

BETTER TOGETHER

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Franklin County

**Children
Services**

Protecting Children by Strengthening Families



Franklin County
**Children
Services**

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.





*From Left to Right:
Simba Director Daryle Cobb,
Rev. Dr. Norman J. Brown,
Chip Spinning*

2019 Report to the Community A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community,

In acknowledgement of our combined efforts, I am grateful to reflect on the agency's Guiding Principles and the shared focus that has been demonstrated over the last year.

We are child welfare professionals.

FCCS has professional, committed staff who provide services to the children and families of Franklin County. Training and developmental opportunities allow our staff to enhance their knowledge and skill, providing interventions that will most appropriately impact those we serve, while addressing the important issues of abuse and neglect.

We honor families.

Children have opportunities to thrive in their own families. Support and programming for kinship providers as well as placements in family-like settings remain priorities. Increased opportunities for families to learn and grow are supported. Respect and equity are recognized, while honoring the experience and enhancing the abilities of families.

We value every child.

Children are uniquely supported as we strive to provide culturally appropriate and responsive services. Focus continues in the areas of kinship, foster care, adoption and volunteer services to meet the needs of our youth and help them move toward positive outcomes.

We value partnerships.

Partnerships with providers, constituents and community leaders reflect alignment and our shared vision. As we continue our efforts to protect children and strengthen families, Franklin County Children Services is grateful for these ongoing relationships that allow us to achieve our agency's mission.

This 2019 Report to the Community will capture in numbers and narrative, photos and experiences, the profound difference that our shared focus can have on a community.

I value and appreciate your continued support.

We are Better Together.

Chip Spinning
Executive Director

BETTER TOGETHER

Community Makes It Happen

Here at Franklin County Children Services, we can't do our job alone. We need you. Whether it's brightening the holidays for children going through a traumatic time, comforting an anxious teen moving to a new foster home or linking a family to needed neighborhood resources, we rely on our community's support to make this all happen.

Here's a look at some of our community collaborations in 2019. These endeavors enriched the lives of children & families and served as a clear reminder that we are always better together.



Marketing firm Warhol & Wall Street donated custom one-of-a-kind sneakers for FCCS youth



FCCS supporting community partner Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services



FCCS Associate Director Sonya Harrison honored for collaboration with Nationwide Children's Hospital

FCCS Malaika Advisory Council at Black Girl Magic holiday toy drive



Community volunteers Shane & Julia at FCCS Holiday Visitation

National Family Week Celebration at St. Stephen's



Children's Day at COSI



FamJam Family Enrichment Festival



FCCS supporting the annual UNCF Walk for Education



Kit, one of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office's therapy dogs

One Church, one of Holiday Wish's many valued community donors



CME Federal Credit Union at FCCS Holiday Visitation



Kinship Families FAMILY FIRST

Family is everything to Patty Ricketts. So when this 71-year-old grandmother's three grandchildren needed a safe, stable place to stay, there was no question that they would come live with her. "I'm doing what I was brought up to do," says Ricketts, who is one among hundreds of Franklin County Children Services' kinship caregivers who have stepped up in a time of need. "Family comes first. You do whatever you can to take care of your family."

Since 2013, Ricketts and her husband Daniel have had legal custody of Dominic, 14, Skylar, 12, and Hannah, 9. Their North Linden household is a bustling one. "Sometimes it's chaotic," Ricketts admits, "but it's all about the kids."

According to Ricketts, Dominic is a loyal brother who's fiercely protective of his siblings; Skylar is a fishing enthusiast who enjoys doing household projects with his grandfather; and Hannah is a "girly girl" who loves Taco Bell and YouTube. The three became involved with Franklin County Children Services due to their mother's drug use, with Dominic and Skylar spending almost three years in foster care before the Ricketts ultimately gained custody.

Having experienced a lot of family conflict and not always being able to rely on their birth parents, Dominic, Skylar and Hannah have found consistency and structure at their grandparents' house. "We have



Patty Ricketts

given them stability," Ricketts says. "They know they can count on Grandma and Grandpa to be there. If we had not stepped up, they would have been back in the system."

