

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY | 2016

Stories of Strength & Resilience



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families



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



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.



Stories of Strength & Resilience

“Blood makes you related, loyalty makes you family. Thank you for your support in finding and strengthening family for this kiddo.”

- Rayshawn Wilson,
former Franklin County Children Services youth

Those of us in child protection are encouraged and inspired when we hear stories of strength and resilience from individuals like Rayshawn Wilson, who has gone on to be a respected mentor in Franklin County Children Services' Simba program. Fortunately we have the privilege of witnessing many of these examples every day. This may seem unusual considering that our mandate is to protect and care for Franklin County's abused, neglected, dependent and troubled youth. Often this causes us to become involved with families during some of the most vulnerable and tragic times of their lives. But as part of that intervention, we see resiliency when children are kept safe, families are reunited or other bridges of support are built through kin, foster and adoptive parents or mentors.

To do this work and achieve positive outcomes for those we serve, it not only takes our professional staff but many community partners and others who care about the well-being of children. We appreciate and embrace that support because strong communities help create strong families.



Executive Director Chip Spinning at 2016 Children's Day at COSI

Another essential component that brings me great pride and enables the agency to have a positive impact on Franklin County's children and families is our workforce. Each day throughout this agency I see resiliency and strength personified as coworkers support each other through difficult times; advocate for youth on their caseloads; ensure that families receive needed services even if it means working longer hours; and doing whatever it takes to achieve our mission. This annual report to the community is clearly a reflection of the achievements of our child welfare professionals.

While Children Services sees children every day who suffer from the effects of abuse and neglect, we also get to witness the often inspiring acts of those who help them recover.

Thank you,

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

Chip M. Spinning
Executive Director
Franklin County Children Services

Protecting Children & Preserving Families Through Kinship Care

A devoted aunt and mother, Franklin County Children Services kinship caregiver Alice Williams is the epitome of strength and resilience. Williams spent much of her own childhood involved with the child welfare system. She was in and out of foster care for much of her life and eventually emancipated from FCCS as a teenage mother of two children. Years later, when her nephew and niece appeared to be on a similar path, Williams stepped up without hesitation. She wanted them to have the stable, nurturing childhood she never got to have. *“Six generations of my family have been involved with Children Services,” Williams says. “Once I became a mother, I decided to break that cycle.”*

Franklin County Children Services relies on kinship caregivers like Williams—aunts, uncles, grandparents or even close family friends—to provide ongoing support for children who, for one reason or another, cannot safely live with their parents. Sometimes, it’s an emergency placement in a time of crisis, while other times it’s a permanent arrangement.

For Williams, she obtained legal custody of her nephew when the need arose and ensures that he receives all necessary medical treatment. This young man with special needs is currently thriving under her compassionate care. When Williams suspected that a niece was being

physically abused, she pursued her suspicions. She did not rest until the child received proper medical care and was safely in her custody. According to her kinship caseworker, Williams is responsible for saving this little girl’s life. Thanks to her loving aunt, this child is now healthy, confident and outgoing.

From her youth spent in foster care to her present day role as a dedicated kinship care provider, Williams appreciates FCCS for the guidance and support she’s received over the years. *“Children Services is a tool that is there to help you make positive changes,” she says.*

Alice Williams and family



Champions for Our Children

It's a question with an obvious answer: if you could make a positive difference in the life of a child, why wouldn't you? Franklin County Children Services mentor Bianca Conie is glad she took that leap. She's one of hundreds of FCCS mentors who partner one-on-one with youth to enrich their lives, boost self-esteem and help them realize their potential. *"If you just take a chance on a child, you'll be rewarded much more than you could anticipate,"* says Conie, who has been a mentor to 10-year-old Beth for the past two years. *"A lot of people want to help, but they're a little intimidated, wondering if they'll have a good match. But it's worth the risk."*

Franklin County Children Services relies on committed volunteers like Conie to make a difference in the lives of youth involved with the agency. For the hundreds of kids who are in the child welfare system through no fault of their own, having a dedicated mentor can mean the difference between being in a place of crisis or a place of promise, according to Elizabeth Crabtree, FCCS director of volunteers. *"A role model willing to create a relationship and share positive lessons can be utterly transformative,"* she says.

Conie's mentee Beth, who lives with her grandparents and two sisters, has endured difficult circumstances including being separated from her birth parents. Having a mentor like Conie come into her life has provided some welcome extra support.



Mentor Bianca Conie and her mentee Beth

"Fortunately, she has her grandparents, sisters and now she has me," Conie says. *"I can just help her get her mind off of things. We have a lot of fun."*

Conie also maintains a strong relationship with her mentee's grandparents. *"I always spend some time with them before and after we go out, so they know what we're doing,"* she says. Conie believes that everyone has gained from the experience. *"I feel like Beth is part of our family, and they make me feel like I'm part of theirs."*

FCCS is always looking for motivated mentors like Bianca Conie who are ready to support a youth in need. Call 614-275-2690 or visit childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov for more information.

