

Celebrating the *good*
you make possible!



Children's Home Society
of Florida



2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT

Table of Contents

A Message from our CEO and Chairman of the Board	1
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THE GOOD YOU MAKE POSSIBLE

The Impact You Create	3
------------------------------	----------

Our Services	4
---------------------	----------

KEEPING THE GOOD GOING

Financial Stewardship	6
------------------------------	----------

Advocacy in Action	7
---------------------------	----------

Ways to Get Involved	8
-----------------------------	----------

Children's Home Society of Florida has been changing children's lives since 1902 ... annually, we serve nearly 80,000 children and family members throughout Florida, creating an impact that will last for generations.

Our Vision:

A world where children realize their full potential.

Our Mission:

Building bridges to success for children.

A photograph of three young children of diverse backgrounds smiling and looking towards the camera. The child on the left is a Black girl with her hair in two pigtails, wearing a pink tank top. The child in the middle is a white girl with long blonde hair, wearing a white shirt. The child on the right is a Black boy with curly hair, wearing a yellow t-shirt. They are all smiling broadly. In the background, other children are visible but out of focus.

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

Because of you — they don't have to.



A MESSAGE FROM

Our CEO and Chairman of the Board

At Team CHS, we believe that partnership is at the heart of everything we do. From the children and families we serve to the community organizations we collaborate with, we are proud of the relationships we've built and the impact we're making – together.

These partnerships have been instrumental in our growth. What started in 1902, serving just 34 children, has now grown to reach more than 80,000 children and families – and we're just getting started. As we launch and implement our next strategic plan, we are fully aware that none of this would be possible without your support. Together, we've listened to the needs of the community, innovated with those who can help us create solutions, and now we are ready to continue this journey over the next three years to build even brighter futures for the families we serve.

While we may look different today than we did in the past, our mission is still deeply rooted in the same values that began over a century ago. For years, we worked as a child welfare service organization, until we began to ask ourselves, "What if...?"

What if we could step in before a child is at risk, helping a mom working multiple jobs who has no choice but to leave her young child home alone in order to provide for her family?

What if we could ensure that students in under-resourced communities had access to food, medical care, and other critical resources, so they could focus on their schoolwork instead of worrying about hunger or family struggles?

What if we could place counselors directly in schools, where kids and teens already are, removing the burden of transportation and the stress on parents?

These "what ifs" led us to rethink how we serve families, allowing us to meet them before crisis strikes, and partner with them from the very beginning. With your support, we're building a foundation for lifelong success – from cradle to career. Through innovative programs, dedicated staff, and engaged communities, we're expanding our reach and ensuring that every child and family we encounter has the tools and resources they need to thrive.

The road ahead is filled with tremendous potential, and we're eager to continue growing with you by our side. Whether you're a donor, volunteer, legislator, team member, or client, we are honored to have you as a part of the CHS Family. It takes all of us to keep the GOOD going, and we are incredibly thankful for your continued partnership.

Together, we're creating lasting change, one child and family at a time. Thank you for your ongoing belief in our mission and for playing such a vital role in it. As we move forward, I'm filled with excitement for the future we are building together.

In appreciation,


Andry Sweet
President & CEO


Brand Meyer
Chairman of the Board

122 Years of ...



Strengthening families



Protecting childhoods



Shaping brighter futures



Transforming lives

YOU MADE THESE MILESTONES POSSIBLE



In 2023 - 2024, more than

80,000

children and families found
safety, hope and opportunity
- because of YOU.



64,000+

students were reached through
community schools and Navigators
initiatives, connecting them to
services and supports that address
key barriers to learning



Nearly

100%

of families that complete our
Healthy Families program remain
safely together – and out of foster
care, creating stronger, brighter
futures for kids and communities.



30%

Graduation rates have increased by
more than 30% at our two longest-
standing high schools that adopted
the Community Partnership Schools
model



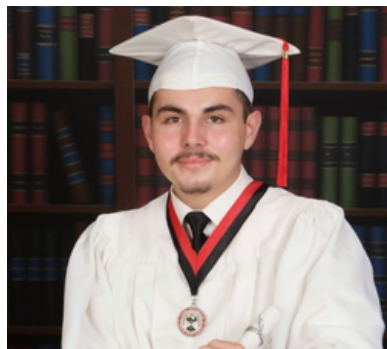
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

WHAT WE DO

Through Community Partnership Schools and Community Impact programs we empower youth with the skills, confidence, and support networks necessary to overcome challenges and pursue opportunities for lifelong success.