For Ricketts, raising three grandchildren in her retirement years is not without its stress and challenges. When she needs a break, she and Daniel, who have been married 49 years, treat themselves to some ice cream. "We sneak out to Dairy Queen," she says, laughing. Ricketts also has a group of lifelong girlfriends from high school that she meets up with once a month for pizza and conversation. "There have been times that that support for me was everything," she says.

To learn more about how FCCS helps kinship families like the Ricketts, visit childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov/programs/kinship.cfm

The Heart of FCCS CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKERS



Michelle Fisher

Whether she's supporting a parent with mental health issues, linking a homeless family to needed community resources or consoling a grieving child, Michelle Fisher is a shining example of how Franklin County Children Services' caseworkers change lives every day. A committed and compassionate child welfare professional of almost a decade, Fisher says she couldn't imagine doing anything else. Fisher works at Franklin County Children Services' intake, assessment and investigations office where she tirelessly strives to keep kids safe. "I love being able to help families and support them in any way I can," says Fisher, who says she looks forward to coming to work every day.

At FCCS's intake office, the agency's "front door," which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Fisher is always there when it matters most. One Thanksgiving night, she comforted a teenage girl who had just witnessed her mother's murder. Fisher recalls that she "literally sat on the floor and cried with her," as the shocked youth processed this

devastating news. This deep commitment to children and families is typical for Fisher, according to her supervisor. "What happened after the teen was brought in was an incredible example of how traumatic this work can be and how amazing Michelle is at showing empathy and being there for a family during a time of loss," she says.



An expert at family engagement, Fisher excels at connecting with parents and children in a kind and respectful manner. Establishing this rapport isn't always easy, though. Fisher says her greatest challenge is letting a concerned and possibly scared parent know that she's truly there to help. The objective is "trying to get through to them and breaking down those barriers," she says. "There are so many fearful families. Really showing that you care, that goes a long way in building trust. I try to be that friendly support."

ALL ABOUT THE KIDS...

It's in our name: children are central to Franklin County Children Services' mission. We are always there for youth during the most difficult times, ensuring safety and promoting well being. As child advocates, we are also ready to support and celebrate the big and little victories, when odds are overcome and milestones are achieved. Here are some highlights from 2019, a year in which we helped thousands of children and their families.



Kinship Appreciation award winner Jennifer Breitigan and family



Jack Donahue scholarship winner Kaseem Norton (left) and UNCF Alvin R. Hadley scholarship winner Mikala Norton



Rising Up and Moving On honoree Zachary Gross



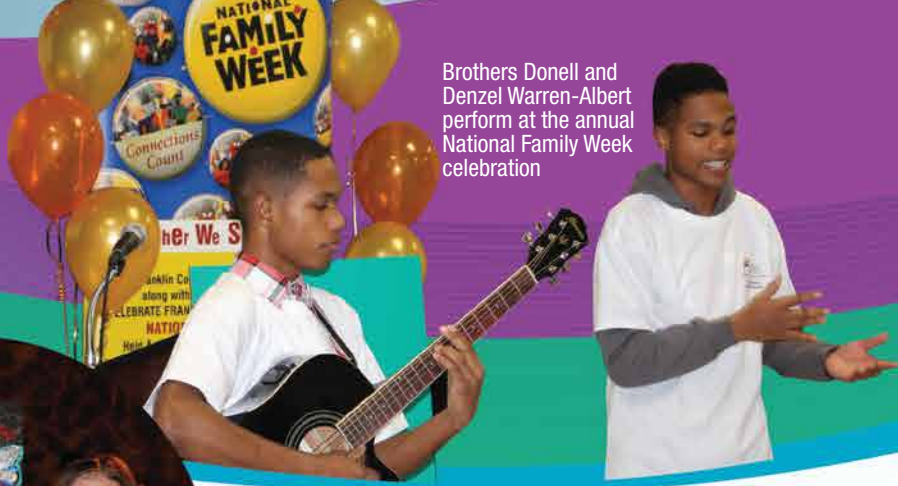
Rising Up and Moving On honoree Jennifer Castillo-Lugo with her FCCS caseworker Kelly Stromer

