



Franklin County
**Children
Services**

Protecting Children by Strengthening Families



Bettering Lives, One Child and Family at a Time

Franklin County Children Services | Report To The Community | 2015

Franklin County Children Services Guiding Principles

We Are Child Welfare Professionals

- We constantly pursue excellence
- We recognize the importance of providing effective and timely services
- We value, respect and support each other
- We are proud that we improve the quality of life for families in our community
- We are fiscally responsible
- We aspire to be culturally competent

We Honor Families

- We respect families' strengths
- We understand families are the experts of their own experience
- We recognize that children are best served within their family and community
- We separate what parents do from who they are

We Value Every Child

- We respect the individuality of each child we serve
- We advocate for each child's safety, permanency and well-being
- We honor each child's family and culture

We Value Partnerships

- Families have the right to be a part of the decision-making team
- Casework is the most important function of the agency team
- Families, communities and government share the responsibility to keep children safe



Franklin County
**Children
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Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

Our Mission: Safety, Permanency and Well-being for Every Child

Through collaboration with families and their communities, we advocate for the safety, permanency and well-being of each child we serve in a manner that honors family and culture.



Bettering Lives, One Child and Family at a Time

When I have the opportunity to introduce our agency's annual report, it can be challenging deciding what to highlight. That's because our employees, in partnership with the community, do so many outstanding things. This agency continues to be an innovator in ensuring the safety, permanency and well-being of Franklin County's children.

While we have much to be proud of, there are still challenges ahead. This past year, we enlisted input from our community partners, those we serve and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, to help define our strategic vision. This led to a focus in two key areas. First, we want to improve outcomes for adolescents, which begins by placing them in the least restrictive environment and a family-like setting whenever safely possible. We also want to cultivate a strong, sustainable workforce—staff that provides quality support and services to every child and every family.

Teens are coming into Children Services' care at a much higher rate than ever before—primarily because of behavioral issues, not because of abuse or neglect. Far too many of these youth are being placed in group (congregate) care. While FCCS believes that all children are best served within their families and communities, placement in non-family settings has become the most utilized option for teens. The data shows, however, that these youth in congregate care experience less stability and more negative outcomes than those in family-like settings. To address this, our goal is to work with the courts, our community providers and other partners to develop better options and resources to bring about greater outcomes for our teens.



Chip Spinning with 2015 Community Advocate Award Winners Eli and Gabe Rahm. The brothers have donated hundreds of backpacks, which they collected during birthday parties over the past five years, to children served by Children Services.

Empowering FCCS staff to do their best work for our youth and families is imperative. We are doing that in many ways including increasing staff mobility via technology, improving retention and worker support programs, and enhancing our orientation and training offerings.

I often say that Children Services cannot do this work alone. You will see examples throughout this report of how our staff, volunteers, families and community partners are focused on *Bettering Lives, One Child and Family at a Time*.

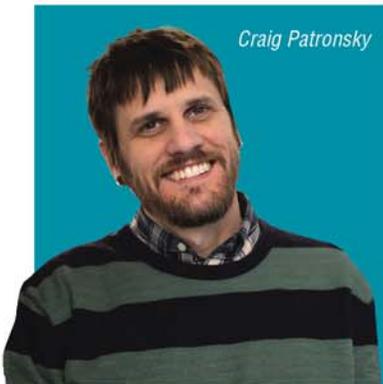
Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chip M. Spinning".

Chip M. Spinning
Executive Director
Franklin County Children Services

FCCS Caseworkers: Dedicated Child and Family Advocates

Child welfare caseworkers carry out Franklin County Children Services' mission of ensuring the safety and well being of children while building strong families. Here are three outstanding caseworkers—out of more than 300 here at FCCS—who are making a huge difference in the lives of kids and families every single day.



Craig Patronsky



Kelly Crawford



Allison Addison

West Region caseworker **Craig Patronsky**, who has almost 20 years of child welfare experience, excels at helping youth overcome difficult circumstances to realize their potential. “Kids who are troubled often carry baggage from experiencing traumatic situations that are beyond their control,” he says. “They need help in coping before they can succeed.” With patience and persistence, Patronsky has witnessed many positive changes in the lives of his kids, “seeing a young person move to the next stage in life with the skills that they need to succeed,” he says. “That can mean going to college or a trade school, getting a job and living independently, reconnecting with family or just resolving whatever conflicts are keeping them from living happily.”

