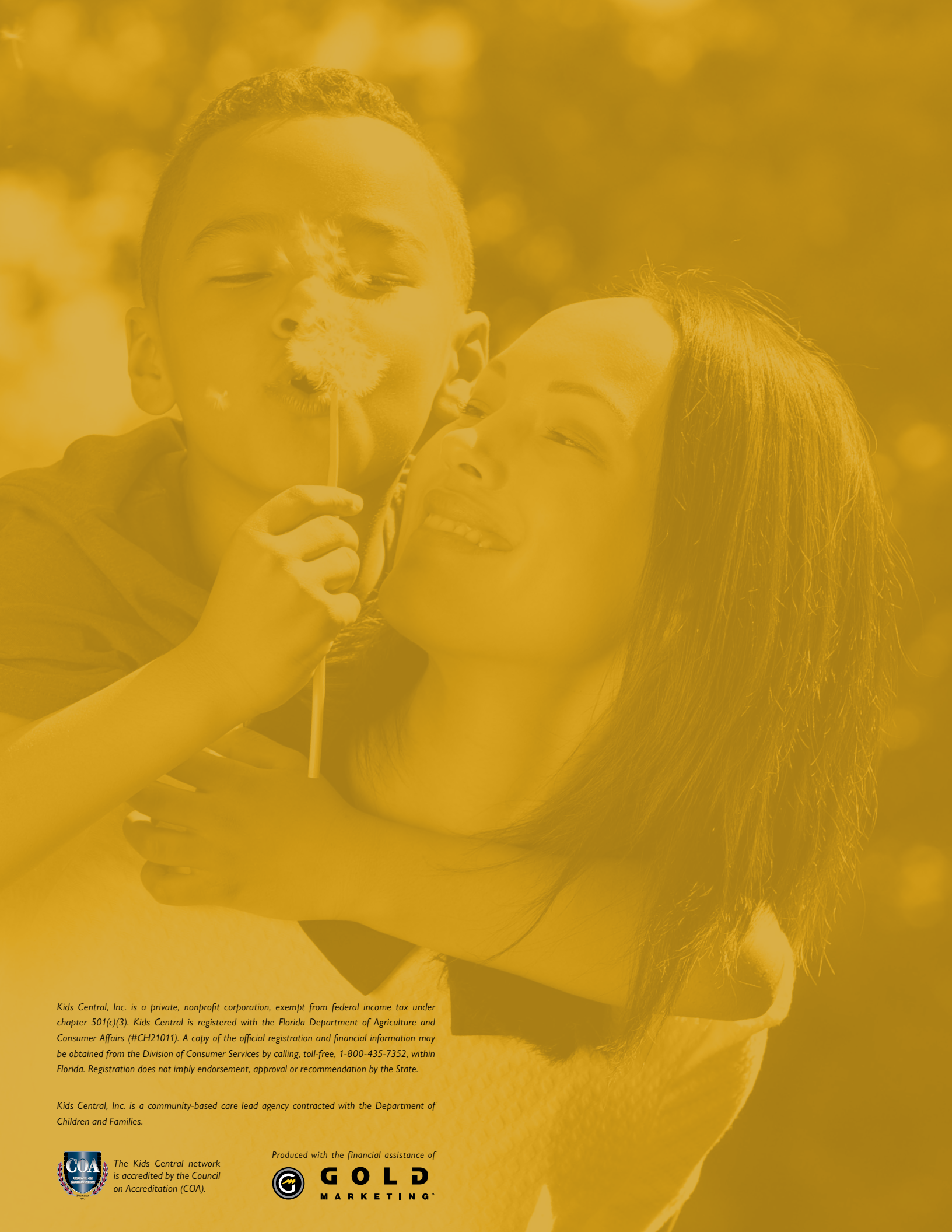


KIDS CENTRAL, INC.



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

RISING TO THE
CHALLENGE



Kids Central, Inc. is a private, nonprofit corporation, exempt from federal income tax under chapter 501(c)(3). Kids Central is registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs (#CH21011). A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling, toll-free, 1-800-435-7352, within Florida. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State.

Kids Central, Inc. is a community-based care lead agency contracted with the Department of Children and Families.



The Kids Central network is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA).



