



Finding
Hope
For
Foster
Kids

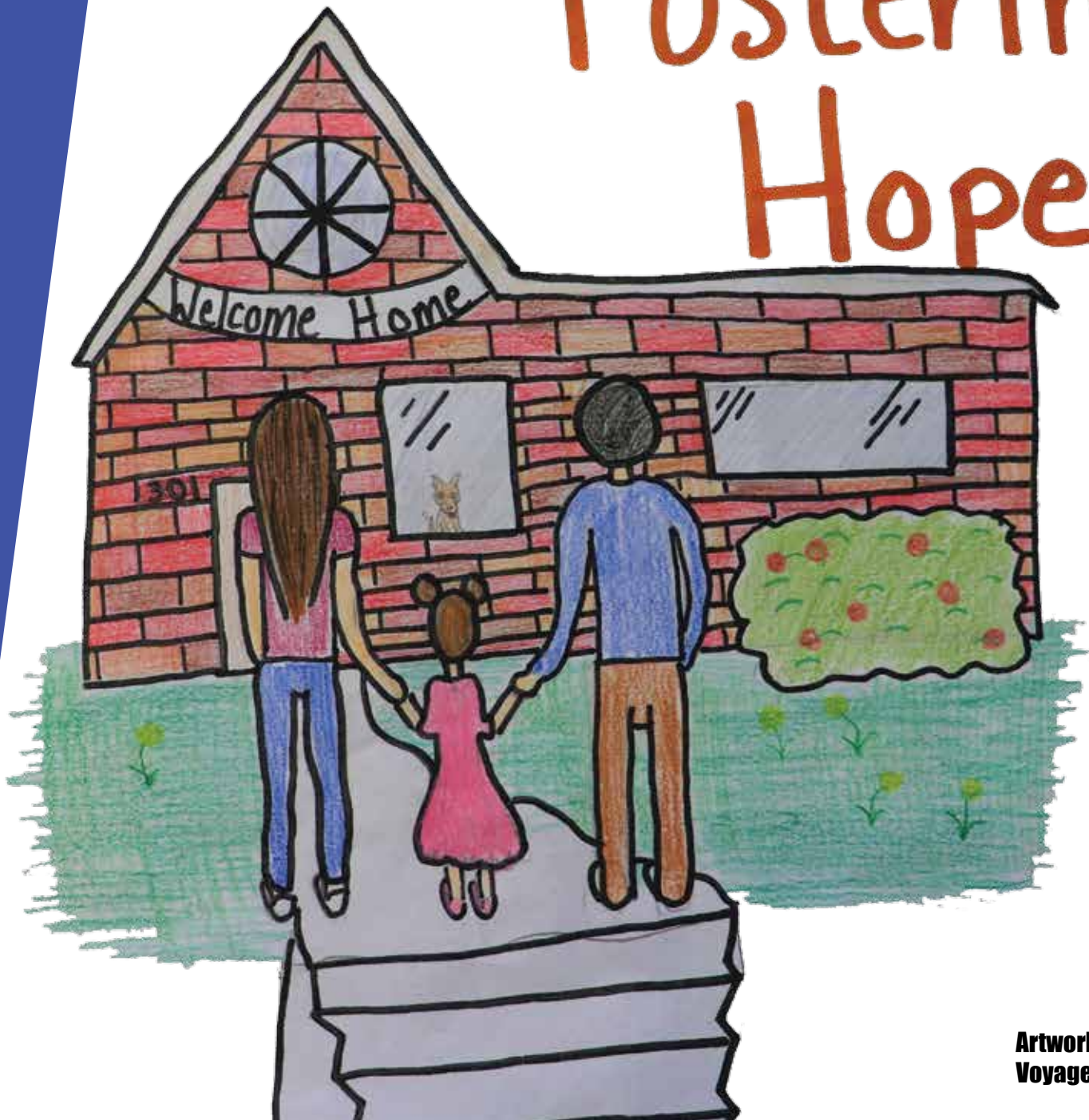


LEE COUNTY
Youth Development Center

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018

Fostering Hope



**Artwork by Kaylee
Voyages Resident**

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*Lee County Department
of Human Resources*

Honorable Mike Fellows
Lee County Family Court

A Place of Service...

