ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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Happy New Year!

The New Year gives me pause to stop and reflect on the job that CCKids has done in keeping families together, reconnecting them after a removal or finding another forever home through adoption. These past few years have been especially challenging. In the past, we could keep children at home and provide services. Due to the severity of the opioid crisis, more children have been removed then in almost twenty years.

Fortunately, there is an upside: About 55 percent of the children in our care were reunified with their parents thanks to the services delivered by our provider community. We also found a record number of relatives and family friends to serve as caretakers this year – a 20 percent increase from 2017. When relatives were unavailable, we placed children in foster or group homes, while keeping siblings together at a rate exceeding 75 percent.

More than 186 children found adoptive homes thanks to the impressive work of our adoption's services provider, Children's Home Society. That measure itself was a whopping 38 percent increase over the previous year, and we expect the trend to continue upward.

Finally, almost 150 foster homes have been added to our system over the past few years thanks to our partners Camelot, 4Kids, Mount Bethel and Place of Hope. Our continued need for foster families is paramount. We have seen miracles happen for children when love, support and stability are introduced into their lives. I hope 2019 will be the year of miracles.

Carol Deloach

Chief Executive Officer

We are...

...the Lead Agency for child-welfare services in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties. Our mission is to enhance the safety, permanency and well-being of all children in Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast through a community network of family support services. Our vision is to eliminate abuse, neglect and abandonment so all children grow to their full potential.

Meet Our New Chair

Dear Friends,

2018 was definitely an exciting year for CCKids — new name, new by-laws, new Board members, new employees. Whew! Although there were many changes, the mission and commitment to our children and families remain intact. With a mission so great, it is important to make changes strategically and slowly as missteps can be detrimental to those who need us most.

As Board Chair, I have found the level of professionalism, knowledge and dedication at CCKids to be of the highest caliber. The focus on and discussion around what is best for each child is reaffirming. The money is tight, as it is with all state agencies and non-profits, but decisions on fiscal issues are about maximizing the dollars to benefit the mission.

As we go forward, a new headquarters is in the offing to better serve our clients and staff. The need for assertive advocacy is apparent as we are often the voice for those who have no political voice. The community at large benefits when the least of us succeeds.

We had a great year. Join us to make 2019 the best year yet for foster children, their families and all children in our four county circuit.

Kathryn Hensley
Chair, Communities Connected for Kids Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR—
Kathryn Hensley
SLC School Board

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR
Russell Hamilton
Past chair & founding Board member—Russell passed away in 2018.

TREASURER
Robert Dunne
Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer—Devereux Foundation

Vanessa Farnes
Seacoast Bank

Donna Follmer
Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd & Lloyd

Lisa Kroger
Regional Administrator Devereux Florida

Pat McCoy
Okeechobee County School District

Doris Plym
Guardian ad Litem

Steve Simon
Rosenthal, Levy, Simon & Ryles

Melanie Wiles
Boys & Girls Club

LEADERSHIP

Carol Deloach
Chief Executive Officer

Cheri Sheffer
Chief Operating Officer

Lauren Hahn
Chief Financial Officer

Lorene Egan
St. Lucie County Director

Christina Kaiser
Director of Community Relations

Josie Kirchner
Director of Clinical Services

Rusty Kline
Director of Quality & Data Management

Andi Poli
Director of Contract Management

Nicky Smith
Director of Organizational Development & Learning

Caryn Toole
Indian River County & Road to Success Director

Denise Waninger
Martin County Director/ Licensing Director

Christine Winter
Director of Finance

2018 ACHIEVEMENTS & INNOVATIONS

Case Management

- Exceeded statewide target for successfully having children reach permanency within 12 months of removal from their homes.
- Led community efforts to create the Circuit 19 Keeping Families Together protocol, which provides swift intervention for children to prevent their entry into our system from Juvenile Justice or mental health facilities.
- Deepened involvement in the Wraparound model, which reduces the involvement and length of stay in the dependency and delinquency systems.
- Reduced case manager turnover by 14 percent.
- Continued Permanency Roundtable process to increase permanency among youth in foster care through reunification, adoption or permanent guardianship. This year, we facilitated 10 Roundtables and 42 follow-up Roundtables. One of the Roundtables initiated this year resulted in permanent guardianship and case closure.

