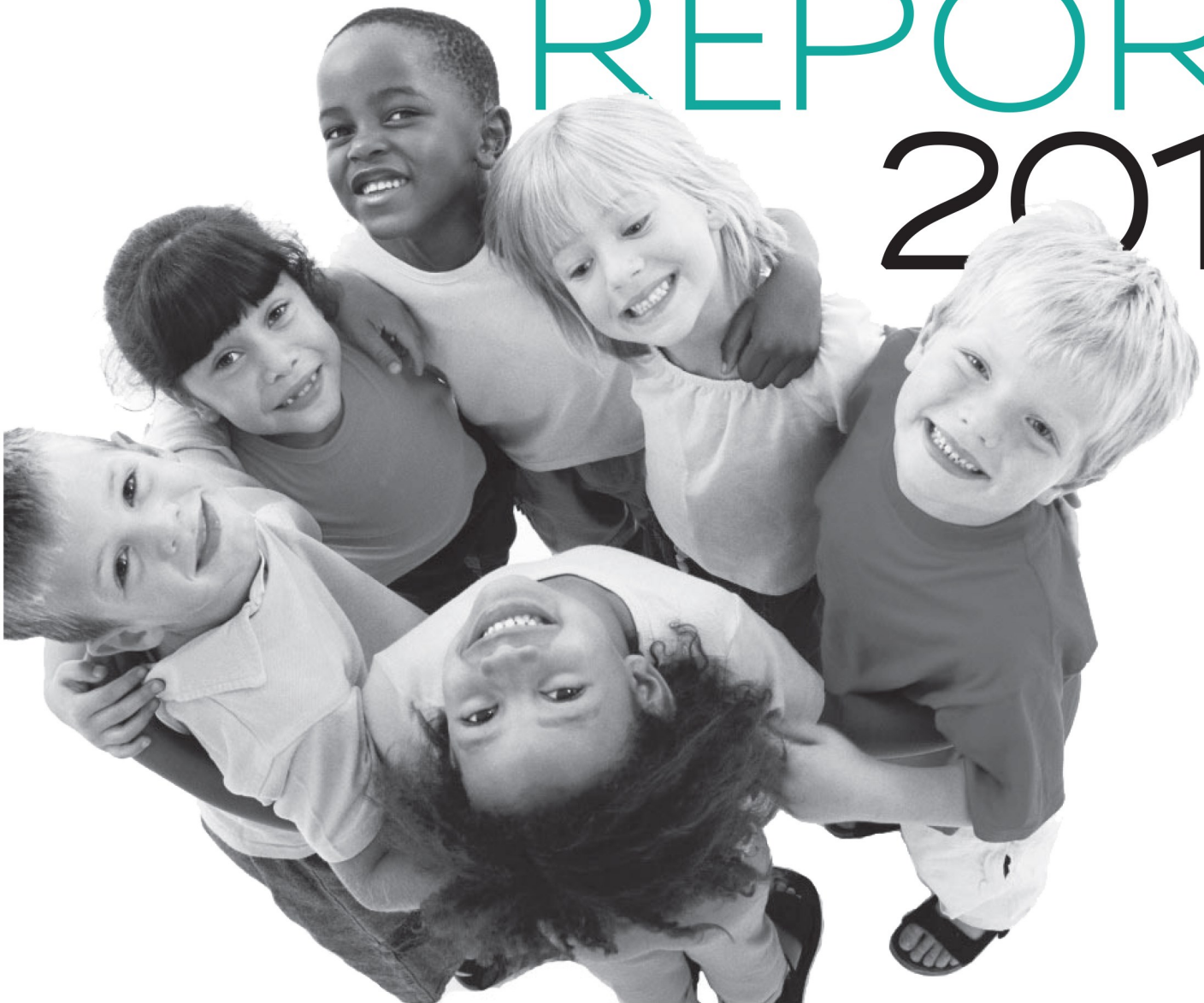




Youth Advocate Services
PROMOTING POSITIVE FUTURES

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



OUR MISSION



TO SUPPORT CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES TO REALIZE
THEIR POTENTIAL, HOPES AND DREAMS.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



TRACEY IZZARD
MA, MBA, LPCC-S, LICDC-SC, LSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of Youth Advocate Services (YAS) I would like to thank you for your continuing support of our agency. Your patronage helps to advance our mission “to support children, youth, and families to realize their potential, hopes and dreams.” Through our Foster Care, Adoption, Help Me Grow Early Intervention, Help Me Grow Home Visiting, Early Childhood Mental Health, Home Based and School Based Mental Health Programs we have seen many lives changed for the better.

