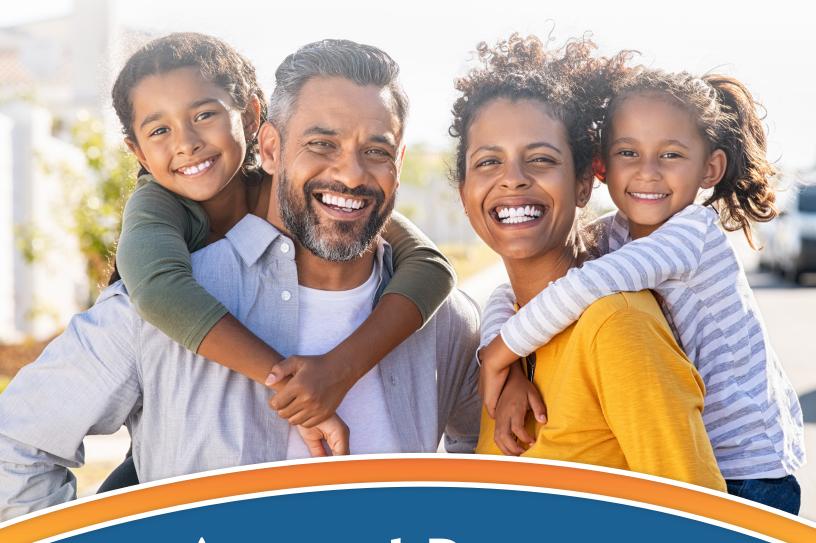


Brighter Futures



Annual Report 2019 - 2020

Phone 601-354-0983 • Fax 601-352-8638 Email: info@southernchristianservices.org • www.scscy.org

Our Mission

In response to the love of Christ, Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. serves and equips vulnerable children and youth, assisting them in the process of becoming self-sufficient contributing members of society.



Core Values

Compassion

Optimism

The following core values inspire our staff and partners

and drive everything we do - including our

approach to the work, the decisions

we make, and the way

we collaborate.

Commitment

Bold Leadership

Responsiveness

Continuous Training



Mrs. Jamie Himes
President and CEO



Mrs. Jennifer Scott
Chair, Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

This past year was a year like no other. Through the global pandemic, economic uncertainty, and collective grief, Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth remained resolute. We served hundreds of Mississippi's most vulnerable children without interruption. Our therapists and foster care staff quickly pivoted to telehealth, navigating new technology and job responsibilities while staying safe at home. Our leadership team successfully created the first virtual Bottom Line for Kids event and our loyal supporters helped us exceed our fundraising goals. We are very grateful to our staff, especially those in our group homes that continued working directly with youth despite their fears of COVID-19 transmission - helping the youth with virtual homeschooling, frequent quarantines, and reinforcing new COVID protocols within each home. We are grateful, too for our foster families. They protected and cared for our children in an uncertain time of homeschooling, masks, and social distancing.

The lessons of 2020 were vast and will impact us for years to come. This year gave us the opportunity to practice radical gratitude, giving thanks to God in all circumstances. We learned that Christianity is best demonstrated beyond the church walls and that mission work is local. Our priorities were loving your neighbor as yourself, supporting the weak, focusing on our families, and comforting those heavily burdened. The accomplishments displayed throughout this report are all remarkable, especially when placed against the backdrop of 2020. Additionally, Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth purchased and renovated One Lefleur's Square in Northeast Jackson which now serves as our mission's headquarters. We successfully completed national accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA) and rebranded with a bright new logo and tagline.

This was certainly a year we all worked together to keep our mission moving forward. Everyone had a very important and unique role in our impact, and we hope you find great satisfaction in a job very well done.

With grateful hearts,

Jamie C. Himes
President and CEO

Jennifer H. Scott Chair, Board of <u>Directors</u>

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is comprised of community leaders tasked with the duty of steering the organization toward advancing its mission. Each director dedicates his/her prayers, presence, gifts and services to Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. allowing Christ's love to be shared with thousands of Mississippians.



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Our Vision

Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. envisions a community where all Mississippi youth have a safe place to call home and the opportunity to thrive.



Our Impact



Homeless youth served were able to achieve individual housing and/or permanent placement in a safe and stable environment.



Homeless youth receiving services were able to identify, find, and maintain stable employment within the community.



original placement until they were either adopted or successfully reunified with biological family SCSCY prevents kids from moving through the foster care system.