Offering hope to Children and families... Strengthening communities

OUR MISSION

OUR CORE VALUES

- **Building and valuing a committed, compassionate and enthusiastic team**
- **Honoring tradition while inviting and embracing diversity, change and growth**
- **Providing a comprehensive range of services designed to improve the quality of life for children, families and our community**



Affiliations





FROM OUR PRESIDENT'S PEN

Dr. Anne Penney

Greetings from the governing and advisory boards of your Youth Development Center. It is always a pleasure to give our stakeholders an annual peek behind the curtains of our agency operations. Fiscal Year 2018 found us commemorating 45 years of service and embarking on a rather large building and renovation campaign which allowed us to improve learning environments and to upgrade campus spaces. We could not be more pleased about the way that these projects turned out. As always, our staff and volunteers remained mission-minded and we were able to celebrate student graduations and agency-wide client accomplishments of all types. I join with my Board colleagues in celebrating all that has been accomplished in this past fiscal year and anticipating all that is yet to be as we continue to impact children, families and communities. Here's to our agency's next forty-five years!

Anne Penney, Ed.D.

President, Board of Directors





A NOTE FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Laura J. Cooper, Executive Director

The location of my office allows me to look out my rear office window and experience nature's wonders. The window which faces the campus entrance didn't previously have a terrible view, but we knew that one day a facelift would be in order. Our Board of Directors agreed that many of those entering our campus are experiencing distress and despair and an entrance upgrade might whisper hope and opportunity. And that it does! 1109 *Spring* Drive now lives up to its name – the lovely new fencing, lighting and landscaping is as encouraging as is a fresh breath of spring air. Our new Chanticleer Day School was specifically designed and constructed to provide every opportunity for student success. While bricks, mortar, sod and shrubs do not in of themselves make changes in the lives of others, we are certain that these things allow for change to happen more readily. And as the focus of our FY 2018 Annual Report demonstrates, much change occurs well beyond the confines of our main campus – we are pleased to highlight, salute and celebrate the hard, heart work of our Therapeutic Foster Care children, families, and workers.

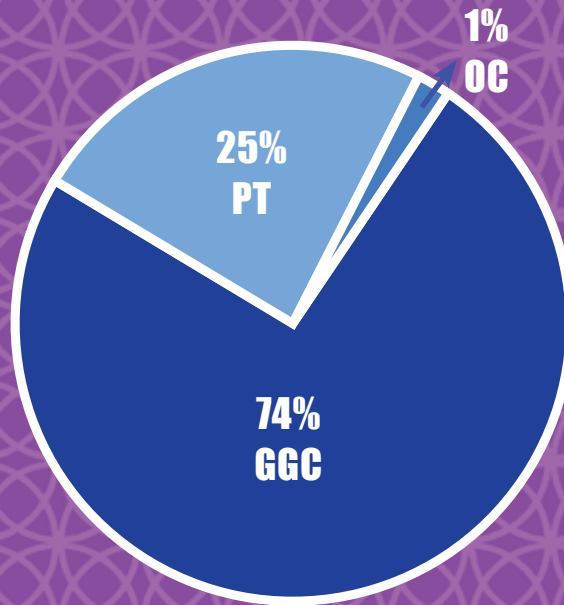
Laura J. Cooper, LBSW, M.Ed.

