

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

*Lending a Hand to Florida's Families
One Child at a Time*



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Our Mission: The Florida Network values young people and therefore creates safe pathways to their future by building strong families and communities.

Our Vision: Florida will be a safe place where all young people reach their full potential.

Our Core Values

Family: We are committed to keeping youth and families together and to strengthening family systems.

Quality: We are dedicated to ensuring the highest standards of practice within our programs and our organization.

Youth Development: We value young people as vital resources and partners in finding solutions. We cultivate a young person's strengths and assets in all of our programs and services.

Safety and Support: We believe prevention and early intervention services are powerful, not only in keeping young people from committing crimes and families from being unsafe, but as catalysts for youth to realize their full potential and make a successful transition to adulthood.

We value the collective wisdom, energy and expertise that working together as member agencies affords us in striving toward our vision, adhering to our mission and reaching our common goals.

We believe the whole is always greater than the sum of the parts in making Florida a safer place for children and their families.



A Message from the Chairman & the President

“There is no greater satisfaction for a just and well-meaning person than the knowledge that he has devoted his best energies to the service of the good cause.”

- Josh Billings



Dominic M. Calabro

When like-minded groups come together for a single cause, we can accomplish great things. With the collaboration and support of you and our many partners we are able to leverage resources, become stronger, leaner and achieve much greater meaningful change. This year's Annual Report highlights some of the many valuable accomplishments that our provider agencies have secured for Florida's youth and families.

While we had many great achievements over the last year, we know we must remain diligent. We continue to be responsible financial stewards and to find ways to be resourceful, effective and efficient. With an almost unprecedented amount of our funding going toward direct services, we know that every dollar counts—and directly impacts our youth.

We remain sharply focused on those who ultimately reap the benefits of our valued partnerships: troubled youth who come to us at a critical juncture in their lives. Our greatest reward is the ongoing success and the beneficial improvements of the youths and their families who need our services.

Thanks to our service providers and our varied community partners, the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services is proud to have made many strides in serving troubled youth last year including the following highlights:

- Participated in developing much-needed policy to address the needs of sexually exploited youth
- Successfully worked to ensure a steady level of funding from the Legislature
- Provided more than \$3 million in direct services to the Department of Juvenile Justice over and above what our providers were contractually paid to offer
- Commissioned an independent study that found that the state of Florida saves more than \$160 million each year as a result of the services provided by the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services—a direct return on investment (ROI) of more than 5 to 1
- Spearheaded a community-oriented initiative aimed at reducing disproportionate minority contact
- Continued to be responsible financial stewards with 96% of our funds going to direct services to assist troubled youths and their families, while keeping overhead and administrative costs to a minimum
- Provided crisis care and support to more than 15,000 troubled youths and their families when they needed it most

Thanks to all of our partners and supporters for playing an important part in the lives of troubled youths and their families across Florida. We all have a responsibility to make sure these kids have a safe and supportive place to go when in crisis and at the same time ensure a tremendous return on investment for Florida's hardworking citizens.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dominic M. Calabro" followed by a stylized flourish.

Dominic M. Calabro,
Chairman of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacy Gromatski" followed by a stylized flourish.

Stacy Gromatski,
Executive Director/President and CEO



“The Florida Network works to find support within the network of providers to mentor and provide technical assistance in addition to working directly with them. The shared support, information and advocacy have enabled all the agencies to benefit and be stronger than they would be individually.”

**- Tim Putman,
Anchorage Children's Home**

Services

“To bring up a child in the way he should go, travel that way yourself once in a while.”

- Josh Billings

WE PROVIDE

32

PRIVATE NONPROFIT
COMMUNITY
AGENCIES

WITH

28

YOUTH CRISIS
SHELTERS

OPERATING

24

HOURS A DAY,

7

DAYS A WEEK

The Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Inc. is a not-for-profit statewide association representing 32 private nonprofit community agencies that operate 28 youth crisis shelters and provide non-residential services to runaway, truant, ungovernable and other troubled youth and their families. This population of children, defined as Children and Families in Need of Services (CINS/FINS), is not served elsewhere in our system, and the Florida Network agencies ensure that they do not “fall through the cracks.” For more than 35 years, the Florida Network member agencies have been providing these critical services to Florida’s youth and families with compelling success. Intervention services redirect troubled youth to keep them with their families and out of the expensive child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Research shows that time spent in custody harms most young people more than it helps. Intervention alternatives like these are far less costly to the state. Fortifying parents and kids with new ways to deal with problems and conflicts has proven to be successful in keeping kids out of the court system. The services provided by CINS/FINS programs include but are not limited to the following:

OUTREACH - Outreach services to youth, families and the community through public education about available services, presentations, brochures, website, etc.

CENTRALIZED INTAKE - Access to CINS/FINS is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The components of centralized intake include the screening for eligibility and intake assessment of the youth and family. When a child is screened and determined to be eligible, admission to either emergency shelter care or non-residential CINS/FINS services will take place. If the initial screening reveals a history of a longstanding health, mental health or substance abuse condition, brief services will be offered until a referral to more appropriate services can be made. If the screening determines that the child is not eligible for CINS/FINS services, the referring individual will be given information regarding other community services that are more appropriate for his/her needs and/or encouraged to contact the child’s juvenile justice or child welfare contact person. All CINS/FINS agencies maintain inter-agency agreements with other community-based service providers to connect clients with desired services and provide an effective continuum of care.