Finding “forever” families for children is what adoptions caseworker **Kelly Crawford** does on a daily basis. Crawford, a 25-year FCCS veteran, believes that every child deserves a permanent, loving home, whether it's for a sibling group of seven or a teenager about to age out of foster care. Crawford works tirelessly for children awaiting adoption, searching all over the United States for families who might make the perfect match.

The best part of Crawford's job is seeing children flourish when they've finally found their ideal family. “I worked with a teenager who was nonverbal and on a lot of medication,” she recalls. “Since he's been adopted, he's off all of his medication, is playing sports and has just blossomed.”

Going above and beyond is the norm for intake caseworker **Allison Addison**, who has been with FCCS for almost five years. She routinely does everything she can to help the families on her caseload. Addison recalls working with a mother battling substance abuse who had left her children with neighbors and never came home. Addison was determined to help this woman, “because I knew that she was an awesome mother before her addiction took over her life,” she says. “We would drive around looking for her in the evening to try and get her into treatment.” Seeing her families overcome challenging circumstances keeps Addison motivated. “It's rewarding to know that I am just a small part of the positive changes they are making in their lives,” she says.

FCCS Kinship Program: Family Caring for Family

Newlyweds Hildred and Billy Burroughs were just starting their lives together when they got the call. It was 2012 and because of abuse concerns and severe drug abuse issues, two of their youngest relatives were in immediate need of a safe place to stay. The Burroughs worked closely with Franklin County Children Services and soon, Hildred's step granddaughter's children April and Karson came into their home. A year later, they were joined by sibling Aurora. Today, all three children—now ages 2, 3 and 4—are safe, happy and lovingly looked after by the Burroughs, better known as Nana and Papa.

Franklin County Children Services relies on kinship families like the Burroughs—aunts, uncles, grandparents or even close family friends—to build a framework of support around children who, for one reason or another, cannot safely live with their parents. Sometimes, it's a temporary placement in a time of crisis while other times it's a permanent arrangement.

Kinship care is often the next best option when kids can't safely remain with their parents, preserving a vital sense of family and identity while maintaining an invaluable connection to culture and tradition. In 2015, Franklin County Children Services placed 1,679 children in kinship care, offering a range of support services to help these families and children more readily adapt to their changing circumstances.

The Burroughs, who now have legal custody of April, Karson, and Aurora, are committed to giving these siblings encouragement, support and stability—the kind of life every child deserves. While the Burroughs didn't intend to be chasing after three energetic little kids at this point in their lives, they certainly wouldn't change a thing. “Four years ago, we had just gotten married and had a different idea of how we would be spending our time,” Hildred says. “But these kids needed us and that's what you do for family.”

Billy agrees. “We love them,” he says. “These are our kids.” For more information on how Franklin County Children Services supports kinship families like the Burroughs, visit childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov

Hildred and Billy Burroughs with their children April, Aurora and Karson



FCCS Mentors: Being There When It Matters Most

For children involved in the child welfare system, consistent love, guidance and encouragement truly makes all the difference. Franklin County Children Services mentor Tom Craig knows this because he has been there himself. Adopted through FCCS when he was just 11 months old, Craig personally understands how important it is to be there for children in need. Becoming a mentor through the agency's Friendship volunteer program made perfect sense to him. "My experience was very positive, so I've always wanted to make a difference for kids who weren't as lucky as I was," Craig says.

