

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

Licensed, Certified: Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. provides children and family services throughout the state of Mississippi. Licensed by the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services, certified by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, and accredited by the Council of Accreditation (COA). Southern Christian is a member of the Mississippi Alliance for Child and Community Advocacy (MACCA) and is an affiliate of the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as well as a member of Disciples Care Network.

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ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

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Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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

Core Values

The following core values inspire our staff and partners and drive everything we do-including, our approach to the work, the decisions we make, and the way we collaborate:

- Compassion
- Commitment
- Bold Leadership
- Continuous Training
- Optimism
- Responsiveness

221

Children and parents were served through our Sunrise Counseling Services.

Youth experiencing homelessness were able to move into their very own apartments. We are living our mission!

16

14

PALS youth were able to identify, find, and maintain stable employment within the community.

Services were provided to Adoptive families through Adoption Permanency Division

1245

54

Children served through our Therapeutic Foster Care Program



"PALS has been life changing. PALS gives people like me a second chance to become something without having the burden of worrying about being homeless."
-Maranda, PALS Program

"Counseling helped my family get stronger after what happened to us." **-Outpatient Counseling Program Client**

"The biggest thing I learned was to be less of an authoritarian parent but rather to listen and console more with my children to see why they are acting out verses just putting them in time out or taking immediate action."
-Parent Strong Father

"When we think that we are having little to no impact on the residence here, time is the ultimate tell of how effective our program really is." **-Joel Ingram, Group Home Residential Life Coordinator**

"We love our children immensely; you can't tell the difference between our biological children and our adopted one." **-The Hansen Family, Foster Care Family**

SAVE THE DATE

Mississippi Children's Promise Tax Credit

January 2025

Don't miss out on a unique opportunity to make a positive impact while enjoying valuable tax benefits through the Mississippi Children's Promise Tax Credit. At Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc., we are dedicated to creating brighter futures for Mississippi children, and you can join us in this incredible mission. Make a difference and enjoy the rewards of giving back by donating to Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. today. Learn more about this tax credit opportunity on our website at <https://www.scschy.org/children-s-promise-tax-credit>.



36th Annual Bottom Line for Kids Benefit & Auction

August 2025

Save the date for an unforgettable evening of giving and celebration as we mark our 37th Annual Bottom Line for Kids Benefit and Auction. Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. warmly invites you to participate as a sponsor in our 2025 event. This year promises to be an extraordinary one, featuring live and premier auction items, a showcased artist, and exclusive previews of our new program videos. It's an opportunity to come together, make a difference, and help create brighter futures for Mississippi children. For upcoming details and updates about this event, please visit our website at www.sunrisems.org. We look forward to your participation and the positive impact it will have on the lives of the children and youth we serve.



Sonny Fountain Memorial Golf Tournament

October 2025

We are delighted to announce the 18th Annual Sonny Fountain Memorial Golf Tournament, a collaborative effort between Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. and Fountain Construction Company, Inc. This event holds special significance as it is named in loving memory of D.G. "Sonny" Fountain, a respected Jackson businessman, a founding board member of Southern Christian, dedicated philanthropist, and founder of Fountain Construction Company. The Sonny Fountain Memorial Golf Tournament for Kids is a testament to Sonny's legacy and his commitment to making a difference in the lives of Mississippi's children. We look forward to this meaningful event, bringing together the community in support of our mission to create brighter futures for the children and youth we serve.



17

Foster children were adopted by loving and caring families or reunited with their biological family.

Children were served through Respite Care

537

947

Parents received parenting classes and support through Parent Strong child abuse and neglect prevention program

OUR SERVICES

Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. makes a profound impact on the lives of hundreds of children and youth annually. Through our wide range of services and programs, we offer Therapeutic Residential Care, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Services, and Permanency Services. Our mission is clear: we stand in the gap between need and wholeness, working tirelessly to assist children and youth in becoming self-sufficient contributing members of society. We are committed to creating brighter futures for Mississippi's children and ensuring they have a safe place to call home and the opportunity to thrive.

RESIDENTIAL CARE

Therapeutic Group Homes

Our Therapeutic group homes represent a vital component of Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc.'s commitment to transforming the lives of vulnerable children and youth. These homes offer a family-style living environment to children and youth who, due to experiences of abuse, neglect, serious behavioral, and emotional challenges, are unable to remain in their own homes. Our Joe Rowland group home for boys located in Grenada is specifically dedicated to caring for older youth who have faced difficulties living within foster families or are at risk of aging out of the foster system without a permanent family.