On the Front Lines of Child Welfare, Changing Lives

In good times and bad, they're there for our kids and families. When parents are struggling, our child welfare professionals provide a word of encouragement. When families overcome challenges, the same caseworkers are there to help celebrate the often hard-won victories. Here's a look at three FCCS direct service staff who are always there, creating positive outcomes for children and families.



One of the “voices” of Franklin County Children Services, **Bethany Workman** answers calls that come into FCCS’s 24-hour child abuse hotline. Workman loves the fast pace of the agency’s intake and investigations department. *“It’s incredibly unpredictable and that keeps you on your toes,”* she says. As an intake off-shift worker, Workman will periodically handle crisis cases that come in unexpectedly and enjoys being a support for families facing difficult circumstances. She recently helped a mother of four who was in trouble with law enforcement. Workman arranged for this mom to receive temporary care for her kids while she sorted out her legal issues and the family was eventually safely reunited. Connecting with families like this is the most rewarding part of her job, Workman says.

As an adoptions caseworker for almost two decades, **Deric Cobb** has been a steadfast support to countless youth who have come into the agency’s permanent custody. *“Once the kids get here, we are their parents, their advocates,”* he says. *“Whatever decision is made here affects the rest of their lives. That’s not something you look upon lightly.”* According to Cobb, his proudest

moments have been seeing one of his youth *“achieve something they didn’t think was possible,”* whether it’s winning a prize at school, getting into college or finding an adoptive family. Those success stories *“lift your spirits and continue to drive you to help others,”* he says.

When a child in out-of-home care is possibly abused or neglected, **Brooks Jaccaud** is ready to find out what *really* happened. Part of the FCCS intake & investigations unit based at Nationwide Children’s Child Assessment Center, Jaccaud specializes in out-of-home investigations, looking into possible child abuse in *“any situation where the alleged perpetrator is caring for kids,”* she says. This could be, for example, a teacher, a day care worker, or a camp counselor. While her job can be complicated and often adversarial, Jaccaud excels at the detective work involved in conducting investigations. *“I like figuring things out,”* she says. *“It’s rewarding when “after digging and digging, you finally get the information you’re looking for.”* This is when Jaccaud’s job matters most: the moments she can act as a child advocate, *“giving kids a voice,”* she says.

Helping Families Help Themselves

Single mom Cynthia Allen and her six children are in a good place right now and Franklin County Children Services was instrumental in helping them get there. Proactively partnering with families in need, FCCS's grassroots Family-to-Family program helps parents like Allen weather challenging circumstances and discover their own strengths and resilience in the process.

Before Allen became linked with Family to Family, she faced tremendous adversity, dealing with an abusive spouse, a lack of stable housing and transportation barriers. Once involved with Family to Family through Central Community House, Allen was able to secure safe housing, find employment and provide stability for her children. Today, this devoted mom and courageous domestic violence survivor is every bit the success story: a manager at a local retirement home who even has her own family van to shuttle her kids around town.

For parents like Allen, Family to Family provides the extra support and encouragement that can mean all the difference in a crisis situation. Now in its 17th year, this innovative program helps hundreds of FCCS-referred families right in their own communities, giving them the tools to remain healthy and self-sufficient. Whether it's helping a homeless family locate permanent housing, encouraging a young man to go back to school and earn his GED, or connecting a new teenage mother with parenting resources, Family to Family tailors its services to meet every family's individual needs.

Serving families in 13 ZIP codes throughout the greater Columbus area, Family to Family partners with St. Stephen's East, North and South (in Reeb Avenue Center) 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 stability, the program assists families in accessing supportive services right where they live.

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



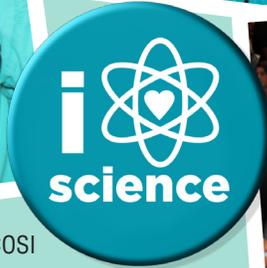
Cynthia Allen and her six children

In their own words... reflections of resilience

Franklin County Children Services helps youth involved in the child welfare system overcome challenges and lay a foundation for future success. Here are insights from some of our youth on their experience with FCCS.



Children's Day at COSI



“Thank you for showing me the light when all I knew was darkness.”

“Thank you for being supportive.”

“Thank you for caring.”



Annual Graduation Party



“Thank you for not giving up on me.”

“I'm glad you are in my life.”



Child Abuse Prevention Breakfast



Child Abuse Prevention Breakfast Scholarship Winners



Kinship School Supply Giveaway



“Thank you for putting me at the top of your priorities.”