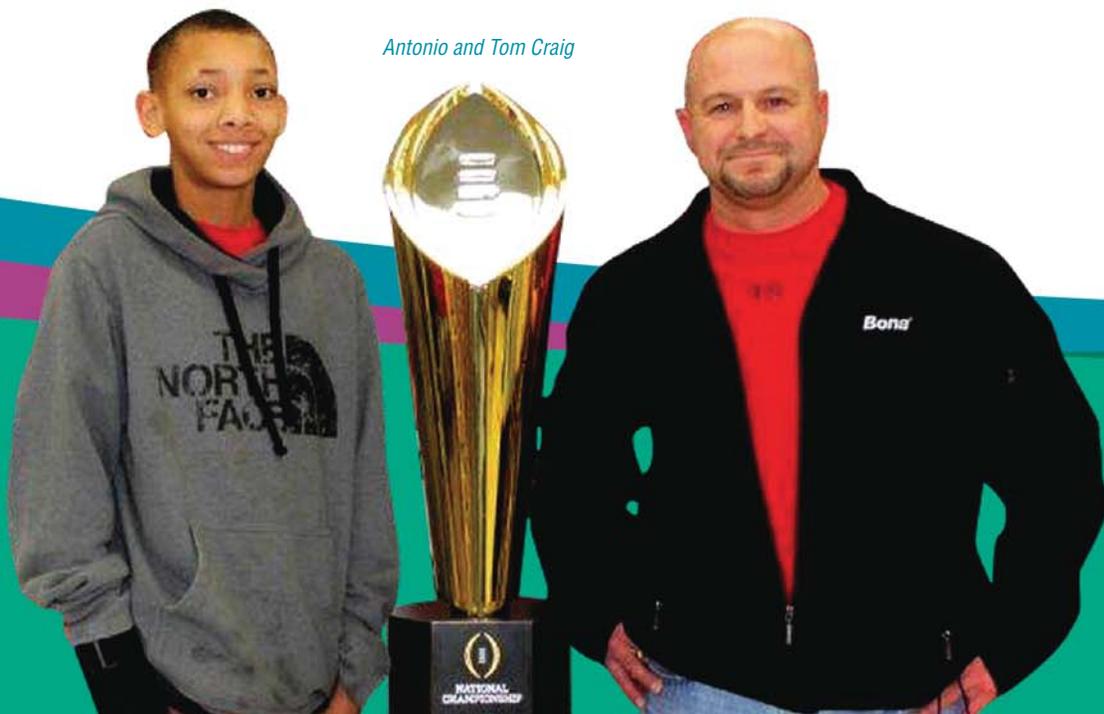
Craig, who manages a small business, has mentored 14-year-old Antonio for the past four years. The duo met while at Starfish Alliance's Royal Family Kids Camp, where Craig has served as both a counselor and dean of men over the past eight years. He got to know Antonio and decided to build on their relationship by committing to being the youth's mentor. "The individual attention and quality time that mentors give kids in tough circumstances is probably what they lack most—a consistent, positive influence in their lives," he says.

Craig is proud to be Antonio's mentor. "He's growing into a fine young man and a great athlete," he says of Antonio, who is involved in track and basketball. They enjoy spending time together at local sporting events.

Craig encourages others to mentor, since the need is always there. "It's easy to get angry about the bad things we see in the world these days, but I think that at the heart of a lot of bad situations there has been childhood trauma," Craig says. "You can make a positive change in the lives of kids who've experienced trauma just by being there as an example. It's not hard."

Offering a range of volunteer programs, FCCS is always looking for dedicated mentors like Tom Craig who are ready to be there for a child in need. Find out more about the transformative power of mentoring by calling 614-275-2690 or visiting childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov/

Antonio and Tom Craig





The Bost family

FCCS's Family-to-Family Program: The Power of Community-Based Support

Like so many of us navigating life's ups and downs, Keata and Richard Bost just needed a little extra guidance when times got difficult for them and their three children. Thanks to Franklin County Children Services' Family-to-Family program, the Bosts got the assistance they needed to help them stay resilient while weathering challenging circumstances. Parenting classes, money management groups, adult support groups and youth services are all resources that this Columbus family has readily taken advantage of through Family-to-Family.

Family-to-Family offers that extra support and encouragement that could mean the difference between stability or a crisis situation for a family in need. A grassroots community partnership established in 2000, the program helps hundreds of FCCS-referred families like the Bosts right in their own neighborhoods, giving them the tools to remain healthy and self-sufficient. Whether it's preparing a single mom of four for a job interview, teaching a young man how to better budget his money or ensuring that a little girl with chronic medical issues is getting to her doctor's appointments, Family-to-Family is ready to help.

