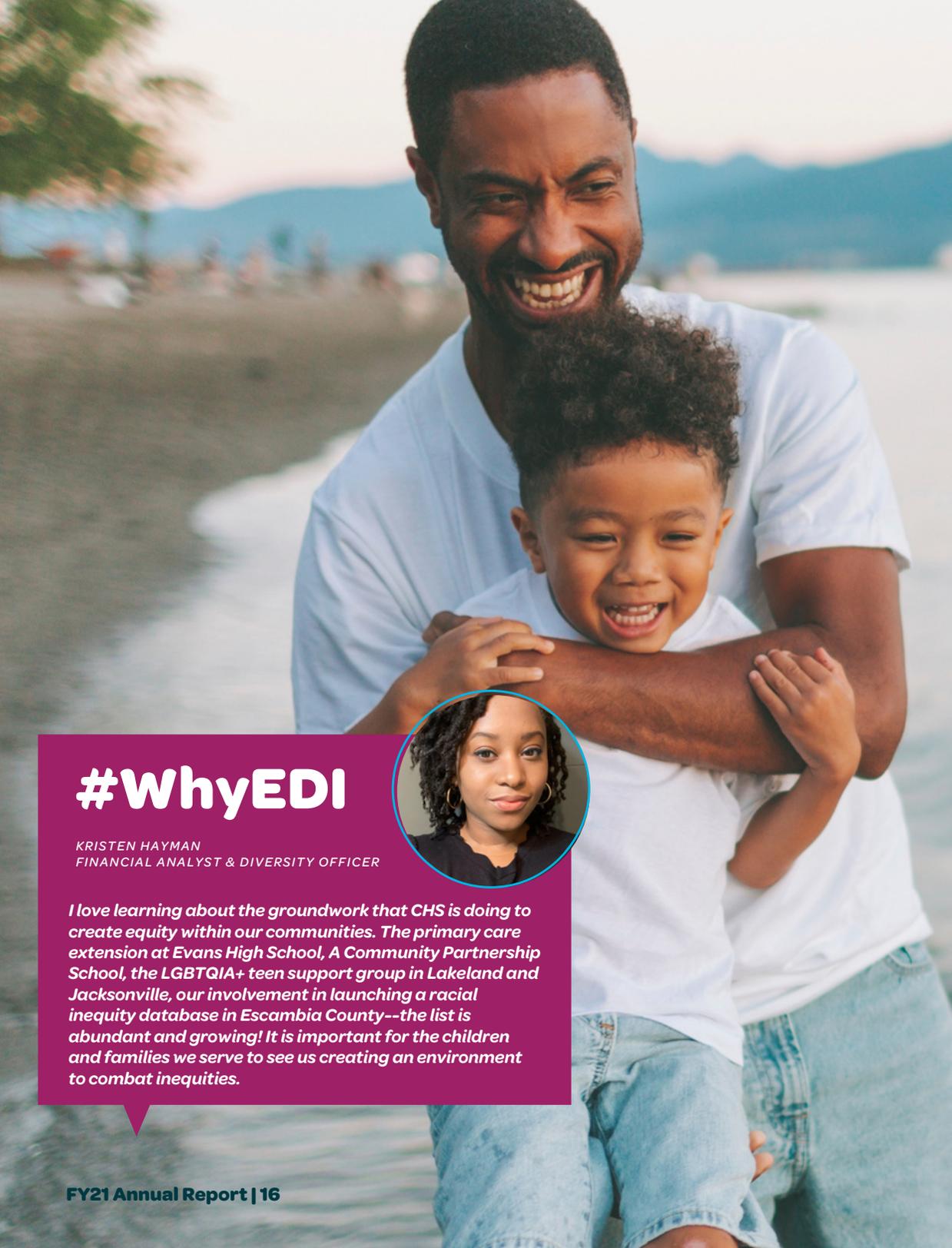
By WILLIE J. ALLEN JR.  
ORLANDO SENTINEL | FEB 19, 2021 AT 5:05 AM



“

In 2012, as a teacher at Evans High School, Wheeler taught an all-male class of 22 freshman students on the bubble at his alma mater. He began with these words on the first day of class: “I told the students to close their eyes and imagine themselves graduating from high school. Imagine what that feels like and imagine being able to go off to college, have a good-paying job but then to open their eyes and realize the start of this journey in ninth grade is what gets you there,” he said. “And that if I could guarantee that all of them could become successful and be what they imagined when they closed their eyes, that I was willing to die for that.”