HOWARD UNIVERSITY



Simba and Malaika youth and mentors visit Howard University

Brothers Donell and Denzel Warren-Albert perform at the annual National Family Week celebration



FCCS Therapeutic Arts Program



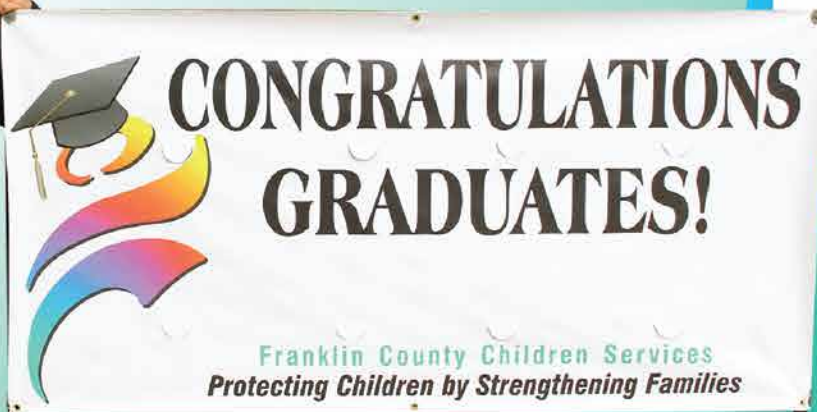
Friendship mentor of the year Karmey Geiser (right) and her mentee Tuesday



College-Bound mentor of the year Greg Carlucci (left) and his mentee Tywan



Annual FCCS Graduation Party



FRANKLIN COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES 2019 REPORT OF SERVICES

In 2019, Franklin County Children Services provided help for **33,429** 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 every child who cannot remain with or return to family.

In 2019:

- **176** adoptions were legalized
- Through FCCS's youth transition services department, **296** older youth under agency care received transitional living support, life-skills training and referrals to resources focused on achieving independence and self-sufficiency.

Well-being

Through our Volunteer Department, Children Services provides special opportunities and services to youth in order to enhance their well-being.

In 2019:

- **6,728** children received gifts through the Holiday Wish program provided by **1,427** individuals and **225** groups, with the assistance of more than **381** Holiday Wish volunteers donating more than **1,540** hours of their time
- FCCS's Volunteer Department has hundreds of dedicated mentors matched with agency youth via our longstanding Friendship, Malaika, Simba and College-Bound mentoring programs. We have a committed team of Crisis Center volunteers at our intake, assessment and investigations office, ready to help and comfort children coming into the center and provide a safe and caring environment for them.
- Length and strength of relationships are critical to the success of our one-on-one mentoring partnerships and we strive to cultivate both. As our volunteer program increasingly focuses on matching higher risk youth, ensuring continuous engagement in supportive and dedicated mentoring relationships is key in promoting positive lifelong outcomes.
- FCCS mentors are a nurturing, stabilizing influence in the lives of our youth: In a 2019 survey, 100% of responding mentees reported that they felt that their mentor cared about them, that they tried to follow their mentor's advice, knew that their mentor cared about them even if they did things their mentor did not approve of, and 98% said that they trusted their mentor.

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

Foster Home Recruitment:
614-275-2711



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.