SCSCY children exited the foster care system in 2020. SCSCY helps kids safely exit the foster care system forever!

100%

Success rate for **keeping adopted families together** through our post adoption services. SCSCY prevents kids from re-entering the foster care system!



Child abuse victims were conforted through free counseling and supportive services



Foster children were adopted by loving and caring families

360

At-risk parents received

parenting classes and

support through

Parent Strong

346

Children were Setved through respite care

QQ₇ 13

We are living our mission...

to create brighter futures!

Young adults between 18-23

who were at risk of becoming homeless received PALS services

Our Services

Each year, hundreds of lives are impacted through the services and programs of Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. We provide Therapeutic Residential Care, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Services and Permanency Services. Our goal is to stand in the gap between need and wholeness, striving to help children and youth overcome the barriers created by poverty, neglect and abuse.

RESIDENTIAL CARE

Therapeutic Group Homes

Therapeutic group homes provide family style living for children and youth who are unable to remain in their homes because of abuse, neglect, serious behavioral, and/or emotional challenges. These homes located in Grenada and Fulton are dedicated to caring for older youth that have either struggled to stay in a foster family or are at-risk of aging out of the foster system without a family. We make these homes as close to a family setting as possible and

work with each young man, so he learns to trust and thrive in a family. The goal of our Therapeutic Group Home is to help the boys prepare for either a future foster family, reunification with biological family, or transitional independence.

56

Being in the PALS program has helped me become more independent. I was able to find a place to live and receive counseling for my mental health. Transitioning into my own place has been a freeing experience that I would not have been able to accomplish without the PALS program.

- Merlyna, P.A.L.S. Program



PALS Transitional and Homeless Youth Program

The P.A.L.S. (Preparing Adolescents to Live Successfully) is a community-based transitional living and youth homelessness prevention program located in Jackson for youth 18-23 years old certified by Mississippi Department of Mental Health. The P.A.L.S. Transitional Living Program is a long-term program designed to address the causes of youth homelessness at their root and set them up for long-term success. P.A.L.S. facilitates healing and promotes the vocational and emotional well-being of youth who have experienced homelessness, abuse, neglect, and exposure to trauma or violence. While living at P.A.L.S., youth receive case management, educational support, employment assistance and evidenced-based counseling services. All P.A.L.S. residents are either employed full-time or employed part-time while attending school.

PERMANENCY SERVICES

Therapeutic Foster Care

Licensed Therapeutic Foster Care homes provide temporary families for children and youth who are unable to remain in their own homes because of abuse, neglect, serious behavioral and/or emotional challenges. Therapeutic Foster Care is dedicated to recruiting, training, and matching foster children and sibling groups with families so that the children find permanency as soon as possible. Permanency may be that children reunite with biological families when the families are healthy enough to do so or move towards adoption.

66

Being adopted means that you have someone that loves you without hesitation and will accept you for who you are. They will love you even if you make mistakes and they will forgive you because that's what love is. The home you are going into will be your forever home so don't be afraid, they will protect you.

- Melisa, age 12



Adoption from Foster Care

Families who can make a permanent commitment to children and youth with special needs are trained and equipped to provide homes through adoption. No child should grow up in the foster care system. Children need to grow in safe and nurturing families.

"Being adopted means I get to live with a family forever! I love my mommy and daddy. Being with my family makes me happy."

- Taqwa, age 6

Post Adoption and Respite

The purpose of this service is to support families who have adopted through Mississippi's foster care system and prevent children from re-entering foster care. We provide information, referrals, crisis management, adoptive/foster parent and youth trainings, family and teen support groups and respite care services. Trained respite families offer foster and adoptive parents the opportunity for a break in times of crisis. During 2020, no child, whose family made use of Southern Christian Services Adoption Permanency Program, reentered the foster care system.



"

We love our children immensely. You can't tell the difference of love between our bio children and our adopted one. We love taking Jeremiah fishing, riding on the 4-wheeler, to the lake, and always end the day in prayer.

- The Hansen Family

PREVENTION SERVICES

Parent Strong (Training and Support Groups)

The goal of our Parent Strong Prevention Program is to decrease the number of children entering foster care. This is accomplished by educating and empowering at-risk families to create safe, stable, nurturing environments that protect children from violence and maltreatment. Parent Strong Prevention Program uses the ACT/Raising Safe Kids model which is supported by the American Psychological Association and focuses on teaching parents about children's need for protection, child development and parenting skills. In 2020, Parent Strong offered online parenting education classes for parents in the general community, parents who are court mandated, teen parents, and expected parents.