GOLD
MARKETING™

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

We all love stories of people who overcome great challenges. From an overtime touchdown by our favorite football team, to Rocky Balboa winning the match, there is great excitement in watching people beat the odds. But those stories end as the final whistle is blown or the credits roll, while ours continues every day.

We are in the business of “Rising to the Challenge” one moment at a time – the late-night foster placement so a child can wake up in a loving environment, the family who receives the help they need to stay together. These small victories make a big difference for the children and families we serve. There is no finish line, but we keep moving forward.

I couldn't be happier to share this important mission with Kids Central's incredible team. Please explore our annual report to learn more about our work.




JOHN COOPER
Chief Executive Officer

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The theme of this annual report is “Rising to the Challenge,” which is exactly what Kids Central did in the 2022 fiscal year.

As a physician, I know that any system of the body needs the right care to perform at its best, and so it is with the child welfare system led by Kids Central in Circuit 5. These pages show the many measurable ways in which the KCI staff, Board, and partners have made the system work well for local children and families, leading to a healthier, happier future for our community.

I trust that Kids Central will continue to challenge itself to serve with excellence for years to come.




MIKE JORDAN, M.D.
Board Chairman

OUR LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**MIKE
JORDAN, M.D.**
— *Chairman* —



**KEVIN
SHEILLEY**
— *Treasurer* —



**MAJ. CYRUS
ROBINSON**
— *Past Chairman* —



**LISA
ALEXANDER**
— *Marion County* —



**MATT
BARTOLI**
— *Lake County* —



**DIANA
BROWN**
— *Lake County* —



**MARK
IMES**
— *Marion County* —



**BOBBY
JAMES**
— *Marion County* —



**GORDON
JOHNSON**
— *Sumter County* —



**JANICE
JOHNSON**
— *Citrus County* —



**KELLY
KING**
— *Marion County* —



**LANCE
KINNEY**
— *Sumter County* —



**CHRISTOPHER
LANGLEY**
— *Marion County* —



**SANDI
MOORE**
— *Lake County* —



**BRAD
ROGERS**
— *Marion County* —



**REBECCA
SCHATT**
— *Marion County* —



**MARK
WICKHAM**
— *Nonvoting Member* —

KIDS CENTRAL

LEADERSHIP TEAM

JOHN COOPER — Chief Executive Officer

JOHN AITKEN — Chief Financial Officer

SHALONDA MCHENRY-SIMS — Chief of Operations

DAVID DESTEFANO — Chief of Strategy

VERAUNDA JACKSON — Chief Legal Officer



FOSTER PARENT SERVICES

There are many reasons why parents may be unable to safely care for their children. While substance abuse remains the leading reason for removal, other reasons include illness, incarceration, a violent home life, abandonment, sexual abuse, or serious neglect. When any of these situations occur, unless relatives are available to care for them, children may be removed from home and placed in foster care. Foster care is intended to be a temporary shelter for children until they can be reunited with their family.

Foster families are trained and licensed by Kids Central to care for children during their most vulnerable time. Reunification is the primary goal whenever safely possible. Parents are given the opportunity to make life changes that will enable them to care for their children in a safe and loving environment. During the time it takes for them to make these adjustments, the children stay in foster care. Our community is fortunate to have these compassionate individuals step up to care for these children in need.



1,632

Children in Care

** As of June 30, 2022*



71

New Foster Homes
Added

ADOPTION

Kids Central recruits, trains, and licenses adoptive homes interested in adopting children from the child welfare system.

We continue to provide oversight and final approval for all Adoption Subsidy files, Separation of Sibling and Post-Placement Staffings, and the Adoption Applicant Review Committee Meetings. The Centers, LifeStream, and Youth and Family Alternatives along with Kid Central Case Management provide adoption services for the counties in Circuit 5.



247

Children Adopted
finding their forever home





CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

As the nonprofit lead agency, Kids Central is responsible for case management services to families involved in an open Dependency Court case involving children who are abused or neglected.

Kids Central contracts with other nonprofit organizations to provide community-based case management and other supportive services. Each Case Management Agency (CMA) is responsible for providing services in designated counties. After a verified report of abuse, neglect, or abandonment has been investigated by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and accepted by the court, DCF transfers the case to Kids Central's contracted case management agency serving that particular county.

Case managers and permanency specialists strive to help children find a permanent, safe living arrangement, preferably within 12 months.