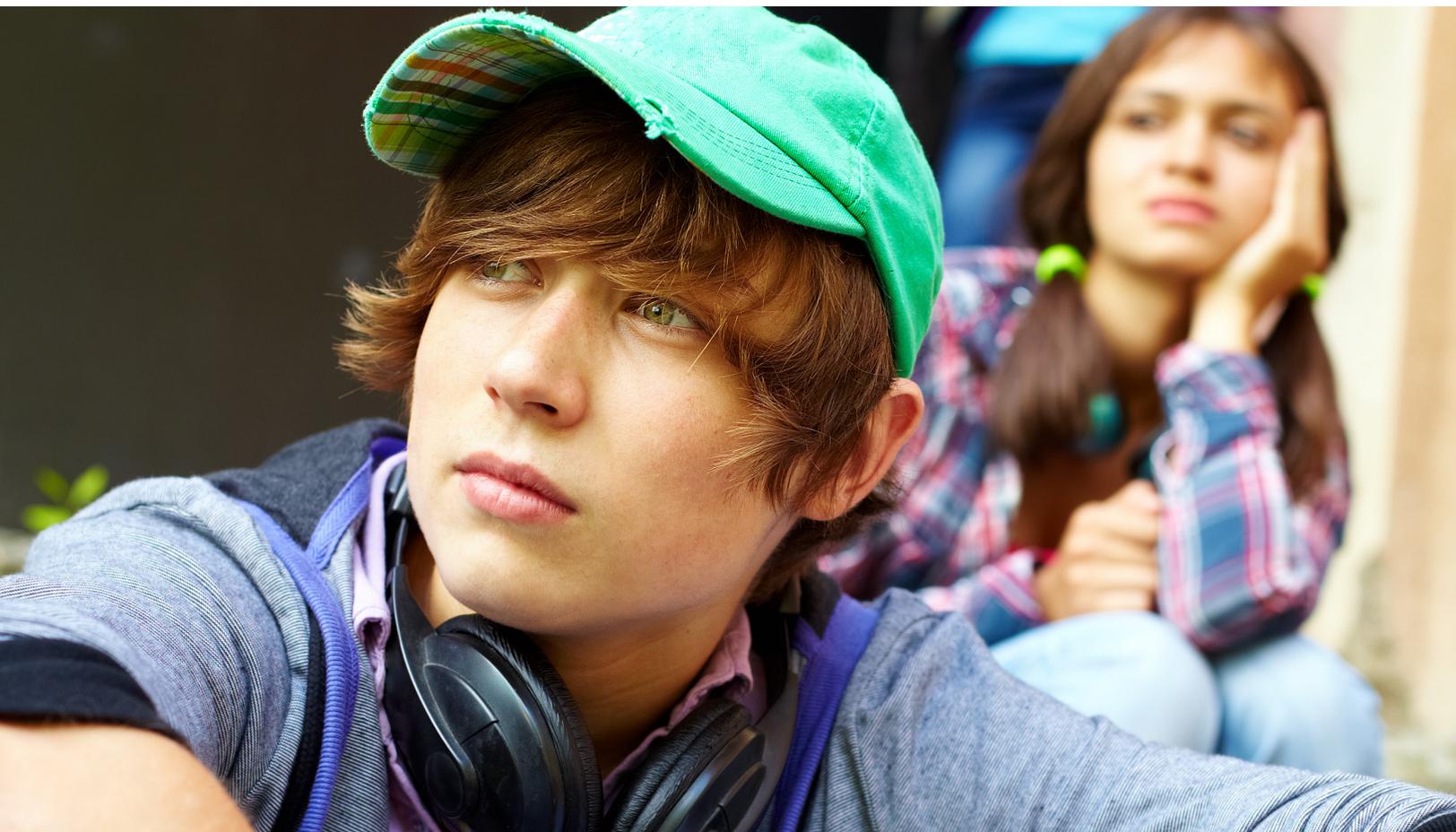
The admission process provides eligible children and their families with the least restrictive services that are responsive to their individual needs. Once eligibility is determined and the youth is admitted to services, a complete psychosocial assessment is conducted of the child to determine his or her most immediate needs and presenting problems. The counselor develops a service plan that provides for individual, group and family counseling, as well as specialized services that may be needed from community schools, medical clinics, vocational or other programs.

SHELTER SERVICES - If it is not possible for the child to remain at home, he or she is admitted to the crisis shelter. Shelter services are intended to be short-term, are primarily voluntary and include meeting the basic needs of the child and providing services such as case management and counseling. The purpose of the shelter is to provide respite from volatile family situations, to offer a safe place for children on the street, to work with the family for the child's safe return and to improve family relationships.

NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES - If the immediate crisis in the family can be handled, and it is safe for the child to return to or remain at home, the family is offered non-residential counseling services. These services include but are not limited to crisis intervention and individual, group and/or family counseling. They are rendered to CINS/FINS clients in their homes, at established community locations, or at the local agency's offices.

CASE/COURT MANAGEMENT - All youth and families admitted for services receive case management services. These services include: information gathering; supportive linking; advocacy; coordinating and monitoring services; case review and discharge planning. When the agency's short-term services have resolved the family's immediate crises, the family is connected with longer-term community services and encouraged to follow through in order to build upon the strengths identified while receiving CINS/FINS services.

STAFF SECURE PLACEMENTS - As a result of a CINS petition, the court may order the child to a longer stay in shelter, up to 120 days. There are 10 placements available statewide - one bed in each of 10 shelters - that have an additional youth care worker who provides one-on-one assistance and focus on the child's case plan. More intensive case management and counseling also occurs.



“The Florida Network of Youth and Family Services is the voice for troubled teens and pre-teens and their families in Florida. The Network sets high standards for quality in the work that we do, and we are supported by training and technical assistance.”

- Jane Harper, Family Resources, Inc.

Successes

In their own words

Read how Florida Network of Youth and Family Services provider agencies change lives every day with the help of strong community partnerships.



ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

"Every day children are truant - or absent from school without an excuse," states Chief Judge Belvin Perry, Jr. "These children fall behind in school and may eventually drop out. Many end up in our juvenile justice system. It's our responsibility as a community to do something about this problem. All children should be afforded an education."

The Ninth Circuit's Truancy Court takes a comprehensive approach to solving truancy problems. The program provides participants and their families with services, intervention, and case management. Our partnership with the Orange County Youth Shelter is a crucial component. A child may be placed at the shelter if he needs intensive crisis counselling or assistance finding a healthier living environment. Many times, taking a child out of their environment keeps their current problems from escalating. It allows the child to take a clear and detailed look at their lives and figure out a plan to move forward. The shelter is a welcoming and safe place for all who enter. The work at Orange County Youth Shelter is accomplished through unconditional acceptance of each person who comes within its influence.



CENTER FOR FAMILY AND CHILD ENRICHMENT

Center for Family and Child Enrichment, Inc. and staff were given the opportunity to coordinate a legislative event for Judicial Circuit 11 Miami-Dade County that would highlight and demonstrate the continuum of Juvenile Justice Services in the county to local elected officials. The collaboration among a number of local agencies and the Department of Juvenile Justice was necessary to make this happen. Groups participating included the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation, Juvenile Justice Board, Miami-Dade Juvenile Services, The Children's Trust, Alternatives to Commitment Redirections, Home Builders Institute, Miami Bridge Youth & Family Services, Southern Residential Services, and several departments within the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. The partnership agencies worked diligently to ensure that this was a very successful event.



YOUTH CRISIS CENTER

Youth Crisis Center (YCC) has partnered with the United Way Full Service Schools (FSS) in Jacksonville to provide services to clients referred by the Full Service School. YCC provides services such as counseling, medication management, legal services, tutoring, psycho-educational groups, student forums, training, drug testing, and mentorship linkage in all eight Full Service Schools. Each Full Service School is located on a school campus throughout Jacksonville. These social services are provided under one roof to families who reside within specific zip codes and attend one of the feeder schools designated for such FSS site. YCC has provided counseling and case management services since 2001, and our service delivery has since grown to provide services at all sites.

According to Katie Prevett, Beaches Resource Center's Full Service School Coordinator, "YCC is an essential partner to FSS because they possess the ability to handle a certain type of client. Without them as partners, we would be less effective at serving our most at-risk clients. Most of the Full Service Schools are located in the area's high-crime zip codes where the ultimate goal is preventing our youth from entering the delinquency and foster care systems."

MOUNT BETHEL HUMAN SERVICES

People in need of medical care, as well as spiritual balm for emotional or domestic crises, can find both in one convenient location at a newly opened walk-in clinic on Sistrunk Boulevard. The walk-in Quik Clinic serves patients with non-life-threatening ailments such as colds or flu, minor injuries, allergies, headaches, asthma, sprains, and blood pressure or hypertension problems. Medical director Dr. Claude Jones, who grew up in the neighborhood, and a staff of advanced registered nurses are on staff to treat patients.