The year of 2013 has been a full and exciting year for us at YAS. Every day, our Family Counselors, Clinicians, Home Visitors, and Service Coordinators are **providing needed services and supports to over 1,399 children and families in the Central Ohio area.** To help support the needs of foster youth in our community, YAS continues to successfully recruit, train, and license a number of new foster families. This year, YAS **added 18 foster homes** to our network.

Additionally, YAS was able to provide placement for **169 foster youth** in a YAS licensed foster home. These youth remained in care for an average of 7.9 months, and the majority of them had a successfully planned discharge to their family, a kinship provider, host home, emancipation, or adoption. YAS celebrated our successes with our foster and adoptive families through two events this year. The first was in June at our Annual Foster Parent Banquet, where **Inez Valentine was honored as our Foster Parent of the Year.** We celebrated our families again in December during our Annual Snowflake Festival where guests enjoyed a holiday meal, gifts donated by our community through a giving tree at Members 1st Credit Union as well as Insight Global, holiday movies, holiday crafts, and pictures with Santa. Additionally, Buckeye Community Health graciously donated 75 hams to give to our families during the holidays.

In 2013, the Help Me Grow Home Visiting Program served **218 children and their families** in addition to the **474 clients** served through the Help Me Grow Early Intervention Program. The YAS Help Me Grow Program continues to achieve high client satisfaction scores from its clients and has continued to provide high quality service throughout the year demonstrated by successful audits.

The YAS Mental Health Program continues to partner with Columbus City Schools, Groveport Schools, and Whitehall City Schools. Currently, YAS Mental Health Clinicians are providing needed behavioral and mental health counseling to children in over **115 schools** in Central Ohio serving **528 students.** Notably, YAS joined in a partnership with the Homeless Family Foundation at the Dowd Education Center to bring counseling services to the after school program. Additionally, YAS continues to be a Qualified Provider of Home-based and Independent Living Services to the department of Youth Services.

In 2013, YAS was awarded a grant through CRESH, Center for Research in Emotional and Social Health, to implement an evidenced-based social skills group for high functioning autistic youth age 8-13, or youth struggling with social communication issues. The initial group demonstrated huge success in improving communication skills, reading social cues accurately, how to deal with bullies and establishing friendships. This project specifically targeted bullying prevention, social skills, emotional literacy and social and emotional learning. Due to their great success, these groups will continue to be offered at YAS in 2014.



WE PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES TO BOTH YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

ULTIMATELY, WE GO THE EXTRA MILE TO HELP STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AND THEIR ABILITY TO MEET THEIR NEEDS.

The major fundraiser this year was our 3rd Annual Youth Advocate Services All-Class Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show presented by Rife's Autobody. This event was judged a success by sponsors, participants and spectators and helped **raise over \$12,000 for the children and families** served by our agency. This event was held at the Grandview Yard on Bobcat St., which is where the 4th Annual Show will be held on September 21, 2014.

The goal of Youth Advocate Services is to continue to make a difference in our community by strengthening families, which are the core of our community. Our vision is to improve every life we serve by putting customer service and quality care above all else. We are so grateful to all of our friends for your support of our efforts promoting positive futures. You truly help to make our mission and vision possible. May peace and good prosperity bless you in 2014.

Best regards,
Tracey Izzard

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE BELIEVE



YOUTH ADVOCATE SERVICES (YAS) IS A NATIONALLY ACCREDITED, STATE-CERTIFIED, 501(C)(3), NON-PROFIT CHILD/FAMILY CARING AGENCY WHO HAS SERVED THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SINCE 1978.

For 36 years, Youth Advocate Services (YAS) has believed in the premise that all children, and especially those who are vulnerable or at-risk, should live in a family-centered, caring and nurturing home. As the oldest **therapeutic foster care** program in Ohio, YAS has provided high-quality treatment foster care, while working collaboratively with other child serving agencies to develop and implement a community support system for families.

