

CREATIVE COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.



ANNUAL REPORT

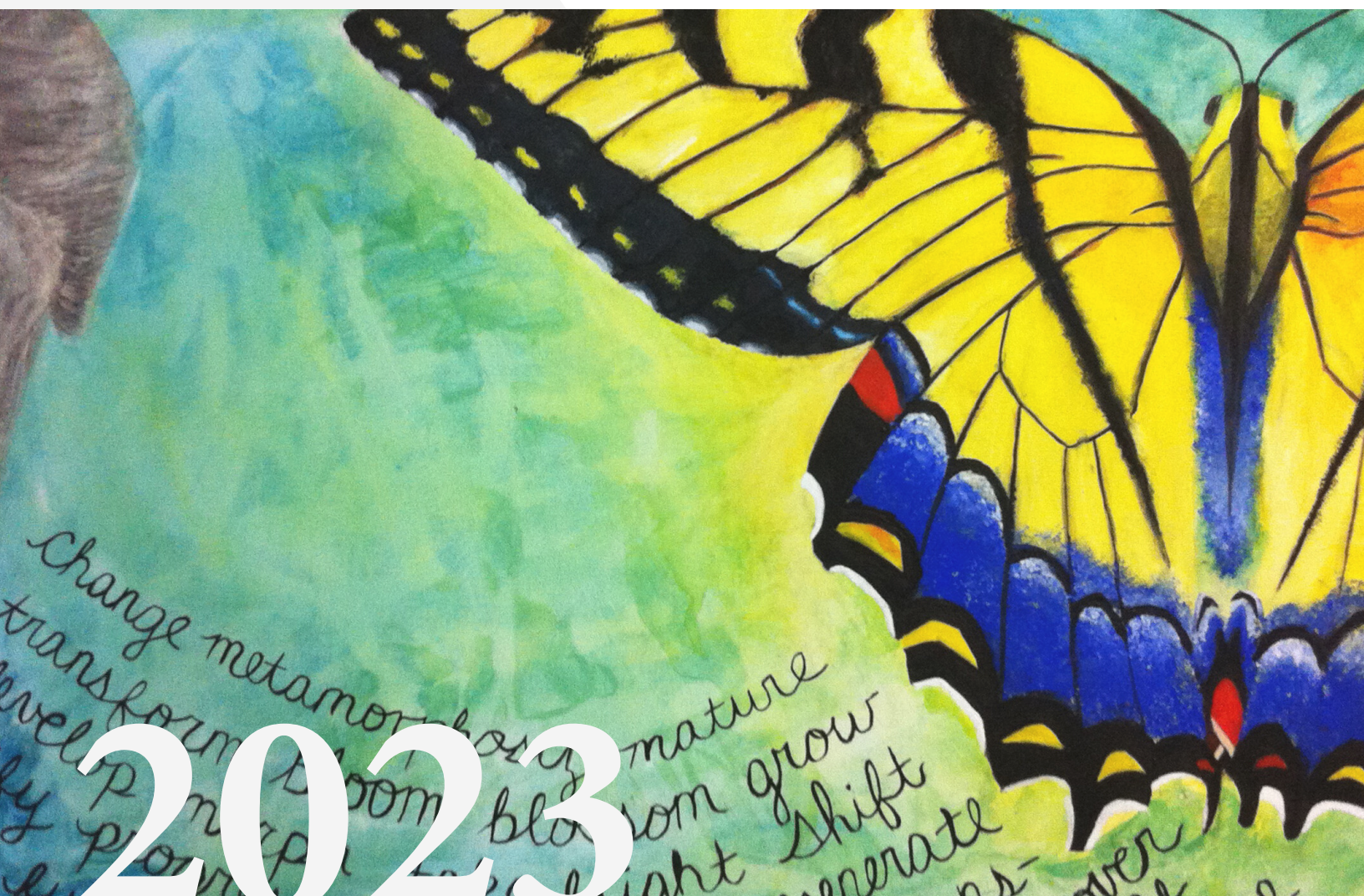


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MISSION

Creative Community Services is a private, nonprofit organization that serves foster children, teens, and adults with developmental and mental health needs as well as their families.

For over 40 years, our mission has been to improve their quality of life by providing direct, individualized services and community-based support.



MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

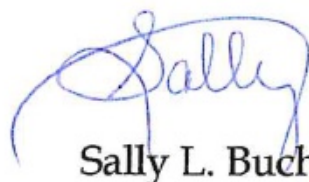
Dear CCS Friends and Community Partners,

We saw so many good things in 2023 through our programs. We were able to further help children, youth, and adults with the help of our amazing foster parents and host homes to bring the best amount of care possible. Through training and open conversation, we are constantly working toward providing the resources to prepare everyone for transition into adulthood as their best selves.

We are constantly pushing ourselves to be the leading experts in transitioning youth from therapeutic foster care into more permanent homes, to become as independent as possible. Over the next year, we will continue building partnerships in our community and will continue to join our state partners to do so with the help of our incredible Board of Directors.

Without your help, all of this wouldn't be possible. Thank you for your support over the last 40 years to continually provide the best possible care to our previous children, youth, and adults with incredible programs. Like the rest of our staff, you know everyone has a greater potential than they themselves currently believe possible. Your generous investment in Creative Community Services is appreciated more than you know.

Best,
Sally Buchanan, CEO



Sally L. Buchanan, CEO

Message From Our Board President

Dear Family, Friends, and Supporters,

In 2023, the Board was excited to continue supporting the CCS staff in serving our foster children, youth, and adults with developmental disabilities. Sally and the staff are continuing to push the needle to meet the needs of those they serve, helping each of them become their best selves. The Board is truly excited to see CCS continuing to lead the way in therapeutic foster care. As I complete my second year as Board President, I look forward to continuing to develop our strategic plan through fiscal year 2025. The Board is still expanding, and we look forward to bringing on new faces and voices in the following year. It's an honor to continue serving alongside CCS, as we push to bring further awareness to our community. We are looking forward to 2024 with anticipation as we continue working alongside the staff to serve and aid some of Georgia's most fragile populations.

A stylized, cursive signature in blue ink that reads "Gayle".

Gayle Ely, President

TRANSFORMING LIVES

Chris came to CCS in 2022 at the age of 28 with severe challenges ahead of him. Initially, he was only able to use one-word responses to communicate, making even the task of describing basic needs nearly impossible. Our Developmental Disabilities team came alongside Chris to help him receive the best care and tools through appropriately matching him with a Host Home Provider matching his specific needs to encourage him to become the best version of himself.

Since coming into our care, Chris has grown tremendously. He is now able to use full sentences and can carry on a conversation. Recently, he expressed his love for Jamaican food, and is now eager to join his Host Home Provider Family on a vacation to Jamaica.

Our mission at Creative Community Services is to work alongside our children, youth, and adults, meeting them where they are developmentally to give them the individualized tools and resources that empower them to grow at a pace that suits them. With the assistance of a caring team and loving family, we are excited to continue to see Chris grow over the coming years.



100%

REPORTED
HAVING A
STRONG SUPPORT
SYSTEM

100%

FEEL
SAFE IN THEIR
PLACEMENT AT
CCS

100%

100% FEEL
RESPECTED BY
THEIR CA/RA

97%

HELP
STAFF TO MAKE
DECISIONS ON
THEIR SERVICE PLAN

With much hard work and determination, we served 41 adults with developmental disabilities! We are grateful for our 47 host home families that are a major contribution to improving the lives of our individuals; we do this through providing individualized care for each adult in our program to help improve their social and life skills, pushing them to become their best selves.

Companionship is nurtured through proper placement with a Host Home Provider and by fostering positive family connections. CCS believes in improving lives through both positive community and family connections. Through socialization and companionship, we find that our individuals achieve a happier and more fulfilling life.

We regularly take our individuals to social outings to help build these life skills for their continued growth and practice vital social skills while giving them a relaxing day to enjoy life as anyone should be able to. These outings vary from trips to the aquarium, zoo, putt-putt golf, and more!

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE

The needs of children with behavioral challenges and/or developmental disabilities simply cannot be met effectively by traditional foster parenting. Unfortunately, the children we serve typically have lived through 15 to 30 unsuccessful foster placements by the time they come into our care. CCS families work with our highly trained teams of psychologists, social workers, family consultants, and therapists, along with DFCS (Department of Family and Children Services) case managers and birth families, to ensure these special children finally achieve permanency. Our goal is to provide therapeutic foster care when traditional care has not been the most effective. Our commitment is to provide a safe, nurturing home environment with a strength-based, solution-focused approach to care. In total, CCS worked with 51 therapeutic foster homes in 2023.

This year we have continued to serve 100+ youth from ages 6 weeks to 21 years old through placement services in TFC at CCS.

