

the POWER of FAMILY



2017 Annual Report



All of this is possible because of your incredible dedication to helping us realize our vision of a thriving family for every child.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR AND CEO

Leveraging the Power of Family

Our 117th year was an amazing one for [Children's Home Society](#). As we continued to serve a continuum of Virginia's most vulnerable children and youth, our drive to respond to the needs of our community demanded that we expand. Our first full year of serving the youth in [The Possibilities Project](#) highlighted the enormous challenges faced by young people who age out of the foster care system, while confirming the great strides that can be made by truly investing in their success. The expansion of our [Post Adoption](#) program to the Fredericksburg area made clear the acute need for counseling and support for adoptive families, and why we must meet that need so these families can form the bonds of attachment that allow them to thrive. At the same time, we celebrated our [75th Wendy's Wonderful Kids adoption](#) and finalized more than 50 adoptions overall. Our training and outreach efforts redoubled, recognizing the need and hunger for education in trauma-informed care in our community.

None of this would be possible without the steadfast support of our donors. When government funding for adoption support cuts off when children reach 17, our work doesn't stop. When families need help long after their adoption has finalized because past trauma can effect lives for years, we are there. When youth who have aged out of the system need housing, mental health counseling, educational support and life coaching, we answer the call. All of this is possible because of your incredible dedication to helping us realize our vision of a thriving family for every child.

Children's Home Society truly goes above and beyond—and by supporting us so do you—to give a voice to those whose voices are often unheard and to help us deliver the Power of Family to generation after generation.

Gratefully,

Kathryn Wall
[CHS Board Chairman](#)

Nadine Marsh-Carter
[CHS President, CEO, & Adoptive Parent](#)

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Providing leadership that is transforming families

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INFANT ADOPTION

Ensuring babies thrive in new families

Since 1900, CHS has worked with a sense of urgency to ensure that babies grow up in nurturing families who are prepared to meet their needs. Our social workers provide free, unbiased pregnancy counseling to help women explore their family options.

We work with birth mothers and fathers when they are facing a crisis to help them develop a plan that's best for their baby and their family.

INFANT ADOPTION SNAPSHOT



When Jason and Susan sought help from CHS, both were grappling with substance abuse challenges and were unemployed. Struggling to parent their older children, they recognized that they weren't going to be able to care for the baby that Susan was expecting.

CHS's infant social worker was able to counsel them on their adoption options and help them select the couple from our list of waiting families who would be best suited to meet their baby's needs.

Jason was in jail by the time Susan delivered. Their baby, Samuel, tested positive at birth for oxycodone and marijuana. With the adoptive parents by his side from the day he was born, Samuel spent seven weeks in the NICU. However, he recovered well with treatments of tapered doses of methadone. He was able to go home with his parents before he was 2 months old.

Samuel thrived in his adoptive home. His adoption was finalized at the end of the year and he enjoys the nurturing and love that his "forever family" showers on him every day.

FOSTER CARE ADOPTION PROGRAM

Finding the right adoptive families for waiting children

CHS recruits and trains families who would like to adopt a child or teen from foster care. Our focus is on children ages 12 and older, who often wait the longest to be adopted. Families participate in our approval process that includes trauma-informed training and a home study. CHS then matches them with a waiting child based on the child's individual needs, personality and background. CHS guides the legal adoption process which formalizes the child becoming a permanent member of the family.

FOSTER CARE ADOPTION SNAPSHOT

Maddie and Alexa are sisters who came to the attention of Social Services because of their mother's prescription drug abuse, including Oxycodone, Vicodin, and Percocet. She frequently slept during the day and was gone at night, leaving Maddie and Alexa in the care of family, friends, and sometimes strangers. At one point she did not check on her children for 45 days. Social Services became involved following allegations of neglect, domestic violence, and unsafe living conditions.



11-year-old Maddie and 9-year-old Alexa entered foster care when their mother became incarcerated and had no plan for their care. Their prior living space, a hotel room, was found to be dirty and unkempt.

After two years in foster care and five different homes, CHS introduced Maddie and Alexa to their adoptive parents, Mark and Joyce Sturgess, who had adopted through CHS once in the past. CHS assisted Mark and Joyce with training classes, home study approval, and visitation with the girls. After the girls moved in, Maddie struggled with depression, bullying, and self-harm, at one point attempting to seriously hurt herself by exiting a moving vehicle. She had to be hospitalized for several weeks, and Mark and Joyce remained a constant presence.

Mark and Joyce have patiently supported the girls with love, attention, and access to therapeutic services, giving them the time and space needed to feel safe again. The girls (now ages 14 and 12) are able to just "be kids." With the help of their mom and dad, they will continue to progress.

POST ADOPTION PROGRAM

Providing adoptive families services for positive growth and development

The Post Adoption Program offers a lifetime of support to Virginia's adoptive families. CHS provides high-quality, personalized support services for children and families during and after the adoption process. CHS works to increase the likelihood of successful adoptions and address any of the child's emotional and behavioral challenges.

CHS offers three different services—Parent Coaching, Family Support and Kids Club activities—to meet the individual needs of our families. This year, we have expanded the program. With offices in both Richmond and Fredericksburg, we now serve many adoptive families in Central Virginia.