“Thank you for being there when I felt like I had no one.”



Malaika Mentoring Program



“I really don’t have anyone to guide me. I am looking to you with trust to be a figure of guidance.”



Therapeutic Arts Program



“Thank you for being there for me. You are my hope and adventure that I look forward to every week at TAP (Therapeutic Arts Program).”



Franklin County Children Services 2016 Report of Services

Franklin County Children Services provided help for **32,941** 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 2016:

- **170** adoptions were legalized
- For older youth under Children Services' care, **359** emancipation cases were referred to services & resources focused on achieving independence and self-sufficiency
- **62** 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.

- **500** children were mentored by more than **506** 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.
- **6,195** children received gifts through the Holiday Wish program provided by **1,460** individuals and **280** groups, with the assistance of more than **232** Holiday Wish volunteers
- **217** 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:

614-229-7100

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 2016, there were:

- **31,639** intake referrals received
- **11,818** family investigations completed
- Ongoing services for **5,548** cases
- Protective services for **15,534** individual family members
- Family services to **3,607** children through managed care partnerships
- **12,860** children served on 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 2016, Franklin County Children Services had:

- **4,547** children in agency custody
- **3,320** children in paid care
- **2,383** children placed in purchased foster care
- **1,261** children placed in group or institutional care
- **1,651** children placed with relatives



Franklin County Children Services 2016 Income Statistics

Local &
Miscellaneous
Funds
70%

Federal Funds
27%

State Revenue **3%**

Operating Fund Balance as of January 1, 2016 **\$131,750,992**

Income **(Cash Basis):**

Local & Miscellaneous Funds **\$131,032,152**

Property Taxes	\$129,090,010
Interfund Revenue	1,346,645
Board & Care from Parents	293,010
Miscellaneous	302,487

Federal Funds **\$51,929,769**

Title IV-E Placement (Administration)	\$6,285,841
Title IV-E ProtectOHIO Waiver	23,926,215
Title IV-E Administration	15,122,058
Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, VA Benefits	625,943
Title IV-B - ESSA (Emergency Services Supplemental Assistance)	552,167
CHAFFEE Independent Living Program	873,187
Gateway CALL	426,945
Miscellaneous	4,117,413

State Revenue **\$4,791,284**

Regional Training	\$701,818
Child Protective & Feisel Allocation	3,195,765
Miscellaneous	893,701

Total 2016 Income **\$187,753,205**

Beginning Balance plus 2016 Income **\$319,504,197**



Franklin County Children Services 2016 Expense Statistics

Operating Expenditures

(Cash Basis):

Protection Program	\$89,124,263
Intake & Investigations	\$30,058,642
Casework Protective Services	31,501,748
Care Partnerships	25,389,056
Family Support Services	2,174,817
Placement Program	\$77,461,314
Family Care Services	\$10,413,997
Foster Home Care	25,297,173
Group Home Care	11,238,460
Kinship Care	2,106,862
Institutional Care	28,404,822
Permanency Program	\$20,893,139
Adoption Services	\$12,655,039
Child Enrichment Services	5,513,779
Emancipation Services	2,724,320
Total 2016 Operating Expenditures	\$187,478,716
Operating Fund Balance as of December 31, 2016	\$132,025,482
Ending Balance plus 2016 Expenses	\$319,504,197