WHY IT MATTERS

Children who live in poverty are 5X more likely to drop out of high school.³



With CHS, more youth in underserved communities are finding stability and success.

Community Schools provide pathways to success through **increased graduation rates** and parental involvement, and **improved student behavior** and teacher retention.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

WHAT WE DO

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.

WHY IT MATTERS

Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for youth ages 10-24.⁴



With CHS, more children and families have access to trauma-informed, caring mental health services during their greatest times of need.

“ I'm very grateful that I was able to receive counseling when I had nobody; it honestly saved me and changed my life. I'm forever grateful.
-Shewendlie, 17 years old ”



3 - <https://www.apa.org/pi/families/resources/school-dropout-prevention>

4 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (2022)



EARLY CHILDHOOD & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

WHAT WE DO

We empower families to create safe, strong, solid foundations so their children can grow up in healthy, nurturing homes.

WHY IT MATTERS

Early childhood, particularly the first 5 years of life, impacts long-term social, cognitive, emotional, and physical development.¹

With CHS, more children are safe at home with their families.



In CHS programs statewide, **nearly 100% of families that complete our voluntary home visiting early childhood programs remain safe at home – and never enter the foster care system.**

1 - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/early-childhood-development-and-education>

2 - Rubin DM, O'Reilly AL, Luan X, Localio AR. The impact of placement stability on behavioral well-being for children in foster care. Pediatrics. 2007;119(2):336-344. doi:10.1542/peds.2006-1995

CHILD & FAMILY WELL-BEING

WHAT WE DO

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 the foster care system so they can bring their children safely back home. If safe reunification is never possible, then we find forever families for children through adoption.



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

WHY IT MATTERS

Children in foster care experience placement instability, and this instability has a significant impact on their behavioral well-being.²

“CHS was more than a helping hand. You didn't just bring my family back together, you gave me back my life.”
- Richard, father reunified with his child

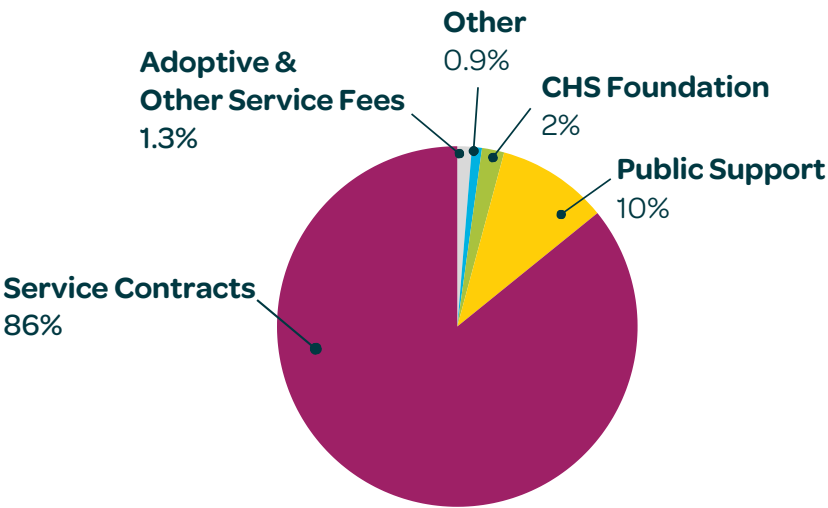




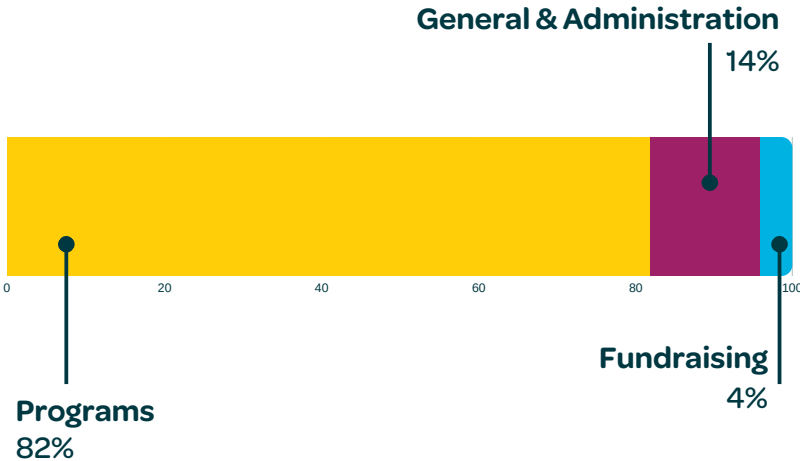
Financial Stewardship

Your contributions directly impact children and families across Florida.