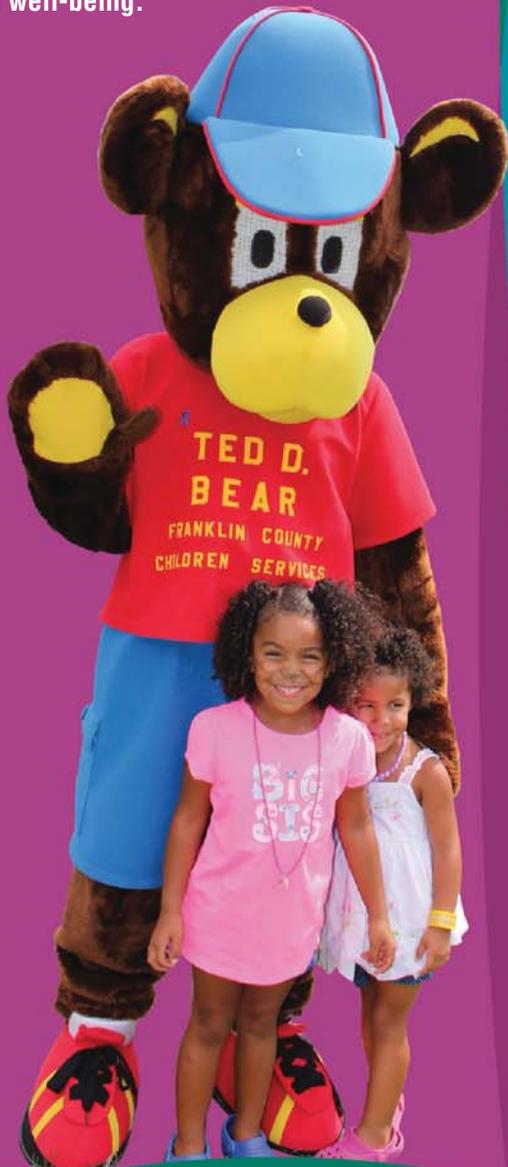
Serving families in 13 zip codes throughout the greater Columbus area, Family-to-Family partners with St. Stephen's East, North and South locations as well as Central Community House on the near east side, and Gladden Community House on the city's near west side in Franklinton. Breaking down traditional barriers to success and stability, the program assists families in accessing supportive services right where they live.

Families are more likely to overcome personal challenges when they can utilize resources and draw on support from their own communities, according to Megan Stevens, Franklin County Children Service's director of community development. "For more than 15 years, the Family-to-Family program has clearly demonstrated that community-based partnerships work when it comes to achieving positive outcomes for children and their families," Stevens says.

For more on how Franklin County Children Services' Family-to-Family program strengthens and empowers families in their own neighborhoods, visit childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov

Committed to Our Community's Children

Children are at the very heart of what Franklin County Children Services does on a daily basis. We strive to promote safety, foster growth and ensure that our kids have all that they need to transition into healthy, happy adults. Here are just a few examples of how we're valuing every child and advocating for their safety, permanency and well-being.



FamJam Family Enrichment Festival



Annual Independent Living & Life Skills Development Conference



National Adoption Month



Simba Mentoring Program – Rites of Passage



Malaika Mentoring Program – Annual Retreat



Volunteer Department Back-to-School Potluck



Therapeutic Arts Program



Children's Day at COSI



Annual Graduation Party



Child Abuse Prevention Breakfast Scholarship Winners



Ohio Teen Institute Leadership Conference



Holiday Wish Toy Drive



Franklin County Children Services 2015 Report of Services

Franklin County Children Services provided help for **32,659** children and their families via direct services from the agency's professional staff and through purchased services from provider agencies.



Prevention

Children Services believes that its mission to protect children by strengthening families can best be carried out by offering a variety of support services to families at every stage of a case. Prevention services are designed to provide help to families and children to prevent case openings, to prevent out-of-home placement of children, to prevent further maltreatment of children, and to prevent the recidivism of children who have returned home following placement.

Services are aligned with the Children Services mission and with meeting federal goals in three areas: permanency, well-being and safety.

Permanency

Children Services is committed to assuring a safe, permanent home for each child who cannot remain with or return to family.

In 2015:

- **152** adoptions were legalized
- For older youth under Children Services' care, **405** emancipation cases were referred to services & resources focused on achieving independence and self-sufficiency
- **58** youth involved with the agency graduated from high school or received their GED

Well-being

Children Services provides special opportunities and services to children and youth to enhance their well-being.