Our Sunrise home is exclusively for adolescent girls aged 12-19 who've experienced exploitation from human trafficking. Sunrise allows young ladies to receive specialized and evidence-based therapeutic services for up to 2 years. In these homes, we strive to create an atmosphere as close to a real family setting as possible. We work closely with each youth, fostering trust and providing them with the support they need to thrive within a family context. Our goal for both homes is to prepare these young men and women for a future in either a foster family, reunification with their biological family, or a successful transition to independence.

PALS Spotlight Stories

Finding Hope and Independence with PALS



See the Video!

Alexas' Journey of Hope and Renewal

Alexas became a young mother under difficult circumstances while in foster care. Feeling overwhelmed and uncertain, Alexas learned about Southern Christian Services through a compassionate social worker. Through the PALS program, she found stable housing and secured a job, giving her and her child a chance to rebuild. With steady guidance, Alexas discovered her inner strength and developed the drive to create a positive future for her family. Today, she's focused on growth, seeing the greatness within herself and the possibilities ahead for her and her child.

Maranda's Path to Healing and Stability

Maranda grew up in the foster care system with both parents incarcerated, often feeling alone and unsure of her future. Finding Southern Christian Services and the PALS program marked a turning point in her life. With a safe place to live, she could finally focus on her mental health and well-being instead of worrying about where she'd sleep each night. Through her journey, Maranda has built a sense of family and belonging, surrounded by people who genuinely care about her. She expresses deep gratitude for the support and is optimistic about her future, knowing she's not alone.

Kristian's Dream to Pursue His Passion

Kristian was the steady caregiver for his family, working multiple jobs to make ends meet to help cover rent. Though he dreamed of going back to school, the responsibility of working and providing left him with little time to focus on himself. Through Southern Christian Services and the PALS program, Kristian finally had the opportunity to pursue his goals. With the stability he needed, he enrolled in a culinary program to follow his passion for cooking. Today, Kristian is working toward a career he loves and believes that the support he receives has allowed him to transform his dreams into reality.

Gariontae's Journey to Independence

Gariontae lived with his father, who battled serious illness until his passing, leaving Gariontae alone and with nowhere to go. When he joined the PALS program, he found not only a safe place to stay but also the guidance and resources he needed to rebuild his life. Through the support of Southern Christian Services, Gariontae gained essential life skills and confidence in himself, setting him on a path toward self-sufficiency. He now feels equipped to face the future and is grateful for the opportunity to grow, expressing that PALS helped him become the man he aspired to be.

SPOTLIGHT STORIES

The Conerly Family

Since becoming licensed foster parents in July 2019, Dennis and Elizabeth Conerly have demonstrated a profound commitment to fostering and adoption. Their journey began with a simple hope to grow their own family, but little did they know their hearts and home would extend far beyond just growing their family.

Elizabeth is a former social worker and now a devoted stay-at-home mother, and Dennis is a dedicated supervisor at Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula. They have opened their hearts to many foster children in need. They welcomed their first placement, Taqwa into their home in September 2019 and later adopted her in May 2020.

The Conerly's' commitment didn't stop there. They expanded their family to include Titus and Gracelynn, whom they adopted in October 2022. Their home has also been a safe haven for 5 children needing temporary care, including those with severe medical needs and sibling groups. One baby was placed in their home with severe burns which required specialized care. Elizabeth traveled out-of-state to stay with the baby in the hospital and to learn about burn care directly from the baby's medical team. Once home, Elizabeth diligently cared for that sweet baby, dedicating hours each day to her recovery.



Dennis and Elizabeth have also been dedicated to supporting the biological mothers of their foster children. They're committed to ensuring reunification with biological families is successful. They've developed deep and positive relationships with biological parents and have been invited to attend birthday parties and graduations after the children returned home. Their dedication goes beyond daily care; they are committed to every child's future, knowing that each day offers a chance to provide safety, security, and love.

Dennis and Elizabeth often speak about the joy and purpose fostering and adopting has brought to their lives. Their advice to prospective foster parents is, "Just give it a chance. Even if you do it for one day, that is one day a child had security, safety, and peace."