## Orlando Sentinel



# Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

With a rich legacy covering close to **120 years**, CHS celebrates the **good** of all – from our programs to our team members and communities – so everyone feels at home on with CHS.

Through our continued partnership with families within nearly every community in Florida, we know just how **beautifully diverse** our state truly is. It’s an asset, a treasure, and what makes our Sunshine State a true gem.

We know we’re stronger together when learning from one another and that understanding our **needs and challenges** is key to providing the best solutions and support in our **mission of good**.

After all, our neighbors are a **beautiful mosaic** of all nationalities, heritages, colors and abilities. They’re members of the LGBTQ+ community, females rising ahead, veterans ... and so much more.

They’re the “**why**” behind our passion for **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**... and why we’re proud to do our part in moving the needle forward as we help create greater opportunities for **all**.

## #WhyEDI

KRISTEN HAYMAN  
FINANCIAL ANALYST & DIVERSITY OFFICER



*I love learning about the groundwork that CHS is doing to create equity within our communities. The primary care extension at Evans High School, A Community Partnership School, the LGBTQIA+ teen support group in Lakeland and Jacksonville, our involvement in launching a racial inequity database in Escambia County--the list is abundant and growing! It is important for the children and families we serve to see us creating an environment to combat inequities.*



# Helping ensure ALL children and families can realize their full potential

Every day, we work hard for all children, so they may achieve a brighter tomorrow. And together, with your support, we're making a difference, and it's noticed.

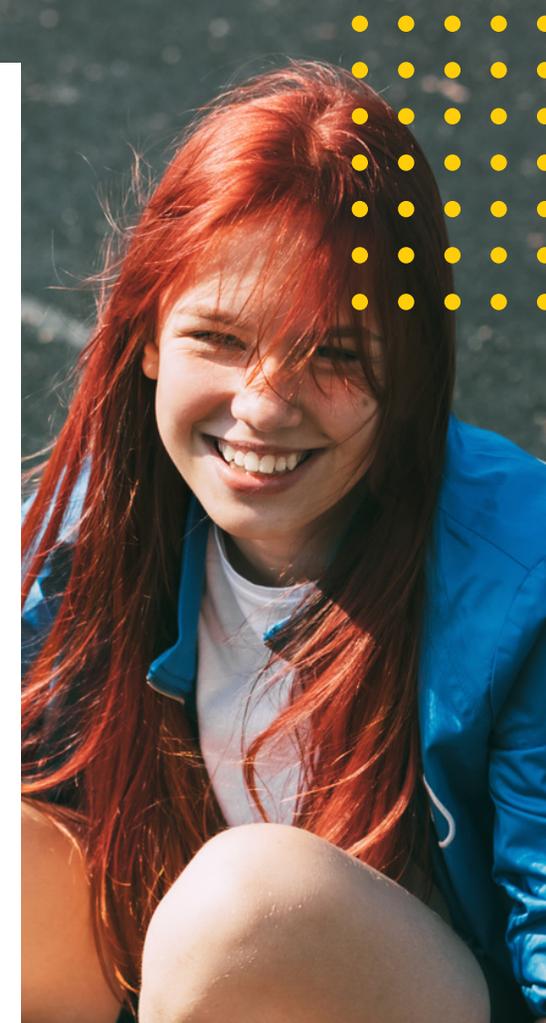
CHS has been recognized for the third consecutive year by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's All Children – All Families program for providing innovative and inclusive services for the LGBTQ+ community, particularly LGBTQ+ youth in foster care.

## Did you know?

- Approximately 1/3 youth in foster care are LGBTQ+.
- LGBTQ+ teens are 6x more likely to experience symptoms of depression than non-LGBTQ+ identifying teens.
- And LGBTQ+ youth and young adults have a 120% higher risk of becoming homeless – disowned, rejected and abandoned by their biological families.