POST ADOPTION PROGRAM SNAPSHOT



Kira and Keely grew up in a terrifying home where their father routinely abused his wife and the girls to the point of hospitalization; they were even forced to abuse each other. The girls were removed from their home and placed into foster care when they were 3 and 5 years old.

Jack and Chloe, a couple working with CHS who shared the dream of being parents, became interested in adopting Kira and Keely. They were warned that the girls had significant needs, but they weren't dissuaded. Understanding it would take the girls longer to feel comfortable in a family setting, they were counseled and met often with Kira and Keely over the course of several months.

During the transition of the girls moving in, Jack and Chloe reached out several times to their CHS Post Adoption social worker, who coached them through challenging moments. She identified several strategies to help the girls feel safe in a family setting. The worker explained how trauma was effecting their ability to trust caregivers. And she gave the parents calming techniques to more effectively respond to the girls' behaviors.

Despite their tragic history of physical abuse, within months the girls started feeling safe with their new parents and even shared hugs. With lots of coaching, support and guidance from their CHS social worker, Jack, Chloe, Kira and Keely have formed a healthy, loving family—working every day to heal past wounds and create wonderful new memories.

THE POSSIBILITIES PROJECT

Building brighter futures for teens aging out of foster care

In partnership with [The Better Housing Coalition](#), CHS is serving youth who have aged out of foster care. Our best-practice program model reaches a population that needs us—vulnerable young people who were released from foster care after they turned 18 and face dire outcomes without support and guidance. Virginia has the highest rate of youth aging out of foster care in the country.

Our research-based program provides housing and a variety of trauma-informed wrap-around supports to youth including job training, access to education, financial literacy and life skills. [Our recent study with ChildTrends](#), a nationally recognized research firm, provides insight into relevant laws, policies and programs nationwide that help us better understand and support these young adults.

THE POSSIBILITIES PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Before Keisha, 20, came into The Possibilities Project a year ago, she had been sleeping in a car and couch surfing. Upon admission, she shared her desire to have the skills she needed to live a better life and to help others.

In The Possibilities Project, Keisha got stable housing, job skills training and connections to vocational training as a Certified Nursing Assistant. Within a year, she successfully completed her CNA course, received her certification and got two job offers! Keisha accepted a position at a local rehabilitation facility and has been employed full time since. This month she officially passed her state licensure exam!

But Keisha didn't stop there. She has asked her support team at The Possibilities Project to help her explore her college options, and is applying in the fall to become a registered nurse.



816



customers served across all programs



100%

of infants served
were placed with
an adoptive family310
persons were trained
in trauma informed care

foster youth served



of foster care children placed with a family were formally adopted

193 parents and children received post
adoption services, including training
related to trauma and parenting94 youth participated in the Kid's Club respite
program provided by our post adoption services

12

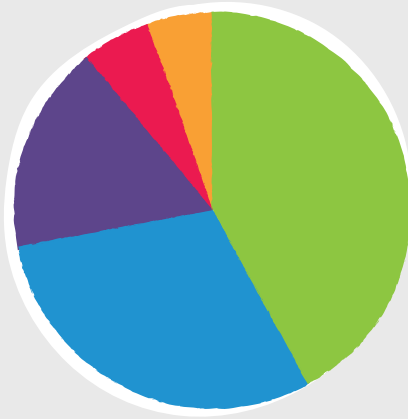
Possibilities Project youth were
provided housing and critical
supports to achieve independence

= 90%

Client
Satisfaction
Score

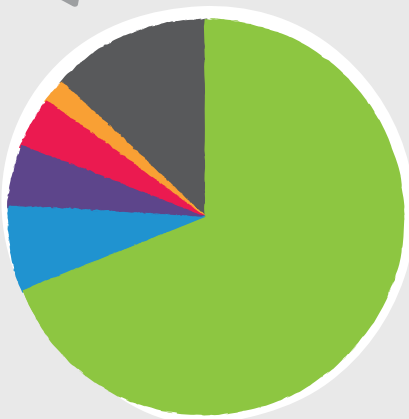
CHS FINANCIALS

REVENUE = \$1,771,737



- 45% contributed
- 26% foundations
- 19% government reimbursement
- 5% program fees
- 5% in kind

EXPENSES = \$1,767,466



- 67% personnel
- 8% specific assistance to clients
- 5% professional fees
- 3% office
- 2% building
- 15% other

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Annual events and success stories make up our best memories of 2017



CWGA Raises \$20,000 to Support The Possibilities Project

SisterFund Supports TPP with \$20,000 Donation



Child Trends Study Completed; Patchwork of Services Available to Aged-Out Youth

Robins Foundation Announces \$390,000 Gift to The Possibilities Project



The Honorable Anne Holton Headlines CHS Legacy Event

CHS Family Picnic Draws Over 100 to Maymont Park



RCM&D Regatta Puts the Wind Beneath our Wings



SPECIAL THANKS

CHS gives a special thanks to our Corporate, Foundation and Non-Profit Partners

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OUR MISSION

is to build strong
permanent families
and lifelong relationships
for Virginia's at-risk
children and youth.

OUR VISION

is a thriving family
for every child.



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