- **503** children were mentored by more than **529** volunteers through the agency's Friendship, Malaika, Simba and College-Bound mentoring programs. Youth were also helped by **68** FCCS crisis center volunteers at the agency's intake & investigations office.
- **6,072** children received gifts through the Holiday Wish program provided by **1,429** individuals and **297** groups, with the assistance of more than **212** Holiday Wish volunteers
- **223** youth received services through the Therapeutic Arts Program, in partnership with Neighborhood House, the Ohio Arts Council and Blick Art Materials

24-hour Child Abuse Hotline:

614-229-7000

General Information:

614-275-2571

Adoption:

614-341-6060

Kinship:

614-341-6161

Volunteers & Mentors:

614-275-2690

Communications:

614-275-2523



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

Safety

Children Services intake and investigations staff provides protective services by investigating referrals of children who are alleged to be abused, neglected or dependent. These services are provided 24 hours a day. FCCS also accepts referrals from the Franklin County Juvenile Court on youth who are unruly or delinquent.

When investigations indicate a need for ongoing services, a case is opened and sent to one of the agency's two regions or two managed care partner agencies. Children Services provides case management, protective and supportive services, as well as purchased services from community agencies within a case plan agreed to by the family and Children Services casework staff.

In 2015, there were:

- **31,729** intake referrals received
- **12,647** family investigations completed
- Ongoing services for **5,249** cases
- Protective services for **14,697** individual family members
- Family services for **3,326** children through managed care partnerships
- **12,216** children served as part of the agency's active ongoing caseload

Every effort is made by Children Services to keep children with their families whenever safely possible. When out-of-home placement is necessary, the agency's goal is to place children in the least restrictive environment, to provide opportunities for and to facilitate regular visitation, and to reunite families as soon as this can be safely accomplished.

In 2015, Franklin County Children Services had:

- **4,225** children in agency custody
- **3,170** children in paid care
- **2,277** children placed in purchased foster care
- **1,228** children placed in group or institutional care
- **1,679** children placed with relatives



Franklin County Children Services 2015 Income Statistics

Local &
Miscellaneous
Funds
71%

Federal Funds
26%

State Revenue **3%**

Operating Fund Balance as of January 1, 2015 **\$131,054,185**

Income **(Cash Basis):**

Local & Miscellaneous Funds **\$128,664,882**

Property Taxes	\$127,136,581
Interfund Revenue	935,061
Board & Care from Parents	249,277
Miscellaneous	343,962

Federal Funds **\$48,009,495**

Title IV-E Placement (Administration)	\$6,078,507
Title IV-E ProtectOHIO Waiver	23,171,260
Title IV-E Administration	13,425,798
Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, VA Benefits	662,237
Title IV-B - ESSA (Emergency Services Supplemental Assistance)	462,602
CHAFFEE Independent Living Program	827,307
Gateway CALL	429,844
Miscellaneous	2,951,940

State Revenue **\$4,847,576**

Regional Training	\$680,234
Child Protective & Feisel Allocation	3,288,538
Miscellaneous	878,805

Total 2015 Income **\$181,521,953**

Beginning Balance plus 2015 Income **\$312,576,138**

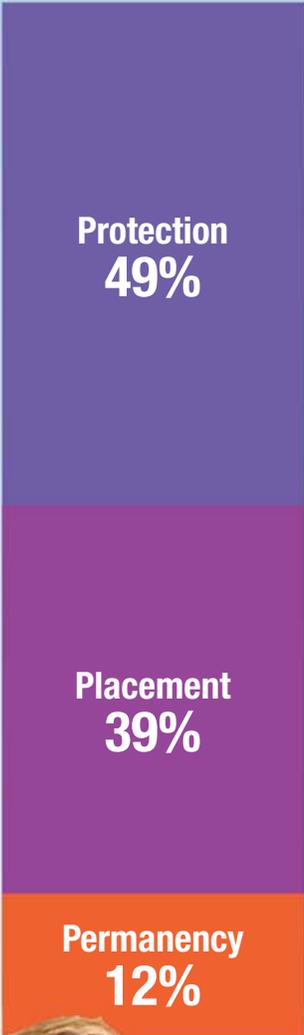


Franklin County Children Services 2015 Expense Statistics

Operating Expenditures

(Cash Basis):

Protection Program	\$87,283,151
Intake & Investigations	\$26,909,136
Casework Protective Services	34,746,774
Care Partnerships	23,865,106
Family Support Services	1,762,136
Placement Program	\$74,334,119
Family Care Services	\$7,452,664
Foster Home Care	23,847,354
Group Home Care	10,177,081
Kinship Care	2,951,951
Institutional Care	29,905,070
Permanency Program	\$19,064,250
Adoption Services	\$12,465,759
Child Enrichment Services	3,731,475
Emancipation Services	2,867,015
Capital Expenditures (Fund 2021)	\$143,625
Total 2015 Operating Expenditures	\$180,825,145
Operating Fund Balance as of December 31, 2015	\$131,750,993
Ending Balance plus 2015 Expenses	\$312,576,138



