



STRONGER FAMILIES

BRIGHTER FUTURES



20  24

KIDS CENTRAL, INC.
ANNUAL REPORT

2024 AT A GLANCE

CONTRACTED AGENCIES

CASE MANAGEMENT, ADOPTION & SUPERVISED VISITATION SERVICES

- Lutheran Services Florida — Lake & Sumter Counties
- Youth and Family Alternatives — Citrus & Hernando Counties

GROUP CARE PROVIDERS & EMERGENCY SHELTERS

- Arnette House — Emergency Shelter
- Arnette House Group Home
- Aspire Health Partners — Oasis
- Boys Town North
- Covenant Children's Home
- Crossroads Hope Academy
- Eckerd Youth Alternatives — Camp E-Nini-Hassee
- Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc.
- Heart of Florida Youth Ranch
- Integrity Care, Inc. — Lake County
- Integrity Care, Inc. — Polk County
- LifeStream Behavioral Center — Youth Recovery Care Center
- LifeStream Behavioral Center — Our Turning Point Ranch
- Press Forward, Inc.
- Rite of Passage — Hope Forest Academy
- STEP Group Home
- The Children's Place at Homesafe, Inc.
- Twin Oaks Juvenile Development — Waypoint RGH, Twin Oaks Emergency Center, and Harriet's Haven
- Youth and Family Alternatives — New Beginnings

INTENSIVE IN-HOME COUNSELING

- Camelot Community Care

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

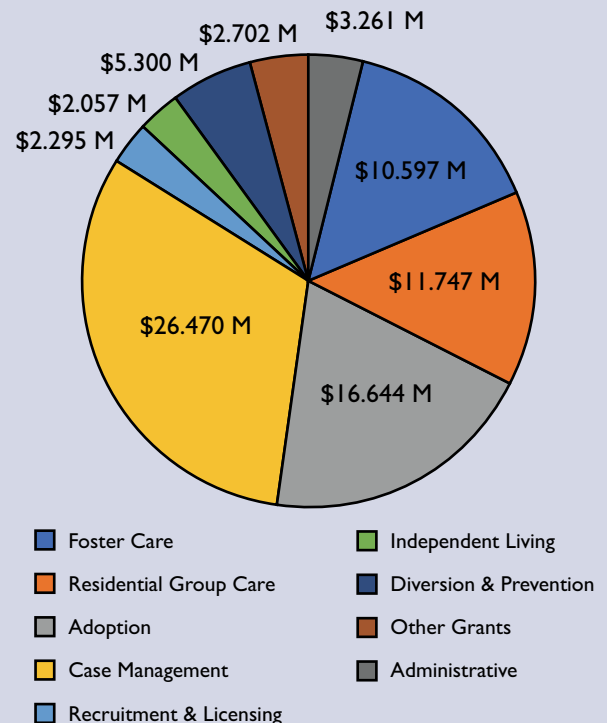
- Gold & Associates, Inc. — Marketing
- Mindshare Technology — Dashboard Design
- David DeStefano — Chief of Strategy/Consultant
- Speakwrite — Transcription Service
- Press Forward, Inc. — Youth Development and Enrichment Program
- National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP) — In-Home Stabilization
- Empowering Young People — Fatherhood Initiative

FINANCIAL INFORMATION • FY 2024

REVENUES

• CBC Lead Agency	\$77,625,853
• Healthy Start & MIECHV	\$2,653,406
• CBC Integrated Health	\$560,664
• Donations & Interest	\$219,988
• Other Grants & Revenues	\$98,773

EXPENSES



96¢ of Every Dollar Goes Directly to the Programs

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

CONTENTS



LEADERSHIP 2

- A Message from the CEO
- A Message from the Board Chair
- Board of Directors and Leadership

PROTECTING CHILDREN 5

- Foster Care
- Adoption
- Case Management
- Independent Living

SUPPORTING FAMILIES 7

- Family Preservation
- Kinship
- Education
- Baby Sleep Basics
- Healthy Start and MIECHV

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES 9

- Community Outreach
- Kids Central Connect
- Volunteer Program
- Resource Center

LEADERSHIP



JOHN COOPER
Chief Executive Officer

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

As we reflect on another year of service, it is with great pride and deep gratitude that we share the progress we've made in supporting and strengthening families. At the heart of our mission lies the belief that every child deserves a safe, loving, and stable environment—whether through foster care, adoption, or reunification with their families. Stronger Families, Brighter Futures, underscores the unwavering commitment we have to supporting families in their journey toward healing, growth, and resilience.

Throughout the year, we have worked tirelessly alongside foster families, adoptive families, and biological families to ensure that every child is given the opportunity to thrive. We understand that family dynamics are complex, and our collective goal is to provide the resources and support necessary to keep families intact whenever possible while ensuring that children are safe and well-cared for.

