



Child and Family Services

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES' 2017 COMMUNITY REPORT



Child and Family Services
2016-2017

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Executive Administrative Assistant to the CEO
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2016-2017 FACTS & FIGURES

FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

6

CHILDREN
WERE
ADOPTED

16

NEW FAMILIES
WERE CERTIFIED
TO BECOME
FOSTER PARENTS

49

CHILDREN
WERE
PROVIDED
CARE

50

CURRENT
FOSTER
PARENTS

HAVEN HOUSE

363

INDIVIDUALS WERE PROVIDED SHELTER

175 WOMEN

2 MEN

186 CHILDREN

2,974

24-HOUR HOTLINE CALLS
WERE ANSWERED

122

PEOPLE WERE PROVIDED
COUNSELING AND/OR
ADVOCACY BY HAVEN HOUSE

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT

87

CHILDREN
LIVED
IN OUR
RESIDENTIAL
TREATMENT
HOMES

COUNSELING

27,807

CLIENT SESSIONS WERE
CONDUCTED, CONSISTING OF
COUNSELING, PSYCHIATRIC AND
HEALTH MONITORING SESSIONS

EVERYONE NEEDS A BREAK.

How respite care can help everyone.



Since 2014, Jessica and Nick Benson have been Child & Family Services foster parents. They celebrate the joys and recognize the struggles that come with caring for special needs children. They believe wholeheartedly that respite care is needed during the fostering process. Respite care is short-term care provided to a foster child by someone other than their foster parents. It is similar to babysitting, however foster parents need to rely on individuals trained through respite care.

The benefits of respite care extend from the foster parent who is afforded an opportunity to recharge and rejuvenate, to the child who receives individualized attention and support while engaged in meaningful activities with adults, to the respite provider who is giving back to their community in a positive and significant manner. Jessica described the need for assistance, “Children in foster care have often experienced lots of trauma and stress that required an extra level of attention and care. This can put stress on you as a foster parent. Having the opportunity to step away for an evening or a weekend allows you time to process, de-stress, and recharge so that you can step back into your role as a foster parent at 100% and give these kids the attention, love and help that they deserve.”

Jessica said the break respite care gives her and Nick is needed. She explained, “A formal respite program allows us to utilize resources familiar to the children in a more proactive way. It benefits our whole family - ourselves and the children.”

This year, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo awarded Child & Family Services \$21,000 to enhance support systems for caregivers in the Foster Care Program. The grant will help the Agency fund expenses related to the training and education of foster parent caregivers and the costs associated with respite provisions for youth in care.

LIFE DOES NOT STOP WHILE YOU ARE AT WORK.



School of Social Work
University at Buffalo The State University of New York



Jeremy is a hard worker. He puts all he has into his projects. However, he has showed up late to work for the fourth time this month. Jeremy's boss is getting irritated. She values his work but sees firing him as her only option. Jeremy, like many others in our community, has barriers to overcome. What his boss does not know is that due to a few constraints at home, this month Jeremy has to take the bus to work. Not having control over the bus schedule, he tries his hardest to get to work on time but he has no other options. If Jeremy's boss knew this, she would likely offer Employee Assistance Program support to work through his transportation issues for the time being and be able to keep him on as a valued employee.

The concept of occupational justice focuses on the right of individuals to participate in occupations. Stressors, both personally and professionally, can impact the ability to keep home complications at home and work complications at work. Western New York is made up of a rich diversity of people and industries, but features its own unique set of challenges to obtaining occupational justice within the workforce. Across Erie County and Buffalo, the median income is less than the NYS and Nationwide levels (Erie County Department of Health, 2017; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2015). Financial hardship is one of the most pervasive vulnerabilities in WNY. According to the United Way Profile of Financial Hardship, 41% of households in Erie County experience financial hardships.

The University at Buffalo (UB) Social Impact Fellows (SIF) Program partnered with Child & Family Services' Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to create equity in accessing support for all employees that may be struggling with concerns at work or at home that impact their ability to perform in the workplace. The project examines ways in which employees struggle to fully engage in the workplace, and also makes an argument for why employers should create organizational supports that address these barriers and reinforce their employees' ability to maintain employment.