CHS understands the importance of creating safe, affirming spaces for kids and teens through their coming out journey. In two CHS regions, our counselors created a unique support group to give LGBTQ+ kids and teens a safe space to express themselves and find community.

**Because of you, futures are brighter and life trajectories are changing. This all would not be possible without your continued support and trust. We do good together!**



“ Thank you for being an organization that strives and prioritizes being so inclusive. Thank you for being an extended family ... I feel like I have an entire team in my corner. Thank you for making sure that our kids have support when they need it. Thank you for also making sure that we have the same support when needed. CHS has been an amazing organization to work with and we look forward to continuing that relationship in our future!

**Amy, CHS mom & foster mom** ”

# Advocacy

## CHS Virtual Youth Advocacy Academy



For 12 years, CHS has collaborated with the Florida Senate to bring nearly 100 CHS youth from across the state to experience one week in Tallahassee, serving as Senate Pages. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions and precautions, the Florida Senate suspended this program during the 2021 Legislative Session.

CHS worked to develop and implement a virtual alternative – the CHS Virtual Youth Advocacy Academy. During four virtual sessions, seven students developed their advocacy skills and learned the importance of influencing elected officials. We appreciate the CHS State Board Members, elective officials and other special guests who participated in these sessions and provided insight and guidance to the seven participants.

We look forward to resuming the Senate Page Program during the 2022 Legislative Session and also offering the Virtual Advocacy Academy.

# 2022 Advocacy Priorities

## *Building upon the success from 2021*

The efforts of our local and state leaders, advocates, team members and volunteers helped to drive necessary policy changes and support for the continuation of successful and effective programs serving Florida's children and families. CHS remains committed to ensuring our children are prioritized while striving for quality and excellence in all we do.

## **CHS' legislative priorities for the 2022 Legislature to consider:**

### **Expand a Proven Model to Success: Community Partnership Schools**

Community Partnership Schools eliminate barriers to learning that can prevent many children from reaching their full potential: poverty, hunger, safe housing, and unmet health and mental health needs. Community Partnership Schools address these issues and create greater access to supports for students and their families long-term, which can positively impact their futures.

***CHS requests continued funding for existing schools and additional funding to expand the model throughout Florida.***

### **Realign Florida's Child Welfare System: Improve Outcomes for Children**

Over the past two decades, the child welfare system has evolved; we have an opportunity to refocus the model to better serve Florida's children and families.

***CHS requests changes to realign the system and help more children find permanency in safe, loving homes and to ensure providers have the supports necessary to fulfill their missions.***