Our efforts in family reunification continue to be a cornerstone of our work. Through collaborative partnerships, we aim to provide the guidance and assistance families need to overcome challenges and be reunited. We are deeply committed to helping children return to the care of their families when it is safe to do so, ensuring that they grow up in an environment filled with love and stability.

At the same time, we recognize the essential role of foster and adoptive families in providing children with the care and support they need during times of uncertainty. These families are true heroes, offering children a safe haven and giving them the foundation to build a brighter future.

None of this work would be possible without the dedicated individuals, partners, and communities that come together to support our mission. It is through collaboration and shared responsibility that we can provide the essential services and resources that help families thrive.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on our commitment to children and families in need. We are determined to continue building stronger families and brighter futures, ensuring that every child has the chance to grow up in an environment where they are safe, loved, and supported. Together, we will continue to make a meaningful impact, one family at a time.



LANCE KINNEY
Board Chairman

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Families and communities are dependent on each other. Families represent the basic unit on which communities are founded. Strong families are essential to building strong communities. Conversely, when families struggle with issues such as domestic violence or poverty, they frequently draw on strengths within their communities for assistance.

Kids Central works with families in crisis to help make them stronger and to protect their children from abuse and neglect. Within the pages of this report, you will see the many ways people in our community step forward to help create stronger families and brighter futures. Our dedicated staff and contracted partners, devoted foster and adoptive parents, and generous volunteers, donors, and supporters all perform critical roles in this endeavor.

Children thrive in strong families and strong communities. While we take pride in sharing Kids Central's achievements, please be assured we remain focused on the work and the challenges ahead. Kids Central is committed to helping each family we serve become safer and stronger, which creates brighter futures for their children and our communities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2 0 2 3 - 2 0 2 4



LANCE KINNEY
Board Chair



MARK IMES
Vice Chair



KEVIN McDONALD
Secretary/Treasurer



MIKE JORDAN, M.D.
Past Chairman



MATT BARTOLI
Lake County



DIANA BROWN
Lake County



GORDON JOHNSON
Sumter County



JIM NATIONS
Sumter County



ANTHONY PIARULLI
Hernando County



BRAD ROGERS
Marion County



CARLY SAYLES
Lake County



REBECCA SCHATT
Marion County



STEPHEN SPIVEY
Marion County



LIZ THOMPSON
Marion County



MARK WICKHAM
Nonvoting Member

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*

PROTECTING



FOSTER CARE

When parents face various challenges such as substance abuse, illness, incarceration, or domestic violence, the courts sometimes determine that removing the children from the home is necessary to prevent abuse or neglect. In such cases, unless relatives are available to provide care, children may be placed in foster care, which serves as a temporary shelter until reunification with family is possible. Foster parents, trained and licensed by Kids Central, provide loving support during this critical period.

Reuniting children with their families safely is the primary goal, allowing parents the opportunity to make necessary life changes. While they work towards this, foster care provides a stable and nurturing environment for the children. Our community is grateful for these compassionate individuals who care for children in need.



1,758 Children in Care



141 New Foster Homes Added

ADOPTION

When conditions remain that prevent safely reuniting children with their parents, adoption usually becomes the goal to find the children loving and forever families. Kids Central recruits, trains, and licenses individuals interested in adopting children from the child welfare system. Loving adoptive families are currently needed for many children in our community, especially for sibling groups and teens.

Kids Central also coordinates post-adoption services to continue supporting families after they adopt children from the child welfare system. Adoption subsidies are available to help financially assist families with their adopted child's special needs. Adopted children are eligible for Medicaid services and can also receive a tuition waiver for their post-secondary education.



206 Children Adopted



470 Children Eligible for Adoption

NOTE: Statistics provided for FY 2023-24 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

CHILDREN

CASE MANAGEMENT

When families are directed to Dependency Court due to child abuse or neglect, the court approves a case plan. Kids Central and its subcontracted Case Management Agencies manage these case plans. Case management's primary functions include visiting the child at least once every 30 days to help ensure their safety, making referrals on the family's behalf for the services identified in the case plan, monitoring and documenting the family's progress to the plan, and providing information to the court. Case managers aim to establish a safe and permanent living arrangement for each child within 12 months.



3,485

Children Receiving Case Management Services



INDEPENDENT LIVING

Kids Central and its partners provide Independent Living services to youth and young adults in foster care. Each year, some children age out of the system without reunification or a permanent home. To support them, Kids Central harnesses state, federal, and community resources. These resources provide vital tools for a successful transition to adulthood, including transportation, housing assistance, and emotional support. Independent Living services also help young adults pursue their education and employment goals.