For more information about EAP and the SIF program, please visits www.eap.cfsbny.org.

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES' HISTORY OF INNOVATION



The sun is setting on a big day for David. Today is his birthday. He is now 13! He is too young to take care of himself, but old enough to understand why his Mom has not given him a birthday present. It has been a difficult year so, he is not going to ask. He is going to be happy with the hugs and kisses from his family and the smiles from his classmates. That will be enough. It has to be enough. "David," his Mom called. She has a surprise. It is a birthday present for him. A new bike! He can not stop smiling. His face is as bright as the sparkle shining off of his gleaming blue bike. His Mom is crying because she is so happy in that moment. Happy that her son feels he is important. She is relieved that her community came through. It is a sign they know how important it is to support each child and each family facing difficult circumstances.

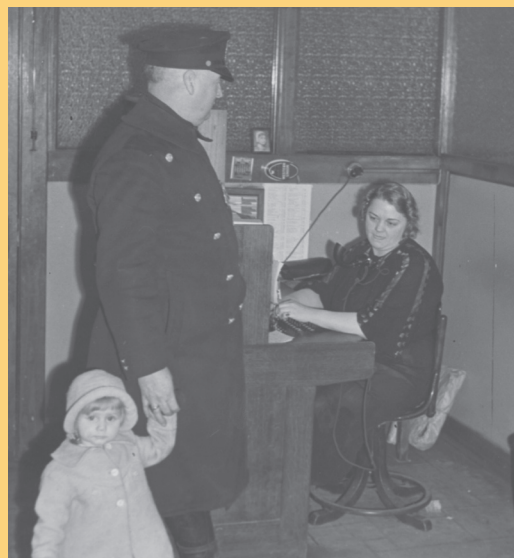
For 144 years, children and families, like David's, have found help and hope through Child & Family Services. Back in the 1800's, David could have been selling newspapers or shining shoes to survive like boys back then often did. Life and people of higher incomes were not often kind to these boys, but some of Buffalo's most prominent citizens opened their hearts to them for a Thanksgiving dinner in 1872. Being treated to a feast showed the boys they mattered, and it showed those in the position to help that they needed to do more. So, they formed the Buffalo Children's Aid Society just a few months later in January of 1873. The Buffalo Children's Aid Society had the mission of protecting against the abuse and neglect of children.

One of the reasons why we are known as the City of Good Neighbors is because this spirit of giving did not end there. Philanthropists started the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in 1876 to remove children from abusive situations and prosecute the offender. The Society for the Prevention of the Cruelty to Children and the Buffalo Children's Aid Society came together in 1916. They became a force to find ways for abused children to become happy, healthy and productive members of society. Ultimately, Family Service Society was formed in 1934.

In 1948, we moved to the Delaware Avenue locations you are familiar with today. In 1951, a child care center for emotionally disturbed children opened, expanding the Delaware Avenue Campus. In 1969, this program grew to include the Morey House Group Home to help boys 13 to 21 prepare for independent living.

In 1972, the Buffalo Children's Aid Society merged with the Family Service Society to officially become Child & Family Services of Erie County, Inc. The spirit of innovation continues to benefit children and families. In 1984, Haven House joined Child & Family Services to empower domestic violence survivors. In 1986, the Stanley G. Falk School opened its doors to serve children with emotional and behavioral issues, further expanding the field of social services. In 1987, Conners Residential Treatment Facility opened to children and families dealing with significant mental health needs. In 2012, Francisco M. Vasquez, Ph.D. was named President and CEO. His visionary leadership has built on the Agency's history of innovation to add a culture of inclusion and expand mental health counseling services.

David could be a child in counseling, in foster care or living on our Delaware Avenue campus. David's mom could be a domestic violence survivor. In any situation, David and his mom have Child & Family Services to turn to, and the years of experience to help. You may hear about the blue bike that came just in time for the sun to set on a perfect birthday for David. We know moments like those lead to substantial change as families move on from what happened to their personal sunrise.