Executive Director

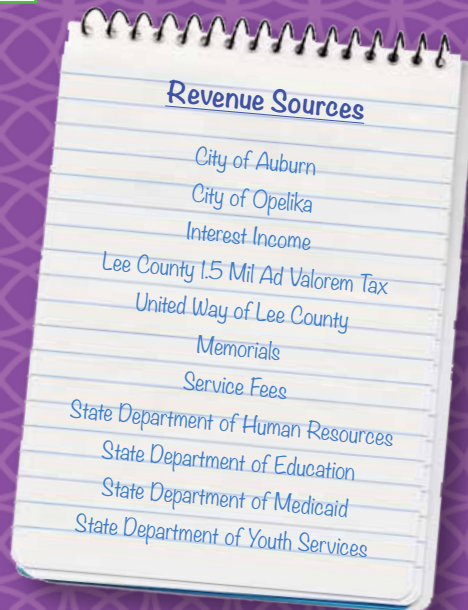
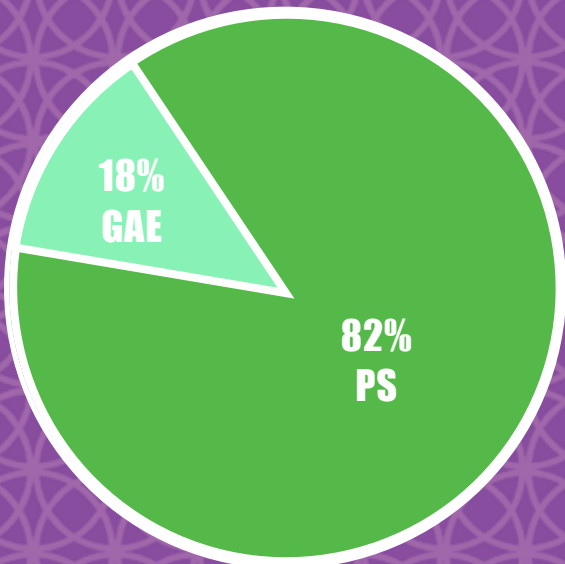


Basis of Accounting

FY 2018 REVENUE SOURCES		
	FISCAL YEAR 2018	
Government Grants and Contracts (GGC)	\$7,922,282	74%
Property Taxes (PT)	\$2,841,730	25%
United Way Cities of Auburn and Opelika and Other Contributions (OC)	\$58,117	1%
Total	\$10,822,129	100%



FY 2018 EXPENSE SOURCES		
	FISCAL YEAR 2018	
Program Services (PS)	\$8,727,487	82%
General & Administration Expenses (GAE)	\$1,036,931	18%
Total	\$9,764,418	100%



LCYDC maintains its accounts and prepares financial statements on the accrual basis of accounting. Income is recognized in the period measurable rather than when collected, and expenses are recognized in the period incurred, rather than when the obligations are paid.

The audit of LCYDC's financial records for fiscal year 2018 was conducted by BMSS CPA's & Business Advisors – Auburn, Alabama in complete accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards.

Therapeutic Foster Care

...Fostering Hope for more than 25 Years

Team Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) is thrilled to be the featured service provider for our agency's Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report! The artwork on this report's cover paints an idealized picture of all we hope to do through our work and service. Our TFC department has been a part of the LCYDC family for more than twenty-five years and we firmly believe that our services are a vital part of the extensive continuum of care that this agency offers. Most would agree that those children, teens and young adults who are unable to live in their homes of origin are better served in homes rather than in congregate care settings. TFC exists in order to be the natural-setting bridge for at-risk children requiring out-of-home care. Allow us to share briefly about who we are and what we do.

When a child enters the foster care system, often the child's functional, emotional, and behavioral needs are not fully known at initial placement. LCYDC's Therapeutic Foster Care Program is an intensive, individualized, service designed to cater to the needs of children, youth, and young adults in a supportive family setting unit until family can be reunited or a permanent placement through adoption can be arranged. The foster family household is viewed as the primary treatment setting and the foster parent(s) are selected, trained, and supported to implement the goals outlined in the child's treatment plan. These services include community integration, medical/psychiatric needs of the children, and supporting educational needs. The individualized treatment goals are carried out under the direction of a treatment team assigned to each child.

All services are provided on the premise of unconditional care, concern and love for the whole child. We facilitate our unconditional care through wraparound services that are trauma-informed and individualized to meet the unique needs of each child, foster parent and caregiver. During this fiscal year three of our TFC children successfully graduated high school, five were adopted and seven were reunited with family members. TFC was pleased to certify six (6) additional foster family homes during this fiscal year. However this nowhere meets the need we have for additional dedicated, highly trained, committed individuals who are willing to "open their homes and hearts" to children in need of security, hope and permanency. We continually recruit for individuals and couples who may



be willing to take this leap of service. In order to further facilitate this effort, this year we added a TFC Operations/Licensing Manager to aid in the expanding of our number of foster homes and act as additional support for TFC daily operations.

