

SAFE HARBOR CENTER

FY2020 Annual Report





Dear Friends and Loyal Supporters,

Take a look in the mirror. You'll be looking into the face of a true hero in the lives of abused, neglected, and homeless children and youth in our community. Without a doubt, your support of Safe Harbor Center made it possible for us to serve 1,258 individuals during one of the most challenging years our community and country has ever experienced. For that, we are extremely grateful.

Traditionally this time of year I would pause to reflect and share the many successes we experienced in 2020, but we cannot address the past without discussing the present. Over the past months, we have seen tremendous difficulties in our community as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Families are experiencing heightened levels of vulnerability, from fears of illness, loss of employment, to financial challenges. For many, these stressors are leading to a breakdown of the family unit often resulting in higher incidence of child abuse, neglect, and homelessness.

Each day as I travel across the Torras Causeway to my office at Safe Harbor, I think about some of the children and families we have served during these difficult times. I think about the two traumatized young girls we served in our emergency shelter for homeless and runaway youth after they had been found drugged and sex-trafficked from Florida to Brunswick. I wonder what would have become of the 232 children and families who were found homeless during the COVID crisis had our Street Outreach program not provided safe housing and case management services through our Hotel/Motel program. I often think what life was like for the 12 boys and 12 girls currently residing in our children's shelter and the years of abuse and neglect they experienced, often unimaginable, before arriving at Safe Harbor.

In March, when the pandemic began impacting our lives, my hope was that Safe Harbor would come out of this complex time stronger than when we went into it. I can firmly say we have. I could not be more thankful or inspired by our entire professional staff. There has never been a time in our 30-year history when our employees have been stronger, braver, or more committed to carrying out Safe Harbor's mission in the most fundamental ways. This growth did not occur through happenstance. It's so easy when we come out of difficult times to look back and think, "Look what we did. Look what we accomplished." For sure, it takes hard work and perseverance on our part, but that alone would not have been sufficient for the results and impact we saw on so many fronts during this time. We have come so far with the support of you, our partners, donors, and supporters of Safe Harbor.

Yours Truly,

Leslie Hartman
Executive Director

SAFE HARBOR CHILDREN'S CENTER



Safe Harbor Children's Center serves children removed from dangerous situations and, as a state licensed term residential shelter, provides shelter, clothing, meals, school support, therapeutic counseling and onsite visitation, independent living skills, transportation, medical, dental, academic support, therapeutic counseling, and psychiatric services are provided on an outpatient basis.



The shelter is licensed for children from birth to age 18. Safe Harbor Children's Center provides an environment in which the child feels truly accepted and engaged in a rigorous individual program, where youth will develop a sense of efficacy and pro-social skill competencies that will prepare them to be successful upon program graduation. Our home provides services designed to facilitate an intensive, comprehensive, and therapeutic services that is centered on the healing of the child. Staff offer a goal focused, learning atmosphere designed to equip youth with emotional stability, educational success, healthy hobbies, and coping skills.

After a successful \$5.1 million capital campaign, Safe Harbor completed construction of the Windolf Residence. A brand-new state of the art group home for 24 children. The home is spacious and houses 12 girls and 12 boys with a shared commercial kitchen, grand dining room, computer room and tutor room.

A total of 50 children spent at least one night in the shelter this past year. The Shelter housed 50 children for the Division of Family and Children services. Last fiscal year, Safe Harbor Children's Center served a total of 15 counties: Glynn, Jeff Davis, Coffee, Ben Hill, Camden, Ware, Paulding, Liberty, Long, Brantley, Appling, Chatham, Tift, Wayne, and Charlton. Some of the reasons for referrals were neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse, verbal abuse, sexual abuse, runaway, substance abuse, step-down from a more restrictive placement, medical neglect, mother in hospital/no guardian, foster home closed, inadequate supervision, homeless, maintaining sibling relationship, and/or abandonment. Safe Harbor earned an "A" in the performance-based contracting through the Division of Family and Children Services Office of Provider Management.



STRIVE TRANSITIONAL LIVING SERVICES



The goal of STRIVE Transitional Living is to make available the needed supports for our community's youth who are most at-risk to experience violence, trafficking, unemployment, homelessness, incomplete education, drug addiction, pregnancy, and poverty. Our TLP provides services specifically to young women ages 17-22 who are either in the care of the Division of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) or who have become homeless. TLP assists female clients for 18 months to develop skills leading to self-sufficiency and independence, while providing a safe living environment. Youth reside in a group home where all basic needs are met including transportation for work, school, and health purposes. Our welcoming group home has seven beds, and provides the supportive services listed below.



Over the course of the fiscal year, the Transitional Living Program (TLP) supported 16 young women. Seven are currently working the program.

