SAFE HARBOR CENTER INC.

Where Resilience Begins

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2026

Safe Harbor Programs

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Centers are safe environments for children who have experienced or witnessed abuse. Our team works alongside law enforcement, Child Protective Services, and medical professionals to investigate abuse, support families, and help children heal.

Safe Harbor Children's Center is a 24-bed foster care group home for children removed from unsafe family situations. Children receive around-the-clock care, housing, counseling, tutoring, medical support, and opportunities to grow in a stable, home-like environment.

Safe Harbor's Connie Smith Rape Crisis Centers serve survivors of sexual assault and their families through forensic exams, crisis response, advocacy, counseling, and follow-up care throughout their healing.

Safe Harbor's Family Preservation works with parents who are struggling to safely care for their children. The program helps families become stronger and stay together whenever safely possible.

Safe Harbor's Street Beat helps runaway and homeless youth find safe housing and build the skills and connections needed for long-term stability. Street Beat also helps adults experiencing homelessness connect with services.

Safe Harbor's STRIVE Transitional Living Program provides housing and support for at-risk young adults aging out of foster care. The program helps them build skills for employment, education, and independent living.

Safe Harbor Thrift Shop offers affordable clothing, books, and other items to the community. Proceeds support Safe Harbor programs, while clients shop at no cost. Donations of new or gently used items are always welcome. 1600 Norwich Street Open M, W, F from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Village, Safe Harbor's maternity group home, provides housing for pregnant and parenting women ages 16-22 experiencing homelessness. These mothers receive parenting education, employment, and life skills support.

Safe Harbor's Zach's Place is an emergency shelter for homeless and runaway children. Children receive housing, food, clothing, counseling, school support, and help finding a stable place to live.

Welcome

Every day at Safe Harbor we have the privilege of witnessing something extraordinary: resilience.

We see it in a child who begins to smile again after experiencing unimaginable trauma. In a young mother who chooses hope over fear and works tirelessly to build a brighter future for her family. In a teenager who finds stability after years of uncertainty. And in families who discover that, with the right support, healing is possible.

Resilience is not simply the ability to endure hardship. It is the courage to keep moving forward, even when the path is difficult. It grows through compassion, stability, and the unwavering support of a community that believes every child and every family deserves the opportunity to thrive.

For more than 35 years, Safe Harbor has been privileged to walk alongside children, families, and individuals throughout Coastal Georgia during some of the most challenging moments of their lives. Through our nine programs, we provide safety, advocacy, shelter, counseling, education, and hope to thousands of people each year. While every journey is unique, they all begin with the same promise: no one has to face life's challenges alone.

This year has been one of meaningful growth and continued impact. We expanded services, strengthened partnerships, and continued investing in programs that meet our community's evolving needs. None of this would have been possible without the generosity of donors, volunteers, community partners, board members, and advocates who share our belief that every person deserves the chance to build a better future.

Your support does far more than fund programs. It creates safe places for children to heal, provides young adults with opportunities to become independent, helps families stay together, supports survivors as they reclaim their lives, and strengthens the communities we all call home. Every gift, every hour volunteered, and every partnership helps make resilience possible.

As you read this report, I hope you will see more than numbers and accomplishments. I hope you see lives changed, futures restored, and a community that comes together to care for its most vulnerable neighbors. The stories within these pages are reminders that resilience flourishes when people are willing to stand beside one another.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and the children and families we serve, thank you for believing in our mission and for making this work possible. We are honored to serve alongside you, and we look forward to building an even stronger future together.

With gratitude,

Leslie Hartman • *Executive Director*
Safe Harbor Center

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(As of June 30, 2026)

SHANELL'S
Success Story

When I was placed in foster care, I was only 11 years old, and I lived at Safe Harbor Children's Center for seven years. The people there helped me feel supported and reminded me that I was capable of reaching my goals. One person who made a lasting impact on me was Ms. Marquita. She guided me, encouraged me, and helped me through difficult situations whenever I needed support.

When I turned 18, I moved to STRIVE's Hamer House program, where I lived until I was 21. During those three years, I learned important lessons about becoming independent and preparing for my future. Before STRIVE, I did not fully understand the importance of working, gaining experience, and saving money. I learned how financial responsibility could help me take care of myself and maintain a home of my own.

Through Hamer House, I saved $6,000, got a second job, and earned my driving permit. These accomplishments showed me that I could set goals and achieve them when I stayed focused and continued working hard.