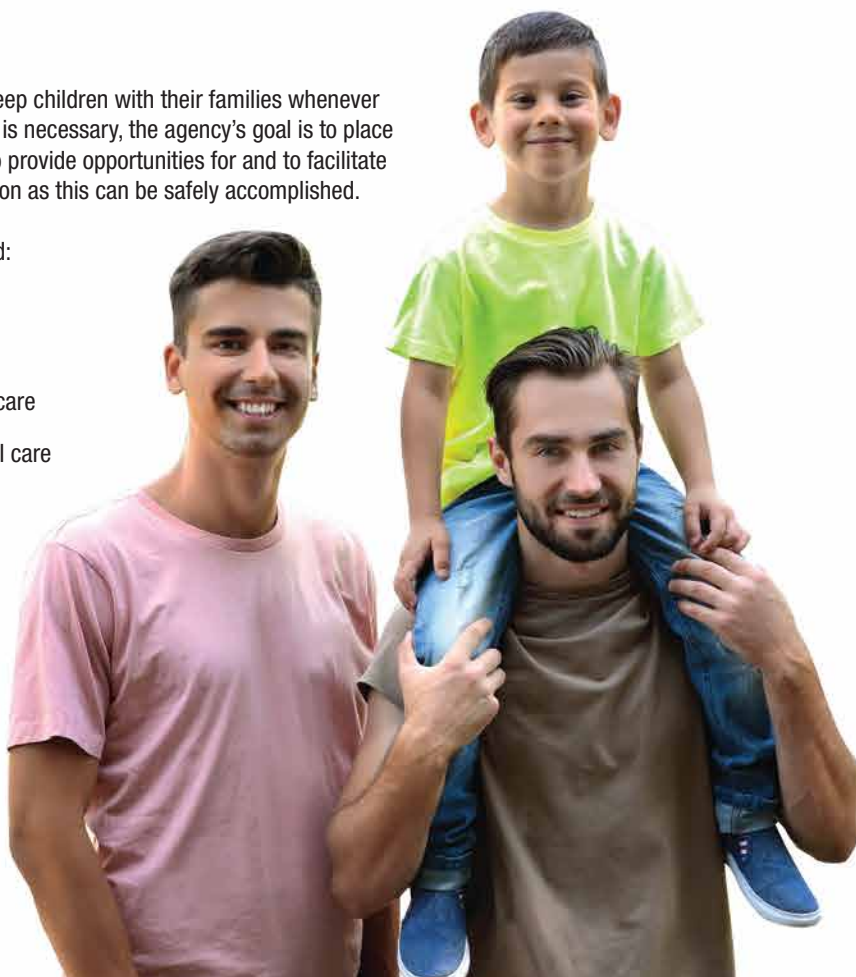
In 2019, there were:

- **33,322** intake referrals received
- **14,804** referrals screened in for investigation/assessment
- Ongoing services for **5,103** cases
- **12,192** children served as part of the agency's active ongoing caseload
- Family services for **4,611** children through managed care partnerships

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 2019, Franklin County Children Services had:

- **4,870** children in agency custody
- **3,212** children in paid care
- **2,348** children placed in purchased foster care
- **934** children placed in group or institutional care
- **2,118** children placed with relatives



FRANKLIN COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES 2019 INCOME STATISTICS



Operating Fund Balance as of January 1, 2019 **\$132,731,685**

Income (Cash Basis):

Local & Miscellaneous Funds **\$136,553,610**

Property Taxes \$133,810,192
 Interfund Revenue 2,121,406
 Board & Care from Parents 200,999
 Miscellaneous 421,012

Federal Funds **\$53,337,215**

Title IV-E Placement (Administration) \$ 6,781,679
 Title IV-E ProtectOHIO Waiver 21,547,008
 Title IV-E Administration 16,956,425
 Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, VA Benefits 808,111
 Title IV-B - ESSA (Emergency Services Supplemental Assistance) 761,621
 CHAFFEE Independent Living Program 1,543,136
 Miscellaneous 4,939,235

State Revenue **\$8,829,073**

Regional Training \$903,459
 Child Protective & Feisel Allocation 7,706,439
 Miscellaneous 219,175