HELPING TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES.

Bill Loecher is a Partner and Vice President of West Herr Automotive and Treasurer of Child & Family Services' Board of Directors. As he sat in the crowd of Stanley G. Falk School's high school graduation four years ago, he reflected on his own children's high school graduations. As a father, he understands the challenges that young people face. He understands the stress that school brings academically and socially. What he did not understand, was how a child with numerous, some unimaginable, obstacles could graduate high school. He sympathized with the children and families there that day. He thought about how each child had their own set of obstacles unique to them. One child could have a serious mental issue that prevented him from going to school each day. Another may have had to work two jobs while going to school so that he could



BILL AND HIS WIFE, COLLEEN HAVE SUPPORTED CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES AND FALK SCHOOL FOR OVER 11 YEARS.



FRANCISCO M. VASQUEZ, PH.D. PICTURED WITH BILL AT CELEBRATION OF FRIENDS.

help his mother pay the bills. Or, a child may have a learning disability that prevented them from graduating on time. Bill left the ceremony feeling as if he had to do something to help these students overcome the obstacles that some Stanley G. Falk graduates face.

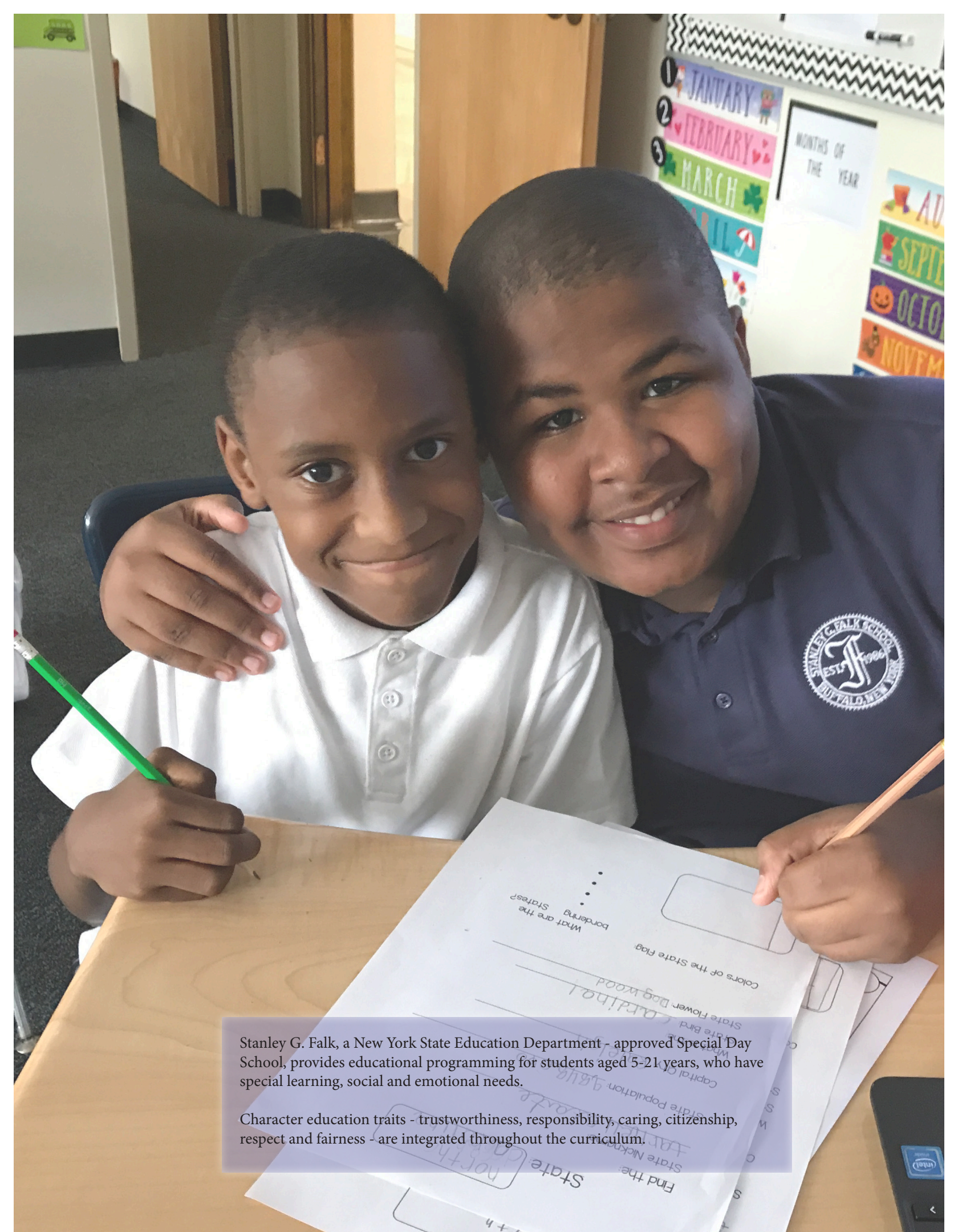
Since then, Bill created a scholarship, the Bill & Colleen Loecher Scholarship for students at Stanley G. Falk. He does not want the praise for doing this. In fact, he is very modest about it. "I just have a love for this community. I do this to help a child become more and to put them on the right track to success," Bill explained.