DIVERSION

PROGRAMS

Diversion programs are offered to assist families in avoiding removal of the children into out-of-home placement by providing services in the home.

Kids Central and its providers utilize a vast array of community resources to aid in minimizing the number of children in care who require supervision, and offers Child Protective Investigators a wide range of effective services to provide to the families in need.

This community approach allows Kids Central and its partners to put family support services in place without separating the family.



749

Cases Referred
to Kids Central Family
Preservation Services



591

Cases Successfully Closed
during the fiscal year





PREVENTION SERVICES

Kids Central believes investing in families up-front, before a call to the abuse hotline, reduces the likelihood the children will be abused or neglected and need help later. Kids Central is focused on the identification of research-based and results-driven prevention programs.

The prevention of child abuse and neglect before it starts is the best hope for improving the lives of children and families. Strengthening families and preventing child abuse requires a shared commitment of individuals and organizations in every community.



INDEPENDENT LIVING AND EXTENDED FOSTER CARE

Kids Central and its partners provide Independent Living (IL) services to youth and young adults in the foster care system. Each year, youth age out of foster care without reunification or finding a permanent home. Rather than leave these children without a support system, Kids Central taps state, federal, community, and donated resources to provide them with critical tools for a successful transition to adulthood.

Once a youth turns 18, there are several services that may be accessible to them, including transportation, housing assistance, as well as emotional support.



21

High School Diplomas
earned by program participants

KINSHIP CARE

To meet the need of over 14,000 children cared for by relatives in Circuit 5, a comprehensive Kinship Care Program was created. Kids Central's Kinship Care support services are part of multi-level prevention programming designed to keep children with family members in safe, nurturing homes.



210

New Referrals
received to the Kinship Program



357

Children Assisted



MIECHV

THE MATERNAL INFANT EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Kids Central is contracted to provide services for the Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood, Home Visiting Program (also known as MIECHV) in Alachua and Marion County. This program is for parents and caregivers with children from birth to three years of age, and it focuses on the following:

- Educating parents on their child’s developmental milestones
- One-on-one parenting support
- Connecting parents through support groups
- Addressing developmental delays or health issues
- Assisting parents with access to books and educational toys
- Empowering parents to be their child’s first teacher



38,929

Services Provided to 2,527 Healthy Start Clients



3,108

Visits Completed with 267 MIECHV clients



30

Virtual Educational Clients Groups completed



4

Additional Home Visitors and Quality Assurance Specialist added

MIECHV

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Submitted Alachua and Marion MIECHV’s self-studies for the Parents as Teachers Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process.
- Demonstrated fidelity to all Essential Requirements of the Parents as Teachers Model in Alachua and Marion MIECHV’s annual Affiliate Performance Reviews.

Healthy Start is a comprehensive program that promotes optimal prenatal health and developmental outcomes for all pregnant women and babies in Florida. It is a free program that provides screenings for pregnant women and infants to identify those at risk of low birth weight, poor prenatal health, and child abuse and neglect.

Kids Central provides Healthy Start services in Alachua, Hernando, and Lake Counties.



BABY SLEEP BASICS

In the state of Florida, more children die from asphyxiation than drowning. Asphyxiation is due to co-sleeping and/or an unsafe sleep environment (e.g., placing an infant to sleep on a couch, futon, adult bed, or sleeping arrangement other than crib or bassinet).

Kids Central is working to stop preventable infant deaths due to co-sleeping by offering the Baby Sleep Basics Program. This program offers safe sleep education and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) information for all parents or guardians who reside in Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, and Sumter Counties.





EDUCATION ADVOCACY

Most children have parents who monitor their academic progress, attend parent-teacher conferences, enroll them in appropriate classes, and generally ensure they receive a high-quality education. Historically, foster children have experienced poor educational outcomes and frequently lack the advocacy necessary for successful outcomes. Without an educational advocate, they often do not receive the educational opportunities to which they are entitled.

Kids Central works to ensure foster youth receive the educational advocacy and opportunities they need to succeed in school and in life.



365

Children Assisted
by Education Liaison



280

Stakeholders Trained



118

School Staffings

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Kids Central is dedicated to building and sustaining relationships with the local community. Our community includes clients, neighbors, public officials, government agencies, other nonprofits, and potential donors. The Community Affairs Department serves as a liaison between the community and Kids Central by disseminating organizational information.