Next to the clinic is the Mount Bethel Human Services Corp., which offers programs for families encountering difficulties with the justice system, housing or at-risk children. Mount Bethel provides programs to divert youth from crime, counseling to families with housing issues, and reunifies families when children have been removed because of neglect or abuse. Mount Bethel's Family Resource Center provides support services such as a weekly food pantry and child care assistance for families that qualify. "Mount Bethel has great services for families in crisis," Director of Clinic Marketing Roderick Kemp said. "We provide the physical treatment ... and they provide spiritual and community programming."

YOUTH AND FAMILY ALTERNATIVES

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation "...the best way to reduce negative outcomes is to strengthen our nation's most vulnerable families..." Youth and Family Alternatives, Inc. (YFA) has worked with more than 200,000 of these "high-risk" families over its 40-year history by providing a broad range of prevention and early intervention services to families in 13 central Florida counties including three runaway and youth crisis shelters.



One of the community resources has been the Leadership Councils, which have been established for each of the shelters. Each Leadership Council is

a volunteer Advisory Group of local citizens dedicated to working with YFA to improve the lives of our youth, increase awareness of the shelter's programs, and provide services and raise funds for each shelter through special events and other means. YFA engages strong community leaders who believe in our mission and vision. It is clear that our Leadership Councils have a deeper understanding of the role YFA plays in the lives of youth.

ANCHORAGE CHILDREN'S HOME

The Anchorage Street Outreach and Recovery program approached Bay High School near the end of the 2009-2010 school year to develop a focus group to gain teenagers' insight for outreach efforts aimed at at-risk youth. Bay High guidance counselor Barbara Smiley chose eight students from different backgrounds, ranging from affluent homes to the homeless. The focus group first met at the beginning of the next school year and were introduced to the Street Outreach Program. Teen homelessness was presented to the group of students along with the status of homeless among their student body. They were informed that 42 students were registered as homeless in their school at that time.



As a result, Bay High created an awareness campaign for National Runaway Prevention week in November. The group created a blank banner display in the middle of the school's courtyard that showed one homeless youth statistic on it. Students were encouraged to write their thoughts about it on the banner; hundreds of signatures and messages were scribed on the board throughout the day.

The group also chose to organize a fundraising event at the school to provide homeless youth with backpacks filled with hygiene supplies, blankets and winter wear. The group recruited other student civic clubs, local businesses, and a trade school to participate. The fundraiser had a "salon" theme with haircuts and manicures for a minimal price. Through these activities, these students have raised several thousand dollars worth of donations. Since the first activity more students have reached out for assistance as well.

BOYS TOWN OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Boys Town Central Florida has completed its second year of a successful partnership between the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, the Juvenile Assessment Center, and the Seminole County School Board. Though Boys Town already had a strong partnership with these agencies through the CINS/FINS program, this partnership was expanded to provide a collaborative approach to reducing truancy in Seminole County. Through this partnership, Boys Town has been able to serve youth who are picked up by law enforcement due to truancy. These youth are brought to the Seminole Truancy Alternatives for Youth Center (STAY Center) by law enforcement where they are assessed by Boys Town staff and provided resources, skill training, crisis intervention, and parent support to address the causes of truancy. The main goal of the services offered through the Stay Center is to get the youth back into their zoned school and assist the family with building a positive relationship with the appropriate school personnel. In this expanded partnership, law enforcement assist with getting these youth off the street so that Boys Town can meet face-to-face with the youth and family to assist with the referral issues. Additionally, the school assists with providing follow-up and school-based interventions for the family. In the last two years, 628 youth and families have been



served through this partnership. Families that qualify are also referred to CINS/FINS to receive more ongoing services and follow-up.



CAPITAL CITY YOUTH SERVICES

"Someplace Else" at Capital City Youth Services (CCOYS) is a shelter for youth between the ages of 10 and 17. Foster youth, runaways, and teenagers having problems at home all find their way to CCOYS for a safe place to sleep and someone to talk to about their life circumstances. Project Art-Reach is a collaboration between CCOYS, the Youth and Family Services Network, and some of the most accomplished and talented artists in the Big Bend area, including some professors from the Florida State University Art Department. The objective of Project Art-Reach is to inspire and support these young people and the caring adults who serve them by enhancing their physical space with original fine art.

The work of Project Art-Reach transforms this often clinical environment into unique spaces of color, imagination, and warmth. Each of eight bedrooms and a classroom has been redesigned and enhanced by a local artist rendering the space into "something else" within Someplace Else. One room is re-imagined as a tree-house sanctuary; another depicts scenes of a balmy New Orleans, promising a life beyond this temporary stop. The Wakulla River, resplendent in sunset golds and pinks, flows from the wall of another. Still another hosts a green "Guardian" made completely of wood. Each room is as distinct and unique as the youth who will find refuge within the walls. During the Art-Reach Opening Reception, more than 50 guests toured the shelter, and they marveled over the difference the works of art made in each room at the shelter.



URBAN LEAGUE OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

The Urban League of Palm Beach County has partnered with the School District of Palm Beach County for many years. Since our primary role as a provider is to serve children and their families, it made sense to partner with an entity that had contact with the majority of the student population. Through the CINS/FINS program, case managers have been able to help district staff be proactive regarding truancy and disruptive violent student behavior. Our case managers have built strong alliances with the guidance counselors and school administrators in high-risk areas. As one school administrator puts it, "It is such a blessing to have a partner that is there to fill the gap that has been left by budget cuts and loss of revenue. Our partnership has been invaluable to the students we serve and we hope to continue these efforts for years to come."

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY SAFE HARBOR

It is not always easy to measure success in a short-term CINS/FINS shelter stay. In a recent case with a youth, we had the great satisfaction of learning firsthand the impact we had on this young man's life. KP is a 14-year-old boy who came to our SAFE HARBOR shelter with a familiar story: he was being disrespectful at home, skipping school and sneaking out at night without



permission. His parents were at their wits' end and needed counseling and a place that could help them get KP back on track. After initial resistance, KP began to thrive at the shelter. He took direction from staff and never missed school.

KP, like all of the youth that reside at SAFE HARBOR, was able to participate in services that we are able to offer only because of the partnerships that we have established. KP was able to attend yoga classes, an activity provided by a volunteer from Karma Krew, Inc., a group that has been providing free yoga to the youth for more than 2 ½ years. KP was also able to interact in a healthy manner with pets through a volunteer-run program called Share-a-Pet. Share-a-Pet services are offered every week to the youth, thanks to their commitment and willingness to volunteer their time. KP also benefitted from volunteers that came for special events; he was able to take a cooking lesson from a teenage chef and was recognized for his willingness to try new things. Emanuel Cook, an NFL player for the New York Jets, visited the shelter during KP's stay. Emanuel was so impressed with KP's enthusiasm he gave him a pair of his cleats. Without all of the community support and volunteer presence, KP and the other youth at SAFE HARBOR would not receive the many quality services that are available.



CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OSCEOLA COUNTY

CHS Osceola Non-Residential has reconnected this year with Osceola County Schools' Student Services Department. The new supervisor of Student Services, Elizabeth Lane, has been open and enthusiastic about collaborations with Children's Home Society and CINS/FINS in particular. In July of this year CINS/FINS partnered with Ms. Lane's staff and the staff from Community Vision Inc. to provide a two-week program at At-Risk Youth Camp. Many referrals were received from Ms. Lane's office to participate in the groups, and in the end eight young men showed up day after day participating, learning and growing together through the class sessions and daily field trips into the community. After the two-week camp was complete the young men were invited to attend a graduation ceremony where their accomplishments were highlighted during a slide show. They were given an opportunity to say a few words to their families that came to support them, and they listened to an inspiring motivational speaker. Each of the young men and their families were then offered continued services through CINS/FINS case management. Mentoring services were accessed where possible for those that expressed an interest.



STEWART-MARCHMAN-ACT BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

Brandon first entered the CINS/FINS non-residential program in the fall of 2006. He was a youth that had ungovernable behaviors at home and school, anger, and substance abuse issues. His behaviors led him through short shelter stays, case staffings, the CINS/FINS petition process and multiple longer court-ordered stays in shelter. After an unsuccessful shelter stay in February of 2010 Brandon entered Teen Challenge, a long-term substance abuse program that he successfully completed in the summer 2011. He was gainfully employed and in school at Daytona State College for the fall semester of 2011. Brandon

spoke to the Stewart Marchman Board in October of 2011 and described his story of failures, struggles, tough times and ultimately his successful turnaround.

Brandon thanked numerous staff members who worked hard on his behalf even when he was not. It is a testament to the program and the program staff to keep plugging away, lay the foundation and continue to put in the ground work needed to plant the seeds of change. Time is a factor that no one can account for when it comes to growth and change in a young person's life. It is always difficult in a world where we want instant change to convey to both parents and their children that life is a long journey and lessons learned do not always bear fruit immediately. However, act immediately and have faith that over the journey of life those seeds will grow.



THAISE EDUCATIONAL AND EXPOSURE TOURS

Thaise Educational and Exposure Tours, Inc. has partnered with the Cashel Foundation for more than 10 years and with attorney Keith Dubois for more than five years as sponsors of our program. They believe--as we do--that if you take a child out of their environment and expose them to influential people, places and things it will broaden their horizons and motivate them to desire more out of life. We believe that exposure and education along with counseling are the keys to changing the lives of at-risk youth. Because of the Cashel Foundation and Mr. Dubois's support and belief in what we do, we have seen how we can positively impact the lives of so many young people. One of our youth graduated from Florida A& M University December 15, 2011 in Tallahassee, Florida. He stated "If it was not for Thaise Program and groups like the Cashel Foundation, I would not have gone to college. Before I went on the tours I did not have a desire to attend college. It was because of the opportunities to visit the colleges all over Florida and other states that I made up my mind that I was going to be the first in my family to attend college. Thanks to Mrs. Clove, Cashel Foundation, the counselors and other donors I was able to attend college and now am a college graduate." This student's success is because of the "village" that worked with him and many others.

BETHEL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Bethel Community Foundation (BCF), Inc. operates the local Pinellas County Truancy Center, referred to as Truancy Intervention Program Services (TIPS). TIPS represents collaborations with the Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB), the Pinellas County School Board (PCSB), St. Petersburg Police Department, Department of Juvenile Justice Circuit VI Juvenile Truancy Court and Bethel Community Foundation (BCF). The Truancy Center is a natural fit for BCF, where an existing CINS/FINS non-residential program now allows Law Enforcement Officers to drop off truant youth at the Truancy Center. The screening and intake assessment can begin immediately with the youth and continues when a parent arrives to pick up their child.



Because we understand it takes the whole village to change the lives of youth and families we serve, BCF now participates as part of a community-wide truancy network of approximately 15 agencies, chaired jointly by PCSB and JWB, designed to connect at-risk youth and families in our schools with community agencies, many funded by JWB, who provide prevention and

intervention services to families. The School Board is open to partnering with community agencies and recognizes the gravity of family issues that interfere with school success. Bethel Community Foundation is excited to be part of this groundbreaking relationship between the schools and our community.



LUTHERAN SERVICES OF FLORIDA NW

Publix Super Market has been a partner with HOPE House since it first opened its doors in Crestview. Publix began by providing their customers with the opportunity to purchase a bag of food to be donated to HOPE House; later they became a Safe Place site. They donate baked goods to the community, and HOPE House receives fresh baked bread and rolls every Friday. Tim Bryant, the store manager, has always responded positively to any request for help with a special event.

On April 18 of 2011, Tim came to HOPE House with the regional supervisor for Publix Super Markets, Jackie Lenz, asking if we could show the shelter to Jackie while she was in town. We were delighted to show Jackie around and when we finished the tour, she asked if everyone could come into the office. Jackie explained that Tim had nominated HOPE House for a gift to a non-profit and HOPE House had been chosen as the recipient.

All of the people who work at Publix are a blessing to the entire community, but they hold a very special place in the heart of HOPE House.



FLORIDA KEYS CHILDREN'S SHELTER

The Florida Keys Children's Shelter's clients--youth from 10 to 18 years old--come to us with multiple problems, particularly in the areas of mental health and substance abuse. We are pressed to provide a higher level of clinical services, and we have been fortunate to partner with another agency, the Guidance Care Center, which also provides special services to families and children throughout the Florida Keys. Upon intake, both in our residential and community-based program, we are able to screen clients for mental health or substance abuse needs and then make a referral for continuing services to the Guidance Care Center.

Guidance Care Center staff regularly come to our residential program and provide both individual and group services. Their staff also meets with our clients in the local schools. We have worked together in sharing information about our mutual clients and have effectively coordinated services. The counselors have developed strong relationships with the youth, and the youth speak positively about their experiences.

CROSSWINDS YOUTH SERVICES

Crosswinds Youth Services has a strong partnership with our local school system, the Brevard County School Board. Crosswinds staff members attend monthly staffings for our youth in alternative programs. Because of this long-standing collaborative relationship, Crosswinds is able to work closely with the local schools to provide opportunities for youth to succeed in CINS/FINS and other programs.



William, age 17, came to the Robert E. Lehton Children's Shelter at Crosswinds Youth Services last summer. William had made poor choices both at home and at school, which led to his expulsion from school and to his adjudication as a Child-in-Need of Services. After spending three months at the Robert E. Lehton Children's Shelter, William was able to get back on track at school and at home.

William's goal was to use his time at Crosswinds to make up enough high school credits to return to school as a senior at the start of the school year. The only way to accomplish this was to enroll in Florida Virtual School, with the assistance of his school and the local school board. He was assigned a guidance counselor and also worked with the Crosswinds teacher to provide any additional materials, support and tutoring required. In addition, he participated in counseling, resulting in an improved relationship with his father. William completed his virtual school courses with high grades and achieved his goal. He returned home just in time to start his senior year of high school.

FAMILY RESOURCES

Family Resources has a partnership with ALPHA House of Pinellas County through funding provided by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. The project aims to ensure safe and stable living arrangements for homeless pregnant and parenting teens (ages 16-21). The program prepares homeless young females for independent and productive adulthood and ensures the children of these young women have a healthy start in life. The young women are required to attend school or to be employed while in the program unless complications from their pregnancy prevent such activities. The goals are to assist them in finding permanent living arrangements, increase competency in parenting and home management, and ensure support for healthy babies.