Foster Care & Adoptions

- Hired a new staff member and added relative and non-relative support to existing Caregiver Support Program; with our newly developed welcome packet and new caregiver notifications, caregivers now have an increased awareness about how to access support, and we can identify high-priority needs following placement.
- Relaunched Quality Parenting Initiative Program which includes newly developed education for all of our staff and community partners. Community partners, foster partners and staff meet monthly to develop and discuss measurable objectives and areas of focus.
- Launched the One School One Child Foster Care Recruitment Initiative. This is a multi-year collaboration recognizes that school board employees have the skill set and heart to be great foster parents.

2018 ACHIEVEMENTS & INNOVATIONS

Clinical Services

- Improved timely access to medical and behavioral health care for children by establishing proactive engagement with the Medicaid managed care system.
- Engaged additional Medicaid funded community mental health providers into collaborative partnerships.
- Increased the number of Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings by 20 percent, resulting in more children receiving behavioral & physical health services.

Administration & Community Outreach

- Created Projects Supervisor position to identify & address inefficiencies in the system to improve quality performance.
- Developed quarterly Circuit 19 System of Care performance meetings to ensure all local systems, including protective investigations and Children's Legal Services are working together toward the same goals.
- Successfully rebranded our organization and established a Board of local community leaders to reinforce community ownership of system.
- Provided more than 4,000 gifts to 1,100 children during the holiday season through the Making Christmas Bright program.
- Unveiled Employee Volunteer Program.
- Featured 14 children in the Forever Family program, which leverages the power of the media to find homes for hard-to-place children.

Road to Success

- Developed partnerships that resulted in new housing opportunities for former foster care youth.
- Celebrated the completion of five college degrees earned by Road to Success students.

New Name, Same Passion

With the whisk of giant scissors and the gentle fall of a blue ribbon, the New Name, Same Passion campaign ended September 13 at Communities Connected for Kids' fourth and final ribbon cutting ceremony.

More than 200 people attended the series of ceremonies, which took place throughout the summer in Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie, Okeechobee and Vero Beach to celebrate the organization's recent rebranding.

"We wanted to celebrate our new name and identity with the people who gave it to us," said Community Relations Director Christina Kaiser, referring to the community renaming contest from which the organization's name was born.

It was a change in name, only, Kaiser said.

"It was important for the community to know that – that's why we created the New Name, Same Passion campaign," she said. "We wanted to avoid confusion, and I think we did that."

The organization – which oversees the child-welfare system in Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast through a contract with the Florida Department of Children and Families – was established in 2013 under the name Devereux Community Based Care.

"At that time we promised DCF that we would be fully integrated with our local community within five years," Kaiser said. "This name change acknowledges our standing as an independent, community-based, community-led organization reflective of the families who live and work here."

Program Spotlight

Vehicle Scholarship Program

Communities Connected for Kids, in partnership with Infiniti of Stuart and the Guardian ad Litem program, announced plans this year for a vehicle scholarship program. The scholarship program, created to improve education outcomes for teens and young adults in the foster-care system, will award a car each year to a young person in CCKids' Road to Success program.

Road to Success, which prepares teens and young adults for life after foster care, has had a significant impact on the lives of young people in the community, said Chris Martinez, program supervisor. For example, he said, more teens in foster care are graduating from high school and pursuing post-secondary education.

"We hope to further our efforts by making vehicle ownership more accessible to this same group of young people," Martinez said. "We know that our young people who have reliable transportation are the ones who stay in college and receive a degree."

The idea for the program grew from discussions earlier this year among members of the St. Lucie County Roundtable, which addresses and responds to key risk factors that lead to delinquency, crime and other problem behaviors in children.

The program is off to a great start. Infiniti of Stuart donated the first vehicle and secured commitments from its partners in the community to provide painting, detailing and mechanical assistance if needed. The first car was awarded January 18 during an event made possible by the generous support of Caliber Home Loans, Rothenthal, Levy, Simon and Ryles, and Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd and Lloyd.