Franklin County Children Services

2016 Purchased Services

A New Leaf, Inc.	\$1,426,307	Julia Paige Family Center	\$237,104
Abraxas Youth & Family	\$37,601	Kids Count Too	\$141,010
Action For Children (Family Asset Building)	\$44,849	LHS Family & Youth Services	\$984,348
ADAMH FCCS Family Functional Therapy Program	\$74,328	LifeStart Inc.	\$502,650
ADAMH FCCS Multi Systemic Therapy	\$179,312	Marsh Foundation	\$31,960
Adelphoi Village	\$425,641	Maryhaven MDFT Court	\$30,453
Adriel School	\$1,341,017	Maryhaven, Inc.	\$1,137,482
Alliance Human Services	\$685,709	Mentoring Center of Central Ohio	\$122,854
Applewood Centers	\$408,206	Mid-Ohio Psychological Services	\$1,367
Bair Foundation	\$2,038,696	Mille Lacs Academy - Nexus	\$95,927
Beech Brook Spaulding	\$44,138	Mustard Seed Foundation	\$201,925
Bellefaire JCB	\$262,863	National Youth Advocate Program (Pass & Healthy Ways)	\$5,807
Belmont Pines Hospital	\$1,567,341	National Youth Advocate Program	\$7,788,786
Buckeye Ranch	\$6,367,865	Nationwide Children's Hospital (Assessments)	\$80,566
Building Bridges II Inc.	\$30,300	Nationwide Children's Hospital (Parenting)	\$53,374
Caregivers Helper, Inc.	\$317,018	Neighborhood House (TAP)	\$22,000
Caring For Kids, Inc.	\$155,311	Netcare Access (Psychological Assessments)	\$148,465
Carrington Youth Academy	\$453,181	New Beginnings Residential Treatment Center	\$280,825
Center for Family Safety & Healing (Fostering Connections)	\$161,943	New Life Group Homes	\$1,023,387
Children's Hunger Alliance (Summer Meal Expansion)	\$89,000	New Story of Ohio	\$3,297,426
Cincinnati Children's Hospital	\$680,938	Oasis Therapeutic Foster Care Network	\$420,864
Columbus Public Health (Family Ties)	\$167,811	Oesterlen Services for Youth	\$899,034
Community Refugee & Immigration Services (Parenting)	\$151,464	OhioGuidestone	\$1,664,796
Consumer Support Services	\$1,875,988	Options Treatment Center	\$93,075
Cornell Abraxas Group	\$527,762	Other County / State Foster Home	\$80,015
Damar Services	\$7,136	Parents Anonymous (Support Group)	\$146,574
Detroit Behavioral Health	\$335,120	Pine Grove Inc.	\$48,447
Directions For Youth	\$80,000	Pinehaven Youth & Family Services	\$2,919
D.O.Y. Services, Inc.	\$808,213	Piney Ridge Center Inc. (Woodridge of Missouri)	\$1,085,785
Dungarvin Ohio, Inc.	\$546,998	Pomegranate Health Systems	\$4,887,211
Eastway Corporation	\$1,049,140	Pressley Ridge	\$2,652
Educational Service Center Of Central Ohio	\$1,920,927	Rite of Passage-Hillcrest Academy	\$50,158
ENA, Inc.	\$808,414	RTC Resource Acquisition Corp	\$61,200
Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services	\$66,666	Safehouse Ministries	\$177,072
Fairfield Information Services (Drug Screens)	\$402,813	Southeast Inc.	\$898,994
Family Based Services	\$27,296	Specialized Alternatives for Youth	\$1,777,414
Family Service of Northwest Ohio	\$1,050	Spectrum Juvenile Justice Services	\$89,802
Foundations for Living (Keystone Richland Center)	\$561,345	St. Stephen's Community Services	\$1,006,040
Fox Run Center for Children & Adolescents	\$1,265,430	St. Vincent Family Center	\$1,594,718
George Junior Republic	\$939,004	Step By Step Academy	\$105,530
Gracehaven	\$13,809	Sunrise Children's Services	\$15,965
Gravehaven Inc.	\$105,625	Transitions for Youth	\$2,684
Greater Hilltop Shalom Zone (After-school Activities)	\$52,550	Tri-State Youth Academy	\$1,262,132
Habilitation Center Inc. (Millcreek Behavioral Health)	\$226,180	UMCH Family Services-Call	\$100,054
Hittle House	\$148,792	UMCH Family Services	\$1,867,308
House of New Hope	\$1,086,805	Village Network	\$5,450,293
Huckleberry House	\$220,256	White Deer Run	\$366,234
Indiana Developmental Training Center	\$984,969	Wood Services	\$139,009
		Youth Advocate Services	\$1,735,513

Subtotal

\$73,392,370

Payment to Children Services Foster & Adoptive Homes

\$4,914,999

Other Purchased Social Services

\$485,980

Total Purchased Social Services

\$78,793,349



2016 Commissioners, Board & Committees

Franklin County Commissioners

John O'Grady, President
Paula Brooks
Marilyn Brown

Franklin County Children Services Board

Necol Russell-Washington, Chair
Mark Bobo, Vice Chair
Maggie Lewis, Secretary
Rev. Dr. Michael Bean
Jessica Goldman
Elizabeth Martinez
Douglas Moore
Timothy Ryan
Joy Soll
Tammy Wharton

Citizens Advisory Committee

Mark Bobo, Chair
Christina Wilson, Vice Chair
Chanel Edwards
Tobi Furman
Mary Pearson
Elon Simms
Peter Stevens
Sinuon Todd
Mahdi Warsama

Volunteer Services Advisory Committee

Cheryl Harger, Chair
Heather Popio, Vice Chair
Debbie Sartori, Secretary
Elizabeth Cary, Malaika Representative
John Henson, Simba Representative
Dale Gresson
Beth Heyer
Kelly Kildow
Nancy Page
James Ryan
Jacqueline Yurkoski



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

855 W. Mound Street
Columbus, Ohio 43223
614-275-2571

www.franklincountyohio.gov/children_services