As part of its community engagement, Kids Central hosts annual prevention and awareness events on child abuse and holds annual fundraising events to engage the community, promote awareness, and raise dollars to meet unfunded needs of our clients.



\$147,000

Donations
received from fundraising

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteers have an enormous impact on the health and well-being of communities. As needs in the community grow and resources decrease, the only way growing needs can be met is through the generosity of volunteers. Kids Central believes volunteers are essential in carrying out the mission and helping staff increase efficiency while decreasing organizational costs.



1,450

Hours Volunteered
*between 14 volunteers
and 6 college interns*



NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

The Neighborhood Family Resource Centers program began in West Ocala, a neighborhood in Marion County with high rates of abuse, unemployment, and drop-outs.

The program's mission is to assist in the prevention of child abuse and neglect by engaging families in services that promote family well-being, safety, and health.

The Neighborhood Family Resource Centers provide much-needed items to support local families, ranging from household goods and clothing, to pantry food, personal hygiene products, baby care staples, and more. Generous support from community members and donors makes this possible.

The Community Facilitator in each Center increases access to services by engaging community partners in the coordination of services and bringing services closer to the people who need them. Staff continually work to engage community residents by offering solutions to isolation, poverty, unemployment, lack of education, and issues of single parent households.



1,023
Children Served



74
Access Florida
assisted clients



86
Job/Education Guidance
provided to clients



KIDS CENTRAL

RESOURCE CENTER

Many of the families served by Kids Central and its partners struggle with meeting basic needs, such as food and clothing.

Through community support and private donors, the Resource Center is filled with new and gently-used donated items, including housewares, furniture, linens, clothing, hygiene products, baby care items, and food. Items donated to the Kids Central's Resource Center are available for our clients comprised of children and families in crisis.



272

Families Helped
(over 529 children total)



20,112

Items Donated
across 6,263 drives



\$60,203

Raised
through in-kind donations

RESOURCE CENTER

PARTNERS

- Quilting Sisters Guild
- Country Road Quilters
- Trinity Lutheran Church
- Ocala First United Methodist Church
- Stonecrest Needlers
- Scrappy Angels/Trinity Lutheran Church
- Wildwood Food Pantry
- Jennette Ferguson
- Monkey Cage Kids
- Covers for Comfort
- Jackie Tanner
- The Villages Quilting Club
- Chapter IT PEO
- Joyce Sage
- Gianna Suarez (*The Villages Yoga group*)
- Dazzling Villages Divas
- Busy Hands
- Sewing Bees OTOW
- Sam Priddy (*Foster Home*)
- Our Mothers of Mercy Food Pantry
- American Legion Auxillary
- The Rotary Club of The Villages
- Karen Bull
- Marion County Children's Alliance
- Stonecrest African American Club
- St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church - CCW
- Heirs-Baxley
- The Shoe Plug & Blended Beauty Bar
- Pinnacle Church of God
- Tiny Toes Consignment Sales
- FFEA @ Wildwood Middle High
- Hello Beautiful Girl
- Project Clown Alley 179
- The Refuge at Jumper Creek
- Citadel of Hope Ministries
- Mr. Barry Lord
- Mindy Richards
- New Covenant UMC
- Mr. & Mrs. Schaefer
- Ocala First United Methodist Church
- Just Between Friends
- Marion Oaks Quilters & Needlers
- John Lewis
- Glenda Pinkston

FY 2022 CONTRACTED AGENCIES

FOSTER CARE & PROTECTIVE SUPERVISION CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

- LifeStream Behavioral Center —
Lake and Sumter Counties
- Youth and Family Alternatives —
Citrus and Hernando Counties

ADOPTION SERVICES

- LifeStream Behavioral Center —
Lake and Sumter Counties
- Youth and Family Alternatives —
Citrus and Hernando Counties

SUPERVISED VISITATION

- LifeStream Behavioral Center —
Lake and Sumter Counties
- Youth and Family Alternatives —
Citrus and Hernando Counties

PREVENTION/DIVERSION/ EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

- Well Florida Council

THERAPEUTIC GROUP CARE

- LifeStream Behavioral Center —
Our Turning Point Ranch
- Aspire Health Partners — Oasis