MEASURES AT A GLANCE

Improvements

This year's shining star was **ADOPTIONS** and the 186 children who found Forever Homes—continuing a three-year trend of exceeding our contracted goal set by the Department of Children and Families.

Challenges

The opioid epidemic is at our doorstep. This year's outcomes show the results of an increasing number of children entering care due to substance abuse. In fact, 30 percent of all children are removed from home because of substance abuse. Caseloads are on an uptick for the first time in three years, moving from 1:13 to 1:14.

Adoptions	38% ↑
Children placed with relatives	20% ↑

**or others close to them*

Children served out of circuit	0% –

**for reasons other than to live with a relative*

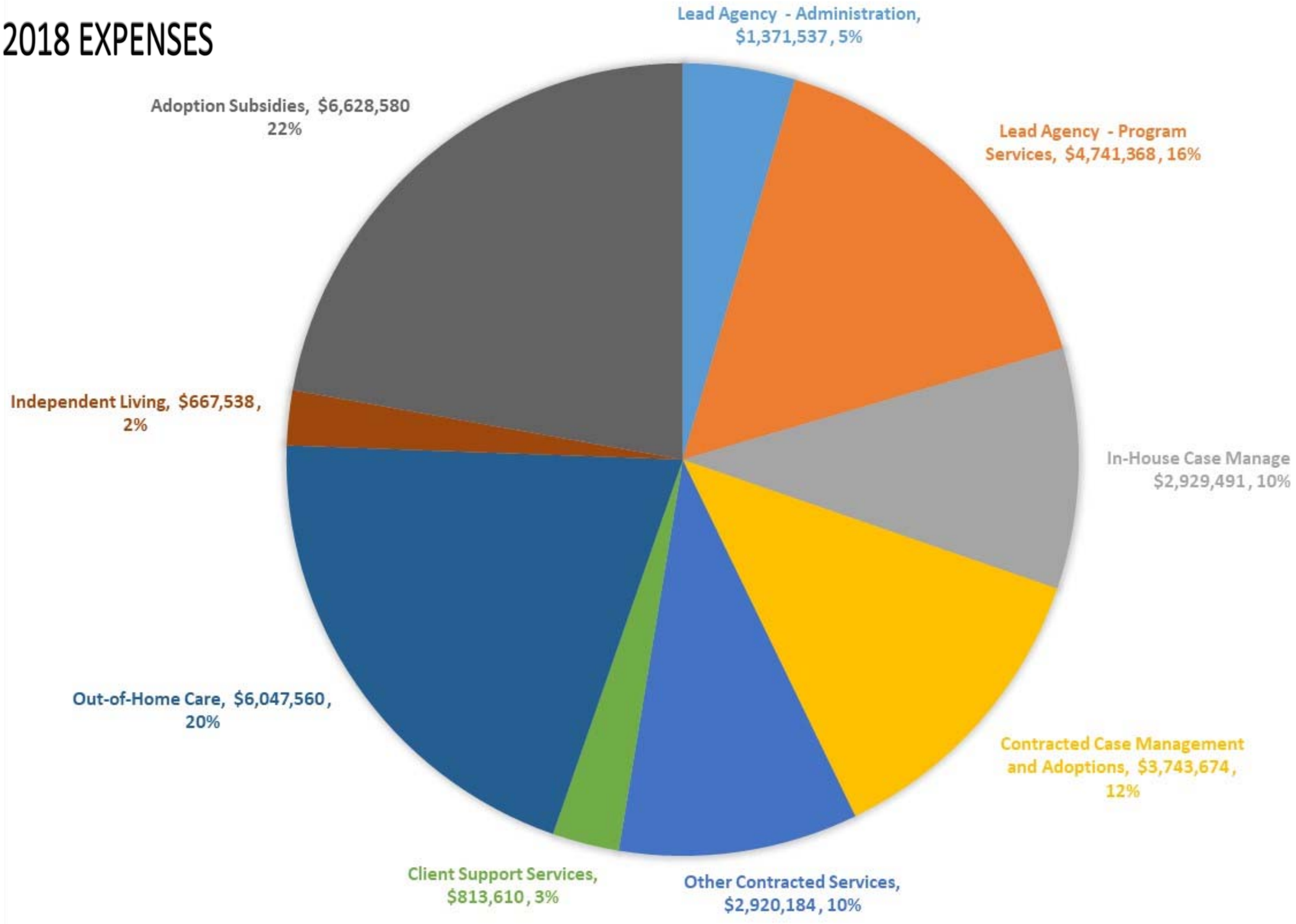
Children served out of home	11 % ↑
Children living in residential care	1 % ↓
Children served in home	12 % ↑