Franklin County Children Services

2015 Purchased Services

A New Leaf Inc.	\$1,307,296	Indiana Developmental Training Center	\$672,036
Acadia Healthcare	30,530	Jessica Wallace	34,234
ADAMH FCCS CALL	100,000	Julia Paige Family Center LLC	180,066
ADAMH FCCS ECMH/CW	200,000	Keystone Richland Center LLC	416,104
ADAMH FCCS Functional Family Therapy	55,394	Kids Count, Too Inc.	32,850
ADAMH FCCS MST	200,000	LHS Family and Youth Services	1,545,036
Adelphoi Village	215,934	LifeStart Inc.	488,273
Adriel School	1,349,455	Marsh Foundation	73,000
Alliance Health & Human Services	651,016	Maryhaven Inc.	1,452,803
Applewood Centers	117,645	Mustard Seed Foundation	102,850
Bair Foundation	1,717,938	National Youth Advocate Program Inc.	16,149,102
Beech Brook	191,217	Neighborhood House	34,000
Bellefaire JCB	233,570	Netcare Access	227,125
BHC Belmont Pines Hospital	921,868	New Beginnings Residential Treatment Center	136,065
BHC Fox Run Center For Children & Adolescents	1,476,472	New Hope Carolinas	85,950
Big Brothers Big Sisters Association	143,065	New Horizons Ranch and Center Inc.	110,000
Buckeye Ranch	21,033,945	New Life Group Homes LLC	801,325
Building Bridges II Inc.	26,250	New Story of Ohio LLC	3,249,560
Caregivers Helper, Inc.	146,617	Nexus	59,060
Carie Ehrenborg, Attorney At Law	62,000	Oasis Therapeutic Foster Care Inc.	761,964
Caring For Kids, Inc.	61,062	Oconomowoc Residential Programs Inc.	217,745
Carrington Youth Academy	401,660	Oesterlen Services for Youth	1,049,262
Center for Family Safety and Healing	155,515	OhioGuidestone	1,739,056
Children's Hunger Alliance	99,000	Parents Anonymous Inc.	144,790
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center	782,589	Pomegranate Health Systems	4,881,201
Columbus City Treasurer	172,748	Rite of Passage	224,351
Community Refugee & Immigration Services	110,900	Safehouse Ministries Inc.	153,450
Consumer Support Services, Inc.	2,058,218	Social Security Administration	48,649
Cornell Abraxas Group Inc.	346,561	Southeast Inc.	650,299
Damar Services	212,572	Specialized Alternatives for Families & Youth	1,705,635
D.O.Y. Services, Inc.	708,009	Spectrum Juvenile Justice Services	114,975
Dungarvin Ohio LLC	525,854	St. Stephen's Community Services Inc.	1,098,766
Eastway Behavioral Healthcare	1,339,468	St. Vincent Family Center	1,732,419
Educational Service Center of Central Ohio	1,823,659	Step By Step Academy Inc.	48,015
ENA Inc.	745,961	Toledo Center for Eating Disorders	46,400
Fairfield Academy	212,428	Tri-State Youth Authority Inc.	2,917,548
Fairfield Information Services & Associates	347,375	UMCH Family Services	1,745,767
Family Based Services	45,754	Village Network	5,632,476
George Junior Republic In Pennsylvania	962,873	White Deer Run Inc.	442,400
Greater Hilltop Area Shalom Zone	43,166	Woodridge of Missouri LLC	554,835
Hittle House LLC	166,112	Woods Services Inc.	226,442
House of New Hope	1,100,639	Youth Advocate Services	1,558,829
Huckleberry House Inc.	236,949		

Subtotal

\$ 96,383,997

Payment to Children Services Adoptive Homes

\$ 4,533,890

Other Purchased Social Services

\$ 9,624,590

Total Purchased Social Services

\$ 110,542,477



2015 Commissioners, Board & Committees

Franklin County Commissioners

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Paula Brooks
John O'Grady

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John Henson
Beth Heyer
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