Together, both agencies collaborate to serve 25-30 young women each year. Services include community outreach, intake, assessment and service planning, individual and group counseling, education/prevention classes, parenting and child development classes, recreation, and aftercare referrals to other appropriate community agencies for services.

ARNETTE HOUSE

Rashad Jones was homeless at age 18 and a homeowner at 22. He has worked with the Brazen® program for many years and touched many youth's lives. He has spoken internationally and has dedicated his life to helping youth around the world make healthy, educated choices to ensure success. In January both Marion and Lake Counties will have new class offerings to assist the families Arnette House serves. His first session, Motivation and Leadership, is designed to help youth assess where they are, where they want to be and how to get there. Rashad has been able to reach and inspire even those who have lost hope. Rashad is an amazing speaker and has a way of connecting with youth that is awe-inspiring. His passion is contagious, and his mission is truly heartfelt.





YOUTH CENTRAL

Safe Schools Healthy Students has had the honor to partner with Pastor Frank Thompson on one of his major initiatives, the Youth Central Program. Youth Central is a program that offers an alternative safe environment for students in Orange County who have been suspended from school. Suspended students who choose to attend the program receive academic support, guidance in a positive learning environment, tutoring, reading assistance, mentoring and follow-up counseling sessions after they have returned to their regular schools. The program is highly regarded by Orange County Schools and by the students and parents who participate in the program. Safe Schools Healthy Students has partnered with Pastor Frank to open an additional Youth Central site to serve students on the East side of our community. This partnership is beneficial to the youth, their families, and the Orange County community.

TAMPA HOUSING AUTHORITY

Tampa Housing Authority Youth & Family Services has been fortunate since its inception to have several wonderful community partners especially the Central City YMCA and First Tee of Tampa Bay. The YMCA has worked closely with our agency over the last three years to provide rich summer camp experiences for youth who otherwise would not be able to attend. Through this collaboration our youth have been transported to and from camp, and given the opportunity to be exposed to many fun and educational experiences.



First Tee of Tampa Bay (FTTB) has been a consistent support to our program by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. FTTB partnered with the Tampa Housing Authority to recruit youth participants. The mentees were partnered with volunteer adults from around the community. They gathered twice per month at Rogers Park throughout the school year to attend workshops on such topics as public speaking, study skills, self-esteem, anti-bullying and more. The First Tee teaches a series of life skills (such as goal setting, how to meet new people, and staying healthy) in all of its programs. Tampa Housing Authority Youth & Family Services is grateful to be a part of a village that shares and cares here in Hillsborough County.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Hillsborough County CINS/FINS Residential Program renewed its relationship with The Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County in June 2010. The Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County has provided monthly presentations and educational curriculum to the youth in the CINS/FINS Program about the reality and dangers of homelessness, resources to assist youth and their families to avoid homelessness, and lessons on independent living skills to help avoid poverty and homelessness. The unique aspect of these presentations is that they are co-facilitated by formerly homeless residents of Hillsborough County. The presenter is able to offer real-life experiences and credible advice to the youths.



Through the relationship with The Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County, the CINS/FINS youth have been involved in several community service opportunities including Portamento of Hope, Feeding America-Tampa Bay, and assisting area churches with clothing closets and food distributions.



LUTHERAN SERVICES OF FLORIDA SW

Lutheran Services of Florida SW has established a very exciting partnership and collaboration with the local school boards and the judiciary in the five counties that we serve. We have established a committee in each county to reach youth who are already in Truancy Court and have not received any other services prior to the truancy petition being filed. In most of these cases the youth fit the definition of a "Child In Need of Services." Staff assists the youth prior to their court reviews and makes written recommendations to the judges. We have also established an agreement with the circuit judges that youth will not go to detention and the judges would instead refer the youth and their families to Lutheran Services for assessment to determine their needs. With this new intervention the community has become successfully involved with the CINS Case Staffing Committee process.



CDS FAMILY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services is in partnership with six other agencies to reduce truancy. The School Board of Alachua County, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Children and Families, The State Attorney's Office, Alachua County Sheriff Office, Job Corps and CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services have joined together to make up the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). The SARB reviews the most egregious cases of truancy identified by the school system. The SARB reviews any previous intervention efforts and allows the student and parents to present an explanation of absences. The team responds to the student, family and school with recommendations for immediate attendance improvement.

The involvement of CDS in the SARB process provides the community with a venue for appropriate intervention of CINS/FINS services. CDS staff representatives are available to meet with the student and family on the day of the SARB meeting and provide information, screenings and intakes for residential or non-residential services. The SARB intervention process provides a community-based approach to improving attendance and meeting the needs of the CINS/FINS population. For the three years SARB has been in operation the majority of cases reviewed have resulted in the necessary improvement without court intervention.



YOUTH ADVOCATE PROGRAM

The Hillsborough County School Social Workers brought a family to the Case Staffing Committee because of poor attendance by the daughter. During the staffing it was discovered the family was still grieving the death of the mother, which was a major factor in the student's low attendance. A referral was made to the Youth Advocate Program (YAP). YAP assisted the family in obtaining grief counseling, and connected the father and his

daughter to additional counseling. YAP also assisted the father in applying for unemployment benefits so that the family would have income for the home.

If it were not for the partnership and referrals made by the Hillsborough County School Social Workers, so many families would go without the services YAP is able to provide.



CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY WAVECREST

We have worked successfully with the Fort Pierce Police Department for years. Officer Dani refers some of her most challenging youth cases to us for prevention services. These youth are often at the start of a journey that siblings had traveled landing the siblings involved in gangs, incarcerated or even dead in some cases. Additionally, we collaborate with the Drug Abuse Treatment Facility to assess the youth who are in the shelter to determine if it would be prudent to send them back to their neighborhood, where drugs may be easily accessible. We have worked with the treatment facility to make sure the youth has attended the scheduled groups, individual counseling and made sure they were well on their way to addressing their addiction. Additionally, we collaborate with the Drug Abuse Treatment Facility to assess the youth who are in the shelter to determine if it would be prudent to send them back to their neighborhood, where drugs may be easily accessible. It is through these collaborative relationships that our youth have successfully completed the CINS/FINS program while at WaveCREST Shelter, often being followed after discharge by Outreach services.