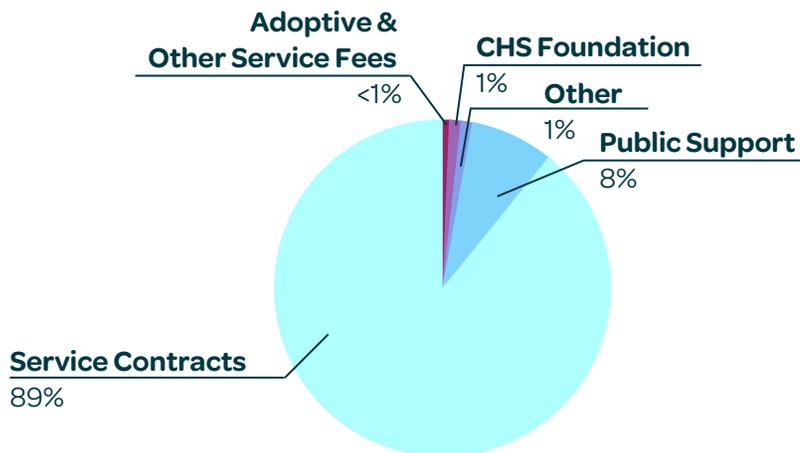


**Learn how you can advocate for with CHS at [chsfl.org/advocate](https://chsfl.org/advocate).**

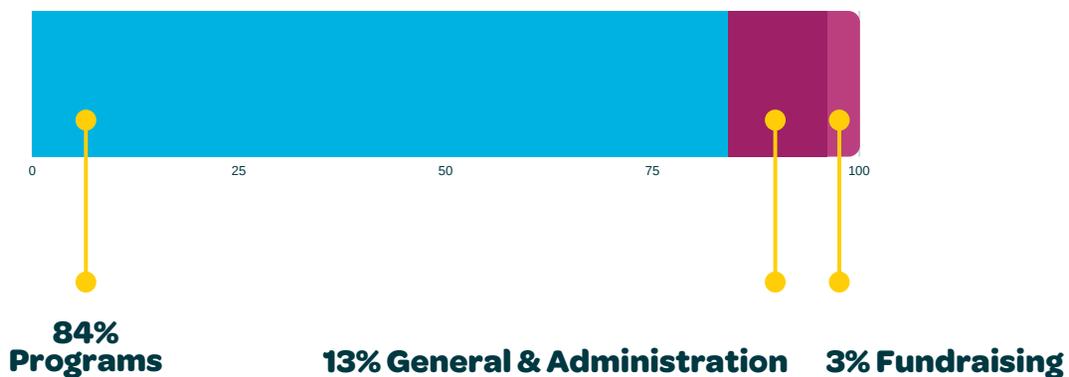
# Financial Stewardship



## Revenue: \$96 million



## Expenses: \$96 million



# Board of Directors



**Dale Jacobs**  
*Chair*

Community Volunteer (retired)



**Brand Meyer**  
*Vice Chair*

Wells Fargo Advisors,  
Senior Managing Director (retired)



**Laura Kolkman**  
*Immediate Past Chair*

Mosaica Partners, President



**Samuel P. Bell, III**

Buchanan, Ingersoll, Rooney,  
Partner (retired)



**Tracey B. Bracco**

CNL Financial Group,  
Attorney



**Ronald A. Brisé**

Gunster,  
Government Affairs Consultant



**Karen M. Buesing**

Akerman LLP,  
Attorney



**Andrew Duffell**

Research Park at Florida Atlantic University,  
President & CEO



**Julie Eason**

CNL Financial Group,  
Accountant/Auditor



**Terrance Freeman**

Jacksonville City Council,  
Council Vice President



**Russell Jones**

Morgan Stanley,  
Family Wealth Director



**Susan Main**

Early Learning Coalition of Duval,  
CEO (retired)



**Davicka Thompson**

Thompson Creative Collective,  
Founder & CEO



**Miguel Viyella**

Raymond James & Associates, Inc.,  
Managing Director



**Kristie Wallace**

Abbvie,  
Pharmacist / Medical Science Liaison



**Victoria Weber**

Hopping Green and Sams,  
Attorney (retired)



**Doug Wiles**

Herbie Wiles Insurance,  
President



**Alan Williams**

Housing and Urban Development,  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
Intergovernmental Relations