66

What I learned from the Parent Strong Program is how to listen more to my children and let them express their feelings. I also learned how to have patience with my children even when I have had a frustrated or overwhelmed day. But most importantly, I learned that you can use different means of disciplining to eliminate using corporal punishment.

- Military Father, General public online parent class

COUNSELING SERVICES

Outpatient Trauma Counseling Clinics

Evidence-based counseling services are available to children and youth suffering with symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder regardless of their ability to pay. All children and youth served are victims of crime. We treat children and youth ages 3-23 years old out of clinics located in Gulfport, Jackson and Tupelo, Mississippi.

"Southern Christian Services has tremendously impacted my life in ways that I could not have imagined. Being able to come in and open up to my counselor has been the best part of my experience. My life has progressed, in ways concerning my father, to make my grieving process a lot easier. I have healed in so many ways dealing with past hurt that was never acknowledged. For these things I will be forever grateful to this organization."

- Dana, P.A.L.S. Program

Financials

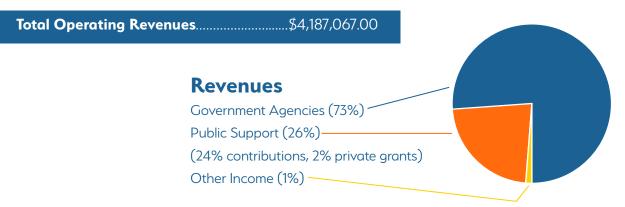
2019-2020

Preliminary Statement of Activities

October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020

REVENUES

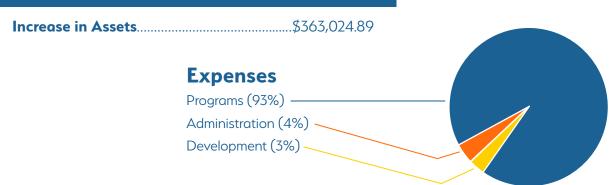
Governmental Agencies	\$3,052,028.00
Public Support	\$1,092,027.00
Other Income	\$43,012.00



EXPENSES

Programs	\$3,561,270.00
Administration	\$159,985.04
Development	\$102,787.07

Total Expenditures	\$3,824,042.11
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Save the Date



September 23-26, 2021

33rd Annual Bottom Line for Kids Benefit and Online Auction

Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. cordially invites you to become a 2021 sponsor at our Bottom Line for Kids event. This year's Bottom Line for Kids Benefit and Online Auction consist of multiple in-person events on a smaller level combined with a video for attendees participating in hosting an event at the convenience of their home. The event will feature premier auction items, a tour of the new facility and the launching of our new video. For more information about the event, check out our website www.scscy.org/blkfundraiser.





October 12, 2021

Sonny Fountain Memorial Golf Tournament

Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc., Associated General Contractors of Mississippi, and Fountain Construction Company, Inc. are pleased to announce the 14th Annual Sonny Fountain Memorial Golf Tournament. Sonny Fountain Memorial Golf tournament for Kids is named in honor of beloved Jackson businessman and philanthropist, D.G. "Sonny"

Fountain, owner of Fountain Construction Company.

For more information about the event, check out our website www.scscy.org.



The McLarty Family

Evie and Bill McLarty were "sweethearts" in their church youth group and have now been married over 27 years.

Bill is a freelance graphic designer and drives a school bus for Ocean Springs School District. Evie is a Program Director for Feeding the Gulf Coast in Gulfport. Together, they've raised four biological children ages 26, 23, 22 and 17 years old. From early on, both Bill and Evie were interested in fostering therapeutic children but originally felt they were too young and inexperienced as parents to foster. Bill states, "This is something we both felt led to do. We found it very challenging and knew therapeutic children would have behavioral problems more than typical children."

Six years ago, after Evie completed Americorp Vista service, they decided to move to Ocean Springs, Mississippi. This is where they first met Tana Walker, Senior Recruitment Specialist with Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. and began seriously considering fostering therapeutic children.