PALS Transitional Youth Program

The P.A.L.S. (Preparing Adolescents to Live Successfully) program, located in Jackson, plays a pivotal role in Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc.'s mission. Certified by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and accredited by the Council on Accreditation, P.A.L.S. is a community-based transitional living program serving youth aged 18-23. This long-term program is specifically designed to address the root causes of youth homelessness and provide a solid foundation for long-term success. P.A.L.S. is dedicated to facilitating the healing and enhancing the vocational and emotional well-being of youth who have experienced homelessness, abuse, neglect, or trauma. While residing at P.A.L.S., participants receive comprehensive support, including intensive case management, educational assistance, employment support, and evidence-based counseling services. A significant focus of the program is to ensure that all P.A.L.S. residents are either employed full-time or engaged in part-time employment while attending school, paving the way for a brighter future.



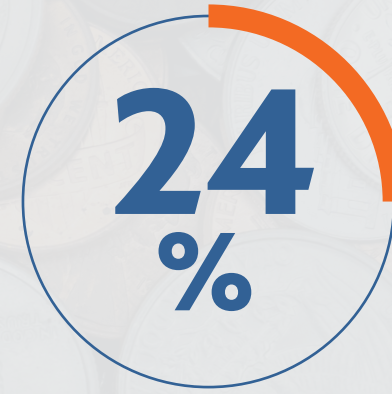
Therapeutic Foster Care

Our Licensed Therapeutic Foster Care program represents a crucial facet of Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc.'s ongoing mission. These foster homes serve as temporary families for children and youth facing circumstances that make it unsafe for them to remain in their own homes due to abuse, neglect, or significant behavioral and emotional challenges. The heart of our Therapeutic Foster Care program lies in the recruitment, training, and careful matching of foster children and sibling groups with loving families, all with the goal of securing permanency as swiftly as possible. Permanency can take various forms, whether it's reuniting children with their biological families or progressing toward adoption. Our focus remains steadfast on providing a safe, nurturing, and stable environment for these children and youth during their journey towards a brighter and more secure future.

REVENUE



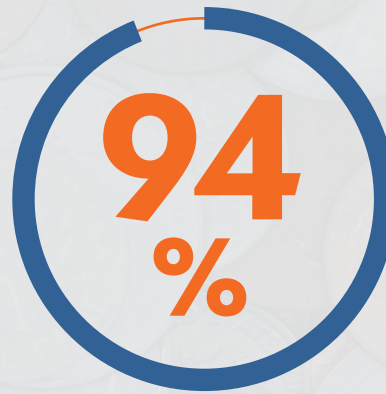
Government Agencies



Public Support



Other Income



Programs



Administration



Development

FINANCIALS

2023-2024

Preliminary Statement of Activities
October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024

REVENUES	
Government Agencies	\$3,321,054
Public Support	\$1,143,498
Other Income	\$235,418
Total Operating Revenues	\$4,699,970
EXPENSES	
Programs	\$4,247,602
Administration	\$31,172
Development	\$217,656
Total Expenditures	\$4,496,430
Increase in Assets	\$203,540