**Gil Ziffer**

Ziffer Stansberry Inc.  
Founder & President

# CHS Leadership



**Andry Sweet**  
President & CEO



**Kymberly Cook**  
Chief Operating Officer



**Frank Gonzalez**  
Chief Compliance Officer and  
General Counsel



**Barbara McDonald**  
Chief Financial Officer



**Heather Vogel**  
Chief Talent Officer



**Anthony Sudler**  
Chief Philanthropy Officer



**Marcus Johnson**  
Chief Information Officer



**Nacole Guyton**  
Senior Vice President of Operations



**Tara Hormell**  
Senior Vice President of Operations



**Wade Lijewski, PhD**  
Senior Vice President of Practice  
Integration



**Heather Morgan**  
Senior Vice President, Communications,  
Marketing and Engagement



**Summer Pfeiffer**  
Vice President,  
Governmental Relations

# Regional Executive Directors



**Lindsey Cannon**  
Western & Emerald Coast



**Jessica Davis**  
Greater Lakeland, Central (Lake/Sumter/Marion) & Suncoast (Tampa Bay)



**Lauren Fuentes**  
Palm Beach, Broward & Suncoast (Ft. Myers)



**Sherri Gonzales**  
Central Florida & Space Coast



**Ernest Hamilton**  
Greater Northeast Florida



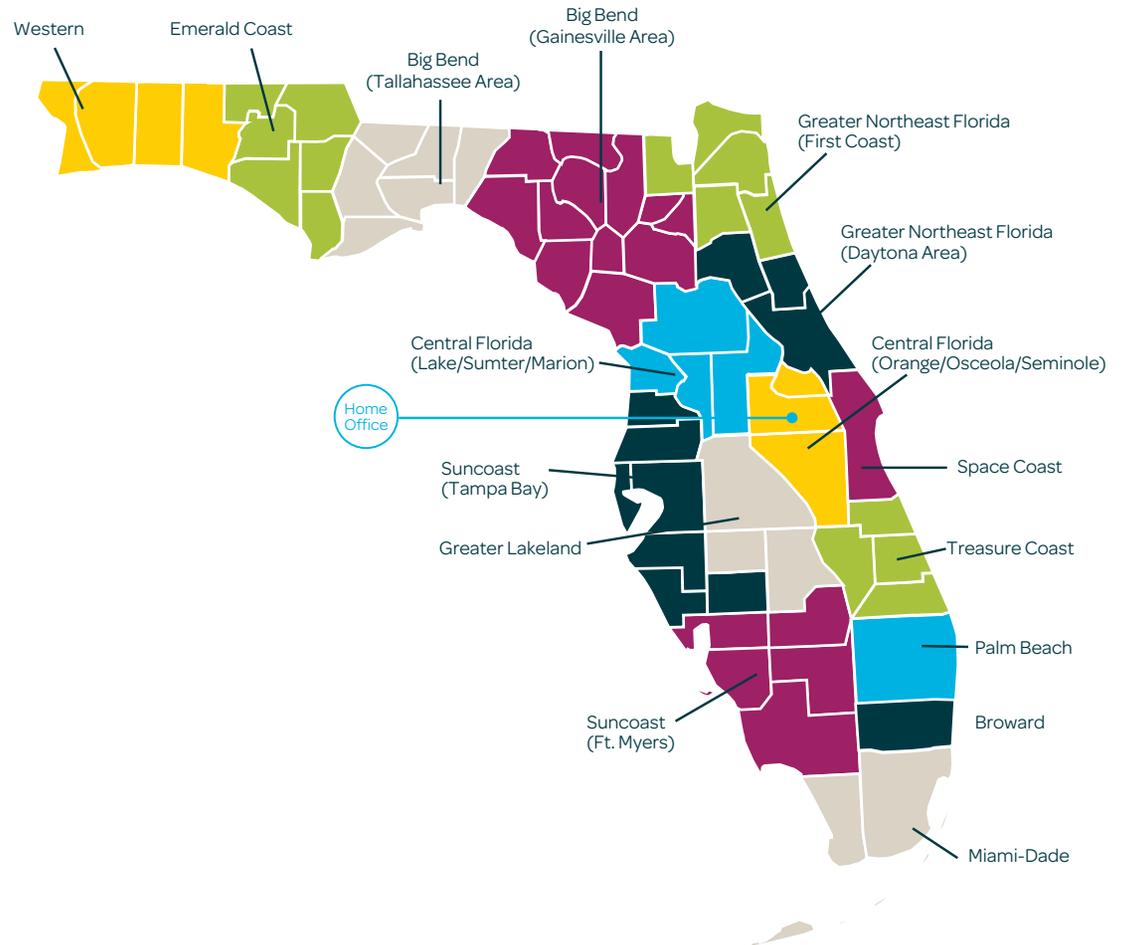
**Lourdes Pons**  
Miami



**Dina Snider**  
Big Bend, Interim



**Sabrina Sampson**  
Treasure Coast



# Opportunities to Advance the CHS Mission

*Together, we can help children – and their parents – find strengths, confidence and opportunities, so they can realize their full potential.*



## GIVE

- **Make a one-time or ongoing monthly donation** to continue building bridges to success for children. Visit [chsfl.org/donate](https://chsfl.org/donate) today.
- **Make a lasting impact on children and families with a planned gift.** You can invest in the future of children in a variety of ways, including: bequests, charitable gift annuities and gifts of stocks or bonds.
- **Create an endowment** through the CHS Foundation.