The work that we do is off-the-grid and not easily visible by design. We want our TFC children to experience as normal a home, school and community life as may be possible. This takes much work and sacrifices by our workers, foster parents, caregivers of origin, external partners and of course our campus team members. There is a saying which indicates that it takes a village to raise a child. Truly it takes a small metropolitan city in order to place and keep the services in place to meet the needs of our precious Therapeutic Foster care children.

It is our honor and privilege to get up each day (weekends and holidays included) mission-minded on having our TFC homes be places of healing, hope and stability for children and teens in need of sanctuary. We plan to keep on fostering hope for another twenty-five years and beyond.



A child
enters foster care
every two minutes
in the U.S.



RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Journeys

Quoting Loa Tzu, “A Journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” Journeys - an Intensive Psych under 21 residential treatment program served a total of 97 youth presenting with serious psychological diagnosis during fiscal year 2018. Our programming expanded with the opening of Journeys IV, serving an additional 8 female residents. Journeys is designed to help youth learn more about themselves and their family dynamics while discovering more effective ways of responding to others and to life stressors. While school, therapy and other activities are on the main campus, youth are continually afforded the opportunity to be active members of the local community.

Our children and young adults are also able to develop money management skills, job training, social skills, and career tech skills. The average length of stay measures about 8 months with four levels which typically take four-six-week levels.

The Journeys Intensive Program successfully graduated 17 clients between October 2017 and September 2018. Four of these youth received their High School Diploma at Chanticleer Learning Center. Three of the

four youth entered the United States Military and one youth pursued a career in sports at Alabama State University.

A recent success story involved an 18-year-old male from Houston County, Alabama. December 2017 was his second admission into care. This young man struggled and exhibited little motivation to complete the

program for a second time. With persistent intervention from his therapist, social worker, educators and support staff, the youth became motivated to change. This youth graduated from Chanticleer Learning Center in May of 2018 with his high school diploma. He wanted to pursue his post-



secondary education and with the help of his teacher and program social worker, he applied and was accepted into college. This past September he reunited with and went to live with his grandmother in Atlanta, GA. He is now pursuing a career in sports management. Although he faced obstacles and minor setbacks along his journey, he persevered and now faces a future of hopeful possibilities. This is just one example of hundreds of youth who discovered who they were while in Journeys and went on to their appointments with destiny.

Passages

The Passages Program at LCYDC operates just as the word implies. Passages is defined as “the action or process of passing from one place, condition, or stage to another”. Our Passages Moderate Residential

service is a 3 to 6-month program for teens. The Passages program is designed for youth who may have experienced challenges and have need for out-of-home clinical support and interventions. Out of home does not mean family and caregivers are not involved – in fact these individuals are key participants in the Passages child’s healing and progress. During this past year the Passages program received 129 referrals and we have served 52 residents from 39 counties within the State of Alabama.



But those are just numbers – our children are flesh and blood. One Passages male successfully completed the Passages program within 4 months while completing the required tasks to earn his high school diploma in December 2018. Without a permanent post-care placement option, he was introduced to military opportunities through our Learning Center. The Passages staff diligently worked with his Marine recruiter allowing him to be mentored on Tuesdays and Thursdays and he formally enlisted in the United States Marines in early 2019. A Passages female resident successfully completed the Passages program within 4 months. In December, she desired the opportunity to enter the Job Corps of America. She will enter the program to gain skills for a meaningful career. These are just a couple examples of countless lives which have been impacted for the better.

17

JOURNEYS SUCCESSFUL GRADUATIONS TO A LESS RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

96%

SUCCESS RATE GIRLS COMPLETING VOYAGES PROGRAM

Our program operates through a system which clearly establishes norms for the successful living in Passages and in our greater society. Residents move through the program based on intrinsic motivation and external natural rewards and consequences. Our goal is to successfully move a resident and his or her family/caregiver through the program to a less restrictive environment and eventually on to permanency.