2018 EXPENSES

This table and the pie chart on the next spread of pages represent income and expenses for FY18, which ran from July 2017 through June 2018.

INCOME	
DCF	**$29,964,834**
Other	**$322,233**
TOTAL INCOME	*$30,287,067*
EXPENSES	
Lead Agency—Administration	$1,371,537
Lead Agency—Program Services	$4,741,368
In-House Case Management	$2,929,491
Contracted Case Management	$3,743,674
Other Contracted Services	$2,920,184
Client Support Services	$813,610
Out-of-Home Care	$6,047,560
Independent Living	$667,538
Adoption Subsidies	$6,628,580
TOTAL EXPENSES	*$29,863,542*
Net Income	$423,525

2018 EXPENSES



THANK YOU

C.C. Kids gratefully acknowledges the generous supporters who made a contribution between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.

$10,000-$5,000

Foster a Dream Foundation

$4,999-$1,000

Florida Community Bank

$999-$500

Trinity Freewill Baptist Ladies' Circle

Less than $500

Gap Foundation

Sally Johanna Oles

Forethought Life Insurance

In kind—

Albert Wilson Foundation

Guardians for New Futures

St. Andrew Episcopal Church

Berry Fresh Café

Lil' Feet

United Way of St. Lucie County

Ashley Minton Law

Hometown News

Spare Makers Bowling Team

HOSA of Port St. Lucie Centennial High School

Treasure Coast Builders Association

Tropicana

The Imagine School

La Buona Vita

Junior League of Martin County

Hair Cuttery

Martin Health System

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

St. Lucie County School District

Zeta Phi Beta

JROTC—Port St. Lucie High School

Lakes of Tradition

Old Navy—Tradition Location

Retired Educators of St. Lucie County

Solei Salon

7th Day Adventist Church

OUR CONTRACTED PROVIDERS

In kind continued —

Olive Garden—Tradition Location

Florida Community Bank

La Buona Vita

St. Lucie Gardens

Tail-Gators Brews & Grill

Pursuit Boats

Port St. Lucie Presbyterian Church

Sungrove Montessori

Clark Advanced Learning Center

Harbor Insurance Agency

Amy Collins

The Grove Church

One Simple Wish

First Presbyterian Church of Port St. Lucie

Solei Salon

Kappa Kappa Iota

St. Lucie County Schools Transportation

Translations USA

2 Welcoming Arms

4Kids of South Florida

Abundant Life Ministries

Behavior Basics

Boys Town

Brighter Futures

Brookwood Fla.

Camelot Community Care

Children's Home Society

Homesafe

Devereux Foundation

Exchange Club CASTLE

Father Flanigan's Boys Town

Hands of Mercy Everywhere

Hibiscus Children's Center

Mt. Bethel Human Services

Place of Hope

Real Life Children's Ranch

ADAP Counseling Services

Changing Tree Wellness

LabCorp

Martin County BOCC

Quest Diagnostics

SAC of IRC

SLC Drug Screening Lab

Suncoast Mental Health

Translations USA

Shanlis

Communities Connected *for* Kids

Communities Connected for Kids is united in its vision to eliminate abuse, neglect and abandonment in Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast so that all children grow to their full potential.

It is the policy of Communities Connected for Kids to practice non-discrimination in services. All activities—with regard to referrals, admissions, placement of individuals and provision of services — shall be conducted without regard to race, color, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, sex and sexual preference.

For more information about our system of care, please call (772) 873-7800 or visit www.cckids.net.