Total 2019 Income **\$198,719,898**

Beginning Balance plus 2019 Income **\$331,451,583**

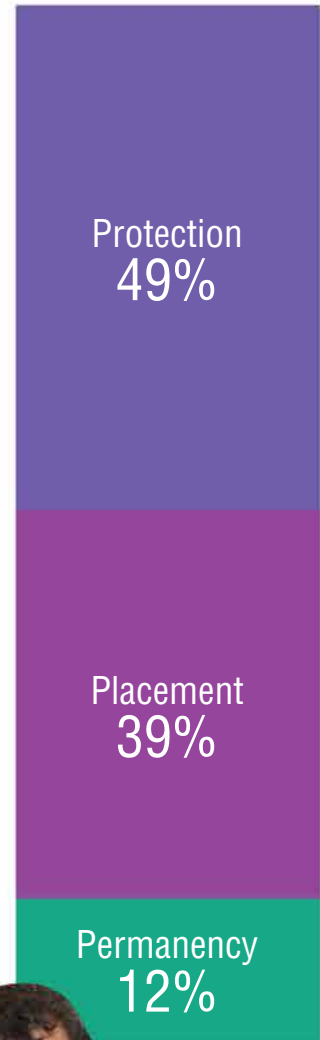


FRANKLIN COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES 2019 EXPENSE STATISTICS

Operating Expenditures

(Cash Basis):

Protection Program	\$110,048,415
Intake & Investigations	\$34,385,736
Casework Protective Services	38,632,788
Care Partnerships	31,210,770
Family Support Services	5,819,121
Placement Program	\$76,710,044
Family Care Services	\$9,308,245
Foster Home Care	30,824,473
Group Home Care	9,743,089
Kinship Care	3,009,775
Institutional Care	23,824,462
Permanency Program	\$17,184,045
Adoption Services	\$9,365,925
Child Enrichment Services	4,712,724
Emancipation Services	3,105,396
Total 2019 Operating Expenditures	\$203,942,504
Operating Fund Balance as of December 31, 2019	\$127,509,079
Ending Balance plus 2019 Expenses	\$331,451,583