- 6 young women were/are in the custody of DFCS (3 came from Windolf Residence)
- Our programmatic "grade" calculated by DFCS rose to 106.7% A+
- 11 participated as homeless youth, including one from the above line who aged out of foster care at age 21 and continued with us as a homeless youth. The overall goal is 25 by Sept 2022 and we are currently 15/25 homeless youth.
- All seniors in high school completed to graduation; two are off to college in August at CCGA and Valdosta. Three girls graduated in May 2020 and completed requirements from Hamer House during the pandemic.
- All youth but one (who left for a higher level of care) were successfully employed.
- Youth come to us through a variety of circumstances such as: death of a caregiver, homelessness of a parent, abandonment by parent, youth running from abuse, etc.
- 2019-20 youth represent Glynn, Camden, Chatham, Douglas, and Effingham counties.
- Approximately 50% of our participants this year have had disabilities; two young ladies with significant intellectual disabilities will complete the program successfully in the next few months, both with stable full-time jobs and one completed a college certificate while the other completed two job programs. They plan to be permanent roommates.
- Many have developed savings of \$1000-\$6000 during the program to guard against future homelessness.

PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES

Non-residential program to bring transitional living services to 16 – 21-year-old foster youth just prior to and just after leaving care. These youths are those without reunification plans who are at risk for homelessness. This program began October 1, 2019 and has served 28 youth overall.

- Currently, 20 youth throughout the community are participating on-going for up to 18 months.
- We have continued serving youth to satisfactory levels even during the shutdown.
- We have been able to supplement life –skills services for certain youth at the shelter who are nearing adulthood and provide aftercare.
- Youth have been assisted to gain driver’s permits, receive job coaching and employment support, locate volunteer activities, obtain vital documents, receive referrals and information, attend formal life skills lessons, and fill out applications related to housing and services.
- Although COVID19 has posed a bit of a challenge, 5 volunteer mentors have undergone a 6-hour training to be a year-long mentor for a youth and 6 others have been recruited and are being trained.

RAPID RE-HOUSING

Rapid Re-housing (RRH) is a newly HUD funded program that will begin this summer. This program gives rent and utility assistance to 18 – 24 year-old youth who are verified as homeless in Glynn and Camden counties. The first year’s goal is to assist 8 individuals or families who needs assistance finding a place to live and support with services to become stable. Three more service professionals will join the STRIVE team to provide case management, employment support, and housing support.



ZACH'S PLACE



Safe Harbor's Runaway/ Homeless Youth (RHY) Emergency Shelter, Zach's Place, provides for the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth. The goals of Zach's Place are to improve and enhance the safety, wellbeing and self-sufficiency of the youth served, to assist runaway and homeless youth with building permanent connections with caring adults, reunite youth with their families and help these youth avoid engagement with agencies such as child welfare, law enforcement and juvenile justice.



The program maintains Safe Place sites, which offer access to immediate help and safety. Zach's Place serves as a safe haven for runaway, abused, and homeless youth in Glynn and surrounding counties. The mission of Zach's Place is to reduce trauma and incidents of crisis, while increasing emotional and physical stability for child victims. Safe Harbor is licensed by the state of Georgia to operate a long-term child caring institution (CCI). Zach's Place guarantees that unaccompanied youth have access to emergency shelter 24-hours a day. The intake process provides for primary crisis response. Parents/ guardians or local government authorities are notified within 24 to 72 hours of arrival. An intake assessment is performed by a licensed Social Worker or Professional Counselor (LCSW or LPC).

Zach's Place youth emergency shelter overarching premise is that of providing individualized case management, support, and intervention services to meet the needs of each youth within our care, with the consent of the parent/ legal guardian, and the assent of the youth. All service provision is based on a person-centered philosophy, such that service needs are developed and titrated utilizing input from youth, their parents/ caregivers/ referral source, service providers, staff, and other stakeholders. Zach's Place staff are certified and trained using the evidence-based Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioner (RCYCP) program, which emphasizes facilitating a strength-based approach, youth empowerment and involvement, attachment and relationship development, trauma-informed care, and resource collaboration.

During the three-year reporting period the agency worked with 279 homeless and runaway youth – a 52.4% increase from the previous three-year grant period. 128 youth stayed in the shelter and 151 youth received services for longer than 6 hours to resolve their situations.