The majority of our youth are 13 years of age and and up. This creates even greater need for collaborating and partnering with our SOAR Program staff to work on building and developing real life knowledge and skills for independent living success when they age out of care.



ENHANCED HOMES

In an enhanced home, the foster parent goes to live with the foster youth, rather than the other way around. A foster parent is selected and matched with the child based on their experience and their ability to move into an already-furnished apartment, and they are reimbursed for rent, utilities, groceries, and care for the child.



KINSHIP CARE

A therapeutic kinship care refers to the care of children by relatives or friends — also known as fictive kin.

100%

FEEL
SAFE & ENJOY
THEIR HOME
ENVIRONMENT

100%

REPORTED
HAVING A
STRONG SUPPORT
SYSTEM

100%

FEEL
RESPECTED BY
THEIR FOSTER
PARENTS

S.O.A.R.

(Supporting Families, Overcoming Obstacles, Achieving Independence, Reaching New Heights)

SOAR strives to decrease the most challenging behaviors that our children present and improve their quality of life and placement stability. After observing them in their environment and talking with their caregivers, the SOAR team creates an individualized plan of intervention that will support and increase positive behavioral growth. We visit each child and family up to three times a week for up to three hours per visit to model interventions for the caregivers, while measuring improvement.

We also work with schools and day programs to ensure consistency in all environments and intervene with the families to increase their knowledge, education, and intervention strategies so they feel supported and more competent to manage behaviors.

SOAR has continued to serve our youth and adults with the best level of care and dedication. SOAR served 101 youth and 46 adults and helped provide the intensive services needed to obtain the resources necessary to successfully thrive in society, such as:



HOUSING



CAR



EDUCATION



**FINANCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY**



CAREERS



ADOPTION



RESPITE

For the 2023 calendar year, CCS served 46 children who utilized a grand total of 1,196 respite days. Planned respite helps to encourage placement stability and strong connections between foster youth and their families by providing foster parents with a break for at least two weekends per month.

During this break, the child stays in a certified therapeutic foster home.



ANNUAL CCS SPRING PICNIC

The annual CCS picnic celebrates our foster youth, adults with developmental disabilities, and their families. The day is filled with games, art projects, karaoke, and delicious food. This event helps to build our children, youth, and adult's social skills, while giving the staff a chance to connect with those we serve.





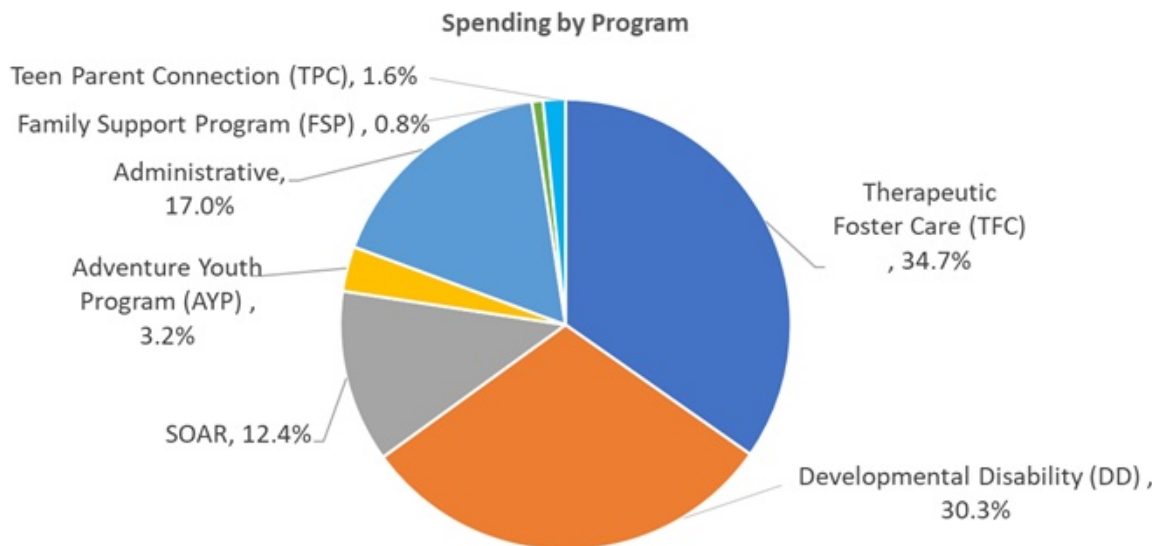
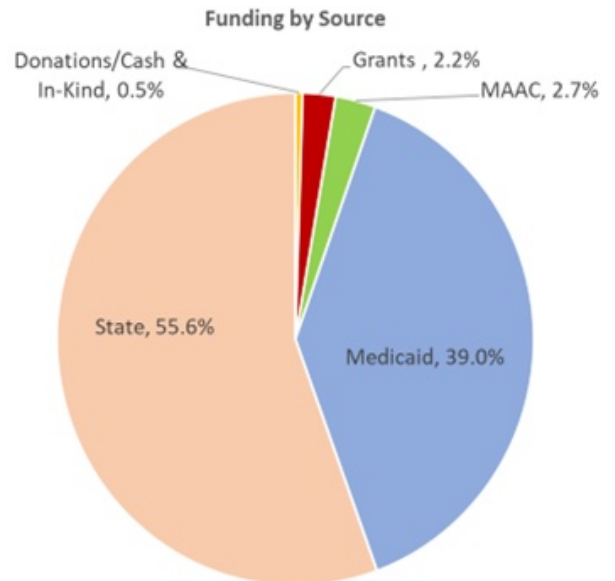
CCS ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