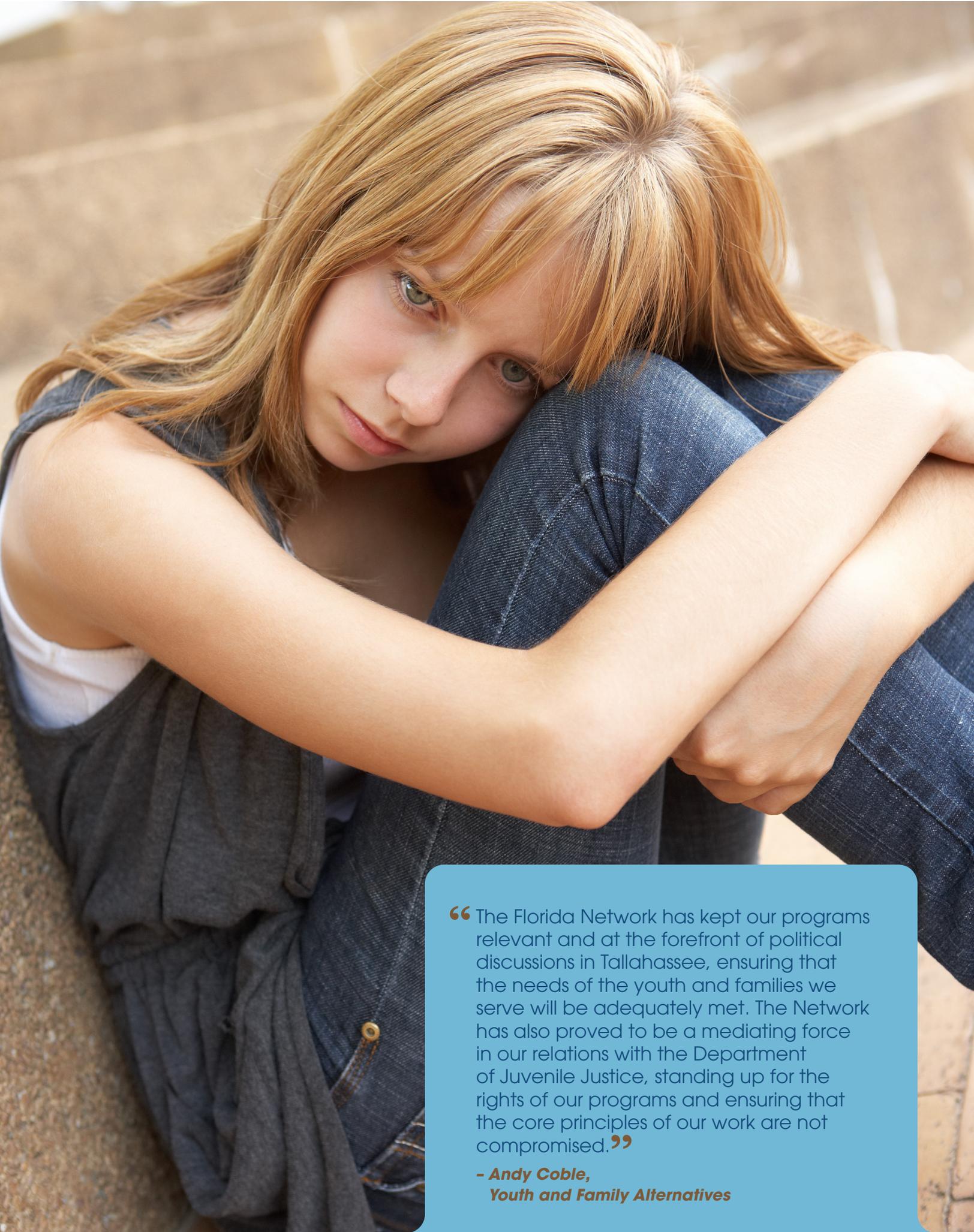


MIAMI BRIDGE
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

MIAMI BRIDGE

Miami's only emergency shelter for abused, neglected and abandoned youth ages 10-17 is about to feel a little more like a home. Prominent leaders within the city's construction industry are joining together for an in-kind initiative, spearheaded by Coastal Construction Group, to provide much-needed structural support and interior renovations to Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services' Miami campus. The massive collaborative effort, involving work by Biscayne Roofing, Florida Engineering, Boulanger Drywall, RC Aluminum, D. Stephenson Construction, US Brick and Block, Color Factory, Suntech Plumbing, Multiline and Twin Stone, will result in upgraded bathrooms, the installation of hurricane-proof windows, newly paved walkways and freshly painted walls for the shelter, which annually serves more than 800 children and teenagers in crisis.

"Thanks to our community partners like Coastal, Miami Bridge can continue to be a vital resource in this community and serve as a safe haven for those in greatest need," said Mary Andrews, executive director of the organization. "We are so grateful that they took this project on and reached out to their friends in the industry to help with our much-needed renovations. There was not a dry eye in the room when they announced their commitment."



“The Florida Network has kept our programs relevant and at the forefront of political discussions in Tallahassee, ensuring that the needs of the youth and families we serve will be adequately met. The Network has also proved to be a mediating force in our relations with the Department of Juvenile Justice, standing up for the rights of our programs and ensuring that the core principles of our work are not compromised.”

**- Andy Coble,
Youth and Family Alternatives**

Partners

“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”

- **Henry Ford**

It cannot be overstated how much of an impact individuals and groups outside the family have, for better or worse, on a child's well-being. Studies have shown that when young people are connected to their families, schools and other community organizations they are often protected from harm.

But today we live in a fragmented—and often frantic—world in which extended families rarely live in the same town, fear of crime keeps us behind locked doors and there is no gathering on the stoops to chat with our neighbors. It's no wonder that today's children have a difficult time navigating their way through life.

The challenges our children face touch us on an emotional level. When kids are hurting and crying out for help, we want to be there.

So in these difficult times, the call is out to neighbors, teachers, coaches, religious leaders, and all others to become “the village” that watches over its children. We all have a vested interest in seeing to it that every child is well cared for — and free from chaos, conflict and uncertainty. And that is why the partnerships that our provider agencies have established over more than 35 years of service are so critical to our intervention services. They have become “our village” in helping tens of thousands of children to stay out of the juvenile justice system.

This “village” is not only made up of those with a direct interest in supporting young people and their families such as educators, places of worship and service organizations; but it also includes the business community. Our member agencies have formed partnerships with a variety of organizations from local churches to law enforcement agencies and health care clinics. Through these collaborations we have been able to come together to build strong families and create an environment in which a once-troubled youth can succeed.

Together we can make Florida a safe place where all young people can reach their full potential.



Impact

2011 Statewide Impact: By the Numbers

Keeping families together and out of the court system is the desired outcome of the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services. With a 90% average success rate statewide in preventing juvenile crime and delinquency, the results speak for themselves.

Ultimately, putting these kids on the paths to success could include a variety of milestones achieved: academic competence, personal contentment, improved interpersonal skills, social involvement and staying out of trouble. By the time these youth reach adulthood, we want them to be able to find rewarding employment, form lasting and gratifying personal relationships and become contributors to their community.

Our other measures of success include services that we offer to the provider agencies, allowing staff and volunteers to increase their skills through specialized training, benchmark youth outcomes with statewide data, and achieve accreditation and licensing.