Voyages

“The real **Voyage** of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes”- Marcel Proust. The Voyages program is a 42-day Community Residential Program for females who have been court ordered or committed to the Department of Youth Services (DYS). The Program is licensed by DYS to serve eight (8) girls. Voyages is a program designed to help young women youth develop the self-awareness and discipline needed to avoid further court involvement. Voyages staff will provide varying supportive services and interventions to the youth in care. Some of the services include but are not limited to; support and redirection, peer relations sessions, basic living and personal care services, crisis stabilization, and family support.

During their stay, Voyages residents were provided a chance to earn the opportunity to participate in off campus outings where they get to go out into the community to serve, relax and refresh. Voyages successfully graduated 59 clients between October 2017 and September 2018.

Transitional Living Program

The Transitional Living Program operates to assist older teens and young adults in DHR custody develop much needed independent living skills while living in a nurturing environment that offers stability, consistency,



and safety. Our TLP youth are afforded the opportunity to practice independent living skills to successfully transition from a dependent living situation to independence or self-sufficiency. This year the youth continued to receive extensive training in individual and group daily living skills in our home, on jobs, at school and in the greater community. Our youth attended money management workshops with representatives from Wells Fargo and monthly Dream Council meeting in

various counties in Alabama. Three of our youth attended camps during the summer: National Social Work Enrichment Program and Camp Life.

During the FY 2018, we received a total of 93 referrals, 14 clients were admitted to our TLP program and we served a total of 36 young people. Three residents graduated from Opelika High School, one received their driver’s license, three residents attended college at Southern Union State Community College in Opelika, Al. Seven of our youth maintained consistent employment during this period.

Independent Living Program

The young adults in our Independent Living Program are provided strategies to guide them and improve opportunities for successful transition to adulthood. Four young adults resided in our Independent Living apartments located in Auburn, Al. Our young people practice independent living skills in a realistic apartment setting with a decreasing degree of care and supervision. The program’s focused areas of training include budgeting, job seeking, housing issues, family relationships, handling basic maintenance in the home, healthy decision-making, substance abuse education, health issues, legal issues, transportation and driver’s education. During the fiscal year we served a total of seven individuals. All of whom maintained consistent employment during this period.

CONTINUUM SERVICES

Intensive In-Home Services (IIHS)

In today's society we see increasing numbers of families in crisis. Families face serious challenges and we see children experiencing neglect or abuse and impact from drug use, mental health issues, and domestic violence to name a few. All children should be able to grow up in a home full of love, nurturance, and safety but this is not the reality. The Intensive In-Home Services (IIHS) Department located in the Outreach Services Center is a part of the Continuum Services Division at Lee County Youth Development Center. We have the privilege of preserving family units and reunifying children with their parents or relatives by providing a short-term crisis intervention program. Families are provided caring and compassionate in-home services through education, in-home counseling services, and advocacy, with acceptance and respect that is non-judgmental, instills hope and enables families and communities to reach their maximum potential for self-sufficiency. IIHS provides services to the Department of Human Resources county offices in Chambers, Coosa, Elmore, Lee, Macon, Russell, and Tallapoosa Counties. During the 2017-2018 Fiscal year, IIHS increased the number of families served per month from 38 to 48 with the ten extra slots being designated for Lee County families. The IIHS team consists of Family Support Workers and Therapists who work tirelessly in the homes and communities of families to ensure the needs of children and their well-being are met. A particular family that comes to mind that exemplifies the mission of IIHS. An IIHS family regained custody of their infant twin girls by maintaining their sobriety and meeting the girls' physical and emotional well-being by learning effective coping skills, parenting skills, and child developmental norms. The girls continued to thrive in the home of their parents and eventually their siblings came home unifying the entire family! We are happy to report the family has continued to maintain and provide a safe loving home for all their girls. The IIHS team takes great pride in the meaningful work we do to assist those who need us most.