FRANKLIN COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

2019 Purchased Services

A New Leaf, Inc.	\$1,668,055.32	House Of New Hope	\$434,276.03
Acadia Healthcare	\$78,100.00	Huckleberry House	\$226,526.05
Action For Children	\$33,746.99	Indiana Developmental Training Center	\$499,411.14
ADAMH	\$75,000.00	Journey Home Foster Care Of Ohio	\$24,250.00
Adoption Advocacy	\$25,500.00	Julia Paige Family Center	\$266,116.15
Adoption Star Inc.	\$7,438.45	Kids Count Too	\$107,945.00
Adoptions Together	\$4,500.00	Lakeland Hospital Acquisition	\$7,600.00
Adriel School	\$774,559.56	Lakeside For Children	\$46,602.60
Agape For Youth	\$40,869.05	LHS Family & Youth Services	\$666,650.00
All That (Teens Hopeful About Tomorrow)	\$25,000.00	LifeStart	\$536,332.50
Applewhite Adoptions	\$10,000.00	Lighthouse Youth Services	\$15,775.70
Applewood Centers	\$334,073.35	Maryhaven, Inc.	\$1,378,833.72
Bair Foundation	\$2,067,445.21	McCallum Group LLC	\$108,150.00
Beech Acres	\$7,344.00	Mustard Seed Foundation	\$78,625.00
Bellefaire JCB	\$358,916.18	National Youth Advocate Program	\$8,542,603.65
Belmont Pines Hospital	\$1,091,011.68	Nationwide Children's Hospital (ECMH)	\$45,517.77
Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$129,353.00	Necco LLC	\$152,441.80
Boundless Behavioral Health	\$35,000.00	Netcare Access (Psychological Assessments)	\$172,209.63
Buckeye Ranch	\$6,954,254.74	New Beginnings Residential Treatment Center	\$39,591.00
Caregivers Helper, Inc.	\$219,766.41	New Life Group Homes	\$1,378,404.36
Caring For Kids, Inc.	\$548,605.24	New Story Of Ohio	\$131,954.70
Carrington Youth Academy	\$96,354.50	Oasis Therapeutic Foster Care Network	\$388,653.33
Center For Family Safety & Healing (Fostering Connections)	\$240,542.90	Oesterlen Services For Youth	\$591,164.48
Center For Healthy Families	\$10,198.20	OhioGuidestone	\$154,184.86
Children Have Options In Caring Environments	\$7,036.98	Ohio Mentor	\$1,107,022.46
Children's Hospital Medical Center	\$238,438.25	One Way Services For Youth	\$42,840.00
Children's Hunger Alliance	\$25,000.00	Preventative Aftercare	\$615,397.99
Christian Children's Home	\$22,800.00	Piney Ridge Center Inc. (Woodridge Of Missouri)	\$137,250.00
Clintonville Beechwold Community Resources Center	\$2,075.00	Pressley Ridge	\$37,917.72
Community Refugee & Immigration Services (Parenting)	\$147,309.04	Rehabilitation Centers	\$242,725.00
Community Shelter Board	\$111,059.56	Resolute Acquisition Corporation	\$142,857.50
Consumer Support Services	\$818,435.94	Rite Of Passage-Hillcrest Academy	\$168,547.72
Cornell Abraxas Group	\$406,478.56	Rolling Hills	\$51,360.00
Detroit Behavioral Health	\$462,825.00	RTC Resource Acquisition Corp	\$290,700.00
Devereux Foundation	\$202,677.98	Safehouse Ministries	\$283,563.15
Directions For Youth	\$80,000.00	Sequel Pomegranate Health Systems	\$6,156,609.71
Dungarvin Ohio, Inc.	\$916,919.13	Sojourners Care Network	\$14,961.04
Eastway Corporation	\$1,389,508.53	Southeast Inc.	\$262,659.73
Educational Service Center Of Central Ohio	\$1,475,894.08	Specialized Alternatives For Youth	\$2,948,197.51
ENA/Necco	\$1,161,866.74	St. Stephen's Community Services	\$1,308,075.07
Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services	\$54,166.63	St. Vincent Family Center	\$1,383,768.09
Fairfield Information Services (Drug Screens)	\$578,354.80	Twelve Of Ohio Inc.	\$32,274.64
Family Resource Center	\$4,500.00	UMCH Family Services	\$1,738,523.46
Foundations For Living (Keystone Richland Center)	\$447,755.06	Unk's Place Inc.	\$130,090.00
Fox Run Center For Children & Adolescents	\$1,757,927.06	Village Network	\$4,874,621.40
George Junior Republic	\$1,195,676.01	White Deer Run	\$201,670.00
Gravehaven Inc.	\$234,945.00	Willow Branches Of Healing	\$136,250.00
Greater Hilltop Shalom Zone (After-school Activities)	\$39,375.00	Woodridge Of Missouri	\$385,980.00
Hillside Children's Center	\$7,000.00	Youth Advocate Services	\$2,258,797.96
Hittle House	\$130,116.10	Youth Villages	\$1,565,950.00
Hope Haven For Girls	\$127,305.00		

Subtotal \$69,393,510

Payment to Children Services
Adoptive Homes \$4,894,980

Other Purchased Social Services \$149,085

Total Purchased Social Services \$74,437,575



2019 Commissioners, Board & Committees

Franklin County Commissioners

Marilyn Brown, President
Kevin Boyce
John O'Grady

Franklin County Children Services Board

Necol Russell-Washington, Chair
Joy Soll, Vice Chair
Maggie Lewis, Secretary
Rev. Dr. Michael Bean
Tiffany Hunt
Elizabeth Martinez
Douglas Moore
Elon Simms
Tammy Wharton

Citizens Advisory Committee

Elon Simms, Chair
Peter Stevens, Vice Chair
Lolita Augenstein
Mary Bynum
Chanel Edwards
Tobi Furman
Gayle Lee
Julie McConnell
Steve Polovick

Volunteer Services Advisory Committee

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



Franklin County
**Children
 Services**

Protecting Children by Strengthening Families



BETTER TOGETHER

Franklin County Children Services | Report to the Community

855 W. Mound Street | Columbus, Ohio 43223 | 614-275-2571 | childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov



@FCCSVideo



@FCCSnews



@franklincountychildrenservices