Average Length of Stay



Completed Services

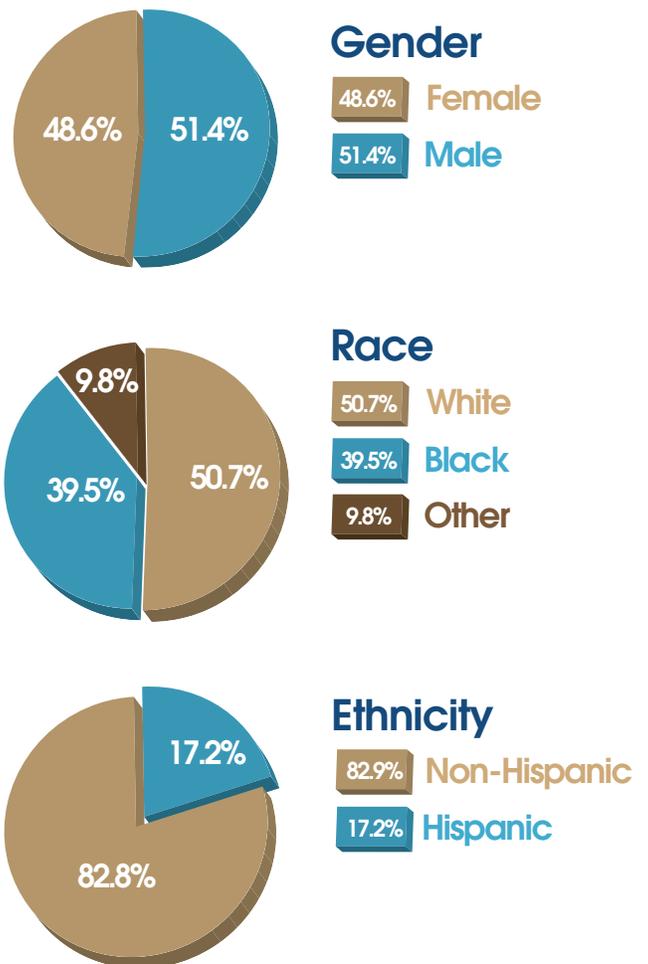


Crime-free Six Months After Services



Youth Returned to a Parent or other appropriate living situation

89%



Statewide Performance Outcomes

32 community nonprofits including 28 shelters:

- Received **21,515** calls for help
- Delivered counseling and case management to **8,868** youth and their families
- Provided safe shelter to **6,121** teens and brief respite to their families
- Conducted **2,247** outreach events to **7,102** youth and families in the areas of substance abuse, school issues, anger management and information about CINS/FINS services
- Provided **80,125** days of care
- Held **128** training events for provider agencies
- Served **66%** of youth in high-crime zip codes, **6%** above the state standard

Risk Factors for the 14,989 Youth Served

88% FACE CHALLENGES AT SCHOOL

Over one half of the youth served are truant from school.
 One half of the youth were suspended from school within the current or previous school years.
 Over half of the youth failed one or more grade levels.

95% HAVE CHALLENGES WITH THEIR FAMILIES

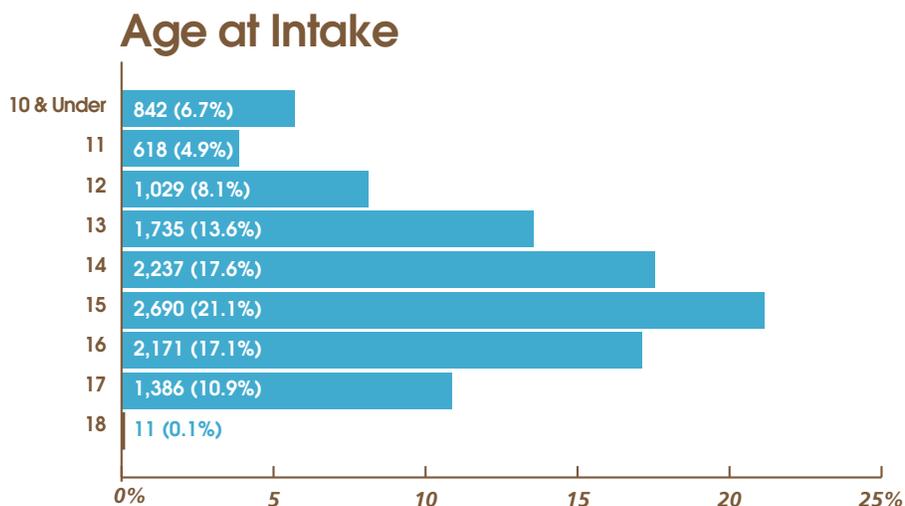
Three out of four parents have problems with parenting and supervision.
 Three out of four parents made statements that they cannot control their children.
 Two out of five parents struggle with setting limits on their children’s behavior.
 One out of ten youth show signs of abuse and/or neglect.

74% ARE ENGAGING IN BEHAVIORS THAT PLACE THEM AT RISK

One in four youth are diagnosed with a disability or mental illness.
 One in five are using tobacco or smoking.
 One in five youth are using drugs.
 One in five have been prescribed medication for mental illness.
 One in six youth were at high risk for suicide.

85% HAVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEERS THAT MAY PUT THEM AT FURTHER RISK

Over half of the youth associate with others who engage in illegal activities.
 Over half the youth associate with youth who have a delinquency record.
 Seven out of ten youth associate with youth who engage in anti-social, non-criminal behavior (runaway, truancy).



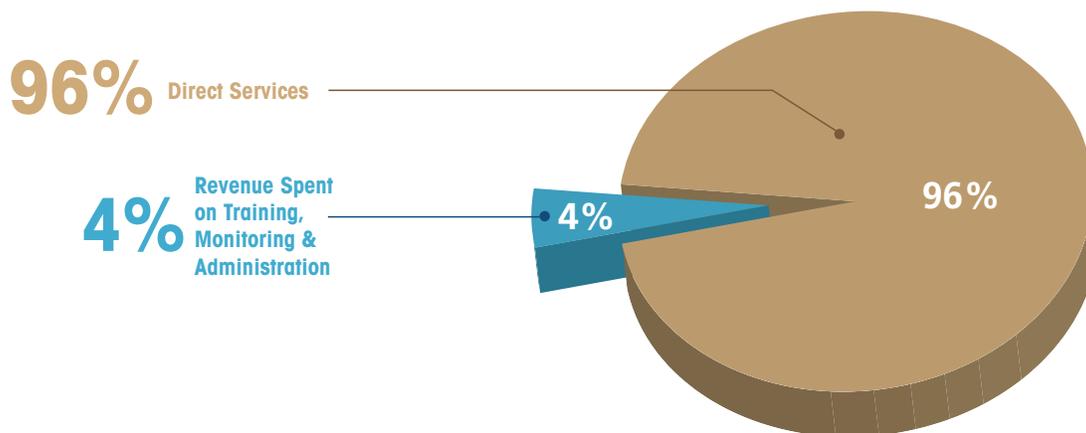
Financials

2011 Financial Report

Support and Revenue

DJJ CINS/FINS Contract	
State	\$28,621,425.00
Federal	749,947.00
Other Programs	598,692.00
Non-governmental	298,645.00
Total	\$30,268,709.00

Expenses	
DJJ CINS/FINS Contract	\$29,387,751.00
Other Programs and Services	598,692.00
Non-governmental	298,645.00
Total	\$30,285,088.00



Summary of Audit Report: There are no exceptions on the audit of the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Inc. for the period ending June 30, 2011. The audit was conducted by Carr, Riggs & Ingram, P.A., located in Tallahassee, Florida and complies with the single audit act. A copy of the audit report is available upon request.

Contacts

Florida Network of Youth and Family Services

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Grants and Quality Assurance Manager John Robertson, M.S.