Revenue: \$85 million



Expenses: \$92 million





Advocacy Highlights



Expand a Proven Model to Success: Community Partnership Schools

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

RESULT: *In addition to sustaining support for Community Partnership Schools, the legislature authorized increased funding to expand the model to 6 more schools!*



Strengthen Families: Healthy Families Program

CHS requested recurring funds to stabilize the workforce serving children and families, ensuring parents have the tools needed to reduce trauma, improve outcomes, and keep their families together.

RESULT: *The legislature granted funding to improve workforce stability, helping empower families across Florida. CHS continues to advocate for recurring funds to ensure more families remain strong and together.*



Get Involved

chsfl.org/get-involved/



GIVE

Make a one-time or ongoing monthly donation to continue building bridges to success for children

Make a lasting impact on children and families with a planned gift, including: bequests, charitable gift annuities and gifts of stocks or bonds.

Become a GEM and give every month to help children.



VOLUNTEER

Donate your time and change a life.
Virtual and in-person volunteer options are available.

Support our gift-in-kind supply drives or help fulfill the needs on our wish lists

Become a CHS GOODGetter by hosting at least two supply drives or kit-building opportunities, or through two group volunteer projects.

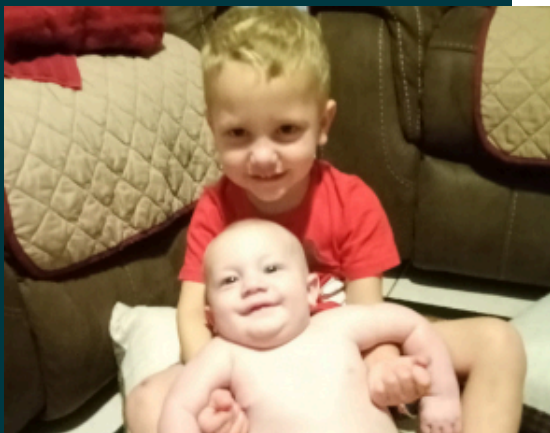
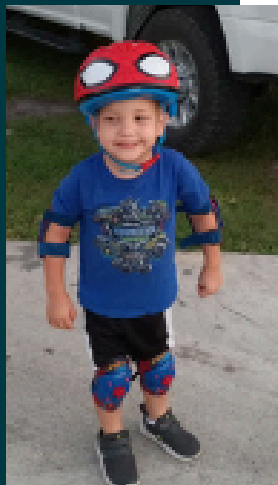


ADVOCATE

Join our advocacy efforts and create lasting change in your community!

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 on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



YOU HELP FAMILIES THRIVE:

Jessica and Brian's Journey to Reunification

Jessica and Brian's story is one of resilience, determination, and the power of support in overcoming life's greatest challenges. After battling addiction, they made the courageous decision to embark on a path of recovery to regain custody of their daughter, Journey. Through perseverance and the support made possible by CHS donors and advocates, they triumphed over adversity and rebuilt their family.

Realizing the impact addiction had on their lives and their family, Jessica and Brian committed themselves to change. They recognized that creating a stable and nurturing environment for their children would require addressing their addiction, developing healthy coping strategies, and making long-term lifestyle changes.

For the next two years, they worked tirelessly to overcome their personal battles, participating in rehabilitation programs, counseling sessions, and support groups. It was difficult, but their love for their children served as a powerful motivation.

"We would have never gotten Journey back if it wasn't for everybody fighting for us as hard as they did," said Jessica.

Through determination and steady support, Jessica and Brian refused to allow any obstacle to threaten their future as a family.

The moment they were reunited with their Journey marked a turning point in their lives. With newfound strength and sobriety, they continued to thrive as a family. They also seized new opportunities and opened their own business, setting the stage for financial stability and independence.

Through their hard work and determination, they created a brighter future not only for themselves but also for their children.

Reflecting on her experience, Jessica's advice to parents facing similar challenges is to keep pushing forward. "Keep doing the right thing, even when you feel like what you're doing is not good enough because it will pay off," she shares.

Jessica and Brian's story is a testament to the transformative power of recovery, perseverance, and support. And it's because of donors and supporters like you that families like theirs can find the strength and resources to build a brighter future together.

Thank you for believing in the potential of every child and family—your generosity changes lives.



**Thank you for making a difference in the
lives of Florida's children and families.**

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