IIHS Program Outcomes 2017-2018	Preservation Services	Reunification Services
Success at Discharge (cumulative)	96%	92%
3 months Post Discharge	99%	100%
6 months Post Discharge	97%	100%
12 months Post Discharge	98%	100%

Number of Clients Served

Total # of Lee County Clients Served (LC)	3,900
Total # of Other County Clients Served (OC)	606

Detention

The Richard D. Lane East Alabama Regional Detention Center continues to provide services for the (10) ten contracted Counties which are Bullock, Chambers, Clay, Coosa, Lee, Macon, Pike, Randolph, Russell, and Tallapoosa. We continue to provide services for a maximum of up to 32 juveniles who have been referred to our detention facility and placed by way of a court order. The juvenile clients in care are held for a short term and temporary care is provided as the referring Court seeks to address the delinquent referral and identify possible treatment efforts along with possible treatment placements for the child in care. During the fiscal year of October 2017 through September 2018, our Detention Center served a total of 245 juveniles. There were 63 juveniles of the 245 from Lee County.

Overall Satisfaction of Clients Served in Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Category	# of Responses	Mean of Overall Satisfaction
Client	290	4.2
Referring Worker	23	4.7
Family	58	4.5
ProjectUplift (Client)	14	4.8
ProjectUplift (Family)	11	4.8
ProjectUplift (Volunteer)	44	4.6
TransParenting	52	4.5

Project Uplift

Project Uplift is a volunteer-based organization focused to assist Lee County children ages 5-12 develop life skills, build healthy relationships, and reduce the rate of delinquency in our county. Volunteers mentor at-risk youth in our community through weekly contact and various activities that foster friendship and encouragement, instilling independence and ultimately building responsibility, character, and confidence.



Volunteer Spotlight -

Sadie Argo and Sam Sturdivant

Sadie and Sam are seniors at Auburn University who became volunteers of Project Uplift when they were juniors. Sadie is from Montgomery, Alabama and is double-majoring in Psychology and Spanish. She previously mentored a young child at an at-risk school when she was in high school and wanted to continue mentoring in college because she was able to see the benefits of mentoring a child short-term. Sam is from Alex City, Alabama and is majoring in Chemical Engineering. He grew up going to school with children



who would have benefitted much from a program similar to Project Uplift, and therefore he joined Project Uplift so that he could be a positive role model in someone's life. They began their mentoring relationship with Tez and E'moni in October 2017.

Sadie and Sam hang out with the youth at least once, engaging in some of their favorite activities, such as going to Hickory Dickory Park, watching movies, bowling, going to the trampoline park, walking around campus, and going to Krispy Kreme for a snack afterwards. Sadie and Sam also dedicate much time to help Tez and E'moni with their academics. They assist them with their homework first, before they do any fun activities; this helps motivate them to do their work correctly and efficiently. At the request of their mother, Sadie and Sam also help them study for future tests, which has resulted in improved grades.

This experience with Project Uplift has been most beneficial to the youth; their family has noticed changes in their academics and behavior for the better. Tez and E'moni have completely changed the way they respond to adults after a year of Sadie and Sam correcting them and being firm with their yes's and no's. The family has been so appreciative of Sadie and Sam. Not only has Project Uplift been beneficial to Tez and E'moni, it has also been very beneficial to Sadie and Sam; spending time with Tez and E'moni definitely helps them relax and takes them away from their very busy lives. Their experience with mentoring Tez and E'moni has been a rewarding one. According to Sadie:

They have also learned the importance of patience, communication, and "how moldable kids are at a young age, and how great of an opportunity [they] have as young adults to help their future."

Clinical Services

During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Clinical Services Department has continuously worked to encourage hope, healing and recovery as a service department within this agency's wide spectrum of care. Having clinicians meet clients where they are mentally, emotionally, and physically is key in the work done in Clinical Services. Core services involve the use of evidenced based practice of Trauma Informed Therapy, Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT). Building relationships continue to be a catalyst for the clients served and is at the forefront of our therapeutic approach. Delivery of various types of therapies, diagnostic evaluations, clinical intakes, individualized treatment planning, 24-hour/7-day a week Imminent Risk Protocol emergency services and offering our consumers the skills and opportunity to heal, grow, and further develop life skills enables clients served to achieve more stability in life.

This year we continued to contract with two doctoral students in Auburn University's Counseling Psychology Department and three master level students from Clinical Community Counseling as practicum/intern therapists under the administrative supervision of the Director of Continuum Services and the Clinical Coordinator. The students were provided ongoing clinical supervision by our clinical consultant. The agency's continued relationship with Auburn University Counseling Psychology Doctoral Program and Troy State University's Department of Clinical Community Counseling affords the opportunity for students to meet full clinical training and provide diagnostic evaluations, assessments, as well as conduct individual and family therapy to LCYDC clients and Chanticleer Alternative Day students.