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Information by County (Click a County Below to View)

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[Polk](#)

[Putnam](#)

[Santa Rosa](#)

[Sarasota](#)

[Seminole](#)

[St. Johns](#)

[St. Lucie](#)

[Sumter](#)

[Suwannee](#)

[Taylor](#)

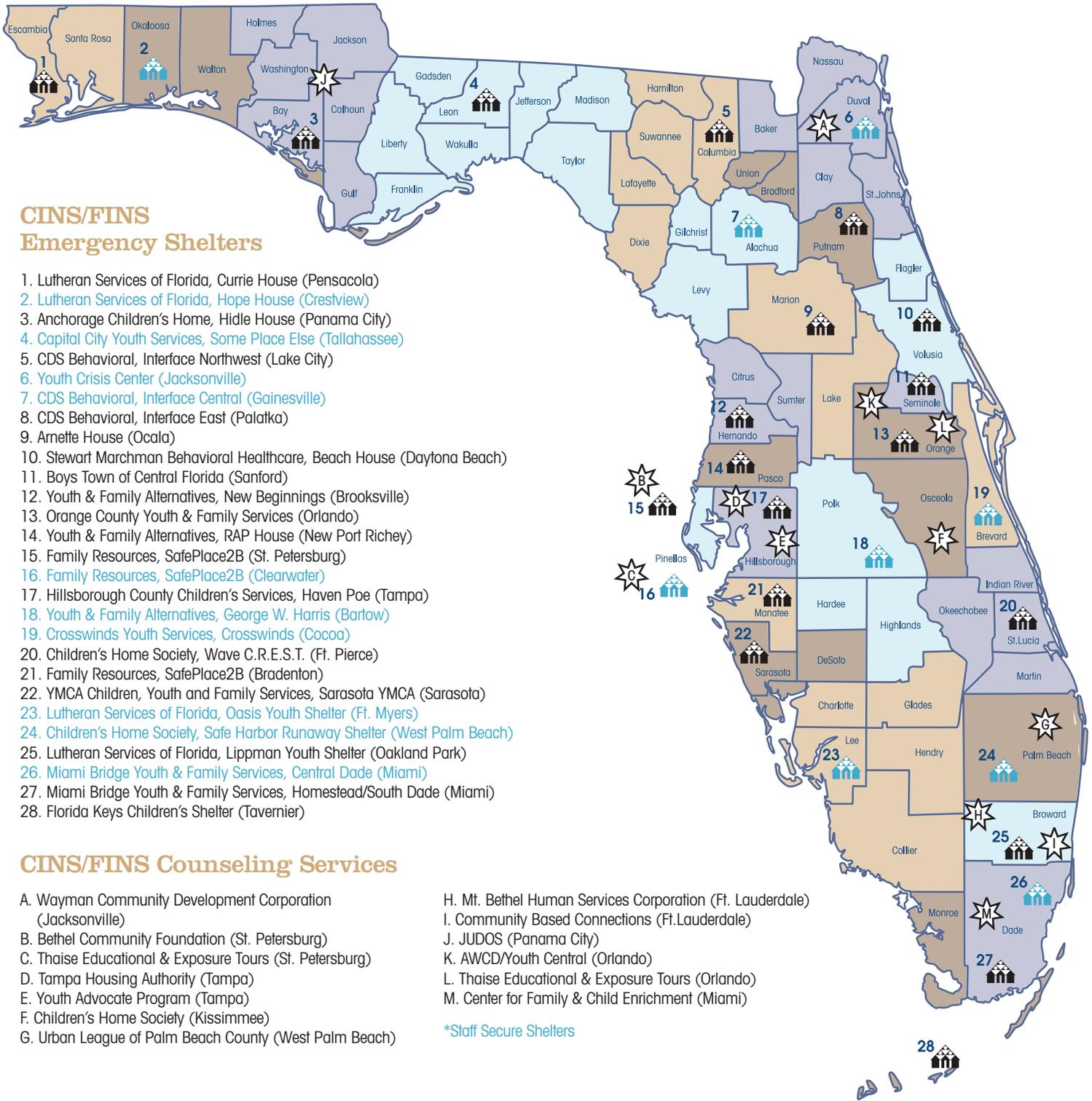
[Union](#)

[Volusia](#)

[Wakulla](#)

[Walton](#)

[Washington](#)



CINS/FINS Emergency Shelters

1. Lutheran Services of Florida, Currie House (Pensacola)
2. Lutheran Services of Florida, Hope House (Crestview)
3. Anchorage Children's Home, Hidle House (Panama City)
4. Capital City Youth Services, Some Place Else (Tallahassee)
5. CDS Behavioral, Interface Northwest (Lake City)
6. Youth Crisis Center (Jacksonville)
7. CDS Behavioral, Interface Central (Gainesville)
8. CDS Behavioral, Interface East (Palatka)
9. Arnette House (Ocala)
10. Stewart Marchant Behavioral Healthcare, Beach House (Daytona Beach)
11. Boys Town of Central Florida (Sanford)
12. Youth & Family Alternatives, New Beginnings (Brooksville)
13. Orange County Youth & Family Services (Orlando)
14. Youth & Family Alternatives, RAP House (New Port Richey)
15. Family Resources, SafePlace2B (St. Petersburg)
16. Family Resources, SafePlace2B (Clearwater)
17. Hillsborough County Children's Services, Haven Poe (Tampa)
18. Youth & Family Alternatives, George W. Harris (Bartow)
19. Crosswinds Youth Services, Crosswinds (Cocoa)
20. Children's Home Society, Wave C.R.E.S.T. (Ft. Pierce)
21. Family Resources, SafePlace2B (Bradenton)
22. YMCA Children, Youth and Family Services, Sarasota YMCA (Sarasota)
23. Lutheran Services of Florida, Oasis Youth Shelter (Ft. Myers)
24. Children's Home Society, Safe Harbor Runaway Shelter (West Palm Beach)
25. Lutheran Services of Florida, Lippman Youth Shelter (Oakland Park)
26. Miami Bridge Youth & Family Services, Central Dade (Miami)
27. Miami Bridge Youth & Family Services, Homestead/South Dade (Miami)
28. Florida Keys Children's Shelter (Tavernier)

CINS/FINS Counseling Services

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Wayman Community Development Corporation (Jacksonville) B. Bethel Community Foundation (St. Petersburg) C. Thaise Educational & Exposure Tours (St. Petersburg) D. Tampa Housing Authority (Tampa) E. Youth Advocate Program (Tampa) F. Children's Home Society (Kissimmee) G. Urban League of Palm Beach County (West Palm Beach) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H. Mt. Bethel Human Services Corporation (Ft. Lauderdale) I. Community Based Connections (Ft. Lauderdale) J. JUDOS (Panama City) K. AWCD/Youth Central (Orlando) L. Thaise Educational & Exposure Tours (Orlando) M. Center for Family & Child Enrichment (Miami) |
|---|--|

*Staff Secure Shelters



Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Inc.
 2850 Pablo Avenue
 Tallahassee, Florida 32308
 850.922.4324

www.FloridaNetwork.org



Chapter 984, F.S. defines and mandates services to Children in Need Services, (CINS) and Families in Need of Services (FINS); and Chapter 1003.27, F.S. establishes services to habitually truant children. The statutes provide for round-the-clock counseling and shelter for runaway, ungovernable, homeless, troubled and/or habitually truant children (ages 10-17) and their families. Children who are adjudicated dependent and delinquent are not eligible for services. The Florida Network provides CINS/ FINS services through a contract with the Department of Juvenile Justice.