YAS is proud to provide:

- Mental health and behavioral health services to children and families through a holistic, wrap-around approach;
- Coordination services for families with children ages birth to three and links them with resources through the Help Me Grow programs;
- Respite and emergency care for children who must leave their families temporarily; and
- Family support, home-based and school-based programs to prevent the need for children to be placed away from home.

YAS is located at 825 Grandview Avenue, one block north of the Grandview Avenue Exit off of I-670. The YAS location provides state of the art facilities with a large training space and opportunities for foster parents, children, families and staff to grow and develop. It enables YAS to continue and build on its tradition of serving thousands of children and families in our community each year.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

YAS APPLIES INNOVATIVE THINKING ALONG WITH EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES TO PARTNER WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY AND TREAT THEIR NEEDS. YAS INCORPORATES A PREVENTATIVE PHILOSOPHY INTO ITS MODEL WITH THE INTENTION OF STRENGTHENING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THEIR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, WHILE DECREASING THE NEED FOR MORE RESTRICTIVE OR OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS.

OUR VISION

IN ORDER TO IMPROVE EVERY LIFE WE SERVE, YOUTH ADVOCATE SERVICES DEDICATES ITSELF TO A CULTURE THAT PUTS CUSTOMER SERVICE AND QUALITY CARE ABOVE ALL ELSE.

OUR VALUES

- > WE BELIEVE THE FAMILY IS AN INSTITUTION.
- > WE BELIEVE ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE IN A SAFE, SECURE, FAMILY-CENTERED ENVIRONMENT.
- > WE BELIEVE THAT SOUND, CULTURALLY COMPETENT, CLINICALLY RELEVANT SERVICES SHOULD BE AVAILABLE AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.
- > WE BELIEVE THE SHORT TERM INTERVENTIONS WE PROVIDE SHOULD FOCUS ON PROMOTION OF HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF FAMILIES.
- > WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO USE PLACEMENT ONLY AS TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