LCYDC's PQI/Risk Management and Training worked diligently to assure that standards of practice, policy, and procedures are in place to comply with standards as recommended by COA, Department of Youth Services, Department of Human Services, Alabama Medicaid, etc. LCYDC hosted several events during the 2017-18 fiscal year geared towards the organization's visibility of the agency by strengthening and enlightening our stakeholders. LCYDC believes that an organization-wide Performance and Quality Improvement (PQI) program advances efficient, effective service delivery and achievement of long-term strategic goals.

TransParenting

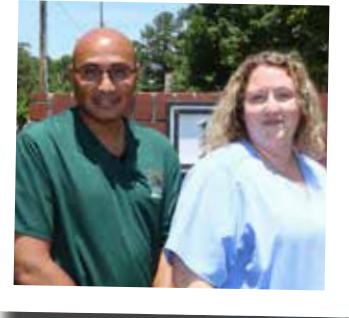
TransParenting, a court mandated educational seminar for families during transitional periods such as divorce, separations, change of custody or litigation, continues to service the population of Lee County. This seminar received an overall rating of 4.57 out of 5 during this fiscal period.

Professional Development

During fiscal year 2017-2018, the Professional Development Department provided a comprehensive program of training and professional development which improved organizational effectiveness and productivity. There were two additional staff certified to be CPR trainers. The department along with Employment Services, under the guidance of consultant, Dr. Chenavis Evans, started the beginning phases of a new employee on-boarding process. Partnerships with Auburn University and Lee County Sheriff's Department for Women's Self Defense continued this training year. Our training curriculum is continuously evolving to comply with national accreditation and state licensing requirements, educate and train employees, and to meet client needs.

Medical Services

Medical Services, in conjunction with Family Medicine Associates, is proud to offer comprehensive medical care for residents of all programs. Medical clinic is held once a week on campus for annual physicals, sick calls and follow-up appointments for on-going medical treatments. This year we became CLIA waived and expanded our services to provide on-site urinalysis, blood glucose and hemoglobin/ hematocrit testing. Residents who need vision, dental or specialist appointments are out-sourced to area professionals by means of referral from our department. Besides our on-site medical clinic, medical services maintain inventory of all residents' medication, provides triage to residents with injuries and ensures all residents are up-to-date on all immunizations.



Educational Services

Our Chanticleer Learning Center (CLC) continues to grow loudly. Under the agency-wide realignment plan we moved to the Continuum Division where we continue to progress on behalf of our students. Our students have enjoyed



and participated in numerous educational activities. We were excited to have been named an official State Bi-Centennial School by Governor Kay Ivey. Other activities have included the Fall Festival, Alabama 200, Auburn University Greenhouse Project,

Career Expo, Military Day, Living Artists Showcases, community service, educational field trips to historic sites, Colleges & University Tours. The students continue to enjoy a blended learning experience, replacing a small portion of the traditional face to face classroom instruction with online learning via Plato. Student participation has increased significantly with increased credit recovery but maintaining mastery of academics to promote grade level work to allow for a smoother public-school transition. “Dropping Everything and Read” (DEAR) program was embraced by students. The CLC faculty and staff continues to work to increase student and teacher engagement, by utilizing the Alabama State Curriculum.

Our Chanticleer Day School (CDS) has constructed a state-of-the-art building, making room for 28 students. The Day School is instrumental in assisting our public school students in need of an alternative setting the opportunity to continue to meet their educational goals and graduation requirements. The CDS program currently serves on average, up to 28 students per quarter. Partnering with the LCYDC Clinical services, the students of the CDS program receive psychoeducational classes and training to include conflict resolution, alcohol and drug counseling, anger management and social skills. The CDS program provides an environment promoting change and success, with the goal of students matriculating to their public schools.

Lastly, the Auburn University Kinesiology Department continues to foster a very strong partnership with CLC, providing physical education to our students. The AU team of graduate students also provides physical education data geared to improve their overall health and wellness. An array of creative physical education activities is provided to stimulate heart healthy movement, leading to a more productive and wholesome life.