On March 23, 2026, my 21st birthday, I graduated from Hamer House and moved into my own apartment. My roommate is another girl I lived with at Hamer House, which helped make the transition easier. Moving into an apartment in my name was a very special moment for me because it represented everything I had worked toward. I was proud to know that I had gained the skills and confidence needed to create stability for myself.

Even after graduating, I continue to receive aftercare services through STRIVE. I meet with my case manager, Ms. Sequoyha, every week and she continues to support me and help me stay on track. She encourages me to schedule my appointments, pay my bills on time, continue saving money, and make responsible decisions. Having that continued support has helped me feel more confident as I navigate adulthood.

If I could give advice to another young person coming to Safe Harbor, I would tell them to work hard and accept the help that is offered. If you have a goal, go after it no matter what anyone says. Do not let your past experiences or the words of others discourage you. Believe in yourself and keep pushing forward.

My journey has taught me that my past does not define me, and the challenges I have faced do not determine my future. With support, determination, and hard work, I can continue building the life I want for myself.

Shanell

Due to neglect and circumstances out of their control, Shanell and her brother were removed from their home at a young age, needing a safe and stable home to grow. Safe Harbor was able to keep them together, giving them the security and consistency every child deserves. Over the years, we watched Shanell blossom into a determined young woman, ready to take confident steps toward independence. Her journey is a powerful reminder of resilience, growth, and what becomes possible when a young person is surrounded by steady, compassionate support.

- LESLIE HARTMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CHILDREN'S CENTER

Through our on-site tutoring partnership with certified Glynn County School System teachers, children received individualized academic support four days a week. For children in foster care, who often experience multiple placements and disrupted learning, this progress is especially meaningful. **This year, 100% of students advanced to the next grade level, and more children earned A/B Honor Roll recognition than ever before in Safe Harbor's history.**

> **THIS IS THE HAPPIEST WE'VE EVER SEEN HER. I KNOW MANY KIDDOS ROLL THROUGH AND IT'S HARD TO SEE THE IMPACT, BUT WE'RE SEEING IT WITH JANE AND WE HOPE YOU'RE SEEING IT TOO. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR SAFE HARBOR'S ROLE IN JANE'S LIFE.**
>
> – PARENT OF A CHILDREN'S CENTER RESIDENT

GOAL: Provide every resident with opportunities to explore art, history, nature, and the community through field trips that broaden their view of what is possible.

> **THE GREATEST GIFT WE CAN GIVE A CHILD IS THE BELIEF THAT THEIR FUTURE IS BRIGHTER THAN THEIR PAST.**
>
> – CHELSEA PARKER, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

ZACH'S PLACE

This year, Zach's Place served **108 children, with 87% under the age of 12.** Of the youth served, **90% were attending school or had earned their GED, 95% transitioned to a safe and stable destination, and none experienced repeat homelessness.**

GOAL: Expand home-based services to help children and families address challenges before they lead to running away, homelessness, or family separation.

STRIVE
TRANSITIONAL LIVING

STRIVE Transitional Living provided **77 young adults a safe place to call home** while they built the skills and confidence needed for independent living. This year, **72% increased their income**, taking an important step towards greater long-term stability.

> **STRIVE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO BRINGING MORE ACCESSIBLE AND AUTHENTIC SERVICE OPTIONS TO OUR YOUTH IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.**
>
> – KALEIGH LANE, STRIVE CASE MANAGER

GOAL: To help youth build the employment and financial literacy skills they need to become more independent.

STREET BEAT

Safe Harbor's Street Beat program helps people experiencing homelessness find housing and other support. This year, Street Beat served **461 people and helped 155 move into permanent homes.**

> **STREET BEAT MEETS PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE AND CONNECTS THEM WITH THE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT NEEDED TO BUILD A MORE STABLE FUTURE.**
>
> – MORGAN MARSHALL, ASSISTANT PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF STREET BEAT

GOAL: Expand housing resources and outreach services across coastal and rural Southeast Georgia.

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

This year, **456 children from 64 counties across Georgia** were referred to Safe Harbor's Children's Advocacy Center, where children and families received ongoing support throughout the investigation and healing process. According to exit surveys, **98% of caregivers said that after receiving services from Safe Harbor, they better understood their child's physical and emotional needs,** helping families move from crisis toward healing.