That is exactly what Bill has done for Patrick. Patrick is currently a sophomore at SUNY Buffalo State, working towards his Bachelor's degree in communication. He graduated from Falk two years ago. He was the recipient of the Bill and Colleen Loecher Scholarship. He was able to comfortably adjust to the new demands that college brings and learn to negotiate the complex process of financial aid and student support services without the stress of worry about funding his first semester. Overall, this scholarship provided a key piece of support for Patrick as he entered the next phase of his education.

Lisa Dombek, Principal at Stanley G. Falk School Cambridge location described Patrick, "He is a great example of the goals and success that can be achieved when one makes an effort to use all the resources available to them and truly applies oneself in pursuit of a dream. Over his time at the Falk School, he dedicated himself to both his academic work and gaining control over his mental health in order to earn a Regents Diploma. He was on the honor roll and merit roll many times and beyond this, has actively worked with staff to start the school newspaper, and was a member of the illustrious ECC Advanced Studies Program earning six collegiate credit hours." Patrick hopes to work as a writer, and Bill and Colleen helped pave the way for him.



BILL AND HIS TEAM AT WEST HERR HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AVID SUPPORTERS OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES.



Stanley G. Falk, a New York State Education Department - approved Special Day School, provides educational programming for students aged 5-21 years, who have special learning, social and emotional needs.

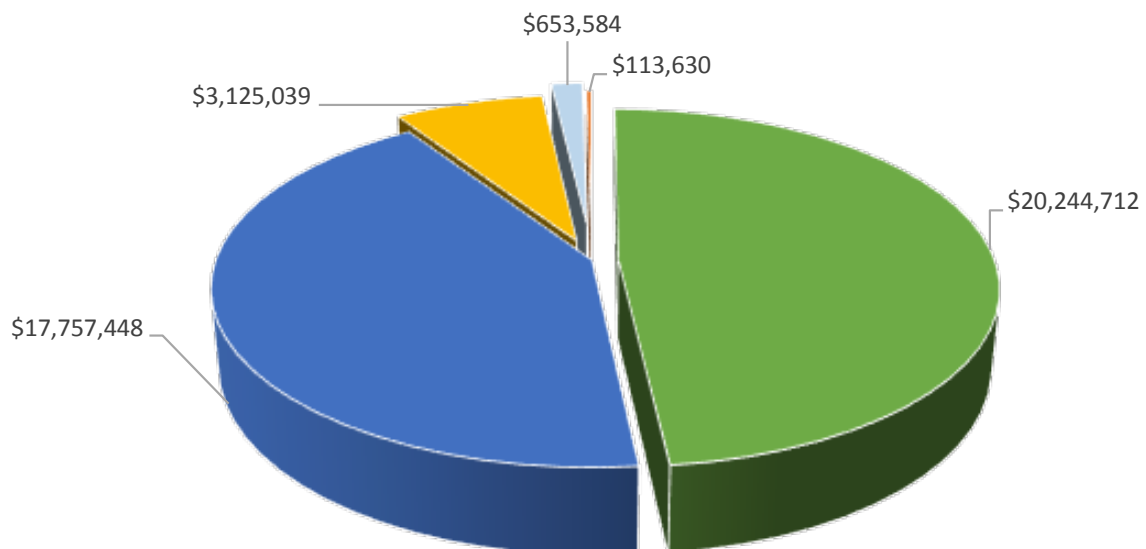
Character education traits - trustworthiness, responsibility, caring, citizenship, respect and fairness - are integrated throughout the curriculum.