Within six months from meeting Tana, Evie and Bill completed the SCSCY foster care training program. On the day Bill turned in the last document to complete their foster care licensing, Tana showed him a file for a little girl named Carmen. The McLarty's looked over Carmen's information that night, prayed about it, and decided to take a leap of faith. A few weeks later they and their two youngest children drove to Jackson to meet Carmen. She looked directly into their eyes and said, "Are y'all going to adopt me or what?" Bill responded, "I guess we are!" A few weeks later Carmen came to Ocean Springs for Thanksgiving break and was introduced to the rest of the family. Shortly after the Thanksgiving visit, she moved into the McLarty's home and was adopted on October 20, 2016.

In the months leading up to Carmen's adoption, the McLarty's decided to foster a second child named McKailey, who was 9 years old. She moved into their home on August 5, 2016 and was adopted on October 5, 2017. Over the next several years, Bill and Evie continued to help Mississippi's foster care system by assisting with therapeutic children. Eventually, the McLarty's realized that God wasn't finished growing their family, so they met with Tana again about adopting more children.

A few months later, Bill and Evie were told about two brothers, Chris and Michael that needed an adoptive home. Chris was an immediate placement, but Michael could not be placed until he finished a treatment program in north Mississippi. Bill and Evie only knew how to raise girls. They were nervous and not sure how two boys would fit into their lifestyle. After much prayer and discernment, Bill and Evie decided to proceed. Chris moved into the McLarty's home the following weekend (November 21, 2018) and was the most polite and charismatic child they had ever met. He was very nurturing, kindhearted and had an undeniable bond with his brother, Michael. Even though Michael was in treatment in north Mississippi, Chris was always eager to talk to him either on the phone or by Facetime. Bill states, "We were able to set up a day visit with Michael on December 8, 2018 and I've never seen such joy on a kid's face."

Unlike Chris, Michael (9 years old) needed therapeutic attention. Bill and Evie met with Michael's therapist and had daily conversations about his care. Together with Michael's treatment team, they decided to have him visit for a long weekend. After spending the entire Christmas break together, the McLarty's knew Michael was the right fit for their family. Michael moved into their home on March 5, 2019 and both boys were adopted on February 19, 2020.

Since the adoption was finalized, life has changed a lot, especially with COVID-19 quarantine. The first few weeks were challenging for the McLarty family. Covid-19 made the transition very hard, juggling both school and work. Bill states, "Getting into a routine was the most challenging but we know that takes time for any family. We still have good days and bad days, but I wouldn't change it for the world. It's the hardest and most beautiful thing we've ever done."



Dana's Story

Dana has risen above adversity and found her purpose through the P.A.L.S. Transitional Living Program. When she entered P.A.L.S., she was needing financial assistance to maintain her housing. She was struggling with grief, familial stressors, and limited resources. She came to P.A.L.S. seeking continued stability in her current living arrangement.

While in the P.A.L.S. program, Dana received support and financial education. She learned how to budget and save money. She received therapeutic services to address her mental health needs and received support and assistance for continuing her education.

Dana has recently moved into a new town house and transitioned out of P.A.L.S. residential program. She is consistently working and attending school. We are very proud for Dana. She's dedicated and motivated to achieve her

goal for higher education. She's a full-time graduate student pursuing a career in sports administration. Through the P.A.L.S. program she has found stability and a purpose in this world. She is flourishing into an emotionally healthy and stable individual that sets tangible goals and works hard to achieve them.

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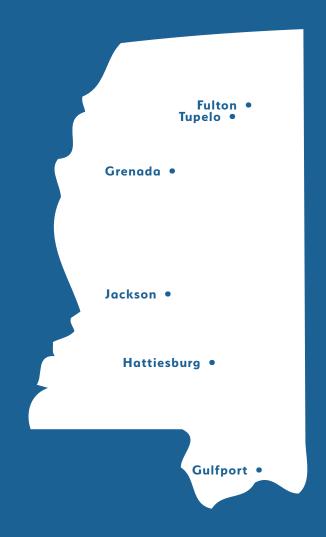
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"We learned that Christianity is best demonstrated beyond the church walls and that mission work is local."

Jamie C. Himes, President and CEO





In response to the love of Christ, Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. serves and equips vulnerable children and youth, assisting them in the process of becoming self-sufficient contributing members of society.

Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. provides children and family services throughout the state of Mississippi. Licensed by the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services and certified by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, SCSCY is a member of the Mississippi Association of Child Caring Agencies and is an affiliate of the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as well as a member of Disciples Care Network.