Adoption from Foster Care

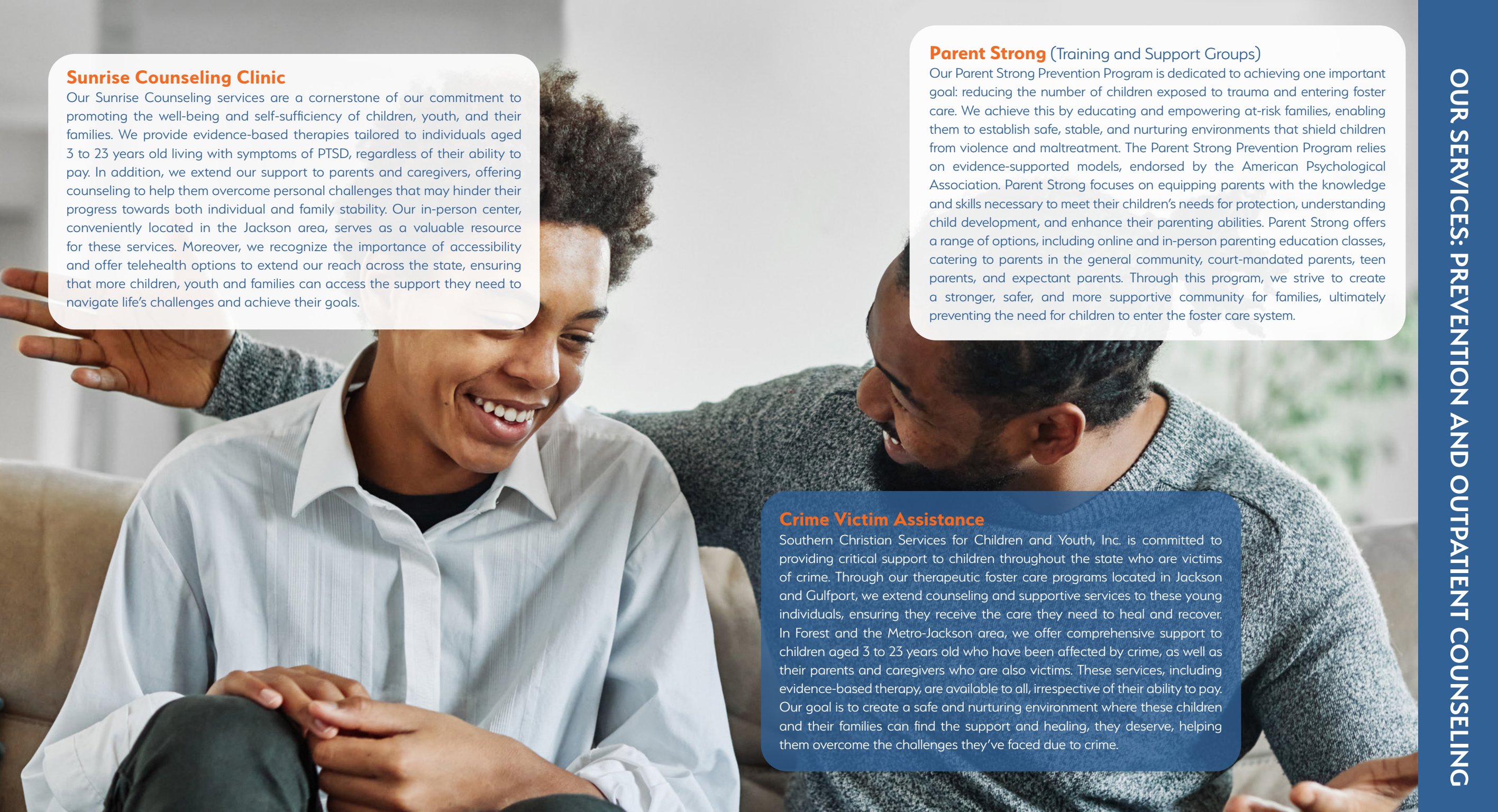
Our Adoption from Foster Care program is dedicated to making a profound difference in the lives of children and youth with special needs. We understand the importance of providing these children and youth with the stability and love they deserve. Families who are willing and capable of making a permanent commitment to these children receive specialized training and support to prepare them for adoption. We firmly believe that no child should have to grow up in the foster care system, and every child deserves the opportunity to flourish in a safe and nurturing family environment. Our Adoption from Foster Care program is a testament to our commitment to finding loving, forever homes for children and youth, ensuring they have the chance to thrive and experience the care and stability they deserve.



Additionally, our Post Adoption program plays a vital role in supporting families who have adopted through Mississippi's foster care system. Our aim is to prevent children from re-entering foster care by providing a range of services, including information, referrals, crisis management, adoptive and foster parent training, youth training, family and teen support groups, and respite care services. Trained respite families offer foster and adoptive parents the valuable opportunity for a break during times of crisis. This program is a testament to our ongoing commitment to ensuring that adoptive families have the resources and support they need to provide a safe and loving home for these children, ultimately contributing to the well-being and stability of these families.

Respite Care

Respite care is a temporary and planned form of caregiving that provides relief to primary caregivers who are caring for children and youth living with serious mental health challenges, emotional disabilities, or those who are in foster care or have been adopted from foster care. Respite offers short-term relief by allowing caregivers a break to rest, manage personal responsibilities, or avoid burnout.