Measureable outcomes included:

- Provided information through 58 community awareness events
- Increased the number of Safe Place sites by adding 36 locations throughout the service area
- Provided information to all middle and high school students about Safe Place
- Addressed the immediate needs of 279 youth with food, drink, clothing, hygiene, and shelter
- Provide individualized treatment plans to 128 youth
- Provided therapeutic counseling and case management to 128 youth
- Provided family reunification efforts to 279 youth and their families
- Provided 128 youth opportunities to participate in decisions about case planning and daily living
- Provided 45 life skills sessions
- Provided academic support to 128 youth
- Provided job skills training to 60 youth
- Provided medical/dental treatments to 60 youth
- Provided aftercare plans and follow-up to 90 youth



Every child that Zach's Place has worked with has a story, but some of the most notable stories that exemplify the need for Basic Center services include as follows:

Safe Harbor received a call from McDonald's restaurant, a Safe Place location, saying that two young girls had walked to the restaurant reporting that they did not feel safe at home with their mother. The girls claimed their mother was physically and mentally abusing them. The girls stayed at Zach's Place until they attended court where the judge arranged for the girls to live with another family member. Zach's Place staff facilitated reunification with a family member where they are now living in a safe environment.

A three-year-old child was referred to the shelter from the Salvation Army. The boy's father was homeless and arrived seeking shelter. The Salvation Army does not allow children under the age of 18 at their Brunswick location. The father requested that his son live at Zach's Place until he could earn enough money for a hotel. The Zach's Place case manager helped the father find stable housing, get a job, find childcare services, and find transportation. The child is now living with his father.

Safe Harbor received a referral from the Brunswick Police Department about two teenage girls that were allegedly sex trafficked to Brunswick, Georgia. The girls were from Orlando, Florida. The two girls were tricked into riding with a friend to a party in Orlando, Florida. The next day, the girls woke up in a hotel located in Brunswick, Georgia. The girls ran to the nearest gas station for help. The girls were allegedly drugged, abused, and sex trafficked. Zach's Place staff was able to provide shelter for them until the Brunswick Police Department contacted their parents. The girls received clothing, outpatient health services, meals, case management, and therapeutic services. Zach's Place was also able to refer them to Safe Harbor's Connie Smith Rape Crisis Center and Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center. The girls were able to receive a forensic interview, forensic medical exam, counseling, and multidisciplinary review. When the girls completed the program at Zach's Place, they were able to reunify with their families and return home safe.



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER



The Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center (SHCAC) serves victims of child abuse throughout the Brunswick Judicial Circuit (Jeff Davis, Appling, Wayne, Glynn, and Camden Counties). Safe Harbor provides rehabilitative care to more than 351 child victims of abuse every year at our offices in Wayne, Glynn, and Camden. Through the advocacy center, Safe Harbor offers forensic interviews, forensic medical exams, follow-up medical services, 24-hour crisis line and response, counseling by licensed counselors, advocacy and multidisciplinary review in collaboration with our partner agencies. Currently all three centers are staffed to capacity and able to provide services in all three locations.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

315 Forensic Interviews Completed

68 Forensic Medical Exams

53 Counseling Sessions Provided

110 Community Events were attended

FULL MEMBERSHIPS

Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia

National Children's Alliance

CONNIE SMITH RAPE CRISIS CENTERS



In 2013, Safe Harbor merged non-profits with the Golden Isles Children's Center thus adding the Connie Smith Rape Crisis Center to the Safe Harbor umbrella. The agency applied for funding from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for victim services.



Services provided include forensic interviews, forensic medical examinations, follow up medical services, 24-hour crisis line, crisis intervention, legal advocacy, crisis and therapeutic counseling by Licensed Professional Counselors and a multi-disciplinary approach to sexual assault.

In 2020, 64 adults received services. The Camden office served 15 victims, Glynn Office 36 victims and Wayne Office 13 victims. There were 53 adult forensic medical exams, and 9 adults were referred by the Southeast Georgia Health System for advocacy services.

The Connie Smith Rape Crisis center is working with law enforcement, prosecution, and local stake holders to develop the first Sexual Assault Response Team Protocol for the Brunswick Judicial Circuit which includes Glynn, Camden, Wayne, Appling and Jeff Davis counties. The SART protocol would bring together all agencies in a coordinated effort to respond to allegations of sexual assault.

We look forward to 2021 to continue the important work of educating the community, raising awareness of services available and developing a coordinated response for the five counties.



STREET BEAT



The objective of Safe Harbor Center's Street Outreach Program, Street Beat, is to provide homeless individuals with the emergency services and referrals they need to find safe housing solutions. To increase the safety, well-being, and self-sufficiency of homeless individuals and to help them build permanent connections with caring mentors with the goal of getting them off the streets.



The Street Outreach Program performs the following activities: find, track, communicate with, and build trusting relationships with these individuals; address the immediate needs of homeless with food, clothing, emergency shelter and hygiene; provide crisis intervention needs 24/7. Services include case management services to address health care needs, reunification services, individual treatment and counseling, family counseling, life skills training, education and assistance completing GED requirements, job skills training, employment, pregnancy testing, parenting education and provide prevention and education information on sexual exploitation, STDs, and HIV.

The Street Outreach Program continues to connect with street youth and the homeless population of Glynn, Camden, and McIntosh County by canvassing 7 days a week. The program provides runaway and homeless youth connections to emergency shelter and services to assist finding them safe housing solutions.



PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES

Nonresidential services have increased as staff continue to build trusting relationships with youth by engagement and partnering with outside agencies. In 2015 the Street Beat program received additional funding from Promoting Safe and Stable Families to expand services to Street Youth who are/were formerly in the foster care system. The additional funding has expanded to include mentoring, counseling, healthcare, and tutoring services at the drop-in center, located on Jekyll Avenue in the city of Brunswick. As of July 1st, 2020, this program has worked with 34 youth.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY2021

- 131 children and youth 0-17 participated in all the Street Beat programs this fiscal year. 49 participants were age 18-26
- The Street Outreach Canvassing team identified 144 new homeless individuals by way of canvassing, and virtual assessments this year. Of the individuals experiencing homelessness for the first time; 75 of those individuals are 18 and under; 63% were females; 36% were males and, 40% of assessments had the family composition of more than one child.
- 4500 pamphlets and informational materials were distributed
- 286 clients were assessed and entered the Glynn Coordinated Entry System. This Homeless Management System which is managed by Safe Harbor's Street Outreach Program provides the Department of Community Affairs with information that tracks services and individuals within a homeless system.
- 1500 Hygiene kits were distributed.
- 1450 Families received food from the Street Beat program. Its collaboration with several faiths-based organization help provide healthy food and snack packs to families and youth.
- Hotel/Motel Program: The Hotel/Motel program was awarded this year. This service provides hotel/motel housing opportunities for families who are homeless but, have identified a plan for stabilization. This program provides this assistance day to day. Currently the programs have housed 74 individual's this year. The average participants length of stay is 20 days.



FAMILY PRESERVATION



The Safe Harbor Family Preservation program provides placement prevention services for families at risk for the removal of their children and to anyone referred by the Child Protective Services of the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS). Services are provided to families to help alleviate crisis and help parents maintain the safety of their children in their homes.



The program works to educate and connect parents to resources available to them within and outside the community to promote independence and resilience within the family. Parents gain knowledge and skills that help them gain self-sufficiency, keep themselves and their children safe, and decrease factors leading to additional reports to DFCS. Family support workers serve families by implementing holistic, person-centered, and trauma-informed approaches to prepare families for self-sufficiency after the completion of services

Last year, family advocates worked with 117 families residing within Glynn, McIntosh, and Camden counties. Of the 117 families, 253 children received services. The program reported that 85% (216 children) of those children were either returned to their families and/or remained safely within their homes. This last fiscal year of the families who received services 79% did not receive a second referral to DFCS. Reasons for referrals included 77% of the families were referred for parenting services and 27% are referred for mental health and behavioral management services.

Over the last three years, the Safe Harbor Family Preservation program has had a 96% success rate of children not being removed from their homes and 90% of the families did not receive a further referral to DFCS after the families' participation with services of the program. The success of the program has been contributed to offering research driven interventions that identify and overcome barriers to healthy family functioning.

Family Preservation services grew out of the recognition that children need a safe and stable family and that separating children from their families is traumatic for them, often leaving lasting negative effects. These services build upon the conviction that many children can be safely protected and treated within their own homes when parents are provided with services and support that empower them to change their lives.

FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF JUNE 30, 2020

<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 115,477	\$ 441,123
Pledges receivable	127,600	90,000
Grants and contracts receivable	213,842	255,642
Inventory	3,995	6,186
Due from employees	279	771
Prepaid expenses	<u>12,152</u>	<u>9,635</u>
Total Current Assets	473,345	803,357
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>		
Land	339,540	339,540
Building	4,569,510	4,569,510
Equipment and software	413,638	423,649
Furniture and fixtures	243,496	214,770
Building improvements	389,863	389,863
Vehicles	200,620	200,620
	6,156,667	6,137,952
Less accumulated depreciation	(1,021,396)	(1,213,745)
Total Fixed Assets	5,135,271	4,924,207
<u>OTHER ASSETS</u>		
Closing costs, net of \$6,938 of amortization	4,674	4,257
Refundable deposits	5,110	5,110
Total Other Assets	9,784	9,367
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 5,618,400	\$ 5,736,931
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Accounts payable	\$ 67,991	\$50,679
Accrued expenses	37,281	71,512
Current maturities of long-term debt	1,688	501,567
Total current liabilities	106,960	623,758
Long-term debt, net of current maturities	<u>42,770</u>	<u>41,008</u>
Total liabilities	149,730	664,766
<u>NET ASSETS:</u>		
Net assets without donor restrictions	42,443	106,185
Net assets with donor restrictions	<u>5,426,227</u>	<u>4,965,980</u>
Total net assets	5,468,670	5,072,165
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 5,618,400	\$ 5,736,931