OUR PROGRAMS & SERVICES

2013 PROGRAM POPULATION



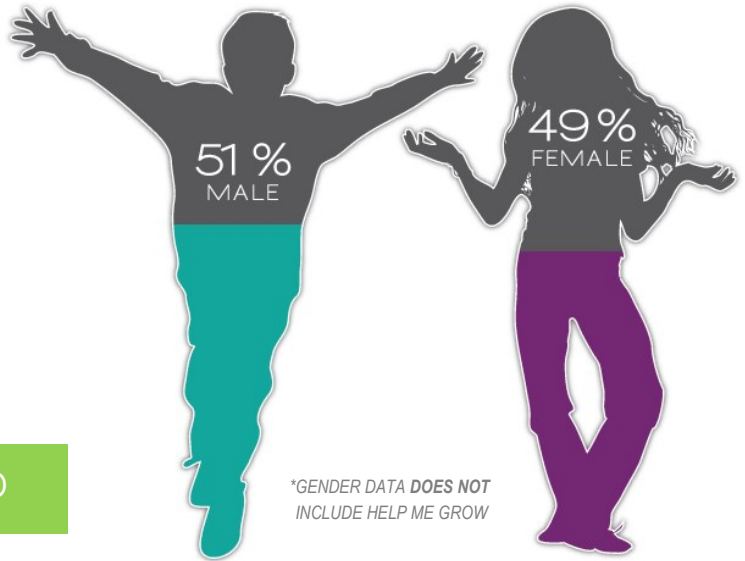
538 MENTAL HEALTH CLIENTS

474 HELP ME GROW CLIENTS
EARLY INTERVENTION

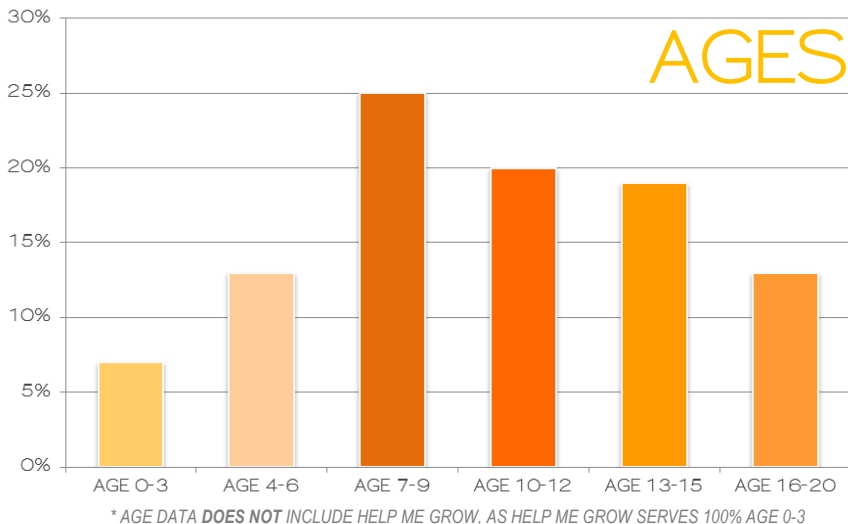
218 HELP ME GROW CLIENTS
HOME VISITING

169 FOSTER CARE CLIENTS

1,399 TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED



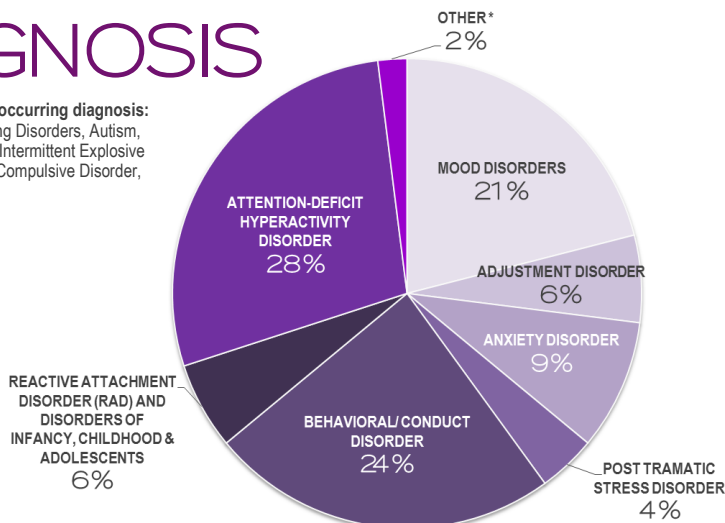
*GENDER DATA DOES NOT INCLUDE HELP ME GROW



* AGE DATA DOES NOT INCLUDE HELP ME GROW, AS HELP ME GROW SERVES 100% AGE 0-3

DIAGNOSIS

*OTHER Includes reoccurring diagnosis: Sleep disorders, Eating Disorders, Autism, Learning Disabilities, Intermittent Explosive Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Enuresis



* DIAGNOSIS DATA DOES NOT INCLUDE HELP ME GROW

47% WHITE

46% BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN

5% HISPANIC

2% OTHER
INCLUDES ALASKAN, NATIVE & ASIAN

* RACE DATA DOES NOT INCLUDE HELP ME GROW

DIVERSITY

OUR PROGRAMS & SERVICES

FOSTER CARE



TRADITIONAL & TREATMENT FOSTER PLACEMENT

YAS provides family and therapeutic foster care services to youth ages 0-18 in and around the central Ohio region. Foster parents with Youth Advocate Services are specifically trained to provide a safe and therapeutic environment for children and teens of all races, genders and socioeconomic status'. Masters-level licensed clinicians provide ongoing and crisis support to foster parents. Clinicians also deliver home-based counseling and CPST services to foster youth in order to achieve positive outcomes and continued success. Program staff, clinicians, and foster parents work collaboratively with the custodial agencies of youth in care to achieve their case plan goals. Youth Advocate Services actively recruits interested foster/adoptive families in the local community throughout the year. Parents attend Pre-Service training and complete a home-study to become a licensed foster family. YAS offers licensed foster parents monthly on-going training opportunities as well as annual dinners, holiday events, and picnics.

ADOPTION

YAS supports those who are interested in adopting by providing the necessary training to prepare them for adoption as well as providing a thorough adoption home study. YAS also provides pre- and post- adoptive counseling as well as respite support to families that are growing their family through adoption.

EMERGENCY SHELTER CARE

Through this contract YAS provides short term placement housing to youth in crisis. Youth are placed in a Treatment Foster Home and assessed for needs to assist the youth with a plan to successfully discharge. The goal of this program is to provide a safe home, quickly assess youth's needs, and recommend the appropriate setting for each youth in order to ensure their success.