## VOLUNTEER

- **Sign up to volunteer** with CHS. Virtual and in-person volunteer options are available. Visit [chsfl.org/volunteer](https://chsfl.org/volunteer) to learn more.
- Support one of our gift-in-kind drives or help fulfill the needs on our wish lists. View all wish lists at [chsfl.org/wishlists](https://chsfl.org/wishlists).



## ADVOCATE

- **Join our army of advocates** and support CHS advocacy efforts. Visit [chsfl.org/advocate](https://chsfl.org/advocate) to learn more.
- **Speak on behalf of CHS** and our efforts to empower kids and families in Florida.
- **Follow and engage with CHS on social media.** Find us [@helpFLkids](https://www.facebook.com/helpFLkids) on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

# Giving Back: A Family Affair

*Mother-daughter duo Joy and Sydney Ashlock volunteer with CHS throughout the year*

“With almost 50 years of family history with CHS, we look fondly upon the organization,” Joy, a CHS volunteer, shares. Joy and Sydney Ashlock – a mother and daughter duo – have a special place in their hearts for volunteering with CHS.

Joy’s long passion for CHS began after her brother’s adoption through CHS. Because of her experience and her love for her brother, Joy wanted to give back since CHS gave so much to her family. It wasn’t long before Joy and her teenage daughter began their journey together as CHS volunteers.

“When you know you were lucky enough to have a stable environment, good parents, solid upbringing and have structure and stability ... you really realize what a gift and advantage it is to have stability and structure,” Joy says.

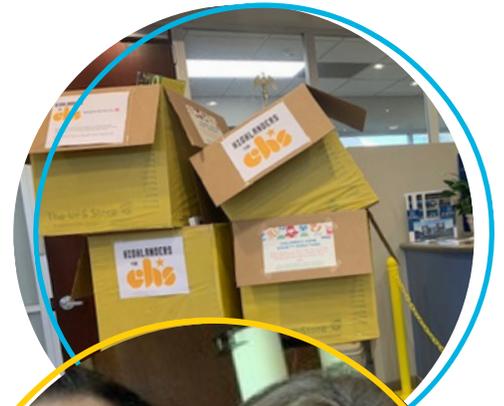
Joy enjoys helping others find stability because she knows the importance it carries. She continues, “There is so much to be done in the world, so it can be overwhelming. If you just think, okay well I can focus on this [one thing], it might help in some little way.”

Inspired by her mom, Sydney founded “Highlanders for CHS,” a club devoted to helping CHS through volunteer efforts, at her high school. “I think when you are in high school, there is this pressure that you have to have a sport or something that is going to get you into college. Nothing really worked out for me because I never found something that I was excited about going to until I realized I could have a club and devote my time to it,” Sydney shares.

Each year, Sydney and Joy work together as a mother-daughter duo, and also through “Highlanders for CHS,” to put on several donation drives, including a therapy game drive and baby shower drive.

Joy passionately shares this piece of advice for those on the fence about volunteering: “You are a piece of a puzzle toward the same goal. So, if you do your piece, it makes you feel like you are lucky.”

And it truly does. Every minute, hour and day helps children and families realize their full potential. It just takes the courage to get out and begin.



*Learn how you can volunteer with CHS at [chsfl.org/volunteer](https://chsfl.org/volunteer).*



Children's Home Society of Florida is a nationally recognized leader in delivering innovative, effective services and solutions to keep more families safe, strong and together.

Our roots date back to the early 20th century, with ties to the infamous Orphan Trains out of New York. Nearly 400 children stepped off the trains at the last stop in Jacksonville ... they had no family and no one to turn to.

Reverend DW Comstock rallied community leaders to help care for these children, to provide education, safety and guidance. But his dream was much greater.

On November 17, 1902, he opened the doors to CHS to provide a "family" for children who had nowhere else to go.

A lot has happened over the past 100-plus years. Since our founding, CHS has grown and evolved to provide the right services and solutions to address the needs of children and families throughout the changing times ... to help more children realize their full potential.

With a national reputation, CHS leads the way in children's services, where no other organization has the size scope or breadth of services to meet children's and families' needs.

- Today, we're proud to serve 61K+ children and family members each year.
- We've grown from 2 team members in 1902 to more than 1,300 today
- We've expanded from one primary location in Northeast Florida to now provide support and care to nearly every area of Florida.