Sunrise Counseling Clinic

Our Sunrise Counseling services are a cornerstone of our commitment to promoting the well-being and self-sufficiency of children, youth, and their families. We provide evidence-based therapies tailored to individuals aged 3 to 23 years old living with symptoms of PTSD, regardless of their ability to pay. In addition, we extend our support to parents and caregivers, offering counseling to help them overcome personal challenges that may hinder their progress towards both individual and family stability. Our in-person center, conveniently located in the Jackson area, serves as a valuable resource for these services. Moreover, we recognize the importance of accessibility and offer telehealth options to extend our reach across the state, ensuring that more children, youth and families can access the support they need to navigate life's challenges and achieve their goals.

Parent Strong (Training and Support Groups)

Our Parent Strong Prevention Program is dedicated to achieving one important goal: reducing the number of children exposed to trauma and entering foster care. We achieve this by educating and empowering at-risk families, enabling them to establish safe, stable, and nurturing environments that shield children from violence and maltreatment. The Parent Strong Prevention Program relies on evidence-supported models, endorsed by the American Psychological Association. Parent Strong focuses on equipping parents with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet their children's needs for protection, understanding child development, and enhance their parenting abilities. Parent Strong offers a range of options, including online and in-person parenting education classes, catering to parents in the general community, court-mandated parents, teen parents, and expectant parents. Through this program, we strive to create a stronger, safer, and more supportive community for families, ultimately preventing the need for children to enter the foster care system.

Crime Victim Assistance

Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. is committed to providing critical support to children throughout the state who are victims of crime. Through our therapeutic foster care programs located in Jackson and Gulfport, we extend counseling and supportive services to these young individuals, ensuring they receive the care they need to heal and recover. In Forest and the Metro-Jackson area, we offer comprehensive support to children aged 3 to 23 years old who have been affected by crime, as well as their parents and caregivers who are also victims. These services, including evidence-based therapy, are available to all, irrespective of their ability to pay. Our goal is to create a safe and nurturing environment where these children and their families can find the support and healing, they deserve, helping them overcome the challenges they've faced due to crime.

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Dear Partners in Christ,

As we look back on this past year, we are grateful for the steadfast commitment of our donors, volunteers, and community partners. Your generosity has been the foundation of our work and the catalyst for progress across all our programs. It's been a year of growth, resilience, and community impact—made possible by you.

One impactful achievement this year was the completion of our new Youth Training and Resource Center, a long-awaited vision that has now become a reality. This center stands as a beacon of hope and opportunity, providing essential resources, job training, and educational support to youth who have faced tremendous challenges. Thanks to your support, we now have a dedicated space where young people can come for guidance, skill-building, and support on their journey toward independence and stability. We are excited about the potential this new space will bring to the lives of young people in our community and the opportunity it provides us to demonstrate the unconditional love of Christ to all we serve.

Another milestone this year has been the successful first year of the Sunrise Safe Home for Girls. This safe home has become a sanctuary for young survivors of human trafficking, providing not only shelter but also a place to heal and rebuild within the love of Christ. Over the past year, we have had the privilege of witnessing lives transformed as these young ladies have found their voices, rediscovered their strengths, and begun to envision brighter futures. We are committed to providing ongoing care, trauma-informed services, and Christ-centered support as they continue their journey toward recovery. None of this would have been possible without the compassion and dedication of donors like you, who recognized the urgent need for this haven of safety and healing.

Our PALS program for youth experiencing homelessness has also seen tremendous growth, allowing us to reach even more young people experiencing homelessness or transitioning out of Mississippi's foster care system. This expansion is particularly meaningful as it reflects our commitment to meeting youth where they are and providing the comprehensive support they need, from housing and educational resources to employment training and mental health services. The impact of PALS is visible each day in the renewed sense of hope and purpose among the young people we serve. By giving them the tools to build stable and fulfilling lives, you are helping to break cycles of trauma and vulnerability for future generations.

This past year's achievements are a testament to the power of community and prayer. Your trust in our mission and willingness to stand with us in times of both triumph and challenge have made all the difference. Every dollar you've given, every hour you've volunteered, and every message of encouragement you've sent has made a tangible impact on the lives of the youth we serve.

Thank you for your partnership, for believing in the potential of each young person we serve, and for helping us create pathways to lasting change. As we move into a new year, we are filled with hope and determination to continue this work, knowing that together, with God's help, we can create brighter futures for all His children.

With grateful hearts,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie C. Himes".

Jamie C. Himes, LPC
President and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George C. Nicols".

George Nicols
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