In December, we held our annual CCS Christmas Party. Families bonded, and our Cool Santa was a huge hit! The children and adults we serve connected over face painting, decorating cookies, and decorating the Christmas tree with ornaments they made themselves. They also picked out presents to give their caregivers at our Secret Santa Gift Shop, so they can join in the joy of gift giving, too.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Through the efforts of our staff and Board of Directors we continue to raise public awareness of CCS to increase both private and public contributions, including grants. Our focus is always on providing services to our core populations, while keeping overhead and administrative costs down to maximize funds available to properly serve and meet the needs of CCS' youth and adults.



DONORS & GRANTS

GENERAL DONATIONS

Jeff Barnhart
Jim Barnhart
Patsie Daniels
Hollie and Kent Dickerson
Dolph Goldenberg
Collin and Lizzie Garner
Taylor Garner
Rajesh Jobanputra
Jeff Krutoy
Kirk Lattanze
Kareen Lewis
Missy Mayer
Gary McDowell
Quentin Moses
Brian O'Reilly
Linda Rogers
Chrissy Strohmeier
Ed Wheeler
Betsy Whitehead
Tom Wix
Tim Lennon

GRANTS

Promoting Safe and Stable
Families (PSSF) (TPC)
Detwiler Foundation (TPC)
Care Source Foundation (SOAR)
MAAC Youth Led (SOAR)

EMPLOYEE

CONTRIBUTIONS

CCS is also supported by employee contributions through the Investment in Life Initiative. In this voluntary initiative, employees contribute a portion of their paychecks to support our programs and services.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (PAST & PRESENT) CONTRIBUTIONS

Karren Amidon
Louise Borne
Dave Collier
Gayle Ely
Drew and Karen
Garner
Jim Kerlin

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Amazon
Atlanta Home Shop
Atlanta Office Technologies
The Crawford and Boyle Foundation, Inc.
Desai Nirvana Foundation, Inc. Kroger
Sterling Mills Condo Association

COMMUNITY DONATIONS FROM PARTNERS

The Multi-Agency Alliance for Children (MAAC)
Helping Mamas
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

thank you



GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER

We need volunteers to help in a variety of roles from fundraising & special events to mentoring & administrative support.

A full list of our volunteer positions can be found here:

<https://ccsgeorgia.org/get-involved/>

FOSTER

Are you a positive person who has the patience to work with a child at their own pace to help them overcome problems and realize their full potential?

We are looking for individuals and couples who can provide a child in need with a safe haven and who are committed to supporting the best interest of the child. If that sounds like you, follow the link to get started:

<https://ccsgeorgia.org/be-a-foster-parent/>

DONATE

We need donors to support important programs and services that improve the quality of life skills for our children, adults and families.

How you can give:

- \$40 provides back-to-school supplies
- \$55 provides a monthly MARTA card for an adult seeking employment
- \$125 provides art, karate, or a dance lesson
- \$150 provides clothing and shoes for special occasions
- \$500 provides job skills training for one of our young adults

For details on how to give, follow the link: <https://ccsgeorgia.org/donation/>

FOLLOW US



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@CreativeCommunityServices



www.ccsgeorgia.org