COMMUNITY RESPITE

YAS provides respite to at-risk families in the community through our Family Foster Homes as well as our Therapeutic Foster Homes. Through this program, families in our community are able to utilize respite in order to maintain their children in their home in order to prevent their children from being placed in foster care or another higher level of care. YAS provides both short term and long term respite for children and teens.



INDEPENDENT LIVING

The S.A.I.L. (Succeed At Independent Living) program is for youth ages 10-21 referred by The Ohio Department of Youth Services and others. It provides comprehensive, youth centered, family inclusive strength based services at the youth's home and in the community. YAS Clinicians provide individualized, asset-building independent living skill development with the goal of preparing youth for self-sufficiency within the community and to become more prepared to meet the requirements of responsible citizenship.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR FOSTER PARENTS

OUR DEDICATED FOSTER PARENTS ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE YAS TEAM. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE AND RESPECT THEIR ONGOING COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE A SAFE, NURTURING HOME TO A CHILD OR YOUTH IN NEED AND THE TIME AND PERSEVERANCE IT TAKES TO BE A FOSTER PARENT.

OUR PROGRAMS & SERVICES

HELP ME GROW



EARLY INTERVENTION

The Help Me Grow Early Intervention Program is a home visiting program for children 0-3 with developmental delays or diagnosed medical conditions likely to result in developmental delays. YAS Service Coordinators assist in providing developmental evaluations for children to identify needs and linkage to Early Intervention services if recommended. The service coordinators assist families in learning about additional community resources to help meet other needs. Service coordination ensures the Individualized Family Service Plan is complete and up to date. Service Coordinators also provide parent education regarding child development.



HOME VISITING

The Help Me Grow Home Visiting Program began in July 2010, replacing the old At Risk program. It is a home visiting program for children of first time parents who are prenatal or under six months of age and at risk for developing developmental delays. Children under the age of 3 with one parent on active military duty are also eligible for Home Visiting. Home visitors provide parent education using the Parents As



Teachers Curriculum and assist families in linking with community resources and other programs that may be helpful to their family. The home visitor is a support to the family and assists them in helping make sure that their child is developmentally on target.

HOME-BASED MENTAL HEALTH



YAS serves children in 115 schools in Franklin County by addressing needs that present both in the home and in the school. Referrals often arise out of behavior management issues in the classroom as well as other needs that present as children acclimate to school and other life stressors or changes. Licensed clinicians meet with children and their families as well as school personnel in order to best identify and meet the needs of the client. YAS clinicians strive to empower families to identify their own goals. Together, families and clinicians set goals and celebrate successes large and small. YAS is able to provide individual, family, and group counseling as well as community support and psychiatric services.

2013 HIGHLIGHTS



SATISFIED CLIENTELE

93% HELP ME GROW

83% FOSTER CARE

91% MENTAL HEALTH

89% OVERALL CLIENT SATISFACTION



\$12,000

RAISED AT THE 3RD ANNUAL CAR SHOW

18 HOMES

WERE LICENSED AND ADDED TO OUR FOSTER CARE NETWORK



115+ SCHOOLS SERVED



8 ADOPTIONS

OVER 200 ATTENDEES

AT OUR ANNUAL SNOWFLAKE FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE OUR FOSTER CARE YOUTH AND FAMILIES



RECEIVED A GRANT

THROUGH THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN EMOTIONAL & SOCIAL HEALTH TO IMPLEMENT A SOCIAL SKILLS GROUP FOR HIGH FUNCTIONING AUTISTIC YOUTH AGES 8-13, OR YOUTH STRUGGLING WITH SOCIAL COMMUNICATION ISSUES.