> **"DEJA DID A GREAT JOB OF BEING MY FIRST POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE CAC. I AM STILL LEARNING ALL THIS INFORMATION ON HOW THESE SYSTEMS WORK, SO WE APPRECIATE THE RESPECT, COURTESY, POLITENESS, AND KINDNESS OF YOUR STAFF."**
>
> – PARENT OF A CHILD ABUSE VICTIM

GOAL: Expand Safe Harbor's Children's Advocacy Centers from three to four locations to better serve communities with growing needs.

> **"THE SAC PROVIDES A SAFE PLACE FOR ANYONE TO DISCLOSE TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES TO TRAINED, COMPASSIONATE PROFESSIONALS. HAVING SEEN FIRSTHAND THE IMPACT OF THEIR WORK IN OUR COURT SYSTEM, I CAN SAY THEIR CRISIS INTERVENTION AND ADVOCACY SERVICES ARE INVALUABLE TO OUR COMMUNITY."**
>
> – MEG CORRY, LOCAL ATTORNEY AND BOARD MEMBER

CONNIE SMITH RAPE CRISIS CENTER

As one of only 31 Certified Rape Crisis Centers in Georgia, the Connie Smith Rape Crisis Center provided compassionate, trauma-informed support to **126 survivors of sexual assault and other violent crimes across 22 counties and jurisdictions.** Fifty-eight survivors also received specialized forensic medical examinations.

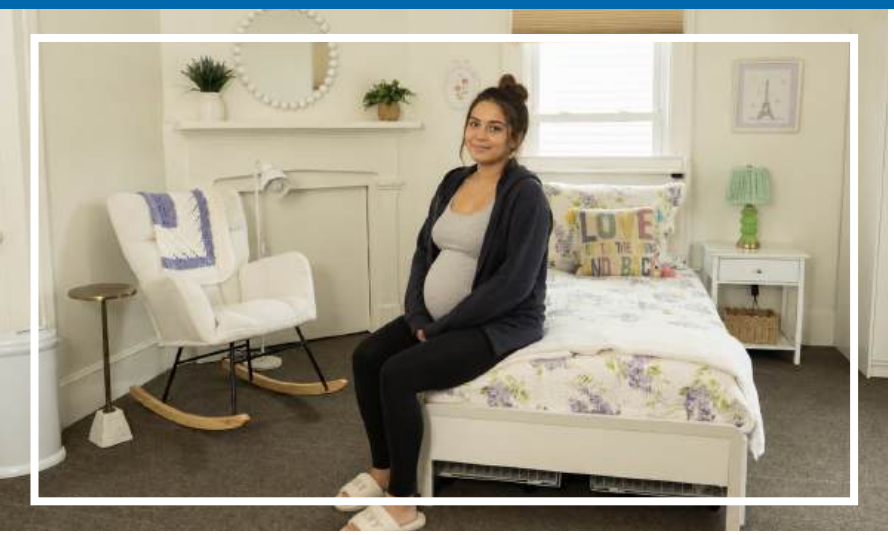
GOAL: Increase our sexual assault prevention programming and reduce our response times in more rural communities.

FAMILY PRESERVATION

Safe Harbor's Family Preservation program served **124 families and helped 90% of 268 children remain safely at home,** reducing the need for foster care. Among parents who completed the program, **85% demonstrated significant growth in parenting skills**, helping create safer and more stable homes for their children.

> **YOU ARE RESPONSIVE AND QUICK WHEN WE REFER FAMILIES. YOUR PARENTING SERVICES REALLY HELP AMELIORATE THE CURRENT SITUATION THAT BROUGHT THE ATTENTION OF DFCS TO THEM.**
>
> – GLYNN COUNTY CPS CASE MANAGER

GOAL: Increase access to family-centered group sessions by expanding partnerships with housing authorities throughout Southeast Georgia.



> **THE VILLAGE WAS CREATED TO MEET A REAL AND URGENT NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY, BUT IT IS QUICKLY BECOMING SO MUCH MORE THAN A PLACE TO STAY. IT IS A PLACE WHERE YOUNG MOTHERS CAN HEAL, GROW, AND BEGIN BUILDING A MORE INDEPENDENT, RESILIENT, AND HOPEFUL FUTURE FOR THEIR FAMILIES.**
>
> – DR. SHERZINE MCKENZIE, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

THE VILLAGE

The Village is Safe Harbor's newest program. It provides safe housing and supportive services for pregnant and parenting young women ages 16 to 22 experiencing homelessness. It is the **first maternity group home within 150 miles and one of only 25 federally funded programs of its kind in the nation.**

GOAL: Expand The Village's reach by increasing awareness among referral partners, adding volunteers and community partners to the Circle of Support, and establishing an aftercare program.