EMERGENCY SHELTERS

- Arnette House
- Florida Baptist Children's Home
- Youth and Family Alternatives — New Beginnings

WILDERNESS CAMPING, RESIDENTIAL

- Eckerd Youth Alternatives; Camp E-Nini-Hassee

RESIDENTIAL GROUP CARE

- Arnette House Group Homes
- Hands of Mercy Everywhere
- Heart of Florida Youth Ranch
- Covenant Children's Home
- CHOICES House, Inc. —
Glory House, Honor House, Shiloh House
- Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc.
- Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches —
Bartow, Live Oak and Safety Harbor
- Boys Town Central
- Boys Town North
- Children's Home Network
- Crossroads Hope Academy
- Press Forward
- The Children's Place at Homesafe, Inc.
- US Institute Against Human Trafficking

INTENSIVE IN-HOME COUNSELING

- Camelot Community Care

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- GOLD & Associates, Inc. — Marketing
- Mindshare — Dashboard Design
- David Destefano — Chief of Strategy/Consultant
- Speakwrite — Transcription Service

FINANCIAL

INFORMATION • FY 2022

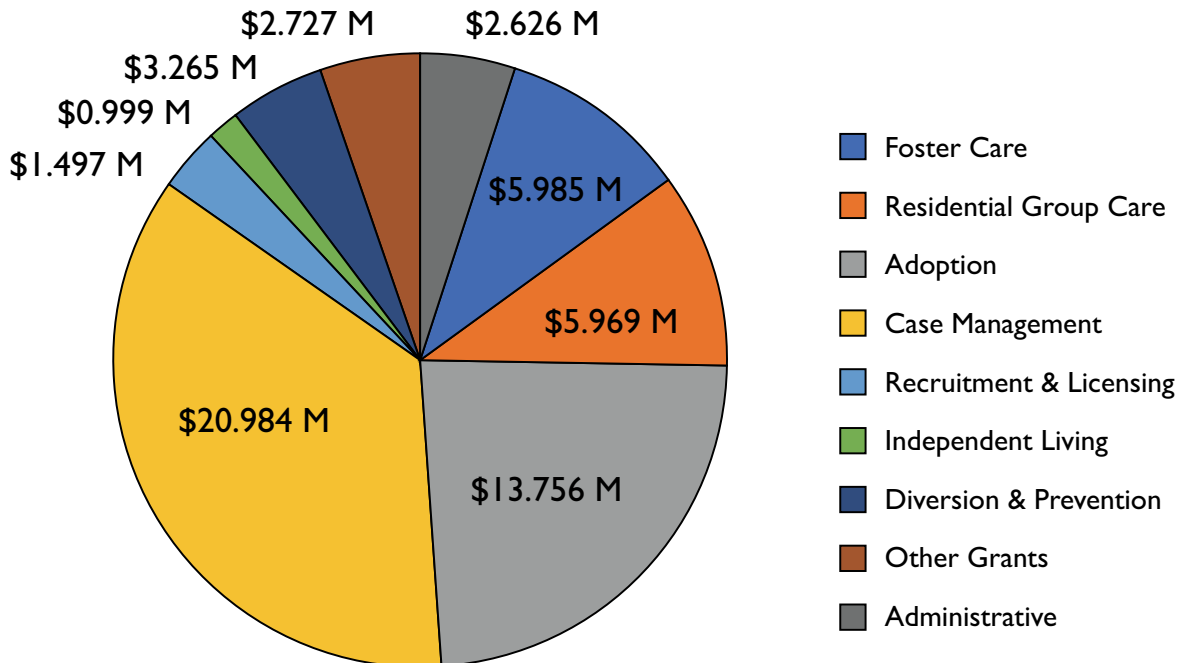
REVENUES

- CBC Lead Agency \$61,018,549
- Healthy Start & MIECHV \$2,717,225
- CBC Integrated Health \$474,359
- Donations & Interest \$104,174
- Other Grants & Revenues \$989,253



96¢
of every dollar
directly goes to
the programs

EXPENSES



Visit our website to view the audited financial statements at www.KidsCentralInc.org.



KIDS CENTRAL, INC.[®]

A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN

Building Better Lives

901 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE, SUITE 200

WILDWOOD, FLORIDA 34785

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