20 High School Diplomas

Earned by Program Participants



43 Program Participants

Who Completed or Enrolled in Post-Secondary Education

SUPPORTING



456 Cases Referred



370 Families
Who Successfully Completed Their Program



300 New Referrals



508 Children Assisted

FAMILY PRESERVATION

Kids Central believes investing in families up front reduces the likelihood that children will be abused or neglected and need help later. Research-based and results-driven prevention programs are used to help safely keep children with their families.

Preventing child abuse and neglect before it starts is the best hope for children. Family preservation services help families identify and reduce the risk factors in the home. These services strengthen families while also protecting children.

KINSHIP

Over 14,000 children in Circuit 5 are primarily cared for by relatives other than their parents. Kids Central established a comprehensive Kinship Care Program to assist these relative caregivers. This program offers support services as part of a multi-level prevention strategy, aiming to maintain children in safe, nurturing homes with family members.

FAMILIES



EDUCATION

Children benefit tremendously from parental involvement in their education. However, foster children historically face challenges and lack the necessary advocacy for academic success. Kids Central partners with foster parents and school systems to provide foster youth with educational advocacy to ensure they receive the learning opportunities to thrive in school and beyond.



435 Children Assisted
by Education Liaison

BABY SLEEP BASICS

More children die from asphyxiation in Florida than drowning. These deaths are often due to unsafe sleeping environments like co-sleeping. Kids Central works to stop preventable infant deaths through the Baby Sleep Basics Program. This program provides safe sleep education and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) information to parents or guardians.

HEALTHY START & MIECHV

Healthy Start is a comprehensive program in Florida that supports optimal prenatal health and developmental outcomes for pregnant women and babies. Free screenings are offered to identify risks such as low birth weight, poor prenatal health, and child abuse or neglect. Healthy Start services are available to anyone who is pregnant, recently lost a pregnancy, or has a child under three years of age. Kids Central delivers Healthy Start services in Alachua, Hernando, and Lake Counties.

Kids Central is contracted to provide services for the Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood, Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) in Alachua and Marion Counties. This program supports parents and caregivers with children from birth to three years old, focusing on educating parents about child developmental milestones, offering one-on-one parenting support, facilitating support groups, addressing developmental delays or health issues, and providing access to books and educational toys. MIECHV services empower parents to be their child's first teacher.



3,316 Healthy Start
Clients
Provided with 48,648 Services



222 MIECHV
Clients
Completed 3,231 Visits



ENGAGING

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Children and families are best served by a system of care that utilizes the organizations, advocates, and resources in their own communities. Community support and engagement in the efforts to strengthen families and protect and nurture children is the underlying principle of Florida's system of Community Based Care.

Kids Central prioritizes building and maintaining strong relationships within the local community, which encompasses clients, neighbors, public officials, government agencies, other nonprofits, and potential donors. The Community Affairs Department acts as a bridge between Kids Central and the community by sharing organizational information. Through various initiatives, including annual prevention and awareness events on child abuse and fundraising activities, Kids Central actively engages the community, raises awareness, and collects funds to address the needs of our clients.



\$320k Donations
Received
from Fundraising

- Monetary – \$145,817
- In-Kind – \$174,260

RESOURCE CENTER

Kids Central maintains a resource center at its corporate office in Wildwood. Many families supported by Kids Central and its partners face challenges in meeting basic needs like food and clothing. Thanks to community support and private donors, the Resource Center offers a range of new and gently used items, including housewares, furniture, clothing, hygiene products, baby care items, and food. These donated items are available to children and families in crisis who are clients of Kids Central.



564 Families
1,149 Children
*Helped at Kids Central
Resource Center*



COMMUNITIES



KIDS CENTRAL CONNECT

Kids Central has partnered with Findhelp.org to maintain KidsCentralConnect.org, our social care network. This initiative reflects Kids Central's commitment to improving resource accessibility within our communities. Through collaborative efforts and connections with similar organizations, KidsCentralConnect.org functions as a digital platform to promote and facilitate support services that align with our mission of protecting children, supporting families, and fostering community engagement.

Currently, KidsCentralConnect.org has over 10,000 participating organizations, offering a wide range of services and providing valuable assistance to individuals in need.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteers have an enormous impact on the health and well-being of communities. As the needs in our communities grow, the generosity of volunteers becomes even more important. Kids Central is thankful for our volunteers who help carry out our mission, assist staff, and reduce organizational costs.



KIDS CENTRAL, INC.®
A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN
Building Better Lives

901 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE, SUITE 200
WILDWOOD, FLORIDA 34785
352.873.6332 • KIDSCENTRALINC.ORG

Produced with the financial assistance of



GOLD
MARKETING



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

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.