HANDBAG BINGO

Safe Harbor's annual Handbag Bingo welcomed more than 275 guests to Frederica Golf Club for an afternoon of bingo, designer handbags, and inspiring remarks from Elyce Arons, co-founder of Kate Spade and CEO of Frances Valentine. The event raises vital unrestricted funds to support Safe Harbor's greatest needs across Coastal Georgia. We are grateful to our committee members and every guest whose generosity made this year's event such a success.

JOIN US JANUARY 24, 2027 FOR THE NEXT HANDBAG BINGO!

THRIFT SHOP

The Safe Harbor Thrift Shop & Donation Center is open to the public and offers affordable clothing, accessories, books, and household items to the Brunswick community. Safe Harbor clients can shop at no cost, proceeds support our programs, and donations of new or gently used items are always welcome.

1600 NORWICH STREET
OPEN MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, AND FRIDAYS FROM 11 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

DOREEN MYERS 5K

The Doreen Myers 5K Walk/Run brings the community together to raise awareness and funds to help prevent child abuse in Coastal Georgia. Proceeds benefit Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Centers and honor Doreen Myers for her years of service protecting children.

JOIN US APRIL 24, 2027 FOR THE DOREEN MYERS 5K!

SAFE HARBOR'S

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN

2026

The fourth annual Champions for Children campaign united passionate community leaders who used their voices, networks, creativity, and generosity to advocate for Safe Harbor's mission. Over the course of eight weeks, the campaign raised $550,380 through the generosity of 783 donors, 51% of whom were giving to Safe Harbor for the first time.

These transformational gifts are already making an impact by funding Safe Harbor Children's Center's summer enrichment curriculum and educational experiences, while also establishing Safe Harbor's first-ever operating reserve fund. This reserve strengthens the long-term resilience of our organization, ensuring all nine programs can continue responding to the evolving needs of children, youth, and families with greater stability and confidence.

Thank you to our Champions, Co-Chairs, Sponsors, and every donor who made this record-breaking campaign possible.

1ST PLACE

Hernan & Victoria Stutzer
of Del Sur Artisan Eats and
The Organized Baker
$88,450

2ND PLACE

Jonathan & Ally Haney
of Birdies of SSI &
TNB Financial Services
$81,365

3RD PLACE

Amanda Duffey of DeLoach
Sotheby's International Realty
$56,496

Latricia Hogan
The Polished Providers, $56,446

Alisha Wiggins
Rich Products Corporation, $46,308

Jenni Jústiz-Quiñones
King & Prince Seafood, $40,070

Evan Wallace Ross, Caroline Byrd, & Maci Moore
Pirates of the Spanish Main, $30,000

Brian Corry
McQuigg Smith & Corry, $27,400

Rachael Leonard
Island Pilates & Wellness, $19,567

Scott Risi & Greg Walbridge
Uptown Tap & Cigar, $19,462

Susan Bates
Tipsy McSway's, $13,240

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this listing. If your name has been inadvertently omitted or listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies and contact our office at 912-267-6000. Safe Harbor Center recognizes donations within our fiscal year, July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. The listing recognizes gifts of $1,000 or more. We are deeply grateful to those who contributed gifts under $1,000. The constraints of printing this report did not allow us to list these important donors individually;

FY2026
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In FY 2026, 94% of gifts went directly to the care of children and programs, far exceeding the 65% standard set forth under the national ethical guidelines.*

**65% benchmark based on the BBB Wise Giving Alliance's Standards for Charity Accountability.*

ADMINISTRATIVE
4%

PROGRAMS & SERVICES
94%

MARKETING
2%

REVENUE

CONTRIBUTIONS
$1,276,489

FEDERAL GRANTS
$4,434,937

PROGRAM REMUNERATION
$1,939,825

REDIRECT YOUR 2026 GEORGIA TAXES TO SAFE HARBOR

It costs you nothing extra, but changes everything for a child.

HOW IT WORKS

If you pay Georgia state income taxes, you can redirect a portion of what you already owe to Safe Harbor Center.

Both individuals and businesses are eligible.

This is a **dollar-for-dollar state tax credit;** not a deduction.

No additional cost to you. The state will reimburse you.

WHY IT MATTERS

Your redirected tax dollars directly support **Safe Harbor Children's Center**, a licensed group foster home providing safety and stability for children from birth through age 18 who have been removed from dangerous family situations. They also support **STRIVE Transitional Living**, which houses and helps youth aging out of foster care.

FIND OUT MORE