90 CLIENTS DISCHARGED

FROM OUR FOSTER CARE PROGRAM WITH AN AVERAGE OF

7.9 MONTHS IN SERVICE

BUCKEYE COMMUNITY HEALTH

DONATED 75 HAMS TO GIVE TO OUR FAMILIES

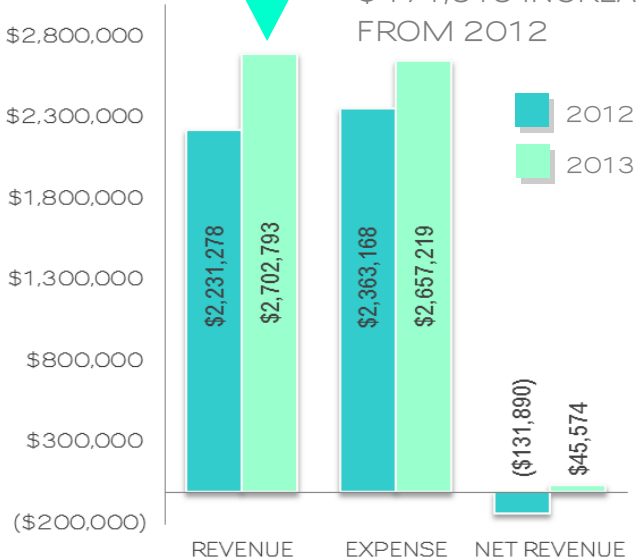


112 
SUCCESSFUL DISCHARGES

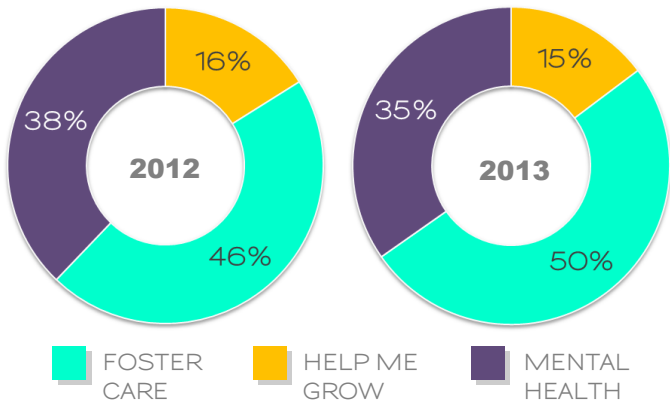
FROM OUR MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

REVENUE
\$2.7M
 \$471,515 INCREASE
 FROM 2012



REVENUE BY PROGRAM



ASSETS



THANK YOU TO OUR 2013 SPONSORS

PRESENTING SPONSOR

RIFFÉ'S AUTOBODY

PREMIER SPONSORS

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 HENDERSON INSURANCE AGENCY
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LGR REALTY
 LLOYD'S SWEET SHOPPE
 MAC TOOLS
 NED SEGELKEN
 NURTUR THE SALON
 OCCASIONALLY CUSTOM CORRESPONDENCE
 THE OHIO TAPROOM
 RUDE DOG BAR & GRILL
 TOM & JERRY'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

7-UP COLUMBUS
 31 HANDBAGS AND GIFTS
 ACTIVE EDGE CHIROPRACTIC
 ARENA DISTRICT
 BARLEY'S SMOKEHOUSE & BREWPUB
 BECKY SLONAKER
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 DIGITAL SOUND WAVES, LLC
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 FIGLIO PIZZA
 FUNNY BONE COMEDY CLUB

GAIL KERN
 GRAETER'S ICE CREAM
 GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT
 HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN
 HYATT PLACE
 JACOB HOSTETLER
 JOSEPH MARTIN
 K.A. MENENDIAN ORIENTAL RUG GALLERY
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 MAC WORTHINGTON GALLERY
 MAGIC MOUNTAIN FUN CENTERS
 MIKEY'S LATE NIGHT SLICE
 MITCHELL'S FISH MARKET
 MODERN DYE FACTORY
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2014 YOUTH ADVOCATE SERVICES
**LEADERSHIP
TEAM**

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Tracey Izzard
MA, MBA, LPCC-S, LICDC-SC, LSW

ADMINISTRATIVE

Glenn Richard
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & BILLING

Jocelyn Hasenbalg
PERFORMANCE & QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COORDINATOR

Makayla Fisher
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

FOSTER CARE

Ed Miner
M. DIV, LSW
TRAINING & LICENSING COORDINATOR

KaDai Craig
MSW, LISW
PROGRAM MANAGER

Lisa Chakroff
MSW, LSW
CLINICAL SUPERVISOR

Marnita Asher
RECRUITMENT & PLACEMENT COORDINATOR

HELP ME GROW

Sarah Cochey
BS, EIS
PROGRAM MANAGER

MENTAL HEALTH

Krystal Martin
MSSA, LISW-S
PROGRAM MANAGER

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Otis J. Henderson

LIFETIME BOARD MEMBER

7/17/1927 — 10/22/2013