Chanticleer Learning Center continues to seek opportunities for growth in order to offer our students the best education in the state. We are proud of our accomplishments and the overall success of our students. Chanticleer Learning Center strives to make learning fun, inviting, and stimulating for all students. Having our students master academic content

while expressing themselves through art and physical fitness is something to crow about.

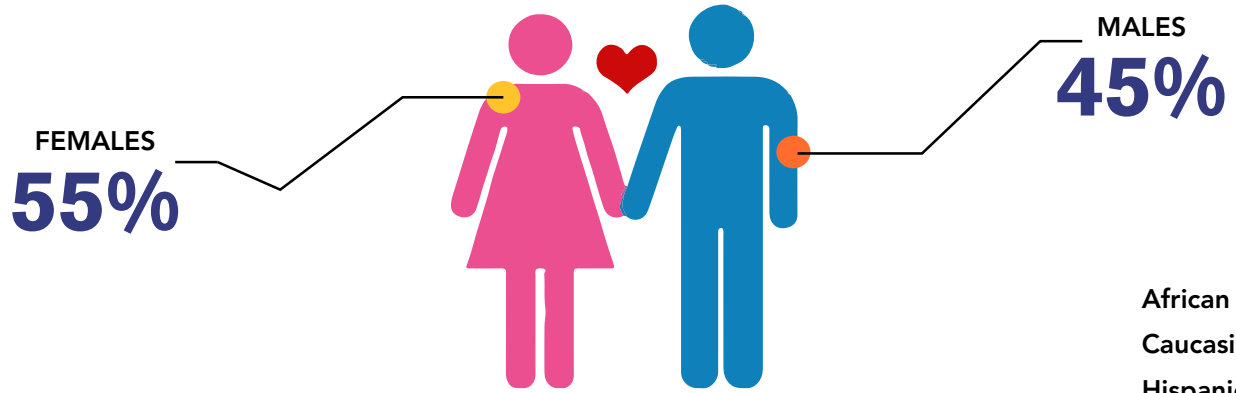
Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program/The Abstinence Education Program is taught to 7-9th grade students in Auburn & Opelika Schools. The Abstinence Education Program sends a powerful risk avoidance message as well as giving teens a strong knowledge base about the consequences that can go with engaging in risk behaviors. This program is vital in Lee County to continue to see reductions in teen pregnancies. Lee Counties teen pregnancy rate continues to fall below the state rate. The state rate is 14.7% and Lee County is at 8.8% which has fallen from 11.8% the previous year.

Total # of clients accepted: 2,109	
Age range of clients served:	12-18 Yrs.
# of Lee County Residents served:	2,109
# of Out of County Residents served:	0

The Home Alone Safety Program is presented to 4th grade students in Auburn, Opelika, & Lee County Schools. This program helps students to become aware and informed regarding ways they can stay at home safely when there is no responsible adult at home. This program gives students tips on safety, decision making, obeying home rules, emergency preparedness, stranger danger, internet safety, & bullying prevention.

Total # of clients accepted: 892	
Age range of clients served:	9-10 Yrs.
# of Lee County Residents served:	892
# of Out of County Residents served:	0

The Home Alone Safety Programs Pre to Post test surveys showed an increase in knowledge in all measured results. These results were increased in knowledge of safety awareness, decision making skills, emergency preparedness, as well as home rules.



By Race

African American	53%
Caucasian	42%
Hispanic/Other	5%

4,506 Individuals Impacted

Abstinence Education Program.....	2,109
Home Alone Safety.....	892
R.D. Lane Regional Detention Center of East Alabama.....	245
Voyages.....	59
GENESYS (Closed).....	23
Intensive In-Home Services (IIHS).....	108
Project Uplift.....	659
TFC.....	38
Journeys.....	97
Passages.....	52
TLP.....	36
ILP.....	7
TransParenting.....	187



LEE COUNTY

Youth Development Center

1973 - 2018

**45 Years of
Caring Excellence**

www.lcydc.org

Founders

**Mrs. Cecil D. Moreman
Mrs. Jane C. Walker**