2016-2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Total Revenue:
Total Expenses:

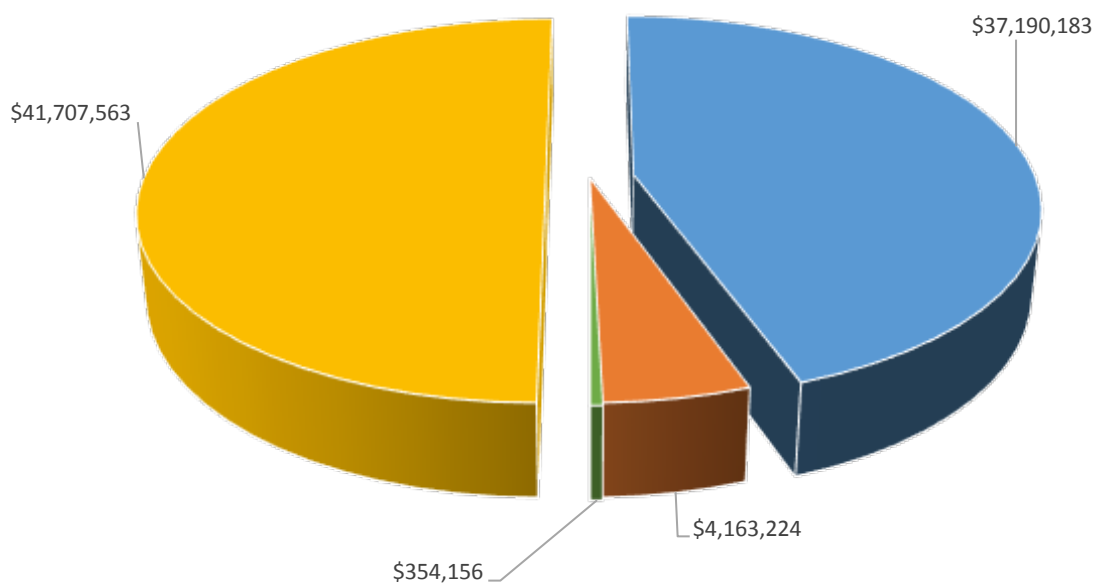
\$41,894,413
\$41,707,563

Total Revenue



■ Governmental Fees & Grants ■ Tuition revenue ■ Program Fees ■ Contributions ■ Other Income

Total Expenses



■ Program Services to Children & Families ■ Administration ■ Development ■ Total Expenses

A YOUNG BOY'S JOURNEY IS COMPLETE



Two-year-old Jackson was the center of a beautiful celebration to welcome him home to his forever family. Al and Jill Wall officially adopted Jackson, a young boy that had been in their care since he was born. The Walls are no stranger to foster care and adoption. Over the years, they have cared for 16 foster children. Several years ago, the Walls celebrated the adoption of their four-year-old daughter, Juliana. The very next day, they received a call to foster a newborn baby. That baby was Jackson. The Walls knew Jackson was a perfect fit for their family.

MISSION

Strengthening families and promoting the well-being of children through prevention, intervention, education and advocacy.

VISION

Safe and healthy children, families and communities.

FOLLOW US:

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